

CHILDREN and YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

16 February 2016

DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2016 – 2018 and 2016/17 DRAFT CABINET
BUDGET PROPOSALS

Purpose of Report

1. To provide Members with context for the scrutiny of the sections of the Council's draft *Corporate Plan 2016 – 18* and draft Cabinet 2016/17 Budget Proposals that relate to Directorates falling within the remit of this Committee.

Structure of Papers

2. Attached to this report, Members will find a copy of relevant sections of the draft *Corporate Plan 2016 – 2018* and draft Cabinet budget papers 2016/17 that fall within this Committee's remit, and which Members may wish to scrutinise during the meeting. The papers include:
 - Corporate Plan 2016 -18 Extract containing sections relevant to Children and Young People (**Appendix 1**);
 - Post Consultation amendments
 - Summary of post consultation changes (**Appendix 2a**)
 - Schedule of amended 2016/17 savings (**Appendix 2b**)
 - Post consultation changes – Financial Resilience Mechanisms and Additional Pressures (**Appendix 2c**)
 - Budget savings overview
 - Overview of 2016/17 savings proposals (**Appendix 3a**)
 - Council wide budget savings proposals 2016/17 (**Appendix 3b**)

- Addressable Spend – Budget savings proposals 2016/17
(**Appendix 3c**)
- Financial Pressure (**Appendix 4**)
- Employee Implications (**Appendix 5**)
- Consultation Executive Summary (**Appendix 6**).

- **Social Services Directorate's**
 - Controllable Budget analysis (**Appendix 7**)
 - Draft budget proposals (**Appendix 8 lines 134 – 138, 146 - 147**);
 - Financial Pressures (**Appendix 4 lines 8 -12**)
 - Capital programme (**Appendix 9 line 27**)

- **Education Directorate**
 - Controllable Budget Analysis (**Appendix 10**)
 - Draft budget proposals (**Appendix 8 Line 83 -95**),
 - Addressable spend **Appendix 3 lines 15 - 19**); and
 - Capital programme (**Appendix 9 line 18, 27,48, 51, 52, 61, 62, 63, 69 and 76**)

- City Operations
 - Draft budget proposals relating to Schools Transport, (**Appendix 8 lines 175 – 179**);
 - Draft budget proposals relating to Children's Play (**Appendix 8 Line 5**);

Structure of Meeting

3. The following Cabinet Members and officers have been invited to attend the Committee:

- Christine Salter – Corporate Director Resources and Section 151 Officer

- Councillor Sue Lent - Deputy Leader, and Cabinet Member for Early Years, Children & Families;
 - Tony Young – Director of Social Services; and
 - Sarah Merry – Cabinet Member for Education;
 - Nick Batchelar – Director of Education and Lifelong Learning;
 - Andrew Gregory – Director of City Operations.
 - Councillor Peter Bradbury, Cabinet Member for Community Development, Co-operatives & Social Enterprise
4. Christine Salter (Corporate Director, Resources) will initially provide a short outline of the final Welsh Government proposals as they impact on the Committee's terms of reference, and be available to answer questions that Members might have on this. Individual Cabinet Members and Directors will then in turn present the sections of the Corporate Plan and Draft Cabinet Budget proposals that fall within their area of responsibility.

Background

5. The Council's Constitution allows for Scrutiny Committees to consider the draft Cabinet Budget Proposals prior to their consideration by the Cabinet and Full Council.
6. This Scrutiny Committee meeting will focus on those areas of the draft budget proposals that fall within this Committee's terms of reference, together with the alignment of those proposals with the areas of the Corporate Plan that impact on the lives of children and young people in Cardiff. Members will therefore be presented with the budget proposals for the following Directorates: Social Services (Children's Services) Education and Lifelong Learning; and City Operations.
7. Following the Scrutiny Committee meeting, the Chair will detail the Committee's comments or recommendations in correspondence to the Cabinet, for their consideration prior to finalising their budget proposals.

The Cabinet will consider their draft Cabinet budget proposals at their meeting on 18 February 2016, and at that meeting the Cabinet will formally recommend their budget recommendations for consideration and adoption by Full Council, at its meeting on 25 February 2016, however as the final settlement is not due to announced until the 2 March, consideration by Council is still subject to review.

Corporate Plan 2016 - 2018

8. The Draft *Corporate Plan* is attached at **Appendix 1**. It is structured as follows:
 - Foreword by the Leader of the Council;
 - Our Visions for Cardiff;
 - Delivering our Vision;
 - Pressures facing the City;
 - The need to Prioritise;
 - Sections setting out the Administration's four priorities, along with a section on targets for each of these priorities.

9. The four priorities set out by the Administration will help to prioritise service, and inform the difficult decisions that have to be made. The four themes are identified in the *Corporate Plan* are:
 - Better Education and Skills for all;
 - Supporting Vulnerable People;
 - Creating more and better paid jobs; and
 - Working together to Transform Services.

10. The Plan confirms that each Directorate will publish a clear Delivery Plans (Page 6) which will continue to provide the clear lines of accountability and responsibility established by the Administration. The Directorate Delivery Plans will provide greater detail on how objectives contained within this

plan will be delivered, and will contain details of Council activities not included in the Plan.

11. The Plan clearly sets out the level of financial challenge facing the Administration, (Page 8), against an increasing demand for public services. This will require close working with our partners.

Council Wide Savings Proposals

12. The draft Cabinet Budget reports have identified that the Council finds itself with a funding shortfall of approximately £33,128 million for 2016/17 (before savings or Council Tax increase). This breaks down as follows:

BUDGETARY GAP:	£000
Aggregate External Finance	(426,285)
Council Tax	(144,461)
Use of reserves	(2,070)
Resources Required	606,955
TOTAL GAP	33,128

Funded by:	£000
Directorate Savings proposals	20,344
Addressable spend savings proposals	5,596
Council wide savings proposals	2,895
Net income from Council Tax	4,293
TOTAL FUNDING OF GAP	33,128

13. The tables above outline the position as stated in the draft Cabinet budget savings proposals. The Provisional Settlement, which was received in December 2015, resulted in a position that was £11.56M more favourable to Cardiff Council. In addition, the revision to the Council Tax Base which was reported to Cabinet on 10 December 2015 also provided increased income of £1.9 million before any increase in the rate of Council Tax is considered. The settlement includes an additional amount for social

services and School funding. This, coupled with consideration of the responses to the consultation undertaken on draft proposals, has led to revised proposals. A summary of the Post Consultation Changes is shown at **Appendix 2** , and includes:

- a. Summary of Post consultation changes - £14.095 million
- b. Schedule of amended 2016/17 savings proposals - £2,833 million
- c. Post consultation changes further details – Financial Resilience
- d. Mechanisms and Additional Pressures - £4,971 million.

These additional sums, along with updates of commitments, pressures and due diligence considerations will form part of the balanced position in February 2016

14. City of Cardiff Council commitments are listed as comprising the following:

- Increased employee costs;
- Price inflation;
- Unavoidable commitments;
- Capital financing assumptions;
- Demographic growth;
- Policy decisions; and
- Realignment issues.

15. This budget gap can theoretically be met through the use of reserves, increases to Council Tax or through savings proposals. The Council's Section 151 Officer has consistently advised that there is limited scope - if any - to use reserves to meet the shortfall. Directors have therefore been asked to put forward savings proposals in relation to their controllable budgets. There is a Welsh Government requirement to protect schools' budgets, in Cardiff by +1.85%.

16. The proposed 2016/17 budget proposals overview (**Appendix 3a**) set out savings of £28,835 million. Of these £20,344 million are Directorate savings, £2,895 million Council Wide savings detailed at **Appendix 3b**, and £5,596 million from Addressable Spend savings **Appendix 3c**.

17. To enable the Committee to understand the prioritisation of proposed consultation savings across Directorates, the table below sets out the level of savings proposals as a percentage of overall consultation budgets for each Directorate, as per the table below.

Total Savings	Employee Costs £000	Other Spend £000	Income £000	TBC	Total £000	% of overall saving
City Operations	1,820	3,013	1,903	850	7,586	29.2%
Communities, Housing & Customer Services	465	188	606	0	1,259	5%
Corporate Management	54	253	0	0	307	1%
Economic Development	273	263	355	395	1,286	5%
Education	1,249	1,580	245	0	3,074	12%
Governance and Legal Services	50	10	65	0	125	0.1%
Resources	780	313	749	0	1,842	7%
Social Services	635	4,230	0	0	4,865	19%
Addressable Spend	1,908	3,674	5	0	5,596	21.7%
Total	7,254	13,524	3,928	1,245	25,951	100%

18. Members will be aware that there is a requirement for every savings proposal to have an equality screening or (if the screening identifies a red or red/amber risk) a full equality impact assessment. Members have the opportunity to view those Equality Impact Assessments which were identified as potentially having a significant negative impact on the various protected characteristics, on the Council's website¹.

Draft Capital Programme 2016/17 to 2020/21

19. The proposed 2016/17 budget outlines capital expenditure proposals of £414,443 million for the 2016/17 to 2020/21 financial years, of which £114,329 million is earmarked for 2016/17. Details of the individual Directorates' capital programmes are included in the sections below.

¹ <https://www.cardiff.gov.uk/ENG/Your-Council/Strategies-plans-and-policies/Equality-diversity-and-cohesion/Equality-Monitoring-and-Impact-Assessment/Pages/Equality-Monitoring-and-Impact-Assessment.aspx>

Social Services (Children's Services)

a) Draft Corporate Plan 2016 - 2018

20. The draft *Corporate Plan* set out the key issues, priorities, resources and most importantly outcomes for the Social Services directorate, copy attached at **Appendix 1 pages 20 - 26**. Councillor Sue Lent, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Early Years will make a short statement on her section of the *Corporate Plan*.

Priority 2 Supporting Vulnerable People (Page 22)

21. The *Corporate Plan* sets out the Council's key Social care priority to be. The document states: *"The Council is committed to prioritising services that support those who are most vulnerable. This includes older people in need of care and support, children in care and people that require safeguarding from issues such as sexual exploitation, abuse and human trafficking. It also includes supporting those who are homeless, or need access to good quality housing. Supporting vulnerable people is hugely important if Cardiff is to effectively manage the growing demand pressures on services, promote social justice within the city, help address inequality, and respond to the requirements of the Social Services & Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. Difficult times mean that more people need access to support and the Council has taken a number of actions to help those in need, for example working with partners to minimise the impact on those affected by welfare reform. Developing a better understanding of the needs of individual service users and communities, and reshaping services in response, will be crucial, as will placing an increased focus on preventative action. Doing this will require joined up working between different organisations in the public, private and third sector because our partners in South Wales Police, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, the Probation Service and a number of voluntary and third sector*

organisations also commit much of their resources to helping vulnerable people.

22. This Priority has three outcomes that the Council wishes to achieve:

- People at risk in Cardiff are safeguarded
- People in Cardiff have access to good quality housing (not within our Terms of Reference)
- People in Cardiff are supported to live independently

Improvement Objective 2.1 - People at risk in Cardiff are safeguarded

(page 24)

23. The Plan states: *“The Council is committed to supporting children, young people and adults who may be unable to take care of themselves and empowering individuals to protect themselves from significant harm or from exploitation. The Council along with its partners will continue to play a lead role in protecting and safeguarding individuals who need care and support from abuse and neglect or other kinds of harm. The new Social Services & Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 aims to address these issues while giving people greater freedom to decide which services they need. The aim is to offer consistent, high-quality services across the Country. Cardiff is well positioned to respond to the act, which places safeguarding vulnerable adults on the same statutory footing applicable to children under previous legislation. The Council also recognises the need to focus on developing a range of more affective services to prevent issues escalating, which may result in vulnerable children or adults being separated or cared for away from their families. Doing this effectively will offer a better quality of life for the individual and will be more cost effective for the Council.*

24. The Improvement objective sets out a number of Lead Cabinet member commitments for the next three years:

- Improve the system for protecting children from significant harm by implementing new Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) arrangements for managing referrals by June 2016;
- Improve the recruitment and retention of children's social workers, ensuring the Council achieves and maintains a vacancy rate for Children's social workers below 18% by March 2017;
- Implement key elements of the Cardiff Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy in collaboration with partners by March 2017; and
- Complete roll out of the second phase of a specialised training programme regarding the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014.

Improvement Objective 2.3 – People in Cardiff are supported to live independently (Page 26)

25. The Plan states: *Helping people to live independently means enabling potentially vulnerable people to develop the skills they need to live on their own, supporting them with reasonable adaptation to their homes and providing more preventative services before their needs become critical. This is done by identifying an individual's strengths and skills through a re-ablement approach. Doing so provides people with dignity and independence whilst reducing the demand for domiciliary packages and traditional models of care. To achieve this and respond to the growing demand for support, the Council must change the way it provides services. We are therefore looking at important issues such as preventing hospital admissions, facilitating quick and safe discharge from hospital and allowing people to remain at home to retain and regain their independence. In response we have established a new Gateway service, which provides a single point of contact for anybody that needs support, with an emphasis on independent living and joining up all available services. Many young adults leaving the care system also remain highly vulnerable and need additional support from a range of agencies to enable them to live independently. The Council will therefore ensure effective transitional support is in place, and the Council's accommodation gateway*

for vulnerable young people is already improving access to accommodation for care leavers and young single homeless people.

26. The Lead Cabinet member has a commitment to address this improvement objective:

- Improve the effectiveness of transitional support for disabled and vulnerable children approaching adulthood;

b) Draft Budget Proposals and Capital Programme

27. This section of the report provides the Committee with an opportunity to consider the draft Cabinet budget proposals and their alignment to the Children's Services section of the Corporate Plan 2016 - 2018, which relate to this Committee's terms of reference. Tony Young Director of Social Services will present the budget savings and answer any questions Members may have. The proposals are contained in the four key documents which are appended **(4, 7, 8, & 9)** to this report::

- **Controllable Budget Analysis 2016/17 (Appendix 7)** - This financial information sheet provides the relationship between the Social Services 2015/16 detailed controllable budget lines and budget proposals for the 2016/17 budget.
- **Cabinet Budget Proposals Summary (Appendix 8)** –The table provide a detailed analysis, of the budget saving proposed as well as showing the employees cost and the external spend element of the savings. To enable Members to identify those items falling within the terms of reference of this Committee the following lines have been identified as Children's Services – total proposed savings - £2,035,000 - **(lines 134-138 & 146 & 147)**

- **Financial Pressures (Appendix 4)** – The appendix extract provides details of the Financial Pressures that have been identified for 2016/17 totalling £953,000 lines 8 to 12.
- **Capital Programme 2016 - 2021 (Appendix 9)** The appendix extract provides the capital projects proposed over the next five years falling within the terms of reference of this Committee, the following line has been identified:
 - Children Services Accommodation Strategy - 2017/18 £560,000 – line 27.

Education and Lifelong Learning

a) Corporate Plan 2016 - 2018

28. The *Corporate Plan* sets out the key issues, priorities, resources and most importantly outcomes for the Education and Lifelong Learning Directorate (attached at **Appendix 1, pages 14 -19**). Councillor Sarah Merry, Cabinet Member for Education, will make a short statement on the elements of the *Corporate Plan* relating to Education.

29. The *Corporate Plan's* Priority 1 is "Better Education and Skills for People of all Ages". The Plan states: *"The Council is committed to helping all citizens and communities achieve their full potential, and to developing a well educated workforce that the city's growing economy requires. Creating an excellent and inclusive school system and high quality opportunities for adult learning are therefore amongst the Council's highest priorities. Because education doesn't begin and end at the school gate, meaningful collaboration with partners in the public, private and third sectors, and with parents and citizens across Cardiff will be essential to delivering the improvement required, and to making sure that this priority is achieved. All this forms an important part of delivering against our city wide outcome of helping people in Cardiff achieve their full potential.*

30. This Priority has three Improvement objectives that the Council wishes to achieve:

- Every Cardiff School is a good school where learners achieve well;
- Looked after children in Cardiff achieve their full potential;
- Adult Learners achieve their potential (this is within the Terms of Reference of Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committee).

- **Improvement Objective – Every Cardiff school is a good school (page 16)**

The Plan details: *“All children and young people in Cardiff attend a good school and develop the knowledge, skills and characteristics to become personally successful, economically productive and actively engaged citizens.*

Over the next five years we will be striving to:

- *Deliver consistently excellent outcomes for learners;*
- *Secure the best people to lead, teach, support and govern our schools;*
- *Offer inspiring, sustainable, community focused schools fit for the 21st Century;*
- *Deliver a self-improving school system, forming strong and dynamic partnerships between schools in the region;*
- *Ensure that schools are connected with the communities they serve and with business and enterprise in the city region.*

The Improvement objective sets out the Lead Cabinet Member’s commitments for the next five years:

- Deliver the School Organisation Programme including the completion of Band A investment projects by 31 March 2019
- Contribute to the development of a regional “Central South Wales networked learning community” run by schools for schools by September 2017, focused upon improvements in the quality of leadership, teaching and learning.
- Implement the requirements of the new curriculum for Wales “Successful Futures” by September 2021, commencing with the introduction of the Digital Competence Framework in all Cardiff Schools by September 2016;
- Implement the new statutory framework for supporting children and young people with additional learning needs, in accordance with the legislative framework, by 2021;

- Turn around the performance of the minority of secondary schools that are causing concern by July 2018;
 - Improve and sustain the expertise of Cardiff schools in Mathematics and English, increasing capacity in teaching and learning at all levels; and
 - Address the persistent impact of poverty on attainment and the marked variations between schools in the attainment of FSM pupils.
- **Outcome- Looked After Children in Cardiff achieve their full potential**
(Page 18)

The Plan explains: “The Council is committed to providing high quality care and support for looked after children to help them achieve their potential. Closer working across Council Directorates, Cardiff schools and partner organisations will be crucial, and this will be supported by the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee and a new Corporate Parenting Strategy.

The commitment and quality of support provided by the Looked After Children (LAC) Education Team was commended in feedback from the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales, following an inspection in May 2014. More young people are now being supported at university and, though challenges remain, the overall picture is one of stability and improvement. A new scheme was launched in April 2014 to provide care leavers with opportunities to secure work placements in Council departments and those already placed have acquired new work related skills. This supports wider efforts to ensure positive progression routes for all care leavers. As a result of work concerning Transitions undertaken by the Corporate Parenting Panel during 2014-15, Cabinet agree to increase the grant to Care leavers on leaving care from £1,100 to £2,000 ”.

In order to achieve the above the Lead Cabinet members are committed to:

- “Embed key elements of the Corporate Parenting Strategy in collaboration with partners by March 2017

b) Draft Budget Proposals and Capital Programme

31. This report provides the Committee with an opportunity to consider the draft Cabinet budget proposals and their alignment to the *Corporate Plan* 2016 - 2018, for the Education Directorate which relate to this Committee's terms of reference. The provisional settlement indicates a 1.85% (£3.823m) protection requirement, however the draft budget includes and extra 3.47% (£7.152M) for inflationary pressures and 1.98% (£11.185M) for demographic growth. Neil Hardee, Head of Performance and service for Education will present the budget savings and answer any questions Members may have and Andrew Gregory, Director of City Operations will present the budget savings in respect of School Transport Budget Savings Proposals. The proposals are contained in the four key documents which are at **Appendix 3c, 8, 9, 10** to this report:

- **Controllable Budget Analysis 2015/16 (Appendix 10)** - This financial information sheet provides the relationship between the Departmental 2015/16 controllable budget lines and budget proposals for the 2016/17 budget.
- **Cabinet Budget Proposals Summary (Appendix 8)** – This table provides a detailed analysis of the budget saving proposed, as well as showing the employees cost and the other spend element of the savings. To enable Members to identify those items falling within the terms of reference of this Committee the following lines have been identified.
Education – total proposed savings £3,074,000 – lines 83 – 95.
City Operations – Addressable Budget savings (**Appendix 3c**)
£371,000 – Lines 15 - 19
- **Capital programme 2016/17 - 2019/20 (Appendix 9)**– The extract from the draft Capital Programme provides an analysis of the Directorate's capital projects proposed over the next five years. To

enable Members to identify those capital projects falling within the terms of reference of this Committee, lines 18,27,48,51,52,61,62, 63, 69 and 76.

City Operations

b) Draft Budget Proposals and Capital Programme

32. This report provides the Committee with an opportunity to consider the draft Cabinet budget proposals. Councillor Peter Bradbury, Cabinet Member for Community Development, Co-operatives & Social Enterprise may wish to comments on the Children's Play proposals, as well as any recent changes to the budget proposals. Andrew Gregory, Director of City Operations will present the Children's Play budget savings and answer any questions Members may have. The proposals are contain a two key documents which are appended to this report::

- **Draft Cabinet Budget Proposals Appendix 8** –The table provide a detailed analysis, of the budget saving proposed as well as showing the employees cost and the external spend element of the savings. To enable Members to identify those items falling within the terms of reference of this Committee amounting to £320,000 at lines 5 and 20.

Consultation and Engagement – Changes for Cardiff

33. The Cabinet report setting out the 2016/17 Budget Proposals – For Consultation, was approved on 10 December 2015, included details of the consultation and engagement used in the development and consideration of the budget proposals.
34. In consultation with both the public and partners a range of ideas have been explored as to how savings and income can be maximised, although the scale of cuts required means that consideration must be given to the level of services provided, and in some instances whether the resources remain to enable them to continue. The reality of this is that to maintain or improve some services, reductions will need to be made in other areas.
35. An on-line consultation document ‘Changes for Cardiff’ was launched on the 11 December and hard copies were distributed to hubs, libraries and leisure centres. In addition a series of drop-in consultation events was arranged in each of the Neighbourhood Partnership Areas as well as the City Centre during November and December, providing opportunities for people to give their views on the consultation and complete the questionnaire; give ideas on other ways the Council and its partner organisations can work differently in the future; and express an interest in volunteering or playing a potential role in managing services or assets. In addition to the public consultation events, specific engagement sessions were undertaken with Cardiff Youth Council, the Cardiff Access Forum and the 50+ Forums.
36. The timetable for the budget consultation process ran from the 11 December 2015 until midnight on the 12 January 2016. Results have now been analysed and a summary of the consultation document is attached at **Appendix 6**, the full set consultation documents can be found on the Council’s Internet page

37. Summarised below are the results from the key questions that relate to the Terms of Reference of this Committee

Education

School Delegated Budgets

The additional financial demands falling upon school delegated budgets in 2016/17 are estimated to be approximately £13.541m. The budget proposals include an additional £9.511m funding for school delegated budgets which would represent an increase to schools of 4.6%. The Council anticipates that the Welsh Government will continue to ask local authorities to protect school delegated budgets.

Q18. 57.9% (1,753) of respondents supported the proposal to increase **Delegated School Budgets** of £205.609m by £9.5m.

Q19. 44.8% (1,349) agreed that school budgets should **contribute to the financial challenge facing the Council**, whilst 17.8% (536) disagreed and 37.3% (1,123) were not sure.

School Meals Provision

School Meals are supplied to every primary and secondary school in Cardiff (with the exception of Cardiff High School) which cost £2.20 and £2.65 for set meals in primary and secondary schools respectively.

Q20. Only 11.8% (357) of respondent households **used the service** whilst 59.7% (1,810) did not and 28.5% (863) weren't sure.

Q21. Over 70% (**71.9%** / 2,170) support an **increase in the cost of meals** by 10p each day, compared to 13.1% (396) who disagreed and 14.9% (451) who weren't sure.

Children's Play

As part of the budget approved in February 2015, the Council agreed that an alternative model be put in place for play services which included funding to support the transfer of play centre buildings into community use. In 2016/17, there will be a new delivery model for Children's Play services which is responsive to the needs of children and young people. Play, including after school and holiday club activities, will in future be run from a range of community facilities within Neighbourhood Partnership Areas.

Q23. Over half of respondents (**53.3%** / 1,752) agreed with the **new model for play services**, with 15.7% (517) in disagreement and 30.9% (1,015) were not sure.

Way Forward

38. Officers will make a presentation on the budget position, draft Cabinet proposals, financial pressures and capital items falling within the terms of reference of this Committee. The Cabinet Members and Officers will also be available to answer questions arising from their presentations and the attached papers.
39. Following consideration of the budget proposals, presentations and answers to Member questions, the Committee may wish to provide its comments, concerns and recommendations for the Cabinet at its business meeting on 18 February 2016. The Committee will also have the opportunity to have the letter considered at the Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee due to be held on 17 February 2016.

Legal Implications

40. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the

Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

41. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is recommended to give consideration to the information received at this meeting, and to submit any recommendations or comments to the Cabinet prior to its consideration of the final budget proposals and to the Chairman of the Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee.

MARIE ROSENTHAL

Director of Governance and Legal Services

12 February 2016