

COUNCIL MEETING – 21ST FEBRUARY 2019

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2019-22

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the items at Appendix A to the report

Extract from the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting on 5th February 2019

89 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2019-22

Cabinet considered a report presenting the Medium Term Financial Strategy for Cheshire East Council for the years 2019/20 to 2021/22.

The report set out how the Council would approach the financial challenges over the medium term and forecast a balanced budget for 2019/20.

The resolutions that Cabinet was requested to recommend to Council were set out at Appendix A. The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) Report (containing the Budget) for the period 2019/20 to 2021/22 was set out at Appendix C.

Councillor M Simon, Chairman of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee, reported the Committee's comments and recommendations on the report as appended to these minutes.

RESOLVED

That Cabinet

1. recommends to Council the items at Appendix A to the report; and
2. notes:
 - (a) the summary results of the Budget Consultation, attached at Appendix B, and the Budget Engagement exercise undertaken by the Council, as set out in Appendix C, Annex 2;
 - (b) the comments of the Council's Acting Section 151 Officer, contained within the MTFS Report, regarding the robustness of estimates and level of reserves held by the Council based on these budget proposals (Appendix C, Comment from the Acting Section 151 Officer); and

- (c) that the Council's Finance Procedure Rules provide a control framework to support decisions should any changes in spending requirements be identified, and for specific spending over certain limits (Appendix C).

APPENDIX

Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 4 February 2019
Comments for Cabinet meeting on 5 February 2019

Medium Term Financial Strategy 2019-22

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the report be received and noted;
- (b) That the Alex Thompson, contributing officers and portfolio holders be thanked for their attendance and contributions;
- (c) That the following comments be submitted to Cabinet:
- The committee acknowledges the unprecedented pressures on the Council and notes the planned actions to produce a balanced budget;
 - The Committee notes the increased investment in Corporate Services and supports this approach;
 - The Cabinet considers producing a communication stream to explain to the general public the difference between its statutory responsibilities i.e. those for which services which have to be provided by law and non statutory i.e. those services which are at the discretion of the Council; this might provide a better steer on appropriate feedback into consultation process.
 - That Cabinet might wish to focus further discussions on the popular themes highlighted by the public in the consultation i.e.:-
 - The Little bus and transport in particular resulting in isolation in rural areas;
 - Car parking charges and strategy.
- (d) That Environment and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee be invited to investigate matters raised within the report concerning climate change.