

Corporate Overview and Scrutiny

Date of Meeting: 09 January 2020

Report Title: Budget Proposals, 2020/21 to 2023/24

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Amanda Stott – Cabinet Member for Finance, ICT and Communication

Senior Officer: Jane Burns – Executive Director for Corporate Services

1. Report Summary

- 1.1. On 1 November 2019 Cheshire East Council issued its Pre-Budget Consultation, setting out proposals for change across the Council for the period 2020/21 to 2023/24.
- 1.2. Corporate OSC will want to consider any feedback on the proposals for the Corporate Services Directorate.
- 1.3. The report also appends the comments made at the other 3 Overview and Scrutiny Committees, to enable the Committee to provide overarching feedback to Cabinet on behalf of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

2. Recommendations

That the Committee:

- a) Note the comments in respect of the Pre-Budget Consultation document of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees received to date.
- b) Review and comment on the Financial Resilience and Corporate Services proposals within the Pre-Budget Consultation document.
- c) Provide Cabinet with co-ordinated feedback from Overview & Scrutiny on the set of proposals within the Pre-Budget Consultation document

3. Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1. The Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee provide essential ongoing scrutiny to the Council.

4. Other Options Considered

- 4.1. A number of other budget proposals were considered as part of the annual high-level business planning process. However, those within the Pre-Budget Consultation were those supported through the initial stages of development.

5. Background

- 5.1. Cheshire East's Pre-Budget Consultation was published on 1 November 2019. Set against a backdrop of increasing demand and rising costs, the report sets out service proposals and financial plans for the period from 1 April 2020 through to 31 March 2021.
- 5.2. A summary of the proposals is attached at appendix 1 to this report. The full pre budget consultation document is attached at the link in paragraph 5.3, however a hard copy has previously been circulated to Members of the Committee.
- 5.3. https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/your_council/council_finance_and_governance/cheshire_east_budget/cheshire-east-budget.aspx
- 5.4. The consultation runs until 6 January 2020 and findings will be considered before the final budget is agreed by full council on 20 February 2020.
- 5.5. This committee will want to consider the proposals for the Corporate Services Directorate.
- 5.6. Extracts of the minutes from the other 3 Overview and Scrutiny Committees are attached at appendix 2 to this report.
- 5.7. The implications of individual proposals may be much wider for individuals affected by each proposal. Where this is the case, we intend to undertake full and proper consultation with key stakeholders.

6. Implications of the Recommendations

6.1. Legal Implications

- 6.1.1. Legal advice will be sought, where applicable, to ensure that any changes in services do not impact on our ability to meet our statutory requirements.

6.2. Finance Implications

6.2.1. The financial implications are contained within the budget document

6.3. Policy Implications

6.3.1. Any policy changes as a result of the proposals will be agreed through the usual processes.

6.4. Equality Implications

6.4.1. An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed for each business case.

6.5. Human Resources Implications

6.5.1. If approved, there will be some implications for staffing as a result of these proposals. These will be subject to the relevant consultations with staff.

6.6. Risk Management Implications

6.6.1. There is a risk that, following consultation, some of these proposals may be subject to change or be removed from the budget. Risks on individual proposals will be considered in detail as part of the consultation process.

6.7. Rural Communities Implications

6.7.1. There are no direct implications for rural communities.

6.8. Implications for Children & Young People/Cared for Children

6.8.1. These proposals will impact on services for children and young people. Impact assessments have been completed for each proposal. We will work to mitigate any negative impact on children and young people.

6.9. Public Health Implications

6.9.1. There are no direct implications for public health.

6.10. Climate Change Implications

6.10.1. There are no direct implications for climate change.

7. Ward Members Affected

7.1. These proposals relate to business cases across all wards which are likely to be affected.

8. Consultation & Engagement

- 8.1. The proposals are subject to consultation through the pre-budget consultation process. The implications of individual proposals will be subject to full consultation with key stakeholders, where appropriate.

9. Access to Information

- 9.1. The full Pre-Budget Consultation document can be found at:
https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/your_council/council_finance_and_governance/cheshire_east_budget/cheshire-east-budget.aspx

- 9.2. Appendix 1 – Summary of Budget Proposals

- 9.3. Appendix 2 – Minute extracts from the other 3 Overview and Scrutiny Committees

10. Contact Information

- 10.1. Any questions relating to this report should be directed to the following officer:

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