

## STOCKPORT COUNCIL

### REPORT TO CABINET– SUMMARY SHEET

**Subject: Our medium-term strategy: an update on our programme for 2019/2020**

**Report to Cabinet Meeting**

**Date: 5<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

**Report of: (a)**

Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Policy, Finance & Devolution; and Cabinet Member for Reform and Governance

**Key Decision: (b)**

Forward Plan ☒ General Exception ☐ Special Urgency ☐ (Mark with a Y if applicable)

**Summary:**

This report is the latest update on the Cabinet's medium term strategy and the first phase of its programme including a suite of proposals for 2019/20.

Over the course of the year the Cabinet have been progressing its medium term strategy. This strategy frames the choices the Council will need to make over the coming years. As the strategy has progressed the Cabinet have introduced the first phase of its programme through a suite of proposals – initially introduced in October 2018.

Since this point the Cabinet have worked closely with residents, partners, members and colleagues throughout the council to develop the proposals. In December, four proposals were presented for consideration and approval while consultation exercises and further development of remaining proposals was undertaken.

Within this report the Cabinet outline the current financial context, provide an update on the medium term strategy, the approach taken to seeking and understanding views from local people, and, presenting the remaining proposals for the first phase of our medium term programme for consideration and approval.

**Comments/Views of the Cabinet Councillor: (c)**

As is outlined in the Borough Treasurer's report the financial landscape the Council is operating within remains complex. We launched our medium term strategy as a means of framing decisions within this increasingly complex environment over the next four years about the future shape of our services. We committed early on to consulting and engaging with citizens, employees, members and partners to inform the way we work in the future. Since launching the first phase of our programme we have run a series of consultation and engagement exercises which have been invaluable in shaping change and understanding the implications of our decisions.

We have listened carefully to feedback and sought to respond to concerns from our communities. This has included in some instances opting to take more time to consider new ways of working, as is the case with our Support Funds proposal, or working with partners to find collective solutions - such as with TfGM to support transport connections across the Town Centre.

None of these decisions are easy, and it is clear that no services will be or are immune to the financial challenges that this Council, Local Government and all public services face. However we have sought at every stage to ensure we balance carefully the short and long term ambitions we have as a Council for our Borough and communities against immediate financial and demand pressures. We will continue with this principle as we progress into future phases of our medium term strategy.

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### **Recommendation(s) of Cabinet Councillor: (d)**

The Cabinet is asked to:

- Discuss and note the Cabinet's position in relation to the MTFP and Budget (section.2)
- Discuss the progress outlined within this report and note the considerations outlined in relation to consultation, equality implications and workforce implications (sections 3 and 4).
- Consider and approve for implementation the updated proposals appended (Appendices 2-9) to this report, namely:
  - Proposal.1 - Children's and Education (Appendix.2)
  - Proposal.4 – Community Safety Services (Appendix.4)
  - Proposal.6 - Support and Governance (Corporate Governance; ASC Support Functions; Library Management Efficiencies) (Appendix 6)
  - Proposal.10 - Asset rationalisation of current buildings and former operational buildings (Appendix.9)
  - Proposal.11 - Additional income from operational buildings (Appendix.9)
  - Proposal.12 - Exit rented accommodation and changes to other leased accommodation commitments (Appendix.9)
  - Proposal.13 - Review and disposal of operational and non-operational land and other assets (Appendix.9)
- Note the following commitments and approve for implementation the updated proposals:
  - Proposal.3 - Support Funds Coordination (Appendix.3)
    - Consider the consultation responses and updated proposal and approve this for implementation;

- Note the commitment to undertake a broad review and engagement exercise of support and crisis funding during 2019/20 and to return to Cabinet with a proposed model;
- Proposal.5 - Stockport Local Transport (Appendix.5)
  - Consider the consultation responses and updated proposals and approve these for implementation;
- Proposal.7 – Public Realm (Appendix 7)
  - Consider the consultation responses and updated proposal for implementation.
  - Note the commitment to progress ongoing engagement with key stakeholders

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**Relevant Scrutiny Committee** (if decision called in): **(e)**

Corporate, Resource Management & Governance Scrutiny Committee

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**Background Papers** (if report for publication): **(f)**

Contact person for accessing  
background papers and discussing the report

**Officer:** Holly Rae  
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**'Urgent Business':** **(g)**

**Yes/**☒ **No** **(Please circle)**

**Certification** (if applicable)

This report should be considered as 'urgent business' and the decision exempted from 'call-in' for the following reason(s):

The written consent of Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ and the Chief Executive/Monitoring Officer/ Borough Treasurer for the decision to be treated as 'urgent business' was obtained on /will be obtained before the decision is implemented.

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