

STOCKPORT COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET MEETING – SUMMARY SHEET

Subject: Responding to Our Medium Term Financial Plan

Report to: Cabinet Meeting

Date: 22 December 2020

Report of: (a)

Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Resources, Commissioning and Governance

Key Decision: (b)

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

Summary:

The purpose of the report is to update the Council's 2021/22 to 2022/23 Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) forecasts and assumptions taking account of local and national announcements since the October MTFP Update. This includes announcements relating to the national response to the pandemic and the Government's 2020 Spending Review. The report also details further work which has been undertaken since the October MTFP Update to ensure the forecasts and assumptions underpinning the MTFP remain robust and resilient.

The report sets out the Cabinet's approach to delivering a resilient and stable budget in 2021/22. This provides the financial platform to support the Council's ongoing recovery from the financial impact of the pandemic and achievement of its transformation ambitions and priorities aligned to One Stockport to meet the financial challenge ahead.

The report sets out the Cabinet's identified saving proposals (following consultation with and scrutiny by all Scrutiny Committees) to support the balancing of the Council's 2021/22 Budget.

Comments/Views of the Cabinet Councillor: (c)

We have previously stated that the financial landscape ahead for local public services has never been more uncertain, volatile and inherent with risk. This remains the case. The ongoing lack of clarity regarding medium term Local Government financing, including the unresolved challenge of adult social care financing, coupled with the ongoing response to the coronavirus pandemic, imminent end of the Brexit transition period, global economic crisis, the effects of climate change and exacerbated inequalities make for a period of significant uncertainty, risk and complexity.

It is within this context that we are shaping our response to the MTFP. We have previously shared how we are reshaping how we work, developing our new narrative for the Council, reflecting the aspirations of One Stockport and responding to the ambitions and expectations of our communities, partners and workforce. We know we need to be radical and ambitious – reimagining what we do, how we do it and being clear on why we are doing it, putting local people and businesses at the heart of our new way of working at all times. A resilient budget that supports and leads Stockport's Covid-19

recovery is key to ensuring our ability to deliver an aspirational and hopeful future for our Borough.

Recommendation(s) of Cabinet Councillor: (d)

Cabinet are recommended to:

- Note the details of the report including the announcements made by Government since October and in the 2020 Spending Review;
- Approve the update to the MTFP savings requirement following the 2020 Spending Review;
- Approve the saving proposals set out in Appendix 1 to support the balancing of the Council's 2021/22 Budget to provide a stable financial platform for the transformation programme linked to One Stockport needed to support the Council's recovery and address the medium term financial challenge;
- Note and comment upon as appropriate, the financial forecasts for 2020/21 to 2022/23, and the key issues to be addressed in formulating a response to the financial challenges facing the Council;
- Note that the forecasts and assumptions underpinning the MTFP will continue to be reviewed to ensure they remain robust and resilient as part of the Council's 2021/22 budget setting process. A further update of the Council's MTFP will be presented to Cabinet in February prior to the Budget Council meeting;
- Note the MTFP revised forecast cumulative savings requirement of £8.115m in 2021/22 rising to £26.802m in 2022/23; and
- Take the final steps necessary to propose a balanced budget for 2021/22 to the Budget Council meeting on 25 February 2021.

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

Corporate, Resource Management & Governance Scrutiny Committee

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

Contact person for accessing
background papers and discussing the report

Officer: Holly Rae / Jonathan Davies
Tel:

'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.
