

REPORT TO: CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DATE: 13TH OCTOBER 2021

REPORT OF: CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, FAMILY SERVICES AND EDUCATION

REPORT TITLE: RESPONDING TO OUR MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

- 1.1 Within this report and appendices, we update upon the Cabinet's proposed approach to responding to the opportunities, challenges and uncertainty outlined within the review of the medium-term financial plan presented at the Cabinet meeting on the 21st September 2021¹.
- 1.2 Our focus remains on progressing our collective ambitions for Stockport by delivering impactful and outcomes-focussed transformational change for communities and businesses across Stockport. However, we have long recognised that a resilient budget is key to this by enabling us to face and respond to the unprecedented uncertainty ahead.
- 1.3 This report builds on previous updates to scrutiny and cabinet providing the latest considerations on how we intend to address financial and demand challenges, enable longer term transformation and shared ambitions.

2. ENABLING TRANSFORMATION, BY DELIVERING A RESILIENT BUDGET

- 2.1 Delivering a resilient budget can only be achieved through difficult decisions, robust prioritisation and ambitious changes in the way we work if we are to continue to meet the needs of local people today and in the future.
- 2.2 We know we need to be radical, brave 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. The four unifying themes we have previously presented remain important in shaping how we work in the future, designing new ways of working for the modern, person centred and ambitious organisation we strive to be:
 - We are a council that is **built around our communities**
 - We are a council that **maximises the opportunities of digital**
 - We are a council that **values partnerships and collaboration**
 - We are a council that **cares about our staff and engages them in the future**

¹ Medium Term Financial Update (2021) Stockport Cabinet Meeting, 21st September 2021

<http://democracy.stockport.gov.uk/documents/s193366/202109%20-%20PART%20A%20-%20MFTP%20Update.pdf>

- Above everything we are **ONE STOCKPORT**

3. CHANGE PROPOSALS

- 3.1 Alongside wider budget management consideration, the Cabinet has proposed a contribution in 2022/23 of over £10m in savings from transformation and robust corporate governance from across the organisation. This will be delivered through four programmes of work:
- Demand management
 - Value for Money Procurement and Commissioning
 - Robust Corporate Governance
 - Radically Digital
- 3.2 Outline draft business cases have been prepared are appended to this report for early feedback and comment from Scrutiny Committees. Ongoing work to develop these proposals is underway and will be informed by feedback from partners, scrutiny, residents, trade unions and colleagues as appropriate.
- 3.3 The four programmes are cross-cutting and may relate to more than one portfolio. Appendix.1 shows how proposals are mapped to existing committee areas of responsibility to support scrutiny consideration.

4. NEXT STEPS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Cabinet are keen to seek views from Scrutiny on these plans. There will be further opportunity to discuss the proposals and reflect on consultation feedback where relevant, at the Committee's meeting in January 2022, ahead of Cabinet decision making on 1st February.
- 3.2 The Committee is invited to comment on the report and the proposals presented within the report relevant to the remit of this committee. This report is accompanied by a guiding note (appendix 1) to advise which proposals are relevant to their committee.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

There are none.

Anyone wishing to discuss the report should contact Holly Rae on Tel: 0161 474 3014 or by email on holly.rae@stockport.gov.uk
