

REPORT TO: CHILDREN & FAMILIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DATE: 17th JANUARY 2024

REPORT OF: CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES & EDUCATION

**REPORT TITLE: RESPONDING TO OUR MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN:
UPDATE**

1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

- 1.1. Following October and November scrutiny committees we are sharing more detail on our budget change proposals, taking into consideration the feedback received to date.
- 1.2. The appendix to this report outlines the budget proposals being considered by the Cabinet to address financial and rising demand challenges, enable longer term transformation, and ensure the delivery of shared strategic partnership ambitions.

2. CHANGE PROPOSALS

- 2.1. These reports should be read in conjunction with the MTFP update reports, (Part A and B) which outline the challenging financial circumstances, requiring careful and bold decisions to ensure we can deliver a resilient budget. Our change proposals have been shaped around the four cross cutting MTFP programmes of work, which contribute £5.362m of budget reductions to support the balancing of the Council's 2024/25 budget.
- 2.2. Change proposals have been developed through various engagement forums, including scrutiny engagement in both October and November, awareness raising of proposals with colleagues and relevant partners and through our overall budget public consultation between 15th November and 13th December 2023. We also carried out a targeted libraries engagement exercise around the proposals for libraries opening hours changes. The full report our overall budget consultation can be found in appendix 2.

Equality Impact Considerations

- 2.3. We have committed to addressing inequality and holding ourselves accountable for all our residents feeling included and valued. This commitment is set out in our Borough Plan and reiterated within our Council Plan. To understand the impact of proposals on people who are socially and economically disadvantaged, Equality Impact Assessments (EqIAs) have been undertaken for each series of proposals. These are included as an appendix to this report.

Environmental Impact Considerations

- 2.4. As part of our commitment to tackling climate change and our journey to being carbon neutral, we will ensure we understand any environmental impacts of our proposals.

Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) have been completed and any impacts have been included within the proposals. The EIAs identify and understand any environmental impacts and consequences of the proposals across the borough and suggest how negative impacts may be reversed or mitigated. As with EqIAs, EIAs also consider the cumulative impacts of multiple proposals and initiatives across the Council.

3. NEXT STEPS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1. The Cabinet are keen to seek further views from Scrutiny on these plans ahead of Cabinet decision making later this month and Budget Council in 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.

Appendix Documents

Appendix 1 – Children and Families final change proposals

Appendix 2 – Children and Families EqIA

Appendix 3 – Lets talk budget consultation report

BACKGROUND PAPERS

MTFP update – Cabinet Meeting, 19/09/23

Part.A - MTFP Review

Part.B - Cabinet Response

Anyone wishing to discuss the report should contact Gill Lawton on Tel: 0161 474 3014 or by email at gill.lawton@stockport.gov.uk
