

Item

Strategy & Resources 8 February 2021 - Finance and Resources Portfolio: Budget-Setting Report (BSR) 2021/22

To:

Councillor Mike Davey, Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources Portfolio

Report by:

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Wards affected:

(All) Abbey, Arbury, Castle, Cherry Hinton, Coleridge, East Chesterton, King's Hedges, Market, Newnham, Petersfield, Queen Edith's, Romsey, Trumpington, West Chesterton

Key Decision

1. Executive Summary

Overview of Budget-Setting Report

- 1.1 At this stage in the 2021/22 budget process the range of assumptions on which the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) was based need to be reviewed, in light of the latest information available, to determine whether any aspects of the strategy need to be revised. This then provides the basis for the budget considerations.
- 1.2 The Budget-Setting Report (BSR), which is attached, includes the updated Corporate Plan and detailed revenue bids and savings and capital proposals and sets out the key parameters for the detailed recommendations and budget finalisation being considered at this meeting. This report reflects recommendations that will be made to The Executive on 8 February 2021 and then to Council, for consideration at its meeting on 25 February 2021.
- 1.3 The recommendations that follow refer to the strategy outlined in the BSR and all references to Appendices, pages and sections relate to the Budget-Setting Report 2021/22 (Version 1 – Strategy & Resources) as reported to and seeking recommendations at Strategy & Resources Scrutiny Committee on 8 February 2021.

2. Recommendations

The Executive Councillor is recommended to:

General Fund Revenue Budgets: [Section 5, page 23 refers]

- a) Agree any recommendations for submission to the Executive in respect of:
- Revenue Pressures and Bids shown in Appendix C(b) and Savings shown in Appendix C(c).
 - Non-Cash Limit items as shown in Appendix C(d).
 - There are no bids to be funded from External or Earmarked Funds (which would be included as Appendix C(e)).
- b) Recommend to Council formally confirming delegation to the Chief Financial Officer (Head of Finance) of the calculation and determination of the Council Tax taxbase (including submission of the National Non-Domestic Rates Forecast Form, NNDR1, for each financial year) which is set out in Appendix A(a).
- c) Recommend to Council the level of Council Tax for 2021/22 as set out in Appendix A (b) (*to follow for Council*) and Section 4 [page 20 refers].

Note that the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel will meet by 3 February 2021 to consider the precept proposed by the Police and Crime Commissioner, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Fire Authority will meet on 11 February 2021 and Cambridgeshire County Council will meet on 9 or 12 February 2021 to consider the amounts in precepts to be issued to the City Council for the year 2021/22.

Other Revenue:

- d) Recommend to Council delegation to the Head of Finance authority to finalise changes relating to any corporate and/or departmental restructuring and any reallocation of support service and central costs, in accordance with the CIPFA Service Reporting Code of Practice for Local Authorities (SeRCOP).

Capital: [Section 6, page 25 refers]

Capital Plan:

- e) Agree any recommendations for submission to the Executive in respect of the proposals outlined in Appendix D(a) for inclusion in the Capital Plan.
- f) Subject to (e) above, recommend to Council the revised Capital Plan for the General Fund as set out in Appendix D(c) and the Funding as set out in Section 6, page 29.

General Fund Reserves:

- g) Note the impact of revenue and capital budget approvals and approve the resulting level of reserves to be used to support the budget proposals as set out in the table [Section 8, page 49 refers].

Corporate Plan:

- h) Recommend to Council the updated Corporate Plan 2019 - 2022, attached at Appendix B.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Corporate Plan sets out what the Council will do, while the BSR sets out how that activity will be funded. It is the Council's top level planning document, from which service-level operational plans and individual personal objectives are derived.
- 3.2 The Corporate Plan 2019/22 was signed off and adopted early in 2019. In the context of the Executive having defined their top priorities in the summer of 2020, the plan has been restructured to reflect those three priorities. The plan has also been updated to reflect new activities that will be priorities next year (e.g. the Council's response to coronavirus) and activities that have been completed or amended in the context of changing circumstance.
- 3.3 At its meeting on 22 October 2020, Council gave initial consideration to the budget prospects for the General Fund for 2020/21 and future years in the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2020.
- 3.4 The overall BSR to Strategy & Resources Scrutiny Committee on 8 February 2021 includes a review of all the factors relating to the overall financial strategy that were included in the MTFS.
- 3.5 The report to The Executive on 8 February 2021 may include details of the Government's Final Settlement for 2021/22. The announcement is likely to be made shortly after the conclusion of the consultation period in January 2021.
- 3.6 Further work may be required on detailed budgets, so delegation to the Head of Finance is sought from Council for authority to finalise changes relating for example, to the reallocation of departmental administration, support service and central costs, in accordance with the CIPFA Service Reporting Code of Practice for Local Authorities (SeRCOP).

4. Council Tax Reduction Scheme

- 4.1 The Council Tax Reduction local scheme meets the Council's commitment to protect as many people as possible from any decrease in the level of support and the scheme will continue for the 2021/22 financial year.
- 4.2 The scheme already allows for uplifting of incomes and allowances in line with Housing Benefit regulations and the Consumer Price Index in the preceding September each year.
- 4.3 Preceptors are informed of any changes to the scheme each year

5. Implications

All budget proposals have a number of implications. A decision not to approve a revenue bid will impact on managers' ability to deliver the service or scheme in question and could have financial, staffing, equality and poverty, environmental, procurement or community safety implications. A decision not to approve a capital or external bid will impact on managers' ability to deliver the developments desired in the service areas.

(a) Financial Implications

Financial implications of budget proposals are summarised in the General Fund Budget Setting Report 2021/22.

(b) Staffing Implications

Staffing implications of budget proposals are also summarised in the General Fund Budget Setting Report 2021/22.

(c) Equality and Poverty Implications

A consolidated Equality Impact Assessment for the budget proposals is included in the BSR, reporting separately on this agenda. Individual Equality Impact Assessments have been conducted to support this and will be available on the Council's website.

A local poverty rating (using the classifications outlined in the BSR, Appendix C(a)) has been included in each budget proposal to assist with assessment.

(d) Environmental Implications

Where relevant, officers have considered the environmental impact of budget proposals which are annotated as follows:

- +H / +M / +L: to indicate that the proposal has a high, medium or low positive impact.

- Nil: to indicate that the proposal has no climate change impact.
- -H / -M / -L: to indicate that the proposal has a high, medium or low negative impact.

(e) Procurement Implications

Any procurement implications will be outlined in the BSR 2021/22.

(f) Community Safety Implications

Any Community Safety Implications will be outlined in the BSR 2021/22.

6. Consultation and communication considerations

Budget proposals are based on the requirements of statutory and discretionary service provision. Public consultations are undertaken throughout the year and can be seen at: cambridge.gov.uk/Consultations

7. Background papers

These background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

- Budget Setting Report 2020/21
- Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) October 2020
- Individual Equality Impact Assessments

8. Appendices

The following item is included in this report:

- Budget-Setting Report 2021/22 Version 1, February 2020 (covering 2020/21 to 2025/26)

9. Inspection of papers

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact:

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