

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	Early Years, Children & Youth Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	24 November 2014	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
TITLE:	Children's Services – Medium Term Plan Update	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: Draft Medium Term Plan update and attachments		

1 THE ISSUE

1.1 The draft Children's Services Medium Term Service & Resource Plan (MTSRP) update is presented for consideration by the Panel to ensure all members of the Panel are aware of the context and enabled to comment.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Panel is asked to:

- (1) Comment on the update to the 3 year medium term plan update for Children's Services, focusing on matters affecting 2015/16, and note that this will be the third year of the plan.
- (2) Identify any issues requiring further consideration and highlighting as part of the budget process for 2015/16.
- (3) Identify any issues arising from the draft plan it wishes to refer to the relevant portfolio holder for further consideration.

3 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL

3.1 This medium term plan update forms the basis for the budget process for 2015/16 and all relevant statutory matters are either referred to in this update or the original plan approved in 2013 (PDS November 2012).

4 THE REPORT

4.1 This report forms part of the 2015/16 service and resource planning process. As set out in the enclosed medium term plan update), the next steps include:

- (1) Panel comments considered by Portfolio Holders.
- (2) PDS Resources meeting in February to take an overview of comments from Panels and progress on budget setting.
- (3) February Cabinet budget recommendations to Council.
- (4) February Council approval of budget and Council Tax setting.

5 RATIONALE

5.1 Where the Panel wishes to either increase expenditure or reduce savings targets alternatives should be proposed.

5.2 The Panel should concentrate only on the parts of the plan relevant to its own remit as the PDS Resources meeting in February will be taking an overview.

6 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

6.1 This is a package of options as set out in the report and reflects the Council's corporate plan, its vision and values, the medium term plan agreed in 2013, public feedback, changes in legislation and the Cabinet's priorities.

6.2 The department has taken the opportunity for considerable remodelling of services, particularly in the area of Early Years and Children's Centre Services and the panel has had extensive involvement in discussing options and proposals for this remodelling.

7 CONSULTATION

7.1 The corporate implications of this report have been considered by Strategic Management Team (SMT) including the *Section 151 Finance Officer; Chief Executive & Monitoring Officer*

7.2 Further consultation took place as part of developing the revised Corporate Plan and recent Budget fairs, as well as on specific service changes where applicable.

7.3 Cabinet has been closely involved in the preparation of this update and in particular the relevant portfolio holder(s)

8 RISK MANAGEMENT

8.1 A risk assessment will be completed as part of the final budget papers and inform the Council's reserves strategy. The main risks relate in the next financial year to:

- (1) The robustness of the savings estimates.
- (2) The potential for some service levels to deteriorate as a result of the savings.
- (3) The implications for staff arising from savings, albeit that the costs of severance will be budgeted for corporately and unions are being consulted together with the affected staff.
- (4) The need to maintain a planned and phased approach to savings at a time when pressures are starting to require substantial and immediate cuts.
- (5) Equalities impacts of the savings.

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Background papers	<i>Corporate Plan and 2013/14 budget papers plus medium term plans</i>
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