

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING:	Early Years, Children and Youth Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel	
MEETING DATE:	25 November 2013	AGENDA ITEM NUMBER
TITLE:	Medium Term Service & Resource Planning – 2013/14-2015/16	
WARD:	ALL	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report:		
ANNEX 1 – Children’s Service Medium Term Service & Resources Plan 2013/14-2015/16 Update with Appendices 1 - 3		

1 THE ISSUE

1.1 The Children’s Service Medium Term Service & Resource Plan (MTSRP) Update is presented for consideration by the Panel:

- (1) To ensure all members of the Panel are aware of the context for Service Action Planning
- (2) To enable comment on the strategic choices inherent in the medium term plan
- (3) To enable issues to be referred to the relevant Portfolio holder at an early stage in the service planning and budget process

2 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 The Panel is asked to:

- (1) Comment on the update to the medium term plan for Children’s Services
- (2) Identify any issues requiring further consideration and highlighting as part of the budget process for 2014/15
- (3) Identify any issues arising from the draft plan it wishes to refer to the relevant portfolio holder for further consideration

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 This report sets the framework for the service planning and budget processes relevant to this Panel for years 2 and 3 of the 3-years plan agreed by Council in February 2013. The financial implications are set out in the enclosed annexes.
- 3.2 The overall financial background for the Council is set out in Appendix 1.

4 THE REPORT

- 4.1 This report forms part of the service and resource planning process. As set out in the enclosed medium term plan (Annex 1), the next steps include:
- (1) Panel comments considered by Portfolio Holders
 - (2) PDS Resources meeting in January to take overview of comments from Panels and progress on budget setting plus equalities issues.
 - (3) February Cabinet budget recommendations to Council
 - (4) February Council approval of budget and Council Tax setting.
- 4.2 The draft Medium Term Service & Resource Plan for Children's Services is attached as Annex 1, and includes its own appendices.
- 4.3 The Panel needs to consider the implications of this medium term plan and make recommendations to the relevant portfolio holder(s) and Cabinet. Where the panel wishes to either increase expenditure or reduce savings targets alternatives should be proposed.
- 4.4 The Panel should concentrate only on the parts of the plan relevant to its own remit as the PDS Resources meeting in January will be taking an overview.

5 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 5.1 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, some savings are from service reductions but most savings are directed at efficiencies.
 - (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.

6 EQUALITIES

6.1 Service Action plans will be developed for management purposes and will be subject to Equalities Impact Assessments as they are completed.

6.2 Equalities issues will be considered in more detail as the budget is prepared. The PDS Resources meeting in January will take an overview of progress.

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 has taken place as part of developing the revised Corporate Plan. Budget fairs took place during the week commencing 4th November and feedback from these has helped inform updates to the plan.

8 ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN REACHING THE DECISION

8.1 All the following issues are relevant to service and resource planning: *Social Inclusion; Customer Focus; Sustainability; Human Resources; Property; Young People; Human Rights; Corporate; Health & Safety; Impact on Staff; Legal Considerations*

9 ADVICE SOUGHT

9.1 The Council's Monitoring Officer (Council Solicitor) and Section 151 Officer (Finance Director) have had the opportunity to input to this report.

Contact person	<i>Mike Bowden, Tel: 01225 395610</i>
Background papers	
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	