

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING:	Safer Stronger Communities Overview & Scrutiny Panel
MEETING DATE:	18 November 2010
TITLE:	Medium Term Service & Resource Planning – 2010 to 2013
WARD:	ALL

AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM

List of attachments to this report:

Medium Term Service and Resource Plan Service Delivery for Planning, Transport, Environmental Services and Tourism, Leisure and Culture

Appendix 1 - Capital programme

Appendix 2 - Service specific changes at Divisional level

Appendix 3 - Impact of proposed budget changes

Appendix 4 - Key national and local drivers for medium term plans

Appendix 5 - Council's financial context

1 THE ISSUE

1.1 The draft Service Delivery Medium Term (Service & Resource) Plan (MTSRP) is presented for consideration by the Panel:

- (1) To set out the overall Medium Term plans at Departmental level, before more detailed Service Action Plans are considered at Divisional level in January
- (2) To enable comment on the strategic choices inherent in the medium term plan
- (3) To enable issues to be highlighted for further consideration in January by the panel
- (4) To enable issues to be referred to the relevant Portfolio holder at an early stage

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Panel is asked to:

- (1) Comment on the medium term plan for Service Delivery
- (2) Identify any issues requiring further consideration at the January meeting of the Panel
- (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 the next 3 years. The financial implications are set out in the enclosed annexes.

4 THE REPORT

- 4.1 This report forms part of the service and resource planning process. The next steps include:

- (1) Service Action Plans being presented to January O&S Panels.
- (2) Summary of O&S comments to special February CPR O&S
- (3) February Cabinet recommendations to Council
- (4) February Council approval of budget and Council Tax setting.

- 4.2 As last year:

- (1) Medium term plans are by department and look at the next 3 years but also consider in outline issues relating to the next 7 years
- (2) Service Action plans are by division (i.e. within departments) and are for 1 year only focusing on actions – they will show the commitments for each division and the savings impacts
- (3) The Corporate Plan & Sustainable Community Strategy are the guiding strategic plans which sets out the high level ambitions and plans for the Council as a whole.
- (4) A report to November Council will set out the challenges facing the Council in the light of the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review. This will also be essential context for the medium term plans.

- 4.3 The draft Medium Term Service & Resource Plan for Service Delivery is attached as an Annex and includes its own appendices.

- 4.4 The Plan contains reference to the following drivers for change:

- Sustainable Community Strategy & Corporate Plan
- Change programme - which in turn refers to:
 - Joining up public services
 - Designing services around the needs of individual customers
 - Meeting the stringent financial challenges that are facing local government

- 4.5 The Panel needs to consider the implications of this medium term plan and make recommendation to the relevant portfolio holder(s) and cabinet. Where the panel wishes to either increase expenditure or reduce savings targets alternatives should be proposed.

- 4.6 A summary of issues arising from other service blocks affecting the Council's service resource planning at a corporate level will also be presented to the CPR committee (only) prior to consideration by Cabinet and Council.

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 services to suffer and the implications for service users, as a result of the savings, albeit that most savings are directed at efficiencies or services which do not directly relate to Corporate Priorities
- (3) The implications for staff arising from savings
- (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.

6 EQUALITIES

- 6.1 Service Action plans will be subject to Equalities Impact Assessments as they are completed. They will also highlight actions that will assist the organisation retain its status as an 'Achieving Council' for equalities purposes.

7 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The corporate implications of this report have been considered by Strategic Directors Group (SDG) including the *Section 151 Finance Officer; Chief Executive & Monitoring Officer*
- 7.2 A budget fair took place on 19th October to receive comments from key partners or stakeholders on the emerging budget plans.

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 (Strategic Director – Resources & Support Services) have had the opportunity to input to this report.

Contact person	<i>Gen Chipp, Strategic Director for Service Delivery (01225 394567)</i>
Background papers	<i>Budget Report February 2010</i>
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	