

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING:	Resources Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel	
MEETING DATE:	21 November 2011	AGENDA ITEM NUMBER
TITLE:	Medium Term Service & Resource Planning – 2012/13-2014/15	
WARD:	ALL	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report:		
ANNEX 1 – Draft Resources Medium Term Service & Resource Plan 2012/13-2014/15		

1 THE ISSUE

1.1 The draft Resources Medium Term Service & Resource Plan (MTSRP) 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 highlighted for consideration in January by the Panel as part of the service action planning and budget processes
- (4) To enable issues to be referred to the relevant Portfolio holder at an early stage in the service planning and budget process

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Panel is asked to:

- (1) Comment on the medium term plan for Resources
- (2) Identify any issues requiring further consideration and highlighting as part of the service action plans and budget reports to be considered in January by 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. As set out in the enclosed medium term plan (Annex 1), the next steps include:
- (1) Service Action Plans being presented to January PDS Panels.
 - (2) February Cabinet budget recommendations to Council
 - (3) February Council approval of budget and Council Tax setting.
- 4.2 The draft Medium Term Service & Resource Plan for Resources is attached as Annex 1, and includes its own appendices (appendix 3 shows the anticipated financial and staffing impacts of the plan).
- 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.

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 subject to Equalities Impact Assessments as they are completed.

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 Further consultation has taken place as part of the previous Corporate Plan process and a new plan is being developed. A budget fair took place on 31st October and feedback from the fair has helped inform the draft 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.

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Background papers	<i>Corporate Plan & Sustainable Community Strategy</i>
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	