

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	Cabinet	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	31st October 2018	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E 3003
TITLE:	Medium Term Financial Strategy	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: Appendix A - Medium Term Financial Strategy		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 The Medium Term Financial Strategy outlines the financial context and challenges for the Council over the next five years and sets out a strategy that will be used to inform its annual budget process.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet is asked to;

- 2.1 Approve the attached Medium Term Financial Strategy;

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 3.1 The resource implications are outlined within the Medium Term Financial Strategy attached to this report.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL

- 4.1 The strategy as outlined is part of the preparation for budget and Council Tax setting for 2019/20 that will be considered by this Council in February 2019. Equality analysis will be carried out on specific budget proposals as part of that process.

5 THE REPORT

- 5.1 The Medium Term Financial Strategy outlines estimates of the future financial position of the Council. The Strategy as attached outlines a five year projection split between the next two years, plus a further three years to assist with longer term financial planning.
- 5.2 This Council, along with all local authorities, has received unprecedented reductions in funding and is facing difficult decisions about which services it can provide, as well as to what standard it can continue to provide them. Over the last few years it has been very successful in achieving efficiency savings and increasing commercial income but a 'step change' continues to be required given the scale of net savings it needs to find.
- 5.3 The new Strategy outlines the key areas of focus to balance the budget over the next five years including a review of its priorities to ensure a sustainable financial future.

6 RATIONALE

- 6.1 The rationale for the recommendations is contained in the supporting paper to this report.

7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 7.1 The supporting paper outlines other options for balancing future budgets.

8 CONSULTATION

- 8.1 A consultation plan is being prepared to ensure stakeholder engagement for the strategy, and Core Service Offer followed by consultation on individual budget proposals with a wide range of stakeholders before the budget is considered for approval in February 2019. The consultation will include November/December/January Community Forums and, in advance of those meetings, a special meeting of PDS Resources to which all elected members of the Council will be invited.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 9.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

Contact person	<i>Donna Parham, Director of Finance (01225) 477468</i>
Background papers	<i>Budget and Council Tax 2018/19 and Financial Outlook 2018/19 to 2022/23 – Council agenda February 2018</i> <i>Financial Settlement papers – Gov. website.</i>
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