

Report to: **Economy, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Committee**

Date: **22 November 2017**

By: **Chief Executive**

Title of report: **Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR)**

Purpose of report: **To provide an update on the Council's business and financial planning process (Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources) and the Committee's comments and requests for further information.**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

(1) consider any additional information requested at the September Scrutiny Committee meeting on RPPR;

(2) review the updated savings plans for 2018/19 and areas of search for savings in 2019/20 and 2020/21, as outlined in the RPPR Cabinet report of 10 October 2017, and suggest any amendments or potential alternatives that should be explored; and

(3) identify any further work or information needed to aid the Scrutiny Committee's contribution to the RPPR process for consideration at the December RPPR Board or as part of the Committee's ongoing work programme.

1. Background

1.1 As reported in September, the Council is currently in year two (2017/18) of a three year service and financial plan which was agreed by Council in February 2016. This was developed against a background of permanent reduction in the size of the public sector, including councils. The Council will have seen Revenue Support Grant fall from £100.2m in 2010 to £15m in 2018/19. By the end of the planning period it will no longer exist. Demand for services continues to grow due to demographic change, particularly for older people, and Council Tax rises are currently capped below the rate of inflation.

1.2 It was reported in September that Chief Officers were continuing to develop plans for savings of £21.9m (6% of the net revenue budget) in 2018/19, broadly in line with the allocations agreed by Council in February 2017. Consideration was also being given to high level proposals for further savings required across the subsequent two years, 2019/20 and 2020/21. Cabinet had asked Chief Officers to bring updated savings proposals for 2018/19 and areas of search for 2019/20 - 2020/21 to its meeting on 10 October 2017 for initial consideration.

1.3 The report to Cabinet in October updated the Medium Term Financial Plan, set spending and savings priorities in 2018/19, articulated the implications of the need to make further savings of an estimated £36.2m over the two years 2019/20 and 2020/21 and suggested areas of search in those two years.

2. Scrutiny engagement in RPPR

2.1 At the September meeting the scrutiny committees discussed the current Portfolio Plans and Savings Plans for 2017/18 for those services within their remit. The Committee also reviewed the existing savings proposals for 2018/19 and made comments or requests for further information.

2.2 The **November 2017 scrutiny committees** are invited to:

- consider any additional information requested at the September meeting in preparation for the RPPR Board in December;
- review the updated savings plans for 2018/19 and areas of search for savings for 2019/20-2020/21 and suggest any amendments or potential alternatives that should be explored; and
- fine tune the scrutiny committee's work programme to ensure the Committee is in the best position to contribute to the ongoing RPPR process.

Appendix 1 contains extracts from the 10 October Cabinet RPPR report, which detail the updated savings plans for 2018/19 for those services within the remit of this committee and the proposed areas of search for savings across the Council for 2019/20 and 2020/21.

The additional information requested at the September scrutiny committee meeting is presented in the two reports on the Emergency Planning Team and the Gypsy and Traveller Team elsewhere on the agenda.

2.3 The **RPPR scrutiny board** will meet on 8 December 2017 to agree detailed comments and any recommendations on the emerging portfolio plans and savings proposals to be put to Cabinet on behalf of their parent scrutiny committees in January 2018. The Chairs of all the scrutiny committees are invited to attend all the scrutiny review boards.

2.4 The **March 2018 scrutiny committees** will review the process and their input into the RPPR process and receive feedback on how scrutiny input has been reflected in final plans. Any issues arising can be reflected in the future committee work programme.

2.5 Running alongside this process, there will be a number opportunities for Members to engage in the RPPR process.

BECKY SHAW
Chief Executive

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Background Documents:

10 October Cabinet RPPR Report.