

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL  
RESOURCES AND OVERVIEW SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 19 JANUARY 2017  
REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT AND  
CULTURAL SERVICES)

2017-18 BUDGET REPORTS

**1 Executive Summary**

- 1.1 On the 10 January 2017, Cabinet will consider the details for the proposed General Fund budget, Capital Programme, Housing Revenue Account Budget, Medium Term Financial Strategy and Treasury Management Strategy for financial year 2017/18.
- 1.2 In accordance with the financial planning framework, this report formally invites the Resources and Overview Scrutiny Committee to consider these budget proposals and to recommend any comments to the Special Cabinet meeting on 24 January 2017 when the financial reports will be considered again before recommendations are made to Full Council.

**2 Recommendation(s)**

- 2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the following reports and pass any comments or recommendations to the Cabinet for consideration at its meeting on 24 January 2017.
- Medium Term Financial Strategy 2017/18 to 2019/20
  - Housing Revenue Account Budget 2017/18
  - General Fund Budget 2017/18
  - Capital Programme 2017/18 to 2021/22
  - Treasury Management Strategy 2017/18

**Implications**

**3 Financial Implication(s)**

- 3.1 The financial implications are set out within the reports listed in 2.1.

**4 Link to Corporate Priorities**

- 4.1 The subject of the financial reports is linked to the delivery of all the Council's Corporate Priorities. The MTFs reflects the Corporate Business Plan, is designed to maintain financial sustainability, ensure value for money and ensure adequate resources are available to assist the delivery of other Council Priorities.

## **5 Legal Implication(s)**

- 5.1 The Council is required by the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to make estimates of gross revenue expenditure and anticipated income, leading to a calculation of a council tax requirement and the setting of an overall budget and Council Tax. The amount of the council tax requirement must be sufficient to meet the Council's legal and financial obligations, ensure the proper discharge of its statutory duties, and lead to a balanced budget. The Council should be satisfied that the proposals put forward are a reasonably prudent use of resources in both the short and long term, and that the interests of both Council Tax payers and ratepayers on the one hand and the users of Council services on the other are both taken into account

## **6 Climate Change Implication(s)**

- 6.1 There are no direct climate change implications as a result of the recommendation of this report. However, the MTFS seeks to ensure there are adequate resources available for the Council to fulfil its responsibilities with regards to climate change.

## **7 Risk Management Implications**

- 7.1 There are considerable risks to the council's short and medium term budget strategy including the impact of the economic context, inflation and other changes in the national economy, spending exceeding budgets, pressures on existing budgets, further reductions in grant, legislative change demands for new spend. The budget process includes the recognition of these risks in determining the 2017/18 budget and relevant risk provisions are set out in the body of the reports.

## **8 Equality and Diversity**

- 8.1 In developing individual budget proposals officers have undertaken an equality impact assessment, where applicable.

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## **Appendices**

Cabinet reports:

- Medium Term Financial Strategy 2017/18 to 2019/20
- Housing Revenue Account Budget 2017/18
- General Fund Budget 2017/18
- Capital Programme 2017/18 to 2021/22
- Treasury Management Strategy 2017/18

Link: <http://democracy.welhat.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=151&MId=310&Ver=4>