
**MEDIUM TERM CORPORATE PLAN
(INCORPORATING THE MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2008/09 TO 2011/12)
AND REVENUE BUDGET 2008/09**

Responsible Cabinet Member(s) – Councillor Williams, Leader and all Cabinet Members

Responsible Director(s) – Corporate Management Team

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of the report is to agree the Council's budget requirement for 2008/09 and approve the Medium Term Corporate Plan, for 2008/09 to 2011/12.

Information

2. A detailed report incorporating the draft Corporate Plan and MTFP, prepared by the Corporate Management Team (CMT), was presented to Cabinet on 16th January 2008. Cabinet approved the draft Corporate Plan and MTFP for consultation. Extensive consultation continued up to 14th February. Every household in the Borough had opportunity to respond to the consultation and 360 replies were received.
3. Resources Scrutiny Committee considered the draft plans at its meeting on 29th January 2008 and listened to representations opposing certain of the proposals contained in the draft MTFP. After discussions the Scrutiny Committee thanked the representatives who addressed the meeting and supported the draft plans.
4. Cabinet reconsidered the draft plans and in particular the MTFP proposals at its meeting on 19th February. Two amendments were included in the draft MTFP presented to Cabinet on 19th February as a result of financial information received after 16th January. The final government grant settlement delivered marginally less grant than indicated by the provisional settlement. The increase in pensions costs notified in February was significantly less than had previously been advised. A number of other minor amendments to correct or provide additional information were detailed in the report to Cabinet.
5. A further refined Corporate Plan, taking account of changes during the planning process, was presented to Cabinet on 19th February 2008. Some further minor refinements will be required to finalise the Plan, for which delegation is requested. The corporate Plan will be presented to Cabinet again in March 2008 to sign off targets, along with departmental plans for 2008/09.

6. At Cabinet’s 19th February meeting, after examining the results of consultation and taking into account the improved financial position, several amendments were proposed, debated and recommended to Council. Those recommended amendments are incorporated in the MTFP now presented to Council and are set out below: -

Revenue	£
Civil Advice – delete one post not two	27,000
Pest Control –Retain Service	63,000
Rural Bus Subsidy – Reconfigure services in consultation and save £52,000	80,000
Car Allowances – Remove one band of allowances not two	30,000
Staff/Member Car Parking – Increase by 20% not 100%	30,000
Environmental Health – delete one post not two	40,000
Parish Grants – Retain and review distribution criteria	34,000
Ring-A-Ride – Retain and consult on proposals to reduce costs	47,000
	<u>351,000</u>
Capital	
Additional Community Environmental works – annually, 2008-09 to 2011-12	<u>400,000</u>

7. Consultation on a review of charging for non-residential care services is on-going. Once the outcome of consultation is known it will be reported to a future meeting of Cabinet when the financial implications will be considered and a decision will be made whether or not to implement the proposals. A proposal to reduce net expenditure by £200,000 is excluded from the appended MTFP.
8. The above recommended amendments are incorporated into paragraphs 56 to 63, 68, 69 and 100 and appendices 7, 8, 9 and 14 of the attached report (**Annex 1**).
9. The summary revenue MTFP recommended by Cabinet on 19th February is attached at **Appendix 15** of Annex 1.

Budget Requirement

10. The Council is required by the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to agree its budget for the following financial year. The projected resources of £131,399,000 in the proposed MTFP includes the Dedicated Schools Grant of £56,571,000 and projected Local Public Service Agreement Grant of £388,000. Statutory Regulations require the Council’s formal budget requirement be calculated as:-

	£
MTFP net expenditure/projected resources	131,399,000
Less Dedicated Schools Grant	(56,571,000)
LPSA reward grant	(388,000)
Total Budget	<u>74,440,000</u>
Add Parish Precepts	61,539
Budget Requirement	<u>74,501,539</u>

Consultation

11. The content of this report was not subject to consultation. Extensive consultation was carried out in preparing the Corporate Plan and Medium Term Financial Plan. The outcome of consultation is included in the draft plans now recommended to Council.

Legal Implications

12. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members.

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

13. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect. The contents of the draft Corporate Plan and MTFP are, however, considered to support the exercise of that duty by Council.

Council Policy Framework

14. The issues contained within this report are required to be considered by Council.

Conclusion

15. The Corporate Management Team have prepared a Corporate Plan and MTFP for the financial years 2008/09 to 2011/12 and a revenue budget for 2008/09. Cabinet has recommended to Council the attached Corporate Plan, MTFP and revenue budget.

Recommendation

16. Council are requested to approve:-

- (a) The Schedules of Charges detailed in **Annex 1**.
- (b) The Corporate Plan detailed in **Appendix 2 of Annex 1**, with delegation to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader to make any minor amendments.

- (c) The Revenue Medium Term Financial Plan detailed in **Appendix 15 of Annex 1**.
- (d) The Capital Medium Term Financial plan detailed in **Appendix 10 of Annex 1** and the additional schemes identified in **paragraph 99** of the report.
- (e) The Revenue Budget Requirement of £74,501,539 including Parish Precepts.

Reasons

17. The recommendations are supported to enable the Council to :-

- (a) Produce a Corporate Plan and Medium Term Financial Plan.
- (b) Set a revenue budget for 2008/09 in accordance with statutory requirements.

Corporate Management Team

Background Papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report other than the documents referred to in Annex 1.