

**HEALTH AND PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

17 January 2018

**PRESENT** – Councillor J Taylor (in the Chair); Councillors Copeland, Crichlow and Tostevin. (6)

**APOLOGIES** – Councillors Grundy, Newall and H Scott and Miriam Davidson, Director of Public Health. (4)

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE** (1)

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE** – Elizabeth Davison, Assistant Director Finance, Human Resources and Systems; and Karen Graves, Democratic Officer.

**EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES** – Michelle Thompson, Chief Executive, Healthwatch Darlington.

**HP37. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

**HP38. MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN** – Submitted – A report (previously circulated) of the Chief Officers Executive which had been considered by Cabinet at its meeting held on 12 December, 2017 in relation to the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2018/19 to 2021/22.

Reference was made to the proposals within the submitted report in relation to the current position of the MTFP and to the proposed allocation of an additional £4.4 million which had been identified to create five Futures Fund Investment themes which would stimulate growth and would be used over the four years of the MTFP.

It was however reported that since the publication of those proposals there had been two significant areas of change which would affect that position, namely the announcement by the Government to allow Council's to increase Council tax by an additional one per cent in 2018/19 and 2019/20 before a referendum was required and the National Pay Award offer which had been made to the Unions which was over and above that originally budgeted for and would potentially remove all of the funding for the proposed Futures Fund.

Cabinet had considered the proposed increase to the Council Tax at its meeting held on 9 January, 2018, and had agreed to amend the proposed Council Tax from 1.99 per cent plus a social care precept of three per cent (4.99 per cent) to 2.99 per cent plus an adult social care precept of three per cent (5.99 per cent) in 2018/19.

It was also reported that the quarter three budget monitoring position was being pulled together and a favourable result was anticipated and whilst there would be a Futures Fund the actual amount was uncertain at this stage. Members were also advised that of the five Themes identified for the Futures Fund one of them, Theme 1 - Community Safety, specifically related to this Scrutiny Committee.

Discussion ensued on the Community Safety element of Theme 5 - Neighbourhood Renewal in relation to Red Hall Healthy New Town; the budget make up for community safety; and the Council's funding allocation to Healthwatch Darlington.

**RESOLVED** - That Cabinet be advised that this Scrutiny Committee supports the proposed principles within Theme 1 of the Futures Fund and the proposed Council Tax increase of 2.99 per cent plus the three per cent social care levy to fund Adult Social Care for 2018/19.