

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
COMMUNITY SAFETY & WASTE CABINET PANEL
WEDNESDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2016 AT 10 AM
INTEGRATED PLAN 2016/17 - 2019/20

Joint Report of Assistant Director – Finance
 The Chief Executive & Director of Environment and
 The Director of Community Protection

Author(s): Lindsey McLeod Head of Accountancy Services
 Mike Collier Assistant Director (Environment)
 Darryl Keen Deputy Chief Fire Officer

Executive Members: Richard Thake (Executive Member for Community
 Safety & Waste)
 Chris Hayward (Executive Member for Resources and
 Performance)

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To highlight the areas of the Integrated Plan which relate to Community Safety & Waste in order for Panel to consider these and provide comment.
- 1.2 Members are asked to bring the following reports to the meeting, which have been circulated separately to all Members of the County Council:

‘Public Engagement and Consultation on the 2016/17 – 2019/20 Integrated Plan’ (circulated as Item 4(i) for the Cabinet meeting of 18 January 2016); and

‘DRAFT INTEGRATED PLAN 2016/17 – 2019/20 (incorporating the Strategic Direction and Financial Consequences and the Treasury Management Strategy)’ (circulated as Item 4(ii) for the Cabinet meeting of 18 January 2016).

2. Summary

- 2.1 The Integrated Plan brings together the financial impact of service plans and the available funding to resource these, over the next four years. Strategic Direction summaries have been produced for each Portfolio, which set out the future direction of services in the context of achieving substantial further savings. These have been informed by comparative benchmarking, both through published data and informal networks with other comparable authorities, to identify areas of potential efficiency

gains. Services have identified savings, in the context of the continuing budgetary pressures and reduction in available funding.

- 2.2 Savings requiring a policy change have been taken through Panels for Cabinet decisions throughout 2015/16, and substantial efficiency savings have been identified. However, the Provisional Settlement announced on 17 December included a significant reduction and redistribution of central government funding, and Revenue Support Grant and other core funding is £24m lower than had been anticipated. Further savings options have been identified and increases in council tax and the new Social Care Precept are proposed in order to achieve a balanced budget. The IP Pack and Strategic Direction documents have been updated for the proposed savings.
- 2.3 Savings include reducing the allocation of general non-pay inflation to zero, in line with current CPI. Whilst this is mitigated to some extent by excluding exceptional inflation areas it will require services to manage the impact during 2016/17.
- 2.4 The final position will not be confirmed until the Final Settlement (expected early February) and other late grant announcements, and until figures are received from Districts for council tax base and collection fund balances, due to be provided by end January. Some proposed savings identified following the provisional settlement are also subject to final agreement with partners. Should any late changes result in an unbalanced budget, specific reserves will be used to provide one off funding in 2016/17.
- 2.5 The future position remains challenging: even with the identified savings and continued year on year increases in council tax and the social care precept, current projections of pressures and funding require a further £37.9 million saving to be identified in 2017/18, rising to £70.8 million by 2019/20.
- 2.6 To help meet these challenging targets, work is in hand to progress further savings during 2016, for implementation for 2017/18 or sooner where achievable. It is recognised that savings require significant lead in times, especially where there is service redesign or consultation.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 The Panel is invited to comment to Cabinet on the proposals relating to the Integrated Plan in respect of Community Safety & Waste.
- 3.2 The Panel is also asked to identify any issues that it feels that the Cabinet should consider in finalising the Integrated Plan proposals.

4. Background

- 4.1 The integrated plan comprises:

- an overview of the proposed revenue budget and capital programme (Part A);
- Strategic Direction and Financial Consequences (Part B);
- an Equalities Impact Assessment (Part C);
- other technical information (Part D) incorporating details of inflation calculations; a review of the budget estimates and adequacy of reserves; and summarising the budget information outlined in Part B;
- the Treasury Management Strategy (Part E);
- the Insurance Strategy (Part F); and
- the Invest to Transform programme (Part G).

4.2 Part B of the Integrated Plan has separate sections for each Portfolio. These contain the strategic direction summary (for the Community Safety & Waste portfolio this can be found on pages 47 to 57); the key issues for the portfolio (pages 58 to 64); revenue budget information including a schedule of Key Budget Movements that sets out details of financial pressures and savings (pages 65 and 66); an analysis of the revenue budget by objective area on pages 67 and 68; and a summary of the proposed Capital Programme on pages 69 to 73.

5. Equality Implications

5.1 Part C of the Integrated Plan (which starts on page 168) provides an equality impact assessment of the savings included within the plan and how these are intended to be mitigated by the service.