



- 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 2015 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 Consumer Price Index (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 2016. 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 Environment, Planning & Transport.
- 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**

- 4.1.1 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 Environment, Planning and Transport portfolio this can be found on pages 91 to 96); the key issues for the portfolio (pages 97 and 98); revenue budget information including a schedule of Key Budget Movements that sets out details of financial pressures and savings (pages 99 and 100); an analysis of the revenue budget by objective area on page 101 and a summary of the proposed Capital Programme on pages 102 to 104.

## **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.

### *Background Information:*

Integrated Plan Proposals 2016/17 – 2019/20