

## **SCRUTINY OF THE INTEGRATED PLAN PROPSALS 2016/17 – 2019-20**

The Committee comments of the Scrutiny of the Integrated Plan Proposals 2016/17 – 2019/20 are set out below:

### **Committee Comments**

#### **Options for meeting the budget shortfall of £1.665m for 2015/16**

1. The Committee suggested that further evaluation be undertaken before any reductions are made to the Member Locality Budget and that consideration should be given amalgamating the Member Locality Budget and the Member Highways Budget.
2. Members suggested combining with 5% reduction overall to achieve the required budget cut and a minimum £85k Highways spend and £10k maximum Locality spend
3. There were no other comments on the potential options identified by Cabinet for meeting the budget shortfall in 2016/17.

### **Committee Suggestions**

That Cabinet gives consideration to the following:-

1. Assessing the impact on the Council's services of the changing demographics in the County so that future pressures and challenges can be addressed through detailed service plans and within the financial constraints within which the Council is operating.
2. Improving and strengthening partnership working through the further development of the relationships between all County Council departments and their stakeholders, including Health, the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), other tiers of local government and the voluntary sector.
3. Investigating how localism and devolution activities can directly involve partners, particularly lower-tier authorities, rather than being driven in a 'top-down' manner; and how they can be used to better support local economic development and prosperity. Members would welcome Highways Together options being extended to district and borough councils where possible.
4. Enabling smaller and medium sized local businesses to better

understand the County Council's procurement processes to promote the local economy.

5. Investigating what further departmental and cross-portfolio/partnership working opportunities exist to ensure utilisation of the expertise and experience of trained officers (e.g. Fire & Rescue former frontline officers) / staff (e.g. Highways officers drafting Traffic Regulation Orders) across different services to generate future savings and service resilience.
6. Continuing to look for opportunities to maximise the use of the Council's assets:
  - (a) To ensure the most appropriate sites are used for services, including co-location e.g. retained fire stations and libraries
  - (b) To further encourage services and partners to share accommodation
  - (c) To ensure rental charges help address budget challenges
  - (d) To examine ways of increasing business and income through County Council traded services.
7. Developing a clear strategy for encouraging and supporting volunteering across services and providing further support for stakeholders and volunteers in helping deliver services for the community.
8. Encouraging bus companies and community transport providers to maintain routes after Hertfordshire County Council subsidies have been withdrawn.
9. As a matter of urgency, Hertfordshire Leaders Group and Hertfordshire Infrastructure and Planning Partnership (HIPP) address the strategic infrastructure planning issues, particularly with regard to housing development, to assess future budgetary implications for the Council arising from inadequate setting of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)
10. Transferring the Dial-A-Ride service from Environment to Adult Care and Health and lowering the qualifying age limit for those able to use the service to 60.
11. All future portfolio papers clarify statutory and non-statutory obligations and priorities within the Service's financial constraints

The full report can be viewed at [Overview & Scrutiny Committee - Scrutiny of the IPP 2016/17 – 2019-20 - Minutes](#)