

CABINET

BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK UPDATE

22nd January 2008

Joint Report of Corporate Director (Finance & Performance) & Head of Financial Services

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek Cabinet's approval of the draft 2008/9 Budget and Policy Framework proposals to be used in a limited consultation exercise in accordance with the agreed timetable prior to submission to Council.

Key Decision

Non-Key Decision

Referral from
Officers

X

This report is public.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 That Cabinet approve the draft 2008/9 Corporate Plan as a basis for consultation in accordance with the agreed timetable.
- 2 That Cabinet consider and approve its revenue and capital budget proposals as a basis for consultation in accordance with the agreed timetable.
- 3 That the draft 2008/9 Corporate Plan and revenue and capital budget proposals be referred to Council for their consideration on the 6th February 2008 as appropriate, and as reflected in the three separate reports to follow.

1 POLICY FRAMEWORK

1.1 Corporate Plan

At the November Cabinet meeting, it was agreed to establish a small informal group of Cabinet to review the responses from the public consultation exercise and this exercise is now largely completed.

A copy of the latest draft of the Corporate Plan (as amended by officers following limited responses from the Cabinet sub-group) is attached as Appendix A.

Please note that at this stage of the process, targets and outcomes for each corporate priority will not be included unless Cabinet have already considered the matter.

To assist Cabinet further in approving a draft Corporate Plan that can be recommended to Council, a copy of the latest version of the Strategic Risk Register is attached as Appendix B. Please note that following Cabinet's consideration of the revised Corporate Plan at this meeting, the Strategic Risk Register will be updated to reflect Cabinet's decisions. Updated risk information will then be fed into subsequent meetings.

The next stage of the consultation process will be a presentation of the Cabinet's budget and policy framework proposals to a special meeting of the Budget & Performance Panel on 30th January. All members of Council will be invited to this meeting, together with key partners and members of the Economic Stakeholder Forum.

Following this meeting, the proposals will be presented to full Council on 6th February for their consideration.

At this stage, we do not know the outcome of the consultations that are taking place locally through the Local Strategic Partnership to refresh the Sustainable Community Strategy, or the outcomes from the refresh of the county-wide Lancashire Local Area Agreement or the County Council's refresh of its "Ambition Lancashire". As more certainty about these are known, it will be necessary to review our own Corporate Plan to ensure consistency between these strategies.

Following Council's adoption of the Corporate Plan, the detailed targets and outcomes for each corporate priority will be worked up and presented to the Council's Business Committee for their approval under delegated powers as in previous years.

2 BUDGET FRAMEWORK

At the meeting in December, Cabinet considered information on the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement.

As part of this budget and policy framework update, three separate reports are currently being prepared, covering:

- Council Housing Revenue Budget & Capital Programme
- General Fund Revenue Budget
- General Fund Capital Programme

These will provide more detailed financial information and will take account of the financial implications of other reports elsewhere on this agenda. Also, in the meantime, financial information will continue to be fed into Star Chamber.

Cabinet is therefore requested to formulate its revenue and capital budget proposals, which reflect its proposed Corporate Plan priorities and the latest financial information included in the budget reports. The proposals can then be used as the basis for the next stage of consultation and also be referred on to full Council on 6th February as appropriate.

RELATIONSHIP TO POLICY FRAMEWORK

Implementation of the Budget and Policy Framework timetable will ensure that Council approves its Plans, Strategies, and Budgets in accordance with the statutory requirements. The budget proposals will represent in financial terms what the Council plans to achieve as set in its policy framework documents.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability etc)

None arising directly from this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None arising directly from this report.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments to add.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Legal Services have been consulted and there are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

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