



Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel

12 November 2014

Report Title	Budget Review – 2015/16 Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2015/16 – 2018/19	
Cabinet Member with Lead Responsibility	Councillor Roger Lawrence Leader of the Council	
	Councillor Andrew Johnson Resources	
Wards Affected	All	
Accountable Strategic Director(s)	Keith Ireland, Managing Director Sarah Norman, Community Tim Johnson, Education and Enterprise	
Originating service	Strategic Finance	
Accountable officer(s)	Mark Taylor Tel Email	Assistant Director Finance 01902 55(6609) mark.taylor@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Panel is recommended to:

1. Provide feedback to Scrutiny Board for consolidation and onward response to Cabinet on the draft budget and medium term financial strategy 2015/16 to 2018/19, in particular those elements that are relevant to this Scrutiny Panel, including specifically:
 - a. the savings proposals summarised at Appendix A.
2. Approve that the Scrutiny Panel response be finalised by the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Scrutiny Panel and forwarded to Scrutiny Board for consideration.

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to seek the panel's feedback on the draft five year budget and medium term financial strategy that was approved as the basis of consultation by the Cabinet on 22 October 2014, in particular the elements that relate to the work of this panel.

2. Background

- 2.1. At its meeting on 22 October 2014, the Cabinet considered a draft budget and medium term financial strategy for the period 2015/16 to 2018/19. Cabinet approved the draft budget strategy as the basis of budget consultation and scrutiny over forthcoming months.
- 2.2. The Cabinet report identified a requirement to make further savings of £59.2 million by 2018/19, due to a combination of reductions in resources and cost pressures. The report included a list of new savings amounting to £8.9 million to contribute to addressing this savings requirement, in addition to £18.1 million of savings that were approved for further development by Cabinet on 25 June 2014.
- 2.3. As detailed in the Cabinet report, the budget and medium term financial strategy will be considered by scrutiny panels during the November/December round of meetings and the feedback from those meetings will be reported to Scrutiny Board on 9 December 2014, which will consolidate that feedback in a formal response to Cabinet on 14 January 2015. The feedback provided to Scrutiny Board will include questions asked by panel members, alongside the responses that they received. These arrangements have been endorsed by the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Scrutiny Board.
- 2.4. Scrutiny Board will consider the budget again in January 2015, following an update to Cabinet (Resources) Panel on the draft budget and medium term financial strategy and the local government finance settlement, which is scheduled for January 2015. The purpose of this meeting will be to consider the response of Cabinet to the comments made by Scrutiny Board during the November/December round of meetings, together with any new savings proposals that may emerge. The outcome of this Board meeting will be incorporated into the final Cabinet budget report, scheduled for February 2015, ahead of full council considering the budget in March 2015.
- 2.5. In order to limit the volume of paper used as part of the budget reporting process, the Cabinet report has not been appended to this covering report. Panel members are instead requested to bring their copy of the 2015/16 Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2015/16 – 2018/19 report, which was circulated with the 22 October 2014 Cabinet agenda. Detail of individual savings proposals can be found on the council's website at: <http://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/budgetsavings>.

3. Proposals relating to the work of this panel

- 3.1. Included in the draft budget and medium term financial strategy are savings proposals relating to the remit of this panel. These are listed at Appendix A. The panel is requested to provide and record its comments on these proposals, for submission to Scrutiny Board and then Cabinet.
- 3.2. In addition to commenting on these specific savings proposals, the panel may also request additional information or clarification in relation to the budget and medium term financial strategy. Any such requests will be noted separately, either for consideration by the panel at a future date, or for information to be forwarded to the panel members concerned.

4. Financial implications

- 4.1. The financial implications are discussed in the body of the report, and in the report to Cabinet.

[DK/29102014/M]

5. Legal implications

- 5.1. The legal implications are discussed in the report to Cabinet.
[RB/04112014/B]

6. Equalities implications

- 6.1. The equalities implications are discussed in the report to Cabinet.

7. Environmental implications

- 7.1. The environmental implications are discussed in the report to Cabinet.

8. Human resources implications

- 8.1. The human resources implications are discussed in the report to Cabinet.

9. Schedule of background papers

- 9.1 2015/16 Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2015/16 – 2018/19, report to Cabinet, 22 October 2014

Updated June Savings Proposals by Cabinet Portfolio

Children and Families

Description of Saving	Directorate	2014/15 £000	2015/16 £000	Later Years £000
Children's Short Breaks administration	Community	19	19	-
Wolverhampton Youth Zone	Community	-	350	(150)
Special Educational Needs Reform Grant Efficiencies	Community	140	(140)	-
Looked After Children	Community	-	5,000	1,000
Commissioning – Bring forward 18/19 savings	Community	-	53	(53)
Additional Savings - The Haven	Community	-	84	-

October Savings Proposals by Cabinet Portfolio

Children and Families

Description of Saving	Directorate	2014/15 £000	2015/16 £000	Later Years £000
Children, Young People and Families Voluntary Redundancies.	Community	-	200	-
Review Workforce Need and Capabilities within the Safeguarding and Quality Service	Community	-	100	-