

EX52. Revenue Budget 2018/19 and 2019/20

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services setting out the background and progression of a two year Revenue Budget process, together with template savings options identified by officers, to date.

Council had previously agreed the progression of a two year Revenue Budget within the context of both the Corporate Plan 2017-2022 and Council of the Future agenda.

Reference was made to the Medium Term Financial Plan, the central financial projection of annual budget gaps and the need to identify how the gaps between resources and desired spend will be bridged. The Budget Gap statement, appended to the report, sets out the main sources whereby gaps may be closed.

The Council's service savings options identified by officers to date were set out in templates appended to the report, however, it was highlighted that these were options, at this stage. It was recognised that further work required to be undertaken to identify significantly more saving options.

Information contained in the report suggests that the shape of the Council in terms of its size, range of services which it delivers and how these are delivered requires changes. Work will continue to ensure that sufficient fit for purpose saving options are available to allow the statutory requirement of a balanced budget to be achieved by February 2018.

Decision

The Executive noted:-

- (1) the report dealing with years 3 – 5 of the Medium Term Financial Plan will be presented to Members later this financial year;**
- (2) the potential impact on the workforce if the options being consulted on were to subsequently be agreed;**
- (3) that discussions will continue with Trade Unions on Terms & Conditions;**
- (4) the Budget savings options identified by Officers in the appended templates and that these will be the subject of consultation with stakeholders [section 4.3], and**
- (5) that Officers be directed to continue to research further savings options which can be brought before Members later in the Budget process.**