

21 November 2017

Draft Revenue Budget and Efficiency Plan 2017/18 – 2020/21

Ward(s) All

Portfolio: Councillor A. Nawaz – Children's Services and Education

Executive Summary :

The draft revenue budget and efficiency plan, as reported to Cabinet on 25 October 2017, includes the latest medium term financial outlook for the four year period from 2017/18 to 2020/21 and sets out to rebalance the council's finances over a four year period, to provide ongoing financial stability for the Authority, in a period of great uncertainty.

This report provides an extract of the draft budget proposals under the remit of the Education and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

Reason for scrutiny:

To enable consultation of the draft budget proposals for services within the remit of this Committee.

Recommendation

The Committee is recommended to consider the draft budget proposals attached that relate to the remit of this committee.

The Committee are asked to note that all 2018/19 and 2019/20 policy savings shown in appendix 1 have all previously been consulted on as part of the 2017/18 budget setting process and that feedback from this Committee was taken into account at that point in time.

Background papers

Various financial working papers.

Resource and legal considerations

Cabinet on 25 October 2017 presented a list of proposed revenue savings and investments for consultation, and indicative revenue cash limits, as part of a 4 year financial plan to rebalance the council's budget.

The full Cabinet report can be accessed at the following link: [Draft Revenue Budget](#)

Savings proposals under the remit of this Committee are shown in **Appendix 1**, and are shown under two categories:

1. **Policy** - with a direct impact on services, and which require an Executive decision to proceed. All policy savings under the remit of this Committee, as shown in **Appendix 1**, have been consulted upon as part of the 2017/18 budget setting process.
2. **Operational** – savings which officers have delegations to implement; examples include restructures, back office savings, operational efficiencies. Any new operational savings are clearly marked as 'new' in **Appendix 1**.

Investment / cost pressures

A number of investment / cost pressures have been identified and included in the draft budget proposals. Those relating to the remit of this Committee are shown as **Appendix 2**.

Citizen impact

Details of potential impact are identified within the individual policy papers previously approved by Cabinet and reported to this Committee.

Environmental impact

The impact on the environment is considered in all savings proposals.

Performance management

Financial performance is considered alongside service performance. Managers are required to deliver their services within budget and there are comprehensive arrangements in place to monitor and manage this.

Equality Implications

Service managers have regard to equalities delivering services and identifying saving options. Equality impact assessments will be undertaken as required prior to final recommendations being made to Council on the budget, along with any mitigating actions. The majority of the Education and Children's Services savings are based upon the review of needs and how they are met within statutory requirements.

Consultation

Consultation is an integral part of the corporate budget process and ongoing arrangements are in hand to consult with a wide range of stakeholders as appropriate (i.e. councillors, residents, service users, business sector, voluntary and community

organisations, etc.). This is outlined in the report to Cabinet on 25 October 2017 entitled 'Draft revenue budget and efficiency plan 2017/18 – 2020/21'.

Any additional feedback from consultation, including those from this committee, will be presented to Cabinet on 13 December 2017 for their consideration.

Any changes to the draft budget proposals, including any additional feedback from consultation, will be reported to a future meeting of the committee, providing an opportunity to make further recommendations to Cabinet. Cabinet may wish to consider the feedback contained within this report in formulating their draft and final budget proposals

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SUMMARY OF PROPOSED REVENUE SAVINGS BY PORTFOLIO

Saving reference	Detail of saving / efficiency	2018/19 £	2019/20 £
Children's Services and Education Portfolio			
Policy			
6	Review demand for SEN transport. More provision of Special School Places will reduce transport and existing travel costs		200,000
9/10	Reduction of spend on Looked after Children including those in Out of Borough Placements and reduced LAC numbers and costs	762,044	1,823,044
11	Review and reduce Children's Social Care contact service	64,000	
13	Review and reduce Youth Services and align functions to the 0-19 Early Help locality model	421,301	110,572
14	Cease or identify alternative funding to support School Improvement Services	271,198	135,599
Operational			
8	General efficiencies and improved commissioning arrangements for SEN short breaks	100,000	
90	Reduce administrative support – Children's wide	333,010	403,313
91	Review and reduce Early Help 0-19 model		100,000
93	Review demand for SEN short breaks	23,000	140,000
95	Reduce agency social workers	227,000	227,000
97	Review and reduce Children's Social Care Workforce Training & Practice Development		44,744
99	Review and reduce Children's Youth Justice Services or identify alternative contributions	50,000	50,000
NEW	Efficiencies within Early Help	65,000	
NEW	Additional traded income and structure changes within Safeguarding	42,000	
NEW	Reduction on premature retirements budget to realign against current spend profile	50,000	
NEW	General efficiencies across directorate	36,135	43,135
Total Children's Services and Education Portfolio		2,444,688	3,277,407

APPENDIX 2

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED INVESTMENT / COST PRESSURES BY PORTFOLIO

Detail of investment / cost pressure	2018/19 £	2019/20 £	2020/21 £
Children's Services and Education Portfolio			
Foster Care provision	54,660	54,857	55,055
Shortfall in traded income - truancy fines	25,000	0	0
Shortfall in traded income - education psychologists	200,000	0	0
Shortfall in traded income - information services	30,000	0	0
Increase in costs relating to changes in demographics	1,655,000	2,000,000	2,000,000
Increase in costs relating to additional LAC numbers	1,000,000	(500,000)	0
Unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) placement and wrap around support costs	250,000	250,000	0
Less Home Office grant contribution for unaccompanied asylum seeking children	(38,640)	(40,116)	0
Ongoing staffing resource for Children's Commissioning and Placements function to support LAC controls/savings/placement function	0	0	112,500
Increase in transition and leaving care	200,000	0	0
Increase in costs for home to school transport	130,000	130,000	0
Additional social worker posts associated with increases in LAC demand	240,000	180,000	180,000
CSC recruitment and retention programme - associated with caseload guarantees and agreed as part of 2017/18 budget setting	422,000	(254,000)	(255,000)
ESG fall out	773,529	1,500,000	0
Fall out of troubled families grant	0	0	1,029,641
Removal of Police & Crime Commissioner contribution	61,426	0	0
Total Children's Services and Education Portfolio	5,002,975	3,320,741	3,122,196