

COUNTY COUNCIL

22 FEBRUARY 2017

UPDATE TO THE MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2017-2020 AND BUDGET 2017-2018

Report of the Chief Executive

Cabinet Member: Grant Davey, Leader of the County Council and
Councillor Dave Ledger, Deputy Leader of the County Council

Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to request that County Council approve delegated authority to the Section 151 Officer or Deputy Section 151 Officer to adjust the 2017-2018 budget and Medium Term Financial Plan 2017-2020 for any changes announced as part of the final settlement following the delay in the announcement until late February 2017.

Recommendations

The County Council received the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement on 15 December 2016. The final settlement was due mid-February but has been delayed until late February to allow extra parliamentary time for Brexit negotiations. It is therefore requested that the County Council delegate authority for any changes in funding as a result of the final settlement to the Chief Executive (Section 151 Officer) or Director of Corporate Resources (Deputy Section 151 Officer). Any such changes will be met through transfers to/from the general reserves.

Key Issues

1. This report should be read in conjunction with the main report "Northumberland County Council's Medium Term Financial Plan 2017-2020 and Budget for 2017-2018 (Part 2)", also tabled at this meeting.

Report Author Steven Mason, Chief Executive
 (01670) 622929
 Steven.Mason@northumberland.gov.uk

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IMPLICATIONS ARISING OUT OF THE REPORT

- Policy:** This is the second year of the Medium Term Financial Plan 2016-2020. The plan supports both the Community Strategy and Corporate Plan.
- Finance and value for money:** The Council remains under significant financial pressure. 2017-2020 and beyond will continue to be challenging.
- Human Resources:** The size of the financial challenge will have a detrimental impact on staffing levels across the Council. The Council will continue to try and mitigate this impact by the management of vacancies and voluntary redundancy wherever possible.
- Property:** A significant proportion of the capital programme refers to property and asset. The estates rationalisation plan has now been implemented and is on-going.
- Equalities:** (Impact Assessment attached)
The Deputy Chief Executive has prepared an overarching equality review, which identifies the main overall issues which need to be considered when setting the budget. Cabinet and/or County Council will be asked to consider changing the budget proposals should it at a later stage prove not to be possible to mitigate an unacceptable equality impact.
- Yes No N/A
- The Council Tax Support Scheme remains unchanged and has previously been subject to an Equality Impact Assessment.
- A separate Equality Impact Assessment has been compiled for the Council's Pay Policy.
- Risk Assessment:** The risks associated with the budget proposals are regarded as acceptable but these risks will continue to be reviewed up to and including implementation of the detailed proposals.
- Carbon Reduction:** The budget makes financial provision for the carbon taxes levied by the Government and the Council are implementing as well as developing a number of

invest to save proposals concerning the management of energy.

Crime & Disorder:

This report has given careful consideration to Section 17 of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 and the duty it imposes.

Customer Considerations:

The individual proposals will carefully consider the impact upon both customers and residents of Northumberland.

Consultation:

The budget report has been consulted upon by the Area Committees and has been subject to a review by the Corporate Resources and Regional Affairs Overview & Scrutiny Committee. Cabinet on 7 February 2017 considered the Medium Term Financial Plan 2017-2020 and 2017-2018 Budget.

Wards:

All wards.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

07 February 2016 Cabinet

Medium Term Financial Plan 2017-2020 and Budget 2017-2018

Report sign off.

Authors must ensure that relevant officers and members have agreed the content of the report:

	initials
Finance Officer	AE
Monitoring Officer/Legal	LH
Human Resources	n/a
Procurement	n/a
I.T.	n/a
Executive Director	SM
Portfolio Holder(s)	GD

