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| REPORT TO: | Scrutiny and Overview Committee 7th December 2021 |
| SUBJECT: | 2022-23 Budget and Three Year Medium Term Financial Strategy |
| LEAD OFFICER: | Richard Ennis, Interim Director of Finance, Investment and Risk (S151 Officer) |
| PUBLIC/EXEMPT: | Public |

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| ORIGIN OF ITEM: | <p>The appended Cabinet report is the first in a series of budget reports due to be considered in the lead up to the budget being set by Council in February 2022.</p> <p>The report has been included on the agenda for the Scrutiny and Overview Committee to inform the budget scrutiny process</p> |
| BRIEF FOR THE COMMITTEE: | <p>The Scrutiny and Overview Committee is asked to:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the contents of the Cabinet report on 2022-23 Budget and Three Year Medium Term Financial Strategy. 2. Review the information provided with a view to, as part of the wider budget scrutiny process, forming conclusions on the deliverability and sustainability of the 2022-23 budget, as well as ensuring there is an understanding of the key risks. 3. Considered whether there are any specific budget proposals that should be tested in further detail by either the Committee or one of its Sub-Committees in January 2022. |

1. 2022-23 BUDGET AND THREE YEAR MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY

- 1.1. The Scrutiny and Overview Committee is presented with a copy of a report on 2022-23 Budget and Three Year Medium Term Financial Strategy due to be considered by Cabinet on 6 December. This has been provided to inform the budget scrutiny process, from which the Committee will be looking to reach a view on the deliverability and sustainability of the 2022-23 Budget. The Committee will also be looking to ensure that there is an understanding of the key risks and ownership of the proposals by the Council's political leadership.
- 1.2. To prepare for the budget scrutiny process, members of the Committee have received two training sessions delivered by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny on best practice for budget scrutiny. On 23 November 2021, the Committee has also received a briefing from the Council's Section 151 Officer on the key budget principles and the approach to setting the budget.

- 1.3. The three scrutiny sub-committees (Children & Young People, Health & Social Care and Streets, Environment & Homes) will each have a briefing on the budget proposals for their areas of responsibility in the week of 29 December. Feedback from these sessions will be reported verbally by the sub-committee Chairs to inform the Committee's consideration of this report.
- 1.4. There will be further opportunity in January and early February 2022 for both the Committee and Sub-Committee to undertake work related to budget scrutiny. As such the Committee is asked to consider whether there are any specific budget proposals that need to be tested in greater detail at either a Committee or Sub-Committee meeting in the New Year.
- 1.5. As noted above, this report is only one part of the budget scrutiny process and primarily focuses on the General Fund budget. The Committee expects either itself or one of its sub-committees to be given the opportunity to scrutinise the capital budget, the Housing Revenue Account and Education Budget. The exact timetable for these items to be scrutinised is being finalised at the time of writing this report and a verbal update can be provided at the meeting by the Senior Democratic Services & Governance Officer on the work programme, if requested.

REPORT AUTHOR: Simon Trevaskis – Senior Democratic Services & Governance Officer

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 – Cabinet Report – 22-23 Budget and Three Year Medium Term Financial Strategy

Appendix 1A - Detailed Budget Change Proposals

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None