

BRECKLAND COUNCIL

Report of Lady K Fisher, Executive Member for Governance to the CABINET- 09/09/2008

Medium Term Financial Strategy

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To consider the Medium Term Financial Strategy prior to a recommendation to Council for approval.

2. Recommendations

- It is recommended that the Cabinet:
- 2.1 Recommend the strategy to Council for approval
- 2.2 Council approve the strategy

Note: In preparing this report, due regard has been had to equality of opportunity, human rights, prevention of crime and disorder, environmental and risk management considerations as appropriate. Relevant officers have been consulted in relation to any legal, financial or human resources implications and comments received are reflected in the report.

3. Information, Issues and Options

3.1 Background

- 3.1.1 It is a requirement of the Use of Resources Key Lines of Enquiries to have a medium term financial strategy in place, covering a minimum of three years.

3.2 Issues

- 3.2.1 The strategy attached sets the framework within which the budget is to be set to ensure that it enables the Council to achieve its priorities. It will instruct officers of the principles to be used in preparing the budget. The strategy also ensures that the budget meets the requirements of legislation, best practice and corporate governance. The estimates, when presented to Cabinet, will form a complementary part of this strategy, but with a more detailed analysis of the financial projections, showing the resource requirements and balances over the next five years.

- 3.2.2 The strategy was well received by the Audit Commission in 2007/08 and has been further updated to more fully reflect the criteria laid down in the latest Use of Resources Key Lines of Enquiry. The strategy is presented in a format that should inform stakeholders and fully support the objectives of the Council.

- 3.2.3 The development of the strategy includes the formation of a Core Strategy along with supporting appendices. The Core Strategy gives the reader,

- A review of the existing strategy
- Updated financial projections
- A strategy built around defined actions
- Commitment to the delivery of corporate priorities
- Articulated links to the Value for Money and Performance Management Framework
- Stated outputs from the strategy

The supporting appendices provides the reader a contextual framework on,

- Medium term influences and key factors
- Strategic context on components of importance

- A defined approach towards Value for Money
- Principles of budget preparation
- Links to supporting strategic documents
- Defined risk and monitoring arrangements

3.3 Options

3.3.1 To recommend the strategy to Council for approval

3.3.2 Not to recommend the strategy to Council for approval

3.4 Reasons for Recommendation(s)

3.4.1 To provide a clear framework for officers to manage the Council's finances over the medium term.

3.4.2 To meet the requirements of the Use of Resources Key Lines of Enquiries.

4. **Risk and Financial Implications**

4.1 Risk

4.1.1 I have completed the Risk Management questionnaire and can confirm that risk has been given careful consideration, and that there are no significant risks identified associated with the information in this report

4.2 **Financial**

4.2.1 None

5. **Legal Implications**

5.1 None

6. **Other Implications** [*Insert statement or confirm 'none' as appropriate at each sub-paragraph*]

a) Equalities: None

b) Section 17, Crime & Disorder Act 1998: None

c) Section 40, Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006: None

d) Human Resources: None

e) Human Rights: None

f) Other: None

7. **Alignment to Council Priorities**

7.1 The financial nature of the strategy covers the full range of Council services and priorities

8. **Ward/Community Affected**

8.1 n/a

Background Papers

[Insert title and type of document – must include date of previous committee report(s) as appropriate]

Lead Contact Officer:

Name/Post: Mark finch/Chief Accountant

Telephone: 01362 656845

Email: mark.finch@breckland.gov.uk

Key Decision Status (Executive Decisions only):

This is a key decision and is included on the Forward Plan

Appendices attached to this report:

Medium Term Financial Strategy

MTFS – appendix A – Medium term influences and key factors

MTFS – appendix B – Components of the strategy

MTFS – appendix C – Value for money

MTFS – appendix D – Principles of budget preparation

MTFS – appendix E – Timetable, consultation and links to other strategies

MTFS – appendix F – Monitoring, risk and review