

BRECKLAND COUNCIL

Report of William Smith, Executive Member for Governance and Finance to the CABINET- 15/09/2009

Medium Term Financial Strategy and Capital Strategy

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To consider the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Capital Strategy following a period of public consultation and prior to a recommendation to Council for approval.

2. Recommendations

- It is recommended that the Council/Cabinet:
- 2.1 Cabinet recommend the medium term financial strategy and capital strategy to Council for approval
 - 2.2 Council approve the medium term financial strategy and capital 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 and a capital strategy in place, covering a minimum of three years. It is considered best practice to refresh both documents on an annual basis.

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 own corporate objectives and the aims of the Local Area Agreement for Norfolk. 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 for both revenue and capital.

- 3.2.2 The strategy was well received by the Audit Commission in 2008/09 and has been further updated to reflect the changing economic circumstances and the improvements we have made over the last 12 months. The strategy is presented in a format that should inform stakeholders and fully support the objectives of the Council. Both strategies have been subject to a period of public consultation which has led to the revised documents being submitted to Cabinet today. Both documents will require a recommendation to Full Council for adoption into the budgetary and policy framework.

3.3 Options

- 3.3.1 To recommend the strategies to Council for approval

3.3.2 Not to recommend the strategies 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

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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 & key factors

MTFS – appendix B: Components of the strategy

MTFS – appendix C: Value for money and efficiency

MTFS – appendix D: Principles of budget preparation

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

MTFS – appendix F: Monitoring, risk and review

Capital Strategy

CS – appendix 1: Capital bid form