

Report to:

**Finance and Value for Money Overview and
Scrutiny Commission 25 January 2019
Cabinet 28 January 2018**



Council Budget Reports 2019/20

Report of the Director of Finance and Transformation (s151 officer)

Purpose of the Report

1. To present to Cabinet the suite of reports to be considered by Council on 28 February 2019. These are:
 - General Fund Revenue Budget 2019/20 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2019/20 to 2021/22
 - Council Tax Discounts 2019/20.
 - Capital Strategy 2019/20 to 2021/22
 - Housing Revenue Account Budget 2019/20 to 2020/222
 - Treasury Management Strategy 2019/20
2. To gain Cabinet approval to implement the executive decisions arising in the event that the Budget proposals are subsequently approved by Council.

Executive Summary

3. The reports are the suite of financial plans and assumptions forming the Council's budgets for 2019/20 and beyond. These show the budgetary details associated with the Leader's Budget Proposals.
4. The General Fund Revenue Budget 2019/20 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2019/20 to 2021/22 report also sets out the levels of Council Tax rising to the referendum limit which result currently in a 2.99% increase being proposed for 2019/20.

Recommendations

5. Cabinet is recommended to:-

- i) Approve the Leader's Budget Proposals for 2019/20 and beyond as set out in the recommendations of each report and specifically;
- ii) Endorse the levels of Council Tax, noting the precepts of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside and the Fire Authority as set out in xxx;
- iii) Note the comments of the Director of Finance and Transformation (section 151 Officer) on the robustness of the budget and the adequacy of reserves as set out in xx;

6. The Town Clerk (Monitoring Officer) has made the following statement:

The case of R (Buck) v Doncaster MBC [2012] the High Court confirmed that the role of Full Council in relation to the budget process is limited to the allocation of resources to meet the authority's potential expenditure for the next financial year, which enables it to set an appropriate level of council tax.

The Town Clerk considers that the Leader's proposals fulfil the statutory requirements set out below with regard to setting the amount of Council Tax for the forthcoming year and to set a balanced budget:-

S30 (6) Local Government Finance Act 1992 (the 1992 Act) This section requires that Council Tax must be set before 11 March, in the financial year preceding that for which it is set. Failure to set a budget by this date does not of itself render the Council Tax invalid.

S31A the 1992 Act This section sets out the calculations to be made in determining the council tax requirement, including contingencies and financial reserves. Failure to undertake the required calculations renders any Council Tax void and unenforceable.

S31B the 1992 Act This section sets out the detail of the calculations required to meet the Council's obligations as at S31A.

S25 (1) Local Governance Act 2003 (the 2003 Act) The Chief Finance Officer of the Authority (i.e. being the appointed S.151 Officer) must report to it on the following matters:-

- a) the robustness of the estimates made for the purposes of the calculations;
- b) the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves.

S25 (2) the 2003 Act When the Council is considering calculations under S31A, it must have regard to a report of the Chief Finance Officer (being the appointed Section 151 Officer) concerning the robustness of the estimates made for the purposes of the calculations and the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves.

The Local Authorities (Functions & Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 (as amended) These Regulations set out what are to be the respective functions of Council and of the Executive. With regard to the setting of the budget and Council

Tax for the forthcoming year, Regulations provide that the Leader formulates the plan or strategy (in relation to the control of the Council's borrowing or capital expenditure) and the preparation of estimates of the amounts to be aggregated in making the calculations under S31A of the 1992 Act. The approval of such plan or strategy/calculations is the responsibility of full Council.

7. Section 151 Officer Statement

The proposals included in the Budget reports provide for balanced General Fund and Housing Revenue Accounts and a funded capital programme. Comments are provided within each report.

8. Comments of City Manager for Human Resources

There are no staffing or equality issues arising from this report, the budget will have to have the equality impact assessment reviewed.

David Bell – Director of Finance and Transformation (Section 151 Officer)

Contact Officer – David Bell Tel. 01482 613084

Officer Interests: *None*

Background Documents:

Implications Matrix

I have informed and sought advice from HR, Legal, Finance, Overview and Scrutiny and the Climate Change Advisor and any other key stakeholders i.e. Portfolio Holder, relevant Ward Members etc prior to submitting this report for official comments	Yes
I have considered whether this report requests a decision that is outside the Budget and Policy Framework approved by Council	Yes
Value for money considerations have been accounted for within the report	Yes
The report is approved by the relevant City Manager	n/a
I have included any procurement/commercial issues/implications within the report	Yes
I have considered the potential media interest in this report and liaised with the Media Team to ensure that they are briefed to respond to media interest.	Yes
I have included any equalities and diversity implications within the report and where necessary I have completed an Equalities Impact Assessment and the outcomes are included within the report	Yes
Any Health and Safety implications are included within the report	Yes
Any human rights implications are included within the report	n/a
I have included any community safety implications and paid regard to Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act within the report	Yes
I have liaised with the Climate Change Advisor and any environmental and climate change issues/sustainability implications are included within the report	Yes
I have included information about how this report contributes to the City Plan/ Area priorities within the report	Yes