

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CABINET

13 OCTOBER 2011

SUBJECT	MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY
WARD/S AFFECTED	ALL
REPORT OF	DIRECTOR OF FINANCE
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER	COUNCILLOR STEVE FOULKES
KEY DECISION	YES

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This is the annual update of the Medium Term Financial Strategy the most recent of which was agreed by Cabinet on 4 November 2010. The aim is to give Cabinet a strategic overview highlighting the significant issues to be considered for use in financial planning and informing future priorities. It has been refined to reflect recent information from the Government and the revised Corporate Plan agreed in March 2011.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Medium Term Financial Strategy be approved.
- 2.2 That regular updates of the Budget Projections be reported to Cabinet and to Council Excellence Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Corporate Plan and Departmental Plans identify how the corporate objectives are to be achieved and which are delivered through the setting of the annual Budget. The Medium Term Financial Strategy indicates the resource issues and principles that shape the Budget and by identifying current issues as well as potential developments / related issues the Strategy helps inform future revenue and capital budgets.

4.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 In order to deliver the objectives of the Corporate Plan effective service planning and financial planning are essential requiring strong links between the Corporate Plan and Medium Term Financial Strategy. This Strategy aims to provide a longer term overview of the financial issues to assist in the allocation of resources to deliver the Council objectives and priorities.

- 4.2 The Strategy draws together the financial requirements emerging from the Customer Access Strategy, Risk Management Strategy and Procurement Strategy as well as resource-based strategies covering Capital, Human Resources, Information Technology and Asset Management, and service strategies. It seeks to maximise the opportunities for delivering services from within the finite resources available.
- 4.3 Cabinet on 14 April 2011 agreed arrangements for integrated financial and performance management monitoring during 2011/12. Processes for planning and monitoring performance underpin the cycle of continuous improvement. The planning element provides the framework for the Council to identify priorities and targets for the future, whilst the monitoring element measures progress in relation to meeting the priorities and targets agreed for the current year. Equally the monitoring reports inform the ongoing planning process as it is by monitoring and reviewing performance, and the associated implications of that performance, that information is provided to develop future plans.
- 4.4 The Authority is currently undertaking a consultation exercise using a budget simulator package titled 'You Choose' which has been developed with the support of YouGov and the Local Government Group. Responses from this consultation will help inform future priorities and the delivery of services.
- 4.5 The Strategy is attached as an Appendix and includes:-
- National issues including the Spending Review.
 - At a local level the agreed Council objectives and priorities are stated, progress reviewed, and key issues during the period highlighted.
 - The Medium Term Financial Plan for the period which is regularly updated in reports to Cabinet.
- 4.6 Wherever a financial estimate can be made of likely events this has been included. Given the level of assumptions for any projection of this type, only significant items have been included. It must be stressed that the aim of this Strategy is not to give provisional budget figures, but rather to provide Cabinet with a framework with which to support planning considerations for the medium term.

5.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 5.1 The Medium Term Financial Strategy provides a strategic overview of the issues facing future finances and includes a risk assessment.

6.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 6.1 There are no other options considered in this report.

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 The Corporate Plan priorities have been influenced by the outcome of the 'Wirral's Future – Be A Part Of It' consultation in 2010. The outcomes of the current 'You Choose' consultation will help influence future priorities and service delivery. The Medium Term Financial Strategy links to the Corporate Plan priorities.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

8.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

9.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

9.1 The resource implications are within the Strategy and the financial implications are updated by the Budget Projections reports submitted to Cabinet throughout the year.

10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

11.2 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is not required.

12.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

12.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

13.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

13.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

FNCE/213/11

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APPENDIX

Medium Term Financial Strategy

SUBJECT HISTORY

Council Meeting	Date
Cabinet - Medium Term Financial Strategy	4 November 2010
Cabinet - Draft Corporate Plan for 2011-14	17 March 2011
Cabinet - Delivering the Corporate Plan	14 April 2011
Cabinet - Budget Projections 2012-2015	1 September 2011