

## **ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL 25 NOVEMBER 2015**

### **CORPORATE STRATEGY PLANNING AND 2016/17 BUDGET: BUSINESS, ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITIES**

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#### **Summary**

1. As part of the Council's process for consultation on the 2016/17 budget, the Cabinet Members with Responsibility and the Director of Business, Environment and Communities have been invited to discuss the budget challenges facing services in 2016/17 and how these are being addressed.

#### **Background**

2. The Council needs to ensure that it can continue to deliver services within a tight financial settlement and find solutions to deliver the necessary savings. The Council continues working to do things differently through the FutureFit programme, with a combination of efficiencies and savings proposals.
3. On 19 November 2015 the Cabinet considered the development of the Corporate Plan, FutureFit, and the next Medium Term Financial Plan 2016/17 to 2019/20, alongside savings proposals which have emerged from Corporate Strategy Planning 2015.
4. The report to Cabinet set out the context for the budget, as well as feedback from local businesses and staff, the Council's Corporate Plan Priorities and a financial summary. The Cabinet report, including the savings proposals, is available on the Council's website [here](#).
5. In the next few years the Council's plans for change, to support the Corporate Plan, FutureFit 2020, will include focusing on:
  - i) **Encouraging economic growth through inward investment**, continuing to invest in infrastructure and ensuring that businesses have the right opportunities to settle and expand.
  - ii) **Seeking devolution of funding and powers to Worcestershire** to enable faster economic growth to create better jobs and greater productivity. We will be better able to deliver faster public sector reform to deliver and commission the best services for, and with, our residents.
  - iii) **Gain maximum value from our assets** by not only looking at rationalising our land and property but by collaborating across the public sector and growing the local economy.

## **Equality and Diversity Implications**

14. Last year's budget scrutiny task group gave a "light touch" consideration to equalities issues raised by savings proposals and suggested that the Diversity Manager should be invited to the Panel to help members consider the Equalities Impact of each Corporate Strategy proposal.

## **Purpose of the meeting**

15. The Panel is asked to consider and agree comments on the savings proposals for Business, Environment and Communities, which the Chairman will feed back to the Budget Member Challenge Group.

## **Supporting Information**

- Report to Cabinet on 19 November 2015 – available electronically only on the Council's website [here](#)

## **Contact Points**

### County Council Contact Points

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### Specific Contact Points for this report

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## **Background Papers**

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Head of Legal and Democratic Services) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

- Agenda and Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board on 7 July 2015
- Agenda and Minutes of the Economy, Environment and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 4 December 2014