

Finance and Resources Committee

10.00am, Thursday, 30th March 2023

Resource provision for Medium-Term Financial Plan

Executive/routine
Wards
Council Commitments

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 To note the requirement for the Council to continue to develop and deliver a Medium-Term Financial Plan to respond the financial challenge now facing it. This Plan will ultimately need to be approved by Council.
- 1.2 To note the resources required to continue to lead this work for a further period, at pace so momentum is not lost, while longer-term arrangements are put in place.
- 1.3 To note that most of the resource required to support the development and delivery of a plan has been secured through the redeployment or recruitment of existing internal staff.
- 1.4 To approve the waiver and extension of the contract for expert services to GatenbySanderson Ltd to provide specific capacity to lead this work for a further 6 months.

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Executive Director of Corporate Services

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Finance and Resources Committee

Resource provision for Medium-Term Financial Plan

2. Main report

- 2.1 There is an urgent requirement for the Council to continue to develop and deliver a Medium- Term Financial Plan to address the current projected budget gap over the next four years.
- 2.2 This Plan will be aligned to the newly adopted Council Business Plan and reflect the Council's priorities and set out the strategic case for change and transformation.
- 2.3 This work has already commenced to ensure the development and delivery of a Medium-Term Financial Plan which will need to be approved by Council ultimately. Given the lead in time required for the degree of likely organisational change, detailed planning and development of specific proposals are being worked up now.
- 2.4 Most of the required resource for this work has been secured through the re-alignment of existing internal staff who have been redeployed from their substantive roles. However, in addition, there is a requirement for a role with relevant expertise to lead:
- the development of specific options and proposals to address the projected budget gap over the next four years including through the identification of opportunities to deliver better outcomes for local people but in a way that is more efficient or minimises costs.
 - the quantification of the net value of such proposals with a plan for each setting out the key stages involved in realising the benefits and an indication of what would be required to do this.
 - The development of implementation plans to enable the Council to achieve the benefits in practice of whatever options for change are ultimately approved.
- 2.5 This role has already been appointed to, on an interim basis, so the programme of work required could start. This appointment was made with effect from 25 April 2022 by the Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services through an award to GatenbySanderson, under delegated authority, following market testing. To date three phases of work have been delivered as follows:
- Phase 1 – May to July 2022 was to develop options and proposals to

address the projected budget gap through identifying opportunities for efficiencies/cost improvements, together with prioritisation of activity.

- Phase 2 – August to December 2022 was to lead the development of a project-based approach, timeline, and process for producing and agreeing a refreshed Council Business Plan, MTFP and budget proposals. This phase also included the design of a comprehensive Change Programme and agreement to a prioritised Year 1 programme to begin in April 2023.
- Phase 3 - January to March 2023 – mobilisation of the Change Programme and projects included in the Year 1 priority programme.

2.6 This year 1 programme and proposed Medium Term financial plan needs now to be converted into specific proposals for consideration by Members without losing momentum. This work needs to continue while longer-term arrangements for leading this work are put in place and with this in mind the Finance and Resources Committee are asked to approve the waiver and extension of the contract for appropriate expert support to GatenbySanderson Ltd for a further 6 months, commencing on the 1st April 2023.

3. Financial impact

3.1 The costs of the contract are estimated to be a further £160,000 (to October 2023) and will be met from the £2m Spend to Save Funding approved as part of the 2023-24 Revenue Budget and should be more than offset by the value of the saving proposals developed.

4. Stakeholder/Community Impact

4.1 Not applicable.

5. Background reading/external references

5.1 Not applicable.

6. Appendices

6.1 Not applicable.