

General Fund Capital and Revenue Budgets, Medium Term Financial Plan 2015-2018

At its meeting on 19th January, 2015 the Overview and Scrutiny Committee received and noted a report that set out the proposals which form part of the draft Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) covering the three-year period from 2015-2016 to 2017-2018. It included a revised assessment in each of the next three years of the General Fund, Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and the Capital Programme including the:

1. financial resources available to the Council;
2. cost of providing existing services; and,
3. overall level of savings that have been and still need to be identified to give a balanced, sustainable budget over the medium term financial planning period.

OSC also considered a summary of the projected General Fund budget for each of the three-years together with a more detailed service analysis. As a result of a full and detailed discussion on this report the Chair **Moved** and it was:-

RESOLVED that the following recommendations be submitted to Cabinet:

A. Mayor's Advisers Item Ref: GRO/LPG/01/15

RECOMMENDATION: That the Mayor reconsiders the decision to fund the Mayor's Advisers as the Committee does not feel that this money represents value for money and that the advisors represent duplication with Council staff.

B. Celebration Events Item Ref GRO/

RECOMMENDATION: That the Mayor reconsiders the decision to fund celebration events in the Borough as the Committee:

1. Considers that these events do not represent value for money; and
2. Was not reassured that there were appropriate processes in place to ensure these events would not be misused for political purposes.

C. Planned Maintenance Corporate Property Item Ref GRO/D&R02/15

RECOMMENDATION: The Committee indicated its concern that there was no detailed list of the 30 corporate buildings that are subject to the planned maintenance programme. Accordingly, the Committee asks that the Mayor publishes a list of buildings including the occupants and users of the properties and what work was to be undertaken.

D. Stairway to Heaven Item Ref TBC

RECOMMENDATION: The Committee endorsed the recommendation to set aside £25,000 as a one off contribution to the Stairway to Heaven Memorial Trust.

E. Savings Proposals Approved at December 2014 Cabinet

RECOMMENDATION: That the Mayor reconsiders the following savings as these will have an impact upon the most vulnerable residents in our communities and lead to a further deterioration of the cleanliness of the Borough's streets.

1. **CLC010/15/16** Deliver More Street Monitoring Through Champions and Volunteers;
2. **CLC012/15-16** Introduce Residual Waste Limits for Multi Occupancy Premises;

3. **ESCW006/15-16** Reconfiguration of Homecare Services;
4. **ESCW013/15-16** Review of Non-Statutory Independent Reviewing Functions; and
5. **ESCW057/15-16** Reduce Duplication in leaving Care Service.

G. Housing Revenue Account – Decent Homes Backlog

RECOMMENDATION: That the Mayor considers the allocation of funding to introduce targeted intervention to address the £50million slippage in the Decent Homes Programme.

H. Fees and Charges 2015-16 – Pest Control

RECOMMENDATION: That the Mayor does not increase the pest control charges for Bed Bugs. As the fifty percent increases is unjustified and will discourage the use of this service and was therefore a false economy.