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To: Members of the Cabinet

Date: 26 November 2014
Our Ref:
Your Ref:

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Dear Councillor

CABINET - THURSDAY 27TH NOVEMBER, 2014

I refer to the agenda for the above meeting and now enclose the following documents which were unavailable when the agenda was printed.

Agenda No.	Item
5.	2014/2015 and 2015/2016 Budget Update (Pages 197 - 198) Resolution of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board
6.	Medium Term Financial Plan and Budget 2015 to 2017 (Pages 199 - 202) Note on the typographical errors in the report previously circulated and Resolution of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

Yours sincerely,

G. BAYLISS

Director of Corporate Services

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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

25 NOVEMBER 2014

2014/2015 AND 2015/2016 BUDGET UPDATE

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board considered the report of the Head of Corporate Finance and ICT which provided details of the progress in the achievement of the approved savings for 2014/15 (and any residual savings carried forward from 2013/14); other financial risks elsewhere within the budget; the latest forecast on Council Tax and Business Rates collection; and proposals for the implementation of an amended green waste refuse collection timetable for 2015/16, including associated working arrangements.

The Head of Corporate Finance and ICT indicated that the report would be considered by the Cabinet at its meeting to be held on 27 November 2014 and sought the views of the Management Board on the content of the report for submission to the Cabinet.

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board welcomed the implementation of an amended green waste refuse collection as a budget saving option.

RESOLVED: That:

- (1) the progress to date on the achievement of approved savings for 2014/2015 and residual savings carried forward from previous years be noted;
- (2) the wider financial pressures being experienced in the remainder of the Budget be noted;
- (3) the forecast position on the collection of Council Tax and Business Rates be noted;
- (4) the Cabinet be recommended to approve the implementation of the amended green waste refuse collection timetable for 2015/2016, including associated working arrangements; and
- (5) the Cabinet be recommended to delegate authority to the Director of Street Scene to undertake all necessary arrangements to enable the amended green waste refuse collection to be implemented in February 2015.

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CABINET – 27 NOVEMBER 2014

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN AND BUDGET 2015 – 2017

The Cabinet is requested to note the following typographical errors in the report

Page 67 - 34 Street Lighting Energy total actual budget is £1,447,400 not £1,180,000

Page 138 - 56 Commissioning Reduction of the Commissioning Service staffing – the text under **Indicative Number of Staff at Risk** should read: **up to 4 - 5** note that where changes and/or savings cannot be achieved through deletion of vacant posts, VR or VER then there may be a need for compulsory redundancies arising from this option.

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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

25 NOVEMBER 2014

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN AND BUDGET 2015 TO 2017

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board considered the report of the Chief Executive and the Head of Corporate Finance and ICT which outlined the Council's financial position for 2015/16 and 2016/17; set out the financial position in the context of the Council's priorities; described the process undertaken to deliver a programme of savings options that reflected the need to produce a balanced budget alongside the objective of minimising the impact of the cuts on Sefton communities; provided the cabinet with the first phase of savings options that would contribute to the forecast budget gap for the next two years; and outlined the gap remaining and the timetable for producing a balanced two year budget plan.

The report indicated that since 2011, the Council had faced unprecedented reductions in its resources as a result of cuts in Government Funding. In the preceding 4 years, cuts of £114 million had been identified and implemented and for the period 2015/16 to 2016/17, it was forecast that savings of a further £55 million would need to be identified. This represented a real term reduction of 45% on the 2011 spending level.

The Head of Corporate Finance and ICT indicated that the report would be considered by the Cabinet at its meeting to be held on 27 November 2014 and sought the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on the content of the report for submission to the Cabinet.

Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board requested that the following questions be submitted to the Cabinet for a response.

Budget Issue Proposal	Question
Funding from Council Tax and Business Rates	Has the anticipated Council Tax income and business rates income been factored into the Council's predicted income for the period 2015 to 2017 and beyond?
36 - Aiming High	Will respite provision still be provided?
39 - Neighbourhoods and Partnerships	Will the coordination of the MARAC activities remain in-house and be undertaken by Council staff?

RESOLVED: That:

Agenda Item 6

- (1) the questions set out above be submitted to the Cabinet on 27 November 2014 for a response; and
- (2) the contents of the report be noted.