

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:

- (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.