

EDUCATION & YOUTH OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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| Date of Meeting | Tuesday, 19 th January 2016 |
| Report Subject | 2016/17 Budget for the Education & Youth Portfolio |
| Portfolio Holder | Leader of the Council; Cabinet Member for Education |
| Report Author | Member Engagement Manager |
| Type of Report | Strategic |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to present the final draft budget proposals for the Education & Youth portfolio. Whilst there are no new proposals, there was an undertaking to keep the committee informed during the 2016/17 budget process, and there is now feedback from the meeting of the School Budget Forum which was held on 7th January 2016.

The committee is invited to consider and to comment on the information provided by the Chief Officer (Education & Youth). Any observations arising out of the meeting will then become part of the report which is made to Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 29th January. All members (including the co-opted members of this committee) are invited to attend that meeting

RECOMMENDATIONS

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| 1 | That the committee considers and comments on the information provided in the presentation by the Chief Officer (Education & Youth) |
| 2 | That any observations and /or recommendations arising out of the meeting be considered for incorporation into the final budget consultation report which is to be made to the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee. |

REPORT DETAILS

| 1.00 | EXPLAINING THE BUDGET CONSULTATION PROCESS |
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| 1.01 | Members will be aware that the budget process for the 2016/17 was based on addressing the 'budget gap' within the Medium Term financial strategy. In order to keep members of the council as fully informed as possible and to maintain dialogue, there has been an extensive information and consultation exercise during the autumn and into the winter. We have held three consultation workshops for all members, there have also been specific briefings for Overview & Scrutiny chairs and group leaders. |
| 1.02 | A series of formal budget consultation meetings was held with the six overview & scrutiny committees between 7 th and 18 th December. This process had to be arranged before the publication of the Provisional Local Government Settlement on 9 th December. |
| 1.03 | Members will be aware that the Aggregate External Finance (AEF) for local government is -1.4%. The North Wales range is between -1.2 to -2.2%. Flintshire's reduction is -1.5% which is a 2% variation on the -3.55 upon which we had been working. This is an improvement of £3.770m against the forecast. |
| 1.04 | We are now reassessing the 2016/17 'budget gap' based on the settlement benefits and risks, together with a recalculation of emerging financial pressures. |
| 1.05 | There had been an undertaking to hold further budget consultation meetings with all committees if necessary. Members were informed by email on 23 rd December that it was unlikely that there would be a need for all of the committees to meet. |
| 1.06 | However, in the case of the Education & Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee, it was considered that there would be merit in reporting to the full committee the results of the meeting of the school Budget Forum which was held on 7 th January. |

| 2.00 | RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS |
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| 2.01 | As set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy. |

| 3.00 | CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT |
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| 3.01 | This report has summarised the consultation process. |

| 4.00 | RISK MANAGEMENT |
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| 4.01 | As set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy. |

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| 5.00 | APPENDICES |
| 5.01 | Appendix 1 - Feedback from School Budget Forum 08.01.16 |

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| 6.00 | LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS |
| 6.01 | <p>Medium Term Financial Strategy Parts 1 and 2 http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Medium-Term-Financial-Strategy/Medium-Term-Financial-Strategy.aspx Medium Term Financial Strategy Executive Summary http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/PDFFiles/Medium-Term-Financial-Strategy/Summary-Medium-Term-Financial-Strategy.pdf Provisional Settlement presentation slides from Cabinet – 15th December, 2015 http://cyfarfodyddpwyllgor.siryfflint.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=391&MId=3587&Ver=4&LLL=undefined</p> <p>Contact Officer: Robert Robins Member Engagement Manager Telephone: 01352 702320 E-mail: Robert.robins@flintshire.gov.uk</p> |

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| 7.00 | GLOSSARY OF TERMS |
| 7.01 | Budget: a statement expressing the Council's policies and service levels in financial terms for a particular financial year. In its broadest sense it includes both the revenue budget and capital programme and any authorised amendments to them. |
| 7.02 | Local Government Finance Settlement: This sets out what the Welsh Government is to allocate to each local authority in Wales. It is issued in two stages. This year, the Provisional Settlement is expected on 9 th December with the final Local Government Finance Settlement being announced on 1 st March 2016. |
| 7.03 | Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS): a written strategy which gives a forecast of the financial resources which will be available to a Council for a given period, and sets out plans for how best to deploy those resources to meet its priorities, duties and obligations. |
| 7.04 | Council Fund: the majority of the Council's revenue expenditure covering all services except Council Housing for which there is a stand-alone and ring-fenced account called the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). |
| 7.05 | Annual Settlement: the amount of its funds the Welsh Government will allocate annually to local government as a whole, as part of its total budget, and to individual councils one by one. The amount of Revenue Support Grant (see below) each council will receive is based on a complex distribution formula for awarding Aggregate External Finance (AEF). The formula is underpinned by assessments of local need based, for example, of population size and demographics and levels of social deprivation. |