

COUNCIL'S INTEGRATED PLAN 2009 (INCLUDING PRIORITIES, BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX)

To: **County Council**

Date: **16th February 2010**

From: **Corporate Director: Finance, Property and Performance
Corporate Director: People and Policy**

*Electoral
division(s):* **All**

Forward Plan ref: **Key
decision:** **Yes – Council
decision**

Purpose: **To present the Council's Integrated Plan to Council for
approval**

Recommendation: Council is asked to:

1. Approve the current sections 1 and 2 of the Integrated Plan, including the strategic objectives, action plan and performance targets, subject to finalising and agreeing all performance indicators, targets and actions in accordance with the process set out in 3.2 below.
2. Delegate responsibility for agreeing any final change to the Integrated Plan (sections 1 and 2) to the Leader of the Council, in consultation with the Corporate Director: People and Policy and the Corporate Director: Finance, Property and Performance (as outlined in section 3 of this report).
3. Approve the following budget recommendations:
 - a. That approval be given to the Service/Directorate cash limits as set out in Table 4.3.1 (page 8 of section 4 (Finance Report) of the Integrated Plan (yellow pages)).
 - b. That approval is given to a County Budget Requirement in respect of general expenses applicable to the whole County area of £339,413,961.
 - c. That approval is given to a recommended County Precept for Council Tax from District Councils of £228,303,404. (To be received in ten equal instalments in accordance with the “fall-back” provisions of the Local Authorities (Funds) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 1995)
 - d. That approval be given to a Council Tax for each Band of property, based on the number of “Band D” equivalent properties notified to the County Council by the District Councils (217,892.5):

Band	Council Tax	Band	Council Tax
A	£698.52	E	£1,280.62
B	£814.94	F	£1,513.46
C	£931.36	G	£1,746.30
D	£1,047.78	H	£2,095.56
 - e. That approval is given to the Prudential Borrowing, Prudential Indicators and Treasury Management Strategy as set out in section 4.6 (pages 17-21 of section 4 (Finance Report) of the Integrated Plan (yellow pages)).
 - f. That the report of the Corporate Director: Finance, Property and Performance on the levels of reserves and robustness of the estimates as set out in section

4.7 (pages 22-24 of section 4 (Finance Report) of the Integrated Plan (yellow pages)) be noted.

- g. **Capital Budget:** That approval be given to Capital Payments in 2010-11 up to £137.2m arising from:
- i. Commitments from schemes already approved; and
 - ii. The consequences of new starts (for the five years 2010-11 to 2014-15) listed within the Service Appendices that follow, subject to the receipt of appropriate capital resources and confirmation of individual detailed business cases.

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Council seeks to ensure that decisions relating to the Council's budget and performance are clearly driven by the Council's strategic objectives and service delivery principles. As part of this work, a single, integrated, plan has been produced. This Plan links the Council's objectives and principles to the budget, planned actions and performance targets.

2. CONTENT OF THE INTEGRATED PLAN

- 2.1 The Integrated Plan issued as a separate document includes:
- Section 1, (white pages) which is intended to be a high level introduction to the Council, its objectives and how (through resourcing, performance management, planning) the Council plans to deliver on them.
 - Section 2, (green pages) which provides greater detail about the more specific outcomes and actions that the Council is intending to take to deliver on the Council's objectives.
 - Section 3 (white pages), which provides summary financial information with links to the strategic objectives, service delivery principles and improvement priorities.
 - Section 4, which provides detailed finance information:
 - Chief Finance Officers report (yellow pages including appendix 1)
 - Children & Young People's Services (appendix 2 - pink pages)
 - Environment Services (appendix 3 - blue pages)
 - Community & Adult Services (appendix 4 - green pages)
 - Corporate Services (appendix 5 - white pages)
- 2.2 A draft of the Integrated Plan was considered by Cabinet at its meeting of 26th January. In line with the delegated powers agreed by Cabinet at the meeting, final changes have been made to reflect information that has become available since that meeting.
- 2.3 A summary of the key changes since Cabinet are as follows:
- Further detail included in section 2 (action plan)
 - Additional resources of £2.2m have become available due to higher than expected increases in the number of "Band D" equivalent properties notified to us by the District Councils
 - The intention is to use this amount to protect the Council's financial position in the light of current economic uncertainties, as described in Table 4.7.2 on page 24 of section 4 (Finance Report) of the Integrated Plan (yellow pages)

3. PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Integrated Plan identifies a range of performance indicators selected to measure progress against meeting the council's strategic objectives and service development priorities. These indicators have been drawn from the National Performance Indicators (NPIs) and local performance indicators that the County Council considers relevant to monitor and manage progress against. A number of key PIs are aligned to Section 1 of the plan and the

Council's Strategic Objectives and Service Delivery Principles and will be used to assess progress against the delivery of the plan as part of the Council's integrated finance and performance reporting arrangements.

- 3.2 Targets against the NPIs were reviewed and agreed in October 2008 and were further refreshed as part of the Local Area Agreement (LAA) with Government in September 2009. These targets have again been reviewed as part of the current planning process and will be revisited at the end of this performance reporting year to take account of the latest performance information. Any further adjustments will be presented to Cabinet for approval. Any further revisions to LAA targets will not be known until late February (the timetable for finalising LAA targets, including negotiations with Government Office - East, are set nationally by Government and do not fit alongside the statutory budget timescales also in place) but will be reported to Cabinet for final approval prior to submission to government in late March 2010.
- 3.3 Section 1 and 2 also make reference to the council's contribution to the Making Cambridgeshire Count initiative. Although the work streams are still being developed and have yet to be submitted for final approval, the council will make a range of contributions to each of the projects and they have therefore been included in the Integrated plan at this early stage. As the projects develop and are signed off further details will be incorporated into Section 2.
- 3.4 At this stage, therefore, Council is being asked to approve the actions and performance indicators identified in Section 2 of the plan, subject to finalising and agreeing all performance indicators, targets and actions in accordance with the process set out above.

4 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

- 4.1 The Council has developed its financial strategy and budget setting in accordance with the direction set by the Council's Strategic Objectives, Service Delivery Principles, Corporate Policy Framework and related action plans and performance targets to ensure they are fully aligned, and that the budget set fully supports achievement of these identified objectives. Full consideration has been given to the following:
- Inflation levels
 - Costs of additional demand for services and support
 - Supporting priorities with targeted investments where these will help drive up performance
 - The impact of the economic downturn, both in terms of how we support our communities, as well as the financial impact

Full details are included in sections 3 and 4 of the Integrated Plan.

5. NEXT STEPS AND MONITORING THE PLAN

- 5.1 Once the Integrated plan has been approved by Council, it can be published and shared with employees, partners and the public (noting the elements that will require some refresh as outlined in section 3 above).

5.2 It is proposed to monitor the plan in the following ways during the next financial year:

- Monthly finance and performance reports
- Two in year reports (September and December) assessing progress against the Plan
- The year-end annual report

Source Documents
Cabinet report of 26 th January 2010: