

# FAREHAM

## BOROUGH COUNCIL

### Report to Policy and Resources Scrutiny Panel

**Date** 14 January 2020

**Report of:** Deputy Chief Executive Officer

**Subject:** FINANCE STRATEGY, REVENUE BUDGET AND  
COUNCIL TAX 2020-2021

#### SUMMARY

The Policy and Resources Scrutiny Panel is asked to consider and review the Executive's proposals for the overall revenue budget for 2020/21. The Deputy Chief Executive Officer will refer any proposals or comments of the Panel to the Executive meeting on 3 February 2020.

#### RECOMMENDATION

That any proposals or comments of the Panel be referred to the Executive at its meeting on 3 February 2020.

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. On 6 January 2020, the Executive will have reviewed the Council's finance strategy and considered the revenue items to be included in the revised budgets for 2019/20, the budget for 2020/21 and beyond. A copy of this reports is attached as Appendices A and B, for information.
2. Members will consider a number of options, which could allow a balanced budget to be achieved, and will be asked to make the following decisions:-

### **Financial Forecasts (MTFS)**

- (a) approves the Medium-Term Finance Strategy for the period 2019/20 to 2023/24, as set out at Appendix C to the report;
- (b) agrees to submit the updated Pay Policy, annexed to the Medium Term Finance Strategy at Annex C, to Council for approval;

### **Revenue Budgets**

- (c) approves the revised 2019/20 general fund revenue budget, amounting to £9,319,200, as set out in Appendix A and B to the report;
  - (d) approves the base 2020/21 general fund revenue budget amounting to £9,606,500, as set out in Appendix A and B to the report;
3. A report will be submitted to the Executive on 3 February 2020. This report seeks final confirmation for the spending plans, together with recommendations for Full Council to consider on 21 February 2020.
  4. Officers will provide a verbal update on this report to members of the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Panel on 14 January 2020.
  5. Any comments or proposals that the Scrutiny Panel may wish to submit will be considered by the Executive on 3 February 2020.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

6. While all spending plans can be met from within existing resources, growing financial pressures increase the risk that spending plans exceed desirable levels.
7. Also, the budget reflects the implications of the changing funding position from central Government as well as other more local budget pressures. These changes will continue to affect the Council's finances and it remains an important part of the overall Medium Term Finance Strategy to retain sufficient balances to cater for the unexpected in these uncertain times.
8. The council should continue to explore opportunities to increase income sources for the Council as well as review efficiency plans in order that balanced budgets can be made in future years.

## **CONCLUSION**

9. The Board is asked to review the proposals and consider whether it wishes to submit comments for consideration by the Executive.

**Appendix A:** [Executive Report "Finance Strategy and Revenue Budget 2020/21" considered on 6th January 2020](#)

**Appendix B:** [Appendix C to the Executive Report "Finance Strategy and Revenue Budget 2020/21" considered on 6th January 2020](#)

**Background Papers:**

**Reference Papers:**

**Enquiries:**

For further information on this report please contact Neil Wood. (Ext 4506)