

Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 12 October 2017

Report of the Director of Financial Resources

Part I

Electoral Divisions affected:
All

Money Matters - Additional Savings 2018/19 - 2020/21

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

Neil Kissock, (01772) 534286, Director of Financial Resources

neil.kissock@lancashire.gov.uk

Executive Summary

At the meeting of Cabinet in September 2017 a number of budget proposals were put forward for consideration and the majority were agreed. Some of the proposals were identified (in Appendix 'E' of the September Money Matters reports) as requiring an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) to be prepared and considered at the next meeting of Cabinet.

Recommendation

The Cabinet is recommended to approve the budget proposals set out within Appendix 'A' following consideration of the Equality Impact Assessments and authorise officers to proceed with their implementation and agree that the 2018/19 budget is based upon these revenue decisions.

Background and Advice

A detailed review of service budgets resulted in initial savings totalling £45.628m (over the next 3 financial years) being identified and included within the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) from 2018/19 onwards with the total value presented across Appendices 'D' and 'E' of the Money Matters report presented to Cabinet in September 2017.

Most of the budget proposals were agreed by Cabinet, however some proposals, totalling £3.920m of the overall £45.628m, were identified (in Appendix 'E' of the September Money Matters reports) as requiring an Equality Impact Assessment prior to being considered. This was due to the need to ensure that the decision-makers meet the requirement of section 149 of the Equality Act primarily having due regard to the effect of the decision on groups who share protected characteristics as set out

in the Equality Act 2010. It was agreed that these proposals would be noted and presented to Cabinet with the EIA's in October 2017.

The Equality Impact Assessments relating to the proposals are contained in Appendix 'A' and are designed to assist in ensuring that the decision-makers meet the requirement of section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to the need: to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation or other unlawful conduct under the Act; to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

There have been no amendments proposed to the original savings proposals resulting from the Equality Impact Assessments undertaken.

Consultations

The Equality Analysis provided to support decision making highlights where proposals have already been informed by consultations. Where necessary, services will continue to consult as set out in the budget proposal templates.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

The County Council's overall approach to managing financial risks continues to be to identify and acknowledge risks early and build their impact into financial plans while continuing to develop strategies which will minimise their impact. This approach operates in parallel with the identification and setting aside of sufficient resources to manage the financial impact of the change risks facing the organisation.

Legal

Section 149 Equality Act sets out matters that local authorities *must* take into consideration when making relevant decisions and failure to do so would render the Council vulnerable to a legal challenge. The completed equality impact assessments appended to this report highlight the relevant factors stemming from each individual proposal and members having read the assessments as part of this report evidences that the Council has complied with its duty.

List of Background Papers

| Paper | Date | Contact/Tel |
|---|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| Money Matters 2017/18 Position – Quarter 1 | 14 th September 2017 | Neil Kissock/x36154 |
| Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate | | |
| N/A | | |