

## CABINET

### RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COUNCIL

22ND NOVEMBER 2017

#### 4TH OCTOBER 2017 CABINET

##### **1. BLACK COUNTRY CORE STRATEGY ISSUES AND OPTIONS REPORT**

The Cabinet has considered a report on the draft officer response to the Black Country Core Strategy Issues and Options Report. It was noted that consultation at this stage was non statutory and it would be possible to submit further responses through the ongoing engagement between this Council and the Black Country Authorities.

It is RECOMMENDED that

- (a) that the contents of the report be noted; and
- (b) that the draft officer response to the Black Country Core Strategy Issues and Options report, as attached at Appendix A to the Cabinet report, be approved and submitted to the Black Country Authorities as this Council's consultation response.

##### **2. COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2018/19**

The Cabinet has considered a report on the review of the Council Tax Support Scheme which was required to be undertaken annually.

It was proposed that there be no changes made to the level of support provided by the Council for 2018/19. As previously agreed the various allowances would be uprated in line with the Secretary of State's annual announcement.

It was reported that in these circumstances there was no requirement to consult as set out in section 3.7 of the report. It was intended however that the continuation of the current scheme and the uprating of allowances would be publicised.

It is RECOMMENDED that no changes be made to the Council Tax Support Scheme for 2018/19.

##### **3. COMMERCIALISATION AND FINANCIAL STRATEGY**

The Cabinet considered a report on a proposed Commercialisation and Financial Strategy 2017-2020.

It was recognised that this was an important overarching Strategy which was aligned to many other Council Strategies and Policies.

It is RECOMMENDED that the Commercialisation and Financial Strategy as attached as Appendix 1 to the report be approved and adopted.

#### **4. REVIEW OF FINANCIAL REGULATIONS AND CONTRACT PROCEDURES**

The Cabinet has received a report on a review of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and Financial Procedure Rules. The review had been undertaken with a view to the Rules being updated in line with best practice.

Cabinet noted that Executive Summaries of both sets of Rules had been considered by the Budget Scrutiny Working Group and that their considerations were reflected in the rules.

In respect of the appointment of consultants, Members requested an amendment to section 11.5.7 (v) to require that the Director of Finance and Resources is always consulted on the documentation and that the relevant Portfolio Holder is always notified.

Cabinet welcomed the proposed revised Rules and felt they would provide greater clarity regarding processes and would encourage good decision making.

It is RECOMMENDED

- (a) that the revised Contract Procedure Rules and Financial Procedure Rules as set out in Appendices 1 and 2 to the report be approved, subject to the amendment to section 11.5.7 (v) of the Contract Procedure Rules as contained in the preamble; and
- (b) that the revised Rules come into effect as from 23rd November 2017.

#### **1ST NOVEMBER 2017 CABINET**

#### **1. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2018/19 – 2011/2022 BUDGET ASSUMPTIONS**

The Cabinet considered a report setting out the proposed budget assumptions to be used in preparing the detailed 2018/2019 budget and provisional budgets for 2019/2020 – 2021/2022.

It is RECOMMENDED that the revenue assumptions as set out in paragraph 3.4 of the report be incorporated into the budget setting process for 2018/2019 – 2021/2022..

