

Update Report from the Financial Planning Task Group

The Task Group met on 27 May with Michael Hudson, Head of Finance and Mark Gwynne, Interim Head of Corporate Support.

1 The following financial updates were received

- Revenue Outturn report for 2013/14 .This went to Cabinet on 17 June showing an overall underspend avoiding draw down on reserves;
- The main area of concern in terms of overspend is in services for disabilities (services to adults with learning disabilities and the 0-25 service for children and young people with SEN and disabilities) with a probable shortfall in 2014/15, largely due to complexity in care packages and the county's demographic. A full review of costs across all age groups is currently underway;
- General fund reserves are to increase significantly, including an earmarked reserve of £8.65 million to fund the Business Plan priorities and to support and implement opportunities and risks;
- Initial RAG rating for the start of the financial year: 79% of £26 million are green, 19% to be delivered are amber and 2% red which constitute the savings pressures.

The Task Group's next steps will include the analysis of some key strategic and corporate target savings in depth, in particular the savings targets for transport. We shall also track the outturn changes, and look at the impact of these together with other possible changes on the Business Plan revised financial profile.

2 The development of the new corporate performance regime

This was also discussed and provided the Task Group with the opportunity to access the regime as soon as practically possible and to make positive contributions to its development. The Citizen's Dashboard website is to be the mechanism for meeting public transparency requirements and is the current main focus whilst the measures for assessing internal performance are further enhanced. The public facing information will be ready shortly.

The internal performance measures are being designed in order to produce a meaningful and well rounded view of what we are doing in the context of the Business Plan. In order to create an encompassing mechanism for measuring our success, the actions, measures and risks are being integrated and tied back to the Business Plan: demonstrating how the Council is delivering on its priorities in a

practical manner. To support this there is an agreed set of Corporate Measures to demonstrate progress against the Business Plan, as a whole, and seven sets of Thematic Measures to demonstrate progress against each of the outcomes and the set of principles.

Overall there will be a move towards aligning actions, risks, performance measures, financial management/budgets and financial plan.