

Subject: Update to the Medium Term
Financial Strategy

Status: For Publication

Report to: The Cabinet

Date: 20th February 2008

Report of: The Head of Financial Services

Portfolio

Holder: A Well Managed Council

Key Decision: No – Recommendation to Full Council

Forward Plan General Exception Special Urgency

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The Purpose of the report is to present for approval an update to the Councils Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) reflecting the Cabinets policy proposals.

2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

2.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities and associated corporate objective.

- Delivering Quality Services to Customers (Customers, Improvement)
- Delivering Regeneration across the Borough (Economy, Housing)
- Keeping Our Borough Clean and Green (Environment)
- Promoting Rossendale as a cracking place to live and visit (Economy)
- Improving health and well being across the Borough (Health, Housing)
- Well Managed Council (Improvement, Community Network)

3. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The foundations of this report are an assessment of risk. These issues are therefore dealt within the report particularly in the area of revenue and capital

3.2 The MTFS includes a statement in relation to Council Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 which places a requirement on the Chief Financial Officer of each local authority (in Rossendale this is the Head of Financial Services) to advise councillors during the budget process on “the robustness of the estimates made for the purposes of the budget calculations and the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves”. This provision is designed to

ensure that councillors have information which will support responsible financial management over the longer term. This is included as Appendix 4 within the MTFS and includes an estimate of potential financial risk exposure together with measures to mitigate these risks

4. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

- 4.1 This is the third update to the MTFS. The detailed updated MTFS is attached in full as Appendix 1
- 4.2 The key assumptions to the MTFS have not changed significantly from those of previous years, but new concepts and reports have been introduced.
- 4.3 The MTFS has set a savings target of £850k over the two years 09/10 and 10/11 for the Council.
- 4.4 The annual Treasury Strategy as per last year is now incorporated into the MTFS.

COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:

5. SECTION 151 OFFICER

- 5.1 Financial matters are dealt within the report

6. MONITORING OFFICER

- 6.1 Unless specifically commented upon within the report, there are no implications for consideration.

7. HEAD OF PEOPLE AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (ON BEHALF OF THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE)

- 7.1 Unless specifically commented upon within the report, there are no implications for consideration

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 That the updated MFTS is a robust document for the Council's financial planning over the medium term.

9. RECOMMENDATION

9.1 That Members approve the update to the MTFs, subject to any final amendments arising from the Council's final budget approval

10. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

10.1 As per the budget consultation guidelines

11. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Is an Equality Impact Assessment required (previously completed) Yes / No

Is an Equality Impact Assessment attached Yes / No

12. BIODIVERSITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment required Yes / No

Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment attached Yes / No

(nb – subject to the specific procurement requirements, biodiversity will be a consideration)

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Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
2008/09 Budget Consultation	Website / Finance Office
MTFS (Feb 07 update)	Rossendale Borough Council - Website