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## **Proposed Council Budget Strategy for 2016/17**

To: **Extraordinary Overview & Scrutiny Panel – 26 November 2015**

Main Portfolio Area: **Financial Services**

By: **Senior Democratic Services Officer**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Ward: **Thanet Wide**

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**Summary:** **This is a covering report to introduce the Cabinet report on the proposed Budget Strategy for 2016/17.**

### **For Decision**

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#### **1.0 Introduction and Background**

- 1.1 The Leader of Council offered Members of the Overview & Scrutiny Panel Chairman the opportunity to review the proposed Council Budget Strategy for 2016/17 and the Chairman of the Panel accepted the offer.
- 1.2 The Cabinet report on the proposed Budget Strategy for the next financial year provides a framework and rationale for setting the Council Budget for 2016/17 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2016-20. That report will be considered by Cabinet on 24 November 2015.

#### **2.0 The Current**

- 2.1 The Cabinet report on Budget Strategy and the related policy documents on the budget being proposed by the Executive are attached as Annex 1 to Annex 5 to the covering report.
- 2.2 The views of the Panel would be taken into consideration when Cabinet finalises its Council Budget proposals at the meeting on 19 January 2016.

#### **3.0 Options**

- 3.1 Members could make recommendations to Cabinet on the proposed Budget Strategy. Any recommendations to emerge from this review would be considered by Cabinet when they finalise proposals to forward to Full Council at the Cabinet meeting on 19 January 2016.
- 3.2 The Panel could opt not to make any formal recommendations to what the executive is proposing to Full Council. However Cabinet would still refer the actual draft Council Budget proposals for 2016/17 to the Overview & Scrutiny Panel in January 2016 before finalising the budget proposals for the Full Council meeting on 4 February 2016.

## **5.0 Corporate Implications**

### **5.1 Financial and VAT**

5.1.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report other than those highlighted in the Cabinet report attached as Annex 1 to the covering report.

### **5.2 Legal**

5.2.1 There are no legal implications arising directly from this report other than those highlighted in the Cabinet report attached as Annex 1 to the covering report.

### **5.3 Equity and Equalities**

5.3.1 There are no equity and equalities implications arising directly from this report other than those highlighted in the Cabinet report attached as Annex 1 to the covering report.

## **6.0 Recommendation**

6.1 With reference to the options in section 3.0 of the report, Members' guidance is sought.

## **7.0 Decision Making Process**

7.1 Although the decision on the Council Budget Strategy is part of the budget process decision making, the decision on the framework or approach for setting the Council budget lies with Cabinet. The approval of the Council Budget is a Full Council function.

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## **Annex List**

Annex 1	Council Budget Strategy for 2016/17 – Cabinet Report – 24 November 2015
Annex 2	GF Draft Capital Programme
Annex 3	HRA Draft Capital Programme
Annex 4	Financial Risk Assessment and Level of General Fund Reserves
Annex 5	Fees and Charges Policy

## **Background Papers**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Details of where to access copy</b>
None	N/A

## **Corporate Consultation Undertaken**

Finance	Tim Willis, Director of Corporate Resources & S151 Officer
Legal	Tim Howes, Director of Corporate Governance & Monitoring Officer