

## 2020-24 MTFS - covering report

Overview & Scrutiny Panel	<b>21 January 2020</b>
Report Author	<b>Tim Willis, Deputy Chief Executive and S151 Officer</b>
Portfolio Holder	<b>Cllr Robert Yates, Cabinet Member for Financial Services &amp; Estates</b>
Status	<b>For Recommendation</b>
Classification:	<b>Unrestricted</b>
Key Decision	<b>Budget and Policy Framework</b>
Ward:	<b>All</b>

### **Executive Summary:**

Cabinet considered the Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2020-24 at its meeting of 14 January. The Panel is asked to consider the report and determine whether it wishes to provide feedback and or recommendations to Cabinet on the budget prior to Council on 6 February.

### **Recommendation(s):**

1. That the Overview & Scrutiny Panel consider the 2020-24 Medium Term Financial Strategy as shown in Annex 1 and make any recommendations or provide feedback to Cabinet.

### **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

<b>Financial and Value for Money</b>	The financial implications are reflected within the annex to the report.
<b>Legal</b>	Section 151 of the 1972 Local Government Act requires a suitably qualified named officer to keep control of the council's finances. For this council, it is the Deputy Chief Executive (S151 Officer), and this report is helping to carry out that function.
<b>Corporate</b>	Corporate priorities can only be delivered with robust finances.
<b>Equalities Act 2010 &amp; Public Sector Equality Duty</b>	Members are reminded of the requirement, under the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) to have due regard to the aims of the Duty at the time the decision is taken. The aims of the Duty are: (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it, and (iii) foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

Protected characteristics: age, gender, disability, race, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief and pregnancy & maternity. Only aim (i) of the Duty applies to Marriage & civil partnership.	
Please indicate which aim is relevant to the report.	
Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act,	
Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it	
Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.	
<p>The Equality Act 2010 (the “Act”) came into force on 1 October 2010 and brings together over 116 separate pieces of legislation in order to create a framework to protect the rights of individuals and advance equality of opportunity for all.</p> <p>The Equality and Human Rights Commission recognises that with major reductions in public spending, local government has to make difficult and often unpopular decisions regarding funding and service provision. Thanet District Council has statutory public sector equality duties concerned with eliminating unlawful discrimination, advancing equality of opportunity and fostering good relations on the basis of protected characteristics such as gender, race, disability or age. These duties do not prevent the council reducing services or charging where necessary - provided that decisions are taken in accordance with the Act.</p> <p>An Equality Impact Assessment (“EIA”) is not a legal requirement in England, but it is an established and credible tool for demonstrating due regard to the public sector equality duty, which is required by law. Thanet District Council, taking its obligations as seriously as it does, had the Policy Owner for each proposed fee and charge, complete an EIA.</p> <p>The council recognises that EIAs are not an end in themselves. They are, of course, a way of showing that due regard has been paid to the general duties; but the council will continue, all-the-time, engaging with the equality considerations, accepting comments and opinions from stakeholders and maintain a positive relationship with the Equality and Human Rights Commission.</p>	

## 1. Introduction and Background

- 1.1 Cabinet considered the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for 2020-24 at its meeting of 14 January. The Panel is now asked to consider the MTFS report and determine whether it wishes to provide feedback and/or recommendations to Cabinet, prior to the Council meeting on 6 February.
- 1.2 Cabinet’s formal decision on the MTFS will be communicated to the Panel.

## 2. Options

- 2.1 The Overview & Scrutiny Panel has the option to receive the MTFS as put or to make recommendations or provide feedback to Cabinet for consideration.

## 3. Next Steps

- 3.1 Subject to any feedback required for Cabinet, the MTFS will be considered by Council on 6 February 2020.

<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Tim Willis, Deputy Chief Executive and S151 Officer
<b>Reporting to:</b>	Madeline Homer, CEx

## Annex List

Annex 1	2020-24 MTFS report to Cabinet 14 January 2020
Annex 2	Anticipated Earmarked Reserves - Annex 1 to the Cabinet report
Annex 3	HRA Revenue Budget 2020-21 to 2023-24 - Annex 2 to the Cabinet Report

## Background Papers

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

## Corporate Consultation

<b>Finance</b>	n/a
<b>Legal</b>	n/a
<b>Communications</b>	n/a