

**23 January 2017**

**Audit and Scrutiny Committee**

**Budget Scrutiny Panel Feedback**

**Report of:** *John Chance, Finance Director (Section 151 Officer)*

**Wards Affected:** *All*

**This report is:** *Public*

**1. Executive Summary**

- 1.1 Effective scrutiny can add considerable value to how the Council makes decisions on the allocation of resources. This has become increasingly important as the Council continues to set budgets against a background of tough economic conditions and severe funding cuts from Central Government. The medium term financial planning process will need to address these continued financial challenges and develop a strategic approach to address funding gaps.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee are requested to consider the feedback on the Medium Term Financial Plan.**

**3. Introduction and Background**

- 3.1 At its meeting on 29 November 2016 the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee considered the report entitled 'Budget Monitoring Mid Year Review and Medium Term Financial Plan' and agreed the following recommendations:
- Agree the projected outturn position for 2016/17 of the Council's General Fund revenue budget as at 30 September 2016, as detailed in paragraph 3 of the report;
  - Agree the projected outturn position for 2016/17 of the Council's HRA at 30 September 2016, as detailed in paragraph 4 of the report;
  - Agree the current projected position for 2016/17 of the Council's capital budget as at 30 September 2016, as detailed in paragraph 5 of the report;

- Agree the Treasury Management Activity for the period 1 April 2016 to 31 October 2016 as detailed in paragraph 6 of the report
- 3.2 A meeting has been arranged on 17 January 2017, for the Budget Scrutiny Group to consider the assumptions in the 'Budget Monitoring Mid Year Review and Medium Term Financial Plan' agreed by the Policy Finance and Resources Committee. Feedback from the meeting will be provided verbally to this Committee.
- 3.3 Policy, Finance and Resource Committee will then finalise its proposals for submission by way of recommendation to the Council taking into account the comments from the Audit and Scrutiny Committee.

#### **4. Issue, Options and Analysis of Options**

4.1 The Budget Scrutiny Panel is formed of the following Members:

- Cllr Thomas Bridge
- Cllr Alison Fulcher
- Cllr Roger Keeble
- Cllr Mark Reed
- Cllr James Tumbridge

4.2 The Budget Scrutiny Panel met in October and reviewed the 2016/17 Budget Report and the Council Tax Setting Report agreed by Council .

4.3 Following the agreement of the 'Budget Monitoring Mid Year Review and Medium Term Financial Plan' by the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee in November 2016 the Budget Scrutiny Panel met on 17 January 2017 to consider the report (attached as Appendix A). Feedback from the meeting will be provided verbally to this Committee.

#### **5. Reasons for Recommendation**

5.1 Effective financial management underpins all of the priorities for the Council.

#### **6. Implications**

##### **Financial Implications**

**Name & Title:** Ramesh Prashar, Financial Services Manager

**Tel & Email:** 01277 312513 / ramesh.prashar@brentwood.gov.uk

6.1 The financial implications are considered in the report.

**Legal Implications**

**Name & Title:** Daniel Toohey, Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer

**Tel & Email:** 01277 312860 / daniel.toohey@brentwood.gov.uk

6.2 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

**7. Appendices to this report**

Appendix A – 'Budget Monitoring Mid Year Review and Medium Term Financial Plan' - Report agreed at Policy, Finance and Resources Committee on 29 November 2016.

**Report Author Contact Details:**

**Name:** Ramesh Prashar

**Telephone:** 01277 312513

**E-mail:** ramesh.prashar@brentwood.gov.uk