

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL FORUM

7 FEBRUARY 2022

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OFFICER – FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND CHANGE

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2022-23 to 2025-26

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present to the Town and Community Council Forum a copy of the report that went to Cabinet on the draft Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2022-23 to 2025-26 (**Appendix 1**) on 18 January 2022, for information.

2. Connection to corporate well-being objectives / other corporate priorities

- 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objectives under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**:

1. **Supporting a successful sustainable economy** – taking steps to make the county borough a great place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focussed on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions for all people in the county borough.
2. **Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient** - taking steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services. Supporting individuals and communities to build resilience, and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy and independent lives.
3. **Smarter use of resources** – ensuring that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

- 2.2 The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) identifies the Council's resource priorities for the next four financial years, with particular focus on 2022-23.

3. Background

- 3.1 Due to the delay in the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review for 2021, the Welsh Government did not publish its draft budget until 20 December 2021, or the Provisional Local Government Settlement until 21 December 2021. This was in line with the previous year but still approximately 2 months later than normal.

- 3.2 As a result of the delay in announcements, the draft Medium Term Financial Strategy was not presented to Cabinet until 18 January 2022, prior to being submitted for scrutiny by the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

- 3.3 The final Medium Term Financial Strategy will be presented to Cabinet and Council on 22 and 23 February 2022, respectively, for approval. The proposed council tax for 2022-23 will also be presented to Council for approval on 23 February 2022.

4. Current situation/proposal

4.1 Attached as **Appendix 1** to this report is a copy of the report to Cabinet on 18 January 2022 on the draft Medium Term Financial Strategy for the 4 year period 2022-23 2025-26, for information.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

5.1 The budget setting process is outlined within the Council's Constitution and Financial Procedure Rules.

6. Equality Act 2010 implications

6.1 A high level Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) will be carried out and included within the Final MTFS in February 2022. The high level EIA considers the impact of the strategy, policy or proposal on the nine protected characteristics, the Socio-economic Duty and the use of the Welsh Language.

6.2 The proposals contained within this report cover a wide range of services and it is inevitable that the necessary budget reductions will impact on the local population in different ways. In developing these proposals, consideration has been given to their potential impact on protected groups within the community and on how to avoid a disproportionate impact on people within these groups.

7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 implications

7.1 The proposals contained within this report cover a wide range of services and it is inevitable that the necessary budget reductions will impact on the wellbeing goals in different ways. An over-arching Well-being of Future Generations Assessment is appended to the draft MTFS report at **Appendix 1**. A Well-being of Future Generations Assessment will be undertaken on proposed individual projects and activities where relevant and will feed into specific reports to Cabinet or Council.

8. Financial implications

8.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

9. Recommendation

9.1 It is recommended that the Town and Community Council Forum receives and considers the report that went to Cabinet on 18 January 2022 on the draft Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2022-23 to 2025-26 (**Appendix 1**).

Carys Lord

CHIEF OFFICER – FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND CHANGE (SECTION 151 OFFICER)

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Background documents: None