City Council



Date of meeting: 18 September 2023

Title of Report: Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023/24 – 2027/28

Lead Member: Councillor Mark Lowry (Cabinet Member for Finance)

Lead Strategic Director: David Northey (Interim Service Director for Finance)

Author: David Northey, (Interim Service Director for Finance) and Stephen

Coker, Lead Accountancy Manager (CEO & CCS)

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Your Reference:

Key Decision: No

Confidentiality: Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

Under the Council's Financial Regulations, the Responsible Financial Officer (Section 151 officer) is required to report the medium term budget prospects. Council is asked to consider the Medium Term Financial Strategy for the period 2023/24 to 2027/28.

The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) reflects the latest funding projections and sets out the forecasted budget shortfall in each year. The Strategy does not set out projected savings over the plan period; savings required for 2024/25 will be incorporated into the annual budget to be presented to Council in February 2024 and incorporated into future MTFS reports.

The Strategy is recommended by Cabinet to Council.

Recommendations and Reasons

That Council approves the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023/24 – 2027/28.

Reason: The MTFS forms a key part of the budget setting process, which itself is essential to maintain financial control.

Alternative options considered and rejected

None: This is the Council's first MTFS since November 2018 and in need of an update - our Financial Regulations require us to produce regular reports on our finance resources.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

The report is fundamentally linked to delivering the priorities within the Council's Corporate Plan. Allocating limited resources to key priorities will maximise the benefits to the residents of Plymouth.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

The resource implications are set out in the body of the report

Financial Risks

The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) is the Council's primary financial strategic and planning document linking the revenue budget, the capital programme and the treasury management strategy.

The Strategy sets out the financial planning assumptions for the next five years and ensures resource allocation is in line with Plymouth's priorities. The report includes a section on financial risks.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

There are no impacts directly arising from this report.

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:

* When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.

The reducing revenue and capital resources across the public sector has been identified as a key risk within our Strategic Risk register. The ability to deliver spending plans within budget is paramount to ensuring the Council can achieve its objectives

Appendices

*Add rows as required to box below

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.							
		ı	2	3	4	5	6	7	
A	Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023/24 – 2027/28								

Background papers:

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are <u>unpublished</u> works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part I of Schedule I 2A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.								
	I	2	3	4	5	6	7		

^{*}Add rows as required to box below

Sign off:

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				9/23				

Originating Senior Leadership Team member: David Northey (Interim Service Director for Finance)

Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes

Date agreed: 30/08/2023

Cabinet Member approval: Councillor Mark Lowry (Cabinet Member for Finance) after discussion

with Cabinet colleagues.

Date approved: 30/08/2023