

CITY COUNCIL

16 September 2013



CABINET MINUTE 42 OF 3 SEPTEMBER 2013

THE BRILLIANT CO-OPERATIVE COUNCIL SUSTAINABLE THREE YEAR PLAN

Tracey Lee (Chief Executive) submitted a report identifying some of the key financial challenges that the council would face over the coming three years and proposing a revised approach to financial planning over the medium term. The report also sought support for a council-wide transformation programme based on co-operative values to substantially reduce the operating costs of the council and ensure the maximum possible investment in achieving Corporate Plan objectives.

Councillor Evans (Council Leader) introduced the proposals and indicated that -

- (a) the council was taking a structured approach to dealing with an unprecedented reduction in funding by the government;
- (b) a three year strategy was being proposed which it was hoped would provide a balanced financial position;
- (c) the transformation programme would need to be driven both by management and politicians.

Councillor Lowry (Cabinet Member for Finance) referred to recent press statements by Oliver Colville MP, relating to requests for further spending proposals in the city and indicated that no such requests had been submitted to the local authority. Councillor Lowry indicated that he would welcome a meeting with Oliver Colville MP or representatives of any other local authorities should they wish to contact him.

Tracey Lee (Chief Executive) advised Cabinet Members that the council would await the local government settlement in December 2013/ January 2014 and would be working with partners across the city on the major transformation programme.

Alternative options considered and reasons for the decision –

As set out in the report.

Cabinet was advised that the proposals would be considered by the Co-operative Scrutiny Board on 4 September 2013 and that the recommendations would be submitted direct to the City Council meeting for consideration.

The City Council is Recommended to -

- (1) adopt a longer term approach to addressing the reduction in funding available to the council, planning for a balanced indicative budget in each of the coming three years;

- (2) support the implementation of a council-wide transformation programme, based on co-operative values, to substantially reduce the operating costs of the council and ensure the maximum possible investment in achieving the council's objectives;
- (3) agree that Cabinet reviews earmarked reserves and balances to ensure that the Transformation Programme reserve is adequate to cover cashflow requirements for the period of 2013/14 to 2016/17 (managing the overall costs incurred and savings achieved across each financial year).

Note:

The full report in connection with this minute is available on the website

www.plymouth.gov.uk/democracy

or by contacting Democratic Support on 01752 304867