

PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

Subject: Efficiency Plan
Committee: Cabinet
Date: 11 October 2016
Cabinet Member: Councillor Darcy
CMT Member: Lesa Annear (Strategic Director for Transformation and Change)
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Ref:

Key Decision: Yes

Part: 1

Purpose of the report:

To approve the Council's Efficiency Plan. The Plan will then be submitted to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). This will secure a four-year Revenue Support Grant (RSG) settlement 2016-17 to 2019-20.

The Council Corporate Plan 2016/19:

The achievement of a four year RSG settlement will assist the Council in delivering the Corporate Plan.

Implications for Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications: Including finance, human, IT and land:

The resource implications are set out in the body of the Efficiency Plan.

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

The Efficiency Plan addresses the financial risks facing the Council. It also provides the maximum resources achievable to address key policy areas.

Equality and Diversity:

Has an Equality Impact Assessment been undertaken? Not applicable

Recommendations and Reasons for recommended action:

That Cabinet approves the Efficiency Plan for submission to DCLG.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

Not to take advantage of the four year settlement offer by submitting an Efficiency Plan.

This would be against the Council's financial interests in that the RSG allocations announced in the 2016-17 settlement for 2017-18 to 2019-20 might not be realised and the Council would face further RSG reductions.

Published work / information:

The provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 2016-17 and an offer to councils for future years – DCLG Dec 2015.

Background papers:

Title	Part I	Part II	Exemption Paragraph Number						
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Sign off:

Fin	akh16 17.29y	Leg	DVS26530	M o n O f f		HR		Assets		IT		Strat Proc	
Originating SMT Member													
Has the Cabinet Member(s) agreed the content of the report? Yes													

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 In December 2015 the Provisional 2016-17 Local Government Finance Settlement made the offer of four-year settlements. These were intended to increase financial certainty and allow proactive service delivery whilst supporting strategic collaboration with partners. Multi-year settlements were intended to improve financial management and efficiency.
- 1.2 In February 2016 the Secretary of State confirmed the four-year offer as part of the Final 2016-17 Local Government Finance Settlement. Councils were given until 14 October 2016 to take up the offer.
- 1.3 In March 2016 the Secretary of State wrote to Councils about multi-year settlements and efficiency plans. He stated:
 - To accept the offer an email or letter should be sent by 5 p.m. on Friday, 14th October 2016 including a link to the Council's published efficiency plan
 - No further guidance on the content of efficiency plans would be provided. Plans should be locally owned and locally driven.
 - Plans should show how the greater certainty of a multi-year settlement can bring about opportunities for further savings.
 - Plans should cover the full four year period. Plans should be open and transparent about the benefits this will bring to both the Council and the community.
 - There should be collaboration with local neighbours and public sector partners. There should be links into devolution deals where appropriate.
- 1.4 The Annex to the Secretary of State's letter is also attached for information.
- 1.5 DCLG supported a CIPFA/LGA seminar in June 2016 on Efficiency Plans. A series of top tips is attached for information.

2.0 Plymouth City Council Efficiency Plan

- 2.1 The attached Efficiency Plan is based on the MTFs submitted to Scrutiny Committee on 22 September 2016.
- 2.2 The Efficiency Plan follows the Secretary of State's principle that the plan should be simple and straightforward and not create additional bureaucracy.
- 2.3 The submission to the Secretary of State will link to the published agenda for this Cabinet meeting
- 2.4 A link will be provided in the Efficiency Plan to the MTFs considered by Scrutiny 22 September 2016. The link will be updated as the MTFs is revised at later stages of the budget process.