

NOTICE OF MEETING

Meeting: CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

Date and Time: THURSDAY, 16 NOVEMBER 2017, AT 9.30 AM*

Place: COMMITTEE ROOM 1, APPLETREE COURT,
LYNDHURST

Telephone enquiries to: Lyndhurst (023) 8028 5000
023 8028 5588 - ask for Andy Rogers
Email: andy.rogers@nfdc.gov.uk

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

*Members of the public may speak in accordance with the Council's public participation scheme:

- (a) immediately before the meeting starts, on items within the Panel's terms of reference which are not on the public agenda; and/or
 - (b) on individual items on the public agenda, when the Chairman calls that item.
- Speeches may not exceed three minutes. Anyone wishing to speak should contact the name and number shown above.

Bob Jackson
Chief Executive

Appletree Court, Lyndhurst, Hampshire. SO43 7PA
www.newforest.gov.uk

This Agenda is also available on audio tape, in Braille, large print and digital format

AGENDA

Apologies

1. MINUTES

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 25 May 2017 as a correct record.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To note any declarations of interest made by members in connection with an agenda item. The nature of the interest must also be specified.

Members are asked to discuss any possible interests with Democratic Services prior to the meeting.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

To note any issues raised during the public participation period.

4. NATIONAL FARMERS' UNION PRESENTATION (NFU) - AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY IN THE NEW FOREST

To receive a presentation on agricultural industry in the New Forest from Sandra Nichols, NFU County Advisor.

5. DRAFT RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY INVESTMENT STRATEGY - TO FOLLOW

To consider a proposed Draft Residential Property Investment Strategy, and to make recommendations to the Cabinet.

6. PROCUREMENT PRESENTATION

To receive an update from the Service Manager (Legal) and the Strategic Procurement Manager on changes to the standing orders for procurement purposes.

7. COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION TASK AND FINISH GROUP (Pages 1 - 14)

To receive the recommendations of the Council Tax Reduction Task and Finish Group.

8. ICT STRATEGY UPDATE

To receive an update on progress with the ICT Strategy.

9. FINANCIAL UPDATE 2017/18 AND 2018/19 (Pages 15 - 18)

To receive an update on the latest budget position and to make recommendations to the Cabinet on a proposed Asset Maintenance and Replacement Schedule.

10. WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 19 - 22)

(a) To consider the Panel's future Work Programme, including any reviews of previous work undertaken; and

(b) To receive any updates on Task and Finish Group work:

- Electoral Review Task and Finish Group
- Democratic Engagement Task and Finish Group
- Customer Services Task and Finish Group
- Budget Task and Finish Group
- Citizens' Advice Bureau Task and Finish Group

11. PORTFOLIO HOLDERS' UPDATES

An opportunity for the Portfolio Holders to provide an update to the Panel on any issues.

12. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

To: **Councillors:**

M R Harris (Chairman)
M A Steele (Vice-Chairman)
A R Alvey
W G Andrews
M J Kendal

Councillors:

Mrs A E McEvoy
A D O'Sullivan
A K Penson
D B Tipp
C A Wise

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CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL –16 NOVEMBER 2017

COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2018/19

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Members will recall that the national scheme for Council Tax Benefit (which provided financial help for those on low income) was abolished on 31 March 2013. Instead, local authorities are responsible for setting up their own local Council Tax Reduction Scheme for those of working age on low income. The Government stipulated that there must be no change to the level of help that pensioners already receive.
- 1.2 The Council Tax Reduction Scheme must be formally made by the Council no later than 31 January 2018, to take effect from 1 April 2018. The Government has constructed rules for a 'default scheme' which will have to be operated by any council that does not make a local scheme. This replicates the former rules for council tax benefits. It is contained in schedule 1 of The Council Tax (Default Schemes) (England) Regulations 2012.
- 1.3 The Council Tax Reduction Scheme fulfils the prescribed requirements for localised schemes.
- 1.4 Approximately 8,800 claimants are receiving Council Tax Reduction. Of these 2,700 are working age (1,000 are working and 88% have children), 1,500 are vulnerable and 4,600 are of pensionable age.
- 1.5 The current Council Tax Reduction Scheme costs approximately £8.2 million. This is split between:

Working Age employed	£ 605,000
Working Age other	£1,466,000
Vulnerable	£1,632,000
Pensioner	£4,546,000

The cost is shared between New Forest District Council, Hampshire County Council, Hampshire Police and Hampshire Fire and Rescue.

- 1.6 When the Council Tax Reduction Scheme was introduced, approximately 90% of the cost was reimbursed by the government within the formula grant process. The balance of the cost was shared by the council and the Precepting bodies as part of the tax base collection. Changes to the amount of Council Tax Reduction awarded now affects the tax base of each organisation and is no longer identified within the overall formula grant allocation.

2. REVIEW PROCESS

- 2.1 The Task & Finish Group met to review the current scheme and proposed changes effective from 1 April 2018.
- 2.2 The recommendations of the Task & Finish Group are to be considered by the Corporate Overview Panel and Cabinet and full Council in December 2017.

3. THE CURRENT LOCAL COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME

- 3.1 The council's Council Tax Reduction Scheme protects the vulnerable. A person is vulnerable if they (or a partner) are in receipt of Disability Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payments or Severe Disablement Allowance.
- 3.2 The council's Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2017/18 requires all working age claimants (except the vulnerable) to pay a minimum of 10.0% council tax (8.5% in 2013/14). Previously some of these claimants would have received full council tax benefit and paid no council tax. These changes were agreed by a Task and Finish group, Corporate Overview Panel and Council.
- 3.3 The council's Council Tax Reduction Scheme also includes:
- A. Council tax reductions are capped at band D (so that claimants living in higher banded properties receive any reduction based on band D). This currently affects 88 claimants (102 in 16/17), 65 being in a Band E property (74 in 16/17).
 - B. The savings limit is now £6,000 (previously £16,000), so that claimants on low income with more than £6,000 in savings are not entitled to any reduction.
 - C. There is no entitlement to Second Adult Rebate.
 - D. The council's Council Tax Reduction Scheme incentivises work by disregarding £25.00 a week of earnings. The government disregards in Housing Benefit are £25.00 for a lone parent, £20.00 for a disabled claimant, £10.00 for a couple and £5.00 for a single claimant.
 - E. The maximum period for backdating a claim is 4 weeks (previously 6 months)
 - F. To remove the family premium for new claims
 - G. To limit the number of dependent children within the calculation for Council Tax Reduction to a maximum of 2 for new claims and entitlements (some exemptions apply).
 - H. To use the gross Universal Credit payment as income in the calculation of Council Tax Reduction

4. MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED BY TASK & FINISH GROUP

- 4.1 Collecting council tax from those on low income is difficult, with significantly more work for officers. Administration has also increased, notably in recovery notices and working with those affected. In 2017/18 council tax bills increased, meaning council tax payers having to pay more. This is likely to continue in the forthcoming years, with predicted increases of roughly 3% to 4%. It is not anticipated that wages will increase at the same rate, which affects roughly one-third of working age claimants.

The collection rate for those in receipt of Council Tax Reduction, who are not a pensioner or vulnerable, has increased slightly from 80.11% to 81.42%. See Appendix 2 for collection figures.

- 4.2 Many of the claimants have also been affected by other welfare reform changes, including the spare room subsidy, the benefit cap, which was further reduced from 7 November 2016, as well as an increase in the cost of living. Many working age state benefits are being frozen for the next 3 years, including the Local Housing Allowance despite rents increasing, and there are further welfare reforms to come, including the continued roll-out of Universal Credit.

5. DISCUSSION ON COUNCIL TAX REDUCITON SCHEME FOR 2018/19

5.1 The group considered the options below:

- A. To maintain the current scheme with no changes
- B. To increase or decrease the minimum contribution of 10%
- C. To disregard in full Bereavement Support Payment in the calculation of Council Tax Reduction
- D. To reduce temporary absence from 13 weeks to 4 and remain entitled to Council Tax Reduction (exemptions will apply)
- E. To remove the Housing Element of Universal Credit within the calculation of Council Tax Reduction

5.2 Option A would not affect current claimants in that their support would not reduce and it's administratively simple.

However, a declining caseload means fewer claimants are in receipt of a Council Tax Reduction. See Appendix 1.

5.3 Option B will save differing amounts depending on the minimum contribution. See Appendix 3. Officers consider there is a "tipping point" where an increase in minimum contributions will result in less council tax being paid. Officers do not know where this tipping point is. Nationally, councils with larger minimum contributions have seen increase in arrears.

5.4 Option C is to reflect welfare changes and mirror changes being introduced in Housing Benefit. Bereavement Support Payment replaces Bereavement Payment, Bereavement Allowance and Widows Parents Allowance, which were all previously disregarded in full as income. This benefit is support those who have suffered from bereavement. It is simple and will help with administration of the scheme.

5.5 Option D is to mirror Housing Benefit, Universal Credit and pensioner claims for Council Tax Reduction. There are exemptions to this rule, including:

- Absences in connection with the death of a close relative
- Members of Her Majesty's forces
- A person who is receiving medically approved care in accommodation other than residential accommodation

- A person, their partner, or dependent child, undergoing medical treatment, medically approved convalescent in accommodation other than residential accommodation
- A person in hospital as a patient
- A person who has left their home through fear of violence

It is simple to administer and will help with the administration of the scheme.

- 5.6 Option E is remove the Housing Element of Universal Credit to ensure the claimant receives the same level of support as if Universal Credit was not in payment. By including the Housing Element, this inflates the claimant's applicable amount and increases their Council Tax Reduction.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The Council has a duty to consult on any changes to the scheme, and if it is proposed that no changes are made. The Council undertook a consultation exercise over a 6 week period, from 7 August 2017 to 17 September 2017. The consultation was advertised on the council's website, Facebook page, Twitter and on correspondence sent to recipients of a Council Tax Reduction. The major preceptors and Citizens Advice were also contacted.
- 6.2 The council only received 20 responses. Due to the minimal responses it is not possible to draw any real conclusions. However, most responses supported the recommendations.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The financial implications of each of the options were discussed.

Option A may incur minimal, or less costs

Option B savings will depend on the amount of the contribution and collection rates.

Option C cost will be minimal

Option D savings will be minimal, if any

Option E savings will be made, increasing as Universal Credit rolls-out.
Estimate of £15,000pa

Therefore, the overall impact of these changes will be minimal. Savings to New Forest District Council will be even smaller as the council retains approximately 11% of the total council tax collected.

8. PORTFOLIO HOLDER COMMENTS

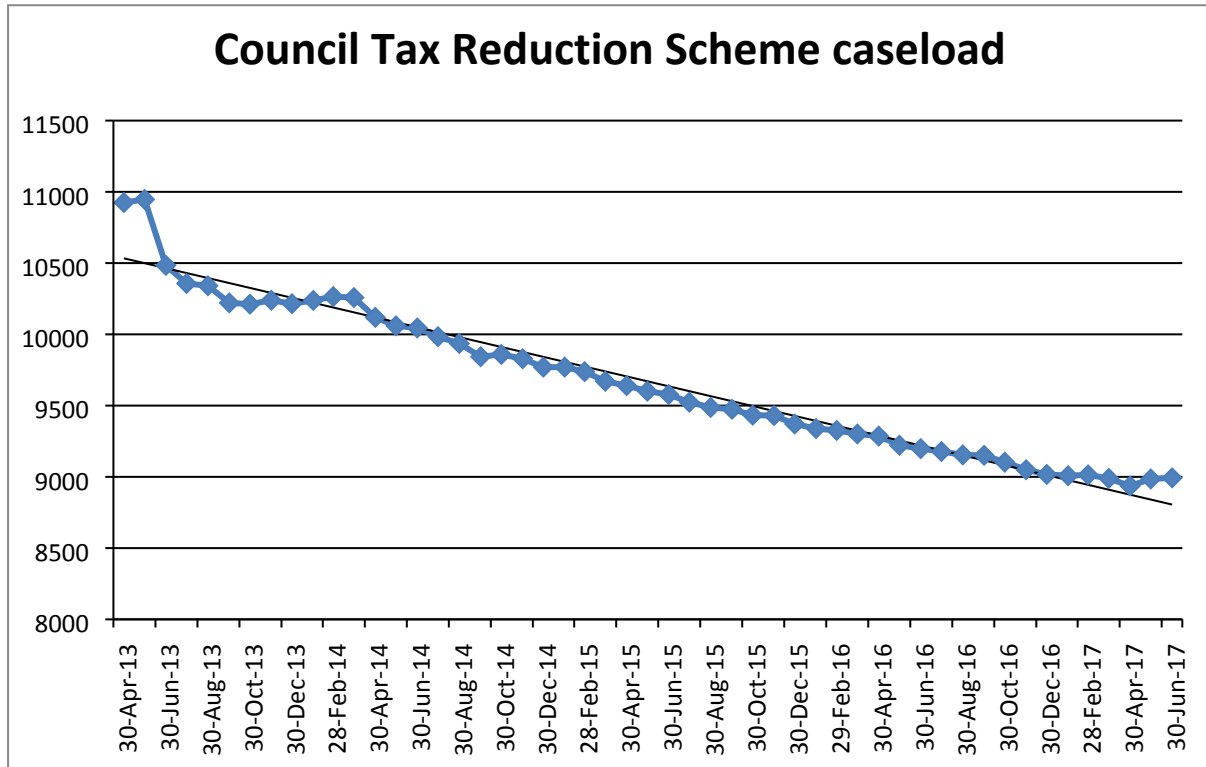
- 8.1 TBC

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 It is recommended to Corporate Overview Scrutiny Panel and to the Cabinet that the minimum contribution remains at 10% and that options, C, D and E are all adopted.

<p>Further Information:</p> <p>Lead Officer: Ryan Stevens Service Manager – Housing and Community Tel: 023 8028 5588 E-mail: ryan.stevens@nfdc.gov.uk</p> <p>Members of Task & Finish Group: Cllrs Michael Harris, Mark Steele, Dan Poole and Alan Penson</p> <p>Portfolio Holder: Cllr Jeremy Heron</p>	<p>Background Information: Minutes of Task & Finish Group Caseload graph Collection statistics Impact on changing the minimum contribution Impact of Housing element in Universal Credit in calculation Recovery notices comparison National statistics and Hampshire minimum contribution</p>
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COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME CASELOAD



APPENDIX 2

Collection statistics

POSITION STATEMENT AS AT 31.3.17

	Nett Amount Due	Total Amount Paid	Outstanding Balance	Collection %
ALL DEBT	£ 108,557,130.06	£ 107,368,450.00	£ 1,188,679.00	98.91%
REDUCTION SCHEMES				
WORKING AGE EMPLOYED	£ 615,602.03	£ 521,129.00	£ 94,472.00	84.65%
WORKING AGE OTHER	£ 420,582.91	£ 322,499.00	£ 98,083.00	76.68%
WORKING AGE CLAIMANT - MAXIMUM REDUCTION CAPPED AT 90%	£ 1,036,184.94	£ 843,628.00	£ 192,556.00	81.42%
PENSION AGE	£ 844,469.61	£ 832,922.00	£ 11,547.00	98.63%
VULNERABLE	£ 113,179.55	£ 91,452.00	£ 21,727.00	80.80%
PROTECTED ENTITLEMENT (PENSION AGE AND VULNERABLE) - NO MAXIMUM CAP	£ 957,649.16	£ 924,374.00	£ 33,274.00	96.53%
SUMMARY				
ALL REDUCTION SCHEME CASES	£ 1,993,834.10	£ 1,768,003.76	£ 225,830.24	88.67%
ALL NON-REDUCTION SCHEME CASES	£ 106,563,295.96	£ 105,600,446.54	£ 962,849.42	99.10%

POSITION STATEMENT AS AT 31.3.16

	Nett Amount Due	Total Amount Paid	Outstanding Balance	Collection %
ALL DEBT	£ 104,110,152.26	£ 102,853,822.56	£ 1,256,329.70	98.79%
REDUCTION SCHEMES				
WORKING AGE EMPLOYED	£ 626,627.23	£ 518,136.94	£ 108,490.29	82.69%
WORKING AGE OTHER	£ 410,860.15	£ 312,983.91	£ 97,876.24	76.18%
WORKING AGE CLAIMANT - MAXIMUM REDUCTION CAPPED AT 90%	£ 1,037,487.38	£ 831,120.85	£ 206,366.53	80.11%
PROTECTED ENTITLEMENT (VULNERABLE PERSONS AND PERSONS OF PENSION AGE)	£ 1,013,177.62	£ 989,443.09	£ 23,734.53	97.65%
SUMMARY				
ALL REDUCTION SCHEME CASES	£ 2,050,665.00	£ 1,820,563.94	£ 230,101.06	88.78%
ALL NON-REDUCTION SCHEME CASES	£ 101,059,487.26	£ 101,033,258.62	£ 1,026,228.64	98.99%

**POSITION STATEMENT AS AT
31/03/15**

	Net Amount Due	Total Amount Paid	Outstanding Balance	Collection %
ALL DEBT	£ 102,960,861.09	£ 101,823,540.83	£ 1,137,320.26	98.90%
REDUCTION SCHEMES				
WORKING AGE EMPLOYED	£ 620,793.18	£ 528,097.33	£ 92,695.85	85.07%
WORKING AGE OTHER	£ 432,371.08	£ 342,891.08	£ 89,480.00	79.30%
WORKING AGE CLAIMANT - MAXIMUM REDUCTION CAPPED AT 90%	£ 1,053,164.26	£ 870,988.41	£ 182,175.85	82.70%
PROTECTED ENTITLEMENT (VULNERABLE PERSONS AND PERSONS OF PENSION AGE)	£ 1,087,349.78	£ 1,048,508.52	£ 38,841.26	96.43%
SUMMARY				
ALL REDUCTION SCHEME CASES	£ 2,140,514.04	£ 1,919,496.93	£ 221,017.11	89.67%
ALL NON-REDUCTION SCHEME CASES	£ 100,820,347.05	£ 99,904,043.90	£ 916,303.15	99.09%

APPENDIX 3

Increasing the minimum contribution

Example 1

Lone parent, working part-time and getting Tax credits. Weekly income is £255.20 and the council tax bill is £1,038.47 (Band C and after SPD).

Amount to pay each month:

Minimum contribution	10%	12.5%	15%	20%
To pay per month	£45.13	£47.26	£49.48	£53.78
Increase from 17/18 pm		+£2.13	+£4.35	+£8.65
Annual increase		4.7%	9.6%	19%

Example 2

Single claimant getting Jobseekers Allowance of £73.10pw.

Amount to pay each month:

Minimum contribution	10%	12.5%	15%	20%
To pay per month	£8.65	£9.95	£12.98	£17.31
Increase from 17/18 pm		+£1.30	+£4.33	+£8.66
Annual increase		15%	50%	100%

Potential maximum additional income:

Minimum contribution	10%	12.5%	15%	20%
Savings p.a.	£0.00	£74,000	£148,000	£296,000

NFDC share is 11% of the above amounts.

APPENDIX 4

Example 1

Current Council Tax Reduction scheme

Mr Smith, working 30 hours per week, earning £824.18 per month.

Nil entitlement to Council Tax Reduction
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Migrate to Universal Credit and including the housing element (HB no longer awarded)

Mr Smith claiming Universal Credit, working 30 hours per week, earning £824.18 per month.

£9.80 per week entitlement to Council Tax Reduction

Example 2

Current Council Tax Reduction scheme

Mrs Jones, working 20 hours a week earning £850.41 per month and not getting UC and has been getting CTR for 5 years.

Nil entitlement to Council Tax Reduction

Claiming Universal Credit and including the housing element

Mrs Brown, claims UC for the first time, working 20 hours a week earning £850.41 per month.

£7.10 per week entitlement to Council Tax Reduction
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Only a small number of claimants are currently getting Universal Credit, this will rapidly accelerate next year when Universal Credit is fully rolled-out from May 2018 across the district and further when current Housing Benefit claims migrate to UC. Continuing to include the housing element of Universal Credit inflates the claimants applicable amount and increases their Council Tax Reduction.

Removing the housing element of Universal Credit will ensure the claimant receives the same level of support as if Universal Credit was not in payment.

APPENDIX 5

2013/14	CTR	Non-CTR
Reminder	6,805	12,729
Summons	1,289	3,572

2014/15	CTR	Non-CTR
Reminder	6,871	12,727
Summons	1,344	3,828

2015/16	CTR	Non-CTR
Reminder	5,607	13,117
Summons	1,103	3,477

2016/17	CTR	Non-CTR
Reminder	5,485	13,250
Summons	1,082	3,321

Since 2014/15, when the minimum contribution increased to 10%, Reminder notices and Summons have reduced.

APPENDIX 6

National picture - 2017/18 council tax reduction schemes

Of 326 councils:

- 264 have minimum payment. 45 less than 10%, 60 between 10% and 20%, 140 between 20% and 30% and 19 over 30%.
- 214 have removed Second Adult Rebate
- 98 have a savings cap – most common is £6,000
- 100 have a band cap – the most common is a Band D cap
- As the minimum contribution increases collection rates decrease

Minimum contributions in Hampshire and neighbouring councils

	17/18
Basingstoke	0
East Hants	0
Eastleigh	0
Fareham	20
Gosport	30
Hart	0
Havant	8.5
Isle Of Wight	20
New Forest	10
Portsmouth	20
Rushmoor	10
Southampton	25
Test Valley	0
Winchester	0

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CORPORATE OVERVIEW SCRUTINY PANEL – 16 NOVEMBER 2017

FINANCIAL UPDATE 2017/18 AND 2018/19

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides the panel with an update on the latest position with regards to the 2017/18 budget, confirms the latest assumptions made within the forecast for the 2018/19 budget and gives the panel an update on the Council's proposed Asset Maintenance and Replacement Programme for 2018/19.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 There are two types of financial reports that are presented to Cabinet throughout the year. The Financial Monitoring Reports (FMR) focus on the current years' performance and provide a forecast budget outturn, and the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) reports give updates on the current forecast budget position over a 3-4 year period, allowing for known and estimated funding and budget changes. Often items featured in the FMR's feed into the MTFP, if the adjustments are on-going.
- 2.2 On 2 November 2017 the Bank of England increased the official bank rate by 0.25% to 0.5%; the first increase in the rate since July 2007. This will have a positive impact to the interest earnings of the Council. An allowance for additional earnings had been included in the October MTFP; this was in relation to investment in higher earning pooled funds and not in anticipation of a rate rise. The financial impact of the rise will be quantified and monitored, and reported in due course.

3. LATEST POSITION 2017/18

General Fund Revenue

- 3.1 A General Fund budget of £16.587m for 2017/18 was agreed by Council in Feb 2017.
- 3.2 The first FMR of the year (Aug Cabinet) identified budget savings of £499k and new budget requirements of £417k. The second FMR of the year (Nov Cabinet) covered financial performance up to the end of September and identified further budget savings of £392k and new budget requirements of £25k.
- 3.3 Each report also included rephasings (from/to earmarked reserves), with the August report bringing rephasings from 2016/17 into 2017/18 totalling £1.146m, and the November report including rephasing out of 2017/18 into future years of £416k.
- 3.4 In an attempt to mitigate the cycle of rephasings, the budgets included as rephasings out of 2017/18 into future years identified in November will only be brought back into the 2018/19 budget, if included in the project list for that year from the outset, i.e. not supplementary to.
- 3.5 The following table summarises the change in budget position as a result of the reported variations, outlined above and detailed within the Cabinet Reports.

	Savings £'000	New Req. £'000	Rephasing £'000	Total £'000
Original Budget April 2017/18				16,587
Variations agreed in August	-499	567	1,146	1,214
Transfer from Reserves in August		-150	-1,146	-1,296
Updated Budget August 2017/18	-499	417	0	16,505
Variations agreed in November	-392	25	-416	-783
Transfer from Reserves in November			416	416
Updated Budget November 2017/18	-392	25	0	-367
Updated Budget November 2017/18	-891	442	0	16,138

Capital Programme

3.6 The Capital Programme agreed in February amounted to £21.266m. This was increased to a revised capital budget of £23.002m in August to reflect net budget reductions of £156,000 and rephasings of schemes from 2016/17 (£1.892m). As at the end of September (November Cabinet), no further variations to this revised budget were reported.

Housing Revenue Account

3.7 A breakeven Housing Revenue Account was set in February 2017. At this time, only minor variations totalling £153k have been reported.

4. LATEST ASSUMPTIONS 2018/19

4.1 The MTFP presented to Cabinet in October demonstrated a forecast budget deficit in 2018/19 of £441k, with a cumulative £1.399m shortfall to 2022.

4.2 Since October, the following adjustments have been identified in order to fully close the 2018/19 budget deficit:

	£'000
October MTFP 2018/19 Deficit	441
Car Park Fees & Charges	(480)
Car Park Maintenance	93
Health & Leisure Centre Fees and Charges	(50)
Pre Application Advice Charges (Planning)	(25)
Taxi Licence Income	(16)
Asset Maint. & Replacement Prog.	(13)
Delivery Plan Reviews	50
Revised Budget Position	-

4.3 This puts the Council in a strong and resilient financial position for the immediate year ahead. The Autumn Statement (22/11/17) and the Local

Government Finance Settlement (Mid-December) however, both still have the potential to amend our financial position significantly.

- 4.4 The focus with regards to the December MTFP update to Cabinet will therefore be on the medium term, in the context of the Council still facing a budget gap of c£1m to 2022. Areas of note to be developed will include;
- New ways of delivering Council services;
 - the medium term implications of Universal Credit roll-out; and
 - a focus on aligning the budget prioritisation with the Council's corporate plan objectives and key polices.

5. ASSET MAINTENANCE AND REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME 2018/19

- 5.1 Officers were asked to draw up a deliverable programme of projects to fit within a set budget constraint, allowing where necessary for the projects rephased from 2017/18, as mentioned in para 3.3/3.4.

- 5.2 The outcome of this exercise is summarised as follows:

	18/19 Total	Budget Allowance	Variance
Offices Depots and Outlying Buildings (inc. Public Conveniences)	540,000	450,000	90,000
Health & Leisure	540,000	500,000	40,000
ICT	250,000	200,000	50,000
V&P (revenue cost)	1,156,000	1,050,000	106,000
Non-Core project fund	201,000	200,000	1,000
Proportion to HRA	-200,000	-100,000	-100,000
Rephasing from 2017/18 (Nov FM Report)	-200,000		-200,000
Programme Total	2,287,000	2,300,000	-13,000
Reserve Funded:			
ICT - Protect and Maintain Frontline Services (Yr 2 of 3)	750,000	750,000	0

- 5.3 As can be seen from the summary above, although there are some differences in comparison to the originally allowed budget allocations, the overall programme totals £2.287m; £13,000 less than the budgeted £2.3m.
- 5.4 The budget approval for the 2018/19 programme will be sought at the levels as above rather than at individual scheme level, enabling suitable flexibility to deal with amendments to the programme as the delivery of individual projects progresses. The Council's Section 151 officer reserves the right for this particular approval process to take precedence over financial regulations, for the purpose of the delivery of this programme.
- 5.5 The ICT Protect and Maintain Frontline Services sum at £750,000 is year 2 of the 3 year pre-approved (Feb '17 Council) £1.5m budget.

6. CRIME & DISORDER / EQUITY & DIVERSITY / ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no implications as a direct result of this report.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 That the members of COSP;
- a) note the contents of this report, and feedback any relevant comments for inclusion in the December MTFP report to Cabinet, and
 - b) recommend Cabinet approve the proposed Asset Maintenance and Replacement schedule as laid out in section 5.2, supporting that the budget be approved at high level, rather than at scheme level.

Alan Bethune
Service Manager – Finance (S151) & Audit
Tel: 023 8028 5588
Email: Alan.Bethune@NFDC.gov.uk

Background Papers
FMR – 02/08/2017
FMR – 01/11/2017
MTFP – 04/10/2017

WORK PROGRAMME 2017/18

ITEM	OBJECTIVE	METHOD	TIMING	LEAD OFFICER
18 JANUARY 2017				
Economic Development Strategy (to include all sectors)		Report		
Budget Task and Finish Group		Final report		

TASK AND FINISH GROUPS

ITEM	OBJECTIVE	METHOD	TIMING	LEAD OFFICER
Budget Task and Finish Group	To review the Council's future Budget Strategy	Task and Finish Group	January 2018	Rebecca Drummond/ Alan Bethune/ Andy Rogers
Citizens' Advice Bureau (CAB)	To agree new management arrangements and related issues; including Grant	Task and Finish Group meeting on 21 July, 29 November, and on further dates as required	Ongoing	Ryan Stevens
Council Tax Reduction Task and Finish Group	To review the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for persons on low income, and other exemptions	Task and Finish Group Meetings on 24 July, 14 August and 2 October	Final report in November 2017	Ryan Stevens
Customer Services Strategy	Progress report	Officer report Task and Finish Group	Ongoing – Met on 31 October 2017	Rebecca Drummond

TASK AND FINISH GROUPS (cont'd)				
ITEM	OBJECTIVE	METHOD	TIMING	LEAD OFFICER
Democratic Engagement	To consider ways to enhance democratic engagement	Officer Report/Task and Finish Group	Ongoing – Next meets in January 2018	Rosemary Rutins
Electoral Review	To consider whether the Council should request the LGBCE to undertake an electoral review	Task and Finish Group	Ongoing – To report to January 2018 Panel meeting with recommendations	Rosemary Rutins
Property Investment Strategy		Task and Finish Group	Ongoing / periodical verbal updates – Residential Property Investment Strategy being brought to November 2017 meeting	Andrew Smith
Employee Owned Services (John Lewis Model)		Task and Finish Group	Terms of Reference to be agreed	

NOT YET TIMETABLED				
ITEM	OBJECTIVE	METHOD	TIMING	LEAD OFFICER
“Regions” Continue engagement/ collaboration with HCC/LEPS or any other external public agency, including reference to the Hampshire-wide devolution proposal	To effectively facilitate good relationships with these agencies in order to produce beneficial outcomes in the District	Report documenting progress with LEPs and business portal HCC element via Leader updates	2017/18	TBC
Access to alternative funding sources for voluntary	To explore opportunities	Officer written report	2017/18 committee cycle	TBC

organisations and parish/town councils				
NOT YET TIMETABLED (cont'd)				
ITEM	OBJECTIVE	METHOD	TIMING	LEAD OFFICER
Devolution – Wider Hampshire	Monitor progress with regard to devolution	Regular update from Leader	At appropriate times	TBC
Universal Credit update	To be aware of issues arising	Regular update from Finance & Efficiency Portfolio Holder	At appropriate times	TBC
Portfolio Holders' Updates (Standing Item) Updates from Task and Finish Groups				

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