

Digital Innovation and Efficiency Committee

Item No 2

Report title:	Strategic and Financial Planning 2018-19 to 2021-22
Date of meeting:	12 October 2017
Responsible Chief Officer:	Simon George – Executive Director, Finance & Commercial Services
Strategic impact This report provides an update on the Service Committee's detailed planning to feed into the Council's budget process for 2018-19. The Council's budget setting activity is informed by a range of documents including the Medium Term Financial Strategy, and the County Council Plan, which is currently being updated. Together these help to set the context for the Council's medium term service and financial planning, which will support the development of a robust, balanced budget for 2018-19.	

Executive summary

This report forms part of the strategic and financial planning framework for Service Committees. It provides an update on the Council's budget setting process, and sets out details of the actions required by Service Committees to enable the Council to set a balanced budget for 2018-19.

Recommendations:

Digital Innovation and Efficiency Committee is recommended to:

- 1) Note that the Council's current budget planning includes an assumed increase in council tax of 3.0% for the Adult Social Care precept, and an inflationary increase of 1.9% in 2018-19.**
- 2) Consider and agree the service-specific budgeting issues for 2018-19 as set out in section 3,**
- 3) In order to help close the forecast 2018-19 budget gap as set out in section 2 of this report:**
 - a. Consider whether any savings identified for 2019-20 have the capacity to be brought forward to 2018-19;**
 - b. Agree the proposed new savings for 2018-19 (Table 4) for recommendation to Policy and Resources Committee;**
 - c. Agree to recommend to Policy and Resources Committee the proposed new savings for 2018-19 which require consultation as set out in section 3.**

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Council's approach to medium term service and financial planning includes a rolling medium term financial strategy, with an annual budget agreed each year. The County Council agreed the 2017-18 Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) to 2019-20 at its meeting 20 February 2017. At this point, the MTFS identified a gap for budget planning purposes of £35.015m.
- 1.2. The MTFS position is updated through the year to provide Members with the latest available financial forecasts to inform wider budget setting work across the organisation. As previously reported to Committees, Policy and Resources Committee considered a report "Strategic and Financial Planning 2018-19 to 2021-22" on 3 July 2017, which set out a forecast gap of £100.000m for the period to 2021-22.
- 1.3. This year, the budget-setting process is closely aligned with development of the new Council Plan and associated corporate strategy work, to be completed in the autumn. Further details of this were set out in the report "Caring for your County" and in the Strategic and Financial Planning reports considered by Policy and Resources Committee.
- 1.4. This report builds on the position reported to Service Committees in September and represents the next stage of the Council's budget planning process. In particular, the paper sets out details of the saving proposals identified for 2018-19 and subsequent years, for the Committee's consideration.

2017-18 budget position

- 1.5. The latest details of the 2017-18 budget position are set out in the budget monitoring report elsewhere on the agenda. The Council's overarching budget planning assumptions for 2018-19 continue to assume that the 2017-18 Budget will be fully delivered (i.e. that all savings are achieved as planned and there are no significant overspends).

2. 2018-19 Budget planning

2017-20 Medium Term Financial Strategy

- 2.1. County Council approved the 2017-18 Budget and the Medium Term Financial Strategy for the period 2017-18 to 2019-20 on 20 February 2017. The Medium Term Financial Strategy to 2019-20 set out a balanced budget for 2017-18, but a deficit remained of £16.125m in 2018-19, and £18.890m in 2019-20. The Medium Term Financial Strategy's aim is to ensure a balanced budget to aid forward planning and help mitigate financial risk. The Medium Term Financial Strategy position is shown in the table below.

Table 1: Budget surplus / deficit as reported to Full Council on 20 February 2017

	2017-18 £m	2018-19 £m	2019-20 £m
Additional cost pressures and forecast reduction in Government grant funding	74.212	58.719	52.819
Council Tax base increase	-19.853	-14.722	-9.338
Identified saving proposals and funding increases	-54.359	-27.872	-24.591
Budget gap (Surplus) / Deficit	0.000	16.125	18.890

2.2. The £58.719m assumed cost pressures and forecast reduction in Government grant funding in 2018-19 consists of:

- Inflationary cost pressures for pay and non-pay budgets of £11.548m.
- Legislative changes of £22.891m including responsibilities at the time anticipated relating to the improved Better Care Fund, and pension revaluation costs.
- Demographic cost pressures of -£2.866m. Demographic pressures in Adult Social Services were offset by the fact that additional funding for Children's Services was one-off in 2017-18 and so reversed in the plans for 2018-19. This pressure has subsequently been made ongoing during 2018-19 budget planning.
- NCC policy changes of £2.552m.
- Forecast funding reductions of £24.594m.

2.3. It should be noted that the budget gap of £16.125m in 2018-19 **assumes a CPI (1.9%) increase in council tax** above the 3% Adult Social Care precept, based on the assumptions used by the Government at the time of the 2016-17 local government settlement. Any reduction in this increase will require additional savings to be found. The assumed increases in Council Tax for the Adult Social Care Precept and inflation (the OBR forecast of CPI) are set out in the table below. It should be noted that currently CPI is running at 2.6%¹ and the Council awaits guidance from the Government on the council tax referendum threshold for 2018-19. The assumed council tax increases are of course subject to Full Council's decisions on the levels of Council Tax, which will be made before the start of each financial year. In addition to an annual increase in the level of Council Tax, the budget assumes modest annual tax base increases of 0.5%.

2.4. The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for 2017-20 agreed by Full Council in February therefore set out a forecast gap for the years 2018-19 and 2019-20 of **£35.015m** and included planned net savings of **£72.737m**. Detail of these savings is shown in Appendix 1.

Latest forecast budget gap 2018-19

2.5. As reported to Service Committees in September, since the preparation of the Medium Term Financial Strategy, further pressures on the budget have been identified, resulting in changes to the Council's budget planning position. In September Service Committees also considered the budget planning principles

¹ UK consumer price inflation: July 2017, published by the Office for National Statistics:
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/inflationandpriceindices/bulletins/consumerpriceinflation/july2017>

for 2018-19. Alongside the assumptions about Council Tax, other key assumptions within the Council's current budget model include:

- **That Revenue Support Grant will substantially disappear in 2020-21. This equates to a pressure of around £36m, but significant uncertainty is attached to this and clearly the level of savings required in year three could be materially lower should this loss of funding not take place**
- 2017-18 Budget and savings delivered in line with current plans (no overspend);
- Use of additional Adult Social Care funding during 2017-18 and future years as agreed by Adult Social Care Committee 10 July 2017;
- 2017-18 growth in Children's Services is included as an ongoing pressure;
- Ongoing annual pressures will exist in waste budgets;
- Council tax increases are agreed (subject to annual decision by Full Council) as shown in the table above for 2018-19 to 2020-21 (including Adult Social Care precept in 2018-19) with no increase in council tax in 2021-22; and
- Moderate council tax base growth over the period of the MTFS.

2.6. The latest estimate of the budget gap for the four year planning period up to 2021-22 is **£100.000m**. The table below sets out the summary County Council forecast position. Further details of the budget planning changes as reported to Policy and Resources Committee are shown in the September report to this Committee.

Table 2: Norfolk County Council budget gap forecast

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Gap as at MTFS February 2017	16.125	18.890	0.000	0.000	35.015
New pressures	13.135	-6.897	20.773	21.366	48.377
Funding changes	-11.612	5.998	42.343	0.000	36.729
Savings changes	0.878	0.535	-10.000	0.000	-8.587
Council tax increase (1.99% 2020-21, 0% 2021-22)	0.000	0.000	-7.657	0.000	-7.657
Council tax base growth (0.5%)	0.000	0.000	-1.914	-1.962	-3.877
Revised gap as at P&R July 2017	18.526	18.526	43.544	19.404	100.000
Reallocate year 4 saving to years 1-3 (split 20/60/20)	3.881	11.642	3.881	-19.404	0.000

Total new savings to find (in addition to savings in 2017-18 MTFS)	22.407	30.168	47.425	0.000	100.000
Note: Budget planning assumes:					
Forecast council tax	373.535	382.873	392.445	394.407	n/a
Forecast increase in council tax in budget planning <i>(including ASC precept, council tax increase and council tax base growth)</i>	14.723	9.338	9.572	1.962	35.595
Council tax increase	1.9%	2.0%	2.0%	0.0%	
Adult Social Care precept increase	3.0%	-	-	-	

2.7. The budget position and the associated assumptions are kept under continuous review, and will be updated to reflect any changes arising from the Government's Autumn Budget, or further information about the Council's funding position as it becomes available. Reports on the latest financial planning position will be presented to Policy and Resources Committee up until budget-setting by County Council in February. The Council is already implementing a number of strategic initiatives focused on demand management, prevention and early help, and a locality focus to service provision. As referenced in the Strategic and Financial Planning 2018 – 19 to 2021 – 22 report presented at Policy & Resources Committee 03rd July 2017, the County Leadership Team has identified a number of corporate priorities (known as Norfolk Futures).

2.8. The outline budget-setting timetable for 2018-19 is set out in Appendix 2 to this report. Norfolk Futures will focus on delivering the administrations manifesto priorities over the MTFS plan period and include:

Local Service Strategy
A new deal for families in crisis
Promoting independence for vulnerable adults
Smarter information and advice
Towards a Housing Strategy
Digital Norfolk
Commercialisation

Allocation of savings required

2.9. The following table sets out the indicative savings by department (excluding Schools and Public Health) as reported to the Committee in September.

Table 3 Allocation of new MTFS 2018-22 savings required by Committee

Allocation of new 2018-22 MTFS savings by Committee excluding Schools and Public Health	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Adult Social Care	-1.477	-11.480	-18.047	0.000	-31.004
Children's Services	-7.134	-6.369	-10.013	0.000	-23.516
Communities	-2.461	-2.197	-3.454	0.000	-8.112

Environment, Development and Transport	-6.663	-5.950	-9.353	0.000	-21.966
Policy and Resources	-3.553	-3.172	-4.987	0.000	-11.712
Business and Property	-0.362	-0.323	-0.507	0.000	-1.192
Digital Innovation and Efficiency	-0.757	-0.677	-1.064	0.000	-2.498
Total	-22.407	-30.168	-47.425	0.000	-100.000

3. Committee response

3.1. Service Committees considered service-specific budgeting issues in September. These include:

IMT – the new savings allocation to this Committee were detailed in the report of 18th September, the savings proposals below meet the savings allocation.

2018-19 Budget proposals

3.2. The savings applicable to IMT budgets consist of 3 strands –

- The exit from the HPE contract will allow savings opportunities in a number of ways including provision of more efficient data storage facilities, a rolling programme of more efficient device replacement, and the continued development of in house data analysis capabilities
- Restructuring and headcount reduction leading to a reduction in management and technical support costs
- Additional income generation particularly in relation to fully costed services provision to schools

There are no savings proposals directly relating to Better Broadband.

Table 4: New 2018-19 Saving Proposals

Proposal Note: savings are shown as a negative figure	Saving 2018-19 £m	Saving 2019-20 £m	Saving 2020-21 £m	Saving 2021-22 £m	Total 2018-22 £m	Risk Assessment
IMT – various savings within IMT including – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exit from the HPE contract • Restructuring and headcount reduction (management and technical support costs) • Income generation, particularly services for schools 	0.000	-0.941	-0.700		-1.641	Green

- 3.3. Committee discussions about proposed new savings will be reported to Policy and Resources Committee in October 2017 and used to inform development of the Council's 2018-19 Budget to enable an overall assessment of the budget position to be made.

It is not considered feasible to bring forward any of the new savings proposals into 2017 – 18.

It is not considered feasible for new 2019–20 savings to be delivered in 2018–19.

2018-19 Budget proposals requiring consultation

Over the autumn Norfolk County Council will begin engaging residents in a discussion about the council's ideas for the future. We will be giving people the chance to hear more about how Norfolk County Council could change in the future, ask questions and offer their own ideas and aspirations for the county. As well as feeding in their views online, opportunities for people to find out more and contribute their ideas will include a series of roadshows where people can get involved and share their thoughts face-to-face.

Whilst it's important to focus on what Norfolk County Council will look like in the future we also have an immediate need to set a balanced budget for 2018/19. Our budget proposals for 2018/19 are based on the assumption that council tax will increase overall by (1.9% for general council tax and 3.0% for the Adult Social Care precept). As in previous years we are inviting comments on this approach via our consultation hub on Citizen Space.

Where any of our individual budget saving proposals require consultation we will publish them on the Council's consultation hub, Citizen Space. We will make any consultation documents available in other formats on request, make extra effort to find out the views of people who may be affected and carry out impact assessments. Our consultation will take place between November and the new year. Consultation feedback on both individual budget proposals and council tax will be available for Committees in January.

We will promote opportunities for people to get engaged in the discussion around Norfolk County Council's ideas for the future – as well as how to have their say on budget proposals and council tax - through the Your Norfolk residents magazine, news releases, online publications and social media.

None of the savings proposals detailed in this report are considered to require consultation.

4. Financial implications

- 4.1. Financial implications for the Committee's Budget are set out throughout this report.

5. Issues, risks and innovation

- 5.1. Significant risks or implications have been set out throughout the report. Specific financial risks in this area are also identified in the Corporate Risk Register, including the risk of failing to manage significant reductions in local and national income streams (RM002) and the risk of failure to effectively plan how the Council will deliver services (RM006).
- 5.2. Decisions about significant savings proposals with an impact on levels of service delivery will require public consultation. As in previous years, saving proposals, and the Council's Budget as a whole, will be subject to equality and rural impact assessments later in the budget-setting process.

6. Background Papers

- 6.1. Background papers relevant to the preparation of this report are set out below.

Norfolk County Council Revenue and Capital Budget 2017-20, County Council, 20 February 2017, Item 4:

<http://norfolkcc.cmis.uk.com/norfolkcc/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/444/Committee/2/SelectedTab/Documents/Default.aspx>

Norfolk County Council Budget Book 2017-20, May 2017:

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/-/media/norfolk/downloads/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/budget-and-council-tax/the-2017-2020-budget-book.pdf?la=en>

Caring for your County, Policy and Resources Committee, 3 July 2017, Item 7:

<http://norfolkcc.cmis.uk.com/norfolkcc/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/1359/Committee/21/Default.aspx>

Strategic and Financial Planning 2018-19 to 2021-22, Policy and Resources Committee, 3 July 2017, Item 9:

<http://norfolkcc.cmis.uk.com/norfolkcc/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/1359/Committee/21/Default.aspx>

Finance Monitoring Report Outturn, Policy and Resources Committee, 3 July 2017, Item 11:

<http://norfolkcc.cmis.uk.com/norfolkcc/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/1359/Committee/21/Default.aspx>

Additional Social Care Funding, Adult Social Care Committee, 10 July 2017, Item TBC:

<http://norfolkcc.cmis.uk.com/norfolkcc/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/1377/Committee/10/SelectedTab/Documents/Default.aspx>

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Previously agreed MTFS savings 2017-20

Agreed MTFS savings 2017-20 by Committee

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Adult	-11.213	-18.716	-10.000	-39.929
Children's	-1.854	-0.859	-0.535	-3.248
Communities	-1.906	-0.102	0.000	-2.008
EDT	-5.340	-0.605	0.000	-5.945
Policy and Resources	-23.646	9.100	0.290	-14.256
Business and Property	-1.710	-1.751	-1.000	-4.461
Digital Innovation and Efficiency	-2.105	-0.726	-0.059	-2.890
Total	-47.774	-13.659	-11.304	-72.737

Categorisation of saving	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2017-20
	£m	£m	£m	£m
A) Cutting costs through efficiencies	-32.813	8.967	-0.245	-24.091
(i) Efficiency savings	-32.531	9.589	-0.245	-23.187
(ii) Reducing service standards	-0.282	-0.622	0.000	-0.904
B) Better value for money through procurement and contract management	-1.161	-1.044	0.000	-2.205
(i) Efficiency savings	-1.161	-1.044	0.000	-2.205
C) Service Redesign: Early help and prevention, working locally	-8.978	-18.411	-10.000	-37.389
(i) Efficiency savings	-0.458	-0.950	-0.500	-1.908
(ii) Reducing service standards	-1.170	-7.199	-0.800	-9.169
(iii) Ceasing a service	-0.350	0.000	0.000	-0.350
(iv) Providing statutory services differently	-7.000	-10.262	-8.700	-25.962
D) Raising Revenue; commercial activities	-3.059	-1.561	0.000	-4.620
(i) Efficiency savings	-3.049	-1.561	0.000	-4.610
(ii) Reducing service standards	-0.010	0.000	0.000	-0.010
E) Maximising property and other assets	-1.763	-1.610	-1.059	-4.432
(i) Efficiency savings	-1.763	-1.610	-1.059	-4.432
Total	-47.774	-13.659	-11.304	-72.737

Further details of savings by Department can be found in the 2017-18 Budget Book.

2018-19 to 2021-22 New Saving Proposals

Activity/Milestone	Time frame
County Council agree recommendations for 2017-20 including that further plans to meet the shortfall for 2018-19 to 2019-20 are brought back to Members during 2017-18	20 February 2017
Spring Budget 2017 announced	8 March 2017
Consider implications of service and financial guidance and context, and review / develop service planning options for 2018-20	March – June 2017
Executive Director of Finance and Commercial Services to commission review of 2016-17 outturn and 2017-18 Period 2 monitoring to identify funding from earmarked reserves to support Children's Services budget.	June 2017
Member review of the latest financial position on the financial planning for 2018-20 (Policy and Resources Committee)	July 2017
Member review of budget planning position including early savings proposals	September – October 2017
Consultation on new planning proposals and Council Tax 2018-21	October to December 2017 / January 2018
Service reporting to Members of service and budget planning – review of progress against three year plan and planning options	November 2017
Chancellor's Autumn Budget 2017	TBC November / December 2017
Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement	TBC December 2017
Service reporting to Members of service and financial planning and consultation feedback	January 2018
Committees agree revenue budget and capital programme recommendations to Policy and Resources Committee	Late January 2018
Policy and Resources Committee agree revenue budget and capital programme recommendations to County Council	29 January 2018
Confirmation from Districts of council tax base and Business Rate forecasts	31 January 2018
Final Local Government Finance Settlement	TBC February 2018
County Council agree Medium Term Financial Strategy 2018-19 to 2020-21, revenue budget, capital programme and level of Council Tax for 2018-19	12 February 2018