

Committee: **Cabinet**

Date: **27 January 2004**

Title of Report: **Reconciling Policy and Resources and the Council Plan 2004-05**

By: **Chief Executive and all Chief Officers**

Purpose of Report: **To seek Cabinet's approval of the draft Council Plan targets as the basis for further work and the Capital Programme and Revenue Budget for recommendation to the County Council**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Cabinet is recommended to:

- 1. consider the results of the various consultation exercises on the Policy Steers and financial settlement which inform the development of the Council Plan and Budget;**
 - 2. approve the draft Council Plan contained at Appendix 1 as the basis of further work on a final version to be considered by Cabinet in March;**
 - 3. consider and agree the recommendations in the report on the Capital Programme at Appendix 2; and**
 - 4. note the report on the Revenue Budget update at Appendix 3 to this report;**
-

1. Financial Implications

1.1 This report proposes revenue and capital budgets which will underpin all the activities of County Council in 2004/05 and beyond.

2. Reconciling Policy and Resources

2.1 The draft Council Plan, Revenue Budget and Capital Programme appended to this report have been produced as a result of the work that has been carried out since the summer on the Reconciling Policy and Resources initiative. All three documents reflect the Policy Steers agreed by Council in October. The policy steers and the issues arising out of the financial settlement have been subject to wide ranging consultation with the public, with our partner organisations and with the trade unions. The results of the survey work on the Council's priorities and the views of the Scrutiny Committees were reported in December. The results of the remaining consultation exercises will be tabled at the meeting. Final plans will need to reflect the final decisions at the County Council meeting in February.

3. Council Plan

3.1 The draft Council Plan is contained at Appendix 1. Further work is to be carried out on the Plan before it is submitted in full to Cabinet in March and subsequently to County Council in March. At this stage Cabinet is asked for its initial views on the Plan to assist with that further work.

3.2 As in the past the Council Plan will be the main business plan for the Authority and, at the same time, will fulfil the requirements for the Council to produce a Best Value Performance Plan (BVPP). The Plan will incorporate the Improvement Plan which was agreed as a result of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment last year. The BVPP must be published by 30 June and it must contain actual outturns of its Best Value Performance Indicators. These will be reported to Cabinet and inserted into the Plan once they are available after the end of the financial year. Although the Council Plan is the main business plan for the Authority, the service plans which support it at service level are also a vital element in ensuring the Policy Steers are delivered.

4. Capital Programme

4.1 The Capital Programme for 2004/05 to 2007/08 needs to address issues such as providing school places and maintaining and replacing the Councils' other capital assets. The proposed programme is set out in the report at Appendix 2.

5. Revenue Budget

5.1 A detailed commentary about the key issues affecting the revenue budget is set out at Appendix 3, as is the latest version of the medium term financial plan.

CHERYL MILLER
Chief Executive
on behalf of Chief Officers

Contact officer: Becky Shaw Tel No: 01273 481950