
Efficiency Plan 2016/17 to 2019/20 - Summary Report

Committee considering report:	Special Executive
Date of Committee:	13 October 2016
Portfolio Member:	Councillor Anthony Chadley
Date Portfolio Member agreed report:	10 October 2016
Report Author:	Andy Walker
Forward Plan Ref:	N/a

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To agree the Council's Efficiency Plan 2016/17 to 2019/20.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Efficiency Plan at Appendix A be agreed.

3. Implications

- 3.1 **Financial:**
In order to accept the government's offer of a four year settlement, the Council is required to publish an efficiency plan and lodge this with the Department for Communities and Local Government by 14 October 2016.
- 3.2 **Policy:** n/a
- 3.3 **Personnel:** n/a
- 3.4 **Legal:** n/a
- 3.5 **Risk Management:** n/a
- 3.6 **Property:** n/a
- 3.7 **Other:** n/a

4. Other options considered

- 4.1 The Council could choose not to accept the Government's offer of a four year settlement, removing the need to publish an efficiency plan. This would mean that the Council would have to wait an annual financial settlement and accept the inherent uncertainty that this brings to medium term financial planning. In addition there is the underlying risk that future settlements could result in the withdrawal of Revenue Support Grant at a faster rate than that contained within the offer.

5. Executive Summary

- 5.1 In December 2015, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Greg Clark MP, announced that he would be giving councils the opportunity to achieve greater certainty and confidence from a four year financial settlement.
- 5.2 In March 2016, the Government made a clear commitment to provide minimum allocations for each year of the Spending Review period, should councils choose to accept the offer they must have published an efficiency plan on the Council's website by 14 October 2016.
- 5.3 The full Efficiency Plan is attached in Appendix A containing previously published elements of the Council Strategy, Medium Financial Strategy and Efficiency Strategy for the use of Capital Receipts. The plan also contains links to the West Berkshire Council website for the full reports.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 Whilst this settlement commits the Council to a continued reduction in the Revenue Support Grant, it provides financial stability on which the Council can plan ahead and build other sources of income. This efficiency plan sets out the scale of the challenge but demonstrates that the Council has plans in place to deliver a balanced budget over the medium term.

7. Appendices

Appendix A – Efficiency Plan 2016/17 to 2019/20