

8. **FINANCIAL PLANNING: TIMELINE, MEMBER INVOLVEMENT AND KEY DATES (RMT/RMM)**

Purpose of the report and key issues

1. This report advises members of the process planned to address the financial task outlined in the budget report to the December Authority meeting and includes:
 - A timeline and key dates for members
 - A request for the Authority to nominate three members to work with the Resource Management Team as proposed in Appendix 1

Recommendations

2.
 1. **That Members note the financial planning timeline proposed and the key dates for member involvement**
 2. **That the Authority nominates three Members to work with Resource Management Team as proposed**
 3. **That this be an approved duty for the Members involved**

How does this contribute to our policies and legal obligations?

3. Our financial planning work contributes to the current corporate objective 11 'be a well-run public body with proportionate and effective ways of working, delivering excellent customer service and living our values'. It is also an essential part of the development of our corporate strategy and will inform the completion in 2015/16 of the new corporate strategy for the period 2016- 2019. The Authority is required to set a balanced budget each year and this work is the preparation for that.

Background

4. Following workshops with members last Autumn the December Authority report outlined the task to be addressed in our 2015/16 transition year as:

By 2018/19 we will be potentially funded by Defra at a level significantly less than our current funding. Given this scenario:

- *What do we want to give strategic certainty to over that period in line with (and informing) the new corporate strategy and*
- *What do we want to commit to doing if we are successful in diversifying our sources of funding or if the Defra settlement is greater than anticipated*

At the workshop on 21 November 2014 members showed preference for:

- *A process which included a must do, should do, could do exercise (based on statutory requirements) agreeing 'search' areas for what will not be funded by Defra grant and also involved an analysis of activities by opportunities to diversify funding – i.e. a substitution exercise; it was assumed the new Chief Executive will want to lead on such a review too.*
- *The involvement of a project team of members (could use an innovation and challenge approach) working with staff with other members being co-opted when necessary; this to include regular feedback to all members on progress*

Proposals

5. Resource Management Team has now agreed a timetable and key dates for the completion of this work as given at Appendix 1. As part of this process members are asked to:
 - Reserve the following new dates in diaries: 24 July for an all day workshop; 18 September special Authority meeting prior to the planned Audit Resources and Performance committee meeting (ARP). ARP members are asked to note this will probably mean that the ARP committee will need to continue into the afternoon.
 - Nominate three members to work with Resource Management Team as outlined. It is proposed that this should be the Chair and Vice Chair of ARP because of the remit of that committee and a national Secretary of State member to give one from each of the three different categories of members on the Authority.

Are there any corporate implications members should be concerned about?

6. **Financial:** There is an additional cost of this being an approved duty for members incurring travel costs which will be funded from the democratic services budget
7. **Risk Management:**
There are no risks to highlight at the present time. The risk that the Authority will not be prepared to address future public sector finance challenges is partly mitigated by the planning and preparation proposed.
8. **Background papers** (not previously published) –None

Appendices –

Appendix 1: financial planning timeline, member involvement and key dates

Report Author, Job Title

Ruth Marchington, Director of Corporate Resources