

Report of the Cabinet

The CABINET reports and recommends as follows:-

1. Feed and Food Controls Service Plan 2013/14

That they have given consideration to a report of the Deputy Chief Executive (copy attached) on the Feed and Food Controls Service Plan for 2013/14 to be used by the Public Protection and Regulatory Services section of the Street Scene service, the comments of the Scrutiny Committee and to seek approval of the Plan.

They also referred the report to the Scrutiny Committee for advice and consideration. The Committee endorsed the Feed and Food Controls Service Plan 2013/2014 and supported the Cabinet recommendation to submit the Service Plan to Council for approval.

The Cabinet recommended the Council approve the Feed and Food Controls Service Plan for 2013/14.

2. Revenue Budget Second Review 2013/2014

That they have given consideration to a report of the Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services on the overall Revenue position following the second review for 2013/2014 including proposed contingency transfers for the second quarter of 2013/2014.

In accordance with the Council's Budget and Policy Framework certain transfers require Council approval. The following extract refers to those transfer of funds:

"Savings on capital financing charges as a result of slippage on the capital programme and income from interest on investments are anticipated to result in planned savings of approximately £5.0m at year end. It is proposed that these amounts and any further underspendings arising from unspent contingencies at the end of 2013/2014 are earmarked to support the overall 2013/2014 position and transitional costs arising from the 2014/2015 budget setting process."

They also referred the above extract of the budget transfers to the Scrutiny Committee, for advice and consideration. The Scrutiny Committee supported the transfer of funds to support the overall 2013/2014 position together with the transitional costs arising from the 2014/2015 budget setting process and supported the Cabinet recommendation that the transfer be submitted to Council for approval.

Accordingly the Cabinet recommends the Council to approve the contingency transfers as set in the above extract.

3. Budget Planning Framework 2014/2015 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014/2015 – 2016/2017

That they have given consideration to a joint report of the Chief Executive and the Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services (copy attached) outlining the key factors influencing the development of the Council's financial plans into the medium term and sets out the budget planning framework for the Council for 2014/2015. The report sets out the headlines and context for the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014/2015 to 2016/2017 which will be formally considered in due course.

They also referred the report to the Scrutiny Committee for its comments in the context of the approved consultation arrangements for the Council's budget. The Scrutiny Committee supported the proposed Budget Planning Framework and endorsed the Medium Term Financial Strategy and supported the Cabinet recommendation that both are submitted to Council for approval.

Accordingly, the Cabinet recommends the Council to:-

- (i) to agree the proposed Budget Planning Framework summarised at Section 10 of the report which will guide the preparation of the Revenue Budget for 2014/2015;
- (ii) to note that the full Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014/2015 to 2016/2017 will be presented to Cabinet in February

4. Audit Commission Annual Audit Letter 2012/2013

That they submit for consideration by Council a report of the Chief Executive (copy attached) on the Audit Commission Annual Audit Letter covering the year 2012/2013 together with a copy of the Audit Letter which included issues arising from the audit of the Council's financial statements and the results of the external auditor's work undertaken as part of the assessment of the Council's arrangements to securing value for money in its use of resources.

Accordingly the Cabinet recommends the Council to note the contents of the report.

5. Chief Finance Officer – Section 151 Local Government Act 1972

That they have given consideration to a joint report of the Chief Executive and the Head of Law and Governance (copy attached) which sought endorsement for the interim arrangements for the allocation of Chief Finance Officer responsibilities (Section 151, Local Government Act 1972) pending a permanent appointment being made.

Accordingly the Cabinet recommends the Council to note and endorse the interim arrangements.

6. Proposed amendments to the Council's Delegation Scheme - Dog Control Orders

That they have given consideration to a joint report of Deputy Chief Executive and the Head of Law and Governance (copy attached) which sought approval to amend the Council's Delegation Scheme to authorise the Deputy Chief Executive to exercise the Council's full enforcement powers in respect of Dog Control under Part 6 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005.

Accordingly the Cabinet recommends the Council:-

- (i) to amend the Council's Delegation Scheme in Part 3 of the Constitution as follows:-

Paragraph 2.96(i) - (Deputy Chief Executive) be deleted and substituted as follows:-

“2.96 (i) Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 (Sections 3-9 Vehicles, sections 18 – 19 Litter, sections 55-68 Controls on Dogs (including, for the avoidance of doubt, the power to make dog control orders under section 55, subject to taking into account the views of the relevant Area Committee in cases where representations are received in response to consultation) and sections 69 -81 and 82 -86 Noise)”.

- (ii) to note and endorse that the amount of a fixed penalty payable in respect of an offence under a dog control order be set at £75 (discounted to £50 if paid within 10 days).

