

ESTABLISHMENT OF CABINET PANEL

Submitted by: Executive Director (Resources and Support Services)

Portfolio: Finance and Budget Management

Ward(s) affected: All

Purpose of the Report

To establish a cross-party Cabinet Panel to make recommendations to Cabinet in respect of expenditure from the Revenue Investment Fund and the Budget Support Fund in respect of funding "Invest to Save" schemes.

Recommendations

- (a) That a Revenue Investment and Budget Support Cabinet Panel be established with a membership of seven appointed on the basis of political proportionality (Labour 4; Conservative 2; Liberal Democrat 1).**
- (b) That the portfolio holder for Finance and Budget Management be appointed to chair the panel.**
- (c) That the group leaders be requested to make nominations for membership of the panel from their respective groups in accordance with (a) above.**
- (d) That the Panel make recommendations to Cabinet in respect of proposed expenditure.**

Reasons

There is a need to establish a mechanism for considering proposals for funding from the Revenue Investment Fund and Budget Support Fund to support key policy priorities and "invest to save" projects.

1. Background

- 1.1 In setting its budget for 2013/14, the Council has approved the establishment of a Revenue Investment Fund as a resource to fund activities which support the Council's key policy priorities. Further, it has approved the use of funds drawn from the Council's Budget Support Fund to deliver "invest to save" projects which will incur short term revenue expenditure in order to deliver longer term financial efficiency savings. It is intended that the fund would be replenished as the first call on cashed savings and sustained to fund an ongoing programme of "invest to save" efficiencies.

2. Issues

- 2.1 There is a need to establish a responsive, efficient and accountable mechanism for considering proposals for funding from the Revenue Investment Fund and Budget Support Fund. The favoured approach is an inclusive one with the establishment of a cross-party Cabinet panel as detailed in the proposals section below.

3. **Proposal**

- 3.1 To establish a Cabinet Panel to make recommendations in respect of the Revenue Investment Fund and the Budget Support Fund. The Panel will consist of seven members with places being allocated in accordance with the political proportionality of the Council. The Group Leaders will be asked to make nominations for Members to serve on the Panel.

4. **Outcomes Linked to Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Priorities**

- 4.1 The funding of key policy priorities and invest to save projects will contribute to all the council's priorities as set out in the Council Plan;
- A clean, safe and sustainable Borough.
 - A Borough of opportunity.
 - A healthy and active community.
 - Becoming a co-operative council which delivers high quality, community-driven services.

5. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

- 5.1 The Local Government Act 2000 and the Constitution empowers the Executive to make these arrangements.

6. **Equality Impact Assessment**

There are no differential impacts in this report.

7. **Financial and Resource Implications**

- 7.1 Full council on 27 February 2013 established a Revenue Investment Fund of £100k as part of the overall budget proposals. Depending upon the Council's future budget position, further contributions to the fund may be made in the following years.
- 7.2 Council also approved the use of the Budget Support Fund to initially finance "Invest to save" projects. It was agreed that viable proposals could be financed from the Budget Support Fund with the fund being "repaid" out of the revenue budget as resulting savings arise. Once the fund has been repaid the full amount it originally financed in respect of a particular proposal, the savings will be retained within the revenue budget, thereby providing an ongoing benefit.
- 7.3 Officer support to the Panel will be provided by the Finance team and the Business Improvement and Partnerships Section.

8. **Major Risks**

- 8.1 A full risk assessment in respect of the council's budget for 2013/14 was included as part of the budget report to full council on 27 February 2013.

9. **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

Council 27 February 2013 – Revenue and Capital Budgets and Council Tax 2013/14.