

**REPORT TO CABINET  
14 February 2018**

## **Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee**

### **Revenue Budget and Capital Programme Approval 2018/19**

#### **Background**

1. The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee met on the morning of 14<sup>th</sup> February 2018 and considered two reports:
  - Executive Director, Resources, on the Capital Programme 2018/19
  - Report of the Executive Director, Resources, on the Budget Report for 2018/19

Both of these reports are due to be submitted to Cabinet on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

#### **Outcome of Scrutiny**

2. At the meeting on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2018, Committee Members heard from the Cabinet Member for Finance and Council Officers. After discussion, resolved that the Committee:-
  - (a) notes the contents of the reports of the Executive Director, Resources, on the Capital Programme 2018/19 and the Budget Report 2018/19, together with the comments made and the responses provided to the questions raised;
  - (b) recommends that the reports of the Executive Director, Resources on the Capital Programme 2018/19 and the Budget Report for 2018/19, be submitted to Cabinet without amendment;
  - (c) believes that the approach of central government to local government, one of a combination of incompetence and deliberate action, has led us to a critical point in local government finance. The Committee has concerns about the longer term financial sustainability of local government without changes in how central government chooses to fund councils;
  - (d) believes that the social care crisis, which is the driving force behind many of the difficult budget decisions that councils are having to make, is a national crisis borne almost entirely by local government, exacerbated by similar challenges facing the NHS;
  - (e) pays tribute to the Council's front line staff who, it believes, go above and beyond in terms of time, capacity and compassion in delivering services in difficult circumstances;

(f) acknowledges and thanks volunteers and community groups in the city who work tirelessly to tackle the negative effects of austerity that so many local communities are facing.

(g) agrees to include greater oversight of the budget in its Work Programme, both in terms of in-year monitoring to support the implementation of this year's budget; and being involved in the process for putting together next year's budget proposals – particularly in the approach to public consultation;

(h) thanks the Cabinet Member for Finance, the Cabinet and all officers involved for their hard work in delivering a balanced budget for 2018/19.