

Cabinet Lead Reports – Full Council 27 July 2016

Councillor Mike Cheshire: Leader's Report

Finance

In the past few months the finance team have been working on the final accounts for the 2015/16 financial year. This has culminated in a draft set of statutory accounts and supporting notes being produced which are now due to be audited in August. The audit process involves Havant Borough Council's external auditors, Ernst & Young, examining the accounts for the financial year to give their view as to whether the final accounts produced give a true and fair view of Havant BC's financial activities.

Also currently being worked on is the Quarter 1 budget forecast for the 2016/17 monitoring report. This report includes the **forecast** financial position for the current year.

The finance team are supporting each Head of Service with their Budget to arrive at a financial **forecast** as to where each team/service is, and thus the council as a whole.

My aim is for senior managers and councillors to have enough information, and the time to enable amended financial strategies to be formed before the financial year end.

I already anticipate a mid year review resulting in a 're-basing' of budgets, as a result of the £0.500M cost reduction and/or increase in income challenge I have set the officers in 2016/17.

Understanding the authority's current financial position is essential to inform the budget setting process for the 2017/18 financial year. The Scrutiny panel who are taking on the Financial issue of the Council, have already started their work with heads of service and I welcome their input as and when it is appropriate.

I am also pleased to report that this Council's finances are in good shape. This is despite the pressure from reductions in Government Grants. This is due to our increased income stream revenues, and our prudent and fast actions if we see our forecast budget going off track. Any surplus of income over expenditure will be used as a buffer and reduce the impact of known pressures in future years when the Revenue Support Grant ceases completely.

The formal report will be received shortly by Cabinet and then published in accordance with normal practice.

Devolution.

A seminar has been arranged for 27th July 2017 to discuss the current devolution issues.

PUSH

The PUSH Spatial Position Statement contained housing need figures for all the PUSH Planning Authorities and the data for Havant has been carried forward into the Council's Housing Statement and Local Plan Review which will start its consultation process on the 25 July.