

CABINET RESPONSE TO COUNCIL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

BUDGET MONITORING REPORT FOR JANUARY 2014 (considered by COSC on 5 March 2014)

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SCRUTINY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (a) That, as a matter of urgency, the Cabinet considers how the Council will fund the cost of repairs required as a result of the recent flooding in the County, including the option to approve additional capital borrowing in 2014/2015, with the interest payments arising from the loan in 2014/2015 and future years to be met from within the Directorate's revenue budget.
- (b) That the Cabinet accelerate the Family, Friends and Community Support programme from April 2014 to increase capacity using an Invest to Save bid to review open cases.
- (c) That the effectiveness of voluntary sector grants be reviewed to ensure, where appropriate, these align with and support the objectives of the Family, Friends and Community Support programme.
- (d) That initiatives which have the potential to increase value for money be discussed with providers.
- (e) That efforts to recruit and retain qualified staff to unfilled social worker posts be redoubled.

RESPONSE

- (a) The report on MTFP 2014-19 includes at recommendation 8 that Cabinet:
"receives a report in July 2014 on the impact of the severe weather on services work programmes and the council's revenue and capital budgets"
The budget monitoring report for February 2014 also provides an update on the Council's responses to the recent flooding.
- (b) As reported in paragraph 18 of the budget monitoring report, Cabinet notes that the Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer have begun careful consideration and challenge of the Adult Social Care budget. The initial proposed updates are included in the cabinet paper on the Medium Term Financial Plan.

Cabinet would welcome bids from the service, supported by robust business cases, for invest to save money.

Finally, Cabinet supports COSC's recommended actions, proposed in (c), (d) and (e) for the Adult Social Care directorate to take forward.

David Hodge
Leader of the Council
25 March 2014

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