

# HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Executive Decision Record

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| <b>Decision Maker:</b> | Cabinet  |
| <b>Date:</b>           | 21 July 2014   |
| <b>Title:</b>          | Medium Term Financial Strategy Update                |
| <b>Reference:</b>      | 5881   |
| <b>Report From:</b>    | Director of Corporate Resources – Corporate Services |

**Contact name:** Rob Carr

**Tel:** 01962 847508

**Email:** rob.carr@hants.gov.uk

### 1. The decision:

a) It is recommended that Cabinet :

- Note the high level quarter one monitoring position and the continued growth in the numbers of Children Looked After.
- Approves a provisional base budget increase in Children's Services of £12.5m in 2015/16 subject to monitoring of growth levels during the year and the formal budget setting process in February 2015.
- Approves the revised strategy in respect of growth in social care costs set out in section 5.
- Notes the revised position for 2015/16 and the anticipated use of £5.6m of the Grant Equalisation Reserve to balance the budget
- Notes the intention to review the Transformation to 2015 programme again in September with a view to reporting back to Cabinet in October on the position and the proposed content of the 2017/18 Transformation programme.
- Notes the potential for formal decision making on the Transformation to 2017/18 programme to be made before Summer 2015.

### 2. Reason(s) for the decision:

2.1. As part of the appropriate management of the financial affairs of the County Council, it is good practice to update Cabinet on annual basis on the medium term financial position and the plans that will be developed to help tackle the budget deficit in future years.

2.2. This report provides that update to Cabinet and asks for decisions to be made in respect of growth in Children Looked After costs, which are required in order for the service to have surety of funding going forward.

**3. Other options considered and rejected:**

- 3.1. Options for spending, savings and council tax levels are in effect limitless and are ultimately approved by Full County Council in February of each year. In general terms this tends to look at marginal changes to costs and savings proposals recommended to County Council by the Cabinet.
- 3.2. Other political parties may also submit alternative budgets as part of the budget setting process.

**4. Conflicts of interest:**

- 4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker:

None

- 4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted:

None

**5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: none.**

**6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable.**

**7. Statement from the Decision Maker:**

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| <b>Approved by:</b>                                     | <b>Date:</b>        |
| -----   | <b>21 July 2014</b> |
| <b>Chairman of the Cabinet<br/>Councillor Roy Perry</b> |                     |