KEY COMPONENTS OF THE MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2016-2020

The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy sets out the approach that the Council has agreed to manage its finances.

COUNCIL TAX

Ensure that Council Tax stays below the average of the Surrey Districts

BUDGET POSITION AND REVENUE RESERVE

- Produce a balanced revenue budget each year
- Maintain a minimum working balance of £2.5 million at 31 March 2020
- Maintain a prudent level of strategic reserves and a minimum of £1 million in Corporate Projects Reserve
- Utilise reserves pro-actively to manage major risks to the Council's finances

INCOME

- Increase income from fees and charges by 6% in 2016/17 and 3% per annum thereafter
- · Maintain charging policies for each service
- Manage risks to central government funding and business rate retention
- Maintain high collection rates for council tax and business rates
- Make prudent investment of reserves and cash balances
- Generate increased income from the external use of Council assets
- Optimise the use of Council assets, realise capital receipts from sale of surplus
- Identify new opportunities for generating income

INVESTMENT IN SERVICES

- Use Annual Service Targets to allocate resources to deliver the Council's Priorities
- Prioritise capital investment to ensure retained property is fit for purpose
- Maximise the use of external funding opportunities to deliver improvements to the community infrastructure, including affordable housing
- Deliver the three year capital programme of £2.5 million
- Maintain a minimum uncommitted level of capital reserves of £1 million at 31 March 2020

EFFICIENCY

- Review services to ensure they continue to provide value for money
- Achieve a reduction in operating costs through smarter working
- Reduce the subsidy of Council occupied properties
- Increase the efficiency and resilience of the organisation through investment in staff and technology
- Deliver savings to improve the forecast budget position by £3.3 million by 2019/20.