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 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
- Maintain a minimum working balance of £2.5 million at 31 March 2020

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 assets

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 so as to improve the forecast budget position by £3.2 million by 2019/20.