

## EAST HERTS COUNCIL

### OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 17 OCTOBER 2017

REPORT BY: PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR FINANCE AND SUPPORT SERVICES

---

### FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

---

#### **Purpose/Summary of Report**

- To present an update on the Financial Sustainability agenda.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SCRUTINY:**

<b>(A)</b>	<b>A financial sustainability policy be adopted;</b>
<b>(B)</b>	<b>A full financial sustainability strategy be developed and</b>
<b>(C)</b>	<b>To create a self-funding post to drive financial sustainability forward</b>
<b>(D)</b>	<b>The following pilot projects be implemented:</b>  <b>Community Benefit Lottery</b> <b>Exploration of cost recovery approach to fees and charges</b> <b>Physical Advertising</b> <b>Advertising on the council website</b>

#### 1.0 Background

- 1.1. Like many local authorities East Herts council finds itself expected to deliver more and higher quality services while funding from central government reduces.
- 1.2. There is still a lack of clarity about the future of things like business rates retention while the funding source this policy was set to replace (revenue support grant) is set disappear.
- 1.3. Given these challenges members discussed the issues at a member's away day in May (results attached **Essential Reference Paper C**). There was support for exploring

alternative funding initiatives for the future i.e. not from increased council tax above threshold or service cuts.

- 1.4. Following this a member/officer group was established to explore this topic further. The policy attached (**Essential Reference paper B**) is the result of the work conducted there. This identified a number of pilot projects for officers to implement in 2017/18, this will start to build financial resilience.

## 2. Financial Sustainability Strategy

- 2.1. In order to drive financial sustainability forward in a coherent manner with services engaged in the projects it is recommended to create a financial sustainability strategy following a consultation with services about how they can contribute to the goal.

- 2.2. If council approves the adoption of a financial sustainability strategy this will include other specific initiatives, projects and policies following an internal consultation with services

## 3.0 Implications/Consultations

- 3.1 Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found within **Essential Reference Paper 'A'**.

Background Papers – None

Contact Member: Councillor Geoff Williamson  
Portfolio Holder for Finance & Support Services  
[Geoff.williamson@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:Geoff.williamson@eastherts.gov.uk)

Contact Officer: Isabel Brittain, Head of Strategic Finance and Property  
Tel: 01279 502050  
[Isabel.brittain@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:Isabel.brittain@eastherts.gov.uk)

Report Author: Nathan Bookbinder Policy Officer  
Tel: 01279 502144  
[nathan.bookbinder@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:nathan.bookbinder@eastherts.gov.uk)