

## REPORT TO CABINET

Title: **FINANCIAL STRATEGY REPORT 2010/11**

Date: 11 February 2010

Member Reporting: Cllr Richard Kellaway

Contact Officer(s): Andrew Brooker, Head of Finance, 01628 796341  
Peter Brown, Chief Accountant, 01628 796207

Wards affected: All

### 1. SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to present the panel with the Financial Strategy of the Council for 2010/11. The Financial Strategy provides details of the financial threats and opportunities that the council faces in the medium term and summarises how the Royal Borough could rise to these challenges. The panels view are considered at the February Cabinet as part of the 2010/11 budget approval process.

### 2. RECOMMENDATION

#### 2.1 That the Cabinet adopt the updated Financial Strategy.

What will be different for residents as a result of this decision?
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Residents are assured that members have all relevant information necessary when setting the annual budget which will include future financial implications and the opportunities available for the Council to manage them.
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### 3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The attached Financial Strategy considers the financial threats and opportunities that face the Royal Borough over the next few years. It considers the local and national pressures which will affect its residents and puts into context how the Council will rise to the financial challenges it faces over that period.
- 3.2 The report is part of a suite of papers that inform members and the public of the process the Royal Borough follows in setting its annual budget. The Treasury Management strategy (considered elsewhere on this agenda) forms the second of the vital parts that help form the final Budget decision.
- 3.3 Directors future service plans have featured highly in future financial implications using national and local trends to determine how these impact on the financial resources of the Royal Borough, residents and, potentially Council Tax. The Strategy is shown in Appendix A.

The main features of the Strategy are to:

- Develop the new operating model for the Council
- To ensure that Services strive for continuous improvement using the LEAN thinking approach
- To reduce the tax burden on Council Taxpayers by setting Council Tax changes at or below inflation
- To review the Councils Asset base to ensure that the Council continues to maximise the benefit from its property holdings

#### 4. OPTIONS AVAILABLE AND RISK ASSESSMENT

##### Options

	Option	Comments	Financial Implications
1	Accept the report	This report is for Information	Contained within the appendices
2	Amend the report	The panel can propose alternative methods of addressing the financial pressures the Royal Borough faces over the next few years.	Financial impact is dependant on what alternative proposals are proposed

##### Risk assessment

- 4.1 The risks associated with the Financial Strategy and their mitigation are contained within the Strategy document.

#### 5. CONSULTATIONS CARRIED OUT

- 5.1 The review of the Financial Strategy by the Scrutiny panel forms part of the consultation process that Cabinet will consider when it reviews the Strategy at its February meeting.

#### 6. IMPLICATIONS

The following implications have been addressed where indicated below.

Financial	Legal	Human Rights Act	Planning	Sustainable Development	Diversity & Equality
✓	✓	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Background Papers:

Budget papers 2010-11;