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## **EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON 29 AUGUST 2013**

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### **ROSP.60/13      DRAFT MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2014/15 TO 2018/19**

The Director of Resources presented report RD.32/13 concerning the draft Medium Term Financial Plan (incorporating the Corporate Charging Policy) 2014/15 to 2018/19. He advised Members that the Medium Term Financial Plan set out the current framework for planning and managing the Council's financial resources, developing its annual budget strategy and updating its current five year financial plan. The Plan further sought to link the key aims and objectives of the Council, as contained in the Carlisle Plan, to the availability of resources thereby enabling the Council to prioritise the allocation of resources to best meet its overall aims and objectives.

The Medium Term Financial Plan was reviewed annually commencing with the assumptions made in the Budget resolution approved by Council on 5 February 2013. In addition, the Corporate Charging Policy had been reviewed and included within the Medium Term Financial Plan. The Charging Policy provided a framework for potential policy options for each charging area, but recognised the different approaches that might be required for different services and the various influences which needed to be acknowledged in setting individual charges.

The Executive had on 5 August 2013 (EX.81/13) considered the report and decided:

- “1. That the Report of the Director of Resources (RD.32/13) on the draft Medium Term Financial Plan 2014/15 to 2018/19 be received.
2. That the report be made available for consideration by the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 29 August 2013.”

In considering the Medium Term Financial Plan Members raised the following comments and questions:

- Why was the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) increasing?

The Director of Resources responded that the MRP would decrease when the Council sold assets and increase when it purchased assets. He explained that it was a complicated process but would be happy to explain it to individuals who wished to have more detail.

- A Member asked for an update on the Localisation of Business Rates.

## A.1

It was felt that this matter should be discussed as a separate agenda item at a future meeting and it was agreed that a report would be submitted to the Panel in October.

- A Member drew the Panels attention to the £1,534,000 additional savings to be found and asked for an update.

The Director of Resources confirmed that the savings for 2013/14 had almost been achieved, the next challenge would be the 2015/16 savings.

The Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder added that the 2013/14 savings had been met in line with the priorities of keeping jobs and encouraging growth.

A Member was pleased that the savings for 2013/14 had been achieved whilst still being able to pay the Living Wage.

- With regard to car parking, had pay on exit options been considered?

The Director of Local Environment confirmed that pay on exit options had been looked at in some detail but there were issues with the cost of the management of such parking options. The more modern way to pay for parking was via telephone, the Council had had this option for approximately 18 months. The user would receive a text when their ticket was due to run out and then they had the option of adding additional time to the ticket.

RESOLVED – 1) That the Draft Medium Term Financial Plan 2014/15 to 2018/19 (RD.32/13) be welcomed;

2) That a report on the Localisation of Business Rates be submitted to the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel in October.