LUTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

	For:	(x)	Agenda Item Number: 8
	Executive	X	
UTON	CLMT		
BOROUGH COUNCIL	Meeting Date: 3 December	2012	
50,000,000	Report of: Interim Head of F	ixed	
	Assets		
	Report author: Michael Sco	rer	
_	-		

Subject: Luton Borough Council Prospectus	Consultations:	(x)
	Councillors	X
(For Executive Only)	Scrutiny	
Lead Executive Member(s): Leader	Stakeholders	X
Wards Affected: All	Others	X

Recommendations

1. That the Executive approve the Prospectus.

Background

Government cuts mean the Council has to make an estimated £48m savings over the coming three budget years and the prospectus charts a course for achieving fiscal stability over that period.

The current position

Service plans and budgets are set annually

Goals and Objectives

Over the next three years Luton Council has to: Lead the borough to financial security and set it on course for future prosperity; deliver essential services that residents rely on; manage on much less funding from government than in the previous three years

Proposal

The prospectus outlines a three-pronged plan: to increase income from business growth; to better equip residents of all ages to get jobs through investment in education and training; to work efficiently with the police, voluntary sector, local NHS, Active Luton, Luton Culture, Job Centre Plus and others in the not-for-profit, private and public sectors to ensure the most vulnerable in Luton are safe and supported

Key Risks

Risks are set out in the proposals for changes to services that will come separately to the Executive. The major risks concern controlling spending within limits and delivering essential services that residents rely on. There is a risk that the level of saving required over the next three years may vary from the estimated £48million.

Consultations

In addition to staff and councillors, views have been sought from the Bedfordshire Police, Bedfordshire University, Luton Sixth Form College, The Barnfield Federation, Luton Assembly, Voluntary Action Luton, Luton Clinical Commissioning Group (NHS), Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce, Job Centre Plus, Luton Advice Network, Luton Culture Trust, Active Luton. The prospectus signals the need for, and intention to carry out, consultation on a large number of possible savings proposals. These consultations will be coordinated as part of the community debate "Your Say" and will be brought forward to the Executive for approval in the normal way.

Appendices attached: The Draft Prospectus

Background Papers:

These are referenced in the prospectus

IMPLICATIONS

For Executive reports

• grey boxes must be completed

all statements must be cleared by an appropriate officer

For CLMT Reports

Clearance is not required

		Clearance – agreed by:
Legal	As the prospectus indicates, the Council has a legal duty to produce a balanced budget each year. It is examining how it will comply with that duty through consultation on possible savings proposals. There are no legal implications arising directly from this report	Head of HR & Monitoring Officer
Finance	It has to be emphasised that the Government has not yet determined many elements of its approach to the 2013/14 grant settlement, is still considering responses to the consultation, and will not announce the provisional settlement until mid/late December. Even then, it will only be a 1 year settlement, and the provisional settlement for 2014/15 will not be known until December next year. The Head of Finance has worked in conjunction with the Director of Finance of the Local Government Association to make the best estimate of the potential position from the information available, but the actual position could be considerably different - better or worse. What is known for certain is that unless there is a major shift in policy, government will continue to have less funds available for local government on an ongoing basis for many years - so all the reductions identified to date, and more, will be needed.	Head of Finance
Essalidad	Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) – Key Points	
Equalities/ Cohesion/Inclusion (Social Justice)	There are clear and significant potential impacts that could arise from the savings proposals outlined in the appendix to the prospectus in relation to the Equality Act 2010 'protected characteristics' and other key priorities of Community Cohesion, Social Inclusion, Health and Environment and Luton's Corporate Plan. These proposals will be subject to their own and	Social Justice Unit

	separate I.I.A.s and will be taken to the Executive in the normal way.	
Environment	See above	Strategy & Sustainability
Health	From April 2013 Luton Council will take on responsibility for Public Health from the NHS and, with it, the overarching responsibility to improve health and reduce health inequalities	Director of Public Health
Community Safety		
Staffing		
Other		

FOR EXECUTIVE ONLY - Options:

- To agree the recommendations
 To not agree the recommendations