

**MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2004/05 TO 2007/08****Report By: Chief Executive and County Treasurer****Wards Affected**

Countywide.

**Purpose**

1. To determine any observations the Committee would wish to make to Cabinet on the Medium Term Financial Plan.

**Financial Implications**

2. As detailed within the attached report.

**Background**

3. Cabinet considered the attached report at its meeting on 29 January 2004.
4. Having considered the views of the Budget Panel, Cabinet supports the investment of £7,000,000 over the four-year period. A summary of the proposals is attached at Appendix 1.
5. The investment of £7,000,000 needs to be viewed in the context of the additional budget requirements reflected in the standstill budget, incorporated as Appendix 2 to the Budget 2004/05 report, which identifies the additional resources required to meet ongoing commitments of a corporate nature and reflects the need to budget for inflation and other additional costs of maintaining real terms purchasing power of current revenue budgets.
6. In addition, Cabinet has also endorsed continued efforts to identify efficiency savings whilst recognising that they were unlikely to make a major contribution to future investment needs without a substantial re-look at the way services were provided in support of that approach.
7. Within the constraints imposed, Cabinet's priorities for further investment is mainly in the areas of Social Care (Older People's Services) and ICT.
8. Cabinet has requested any further observations that Strategic Monitoring Committee and others might wish to make on the proposed level of investment.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT Strategic Monitoring Committee consider the Medium Term Financial Plan and advise Cabinet accordingly.**

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Report to Cabinet – 29 January 2004.

---

Further information on the subject of this report is available from N M Pringle, Chief Executive, on (01432) 260044 and Mr I Hyson, County Treasurer on (01432) 260235