

REPORT TO THE SCRUTINY PANEL for RESOURCE AND PERFORMANCE
MEETING OF 21st JANUARY 2016

Status: Discussion
Title: Council Budget 2016/17
Originator: Head of Finance and Commercial Services (S151 Officer)
Where from: Executive
Where to next: Executive

Objective: to discuss the revenue and capital budget and funding proposals for 2016/17 and provide comments for Executive to consider at its meeting on 8th February 2016.

1. Outcome sought from Panel

1.1 Comments for Executive to consider on the 8th February 2016 when recommending a budget to Council on the 22nd February 2016.

2. Background

2.1 The DCLG announced the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement in late December which showed a reduction in Revenue Support Grant and increasing reliance on locally generated growth funds. The Executive approved on 11th January a provisional revenue budget for 2016/17 and a proposed Capital Programme for 2016/17 to 2018/19 for consultation. There is now the requirement for a period of scrutiny prior to the Executive meeting on 8th February and the setting of the Budget Requirement and Council Tax on 22nd February 2016.

3. Points for discussion

3.1 The attached budget report of the Executive of 11th January includes background to changes in Government funding, budget assumptions, levels of locally generated income, changes in partner funding and the level of reserves

3.2 Scrutiny are requested to review and consider

- (a) The proposed budget strategy that delivers a balanced budget and levies a zero Council Tax increase
- (b) The Growth, Savings and Income Targets (Appendix B & C of the Executive Budget Report)
- (c) Risks in delivering the budget strategy including the use of Reserves (Appendix D of the Executive Budget Report)

(d) The proposed Capital Programme for 2016/17 to 2018/19 and associated funding and borrowing requirements (Appendix E of the Executive Budget Report)

4 Equality Impact Assessment Implications/Outcomes (attach completed EIA)

4.1 None arising directly from this report.

5 Impact on Communities

5.1 None arising directly from this report. The Council's final budget and Corporate Delivery Plan will determine the services and the way they will be delivered to the communities. As such there will be an impact on the communities which will be assessed as part of the individual or collective service(s) consideration.

6 Legal Issues

6.1 The Council has to set a balanced budget in order to set the Council Tax for the district.

7 Resource Issues

7.1 The Council is required to set a balanced budget

8 Community Safety Implications

8.1 None arising directly out of this report.

9 Carbon Management Implications

9.1 None arising directly out of this report.

10 Risk Management Implications

10.1 The management and monitoring of the risks attached to the 2014/15 budget will be critical to ensuring the future financial standing of the Council.

11 Consultation

11.1 Consultation on the 2016/17 budget proposals is being undertaken with Scrutiny, Employee Relations Forum, Parishes, Public (through a website consultation) and business rate payers.

12 Background Papers

12.1 Budget Working papers

Previous report(s): None