

Report to:	EXECUTIVE
Relevant Officer:	Steve Thompson, Director of Resources
Relevant Cabinet Member:	Councillor Simon Blackburn, Leader of the Council
Date of Meeting:	6 February 2017

GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2017/18

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider the proposal for Blackpool Council's draft General Fund Revenue Budget 2017/18 as outlined in the report circulated to Members under separate cover.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To recommend to Council the level of net expenditure for the draft General Fund Revenue Budget 2017/18 of £120,248,000 (ref. paragraph 6.2).

2.2 To recommend to Council a level of budget savings of £18.7m (ref. paragraphs 7.1 and 7.2 and Appendix 2)

2.3 To recommend to Council that the Chief Executive be authorised to take any necessary steps to ensure all staffing savings are achieved (ref. paragraph 8.1)

2.4 To recommend to Council that the business loans fund is increased from £10m to £100m with immediate effect (ref. paragraph 8.3)

2.5 To recommend to Council that the target level of working balances remains at £6m (ref. paragraph 10.4)

2.6 To recommend a detailed review of earmarked reserves takes place at Provisional Outturn 2016/17 to reprioritise and un earmark funds to replenish working balances to their target level in 2017/18 (ref. paragraph 10.4)

2.7 To consider the report of the Budget Scrutiny Review Panel as attached at Appendix 3 and consider any actions arising from that review.

2.8 To note that the Tourism, Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee will be formally consulting the Trade Unions and Business Ratepayers on the proposals on the morning of 10 February 2017.

2.9 To consider any further facts and information which subsequently come to light and report the details to the meeting of the Executive on 20 February 2017.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To enable progression to the next stage of the consultation and scrutiny process.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Not applicable - the report once approved will become the Council's new approved budget.

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

As outlined in the Budget report.

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priorities are:

“The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool”

“Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience”

5.0 Background Information

5.1 The purpose of this report is to determine the overall level of net expenditure to be included in the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2017/18 and to identify a budget savings plan that will ensure a balanced Budget.

5.2 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

5.3 List of Appendices:

Report

Appendix 1- General Fund Budget

Appendix 2- Savings Summary

Appendix 3 – Budget Scrutiny Review Report

Appendix 4 - Equality Analysis

Appendix 5 - Assessment of Significant Financial Risks
(All circulated to members under separate cover)

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 None

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 Human Resources considerations are outlined in the budget report, circulated to members under separate cover.

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 An Equalities Analysis forms Appendix 4 to the budget report.

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 As outlined in the Budget report, circulated to members under separate cover

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 As outlined in the Budget report circulated to members under separate cover. Appendix 5 forms an Assessment of Significant Financial Risks to Substantiate Target Level of Unearmarked Working Balances.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 None

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 Consultation will take place at a meeting with both the Trade Unions and Business Ratepayers on 10 February 2017. It has also taken place at meetings of the community engagement groups and wider consultation has taken place via the Council's extensive corporate communication methods which include website, social media and media briefings.

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 Budget working papers

14.0 Key decision information:

- 14.1 Is this a key decision? Yes
- 14.2 If so, Forward Plan reference number: 28/2016
- 14.3 If a key decision, is the decision required in less than five days? No
- 14.4 If **yes**, please describe the reason for urgency:

15.0 Call-in information:

- 15.1 Are there any grounds for urgency, which would cause this decision to be exempt from the call-in process? No
- 15.2 If **yes**, please give reason:

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

16.0 Scrutiny Committee Chairman (where appropriate):

Date informed: 27 January 2017 Date approved:

17.0 Declarations of interest (if applicable):

17.1

18.0 Executive decision:

18.1

18.2 Date of Decision:

19.0 Reason(s) for decision:

19.1 Date Decision published:

20.0 Executive Members in attendance:

20.1

21.0 Call-in:

21.1

22.0 Notes:

22.1