

Public Document Pack

Date: 24 February 2015

All Members of the Council

Our Ref:
Your Ref:
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Dear Councillor

COUNCIL SUMMONS FOR MEETING ON 27 FEBRUARY 2015 - ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Item 5- Proposed Rent Review 2015/2016- please find attached Appendix 5(a) (the decision of the Executive from its meeting on 23 February 2015).

Item6 - Council Tax 2015/ 2016 - please find attached an Order of Proceedings and Appendix 6(b), (the decision of the Executive from its meeting on 23 February 2015) and Appendix 6 (c).

Appendix 6(c) is a paper from the Leader of the Council, bringing together the recommendations from both Executive meetings in to a summary document, set out in accordance with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011.

I would be grateful if you could bring these papers with you to the meeting and if you have any further queries please contact me by the direct line or email address listed above.

On the day of the meeting, teas and coffees will be available on the second floor outside the Members Room from 10am.

Yours sincerely



Director of Governance and Regulatory Services

Enc: Order of Proceedings
Appendix 5(a)
Appendices 6 (b) and 6(c)

Copy to:
Chief Executive
Deputy Chief Executive
Director of Resources
Director of Public Health
Director of Place

Director of Community and Environmental Services
Director of People
Director of Governance and Regulatory Services
Head of Democratic Governance
Mr C Williams, Democratic Governance

Notice of:	EXECUTIVE
Decision Number:	EX11/2015
Relevant Officers:	Alan Cavill, Director of Place and Steve Thompson, Director of Resources
Relevant Cabinet Member:	Councillor Gillian Campbell, Cabinet Member for Housing, Public Safety and Enforcement
Date of Decision:	23 rd February 2015

PROPOSED RENT REVIEW 2015/2016

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To consider the level of rents and service charges to be charged in connection with Housing Revenue Account dwellings during 2015/2016.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

To recommend to the Council that:

- 2.1 That a rent freeze is implemented in 2015/2016.
- 2.2 That as previously agreed, the level of Housing Revenue Account balances remain protected at £1 million.
- 2.3 That de-pooled services (as detailed in Appendix C, to the Executive report) and that other service charges (as detailed in Appendix D and E, to the Executive report) are charged as recommended.
- 2.4 That the Leaseholder Management Charge is amended in line with the cost of managing the service.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 To ensure that rent levels are appropriate and the Housing Revenue Account is financially secure currently and in the medium term.
The rent freeze is proposed on the basis that maximum rent increases are in any case low due to the relevant inflation rate, and tenants face a number of other financial challenges.

Retaining the previously agreed level of a £1million at which Housing Revenue Account balances are protected ensures that prudent balances are maintained.

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 part of the Council's new approved budget

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:
To set a different rate for rents.

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priorities are:

- Improve housing standards and the environment we live in by using housing investment to create stable communities
- Create safer communities and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour

5.0 Background Information

5.1 As part of the preparation of the draft 2015/2016 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget, Members must consider the level of rents and service charges to be set in connection with Council Housing dwellings during the next financial year.

5.2 The report, circulated to members under separate cover, details the 2015/2016 Draft Budget and the proposed changes in rent and service charges.

5.3 New charges for Housing Revenue Account Services and related Non-Housing Revenue Account properties are also proposed.

5.4 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

5.5 List of Appendices:

Report on the Housing Revenue Account
Appendix A: Housing Revenue Account Draft Budget 2015/2016

Appendix B: Rent Parameters
Appendix C: Depooled Charges
Appendix D: Review of Fees and Charges
Appendix E: Charges for non Housing Revenue Account properties

(all circulated to members under separate cover)

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 None

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 None

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 An Equalities Impact Analysis has been completed.

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 These are set out in the report.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 None

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 None

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 The rent report is shared with the board of Blackpool Coastal Housing, which includes tenant and leasehold representatives and independent members.

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 None.

14.0 Key decision information:

- 14.1 Is this a key decision? Yes
- 14.2 If so, Forward Plan reference number: 29/2014
- 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: 13th February 2015 Date approved: N/A

17.0 Declarations of interest (if applicable):

17.1 None

18.0 Executive decision:

18.1 The Executive resolved as follows:

To recommend to the Council that:

1. That a rent freeze is implemented in 2015/2016.
2. That as previously agreed, the level of Housing Revenue Account balances remain protected at £1 million.

3. That de-pooled services (as detailed in Appendix C, to the Executive report) and that other service charges (as detailed in Appendix D and E, to the Executive report) are charged as recommended.
4. That the Leaseholder Management Charge is amended in line with the cost of managing the service.

18.2 Date of Decision:

23rd February 2015

19.0 Reason(s) for decision:

To ensure that rent levels are appropriate and the Housing Revenue Account is financially secure currently and in the medium term.

The rent freeze is proposed on the basis that maximum rent increases are in any case low due to the relevant inflation rate, and tenants face a number of other financial challenges.

19.1 Date Decision published:

23rd February 2015

20.0 Executive Members in attendance:

20.1 Councillor Blackburn, in the Chair

Councillors Cain, Campbell, Collett, Cross, F Jackson, Rowson, I Taylor and Wright

21.0 Call-in:

21.1

22.0 Notes:

22.1

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COUNCIL MEETING – FRIDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2015

ITEM 6– COUNCIL TAX 2015/ 2016

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

1 (a) THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL TO MOVE:

The Council to agree the proposed recommendations outlined in Appendix 6 (c), bringing together the recommendations from the Executive meetings on 9 February 2015 and 23 February 2015, into a summary document, set out in accordance with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011.

1 (b) LEADER OF THE COUNCIL TO CONTINUE WITH BUDGET SPEECH.

2. LEADER'S MOTION TO BE SECONDED.

3. COUNCILLOR WILLIAMS TO BE INVITED TO REPLY TO THE BUDGET SPEECH.

4. COUNCILLOR D GREEN TO BE INVITED TO REPLY TO THE BUDGET SPEECH.

5. DEBATE AND AMENDMENTS ON THE BUDGET (IF ANY).

6. REPLY BY LEADER AS MOVER OF THE MOTION.

7. VOTE ON MOTION (RECORDED)*

Note 1:

By convention the Leader's budget speech at (1) and the replies by the Party representatives at (3) and (4) are not time limited.

Note 2*:

There is a requirement now under the Local Authorities (Standing Order) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 to take recorded votes when budget decisions are being taken.

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Notice of:	EXECUTIVE
Decision Number:	EX10/2015
Relevant Officer:	Steve Thompson, Director of Resources
Relevant Cabinet Member:	Councillor Simon Blackburn, Leader of the Council
Date of Decision:	23 rd February 2015

COUNCIL TAX 2015/2016

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 Proposals for Blackpool Council's level of Council Tax for 2015/2016 and the General Fund Revenue Budget 2015/2016.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To consider all information received since the meeting of the Executive on 9th February 2015 including the Final Settlement Funding Assessment which was announced on 3rd February 2015 and to determine whether or not to confirm the Executive's recommendation to Council regarding the Revenue Budget 2015/2016.

2.2 To recommend to Council approval of an unchanged level of Council Tax for the year 2015/2016 of £1,306 at valuation band D equivalent.

2.3 To recommend to Council the revised level of net expenditure for the General Fund Revenue Budget 2015/2016 of £128,073,000.

2.4 To note that the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority will meet on 16th February 2015 and set their precept for the financial year 2015/2016 this will be reported verbally at this meeting.

2.5 To note that the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire's precept for the year 2015/16 at valuation band D equivalent is also to be agreed on the 16th February 2015 and will therefore be verbally reported at this meeting.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 The Executive is required to consider the outcome of the consultation meetings and survey before finalising its Budget proposals.

The setting of the General Fund Revenue Budget and the level of Council Tax is consistent with the principles approved by the Executive at its meeting on 9th February 2015.

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:

None, the proposed Council Tax is consistent with the previously recommended General Fund Revenue Budget 2015/16.

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is

“Deliver quality services through a professional, well-rewarded and motivated workforce “

5.0 Background Information

5.1 At its meeting on 9th February 2015 the Executive considered a report of the Director of Resources that recommended to Council approval of a net expenditure for the General Fund Revenue Budget of £127,712,000 that would result in an unchanged Council Tax for the year 2015/16 of £1,306 at valuation band D equivalent.

5.2 The Final Settlement of Blackpool Council’s 2015/16 Settlement Funding Assessment was announced by the Department for Communities and Local Government on 3rd February 2015. The impact of this was an increase in Blackpool’s funding allocation of £361,000 in 2015/16. Therefore, in order to maintain a freeze in council tax in 2015/16 a revised General Fund Estimate of £128,073,000 is now recommended with the £361,000 increase in funding being added to Contingencies to provide some further cushion against any non-delivery of / or slippage within the 2015/16 Budget savings target of £25.2m.

5.3 As part of the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement the threshold for ‘excessive’ Council Tax increases was set at 2%, an increase of 2% or more requiring a

local referendum to be held. The level of Council Tax recommended in this report will not invoke this requirement.

5.4 The draft General Fund Revenue Budget 2015/2016 and supporting information were further considered by meetings of the Finance and Audit Committee with Trade Union representatives and with Business Ratepayers and a meeting of the Scrutiny Committee, all held on 13th February 2015. The views presented at these meetings will be reported to the Executive.

5.5 The precepts of the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire were agreed on 16th February 2015 for the year 2015/16 will be verbally reported to this meeting of the Executive.

5.7 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

5.8 **List of Appendices:**
None

6.0 **Legal considerations:**

6.1 None

7.0 **Human Resources considerations:**

7.1 Human Resources considerations were outlined in the General Fund Revenue Budget 2015/2016 report to the Executive meeting on the 9th February 2015.

8.0 **Equalities considerations:**

8.1 An Equality Analysis was produced for the General Fund Revenue Budget 2015/2016 report to the Executive on 9th February 2015, this remains applicable.

9.0 **Financial considerations:**

9.1 As outlined in this report.

10.0 **Risk management considerations:**

10.1 A Risk Analysis was produced for the General Fund Revenue Budget 2015/16 report to the Executive on 9th February 2015, this remains applicable.

11.0 **Ethical considerations:**

11.1 None

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

- 12.1 Consultation has taken place at separate meetings with the Trade Unions and Business Ratepayers on 13th February 2015. It has also taken place at a meeting of the Blackpool Equalities Forum (21st January 2015). The relevant minutes will be circulated to the Executive.
- 12.2 An open access public consultation started on 12th January 2015 and has run for four weeks. This consisted of an online form publicised via Your Blackpool and Social Media, and a hard copy form available from Council reception points, children's centres and libraries.
- 12.3 A report with the results of the open access consultation will be available on 16th February, once the data has been input and analysed. The report will be circulated to Executive members prior to this meeting to inform their decision making.
- 12.4 Key stakeholders including Area Forum community representatives have been consulted upon the budget proposals particularly in relation to their area. A copy of the minutes of the meeting held with Area Forum community representatives on the 10th February 2015 will be circulated to Executive members prior to this meeting to inform their decision making.

13.0 Background papers:

- 13.1 Budget working papers and above consultation minutes and feedback.

14.0 Key decision information:

- 14.1 Is this a key decision? Yes
- 14.2 If so, Forward Plan reference number: 28/2014
- 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: 13th February 2015 Date approved: N/A

17.0 Declarations of interest (if applicable):

17.1 None

18.0 Executive decision:

18.1 The Executive resolved as follows:

1. To consider all information received since the meeting of the Executive on 9th February 2015 including the Final Settlement Funding Assessment which was announced on 3rd February 2015 and to confirm the Executive's recommendation to Council regarding the Revenue Budget 2015/2016.
2. To recommend to Council approval of an unchanged level of Council Tax for the year 2015/2016 of £1,306 at valuation band D equivalent.
3. To recommend to Council the revised level of net expenditure for the General Fund Revenue Budget 2015/2016 of £128,073,000.
4. To note that the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority met on 16th February 2015 and set their precept for the financial year 2015/2016 at £64.86 for a band D equivalent an increase of 1.9%.
5. To note that the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire's precept for the year 2015/16 was set at £159.06 for a valuation band D equivalent on the 16th February 2015 equivalent an increase of 1.99%.

18.2 Date of Decision:

23rd February 2015

19.0 Reason(s) for decision:

The Executive is required to consider the outcome of the consultation meetings and survey before finalising its Budget proposals.

The setting of the General Fund Revenue Budget and the level of Council Tax is consistent with the principles approved by the Executive at its meeting on 9th February 2015.

19.1 Date Decision published:

24th February 2015

20.0 Executive Members in attendance:

20.1 Councillor Blackburn, in the Chair

Councillors Cain, Campbell, Collett, Cross, F Jackson, Rowson, I Taylor and Wright

21.0 Call-in:

21.1

22.0 Notes:

22.1 Mr Dave Blacker MBE made representations on this decision.

COUNCIL MEETING
27th FEBRUARY 2015

Council Tax 2015/2016 - Summary Document

1 Background

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to enable the Council to calculate and set the Council Tax for 2015/2016.
- 1.2 The Localism Act 2011 includes amendments to the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and now requires billing authorities in England to calculate a Council Tax Requirement for the year rather than a Budget Requirement as had previously been the case (*Note 1*).
- 1.3 The precept levels of other precepting bodies have been confirmed. These are as follows:

Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire

- 1.4 The Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire has set the precept for the financial year 2015/2016 at £159.06 for a Band D Council Tax equivalent.

Lancashire Combined Fire Authority

- 1.5 Lancashire Combined Fire Authority has set their precept for the financial year 2015/2016 at £64.86 for a Band D Council Tax equivalent.

2 Recommendations

The Council is recommended:

- a) To agree the level of net expenditure for the General Fund Revenue Budget 2015/2016 of £128,073,000 (ref. Paragraph 2.3 and 5.2 of the report to the Executive on 23rd February 2015).
- b) To agree a level of budget savings of £25.2m (ref. paragraph 7.1 and 7.2 of the report and Appendix 2 of the report to the Executive on 9th February 2015).
- c) To agree that the Chief Executive be authorised to take any necessary steps to ensure all staffing savings are achieved (ref. paragraph 8.1 of the report to the Executive on 9th February 2015).
- d) To agree that the target level of working balances remains at £6m (ref. paragraph 11.4 of the report to the Executive on 9th February 2015).

- e) To note the position regarding support to the voluntary sector (ref. paragraph 9.1 of the report to the Executive on 9th February 2015).
- f) To note the comments of the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee and the meetings of the Finance and Audit Committee with the Trade Unions and the non-domestic Ratepayers, as reported to the Executive and the responses given.
- g) To adopt the formal Council Tax Resolutions set out at Appendix 6 (c), in so doing agree a Council Tax Requirement of £45,535,000 and a Council Tax Base of 34,866.
- h) To note the calculation of Aggregate Amounts as directed by Section 31A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as set out at Appendix 6 (c).
- i) To approve an unchanged level of Council Tax for the financial year 2015/2016 of £1,306.00 at valuation band D equivalent (excluding the precepts for the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire and the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority).
- j) To note that the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority precept for the financial year 2015/16 is £64.86 for a Band D Tax equivalent and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire's precept for the financial year 2015/2016 is £159.06 for a Band D Tax equivalent.
- k) To confirm that should recommendation i) above be approved, the aggregate levels of Council Tax for Valuation Bands A to H will be as follows:

VALUATION BAND	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	6/9	7/9	8/9	9/9	11/9	13/9	15/9	18/9
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
BLACKPOOL	870.67	1,015.78	1,160.89	1,306.00	1,596.22	1,886.44	2,176.67	2,612.00
POLICE	106.04	123.71	141.39	159.06	194.41	229.75	265.10	318.12
FIRE	43.24	50.45	57.65	64.86	79.27	93.69	108.10	129.72
COUNCIL TAX 2015/16	1,019.95	1,189.94	1,359.93	1,529.92	1,869.90	2,209.88	2,549.87	3,059.84

Note 1. The Localism Act 2011 has amended the Local Government Act 1992 ("LGFA 2011") to introduce a duty to calculate a council tax requirement. This replaces the previous duty to calculate a budget requirement. The main difference between the two calculations is that Revenue Support Grant (RSG) and National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) are included as income in the calculation of the council tax requirement, whereas they were not included as income in the calculation of the budget requirement.

COUNCIL TAX AND BUDGET 2015/2016

The Council is recommended to resolve as follows:

1. That it be noted that on 13th January 2015, the following amount was approved by the Leader of the Council as the Council's Council Tax Base for the financial year 2015/2016:
 - (a) 34,866 for the whole Council area [Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")]

2. That the Council Meeting approve the Council Tax Requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2015/2016 (excluding precepts) as being £45,535,000

3. That the following amounts be calculated by the Council for the year 2015/2016 in accordance with sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:
 - (a) £435,685,000 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in section 31A(2) of the Act (Annex 2).

 - (b) £390,150,000 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in section 31A(3) of the Act (Annex 2).

 - (c) £45,535,000 being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 31A(4) of the Act, as its Council Tax Requirement for the year (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act). (Annex 2).

 - (d) £1,306.00 being the amount at 3(c) above, all divided by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.

 - (e) £0.00 being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in section 34(1) of the Act.

 - (f) £1,306.00 being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by the amount by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year for dwellings in its area.

Annex 1 ctd.

4. That it be noted that for the year 2015/2016 the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire and the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in the table below.
5. That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the tables below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2015/2016 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.

Valuation Bands

Authority	£							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Blackpool Council	870.67	1,015.78	1,160.89	1,306.00	1,596.22	1,886.44	2,176.67	2,612.00
Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire	106.04	123.71	141.39	159.06	194.41	229.75	265.10	318.12
Lancashire Combined Fire Authority	43.24	50.45	57.65	64.86	79.27	93.69	108.10	129.72

AGGREGATE OF COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENTS

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
All parts of the Council's area	1,019.95	1,189.94	1,359.93	1,529.92	1,869.90	2,209.88	2,549.87	3,059.84

6. To note that the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2015/2016 is not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992.

BLACKPOOL COUNCIL

CALCULATION OF AGGREGATE AMOUNTS UNDER SECTION 31A OF THE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE ACT 1992

	2015/2016 GROSS EXPENDITURE	2015/2016 GROSS INCOME	2015/2016 NET EXPENDITURE
	£000	£000	£000
Blackpool Council	434,433	387,150	47,283
Add Levies by Other Organisations:			
- Environment Agency	65	0	65
Add Appropriations to Reserves:			
- General Fund Balances	0	0	0
- Housing Revenue Account Reserve	571	0	571
- Earmarked Reserves	616	3,000	(2,384)
COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENT	435,685	390,150	45,535

Note 1

Note 2

Note 1: This figure represents the aggregate of the amounts estimated for the items set out in section 31A(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

Note 2: This figure represents the aggregate of the amounts estimated for the items set out in section 31A(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

Note 3: All figures are rounded to the nearest thousand.

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