

Report to:	COUNCIL
Relevant Officer:	Steve Thompson, Director of Resources
Relevant Cabinet Member:	Councillor Blackburn, Leader of the Council
Date of Meeting:	25 February 2016

COUNCIL TAX 2016/ 2017

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider the recommendations of the Executive in relation to the draft General Fund Revenue Budget and the setting of a Council Tax for the 2016/ 2017 Financial Year.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To consider the recommendations of the Executive (to be circulated following its meeting on 22nd February 2016).

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To be circulated following its meeting on 22nd February 2016.

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:

A different makeup of the Revenue budget could be applied. The 8 guiding principles of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy are referred to in the report to the Executive and how they have been balanced.

4.0 Council Priority:

- 4.1 The relevant Council Priorities are:
'The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool' and
'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 2016/ 2017 and to identify a budget savings plan that will ensure a balanced Budget.
- 5.2 The draft budget was referred by the Executive for consultation with a meeting of the Trade Unions and Non Domestic Ratepayers and the Tourism, Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee, which was held on Friday 12th February 2016 The Executive as its meeting on 22 February 2016 will consider the comments from this meeting.
- 5.3 Following the Executive meeting on 22nd February, a copy of the recommendations from that meeting together with a summary Appendix 6 (c) detailing the full recommendations to Council will be sent to all members.
- 5.4 All Members of the Council should have received copies of the papers considered by the Executive at its meeting on 8th February 2016, in connection with the General Fund Revenue Budget [available via this link](#). A copy of the Executive agenda for the 22nd February 2016 meeting was also sent to all members on Friday 12th February 2016. Attached at Appendix 6 (a) is the decision notice from the meeting of the Executive on 8th February 2016.
- 5.5 In accordance with The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England)(Amendment) Regulations 2014, the Council is asked to note that a recorded vote is required on the budget decision or any amendment to it.
- 5.6 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

5.7 List of Appendices:

Appendix 6 (a) – Executive Decision Notice EX6/2015 – General Fund Revenue Budget – 8th February 2016.

Appendix 6 (b) – Executive Decision Notice– **Council Tax 2016/2017**– to be circulated after the Executive on Monday 22nd February 2016.

Appendix 6 (c) – A summary document detailing all the recommendations for Council

to consider relating to the setting of a Council Tax in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 – to be circulated after the Executive on Monday 22nd February 2016.

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 It is a Council function to determine the level of Council Tax and to set a budget.

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 Human Resources considerations were detailed in the budget report, which was circulated with the Executive agenda for its meeting on 8 February 2016.

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 An Equalities Analysis forms was produced for the budget report, which was circulated with the Executive agenda for its meeting on 8th February 2016.

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 As outlined in the Budget report, which was circulated with the Executive agenda for its meeting on 8th February 2016 and the Council Tax report circulated with the Executive agenda for the meeting on 22nd February 2016.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 As outlined in the Budget, which was circulated with the Executive agenda for its meeting on 8th February 2016.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 None.

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 Details of the consultation undertaken is listed within the Council Tax report circulated with the Executive agenda for the meeting on 22nd February 2016.

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 Budget working papers and the aforementioned consultation minutes and feedback.