

Notice of:	EXECUTIVE
Decision Number:	EX8/2016
Relevant Officer:	Steve Thompson, Director of Resources
Relevant Cabinet Member:	Councillor Simon Blackburn, Leader of the Council
Date of Meeting:	8th February 2016

GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2016/17

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To consider the proposal for Blackpool Council's draft General Fund Revenue Budget 2016/17 as outlined in the report circulated to Members under separate cover.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To recommend to the Council the level of net expenditure for the draft General Fund Revenue Budget 2016/17 of £122,999,000 (ref. paragraph 6.2).
- 2.2 To recommend to the Council a level of budget savings of £25.1m (ref. paragraph 7.1 and 7.2 and Appendices 2, 2a and 2b).
- 2.3 To recommend to the Council that formal consultation on the second tranche of budget saving proposals that total £5.1m takes place over the next 3 months (ref. paragraph 7.2 and Appendix 2b).
- 2.4 To recommend to the Council that the Chief Executive be authorised to take any necessary steps to ensure all staffing savings are achieved (ref. paragraph 8.1).
- 2.5 To recommend to the Council that the Business Loans Fund is increased from £8m to £10m (ref. paragraph 8.3).
- 2.6 To recommend to the Council that the target level of working balances remains at £6m (ref. paragraph 10.4).
- 2.7 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 12th February 2016.

2.8 To consider any further facts and information which subsequently come to light and report the details to the meeting of the Executive on 22nd February 2016.

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 2015/16 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

Appendices 2a and 2b- Detailed Savings Summaries

Appendix 3- Equality Analysis

Appendix 4- 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 3 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 4 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 12th February 2016. 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: 28/2015
- 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: 29th January 2016 Date approved:

17.0 Declarations of interest (if applicable):

- 17.1 Councillor Campbell declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in decision number 2, in relation to the proposed consultation on a reduction of £200,000 from Housing Related Support, as an employee of Bay Housing Association. Councillor Campbell left the meeting for this part of the decision and took no part in the voting or discussion.

Councillors Cain and Smith declared a prejudicial interest in decision Number 2, in relation to the proposed consultation on additional income of £100,000 from Blackpool Operating Company Ltd, as Council appointed Directors of Blackpool Operating Company Ltd. Councillors Cain and Smith left the meeting for this part of the decision and took no part in the voting or discussion.

18.0 Executive decision:

18.1 The Executive resolved as follows:

1. That in the absence of the Leader and Deputy Leader, Councillor Jackson be appointed Chairman for the part of the meeting related to savings from Housing Related Support and additional income from Blackpool Operating Company Ltd.
2. To recommend to the Council approval of the savings of £200,000 from Housing Relating Support and additional income of £100,000 from Blackpool Operating Company Ltd as part of the second tranche of budget saving proposals and to note that formal consultation on these proposals will take place over the next 3 months (reference paragraph 7.2 and Appendix 2b of the report).

(Councillor Campbell having declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in relation to the savings from Housing Related Support left the meeting for the Decisions 1 and 2, and returned to the meeting and the Chair for Decisions 3 to 10.)

(Councillors Cain and Smith having prejudicial interests in relation to the additional income from Blackpool Operating Company Ltd left the meeting for Decisions 1 and 2.)

3. To recommend to the Council the level of net expenditure for the draft General Fund Revenue Budget 2016/17 of £122,999,000 (reference paragraph 6.2 of the report).
4. To recommend to the Council a level of budget savings of £25.1m (reference paragraph 7.1 and 7.2 and Appendices 2, 2a and 2b of the report).
5. To recommend to the Council approval of the savings listed in the second tranche of budget saving proposals that total £4.8m (excluding the £200,000 for Housing Related Support already approved at decision 2 and the £100,000 additional income from Blackpool Operating Company Ltd) and to note that formal consultation will take place over the next 3 months (reference paragraph 7.2 and Appendix 2b of the report).
6. To recommend to the Council that the Chief Executive be authorised to take any necessary steps to ensure all staffing savings are achieved (reference paragraph 8.1 of the report).

7. To recommend to the Council that the Business Loans Fund is increased from £8m to £10m (reference paragraph 8.3 of the report).
8. To recommend to the Council that the target level of working balances remains at £6m (reference paragraph 10.4 of the report).
9. 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 12th February 2016.
10. To consider any further facts and information which subsequently come to light and report the details to the meeting of the Executive on 22nd February 2016.

18.2 Date of Decision:

8th February 2016

19.0 Reason(s) for decision:

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

19.1 Date Decision published:

9th February 2016

20.0 Executive Members in attendance:

20.1 Councillor Jackson, in the Chair for Decision 2

Councillor Campbell, in the Chair for Decisions 3 to 10

Councillors Cain, Collett, Cross, Jackson, Kirkland, Smith, I Taylor and Mrs Wright

(Councillor Campbell having declared a prejudicial interest relation to the savings from Housing Related Support left the meeting for the Decisions 1 and 2).

(Councillors Cain and Smith having prejudicial interests in relation to the additional dividend from Blackpool Operating Company left the meeting for Decisions 1 and 2.)

Apologies were received from Councillor Blackburn who was engaged elsewhere on Council business.

21.0 Call-in:

21.1

22.0 Notes:

22.1