

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Neil Jack, Chief Executive
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Blackburn, Leader of the Council
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> September 2014

## REVENUE BUDGET 2014/ 2015

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider the recommendations of the Executive from its meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> September 2014, relating to amendments to the Revenue Budget for 2014/ 2015

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To agree that the in-year budget gap identified in paragraph 5.1 of this report, be met by transferring £852,000 from the Earmarked Reserve for Potential Pay Liabilities and the balance of £164,000 from Contingencies.

2.2 To agree the budget commitments regarding the Better Start fund, as set out in the Executive decision notice at Appendix 7(b) and amend the Council's Revenue budget to include these sums.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 The Council is required to approve a balanced budget and the first recommendation is put forward for this reason. The second recommendation is in response to Cabinet Member decision (PH25) taken in February this year.

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? No - this report (with the recommendations from the Executive) offers an alternative to the previously approved budget).

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

To retain the original budget proposal. However, this is not recommended due to the reasons set out in the report.

With regard to Better Start, the Council has an obligation to identify where its contributions will come from.

**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 The Executive at its meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2014 considered a report on the Financial Monitoring as at Month 3. The Executive was informed that extensive consultation had been undertaken on the proposal for a pay freeze and following representations made by staff and unions, it had been agreed to consider alternative ways of funding the pay award in 2014/2015. As at the date of the Executive no formal agreement to a national pay offer to local government employees had been made, but assuming that this will eventually materialise and at the expected 1.0% then the current year’s Revenue Budget would have an imbalance of £1,016,000.

The report proposed to address this by transferring £852,000 from the Earmarked Reserve for Potential Pay Liabilities and the balance of £164,000 from Contingencies.

The Executive also considered at the same meeting a report regarding Better Start and the ongoing funding implications of that programme. This related to details of the level of match funding that was expected from Blackpool partners over the life of the project and how the Council’s commitment would be met from its budget.

The decision notices from the Executive meeting are attached at Appendix 7(a) and Appendix 7(b).

Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

**List of Appendices:**

Appendix 7(a) Executive Decision regarding Financial Monitoring as at Month 3.

Appendix 7(b) Executive Decision regarding Better Start.

**6.0 Legal considerations:**

6.1 As outlined in the relevant Executive Decision Notices.

**7.0 Human Resources considerations:**

7.1 As outlined in the relevant Executive Decision Notices.

**8.0 Equalities considerations:**

8.1 As outlined in the relevant Executive Decision Notices.

**9.0 Financial considerations:**

9.1 These proposals are an important part of the delivery of the budget for 2014/2015 and 2015/2016.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 As outlined in the relevant Executive Decision Notices.

**11.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

11.1 As outlined in the relevant Executive Decision Notices.

**12.0 Background papers:**

12.1 There are no additional background papers to this report.