

Report to:	COUNCIL
Relevant Officer:	Steve Thompson, Director of Resources
Relevant Cabinet Member:	Councillor Blackburn, Leader of the Council
Date of Meeting:	27 February 2015

COUNCIL TAX 2015/ 2016

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 2015/ 2016 Financial Year.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To consider the recommendations of the Executive (to be circulated following its meeting on 23rd February 2015).

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To be circulated following its meeting on 23rd 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 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.

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 purpose of this report is to determine the overall level of net expenditure to be included in the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2015/ 2016 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 meetings of the Trade Unions and Non Domestic Ratepayers and then to a meeting of the Scrutiny Committee, all of which were held on 13 February 2015. The Executive as its meeting on 23 February 2015 will consider the comments from these meetings.
- 5.3 Following the Executive meeting on 23rd 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 9th February 2015, in connection with the General Fund Revenue Budget. A copy of the Executive agenda for the 23rd February 2015 meeting was also sent to all members on Friday 13th February 2015. If any member requires further copies then please contact the Democratic Governance division on 01253 477034. Attached at Appendix 6(a) is the decision notice from the meeting of the Executive on 9th February 2015.
- 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 – 9th February 2015

Appendix 6 (b) – Executive Decision Notice– **Council Tax 2015/2016**– to be circulated after the Executive on Monday 23rd February 2015.

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 23rd February 2015.

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 9 February 2015.

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 An Equalities Analysis forms Appendix 3 to the budget report, which was circulated with the Executive agenda for its meeting on 9th February 2015.

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 As outlined in the Budget report, which was circulated with the Executive agenda for its meeting on 9th February 2015.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 As outlined in the Budget, which was circulated with the Executive agenda for its meeting on 9 February 2015.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 None.

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 Consultation will take place at separate meetings with the Trade Unions and Business Ratepayers on 13 February 2015. It has also taken place at a meeting of the Blackpool Equalities Forum on the 21st January 2015 and at a meeting with the Area Forum Community Representatives on the 10th February 2015. A full scale open access consultation exercise has also taken place for four weeks from the 12th January 2015.

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 Budget working papers.