

Report to:	COUNCIL
Relevant Officer:	Steve Thompson, Director of Resources
Relevant Cabinet Member:	Councillor Blackburn, Leader of the Council
Date of Meeting:	9 March 2020

COUNCIL TAX 2020/ 2021

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 2020/ 2021 Financial Year.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To consider the recommendations of the Executive from its meetings on the 10 February 2020 and on 4 March 2020, as summarised in Appendix 6(c) (to be circulated under separate cover).

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 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 10 February 2020.

- 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 eight guiding principles of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy are referred to in the report to the Executive of 10 February 2020 and 4 March 2020 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 2020/ 2021 and to identify a budget savings plan that will ensure a balanced Budget.

5.2 All Members of the Council should have received copies of the papers considered by the Executive at its meeting on 10 February 2020, in connection with the General Fund Revenue Budget [available via this link](#). Attached at Appendix 6(a) is the decision notice from the meeting of the Executive on 10 February 2020. A copy of the Executive agenda for the 4 March 2020 meeting was also sent to all members on Tuesday 25 February 2020 and is [available via this link](#).

5.3 Following the Executive meeting on 4 March 2020, a copy of the recommendations from that meeting together with a summary Appendix 6(c) detailing the full recommendations to Council will be produced.

5.4 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 all budget decisions taken by Council including any amendment to it.

5.5 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

5.6 List of Appendices:

Appendix 6(a) – Executive Decision Notice EX8/2020 – General Fund Revenue Budget 2020/2021 – Monday 10 February 2020.

Appendix 6(b) – Executive Decision Notice– Council Tax 2020/2021 – to be circulated on Thursday 5 March 2020.

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 on Thursday 5 March 2020.

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 10 February 2020.

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 10 February 2020.

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 As outlined in the Budget report, which was circulated with the Executive agenda for its meeting on 10 February 2020 and the Council Tax report circulated with the Executive agenda for the meeting on 4 March 2020.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 As outlined in the Budget, which was circulated with the Executive agenda for its meeting on 10 February 2020.

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 4 March 2020.

13.0 Background papers:

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