

**Committee: Full Council**

**Agenda Item**

**Date: 26 February 2015**

**11**

**Title: 2015/16 Budget – covering report**

**Portfolio Holder: Councillor Robert Chambers**

Item for decision

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## Summary

1. On today's agenda is a series of reports containing proposals for the 2015/16 budget. The proposals were endorsed by the Scrutiny Committee on 10 February and approved by the Cabinet on 17 February for recommendation to the Council tonight
2. The reports and recommendations are as follows:

Report	Purpose	Recommendation(s)
Equalities Impact Assessment (attached to this covering report)	To demonstrate consideration of the impact on minority groups	
Robustness of Estimates and Adequacy of Reserves  Reserves Strategy	A statutory report which sets out the key risks in the General Fund budget, and advice about safe levels of contingency reserves.  This is a new report and sets out a new strategy for the reserves and details the purpose and lifespan of these reserves.	The Council is recommended to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Take account of the advice in the report when determining the 2015/16 General Fund budget and Council Tax.</li><li>• Approve the risk assessment relating to the robustness of estimates as detailed in the report.</li><li>• Set the minimum safe contingency level for 2015/16 at £1.214 million.</li><li>• Adopt the attached Reserves Strategy.</li><li>• Agree that no transfers to or from the Working Balance should be built into the 2015/16 budget.</li></ul>
Temporary Accommodation	Proposal to transfer designated temporary accommodation from the HRA to the General Fund	That Council approves the transfer of the eight designated temporary accommodation units from the HRA to the General Fund at the estimated market value cost of £1,047,000.
Medium Term Financial Strategy	Sets out a five year plan for ensuring that the General Fund remains in a stable and sustainable position, including indicative levels of Council Tax.	The Council is recommended to approve the Medium Term Financial Strategy as attached.

<p>Treasury Management Strategy</p>	<p>Details how cash flow will be managed, and a strategy for prudent borrowing and investment.</p>	<p>The Council is recommended to approve the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Treasury Management Strategy 2015/16, Appendix A.</li> <li>• Prudential Indicators, Appendix A1.</li> <li>• Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement, Appendix A2</li> <li>• Economic Forecast, Appendix A3</li> </ul>
<p>Capital Programme</p>	<p>A five year plan setting out capital expenditure on the Council's assets including buildings, vehicles and ICT and the associated financing of these programmes</p>	<p>The Council is recommended to approve, the Capital Programme and associated financing of the programme as set out in this report.</p>
<p>Housing Revenue Account Budget</p>	<p>Covers spending plans for council housing in the district from 2015/16 with a 5 year forecast.</p> <p>The report contains proposals for increases in rents and service charges. The proposals have been endorsed by the Tenants Forum and Housing Board.</p> <p>2015/16 is the fourth year of the self-financing arrangements and the 30 year plan approved by the Council in 2012.</p>	<p>The Council is recommended to approve, the HRA Revenue Budget and 5 Year Financial Strategy.</p>
<p>General Fund Budget and Council Tax</p>	<p>Detailed budget for all services except Council Housing, and proposals for the district council share of the Council Tax bill</p>	<p>The Council is recommended to approve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The General Fund Budget and Council Tax requirement of £4,653,312 summarised in paragraph 24 and detailed in Appendices A to C.</li> <li>• The amended criteria with regard to Members Allowances (New Homes Bonus) paragraph 30.</li> <li>• The schedule of Fees and Charges at Appendix E</li> <li>• The Council Tax Resolution as set out in Appendix F</li> </ul>