

CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Friday, 18 th December 2015
Report Subject	Council Fund Revenue Budget 2016/2017
Cabinet Member	Leader of the Council; and Cabinet Member for Corporate Management
Report Author	Chief Executive and Corporate Finance Manager
Type of Report	Strategic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The report sets out the initial proposals for the 2016/17 Council Fund Revenue Budget for services within the portfolio of this Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The proposals, which are listed in an attachment, will be presented at the Committee meeting for review and challenge with most attention being given to the higher risk proposals.

The proposals in relation to corporate financial stewardship which is the second element of the funding strategy that will contribute to the overall budget gap will also be presented to this committee as part of its budget overview role.

The Draft Welsh Budget will be announced by Welsh Government on 8 December and the Provisional Local Government Settlement on 9 December. Further budget options for all portfolios may need to be presented for consideration in the New Year, depending on the impact the Settlement would have on Council budgets, as set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

The report also summarises the budget development and consultation process.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	To review and comment on the initial budget proposals within the Committee's portfolio including the corporate financing proposals.
2	To note the timetable and further consultation stage to follow.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	BUDGET CONSULTATION PROCESS FOR 2016/17
1.01	<p>The report sets out the initial proposals for the 2016/17 Council Fund Revenue Budget for services within the portfolio of this Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The proposals, which are listed in an attachment, will be presented at the Committee meeting for review and challenge with most attention being given to the higher risk proposals. The proposals have been developed by each Chief Officer as part of the three year business planning process for the period 2015/16 to 2017/18. The proposals are presented in a standard form, across all Committees, with a risk rating and commentary.</p>
1.02	<p>The initial proposals have been developed to contribute to part one of the three part solution to the annual 'budget gap' within the Medium Term Financial Strategy. The Strategy is published and is within the public domain.</p>
1.03	<p>The proposals in relation to corporate financial stewardship which is the second element of the funding strategy that will contribute to the overall budget gap will also be presented to this committee as part of its budget overview role.</p>
1.04	<p>Members are also asked to consider an overview of the Capital Programme 2016/17 – 2019/20 in conjunction with a draft Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan and papers will be circulated in advance of the meeting.</p>
1.05	<p>The Draft Welsh Budget will be announced by Welsh Government on 8 December and the Provisional Local Government Settlement on 9 December. Further budget options for all portfolios may need to be presented for consideration in the New Year, depending on the impact the Settlement would have on Council budgets, as set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy.</p>
1.06	<p>The budget setting process for 2016/17 is particularly complex given the lateness of the expected Final Local Government Settlement from Welsh Government and the scale of the annual budget reductions the Council has to manage. Members have been briefed and consulted in several phases of workshops from July to November. Group Leaders and Overview and Scrutiny Chairs have had specific briefing meetings.</p>
1.07	<p>The Council has organised a major public consultation – Your Moment-with area public meetings being held in seven locations between mid November and early December.</p>
1.08	<p>A series of formal budget consultation meetings are being held:</p> <p>Monday 7 December 10.00 Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee Tuesday 8 December 10.00 Organisational Change Overview & Scrutiny Committee Friday 11 December 10.00 Social & Healthcare Overview & Scrutiny Committee</p>

	<p>Tuesday 15 December 14.00 Education & Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee</p> <p>Thursday 17 December 14.00 Community & Enterprise overview & Scrutiny Committee</p> <p>Friday 18 December 10.00 Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee (for Corporate functions and central finance)</p> <p>Friday, 18 December 14.00 Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee (All Members are invited to attend to conclude this stage of the consultation process.)</p>
1.09	A further round of Overview and Scrutiny Committees is to follow from 14-29 January once the Provisional Local Government Settlement has been announced.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	As set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	This report summarises the consultation process.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	As set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Business Plan Proposals 2016/17 for Corporate Services.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>Medium Term Financial Strategy Parts 1 and 2 http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Medium-Term-Financial-Strategy/Medium-Term-Financial-Strategy.aspx</p> <p>Medium Term Financial Strategy Executive Summary http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/PDFFiles/Medium-Term-Financial-Strategy/Summary-Medium-Term-Financial-Strategy.pdf</p> <p>Flintshire County Council 24th October 2015 Report http://cyfarfodyddpwyllgor.siryfflint.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=143&MId=3551&Ver=4&LLL=undefined</p> <p>Cabinet 15th September 2015 Report http://cyfarfodyddpwyllgor.siryfflint.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=391&MId=3537&Ver=4&LLL=undefined</p>

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7.00 GLOSSARY OF TERMS	
7.01	<p>Budget: a statement expressing the Council's policies and service levels in financial terms for a particular financial year. In its broadest sense it includes both the revenue budget and capital programme and any authorised amendments to them.</p>
7.02	<p>Local Government Finance Settlement: This sets out what the Welsh Government is to allocate to each local authority in Wales. It is issued in two stages. This year, the Provisional Settlement is expected on 9th December with the final Local Government Finance Settlement being announced on 1st March 2016.</p>
7.03	<p>Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS): a written strategy which gives a forecast of the financial resources which will be available to a Council for a given period, and sets out plans for how best to deploy those resources to meet its priorities, duties and obligations.</p>
7.04	<p>Council Fund: the majority of the Council's revenue expenditure covering all services except Council Housing for which there is a stand-alone and ring-fenced account called the Housing Revenue Account (HRA).</p>
7.05	<p>Annual Settlement: the amount of its funds the Welsh Government will allocate annually to local government as a whole, as part of its total budget, and to individual councils one by one. The amount of Revenue Support Grant (see below) each council will receive is based on a complex distribution formula for awarding Aggregate External Finance (AEF). The formula is underpinned by assessments of local need based, for example, of population size and demographics and levels of social deprivation.</p>