

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 20 th February 2024
Report Subject	Council Fund Revenue Budget 2024/25 – Final Closing Stage
Report Author	Corporate Finance Manager and Chief Executive

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Council has received regular updates on the Council's challenging budget position for 2024/25 and the additional budget requirement for 2024/25 has continually been revised and progress on solutions to meet this has been reported.

Cabinet and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee received an update on the key headlines and financial impacts of the Welsh Local Government Provisional Settlement in January, together with an update on the increased additional budget requirement of £33.187m. At that stage there was a remaining 'budget gap' of £12.946m.

Two Member briefings were also held in January prior to additional cost reduction proposals being considered by specific overview and scrutiny committees in February. Work has continued to review the overall position in conjunction with a recent announcement from Welsh Government on an expected consequential from UK Government.

This work has now been concluded and the outcome is set out in the Cabinet report.

Cabinet considered the report at its meeting this morning which set out how the Council can achieve a legal and balanced budget.

The report is attached as Appendix A and confirmation of the Cabinet Resolution will be provided at the meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That the Council approves the recommendations of Cabinet for balancing the budget for 2024/25.
2	That Council approves the level of Council Tax for 2024/25 as recommended by Cabinet.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE CURRENT POSITION – BALANCING THE BUDGET FOR 2024/25
1.01	The Council has received reports at all stages throughout the budget process for 2024/25.
1.02	Cabinet and Corporate Resource Overview and Scrutiny Committee received an update on the key headlines and financial impacts of the Welsh Local Government Provisional Settlement in January together with an update on an increased additional budget requirement of £33.187m for the 2024/25 financial year. At that stage there was a remaining ‘budget gap’ of £12.946m.
1.03	<p>Two Member briefings were also held in January prior to additional cost reduction proposals being considered by specific overview and scrutiny committees in February.</p> <p>Work has continued to review the overall position in conjunction with a recent announcement from Welsh Government on an expected consequential from UK Government.</p> <p>This work has now been concluded and the outcome is set out in the report to Cabinet</p>
1.04	Cabinet considered the report at its meeting this morning which included a recommendation for setting a legal and balanced budget. The report is attached as Appendix A.
1.05	Cabinet’s resolution for balancing the budget will be provided to Members at the meeting and a presentation on the budget will be made to Council.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	As contained within the report to Cabinet of 20 February 2024 which is attached.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	As contained within the report to Cabinet of 20 February 2024 which is attached.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	As contained within the report to Cabinet of 20 February 2024 which is attached.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix A – Cabinet Report 20 February 2024.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	As included in the Cabinet Report 20 February 2024.

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	<p>Contact Officer: Neal Cockerton, Chief Executive Gary Ferguson, Corporate Finance Manager Telephone: 01352 702271 E-mail: gary.ferguson@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	As set out in the attached report.