

**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:**           **FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**DATE:**                 **TUESDAY, 18 FEBRUARY 2014**

**REPORT BY:**         **HEAD OF FINANCE**

**SUBJECT:**            **COUNCIL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2014/15**

**1.00    PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.01    To provide Members with the recommendations of the Cabinet for the Council Fund Revenue Budget 2014/15.

**2.00    BACKGROUND**

2.01    A report was considered by Cabinet on 21 January 2014 which presented a first draft of the Council Fund Revenue Budget for 2014/15 for initial approval.

2.02    The Cabinet's initial budget proposals for 2014/15, which at that stage identified a budget gap of £0.915m, were also referred to Overview and Scrutiny for consideration.

2.03    The Overview and Scrutiny meetings were held between 28 January and 3 February 2014 where Members offered comments and asked a number of questions to clarify issues. A summary of these, together with Officer responses is included in Appendix 8 of the Cabinet report attached.

2.04    The final budget proposals for 2014/15, which show a balanced position, were considered by Cabinet this morning and a verbal update will be provided at the meeting. A copy of this report is attached as Appendix A.

**3.00    CONSIDERATIONS**

3.01    The recommendations of the Cabinet to County Council are set out in Section 9 of the attached report.

3.02    Section 3 of the report provides an update from the Overview and Scrutiny process and details on the proposals for closing the budget gap reported in the January report. The process undertaken for assessing any potential equality impact is also detailed in Section 3.

- 3.03 Details of the final proposed budget and its funding are set out in Section 4 of the report.
- 3.04 Section 5 of the report sets out details of earmarked balances and unearmarked reserves.
- 3.05 Section 6 of the attached report details the Investment Strategy in relation to the budget.
- 3.06 Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 includes a specific duty on the Chief Finance Officer to report to the Authority when it is considering its Budget and Council Tax on the robustness of the estimates and adequacy of reserves. Section 7 of the report provides this statement in detail.
- 3.07 Section 8 of the report provides a report from the Chief Executive in relation to the budget strategy and Organisational Change Programme.

#### **4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.01 That the Council approves the recommendations of the Cabinet as set out in Section 9 of the attached report.

#### **5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.01 As set out in the report.

#### **6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT**

- 6.01 As set out in the report.

#### **7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

- 7.01 As set out in the report.

#### **8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT**

- 8.01 As set out in the report.

#### **9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.01 As set out in the report.

#### **10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED**

- 10.01 As set out in the report.

**11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**

11.01 As set out in the report.

**12.00 APPENDICES**

12.01 As set out in the report

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985  
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

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