



# **2015-16 Council Fund Revenue Budget: Final Position and Recommendations**

**Cabinet and Council  
February 2015**





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# Final Budget Position

- Total budget 'gap' of £18.265M
- Following budget report to Cabinet in January the remaining 'gap' to be bridged was £0.777M
- As of today, following adjustments to the proposals of Cabinet following the Overview and Scrutiny round of budget review meetings, the gap to be bridged is £0.852M
- Proposals are made today to reach a balanced budget



# Roles and Duties of Council

- To set a lawful and balanced budget
- To fully take into account professional advice most specifically that of the Section 151 Officer (Corporate Finance Manager)
- To support the Cabinet in performing its executive roles in implementing the budget set by Council, and in making strategic and operational decisions to manage Council operations and services within those budget limits



# Closing the Budget Gap Stage 1

Efficiency Proposal	£M
Procurement Supplier Charging	0.116
Non Standard Inflation Provision Review	0.348
Reduction in Fire and Rescue Authority Levy Provision	0.124
Council Tax Reduction Scheme Projected Provision	0.130
Central Loans and Investments Reviews	1.830
Workforce Efficiency Projects	0.300
<b>Running Total</b>	<b>2.848</b>
<b>Remaining Gap as at January</b>	<b>0.777</b>



# Outcomes of Overview and Scrutiny

- **Housing: Response Service Out of Hours:** amended proposal to withdraw the charging proposal (£20k)
- **Lifelong Learning: Let's Walk Cymru:** amended proposal to include a transitional grant for Walkabout Flintshire pending agreement of a longer term plan (£7.5k)
- **Corporate Resources: Switchboard and Contact Centre Services:** amended proposal to phase implementation of call handling system changes (£40k)
- **Corporate Resources: Post Office Counter Payments Options:** amended proposal to defer implementation of the payments option to assist vulnerable clients with an alternative personalised payment option and budgeting advice (£7.5k)

# Closing the Budget Gap Stage 2

<b>Budget Gap Analysis</b>	<b>£M</b>
Remaining Gap as at January	- 0.777
Reduction in Efficiency Proposals from Scrutiny	- 0.075
Revised Gap as at 11 February	- 0.852
<b>Efficiency Proposals to Balance</b>	<b>£M</b>
Reduction in Non Standard Inflation (NSI) Provision	0.197
Council Tax at 3.75% (net of CTRS)	0.385
Use of Reserves	0.270
<b>Final Gap Position as at 11 February</b>	<b>0.000</b>



# Professional Opinions

- **Section 151 Officer/Corporate Finance Manager:** confirms the reasonableness of the budget estimates; budget assumptions represent a measured and acceptable level of risk; a robust programme for the delivery of the efficiencies essential along with effective and disciplined in-year financial management
- **Chief Executive:** the levels of efficiency are achievable based on risks and proportionality; there is sufficient confidence in the budget provided that programme management governance is improved





# Implementing the Budget

- Cabinet has a policy intent to implement six reviews  
Council should support the intent as part of approving the budget
- Six key service reviews to be completed:
  - » Day care services
  - » Car parking strategy
  - » Transportation
  - » Highway winter maintenance
  - » Part night street lighting
  - » Household recycling centres



# Implementing the Budget

- Extended programme management arrangements to all chief officer portfolios where major change programmes are relied upon to achieve the efficiency targets
- Higher risk efficiency proposals to be featured in the monthly budget monitoring report
- Overview and Scrutiny to review implementation of key service changes within their forward work programmes



# Medium Term Financial Plan

- Full review led by Cabinet with Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny input from February – May with a republished MTFP for 2015/16 to 2017/18
- MTFP to combine full forecast of predictive income and expenditure with a more advanced organisational change and efficiencies plan
- The previously reported forecast for the gap for 2015/16-2017/18 of £50m+ is still broadly accurate (based on current level of loss of RSG) noting that we have achieved the first £18M+ within this budget