

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 20 February 2018
Report Subject	Council Fund Budget 2018/19 – Third and Closing Stage
Report Author	Corporate Finance Manager and Chief Executive

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Cabinet will be considering a report on the Council Fund Budget 2018/19 – Third and Closing Stage on the morning of 20 February which is attached as Appendix A. An update on this meeting will be provided to Council in the afternoon.

The Council has developed the budget for 2018/19 in three stages:

- Stage 1: Portfolio Business Plan proposals
- Stage 2: Secondary and Corporate proposals
- Stage 3: Final Balancing Stage

The Cabinet report provides an update on each stage and a full presentation of the report will be made at both the Cabinet and Council meetings.

Stage Three: this is the closing stage and the Council will need to set a balanced budget to meet its legal duty. It is the collective responsibility of the whole Council to set the budget on the advice of Cabinet. The options remaining to achieve a legal balanced budget are set out in the Cabinet report for consideration. The scope for further service reductions for this financial year has been exhausted. The portfolio resilience statements which demonstrate the risks to service capacity and performance of any further budget reductions have been accepted by the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and Cabinet. The position of the three specific requests made to Welsh Government for financial assistance is also set out within the report. Beyond a financial intervention by Welsh Government the only remaining options to balance the budget are drawing upon reserves and balances and Council Tax income.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That the Council receives and considers the recommendations of Cabinet for balancing the budget for 2018/19.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	BALANCING THE BUDGET FOR 2018/19
1.01	The Council has developed the budget for 2018/19 in three stages:
1.02	Stage One: Portfolio Business Plan proposals, endorsed by Cabinet, were reviewed by the respective Overview and Scrutiny Committees throughout October and approved by Council on 14 November. These proposals were all approved except for the proposal to introduce charging for green waste collection which was called in for further review by the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Committee subsequently confirmed agreement to the proposals at its meeting in January and the proposals are now in the process of being implemented. Stage One is now closed.
1.03	Stage Two: secondary proposals and options were considered at the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 6 December and considered by Council on 12 December. All proposals were approved except for schools funding and public car parking charges which were referred for further consideration by the Education and Youth and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committees respectively. Feedback from these two meetings was reported to Council on 30 January and at that stage remained unresolved. The position on both will need to be settled as part of balancing the budget at this third and final stage.
1.04	Stage Three: this is the closing stage the Council will need to set a balanced budget to meet its legal duty. It is the collective responsibility of the whole Council to set the budget on the advice of Cabinet. The options remaining to achieve a legal balanced budget are set out in this report for consideration. The scope for further service reductions for this financial year has been exhausted. The portfolio resilience statements which demonstrate the risks to service capacity and performance of any further budget reductions have been accepted by the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and Cabinet. The position of the three specific requests made to Welsh Government for financial assistance is set out within the report. Beyond a financial intervention by Welsh Government the only remaining options to balance the budget are drawing upon reserves and balances and Council Tax income.
1.05	Cabinet will consider the report on the morning of 14 February (Appendix attached) which details the remaining options to balance the budget for 2018/19 to meet the Council's statutory duty. A verbal report will be made to Council alongside the presentation of the budget.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	As contained within the report to Cabinet of 20 February 2018 which is attached.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	As contained within the report to Cabinet of 20 February 2018 which is attached.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	As contained within the report to Cabinet of 20 February 2018 which is attached.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	As contained within the report to Cabinet of 20 February 2018 which is attached.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>Council Report 30 January 2018 – Stages One and Two of the Council Fund Budget 2018/19 and planning for Stage 3</p> <p>http://committeemeetings.flintshire.gov.uk/documents/s47123/Council%20Fund%20Budget%20201819%20Stage%202.pdf?LLL=0</p> <p>Council Report 12 December 2017 – Financial Forecast and Stage Two of the Budget 2018/19</p> <p>http://committeemeetings.flintshire.gov.uk/documents/s46489/Council%20Fund%20Budget%20201819%20-%20Stage%202.pdf?LLL=0</p> <p>Council Report 14 November 2017 – Council Fund Budget 2018/19 – Stage One</p> <p>http://committeemeetings.flintshire.gov.uk/documents/s46017/Council%20Fund%20Budget%20201819.pdf?LLL=0</p> <p>Contact Officer: Colin Everett, Chief Executive Gary Ferguson, Corporate Finance Manager Telephone: 01352 702271 E-mail: gary.ferguson@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	As set out in the attached report