

# FAREHAM

## BOROUGH COUNCIL

### Report to Scrutiny Board

**Date**                    **22 January 2015**

**Report of:**            **Director of Finance and Resources**

**Subject:**              **FINANCE STRATEGY, CAPITAL PROGRAMME, REVENUE  
BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2015/16**

#### **SUMMARY**

The Scrutiny Board is asked to consider and review the Executive's proposals for the overall capital programme and revenue budget for 2015/16. The Director of Finance and Resources will refer any proposals or comments of the Board to the Executive meeting on 2 February 2015.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That any proposals or comments of the Board be referred to the Executive at its meeting on 2 February 2015

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. On 5 January 2015, the Executive reviewed the Council's finance strategy, and considered the scope for new capital and revenue items to be included in the revised budgets for 2014/15, the budget for 2015/16 and beyond, as well as the implications for the council tax in 2015/16. A copy of this report is attached as Appendix B, for information.
2. Members considered a number of options, which could allow a balanced budget to be achieved, and the following decisions were taken:-
  - (a) the capital programme for the period 2014/15 - 2018/19, amounting to £33,176,000 be approved;
  - (b) the revised 2014/15 general fund budget, amounting to £9,516,100 be approved;
  - (c) that the base 2015/16 general fund budget amounting to £9,174,600 be approved;
  - (d) use of the surplus on the spending reserve as set out in paragraphs 30-32 be approved.
3. A report will be submitted to the Executive on 2 February 2015 and a copy of this report is attached as Appendix C. This report seeks final confirmation for the spending plans, together with recommendations for Full Council to consider on 20 February 2015 and officers will provide a verbal update on these to members of the Scrutiny Board on 22 January 2015.
4. Any comments or proposals that the Scrutiny Board may wish to submit will be considered by the Executive on 2 February 2015.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

5. While all spending plans can be met from within existing resources, growing financial pressures increase the risk that spending plans exceed desirable levels.
6. Also, the budget reflects the implications of the changing economic situation. However, these changes will continue to affect the Council's finances. It is therefore very important to retain sufficient balances to cater for the unexpected in these uncertain times.
7. Where opportunities exist to increase income sources for the Council, and plans are well advanced, these have been incorporated into the budget.

## **CONCLUSION**

8. The Board is asked to review the proposals and consider whether it wishes to submit comments for consideration by the Executive.

**Appendix A:** [Executive Report "Draft Spending Plans 2015/16" considered on 1st Dec 2014](#)

**Appendix B:** [Executive Report "Finance Strategy, Capital Programme, Revenue Budget and Council Tax 2015/16" considered on 5th Jan 2015](#)

**Appendix C:** [Executive Report "Finance Strategy, Capital Programme, Revenue Budget and Council Tax 2015/16" to be considered on 2nd Feb 2015](#)

**Background Papers:**

**Reference Papers:**

**Enquiries:**

For further information on this report please contact Neil Wood (Ext 4506).