

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to Scrutiny Board

Date **14 January 2016**

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

Subject: **FINANCE STRATEGY, CAPITAL PROGRAMME, REVENUE
BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2016/17**

SUMMARY

The Scrutiny Board is asked to consider and review the Executive's proposals for the overall capital programme and revenue budget for 2016/17. The Director of Finance and Resources will refer any proposals or comments of the Board to the Executive meeting on 1 February 2016.

RECOMMENDATION

That any proposals or comments of the Board be referred to the Executive at its meeting on 1 February 2016

INTRODUCTION

1. On 11 January 2016, the Executive reviewed the Council's finance strategy, and considered the capital and revenue items to be included in the revised budgets for 2015/16, the budget for 2016/17 and beyond, as well as the implications for the council tax in 2016/17. A copy of this report is attached as Appendix A, 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) that the capital programme for the period 2015/16 - 2019/20, amounting to £36,959,000 as set out at Appendix A to the report be approved;
 - (b) that the proposed fees and charges for 2016/17, as set out in Appendix B to the report be approved;
 - (c) that the revised 2015/16 general fund budget, amounting to £9,174,600 be approved;
 - (d) that the base 2016/17 general fund revenue budget amounting to £8,736,600 be approved; and
 - (e) that the use of the surplus on the spending reserve as set out in paragraphs 42-46 be approved.
3. A report will be submitted to the Executive on 1 February 2016. This report seeks final confirmation for the spending plans, together with recommendations for Full Council to consider on 19 February 2016 and officers will provide a verbal update on these to members of the Scrutiny Board on 14 January 2016.
4. Any comments or proposals that the Scrutiny Board may wish to submit will be considered by the Executive on 1 February 2016.

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 funding position from central Government as well as other more local budget pressures. These changes will continue to affect the Council's finances and it remains an important part of the overall Medium Term Finance Strategy to retain sufficient balances to cater for the unexpected in these uncertain times.
7. The council should continue to explore opportunities to increase income sources for the Council as well as review efficiency plans in order that balanced budgets can be made in future years.

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 "Finance Strategy, Capital Programme, Revenue Budget and Council Tax 2016/17" considered on 11th January 2016](#)

Background Papers:

Reference Papers:

Enquiries:

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