



## **Report to Scrutiny Board**

Date: **23 January 2013**

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

Subject: **FINANCE STRATEGY, CAPITAL PROGRAMME, REVENUE  
BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2013/14**

### **SUMMARY**

The Scrutiny Board is asked to consider and review the Executive's proposals for the overall capital programme and revenue budget for 2013/14. The Director of Finance and Resources will refer any proposals or comments of the Board to the Executive meeting on 11 February 2013

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That any proposals or comments of the Board be referred to the Executive at its meeting on 11 February 2013

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. On 7 January 2013, 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 2012/13, the budget for 2013/14 and beyond, as well as the implications for the council tax in 2013/14. 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 2012/13 - 2016/17, amounting to £19,903,000, was approved;
  - (b) the revised 2012/13 general fund budget, amounting to £10,458,500 was approved;
  - (c) that the base 2013/14 general fund budget amounting to £9,675,200 be approved;
  - (d) that the Executive recommends to Council that authority to calculate the Non-domestic rate baseline for 2013/14 and subsequent years be delegated to the Director of Finance and Resources.
3. A report will be submitted to the Executive on 11 February 2013 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 22 February 2013 and officers will provide a verbal update on these to members of the Scrutiny Board on 23 January 2013.
4. Any comments or proposals that the Scrutiny Board may wish to submit will be considered by the Executive on 11 February 2013.

## **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 2013/14" considered on 3rd Dec 2012](#)

**Appendix B:** [Executive Report "Finance Strategy, Capital Programme, Revenue Budget and Council Tax 2013/14" considered on 7th Jan 2013](#)

**Appendix C:** [Executive Report "Finance Strategy, Capital Programme, Revenue Budget and Council Tax 2013/14" to be considered on 11th Feb 2013](#)

**Background Papers:**

**Reference Papers:**

**Enquiries:**

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