

Recommendations from the Cabinet meeting held on 11 February 2016

24a Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and Budget 2016/17 to 2019/20

The Cabinet considered a report by the Leader of the Council as the final update on the major national and local issues facing the County Council and how they affected the 2016/17 budget and financial planning for the next three years. The Government settlement was received on 8 February 2016 and a supplementary update on the budget position was circulated to members of the Council in advance of the meeting.

Resolved

1. That the additional savings proposals detailed at paragraph 3.3 of the Leader's report be agreed.
2. That the service issues and risks associated with the savings measures in Appendix 2 of the report and the feedback from Overview Committees and other sources be noted.
3. That the impact on the Authority's reserves, balances and contingency budget as a result of the strategy for balancing the 2016/17 budget be noted.
4. That the Council Tax increase of 3.99% (including 2% for the social care precept) for 2016/17 and 3.99% for planning purposes for the remainder of the MTFP period to 2019/20 be confirmed.

RECOMMENDED

1. That the County Council be recommended to approve:
 - a) the revenue budget strategy for 2016/17 to 2019/20;
 - b) the budget requirement and precept for 2016/17; and
 - c) the position on general balances and reserves;
2. That the Chief Financial Officer be required to present to the County Council a schedule setting out the Council Tax for each category of dwelling and the precepts on each of the Dorset Councils for 2016/17.
3. That a cross party Budget Strategy Task and Finish Group be established in order to develop savings proposals to address budget gaps over the remainder of the MTFP period.

Reasons for Recommendations

To approve the Council Tax increase for 2016/17 and to enable work to continue on refining and managing the County Council's budget strategy for 2016/17 and beyond.

24b Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Prudential Indicators for 2016-17

The Cabinet considered the Council's Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators in accordance with the CIPFA Prudential Code and CIPFA Treasury Management Code.

RECOMMENDED

That the County Council be recommended to approve:

1. The Prudential Indicators and Limits for 2016/17 to 2018/19.
2. The Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement.
3. The Treasury Management Strategy.
4. The Investment Strategy.
5. Delegation to the Chief Financial Officer to determine the most appropriate means of funding the Capital Programme.

Reasons for Recommendations

1. The Prudential Code provided a framework under which the Council's capital finance decisions were carried out. It required the Council to demonstrate that its capital expenditure plans were affordable, external borrowing was within prudent and sustainable levels and treasury management decisions were taken in accordance with professional good practice. Adherence to the Prudential Code was mandatory as set out in the Local Government Act 2003.
2. The report recommended the indicators to be applied by the Council for the financial years 2016/17 to 2018/19. The successful implementation of the code would assist in the objective of developing 'public services fit for the future'.