

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Agenda
Item No.

Report of Corporate Management Team
To
Cabinet
On
12th February 2013

Report prepared by: Joe Chesterton
Head of Finance & Resources

General Fund Revenue Budget 2013/14

All Scrutiny Committees

Executive Councillor: Councillor Nigel Holdcroft

A Part 1 Public Agenda Item

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To present a 2013/14 General Fund revenue budget including schools and a proposal for the 2013/14 Council Tax. In addition, to present a range of potential savings proposals for future years.

2. Recommendations

That the Cabinet recommend to Council that it;

In respect of 2012/13;

- (i) **Note the forecast outturn of £130.288 million;**
- (ii) **Approve the appropriation of the sums to earmarked reserves totalling £3,701,000 as set out in detail in Appendix 16;**
- (iii) **Approve the appropriation of the sums from earmarked reserves totalling £336,000, as set out in detail in Appendix 16;**

In respect of 2013/14 and later years;

- (iv) **Consider and acknowledge the Section 151 Officer's (Head of Finance and Resources) report on the robustness of the proposed budget, the adequacy of the Council's reserves and the Reserves Strategy as set out in Appendix 1;**
- (v) **Approve a General Fund net revenue budget for 2013/14 of £138.570 million (Appendix 3) and any required commencement of consultation, statutory or otherwise;**

- (vi) **Approve an increase in the Southend-on-Sea element of the Council Tax by 1.75% (38p per week at Band D level);**
- (vii) **Note that the Council's preceptors Essex Police and Fire Authorities have yet to formally meet to agree their Council Tax levels for 2013/14 and the Leigh-on-Sea Town Council precept of £324,841 and a consequential rise of 68.05% in their Council Tax;**
- (viii) **Approve that no Special Expenses be charged other than Leigh-on-Sea Town Council precept for 2013/14;**
- (ix) **Approve the appropriation of the sums to earmarked reserves totalling £2,415,000, as set out in Appendix 16;**
- (x) **Approve the appropriation of the sums from earmarked reserves totalling £700,000, as set out in Appendix 16;**
- (xi) **Approve the schools' budget and its relevant distribution as recommended by the Schools' Forum and set out in Appendix 2;**
- (xii) **Approve the pressures required of £1.235 million (Appendices 12 and 13) and the savings required of £10.425 million (Appendices 14 and 15) and the subsequent individual service cash limits for 2013/14 contained in Appendices 4 to 11;**
- (xiii) **Endorse the direction of travel for 2014/15 and beyond (Section 11) and the future years savings proposals (Appendix 17) ;**
- (xiv) **Approve the revised Medium Term Financial Strategy up to 2016/17 (Appendix 18).**

3. Council Budget Process

- 3.1 The Council must set its revenue budget and Council Tax by 11 March of the preceding financial year. If, for whatever reason, the Council cannot agree a budget and Council Tax at Council on 28 February, Members should be aware that it is unlikely that the Council Tax bills could be sent out on time for the 1 April instalment (taking into account the necessary notice period and the time required to print the bills and accompanying leaflet).
- 3.2 It is also good practice to approve the capital programme and fees and charges at the same time as the revenue budget and reports elsewhere on this agenda deal with these matters. It should be noted that the revenue impact of both reports have been factored into the 2013/14 revenue budget proposed in this report.
- 3.3 The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget also needs to be agreed in a timely manner to ensure rent increases can be reflected from 1 April of each year. A separate report elsewhere on this agenda deals with Housing Rents, Charges and HRA budgets for 2013/14.

- 3.4 This report presents the proposed 2013/14 General Fund revenue budget of the Cabinet for recommendation to the Council at its meeting on 28 February 2013. It builds on the draft budget approved for consultation by the Cabinet at its meeting on 22 January 2013. It also now provides the latest position on the forecast outturn for 2012/13.
- 3.5 The Head of Finance and Resources' statutory statement on the robustness of the estimates and adequacy of reserves under s25 of the Local Government Act 2003 is included at Appendix 1. It should be considered by the Cabinet before recommending a budget to Council. It must also be considered by the Council before approving the budget and Council Tax.

4. Forecast Outturn 2012/13

- 4.1 The original budget for 2012/13 totalled £130.345 million and was to be met from available government grant and council tax and no use of revenue balances was anticipated.
- 4.2 Members have been supplied with projected outturn information throughout the year, based on forecasts and expectations of the Directors and their Budget Managers, and in light of corrective action that they have identified as being necessary. The latest forecast outturn for 2012/13 amounts to £130.288 million allowing the ability to transfer £57,000 to revenue balances, so as to reconcile back to available grant and council tax. This forecast outturn includes a net appropriation to earmarked reserves totalling £3.365 million, details of which are shown in Appendix 16.
- 4.3 The reasons behind the projected under spend have been reported to all Members through the monthly budget monitoring process. It is recommended at this stage that the projected one-off under spend position at year end assists with achieving the required general fund balances position as set out in Appendix 1 in this report. The actual figure will be considered as part of the out turn report for 2012/13, which will be presented to the Cabinet in June 2013.

5 Budget 2013/14

Government Funding – Grant and Finance Settlement

- 5.1 Government funding of its main grant (formerly Formula Grant) is the main provider of funding for the Council's total general fund budget (excluding schools). As such it represents a significant factor in determining the Council's revenue budget. The provisional Local Government Finance Settlement for 2013/14 and indicative 2014/15 was issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) on 19 December 2013 and this represents years 3 and 4 of the Government's spending plans arising from the Spending Review 2010.
- 5.2 However, the latest Finance Settlement has also seen the most radical shift for generations in the way Local Government is to be financed from April 2013. Most general grants, such as the Early Intervention Grant and the Learning Disabilities Reform Grant, together with a number of service specific grants, have now been subsumed into the main formula settlement. There have also

been a number of background technical changes to detailed components of the allocation formula.

5.3 The main changes however arise from the launch of the Business Rates Retention (BRR) scheme as the principle form of local government funding. In previous years, the provisional settlement announcement provided local authorities with their expected general revenue allocations for the following financial year. For 2013/14, the provisional settlement provides authorities with a combination of provisional grant allocations and their respective starting points within the BRR scheme. It also sees the start of the localisation of council tax support, and therefore the inclusion of a fixed sum of grant to compensate local authorities for a notional 90% of the cost of the previous council tax benefit arrangements.

5.4 The key points arising from the settlement for Southend-on-Sea Borough Council are:

- (i) The final Grant settlement for 2013/14 is £77.179m. This compares to a like for like adjustment of £80.397m received in respect of 2012/13 (a reduction of £3.218m and equivalent to a 4% reduction); the indicative grant for 2014/15 is £70.345, a further 8.9% reduction;
- (ii) A number of specific grants have been rolled into the main grant;
- (iii) Some capital and specific grants are provisional and yet to be announced in full;
- (iv) A further Council Tax freeze grant has been confirmed and that Councils who freeze their Council Tax will benefit from the equivalent cash sum of a 1.0% Council Tax increase. This grant is different from the one announced in 2012/13 in that it is now for two years compared to one year in the 2012/13 Government offer. The acceptance of the grant would lead to an on-going loss in the Council's budget of circa £1.1million and also a loss in its Council Tax income generating base;
- (v) Separate NHS funding continues with the announcement of £2.949m in 2013/14. This NHS Funding is to support social care and benefit health. These sums are not in the Council's base budget and are for the two specified years only. The allocation will initially go to Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG'S) who will then satisfy themselves that the funding will be spent by the Council on the two areas required of social care and benefit health. The appropriate sums will then be allocated to the Council for expenditure on the approved areas;
- (vi) The consultation on the provisional finance settlement ended on 15 January 2013. The final announcement was announced on 4th February 2013 and this has been incorporated into the final budget that is now being proposed. A verbal update will be given to Cabinet on any further information surrounding the final finance settlement and any implication on the setting of the Budget;
- (vii) The provisional national non-domestic rates (NNDR) poundage has been set at 47.1p, having been uplifted by RPI inflation for September 2012 of 2.6%. The associated small business poundage has been set at 46.2p. Non-domestic rates are set nationally by the Government and collected locally by Councils (billing authorities). Under the new arrangements for the localisation of business rates a sum of 50% is returned to Government who then reapportion this sum back to Local Government

- as part of their main grant settlement. The remaining 50% is retained 49% by the Council and 1% is distributed to the Essex Fire Authority. The Police Authority will receive their funding separately;
- (viii) The Public Health service will be transferred to Local Government from April 2013. The Department of Health announced on 10th January 2013 the intended allocation of funding to enable the Council to undertake this service. The allocation for 2013/14 is £7.327 million and for 2014/15 is £8.060 million.

Government Funding – Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)

- 5.5 The DSG is now based on pupil numbers in the October before the beginning of each financial year allowing an estimate of grant to be made in order for local authorities to calculate individual school budgets by early March.
- 5.6 The total DSG for 2013/14 is £132.7 million (2012/13 = £129.6 million). In practice the final DSG will exclude funding for the 11 Academies and is estimated to reduce to £90.6 million for maintained schools. In addition to funding from the DSG, schools will receive an increased Pupil Premium grant, which will provide £900 of funding per pupil (2012/13 = £600 per pupil) who have been registered for free school meals in any of the past 6 years. Based on estimates the Pupil Premium will provide an additional £1.9 million for schools in Southend-on-Sea (both Maintained and Academy schools).
- 5.7 The Schools' Forum met on 9 January 2013 to consider its final recommendations for a balanced budget and these are set out in Appendix 2.

General Fund Revenue Budget 2013/14

- 5.8 This Council budget has been prepared against the background of the Coalition Government's Spending Review 2010 and a number of Budget speeches and Autumn Statements. The various Government announcements have seen the most substantial contraction of available public sector funding, but particularly in Local Government, for decades.
- 5.9 In addition, it is based upon the Government's significant funding reform for Local Government that has been the most radical in generations. This has introduced the localisation of business rates and the creation of a new local council tax support scheme amongst a new way in which Local Government will now be funded. As a result of both the significant contraction of available funding and the financial reforms there is a consequent need to find a significant level of revenue savings over the next four financial years.
- 5.10 There has been cross party Member involvement in identifying areas where savings can be targeted and made and the outcomes of Member discussions and the various workshops undertaken have helped to formulate the budget. Using this Member input a detailed draft budget has been prepared by senior officers for the Cabinet to put forward that addresses the need for significant savings to be addressed and to set a balanced and robust budget. The public budget consultation has also assisted in informing the compilation of the Council's budget.

- 5.11 The draft General Fund Revenue budget for 2013/14 was considered by Cabinet on 22 January 2013. It was referred to Scrutiny Committees in late January 2013 for detailed Member consideration. The same draft budget was used to brief staff, consult with trade unions, the voluntary sector, business rate payers and to brief the local press.
- 5.12 The 2013/14 General Fund revenue base budget requirement before savings and pressures is £147.761 million. Available funding, including Council Tax and an assessment of its required level, is £138.570 million, which has meant a net budget gap to find in 2013/14 of £9.190 million through directorate and corporate savings and pressures. Overall this results in a proposed 2013/14 revenue budget of £138.570 million (2012/13 £130.345 million). As part of the Government's financial reforms some significant specific grants have been transferred into the Council's main grant calculation eg Early Intervention Grant and the Learning Disabilities Reform Grant. Therefore the comparison between last year's budget and this year's budget is distorted by these movements. On a broad like for like basis the proposed budget for 2013/14 after savings and pressures would be in the region of £128 million. A high level budget summary of the position is set out at Appendix 1.
- 5.13 The 2013/14 revenue budgets for each Portfolio are set out in Appendices 4 to 11 and show the original budget and probable outturn for 2012/13 and the 2013/14 base budget before and after savings and pressures.
- 5.14 The various savings and pressure proposals, which total £10.425 million and £1.235 million respectively are set out fully in directorate order in Appendices 12 to 15.
- 5.15 Members will note that the budget proposals follow best practice and do not include the use of one off reserves to fund continuing spending.

Appropriations for 2013/14

- 5.16 The presentation of the budget reflects proposed net appropriations to earmarked reserves totalling £1.715 million for which separate approval is sought, full details of which are shown in Appendix 16.

Changes made since Draft Budget presented to Cabinet 22 January 2013

- 5.17 The changes from the draft budget approved by the Cabinet on 22 January 2013 are:
- The allocation of service pressures and savings proposals to individual budgets;
 - The final allocation of inter-departmental recharges;
 - The allocation of the latest position on the Dedicated Schools Grant;
 - The overall budget has also continued to be amended for minor changes for accuracy.
- 5.18 All of these changes are cost neutral on the proposed budget.

- 5.19 In addition, as part of the draft revenue budget report a recommendation was approved that related to the arrangements for a discount scheme on Council Tax for Special Constables. Upon further detailed examination it is now proposed not to proceed with this scheme.

Council Tax 2013/14 and Estimated Collection Fund Balance 2012/13

- 5.20 The Council Tax Base for 2013/14 was approved by Cabinet on 22 January 2013 at 53,358.9 (equivalent Band D properties).
- 5.21 The estimated balance on the Collection Fund at the end of 2012/13 shows a projected surplus of £700,000 attributable to the Council and which has been used in calculating the Council Tax, as statutorily required.
- 5.22 The proposed budget assumes a 1.75% increase in the Southend-on-Sea element of the Council Tax. If this is accepted, the Council will therefore be formally rejecting the Coalition Governments latest Council Tax Freeze Grant offer. If accepted this would cost the Council circa £1.1million per annum in its on-going budget and a permanent on-going reduction in its Council Tax base generating capacity. Consequently additional savings would need to be found across various Council services which would impact on all Council residents. The key difference with this year's grant offer is that it is now for two years but only offers 1% of Council Tax in return for a Council Tax freeze.
- 5.23 A 1.75% increase at the Band D level for the Southend-on-Sea element of the Council tax is 38p per week.
- 5.24 The total Council Tax payable by tax payers consists of Southend-on-Sea Borough Council, and the precepts for Essex Fire Authority, Essex Police Authority and, where applicable, Leigh-on-Sea Town Council.
- 5.25 The Cabinet may wish to bear in mind that a 1% change in Southend-on-Sea Borough Council's element of the Council Tax is £11.18 for a Band D property. This equates to an amount of circa £0.6 million in the revenue budget for each 1% change.

Precepts

- 5.26 Leigh-on-Sea Town Council has declared its precept for 2013/14 at £324,841 (2012/13 = £205,990). Based on their council tax base of 8,340.8, the Town Council element of the total Council Tax bill will increase from £23.19 to £38.97 at Band D, equivalent to 68.05% over 2012/13. This only applies to the area covered by the Town Council.
- 5.27 At this stage the precepts from the major precepting authorities (Fire and Police) are not yet finalised. Essex Police Authority through the Police Commissioner has to set its precept by 1st March 2013 (after consideration by its Police & Crime Panel on 31st January 2013). The latest position is that the Police & Crime Panel is proposing a Band D Council Tax at £141.48, which is a 3.49% increase. Essex Fire Authority is due to set its precept on 13th February 2013 (after consideration by its Policy & Strategy Committee on 16th January

2013). The current proposal is for a precept of £66.42 (The same as for 2012/13).

- 5.28 The Council Tax report for Council on 28 February will report on the final Council Tax Band D level for both the Essex Police Authority and the Essex Fire Authority.

Levies

- 5.29 The Council is required to pay relevant levying bodies, who have all now indicated their required levy for 2013/14. The final levies will be reported on in the Council Tax report for Council on 28 February. The current position for 2013/14 is identified in the table below:

Levying Body	2012/13 Probable Actual	2013/14 Estimate
	£'000	£'000
Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority	22	21
Flood Defence	158	158
Coroners Court	284	279
Total	464	458

6. Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)

- 6.1 The Medium Term Financial Strategy that was approved in March 2012 was for a four year period up to the financial year 2015/16. It is now in the need of updating as a result of the recent Local Government Finance Settlement, changes to the projections in the current financial planning figures and a review of our service delivery plans and recently refreshed corporate priorities.
- 6.2 It is good practice to update the rolling MTFS as part of setting the Council budget and Council Tax to ensure our financial planning is fully aligned and integrated.
- 6.3 The updated MTFS for the period 2013/14 to 2016/17 is attached at Appendix 18.
- 6.4 The MTFS shows a projected further budget gap of £29.6 million for the following three financial years as follows;

2014/15	£12.5 million
2015/16	£8.7 million
2016/17	£8.4 million
£29.6 million	

7. Staffing implications of 2013/14 budget savings proposals

- 7.1 The saving proposals outlined in this report include the approximate deletion of 80 full time equivalent (fte) posts across the Council. Approximately 41 of these total posts are currently vacant (51%).
- 7.2 Formal redundancy consultation with the recognised Trades Unions has commenced and all staff have been fully briefed on the implications of these proposals.
- 7.3 The staffing reductions will be managed in accordance with the Council's policies on Managing Organisational Change and Redundancy.
- 7.4 The Council's Workforce Planning Panel will continue to control recruitment to vacant posts (permanent and temporary) and, wherever possible, staff identified as 'at risk' of redundancy will be redeployed through the Talent Pool. In addition, the Council will be working with other Essex authorities and partners in order to maximise redeployment opportunities across the county region.
- 7.5 Volunteers for redundancy will also be sought in order to minimise the number of compulsory redundancies.
- 7.6 A comprehensive package of support for all staff but particularly those directly affected by these proposals has been put into place. This includes coaching and counselling, as well as practical support with job applications and money management.

8. Corporate Priorities

- 8.1 The proposed revenue budget has regard to the Council's 2013/14 Corporate Priorities, which are attached at Appendix 19.

9. Budget Consultation

- 9.1 The media coverage of the public sector economic situation places a worthy expectation for local authorities to engage communities in the difficult decisions that will determine what services are delivered by the Council and how.
- 9.2 Between 16th July and 2nd September, the Council used an online budget simulator to engage local residents, service users, staff, businesses and voluntary and community groups on their spending and budgetary priorities for 2013/14.
- 9.3 This is the second year the Council has used the online budget simulator and the simulator was refined for feedback on its use from the 2011 consultation exercise. Based on feedback from last year, Support Services was included as a budget area. In addition, Public Health was also included as it will move to the Council from April 2013.
- 9.4 The primary purpose of the simulator was to help people understand the complexity of the budget setting process: how challenging it is to find savings;

the trade-off between services, whilst being able to see the possible consequences their budget choices could have on the different service areas.

9.5 Nearly 1000 individuals attempted the simulator; however because of the difficult nature of the decisions only 166 individuals actually submitted budgets achieving a 10% savings target online. This is a good return for the number of people who attempted the simulator. In addition, 8 paper questionnaires were received. The exercise was predominately planned as an online activity consequently a large paper return was not anticipated. The response figures clearly demonstrate that people want to be involved and receive the information and be given the opportunity to respond, but recognise the challenge and responsibility for the actual decision making faced by the Council. The response to the simulator demonstrates that services cannot simply be 'top-sliced', but need to be genuinely reconfigured to achieve future savings.

9.6 Key Findings from *Your Southend, Your Say* Budget Consultation

- Community safety is the spending area which most respondents decided to increase.
- Supporting drug & alcohol misuse is the spending area which most respondents decided to decrease.
- NHS health checks is the spending area which most respondents decided not to change.

9.7 The overall results and detailed comments from the consultation have helped to inform the preparation of the 2013/14 proposed revenue budget.

9.8 The draft budget approved at Cabinet on 22 January 2013 has been presented to all three Scrutiny Committees and the Business Ratepayers Consultative Forum. The feedback from each of these scrutiny bodies is as follows;

- Children & Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee offered no comments on the draft general fund revenue budget 2013/14, or the pressures and savings plans contained therein, in respect of their areas of responsibility;
- Community Services and Culture Scrutiny Committee sought clarification and reassurance about a number of savings proposals. It was also noted that the £250,000 pressure on Older Peoples Services was likely to continue beyond 2013/14;
- Business & Ratepayers Consultative Committee offered no comments on the draft general fund revenue budget 2013/14, or the pressures and savings plans contained therein;
- Economic & Environmental Scrutiny Committee sought clarification and reassurance about a number of savings proposals.

10. Equality Impact Assessments – Making fair financial decisions

10.1 This year each department has produced a directorate equality analysis taking into consideration any equality and cohesion impacts that restructuring their service may have on staff and service users. The results were then challenged by an internal team of officers and then by the Corporate Management Team.

- 10.2 As before the aim will be to protect delivery of key frontline services as well as highlight greater opportunities for collaborative working with partners to deliver services. Staff, Councillors, Trade Unions, Service users and residents will be consulted and engaged in the process. These include but are not limited to, Chief Executive briefing sessions, Departmental Management and Team meetings, workshops and resident engagement via the online Budget simulator that took place between 16th July and 2nd September.
- 10.3 Recommendations made in directorate supporting action plans, will identify how each directorate will aim to address and mitigate any indirect differential impact on staff and services over the coming year.
- 10.4 An overarching Equalities Analysis is attached at Appendix 20.

11. 2014/15 and Beyond

- 11.1 In addressing the national economic situation the Coalition Government has emphasised the need to look at an initial four year programme of public sector spending restraint and reconfiguration. This was reinforced in the Chancellor's annual autumn speech in November 2011 and December 2012 with further restriction placed on the Government's public spending plans up to 2018. The tightening and reduction of Government funding contributions to local government funding and the Government's changes from April 2013 for the funding of Local Government, means that the current financial challenges for 2013/14 and beyond need to be seen as part of a much longer period of financial retrenchment and councils will need to consider a longer spending reduction programme than normal.
- 11.2 This report predominantly addresses, as we are required to do, a detailed budget for 2013/14 but it is also appropriate to identify the areas the Council should continue to explore in order to meet the budget constraints of future years and also tailor the services it provides and review its role within national policy and local circumstances.
- 11.3 Like all local authorities in England, Southend-on-Sea Borough Council is facing unprecedented financial challenges. The Council has, over a number of years, addressed significant funding gaps whilst also achieving improved efficiency and service delivery. In the current, and forecast, period of national financial stringency the scale of financial contraction is such as to challenge the scale, nature and purpose of the role of the Council.
- 11.4 Traditionally, and particularly over recent years, the nature of Council activity has seen an increase in the level of directly delivered services for the local populace and for local businesses and visitors. Many services have been delivered on a universal basis and free or at limited cost. As funding continues to reduce greater pressure is being placed upon the services provided by the Council and also the way in which these are delivered.
- 11.5 Since the beginning of the current national financial crisis the Council has striven to sustain its full range of services but it is increasingly likely that this approach will be unviable.

- 11.6 It is proposed that the Council will increasingly focus the delivery of its services in a targeted way, concentrating on delivering services to those residents who need the Council's help. The Council will also adopt this as an approach in tailoring the delivery of its many statutory services. To underpin this approach the Council will also reposition its role as one to help the community, its residents and businesses, to take personal control of as many factors affecting their lives as is possible.
- 11.7 The Council will adopt an increasing approach of working, and delivering services, in partnership with other agencies, the voluntary and commercial sectors, and the community itself. As part of this approach the Council will encourage the sustenance of community services in collaboration with the local communities, encouraging community capacity to operate in appropriate circumstances.
- 11.8 The Council will also seek to address critical issues such as equality, disadvantage, lack of attainment and poverty by working with communities themselves, seeking enhanced training and opportunity and by fostering and promoting the local economy and thereby enhancing opportunities for aspiration, attainment, household income and personal achievement
- 11.9 Given the financial challenge we have and are to continue to face for a number of years, a continued programme of corporate work streams will continue with this efficiency drive and to help support the identification of savings for future years. This will allow us to have a programme driving transformational change in the organisation and will allow a clear focus on delivery of the required significant savings that will be required over this period.
- 11.10 This programme of corporate work streams has helped to deliver savings proposals of nearly £8million over 2012/13 and 2013/14.
- 11.11 Over the coming year, and in anticipation of delivering tailored services for the community whilst addressing the known budget reductions required from our total budget of a further circa 20% to 25% for the three years 2014/15 to 2016/17, it is important to consider future year potential savings proposals. Therefore, officers have produced a range of savings proposals for Members consideration and agreement as part of the 2013/14 budget process to enable these to be adequately progressed for implementation over the next few financial years to assist in bridging the required budget reductions. The proposals are set out at Appendix 17.
- 11.12 It is clear that the budget savings presented for 2013/14 cannot be repeated in successive years without the Council considering how it delivers services across the borough to avoid duplication of overheads, achieve economic delivery and still provide facilities and services valued by the community.
- 11.13 Whilst looking for further savings in 2014/15 it may be necessary to consider our continued membership of the Local Government Association (LGA) and therefore this report notes the continued formal position for officers to provide a rolling annual notice to the LGA of our intention to end our membership, given the 1 year notice period required.

12. Corporate Implications

12.1 Contribution to Council's Vision & Critical Priorities

The budget strategy is an integral part of the Council's Corporate Service and Resources Planning Framework.

12.2 Financial Implications

As set out in the body of the report.

12.3 Legal Implications

None at this stage.

12.4 People Implications

The proposed budget will have an impact on staffing levels and the implications are set out in section 7 of this report.

12.5 Property Implications

None

12.6 Consultation

Consultation has taken place with the Chief Executive, Corporate Directors and their Heads of Service as part of the budget preparation process who are fully committed to working within the budget proposed. Members are being consulted through Cabinet, Scrutiny and Council but have also been fully involved through a range of Member workshops. The feedback from the relevant Scrutiny sessions is identified in paragraph 9.8.

A Public budget consultation exercise was undertaken to inform the budget proposals.

Formal consultation on redundancies in line with employment legislation is underway with the recognised Trades Unions, and all staff directly affected by the budget proposals have been briefed. Consultation with staff and unions will continue throughout the process.

Staff have been kept abreast of progress and opportunities for contributions through personal briefings by the Chief Executive and also through written briefings.

12.7 Equalities Impact Assessment

Assessments have been carried out for proposed savings in the 2013/14 revenue budget (see section 10 and Appendix 20).

12.8 Risk Assessment

The budget proposals are subject to a Director's review of risk and robustness. These have informed the Head of Finance & Resources' Section 25 statement of the 2003 Local Government Act on the robustness of estimates and adequacy of reserves as part of this report and the report to Budget Council on 28 February 2013.

12.9 Value for Money

The proposals set out in the report reflect the Council's drive to improve value for money and to deliver significant efficiencies in the way it operates.

12.10 Community Safety Implications

Assessments have been carried out for all revenue proposals.

12.11 Environmental Impact

Assessments have been carried out for all revenue proposals.

13. Background Papers

The Local Government Finance Settlement 2013/14, DCLG

Budget working papers held by the Finance & Resources' Accountancy section.

Directorate Equality Analysis

14. Appendices

Appendix 1	S151 Officer's Statement on adequacy of balances and the robustness of the budget
Appendix 2	Schools Budget 2013/14
Appendix 3	Summary of 2013/14 General Fund Revenue Budget
Appendix 4	2013/14 budget - Adult Social Care, Health and Housing
Appendix 5	2013/14 budget - Children's & Learning Services
Appendix 6	2013/14 budget - Corporate Support Services
Appendix 7	2013/14 budget - Culture & Tourism
Appendix 8	2013/14 budget - Deputy Leader
Appendix 9	2013/14 budget - Leader (Policy/Finance)
Appendix 10	2013/14 budget - Planning
Appendix 11	2013/14 budget - Public Protection, Waste & Transport
Appendix 12	Schedule of Proposed Pressures
Appendix 13	Description of Proposed Pressures
Appendix 14	Schedule of Proposed Savings
Appendix 15	Description of Proposed Savings
Appendix 16	Appropriations
Appendix 17	Future years Savings Proposals
Appendix 18	Medium Term Financial Strategy
Appendix 19	Corporate Priorities 2013/14
Appendix 20	Overarching Equality Analysis