

COUNTY COUNCIL
22nd February 2017

Revenue Budget Strategy 2017/18 to 2019/20

EXECUTIVE BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS:

THAT COUNTY COUNCIL APPROVE:

- 1.1. the Budget Strategy for 2017/18 subject to the following amendments:-
 - 1.1.1. the proposal in respect of grants to the voluntary sector be phased over a longer period of time and that £135k of the proposed reduction be reversed and a reduction of £35k per annum be phased over the future years commencing in 2017/18.
 - 1.1.2. the proposal to transfer or close St Clears Leisure Centre be reconsidered resulting in the withdrawal of the 3 year savings of £96k, of which £16k was in respect of the 2017/18 financial year.
 - 1.1.3. the proposed savings for the Youth Service in respect of The Quay, Centre, Carmarthen be halved thereby allowing a further £10k to support the Youth service.
 - 1.1.4. An additional £1.76m be added to the Delegated Schools Budget, thereby bringing it back to a cash neutral position.
- 1.2. That the Band D council Tax for 2017/18 be set at £1,145.61 (an increase of 2.50% for 2017-2018).
- 1.3. That the provisional medium term financial plan (inclusive of the amendments noted above) be approved as a basis for future years planning

Reasons:

To enable the Authority to set its Revenue Budget for the Council Fund and resultant Council Tax for 2017-2018.

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted: YES

Exec Board Decision Required YES

Council Decision Required YES

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Cllr. David Jenkins

Directorate: Corporate Services	Designations:	Tel No. 01267 224886
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Report Author: Owen Bowen		

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
County Council
22nd February 2017

Revenue Budget Strategy 2017/18 to 2019/20

1.2. Executive Board on 6th February 2017 considered the Revenue budget strategy 2017/18 to 2019/20 report following extensive consultation on the original budget proposals. The report indicated a council tax increase of 2.5% for 2017-18.

1.3. The full report considered by the Executive Board is appended to this report as follows:

Appendix	Document
1	Report on Revenue Budget Strategy 2017/8 to 2019/20
1(1)	Table 1 – Council Fund Summary
1 (ai and aii)	Consultation and Equality Impact Assessments
1 (b)	Cost reduction proposals
1 (c)	Recession, Demographic, Legislative or continuing pressures.

1.4. The Executive Board considered a number of amendments to the proposals detailed, following the consultation exercise, and proposed the following amendments to the report:

1.4.1. the proposal in respect of grants to the voluntary sector be phased over a longer period of time and that £135k of the proposed reduction be reversed and a reduction of £35k per annum be phased over the future years commencing in 2017/18.

1.4.2. the proposal to transfer or close St Clears Leisure Centre be reconsidered resulting in the withdrawal of the 3 year savings of £96k, of which £16k was in respect of the 2017/18 financial year.

1.4.3. the proposed savings for the Youth Service in respect of The Quay, Centre, Carmarthen be halved thereby allowing a further £10k to support the Youth service.

1.4.4. An additional £1.76m be added to the Delegated Schools Budget, thereby bringing it back to a cash neutral position.

1.5. That the Band D council Tax for 2017/18 be set at £1,145.61 (an increase of 2.50% for 2017-2018);

1.6. Based on the Executive Board recommendations to County Council the table below summarises the latest proposed position:

	2017-18 £'000	2018-19 £'000	2019-20 £'000
Original net budget	334,201	335,623	337,051
Deduct 'potential sum available'	-1,921		
Grants to voluntary Sector	135	-35	-35
St Clears Leisure Centre	16	31	49
Youth Service	10		
Schools Delegated Budget	1,760		
Other/validation movement		1	19
NET BUDGET	334,201	335,620	337,046
Band D Tax	1,145.61	1,192.78	1,239.04
Council Tax Increase	2.50%	4.12%	3.88%

Table 1 (Appendix 2, attached) also provides the latest position

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?

YES

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: Owen Bowen

Head of Financial Services

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
YES	NONE	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

1. Policy and Crime & Disorder

The budget has been prepared having regard for the Council's Corporate Strategy 2015-2020.

Equalities Impact Assessments have been undertaken on the budget proposals in order to consider and assess the potential impact with respect to protected characteristic groups and the Welsh language. All budget proposals considered to have an impact on front line services have undergone a period of public consultation. The Equalities Impact Assessments will be further developed following consideration of possible mitigation measures.

2. Finance

Council Fund

Final financial implications will be dependent upon the budget approved by County Council, however the implications on the latest proposals are as follows:

Proposed Net County Council Budget of £334,201k

Proposed Council Tax increase of 2.5% for 2017-2018 - Band D tax of £1145.61

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: Owen Bowen

Head of Financial Services

1. Scrutiny Committee – Not applicable

2. Local Member(s) – Not applicable

3. Community / Town Council – Not applicable

4. Relevant Partners – Consultation with relevant partners undertaken and results contained within the report.

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations – Consultation undertaken and results contained within the report.

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information

List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
2017/18 3 year Revenue Budget		Corporate Services Department, County Hall, Carmarthen.
WG Provisional & Final Settlement		Corporate Services Department, County Hall, Carmarthen.