

**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> February 2016**

**Revenue Budget Strategy**  
**2016/17 to 2018/19**

**Recommendations / key decisions required:**

**THAT COUNTY COUNCIL APPROVE:**

- 1.1. the Budget Strategy for 2016/17 subject to the following amendments:-
  - 1.1.1. the proposed reduction in the Flood Defence, Land Drainage and Coastal Protection budget be withdrawn for each of the three financial years, total value of £118k
  - 1.1.2. the proposed reduction in the Highways Infrastructure maintenance budget be withdrawn from the 2016-2017 financial year, total value £512k
  - 1.1.3. the proposed reduction in the Cleansing Services and Environmental Enforcement budget be withdrawn for each of the three financial years, total value £252k
  - 1.1.4. the proposal for the introduction of a charge for Home to College Transport be deferred until the 2018-2019 financial year.
  - 1.1.5. the proposal to increase the cost of Meals on Wheels by £1.00 from £3.70 to £4.70 be phased over three years, reducing the saving in year 1 by £38k.
  - 1.1.6. the proposed reduction in Short Breaks/Respite for Disabled Children and Young People be withdrawn altogether, taking away a cut of £50k
  - 1.1.7. That additional investment be made into the following two specific service areas:
    - 1.1.7.1. Youth Services £50,000 to bolster professional capacity and strengthen expertise in safeguarding vulnerable young people,
    - 1.1.7.2. Highways Infrastructure: £200,000 to be utilised for prudential borrowing to fund £2.4m of capital expenditure on the highways and supporting infrastructure network in the areas of greatest need.
- 1.2. That the Band D council Tax for 2015/16 be set at £1,117.67 (an increase of 3.85% for 2016-2017);
- 1.3. that the Director of Corporate Services will advise and recommend to County Council on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2016 of any impact and consequential action required from the Final Settlement which is due to be published by Welsh Government on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2016, and debated on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2016.
- 1.4. to consolidate the nationally agreed 1% pay award for JNC staff with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 and approve a 1% pay award for all other staff with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 which would be consolidated by, but not in addition to, any national pay award agreed in 2016

**Reasons:**

To enable the Authority to set its Revenue Budget for the Council Fund and resultant Council Tax for 2016-2017.

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

Name of Head of Service:  
Owen Bowen

Report Author:  
Owen Bowen

Designations:

Interim Head of Financial Services

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**  
**County Council**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> February 2016**

**Revenue Budget Strategy 2016/17 to 2018/19**

1.1. Executive Board on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2016 considered the Revenue budget strategy 2016/17 to 2018/19 report following extensive consultation on the original budget proposals. The report indicated a council tax increase of 5.00% for 2016-17.

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

Appendix	Document
1	Report on Revenue Budget Strategy 2016/7 to 2018/19
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.

1.3. 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 proposed reduction in the Flood Defence, Land Drainage and Coastal Protection budget be withdrawn for each of the three financial years, total value of £118k
- 1.4.2. the proposed reduction in the Highways Infrastructure maintenance budget be withdrawn from the 2016-2017 financial year, total value £512k
- 1.4.3. the proposed reduction in the Cleansing Services and Environmental Enforcement budget be withdrawn for each of the three financial years, total value £252k
- 1.4.4. the proposal for the introduction of a charge for Home to College Transport be deferred until the 2018-2019 financial year.
- 1.4.5. the proposal to increase the cost of Meals on Wheels by £1.00 from £3.70 to £4.70 be phased over three years, reducing the saving in year 1 by £38k.

- 1.4.6. the proposed reduction in Short Breaks/Respite for Disabled Children and Young People be withdrawn altogether, taking away a cut of £50k
- 1.4.7. That additional investment be made into the following two specific service areas:
- 1.4.7.1. Youth Services £50,000 to bolster professional capacity and strengthen expertise in safeguarding vulnerable young people,
- 1.4.7.2. Highways infrastructure: £200,000, to be utilised for prudential borrowing to fund £2.4m of capital expenditure on the highways and supporting infrastructure network in the areas of greatest need
- 1.4. That the Band D council Tax for 2016/17 be set at £1,117.67 (an increase of 3.85% for 2016-2017);
- 1.5. that the Director of Corporate Services will advise and recommend to County Council on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2016 of any impact and consequential action required from the Final Settlement which is due to be published by Welsh Government on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2016, and debated on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2016.
- 1.6. to consolidate the nationally agreed 1% pay award for JNC staff with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 and approve a 1% pay award for all other staff with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 which would be consolidated by, but not in addition to, any national pay award agreed in 2016
- 1.7. Based on the Executive Board recommendations to County Council the table below summarises the latest proposed position:

	2016-17 £'000	2017-18 £'000	2018-19 £'000
<b>Original net budget</b>	<b>331,836</b>	<b>331,361</b>	<b>331,248</b>
Deduct 'to be allocated'	-1,850	-710	-1,595
Flood Defence, Land Drainage & Coastal Protection	50	42	26
Highways Infrastructure maintenance	512		
Cleansing Services & Environmental Enforcement	85	84	83
Home to College Transport	65	451	-65
Meals on Wheels	38	-19	-19
Short Breaks / Respite for Disabled Children & Young People	50		
Youth Service	50		
Highways Infrastructure	200		
Other/validation movement	-76		
Cumulative effect from previous years		-938	-1,149
<b>NET BUDGET</b>	<b>330,960</b>	<b>330,271</b>	<b>328,529</b>
<b>Band D Tax</b>	<b>1,117.67</b>	<b>1,171.19</b>	<b>1,207.92</b>
<b>Council Tax Increase</b>	<b>3.85%</b>	<b>4.79%</b>	<b>3.14%</b>

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

Interim Head of Financial Services

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

## 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 dependant upon the budget recommended by Executive Board to County Council, however the implications on the latest proposals are as follows:

- Proposed Net County Council Budget of £330,960k
- Proposed Council Tax increase of 3.85% for 2016-17 - Band D tax of £1,117.67

# CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: Owen Bowen

Interim 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
2016/17 3 year Revenue Budget		Corporate Services Department, County Hall, Carmarthen.
WG Provisional & Final Settlement		Corporate Services Department, County Hall, Carmarthen.