

BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY 7 MARCH 2013.

D1 OVERVIEW & REVENUE BUDGET **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 12.1 The base budget summarised by Service Delivery Unit in Appendix 9a**
- 12.2 To consider the feedback from consultation summarised in Appendix 5 and from scrutiny in Appendix 6**
- 12.3 An increase of 1.9% in council tax levels in 2013/14 (32 pence per week for the average property in the Borough) and a strategy of increasing council tax by 1.9% in the following two years in order to maintain financial stability and to help protect the delivery of front-line services.**
- 12.4 The creation of a £1.3m contingency fund to offset pressures in the safeguarding budget, and potentially the adult services budget following the transfer of young people to semi-independent living. This contingency to be held centrally and only allocated after consideration by Cabinet.**
- 12.5 The 2013/14 net savings package of £8.611 detailed in Appendix 3 and the savings proposals set out in the appendix for future years.**
- 12.6 The transfer of £1.219m to the severance fund as detailed in the report.**
- 12.7 The earmarking of £2.5m underspends in 2012/13 as a one-off budget contingency for 2013/14 as detailed in the financial monitoring report also on this agenda. This amount may be increased further should the Council underspend at the end of 2012/13 as currently projected.**
- 12.8 The Education budget position set out in section 18 of this report**

- 12.9 The statement of the Chief Finance Officer in section 11 (supported by Appendix 14 outlining the robustness of the Budget Estimates and the Adequacy of Reserves.)**
- 12.10 The policy framework for Reserves and Balances outlined in Appendix 10**
- 12.11 The revenue implications of the medium term capital programme for the period 2012/13 - 2015/16 set out in the Capital Programme report also on this agenda.**
- 12.12 The Council's Pay Policy included as appendix 11 of this report.**
- 12.13 Subject to the savings proposals being accepted that the updated Care & Support Community Care Policy & Procedure Document included as Appendix 12b (amended to reflect the savings) be approved.**
- 12.14 The Impact Assessments contained in Appendices 4a to 4d.**
- 12.15 The Safeguarding and Early Help Cost Improvement Plan contained in Appendix 2**
- 12.16 The Care & Support savings proposals and Public Health budget proposals contained in Appendices 12a, 13a and 13b.**
- 12.17 Telford & Wrekin's Local Council Tax Support (LCTS) scheme was approved by Council on the 22nd November 2012 and proposed that the funding gap would be met through a combination of changes to council tax exemptions and discounts and by applying a percentage global reduction in support given to less-vulnerable claimants. The global Local Council Tax Support scheme reduction now needs to be confirmed at 21% in line with the provisional agreement at full Council in November 2012.**

- 12.18 A one-off sum of £0.065m should be earmarked to award discretionary discounts in cases of extreme financial hardship arising from the introduction of the LCTS scheme.**
- 12.19 The deferment of auto-enrolment in the local government pension scheme for existing employees until 30th September 2016.**
- 12.20 That authority to approve any expenditure to be funded from the £1m Capital “Commercial and Business Fund” and the £0.15m “Destination Telford” revenue budget be delegated to the Managing Director after consultation with the Leader and the Cabinet Member for Resources and Service Delivery.**
- 12.21 In recognition of our valued relationship with Town and Parish Councils and in line with our cooperative working principles the full amount of LCTS grant attributable to Town and Parish Councils is passed on to them, reflecting the incidence of LCTS scheme claimants. In future years, the quantum of the grant to be devolved will be changed in line with the year on year percentage change in the Council’s Revenue Support Grant and the allocation between Town & Parish Councils will be updated annually to reflect changes in the incidence of LCTS scheme claimants.**

D2 CAPITAL PROGRAMME RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to approve the report and associated capital estimates and variations for 2012/13 and 2013/14 – 2015/16, which incorporates the Capital Strategy, the Capital Programme (Annex I), the Planned Building Maintenance Programme (Annex II), and Asset Management Plan (Annex III) and the three year Highways and Transport capital investment programme (Annex IV).

D3 TREASURY STRATEGY RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to note the treasury management activities for the first half year, note the Treasury Management Policy Statement (Appendix A) and approve the Treasury Strategy, including the Annual Investment Strategy for 2013/14 together with the associated treasury Prudential Indicators and the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement.

D4 PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS

Members are asked to approve the prudential indicators proposed in this report as part of setting the budget for 2013/14.

D5 COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION

Members are asked to approve the formal resolutions to determine the levels of Council Tax for 2013/14 as detailed in the report.