

COUNCIL 26 FEBRUARY 2014

MAIN DEBATE – 2014/2015 COUNCIL TAX AND BUDGET AND CAPITAL FORWARD PLAN AND 5 YEAR CAPITAL STRATEGY (Items 5A and 5B)

Recommendations to be moved by Councillor Sharon Taylor
Seconded by Councillor Mrs Joan Lloyd

2014/2015 COUNCIL TAX AND BUDGET (Report 5A)

1. That the Budget summarised at Appendix A to report, be the Council's General Fund Budget for 2013/14 and 2014/15 with the following amendments:
 - a. No increase in the Council Tax for 2014/2015 funded by a reduction in General Fund net expenditure of £56,000 for the freeze grant and a reduction in the contribution to balances in 2014/15 of £32,866.
 - b. That funding for Community Centres and Douglas Drive Day Centre be set at £93,970 (an increase in the General Fund budget as shown at Appendix A of £24,830 for one year and a corresponding reduction in the contribution to balances). An in-year Review of Community Centres to take place during 2014 and Douglas Drive Day Centre to produce a business plan showing a move to self-sustaining funding.
 - c. Local Community Budgets be set at £2,500 per Member and the Youth Mayor's Community Budget at £3,300 for 2014/2015 (an increase in the General Fund Budget as shown in Appendix A of £20,800 for one year with a corresponding reduction in the contribution to balances. The system for administering and awarding LCB's will be revised for the coming year.

- 2 That the following be approved:
 - a. the revised working revenue estimates for the year 2013/14 amounting to £10,547,490 and the revenue estimates for 2014/15 amounting to £9,705,670;
 - b. the contribution from balances totalling £278,863 in 2013/14;
 - c. the contribution to balances totalling £71,100 in 2014/15.

- 3 That it be noted that at its meeting on 21 January 2014 the Executive calculated the amount of 24,822.9 Band D equivalent properties as its council tax base for the year 2014/15 in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 made under Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended by Section 74 of the Localism Act 2011.

- 4 That the following amounts be calculated by the Council for the year 2014/15 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended by Section 74 of the Localism Act 2011:

- a. £83,787,120 Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2)(a) to (f) of the Act, less the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3)(a) to (d)
- b. £79,107,507 Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3)(a) to (d) of the Act.
- c. £4,679,613 Being the amount by which the aggregate at 3a above exceeds the aggregate at 3b above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year.
- d. £188.52 Being the amount at 3c divided by the amount at 2 above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B (1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year
- e. Valuation Bands
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| A | £ 125.68 |
| B | £ 146.63 |
| C | £ 167.57 |
| D | £ 188.52 |
| E | £ 230.41 |
| F | £ 272.31 |
| G | £ 314.20 |
| H | £ 377.04 |

Being the amounts given by multiplying the amount at 3d. above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

5. a. That it be noted that for the year 2014/15 Hertfordshire County Council have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of the dwellings shown below:

Valuation Bands

A	£ 745.89
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B	£ 870.20
C	£ 994.52
D	£ 1,118.83
E	£ 1,367.46
F	£ 1,616.09
G	£ 1,864.72
H	£ 2,237.66

- b. That it be noted that for the year 2014/15 Hertfordshire Police Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and amended by Section 27 of the Police and Magistrates' Court Act 1994, for each of the categories of the dwellings shown below:

Valuation Bands

A	£ 98.55
B	£ 114.97
C	£ 131.40
D	£ 147.82
E	£ 180.67
F	£ 213.52
G	£ 246.37
H	£ 295.64

6. That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3e. and 4a. and b. above, the Council in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts for council tax for the year 2014/15 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Valuation Bands

A	£ 970.12
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B	£1,131.80
C	£1,293.49
D	£1,455.17
E	£1,778.54
F	£2,101.92
G	£2,425.29
H	£2,910.34

7. To determine in accordance with Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992 that the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2013/14 is not excessive in accordance with principles approved by the Secretary of State under Section 52ZC having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3e.
8. That approval be given to a General Fund Revenue Account Contingency Sum in the Budget and Policy Framework for 2014/15 of £400,000.
9. That the advice of the Strategic Director (Resources) on the robustness of the draft budget and the adequacy of reserves (Appendix C) be noted.
10. That the Fees and Charges increases (Appendix F) be noted.
11. That the contribution from the Collection Fund (Council Tax) for 2014/15 of £124,616 be noted.
12. That the cost falling on the General Fund below the safety net calculation (Non Domestic Rates) for 2013/14 of £152,039 and the levy payment for 2014/15 of £184,339 falling due in 2014/15 be noted.
13. That the transfer of £172,000 to an earmarked reserve to cover the General Fund against loss of Business Rate income be approved.
14. That it be noted that the General Fund Medium Term Financial Strategy remains largely unchanged from that reported to the meeting of the Executive held on 21 January 2014 and continues to meet the financial objectives set by the Chief Finance Officer.

CAPITAL FORWARD PLAN AND 5 YEAR CAPITAL STRATEGY (Report 5B)

1. That the revised 2013/14 and the final 2014/15 General Fund Capital programme, as detailed in Appendix A and Appendix B of the report be approved,
2. That the revised 2013/14 and the final 2014/15 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Programme as detailed in Appendix A and Appendix B of the report be approved,.

- 3 That only General Fund essential works will be undertaken in 2014/15 until such time that the programme is fully funded.
- 4 That the updated forecast of resources as summarised in Appendix A of the report be approved.
- 5 That it be noted that the Leader's Services Priority Group (LSPG) is to be reconvened to review and challenge the General Fund Capital Strategy and 15 Year Investment Plan.