



Policy and Resources Committee - 22 February 2010

Budget 2010/11

Summary

The report proposes the final revenue budget to Council.

Attachment(s)

None

1. Introduction

- 1.1 At the meeting on 18 January 2010 the Committee approved the Revenue Budget for 2010/11 subject to any further revenue savings that may be agreed at the February meeting.
- 1.2 This Committee is responsible for proposing the budget requirement to the full Council prior to setting the Council Tax on 1 March 2010.

2. Changes to the Revenue Budget

- 2.1 Following the decision of the Chief Executive to implement a management restructure it is proposed to include within the budget a potential saving of £100,000 next year to reflect the estimated net savings from the review.
- 2.2 The Personnel Sub-Committee and the Chief Executive are currently consulting staff and Unions on several changes to terms and conditions of employment. It would be prudent to make an allowance for savings within the budget to reflect the likely changes. It is proposed to reduce the budget by a further £200,000 next year.
- 2.3 The budget approved at the last meeting includes a £40,000 saving from a "payment holiday" and refund of contributions paid towards the Local Area Agreement (LAA) administration costs. The Council has previously contributed £10,000 p.a. but it was agreed at the outset these contributions would be reimbursed from any Reward Grant received from Government for achieving LAA targets. However, the Council has been requested to support the Northamptonshire Sunflower Centres, who provide support for high risk domestic abuse cases, in 2010/11 and it was intended that the savings from the receipt of the Reward Grant would be used to support the Sunflower Centres in 2010/11. Unfortunately, no provision was made for our contribution in the approved budget. It is therefore proposed to increase the budget by £17,133 to reflect our contribution from the Reward Grant. It should be noted the contribution is for 2010/11 only and that our Chief Executive will lead a review of all the various LAA contributions, taking on board the availability of the Reward Grant, with a view to a "single" contribution, from partners, being implemented in 2011/12.
- 2.4 The budget was constructed on the basis that the Council would transfer the public toilets to the Town Councils and the budget was reduced to reflect the potential saving. However it is unlikely that the transfer will take place in 2010/11 and therefore it is felt prudent to reinstate £111,600 in next year's revenue budget. It should be noted that there is no policy decision to close the toilets if the Town Council do not wish to take on the facilities and a further report on this matter will be considered at the next meeting.
- 2.5 The net savings in the budget as a result of the above adjustments will result in a

reduction in the estimated use of our revenue reserves of £171,267.

2.6 In summary the following changes to the Budget are being proposed:-

Total Budget Requirement approved on 18 January		£ 10,233,897
Less savings from:		
Management Restructuring	£ 100,000	
Reduction in Salary Budget	200,000	(300,000)
		<u>9,933,897</u>
Add additional items:		
Contribution to Sunflower Centre	17,133	
Adjustment for Public Toilets	111,600	128,733
		<u>10,062,630</u>
Reduction in Use of Reserves		171,267
Revised Budget Requirement for the District		<u>£10,233,897</u>

3. Parish Council Precepts

3.1 The Council has received Parish Council precepts in the total of £2,065,382.

3.2 For billing purposes the Parish Council precepts form part of the Budget Requirement of this Council. It is proposed therefore that a Budget Requirement of £12,299,279 be proposed to Council on 1 March 2010.

4. Council Tax Levy

4.1 The adjustments recommended within the report have no impact on the level of Council Tax agreed by Policy and Resources Committee on 18 January 2010. The above Budget Requirement will result in an increase of 2.497% in the district's share of the Council Tax and this equates to £2.91 per annum for a Band D taxpayer. For many of our taxpayers the increase will be significantly less than this.

5. Recommendation

- (i) that subject, to the continuation of the work of the Budget Review Group, the 2010/11 revenue budget, as set out above, be approved;
- (ii) that a Budget Requirement of £12,299,279, including Parish Precepts be recommended to Council.

Implications:		
Corporate Outcomes or Other Policy/Priority/Strategy		
Good Quality of Life	<input type="checkbox"/>	Good Reputation <input type="checkbox"/>
Good Value for Money	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	High Quality Service Delivery <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effective Partnership Working	<input type="checkbox"/>	Strong Community Leadership <input type="checkbox"/>
Effective Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Knowledge of our Customers and Communities <input type="checkbox"/>
Employees and Members with the Right Knowledge, Skills and Behaviours		<input type="checkbox"/>
Other:		<input type="checkbox"/>
Decision(s) would be outside the budget or policy framework and require full Council approval		<input type="checkbox"/>
Financial	There are no financial implications at this stage	<input type="checkbox"/>
	There will be financial implications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	There is provision within existing budget	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Decisions may give rise to additional expenditure at a later date	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Decisions may have potential for income generation	<input type="checkbox"/>

Risk Management	An assessment has been carried out and there are no material risks <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Material risks exist and these are recorded at Risk Register Reference – 257 and 470 inherent risk score - primary <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> residual risk score - contingency <input type="checkbox"/>	
Staff	There are no additional staffing implications <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Additional staff will be required – see paragraph <input type="checkbox"/>	
Equalities and Human Rights	There will be no impact on equality (race, age, gender, disability, religion/belief, sexual orientation) or human rights implications <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	There will be an impact on equality (see categories above) or human rights implications – see paragraph <input type="checkbox"/>	
Legal	Power: Local Government Acts 1972, 2000 & 2003 and Local Government Finance Acts	
	Other considerations:	
Background Papers: Finance Sub-Committee reports and working papers		
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Date: 17 February 2010		
CFO	MO	CX

(Committee Report Normal Rev. 21)