

The Proposal in the Budget Report under Agenda item 7 be referred back to the Cabinet in order to recommend a budget with no proposed increase in the rate of Council Tax.

Proposed by Councillor Cowan

Seconded by Councillor McKerlich

Statutory Officers Commentary on the Conservative Budget Proposals 2016/17

Financial Implications

There are no specific financial implications arising from this proposal.

In the event of the 2016/17 budget being referred back to Cabinet with the recommendation of no increase in the rate of Council Tax consideration would need to be given to the achievability of the proposals as well as the impact if any, on the financial resilience of the Council.

In order to balance the budget with no increase in the rate of Council Tax, achievable budget reductions of £4.293 million would need to be identified.

In the event of the budget not being approved at the 25 February Council meeting then consideration will need to be given to the impact on the timing of the billing of Council Tax. Any delay will have an impact on the cash flow of the Council's finances and arrangements will need to be put in place in order to manage any detrimental loss arising.

Legal Implications

The legal implications set out in the Budget Report apply unless otherwise set out below.

The budget and the Council tax must be set before 11th March (i.e. no later than 10th March), although it is not invalid merely because it is set on or after that date. Any decision to refer the Budget proposals back will need to identify a date when the council will reconvene to calculate its Budget and set the Council Tax .

When the Council is considering its budget, it must have regard to the Section 151 Officer's report on the robustness of the estimates and the adequacy of the reserves in the budget proposals (section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003). This ensures that Members make their decision on the basis of authoritative advice. Members should provide clear reasons if they disagree with the professional advice of the Section 151 Officer.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (a) Recommend to Council that the 2016/17 budget proposal be referred back to Cabinet in order to construct a budget proposal which would require no increase in the rate of Council Tax**
- (b) Propose a specially convened meeting of Council within the statutory timescale in order for Council to receive the revised budget proposal**

CONSERVATIVE GROUP