

Record of Decisions

Revenue Budget Proposal 2013/2014

Decision Taker

Mayor on 06 February 2013

Decision

- (i) That it be recommended to Council:
 - (a) the revenue budget for 2013/14 (paragraph 6.3 of the submitted report) and the associated fees and charges (appendix 1 of the submitted report), be approved;
 - (b) the final notified Dedicated Schools Grant be used in accordance with the nationally laid down Schools Financial Regulations (paragraph 6.1 (a) of the submitted report) and that the Chief Finance Officer be authorised to make amendments as required when the final figures are confirmed;
 - (c) that the Members' Allowances Scheme will be implemented in 2013/2014 in accordance with the decision of the Council at its meeting on 1 February 2013 subject to the annual local government pay percentage increase (paragraph 6.1 (b) of the submitted report); and that Members acknowledge that they are not to be auto enrolled to the Local Government Pension Scheme for the reasons given in the report;
 - (d) the Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the Mayor and Executive Lead Member for Finance be authorised to approve expenditure from the Comprehensive Spending Review reserve and Budget Pressures reserve;
 - (e) in accordance with the requirement of the Local Government Act 2003, to consider and note the advice given by the Chief Finance Officer with respect to the robustness of the budget estimates and the adequacy of the Council's reserves (sections 8 and 9 of the submitted report);
 - (f) the Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the Mayor and Executive Lead Member for Finance be authorised to make adjustments to and introduce new fees and charges within the budget during 2013/14 if it is in the best interest for the Council;
 - (g) the Chief Finance Officer, in consultation with the Mayor, Executive Lead Member for Finance and appropriate officers, be authorised to determine the allocation and expenditure of any new grant monies, unallocated grants or other additional income that may be received during the year 2013/14;
 - (h) the Chief Finance Officer be authorised to make adjustments to the budgets for any technical changes;
 - (i) the Chief Finance Officer prepare the appropriate documentation for the Council to approve the Council Tax setting at the meeting on 28 February 2013 and all

other returns to be made by the appropriate date;

- (j) impact assessments as shown in appendix 2 of the submitted report are noted;
 - (k) that Council note the Review of Reserves report and approve the transfer of the surplus on a number of individual reserves to the Comprehensive Spending Review Reserve (appendix 3 of the submitted report);
 - (l) that Council approve and endorse the Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan as set out in appendices 4 and 5 of the submitted report;
 - (m) that Council notes the latest position on the 4 year Capital Investment Plan as set out in Appendix 11 of the submitted report;
 - (n) that Council approve and endorse the Treasury Management Strategy and the recommendations in the submitted report as set out in appendix 6;
 - (o) that Council note the updated Medium Term Resource Plan as set out in appendix 7 of the submitted report;
 - (p) that Council note commissioning agreements from EDC, Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust and English Riviera Tourism Company as set out in appendix 8 of the submitted report;
 - (q) that the Council note that Torbay has joined a Devonwide Pool as part of the Business rates Retention scheme - the agreement and arrangements for the pool are shown in appendix 9 of the submitted report;
 - (r) that Council approve a premium of 50% on the full Council Tax charge to be applied to all properties that have been empty and unfurnished in excess of two years - see paragraph 5.21 to 5.22 of the submitted report.
 - (s) that Council note the completed NNDR1 form as set out in appendix 10 of the submitted report, which forms part of the Council's overall income to fund the 2013/14 budget – paragraph 10.10 to 10.12 of the submitted report.
- (ii) Due to the size of the reductions required to deliver a balanced budget and their impact, Council accept the risks in preparing this budget. These risks have been identified in detail in this report and associated budget proposals prepared by officers for their respective Business Units.

Reason for the Decision

The Council has a statutory obligation to set a budget each year. The approval of the 2013/14 budget will assist the Council in delivering its key objectives.

For the Mayor to respond to the recommendations of the Priorities and Resources Panel.

Implementation

The recommendations of the Mayor will be considered at the adjourned meeting of Council to be held on 13 February 2013.

Information

Further to the Mayor's Provisional Spending Targets issued on 29 November 2012 for consultation, the submitted report outlined the basis of the Mayor's budget proposals for 2013/14, provided a summary of the approach for developing the proposals and the outcome of the local government finance settlement and its effect on the overall financial position of the Council. The report also included the Chief Finance Officer's statement on the robustness of the budget estimates.

The report had been compiled, taking into account the findings and conclusions reached by the Priorities and Resources Review Panel who had considered the views expressed by members of the public and a range of stakeholder representatives as part of the budget consultation process.

Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

Alternative options were set out in the report and not discussed at the meeting.

Is this a Key Decision?

Yes – Reference Number: I011136

Does the call-in procedure apply?

No

Declarations of interest (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

None

Published

February 2013

Signed: _____
Mayor of Torbay

Date: _____