

TO: COUNCIL
DATE: 29 February 2012

FINANCIAL PLANS AND REVENUE BUDGETS 2012/13
(Borough Treasurer)

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 At its meeting on 21 February 2012, the Executive considered the 2012/13 proposals for the revenue and capital budgets. The recommendations on these proposals are submitted to the Council by the Executive and are included in section 2 covering all planned spending, service developments and expenditure reductions for next year.
- 1.2 A separate document presents an overview of the Council's spending plans for 2012/13 and detailed budgets for the General Fund and capital programme. The document reflects the Executive's recommendations and includes summaries of the reports considered by it.
- 1.3 In order to set a legal budget the full Council must make a formal Council Tax resolution. The Localism Act 2011 has made a number of changes to the Local Government Finance Act 1992, and now requires the Council to calculate a council tax requirement for the year rather than a budget requirement. The appropriate resolution to give effect to the proposals contained in the separate budget report is included in section 3.
- 1.4 The Council Tax resolution also refers to the Council's capital programme. The revenue budget proposals allow for a council funded capital programme of £9.760m recommended by the Executive.
- 1.5 The resolution in Section 3 also includes reference to the Council Tax for the Thames Valley Police Authority, the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority and all Parish Councils as the precepts of these bodies must be included in this Council's formal Council Tax resolution.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS SUBMITTED BY THE EXECUTIVE

2.1 Capital Programme 2012/13 - 2014/15

RECOMMENDED that:

- i) General fund capital funding of £9.760m for 2012/13 in respect of new schemes listed on pages 283 to 287 be recommended to the Council;
- ii) The inclusion of an additional budget of £1m for 'Invest to Save' schemes be recommended to the Council;
- iii) Those schemes that attract external grant funding be recommended to the Council for inclusion within the 2012/13 capital programme, at the level of funding received;
- iv) The release of £2.054m from S106 monies be recommended to the Council to fund capital projects outlined in paragraph 5.23 of the 21 February 2012 Executive report and included on pages 283 to 287;
- v) Those schemes which require external funding can only proceed once the Council is certain of receiving the grant.

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- vi) That the indicative programme for 2013/14 and 2014/15 be reviewed in the light of resources available and spending priorities in December 2012.

2.2 Revenue Budget 2012/13

RECOMMENDED that:

- i) No changes to the budget proposals were required as a result of the budget consultation;
- ii) Fees and charges as set out in Annexe G be approved (pages 75 to 162);
- iii) A provision for inflation of £1.521m be approved;
- iv) The commitment budget as set out in Annexe A be approved (page 19);
- v) The changes to the budget proposals identified in sections 3.5 (pages 6 to 8) and 5.2 (page 15) of the summary report for Council be agreed;
- vi) The Schools Budget be set at the level set out in section 4.1 (page 8) of the summary report for Council, subject to any amendments agreed by the Executive Member for Education;
- vii) A contingency of £1.000m be included, use of which is authorised by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Borough Treasurer in accordance with the delegations included in the Council's constitution;
- viii) Subject to the above recommendations the revised draft budget proposals be agreed;
- ix) A contribution of £0.394m be made from revenue balances to support revenue expenditure;
- x) Total net expenditure of £71.936m, be approved;
- xi) The Council's Council Tax requirement, excluding Parish Council precepts, be set at £48.812m;
- xii) The Council Tax for the Council's services for each Valuation Band be set as follows:

Band	Tax Level Relative to Band D	£
A	6/9	729.30
B	7/9	850.85
C	8/9	972.40
D	9/9	1093.95
E	11/9	1337.05
F	13/9	1580.15
G	15/9	1823.25
H	18/9	2187.90

At the meeting on 21 February 2012 the Executive recommended the 2012/13 Treasury Management Strategy Statement and noted that strategy together with the Prudential Indicators and the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement were matters which the Council needed to approve.

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- xiii) The Council approves the following indicators, limits, strategies and policies included in Annexe E (pages 50 to 68):
- The Prudential Indicators and Limits for 2012/13 to 2014/15 contained within Annexe E(i);
 - The Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy contained within Annexe E(ii);
 - The Treasury Management Strategy Statement, and the Treasury Prudential Indicators contained in Annexe E(iii);
 - The Authorised Limit Prudential Indicator in Annexe E(iii);
 - The Investment Strategy 2012/13 to 2014/15 and Treasury Management Limits on Activity contained in Annexe E(iv);
- xiv) The virement requests relating to the 2011/12 budget set out in Annexe A to this report be approved.
- xv) The formal council tax resolution contained in section 3 be approved.

3 COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION

- 3.1 That the recommendations of the Executive outlined in section 2 be agreed.
- 3.2 That it be noted that the amounts calculated for the year 2012/13 in accordance with Section 67 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 are :-

(a) **44,620 TAX BASE FOR THE WHOLE COUNCIL AREA**

being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as amended, as its council tax base for the year

(b) **TAX BASE FOR PART OF THE COUNCIL'S AREA**

EACH PARISH AREA

Binfield	3,555
Bracknell	19,350
Crowthorne	2,615
Sandhurst	7,990
Warfield	4,510
Winkfield	6,600

being the amounts calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 6 of the Regulations, as amended, as the amounts of its council tax base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate

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3.3 That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2012/13 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992 as amended (the Act):-

- (a) £257,842,769 **TOTAL EXPENDITURE INCLUDING GENERAL FUND, PARISH PRECEPTS AND THE COUNCIL'S SHARE OF ANY DEFICIT ON THE COLLECTION FUND**

being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act

- (b) £206,188,461 **TOTAL INCOME INCLUDING GOVERNMENT SUPPORT AND THE COUNCIL'S SHARE OF ANY SURPLUS ON THE COLLECTION FUND**

being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act

- (c) £51,654,308 **BOROUGH AND PARISH PRECEPTS NET EXPENDITURE TO BE FINANCED FROM COUNCIL TAX**

being the amount by which the aggregate at 3.3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3.3(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its council tax requirement for the year

- (d) £ 1,157.65 **AVERAGE BAND "D" COUNCIL TAX FOR WHOLE BOROUGH**

being the amount at 3.3(c) above, divided by the amount at 3.2(a) 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 (including Parish precepts)

- (e) £2,842,259 **PARISH PRECEPTS**

being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act

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(f) £1,093.95 **BOROUGH COUNCIL TAX FOR BAND "D" PROPERTIES**

being the amount at 3.3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3.3(e) above by the amount at 3.2(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year if there were an area of the Borough to which no special item relates

(g) Part of the Council's area **BOROUGH AND PARISH COUNCIL TAX FOR EACH PARISH FOR BAND "D"**

Binfield	£1,131.36
Bracknell	£1,168.10
Crowthorne	£1,163.95
Sandhurst	£1,164.42
Warfield	£1,123.35
Winkfield	£1,153.90

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 3.3(f) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at 3.2(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate

(h) Part of the Council's area **BOROUGH AND PARISH COUNCIL TAX IN EACH PARISH FOR EACH VALUATION BAND**

Parish	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Binfield	754.24	879.95	1,005.65	1,131.36	1,382.77	1,634.19	1,885.60	2,262.72
Bracknell	778.73	908.52	1,038.31	1,168.10	1,427.68	1,687.26	1,946.83	2,336.20
Crowthorne	775.97	905.29	1,034.62	1,163.95	1,422.61	1,681.26	1,939.92	2,327.90
Sandhurst	776.28	905.66	1,035.04	1,164.42	1,423.18	1,681.94	1,940.70	2,328.84
Warfield	748.90	873.72	998.53	1,123.35	1,372.98	1,622.62	1,872.25	2,246.70
Winkfield	769.27	897.48	1,025.69	1,153.90	1,410.32	1,666.74	1,923.17	2,307.80

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 3.3(g) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the

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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 band 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

- 3.4 That it be noted that for the year 2012/13 the Thames Valley Police Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Act, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Thames Valley Police Authority	102.87	120.01	137.16	154.30	188.59	222.88	257.17	308.60

- 3.5 That it be noted that for the year 2012/13 the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Act, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Royal Berkshire Fire Authority	37.11	43.29	49.48	55.66	68.03	80.40	92.77	111.32

- 3.6 That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3.3(h), 3.4 and 3.5 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Act, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of council tax for the year 2012/13 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

Parish	TOTAL COUNCIL TAX FOR EACH VALUATION BAND							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Binfield	894.22	1,043.25	1,192.29	1,341.32	1,639.39	1,937.47	2,235.54	2,682.64
Bracknell	918.71	1,071.82	1,224.95	1,378.06	1,684.30	1,990.54	2,296.77	2,756.12
Crowthorne	915.95	1,068.59	1,221.26	1,373.91	1,679.23	1,984.54	2,289.86	2,747.82
Sandhurst	916.26	1,068.96	1,221.68	1,374.38	1,679.80	1,985.22	2,290.64	2,748.76
Warfield	888.88	1,037.02	1,185.17	1,333.31	1,629.60	1,925.90	2,222.19	2,666.62
Winkfield	909.25	1,060.78	1,212.33	1,363.86	1,666.94	1,970.02	2,273.11	2,727.72

4 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To enable the Council to make a formal Council Tax resolution by setting a revenue budget, Council Tax level and capital budget for 2012/13.

5 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 Background information relating to the options considered is included in the supporting information.

6 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 6.1 The attached 'Financial Plans and Budget Supporting Information 2012/13' presents an overview of the Council's spending plans for 2012/13 and detailed budgets for the General Fund and capital programme. The document reflects the Executive's recommendations and includes summaries of the reports considered by it.

7 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 7.1 In carrying out all of its functions, including the setting of the Council Tax, the Council must comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty set out in the Equality Act 2010. That duty requires the Council to have due regard to the need to:-
- a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by the Act;
 - b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a "relevant protected characteristic" and persons who do not share it;
 - c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

"Relevant protected characteristics" are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation. As to (b) above due regard has to be had in particular to the need to:-

- remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

The Equality Impact Assessments included in the separate document have been prepared in order to assist the Council to meet the Equality Duty in considering the budget.

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- 7.2 The financial implications of this report are included in the supporting information.

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 7.3 The Council's budget proposals impact on a wide range of services. A detailed consultation was undertaken on the draft budget proposals published in December to provide individuals and groups the opportunity to provide comments.
- 7.4 Equality impact assessments are included in the supporting information.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 7.5 The supporting information sets out the key risks facing the Council's budget and the arrangements in place to manage these risks, including maintaining an appropriate level of reserves and contingency.

8 CONSULTATION

- 8.1 Details of the consultation process and responses received are included in the supporting information.

Background Papers

Executive 21 February 2012

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