

**TO: COUNCIL**  
**DATE: 25 February 2015**

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**FINANCIAL PLANS AND REVENUE BUDGETS 2015/16**  
**Borough Treasurer**

**1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 At its meeting on 10 February 2015, the Executive considered the 2015/16 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 2015/16 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 £16.798m recommended by the Executive.
- 1.5 The resolution in Section 3 also includes reference to the Council Tax for the Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley, 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 2015/16 - 2017/18**

**RECOMMENDED that:**

- i) General Fund capital funding of £16.798m for 2015/16 in respect of those schemes listed on pages 176 to 180 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) The inclusion of £2.219m of expenditure to be funded from S106 as outlined in paragraph 5.25 of the 10 February 2015 Executive report and included on pages 176 to 180;
- iv) That those schemes that attract external grant funding be recommended to the Council for inclusion within the 2015/16 capital programme at the level of funding received;

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- v) Funding of £20k is brought forward from 2015/16 into 2014/15 for Superfast Broadband;
- vi) The Council approve as a supplementary capital approval funding in 2014/15 of £0.447m for Binfield Learning Village at Blue Mountain, as outlined in the Funding Model agreed by the Executive in October 2014.

### 2.2 Revenue Budget 2015/16

#### RECOMMENDED that:

- i) The budget proposals set out in Table 1 (page 4) of the summary report for Council, subject to the changes identified in sections 3.2 (page 4), 3.3 (pages 5 and 6), 3.7 (page 7), 3.8 (pages 7 to 8) and 7.2 (page 17) of the report, be agreed;
- ii) Fees and charges as set out in Annexe G be approved (pages 75 to 159);
- iii) A provision for inflation of £1.511m be approved;
- iv) The commitment budget as set out in Annexe A be approved (page 19);
- vi) The Schools Budget be funded at the level set out in section 4.1 (pages 8 to 10) of the summary report for Council, subject to any amendments agreed by the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Learning;
- vii) A contingency of £2.000m 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 £0.932m be made from revenue balances to support revenue expenditure;
- x) Total net expenditure (after use of balances) of £78.247m, be approved;
- xi) The Council's Council Tax requirement, excluding Parish Council precepts, be set at £46.706m;
- 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 10 February 2015 the Executive recommended the 2015/16 Treasury Management Strategy Statement and noted that strategy

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together with the Prudential Indicators and the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement were matters which the Council needed to approve.

- xiii) The Council approves the following indicators, limits, strategies and policies included in Annex E (pages 45 to 65):
  - The Prudential Indicators and Limits for 2015/16 to 2017/18 contained within Annex E(i);
  - The Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy contained within Annex E(ii);
  - The Treasury Management Strategy Statement, and the Treasury Prudential Indicators contained in Annex E(iii);
  - The Authorised Limit Prudential Indicator in Annex E(iii);
  - The Investment Strategy 2015/16 to 2017/18 and Treasury Management Limits on Activity contained in Annex E(iv);
  
- xiv) 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 sections 2.1 and 2.2 be agreed.

3.2 That it be noted that the amounts calculated for the year 2015/16 in accordance with Section 67 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 are :-

(a) **42,695 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	3,570
Bracknell	17,906
Crowthorne	2,581
Sandhurst	7,666
Warfield	4,436
Winkfield	6,536

*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*

3.3 That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2015/16 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992 as amended (the Act), noting that Bracknell Town Council's (BTC) precept is subject to confirmation by BTC on 24 February:-

(a) **£274,998,180 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*

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- (b) £225,510,497 **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) £49,487,684 **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) £1,159.10 **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) £2,781,489 **PARISH PRECEPTS**

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

- (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*

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

Binfield	£1,134.70
Bracknell	£1,169.59
Crowthorne	£1,164.62
Sandhurst	£1,164.42
Warfield	£1,125.42
Winkfield	£1,158.12

*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**

<b>Parish</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Binfield	756.47	882.54	1,008.62	1,134.70	1,386.86	1,639.01	1,891.17	2,269.40
Bracknell	779.73	909.68	1,039.64	1,169.59	1,429.50	1,689.41	1,949.32	2,339.18
Crowthorne	776.41	905.82	1,035.22	1,164.62	1,423.42	1,682.23	1,941.03	2,329.24
Sandhurst	776.28	905.66	1,035.04	1,164.42	1,423.18	1,681.94	1,940.70	2,328.84
Warfield	750.28	875.33	1,000.37	1,125.42	1,375.51	1,625.61	1,875.70	2,250.84
Winkfield	772.08	900.76	1,029.44	1,158.12	1,415.48	1,672.84	1,930.20	2,316.24

*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 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*

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- 3.4 That it be noted that for the year 2015/16 the Police and Crime Panel have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council regarding the Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley, in accordance with Section 40 of the Act, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley	109.13	127.32	145.51	163.70	200.08	236.46	272.83	327.40

- 3.5 That it be noted that for the year 2015/16 the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, subject to confirmation by the Fire Authority on 23 February, in accordance with Section 40 of the Act, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Royal Berkshire Fire Authority	40.44	47.18	53.92	60.66	74.14	87.62	101.10	121.32

- 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 2015/16 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

<b>Parish</b>	<b>TOTAL COUNCIL TAX FOR EACH VALUATION BAND</b>							
	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Binfield	906.04	1,057.04	1,208.05	1,359.06	1,661.08	1,963.09	2,265.10	2,718.12
Bracknell	929.30	1,084.18	1,239.07	1,393.95	1,703.72	2,013.49	2,323.25	2,787.90
Crowthorne	925.98	1,080.32	1,234.65	1,388.98	1,697.64	2,006.31	2,314.96	2,777.96
Sandhurst	925.85	1,080.16	1,234.47	1,388.78	1,697.40	2,006.02	2,314.63	2,777.56
Warfield	899.85	1,049.83	1,199.80	1,349.78	1,649.73	1,949.69	2,249.63	2,699.56
Winkfield	921.65	1,075.26	1,228.87	1,382.48	1,689.70	1,996.92	2,304.13	2,764.96

#### **4 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

**To enable the Council to make a formal Council Tax resolution by setting a revenue budget, Council Tax level and capital budget for 2015/16.**

#### **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 2015/16' presents an overview of the Council's spending plans for 2015/16 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 Nothing to add to the report.

##### Borough Treasurer

- 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 None of the budget proposals require specific equality impact assessments to be carried out.

##### 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.

Contact for further information



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