

**REPORT TO:** Council

**DATE:** 4 March 2015

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Operational Director – Finance

**SUBJECT:** Budget 2015/16

**PORTFOLIO:** Resources

**WARD(S):** Borough-wide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To recommend to Council the budget, capital programme and council tax for 2015/16.
- 1.2 When the report was considered by Executive Board on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2015, the Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner and the Cheshire Fire Authority had not set their precepts. These figures are now available and are included within the report.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That Council be recommended to adopt the resolution set out in Appendix A, which includes setting the budget at £101.452m, the Council Tax requirement of £38.649m (before Parish, Police and Fire precepts) and the Band D Council Tax for Halton of £1,204.01.**

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **Medium Term Financial Strategy**

- 3.1 The Executive Board approved the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) at its meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2014. In summary, funding gaps of around £19m in 2015/16, £13m in 2016/17 and £10m in 2017/18 were identified. The Strategy had the following objectives:
- Deliver a balanced and sustainable budget
  - Prioritise spending towards the Council's five priority areas
  - Avoid excessive Council Tax rises
  - Achieve significant cashable efficiency gains
  - Protect essential front line services
  - Deliver improved procurement

## **Budget Consultation**

- 3.2 The Council uses various consultation methods to listen to the views of the public and Members own experience through their Ward work is an important part of that process. The Council also undertakes Budget Presentations at its seven Area Forums giving local people the opportunity to feed their views into the process. The views offered by the Area Forums were reported to the Executive Board at its meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2015.
- 3.3 Individual consultations are taking place in respect of specific budget proposals and equality impact assessments will be completed where necessary.

## **Review of the 2014/15 Budget**

- 3.4 The Executive Board receives regular reports summarising spending in the current year against the budget. The latest report indicates that spending will be within budget for the year. It is anticipated that balances at 31st March 2015 will be around £8.6m, broadly as planned when the budget was set last year.

## **2015/16 Budget**

- 3.5 On 10<sup>th</sup> December 2014 Council approved initial budget savings for 2015/16 of £11.332m and further proposed savings are shown in Appendix B.
- 3.7 The proposed budget totals £101.452m. The departmental analysis of the budget is shown in Appendix C and the major reasons for change from the current budget are shown in Appendix D.
- 3.8 The proposed budget incorporates the grant figures announced in the Provisional Grant Settlement. It includes £440,000 for the New Homes Bonus grant, which is payable to local authorities based upon the net increase in the number of homes in their area. This grant is payable at this amount for 6 years.
- 3.9 It is considered prudent for the budget to include a general contingency of £1m. This should be sufficient to cover the potential for price changes, increases in demand led budgets, as well as a general contingency for uncertain and unknown items.
- 3.10 The Local Government Act 2003 places a requirement on the Chief Financial Officer to report on the robustness of the estimates included in the budget and the adequacy of the reserves for which the budget provides. In my view the budget setting process and the information provided should be sufficient to allow the Council to come to an informed view regarding the 2015/16 budget, capital programme and

council tax. Balances and reserves should provide sufficient resilience to meet the financial consequences of any unforeseen events.

### **Local Government Finance Settlement**

- 3.11 The Government announced on 3rd February 2015 the Final Local Government Finance Settlement (Settlement Funding Allocation) for 2015/16. From the provisional settlement announced in December 2014 there was an increase to the Revenue Support Grant element of £0.262m, which is to assist in dealing with pressures on local welfare provision via the Council's Discretionary Support Scheme.
- 3.12 From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 the Local Government funding regime changed significantly with the introduction of the Business Rates Retention Scheme. Under the Scheme 49% of any increase in business rates generated within the Borough above a baseline level, is retained. The Council also receives a Top-Up grant, as it previously received more funding than the business rates it collected and paid over to Government. In addition, the Council receives Revenue Support grant.
- 3.13 For 2015/16 Halton's Settlement Funding Allocation will be £61,030m. This is made up of £25.320m Baseline Grant Funding, £7.449m Top-Up grant and £28.261m Revenue Support Grant. In total the Settlement Funding Allocation has reduced by £10.89m or 15.1% from the 2014/15 adjusted level.
- 3.14 The Government have once again offered councils a Council Tax Freeze grant equivalent to a 1% increase in council tax. The grant will be paid for 2015/16 and thereafter will be included within baseline grant funding from 2016/17 onwards.
- 3.15 As far as the non domestic premises are concerned, the rate is fixed centrally by the Government. For 2015/16 the rate has been set at 49.3p in the pound, an increase of 2% and 48.0p in the pound for small businesses, also an increase of 2%.

### **Budget Outlook**

- 3.16 It is very difficult to forecast resources over the following two years, given the uncertainties caused by the current economic climate, the Government's continuing austerity measures and the national election in May 2015. Nevertheless, the Medium Term Financial Forecast has been updated and the latest forecast is shown in Appendix E.
- 3.17 The resultant funding gap over the next two years (2016-18) is forecast to be in the region of £31.8m. The approach to finding these savings will be the continuation of the budget strategy of:
- Progressing the Efficiency Programme.

- Reviewing the portfolio of land and assets, including the use of buildings, in accordance with the Accommodation Strategy.
  - Better procurement.
  - Reviewing terms and conditions of staff (subject to negotiation).
  - Offering staff voluntary early retirement and voluntary redundancy under the terms of the Staffing Protocol.
  - Reducing the cost of services either by reducing spend or increasing income.
  - Partnership working, collaboration and sharing of services with other councils and other organisations.
  - Stopping some lower priority services.
- 3.18 The budget strategy is predicated on the Government continuing to withdraw considerable amounts of grant from the Council. To help offset this loss, support will be given to our partners and the voluntary sector to lever-in monies into the Borough.

### **Halton's Council Tax**

- 3.19 The Government no longer operate council tax capping powers, but instead there is a requirement for councils to hold a local referendum if they propose to increase council tax by more than a percentage threshold prescribed by the Government.
- 3.20 The Government have confirmed the availability of a council tax freeze grant, as outlined in paragraph 3.14 above, and have set the council tax referendum threshold at 2%.
- 3.21 The tax base (Band D equivalent) for the Borough has been set by Council at 32,100.
- 3.22 The combined effect of the budget, Government grant support and the council tax base gives a Band D council tax for Halton of £1,204.01, an increase of 1.9% over the current year. This is equivalent to £23.15 per week.

### **Parish Precepts**

- 3.23 The Parish Councils have set their precepts for the year as shown below, with the resultant additional Council Tax for a Band D property in these areas being as follows:

	Precept	Precept Increase		Additional Council Tax	Basic Council Tax
	£	£	%	£	£
Hale	16,000	600	3.9	24.65	1,228.66
Daresbury	4,000	525	15.1	26.14	1,230.15
Moore	4,416	116	2.7	13.80	1,217.81
Preston Brook	8,500	500	6.3	26.23	1,230.24
Halebank	13,625	-195	-1.4	27.92	1,231.93
Sandymoor	15,566	-34	-0.2	16.42	1,220.43

### **Average Council Tax**

- 3.24 In addition, it is also necessary to calculate the average Council Tax for the area as a whole. This is the figure required by Government and used for comparative purposes. For a Band D property the figure is £1,205.94, an increase of £22.45 per annum.

### **Police Precept**

- 3.25 The Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner has set the precept on the Council at £5.015m which is £156.23 for a Band D property, an increase of £3.02 or 1.97%. The figures for each Band are shown in Recommendation 5 in Appendix A.

### **Fire Precept**

- 3.26 The Cheshire Fire Authority has set the precept on the Council at £2.262m which is £70.46 for a Band D property, an increase of £1.37 or 1.99%. The figures for each Band are shown in Recommendation 6 in Appendix A.

### **Total Council Tax**

- 3.27 Combining all these figures will give the Total Council Tax for 2015/16 and these are shown in Recommendation 7 in Appendix A. The total Band D Council Tax (before Parish precepts) is £1,430.70 an increase of £26.84 or 1.91%. The increase in Parish precepts in Hale is 1.93%, in Daresbury is 2.09%, in Moore is 1.91%, in Preston Brook is 1.96%, in Halebank is 1.87% and in Sandymoor is 1.89%.
- 3.28 It is expected that Halton's Total Council Tax will continue to be amongst the lowest in the North West. Given that nearly half of all properties in the Borough are in Band A, and also 85% of properties are in Bands A-C, most households will pay less than the "headline" figure. In addition, many households will receive reduced Council Tax bills through discounts, and these adjustments will be shown on their bills.

- 3.29 A complex set of resolutions, shown in Appendix A, needs to be agreed to ensure that the Budget and Council Tax level are set in a way which fully complies with legislation, incorporating changes required under the Localism Act 2012.

### Capital Programme

- 3.30 The following table brings together the existing capital programme spend and shows how the capital programme will be funded.

	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>2017/18</b>
	£000	£000	£000
<u>Spending</u>			
Scheme estimates	40,201	85,926	40,596
Slippage between years (after excluding MG costs)	+ 8,653	+ 8,040	+ 3,185
	- 8,040	- 3,185	- 1,619
	<u>40,814</u>	<u>90,781</u>	<u>42,162</u>
<u>Funding</u>			
Borrowing and Leasing	18,308	77,718	35,540
Grants and External Funds	15,544	8,595	3,771
Direct Revenue Finance	487	28	0
Invest to Save	1,735	1,970	887
Capital Receipts	4,740	2,470	1,964
	<u>40,814</u>	<u>90,781</u>	<u>42,162</u>

- 3.31 The committed Capital Programme is shown in Appendix F. In addition, new capital spending will come forward as required to Executive Board from relevant Directorates as a result of Government allocations. These allocations are currently funded by capital grant. The Capital Programme reflects the funding to be provided by the Council during this period towards the Mersey Gateway project, which will be financed from toll revenues.
- 3.32 As the Capital Programme is fully committed, there are no funds available for new capital starts unless external funding is available or further savings are identified to cover financing costs.

### Prudential Code

- 3.33 The Local Government Act 2003 introduced the Prudential Code which provides a framework for the self-regulation of capital expenditure. The key objectives of the Code are to ensure that the Council's:
- capital expenditure plans are affordable;
  - external borrowing is within prudent and sustainable levels;

- treasury management decisions are taken in accordance with good professional practice; and
  - is accountable by providing a clear and transparent framework.
- 3.34 To demonstrate that councils have fulfilled these objectives, the Prudential Code sets out a number of indicators which must be used. These are included in the Treasury Management Strategy report elsewhere on the Agenda. The prudential indicators are monitored throughout the year and reported as part of the Treasury Management quarterly monitoring reports to the Executive Board.

### **School Budgets**

- 3.35 Schools are fully funded by Government Grants, primarily the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) which is mainly used to fund the Individual School Budgets. DSG is now allocated in three notional blocks – Schools Block, Early Years Block and High Needs Block. The funding is allocated to schools by way of a formula in accordance with the revised funding arrangements introduced in April 2013 and updated for April 2015, which is primarily based on pupil numbers.
- 3.36 The Government have announced Unit of Funding allocations split between blocks. For Halton the per pupil Unit of Funding for the Schools Block is £4,850.02, for the Early Years Block is £3,363.39. The High Needs Block is no longer funded on a per pupil unit basis but on a total figure of £14,458,452. Schools will be informed of their funding allocation for Schools Block funding by 28<sup>th</sup> February 2015 in accordance with the Financial Scheme. Early Years and High Needs funding will be notified to relevant schools during March 2015. The minimum funding guarantee has been set so that the maximum reduction for schools is 1.5%, no details of a cash floor reduction for each council have yet been provided.
- 3.37 The Pupil Premium has been set at £1,320 per Primary pupil who are or have been eligible for Free School Meals in the last six years. For Secondary pupils this is set at £935 per pupil. Children who have been adopted from care and children who leave care under a special guardianship order or residence order will be funded at £1,900 per pupil. Eligibility for the Service Children premium will be funded at £300 per pupil. No information has been provided yet with regard to Looked After Children. The Pupil Premium will be added to school budgets on top of the minimum funding guarantee.
- 3.38 The allocation of DSG funding to schools for 2015/16 will be via the schools funding formula, which has been approved by the Schools Forum following consultation with schools and the Department for Education.

## **4.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

The budget will support the Council in achieving the aims and objectives set out in the Community Strategy for Halton and the Council's Corporate Plan and has been prepared in consideration of the priorities listed below.

### **4.1 Children and Young People in Halton**

### **4.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton**

### **4.3 A Healthy Halton**

### **4.4 A Safer Halton**

### **4.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

## **5.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

5.1 The budget is prepared in accordance with detailed guidance and timetable to ensure the statutory requirements are met and a balanced budget is prepared that aligns resources with corporate objectives.

5.2 A number of key factors have been identified in the budget and a detailed risk register has been prepared. These will be closely monitored throughout the year and the contingency and Reserves and Balances strategy should help mitigate the risk.

## **6.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

6.1 Equality Impact Assessments will be undertaken in relation to the individual savings proposals as required.

## **7.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

<b>Document</b>	<b>Place of Inspection</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>
Local Government Finance Report (England) 2015/16	Financial Management Kingsway House	Steve Baker



## APPENDIX A

### DRAFT RESOLUTION FOR SUBMISSION TO THE COUNCIL AT ITS MEETING ON 4<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2015

**RECOMMENDATION:** that the Council adopt the following resolution:

1. The policies outlined in this paper be adopted, including the Budget for 2015/16, the savings set out in Appendix B and the Capital Programme set out in Appendix F.
2. That it be noted that at the meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2014 the Council agreed the following:
  - (a) The Council Tax Base 2015/16 for the whole Council area is 32,100 (item T in the formula in Section 31B(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the Act) and
  - (b) For dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates, be set out as follows:

Parish	Tax Base
Hale	649
Daresbury	153
Moore	320
Preston Brook	324
Halebank	488
Sandymoor	948

being the amounts calculated by the Council, in accordance with Regulation 6 of the Regulations, as the amounts of its Council Tax Base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which special items relate.

3. Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2015/16 (excluding Parish precepts) is £38,648,721.
4. In accordance with the relevant provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (Sections 31 to 36), the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2015/16 and agreed as follows:
  - (a) £314,972,845 – being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the said Act, taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.

- (b) £276,262,017– being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
- (c) £38,710,828 – being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year (item R in the formula in Section 31A(4) of the Act).
- (d) £1,205.94– being the amount at 3(c) above (item R), all divided by item T (2 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) £62,107– being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act, each individual Parish precept being:

	£
Hale	16,000
Daresbury	4,000
Moore	4,416
Preston Brook	8,500
Halebank	13,625
Sandymoor	15,566

- (f) £1,204.01 being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by item T (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 for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates.
- (g) Part of the Council's Area

	£
Hale	1,228.66
Daresbury	1,230.15
Moore	1,217.81
Preston Brook	1,230.24
Halebank	1,231.93
Sandymoor	1,220.43

being the amounts given by adding to the amounts at 3(e) 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 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 of its area to which one or more special items relate.

(h) Part of the Council's Area

Band	Hale	Daresbury	Moore	Preston Brook	Halebank	Sandymoor	All other Parts of the Council's Area
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
A	819.10	820.10	811.87	820.16	821.28	813.62	802.67
B	955.62	956.78	947.18	956.85	958.17	949.22	936.45
C	1,092.14	1,093.47	1,082.50	1,093.55	1,095.05	1,084.83	1,070.23
<b>D</b>	<b>1,228.66</b>	<b>1,230.15</b>	<b>1,217.81</b>	<b>1,230.24</b>	<b>1,231.93</b>	<b>1,220.43</b>	<b>1,204.01</b>
E	1,501.70	1,503.52	1,488.44	1,503.63	1,505.69	1,491.64	1,471.57
F	1,774.74	1,776.89	1,759.06	1,777.02	1,779.46	1,762.85	1,739.13
G	2,047.76	2,050.25	2,029.68	2,050.40	2,053.21	2,034.05	2,006.68
H	2,457.32	2,460.30	2,435.62	2,460.48	2,463.86	2,440.86	2,408.02

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 3(f) and 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 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.

5. It is further noted that for the year 2015/16 the Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner has stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

	£
A	104.15
B	121.51
C	138.87
<b>D</b>	<b>156.23</b>
E	190.95
F	225.67
G	260.38
H	312.46

6. It is further noted that for the year 2015/16 the Fire Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2003 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

	£
A	46.97
B	54.80
C	62.63
<b>D</b>	<b>70.46</b>
E	86.12
F	101.78
G	117.43
H	140.92

7. That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 4h, 5 and 6 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, 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:

Band	Hale	Daresbury	Moore	Preston Brook	Halebank	Sandymoor	All other Parts of the Council's Area
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
A	970.22	971.22	962.99	971.28	972.40	964.74	953.79
B	1,131.93	1,133.09	1,123.49	1,133.16	1,134.48	1,125.53	1,112.76
C	1,293.64	1,294.97	1,284.00	1,295.05	1,296.55	1,286.33	1,271.73
<b>D</b>	<b>1,455.35</b>	<b>1,456.84</b>	<b>1,444.50</b>	<b>1,456.93</b>	<b>1,458.62</b>	<b>1,447.12</b>	<b>1,430.70</b>
E	1,778.77	1,780.59	1,765.51	1,780.70	1,782.76	1,768.71	1,748.64
F	2,102.19	2,104.34	2,086.51	2,104.47	2,106.91	2,090.30	2,066.58
G	2,425.57	2,428.06	2,407.49	2,428.21	2,431.02	2,411.86	2,384.49
H	2,910.70	2,913.68	2,889.00	2,913.86	2,917.24	2,894.24	2,861.40

being satisfied that:

- (a) The total amount yielded by its Council Taxes for the said financial year will be sufficient, so far as is practicable, to provide for items mentioned at 4(a) to (c) above; and, to the extent that they are not, to be provided for by any other means.
  - (b) Those amounts which relate to a part only of its area will secure, so far as is practicable, that the precept or portion of a precept relating to such part will be provided for only by the amount yielded by such of its Council Taxes as relate to that part.
8. The Operational Director Finance be authorised at any time during the financial year 2015/16 to borrow on behalf of the Council by way of gross bank overdraft such sums as he shall deem necessary for the purposes of this paragraph, but not such that in any event the said overdraft at any time exceeds £10m (£0.5m net) as the Council may temporarily require.

**APPENDIX B****SAVINGS PROPOSALS  
COMMUNITIES DIRECTORATE**

<b>Service Area</b>	<b>2015/16 £'000</b>	<b>2016/17 £'000</b>
Community & Environment/Waste Management – Introduce a charge of £30 per annum (£25 pa online) for green waste collection (based upon an estimated 30% uptake)	340	-
Community & Environment/School Meals – Add a further 10p per meal to the charge for paid school meals taking the total increase for 2015/16 to 20p per meal.	100	-
Community & Environment/Open Spaces - Charge each Bowling Club for their use of the bowling greens, as a contribution towards maintenance costs.	20	-
Strategic Director – Income from Sefton MBC to reimburse 50% of the costs of the Strategic Director	70	-70
Commissioning & Complex Needs – Re-procurement of the Housing Floating Support Service into a combined contract, achieving a reduction in overall costs	40	-
Commissioning & Complex Needs – Cease the contract for Supported Housing Services for homeless young people provide at Orchard House, with the opening of the Albert Road Hostel	150	-
Commissioning & Complex Needs – Cease the contract with St Helens Accommodation Project (SHAP) for the provision of Service User Involvement	36	12
Waste Management – Cease to operate the current recycling rewards scheme and replace with an in-house developed scheme	50	-
Leisure & Recreation Services – Generate additional external income for Sports Development, from various sources including grants, sponsorship and charging	20	-
Open Spaces – Streetscene – generation of additional external income from the following:		
• Charging businesses for street cleansing	25	-

adjacent to their premises (where land is not owned by the Council)		
• Halton Hornets taking responsibility for management of the Wilmere Lane sports facilities	25	-
Commissioning & Complex Care/Housing Strategy – Implementation of a revised service delivery model for the Grangeway Court Homeless accommodation	72	-
Prevention & Assessment – Carry forward against the Supporting People budget to provide a one-off saving in 2015/16	500	-500
Community & Environment – Restructure of Community Centres	25	-
Community & Environment – Secondment relating to the Community Safety Service	18	-18
Communities – Carry forward to provide a one-off saving for 2015/16	200	-200
	<b>1,691</b>	<b>-776</b>
<b>Approved by Council 10<sup>th</sup> December 2014</b>	<b>2,060</b>	<b>-851</b>
<b>TOTAL COMMUNITIES DIRECTORATE</b>	<b>3,751</b>	<b>-1,627</b>

**SAVINGS PROPOSALS  
CHILDREN & ENTERPRISE DIRECTORATE**

<b>Service Area</b>	<b>2015/16 £'000</b>	<b>2016/17 £'000</b>
Learning & Achievement – Attendance and Behaviour Service – generation of income from selling non-statutory services to schools	110	-
Children’s Organisation & Provision Dept/Policy, Provision & Performance Div – Technical Support Team – generation of income from providing additional training to schools and other settings	13	-
Children’s Organisation & Provision Dept/14-19 Division – Development of shared management arrangements with Cheshire West & Chester Council regarding 14-19 Services and deletion of vacant post from the 14-19 Division	15	-
	20	-20
Children’s Organisation & Provision Dept/14/19 Division – Reduction in budget for the provision of Information Advice and Guidance – through reducing the funding available for commissioning coaches and mentors	19	-
Children’s Organisation & Provision Dept/Policy, Provision & Performance Div – Costs of the Learning Outside the Classroom contract to be funded by the Schools Forum for one year initially	35	-35
Children’s Organisation & Provision Dept – Reduction in the commissioned / professional services budget	29	-
Children’s Organisation & Provision Dept/Integrated Youth Services – Reduction to the Youth Service budget through combining universal and targeted services and developing a new more targeted service specification	200	-
	<b>441</b>	<b>-55</b>
<b>Approved by Council 10<sup>th</sup> December 2014</b>	<b>1,050</b>	<b>1,500</b>
<b>TOTAL CHILDREN &amp; ENTERPRISE DIRECTORATE</b>	<b>1,491</b>	<b>1,445</b>



**SAVINGS PROPOSALS  
POLICY AND RESOURCES DIRECTORATE**

<b>Service Area</b>	<b>2015/16 £'000</b>	<b>2016/17 £'000</b>
ICT and Support Services Department – Additional income generated from provision of ICT services to external organisations	200	-
Policy Planning & Transportation Department / Street Lighting – Reduction in Street Lighting energy contract through annual retendering	68	-
Finance Dept / Financial Management Division – Reduction in external audit fees through improved procurement by the Audit Commission	20	-
Finance Dept / Financial Management Division / Concessionary Travel – Reduction in the concessionary fares reimbursement rate agreed with bus operators, without any impact for service users.	120	-
Finance Dept / Audit & Operational Finance Div – Voluntary reduction in hours of a Purchase to Pay Officer facilitated as part of a restructuring within the Team	4	-
Policy Planning & Transportation Department / Highways & Transportation – Secondment relating to the post of Divisional Manager, Bridge & Highway Maintenance	75	-75
ICT and Support Services Department – Management of various budgets in order to carry forward a one-off saving for 2015/16	150	-150
Legal & Democratic Services Dept / Communications Design and Marketing – Deletion of a vacant Internal Communications Officer post (HBC6) and a vacant Press Officer post (HBC6)	60	-
Finance Dept / Revenues, Benefits & Customer Svcs Division / Housing Benefits – Release of provision for housing benefit overpayment recoveries	230	-
	<b>927</b>	<b>-225</b>
<b>Approved by Council 10<sup>th</sup> December 2014</b>	<b>1,662</b>	<b>-602</b>
<b>TOTAL POLICY AND RESOURCES DIRECTORATE</b>	<b>2,589</b>	<b>-827</b>

**SAVINGS PROPOSALS  
COUNCILWIDE ITEMS**

<b>Service Area</b>	<b>2015/16 £'000</b>	<b>2016/17 £'000</b>
Staff Terms and Conditions – Continuation for one year of 4 days unpaid leave for all staff	750	-750
Staff Terms and Conditions – Reduction in car mileage rates to the HMRC approved level	50	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>800</b>	<b>-750</b>
<b>Approved by Council on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2014</b>	<b>6,560</b>	<b>-5,440</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL COUNCILWIDE ITEMS</b>	<b>7,360</b>	<b>-6,190</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>15,191</b>	<b>-7,199</b>

**APPENDIX C****DEPARTMENTAL BASE BUDGETS****£000****Children and Enterprise Directorate**

Children and Families Services	19,440
Children's Organisation and Provision	13,209
Learning and Achievement	2,665
Economy, Enterprise and Property	3,955
	<hr/>
	<b>39,269</b>

**Communities Directorate**

Commissioning and Complex Needs	14,058
Prevention and Assessment	27,269
Community and Environment	26,770
	<hr/>
	<b>68,097</b>

**Policy and Resources Directorate**

Finance	4,226
Policy, Planning and Transportation	16,774
ICT and Support Services	252
Legal and Democratic Services	624
Human Resources	198
Public Health	1,486
	<hr/>
	<b>23,560</b>

**Departmental Base Budgets****130,926**

Corporate and Democracy

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**-14,283****Base Budget****116,643**

Less Savings

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**-15,191****Total Budget**

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**101,452**

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## APPENDIX D

### 2015/16 BUDGET – REASONS FOR CHANGE

	<b>£000</b>
2014/15 Approved Budget	108,243
Add back One-Off savings	5,226
	<hr/> 113,469
<u>Policy Decisions</u>	
Capital Programme	-61
<u>Inflation</u>	
Pay	918
Prices	1,150
Income	- 394
<u>Other</u>	
Increments	299
Contingency	1,000
Increase in Final 15/16 Settlement – Local Welfare Provision	262
<b>Base Budget</b>	<hr/> <b>116,643</b>
Less Savings	- 15,191
<b>Total Budget</b>	<hr/> <b>101,452</b> <hr/>

## APPENDIX E

### MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL FORECAST

	2016/17 £000	2017/18 £000
<b>Spending Forecast</b>		
Previous Year's Budget	101,452	93,601
Add back one-off savings	8,759	0
<u>Policy Decisions</u>		
Capital Programme	201	-307
<u>Inflation</u>		
Pay	699	712
Prices	1,421	1,472
Income	-425	-434
<u>Other</u>		
Superannuation	250	250
Increments etc	400	400
Contingency	1,000	1,500
Single Tier State Pension	1,300	0
Pension Early Retirement Costs Dropping Out	-927	0
Transition from Children's to Adult Social Care	250	0
Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards	500	0
Introduction of the Care Act	900	200
New Homes Bonus Grant Dropping Out	0	347
Total Spending Forecast	115,780	97,741
<b>Resources</b>		
Previous Years Resources:		
Settlement Funding Allocation	61,030	54,953
Council Tax	38,648	38,648
Reduction in Settlement Funding Allocation	-6,077	-5,469
Total Resources	93,601	88,132
<b>Forecast Funding Gaps</b>	<b>22,179</b>	<b>9,609</b>

## APPENDIX F

### COMMITTED CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2015-18

SCHEME	2015/16 £000	2016/17 £000	2017/18 £000
Basic Need Projects	892	936	
Widnes Cemetery	1,912	274	50
SciTech – Daresbury	8,630		
Disabled Access	300	300	300
John Briggs House / Police Station	350		
<b>Children and Enterprise Directorate</b>	<b>12,084</b>	<b>1,510</b>	<b>350</b>
IT Rolling Programme	1,100	1,100	1,100
Highways Capital Maintenance	2,228	2,043	1,981
Street Lighting	200	200	200
Fleet Replacements	2,089	1,940	624
Risk Management	120	120	120
Mersey Gateway Land Acquisition	10,125	1,461	567
Mersey Gateway Development Costs	2,843	2,858	2,153
Mersey Gateway Construction Costs		70,000	32,500
Mersey Gateway Loan Interest	3,587	3,989	356
<b>Policy and Resources Directorate</b>	<b>22,292</b>	<b>83,711</b>	<b>39,601</b>
Stadium Minor Works	30	30	30
Norton Priory	3,290	150	190
Norton Priory – Biomass Boiler	140		
Children’s Playground Equipment	65	65	65
Landfill Tax Credit Schemes	340	340	340
Runcorn Hill Park	250		
Litter Bins	20	20	20
Disabled Facilities	787		
ALD Bungalows	200	100	
Grangeway Court	347		
Better Care Fund	356		
<b>Communities Directorate</b>	<b>5,825</b>	<b>705</b>	<b>645</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>40,201</b>	<b>85,926</b>	<b>40,596</b>
<b>Slippage between years *</b>	<b>+ 8,653</b>	<b>+ 8,040</b>	<b>+ 3,185</b>
	<b>- 8,040</b>	<b>- 3,185</b>	<b>- 1,619</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>40,814</b>	<b>90,781</b>	<b>42,162</b>

\*Slippage for 2016/17 & 2017/18 is calculated after excluding Mersey Gateway Construction Costs