

HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL



*Municipal Building,
Kingsway,
Widnes.
WA8 7QF*

2 December 2014

**TO: MEMBERS OF THE HALTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

You are hereby summoned to attend an Ordinary Meeting of the Halton Borough Council to be held in the Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall on Wednesday, 10 December 2014 commencing at 6.30 p.m. for the purpose of considering and passing such resolution(s) as may be deemed necessary or desirable in respect of the matters mentioned in the Agenda.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David W. R.', is positioned above the title 'Chief Executive'.

Chief Executive

-AGENDA-

Item No.		Page No.
1.	COUNCIL MINUTES	SEE MINUTE BOOK
2.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
3.	THE MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS	
4.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
5.	LEADER'S REPORT	
6.	MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD	SEE MINUTE BOOK
	a) 16 October 2014	
	b) 6 November 2014	
	c) 20 November 2014	
7.	MINUTES OF THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD	SEE MINUTE BOOK
8.	QUESTIONS ASKED UNDER STANDING ORDER 8	
9.	MATTERS REQUIRING A DECISION OF THE COUNCIL	
	a) Initial Budget Proposals 2015/16 - KEY DECISION (Minute EXB 90 refers)	1 - 20
	Executive Board considered the attached report.	
	RECOMMENDED: That Council approve the initial budget proposals for 2015/16 as set out in Appendix 1.	
	b) Determination of the 2015/16 Council Tax Base - KEY DECISION (Minute EXB 87 refers)	21 - 24

Executive Board considered the attached report.

RECOMMENDED: That Council approve

- 1) the Council Tax Base for 2015/16 to be set at 32,100 for the Borough, and that the Cheshire Fire Authority, the Cheshire Police & Crime Commissioner and the Environment Agency be so notified; and
- 2) the Council Tax Base for each of the Parishes as follows:

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

- c) 2014/15 Revised Capital Programme (Minute EXB 91 refers)

25 - 34

Executive Board considered the attached report'

RECOMMENDED: That Council approve the revisions to the Council's 2014/15 Capital Programme set out in paragraph 3.2 of the report.

- d) Appointment of Co-optee to Children Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board

RECOMMENDED: That Council re-appoint Miss Elizabeth Lawler as a voting co-optee on the Children, Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board for a period of four years.

- e) Change of Committee/ Board Membership

Council are asked to note that, in accordance with Standing Order 30 (4), the Leader has notified a change in Committee/Board membership as follows:

Health PPB

Councillor Carol Plumpton Walsh to replace Councillor Gerrard

Children Young People and Families PPB

Councillor Carol Plumpton Walsh to stand down from this Board

10. MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARDS AND THE BUSINESS EFFICIENCY BOARD

SEE MINUTE BOOK

- a) Children, Young People and Families
- b) Employment, Learning, Skills and Community
- c) Health
- d) Safer
- e) Environment and Urban Renewal
- f) Corporate Services
- g) Business Efficiency Board

11. COMMITTEE MINUTES

SEE MINUTE BOOK

- a) Development Control
- b) Regulatory
- c) Appeals Panel

12. PART II

In this case the Board has a discretion to exclude the press and public and, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, it is **RECOMMENDED** that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, having been satisfied that in all the circumstances of the case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

Please note that if this resolution is passed, members of the press and public will be asked to leave the room during consideration of the following business.

13. MATTERS REQUIRING A DECISION OF THE COUNCIL

- a) Peelhouse Lane - New Widnes Cemetery - KEY DECISION
(Minute EXB 101 refers)

35 - 42

Executive Board considered the attached report.

RECOMMENDED: That Council

- 1) note the progress made to date and approve the timeline for the tender and construction process detailed in Appendix A;
- 2) approve the proposal to tender works for the construction of a new cemetery;
- 3) approve the addition of the £2.8m project to the Council's Capital Programme; and
- 4) approve the new name of the cemetery as Peel House Cemetery.

- b) Warrington Road Traveller Site (Minute EXB 103 refers)
Executive Board considered the attached report.

43 - 48

RECOMMENDED: That Council

- 1) note the revised scheme costings, set out in Section 5 of the report, subject to formally agreeing the required additional funding contributions from the Homes and Communities Agency, and a developer's planning obligation (S106) contribution;
- 2) increase the estimated amount of the new permanent Warrington Road site within the Council's Capital Programme, in line with the final estimated cost identified following the value engineering process; and
- 3) granted delegated authority to the Strategic Director, Policy and Resources, in consultation with the Portfolio holder for Physical Environment, to consider how any residual gap in funding might be met.

REPORT TO:	Executive Board
DATE:	20 November 2014
REPORTING OFFICER:	Operational Director – Finance
PORTFOLIO:	Resources
SUBJECT:	Initial Budget Proposals 2015/16
WARD(S):	Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To recommend to Council initial revenue budget proposals for 2015/16.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That Council approve the initial budget proposals for 2015/16 set out in Appendix 1.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Medium Term Financial Strategy elsewhere on this Agenda forecasts a potential revenue budget funding gap for the Council of around £19m in 2015/16, £13m in 2016/17 and £10m in 2017/18.
- 3.2 Budget saving proposals for 2015/16 are currently being developed by the Budget Working Group. A number of these proposals, listed in the Appendix, can be implemented immediately. It is proposed that this is done in order to achieve a part-year saving in 2014/15 which will assist in keeping the Council's overall spending in line with budget. In addition, a number of the proposals will take time to implement and therefore commencing the process as soon as possible will assist in ensuring they are fully implemented by 1st April 2015. The Appendix also presents the impact in 2016/17 of certain savings proposals
- 3.3 Given the scale of the forecast funding gaps, the Budget Working Group has also proposed the use of £5.5m from the Council's reserves in 2015/16. This will provide a one-off saving which will delay the need to achieve these savings until 2016/17. This will therefore provide additional time to assist the Council with identifying the necessary permanent savings and reshaping the business where necessary to achieve this.
- 3.4 In addition, the Budget Working Group proposed that a number of assumptions made within the Medium Term Financial Strategy are revised downwards and these have been reflected in the Strategy.
- 3.5 The following table summarises the budget proposals of the Budget Working Group and identifies the remaining forecast budget gaps.

	2015/16 £m	2016/17 £m	Total £m
Forecast Budget Gaps as per MTFS	19.0	13.0	31.0
Less Budget Savings Proposals;			
Communities Directorate	-2.1	+0.9	-1.2
Children & Enterprise Directorate	-1.1	-1.5	-2.6
Policy & Resources Directorate	-1.7	+0.6	-1.1
Corporate Proposals	-6.6	+5.4	-1.2
Remaining Forecast Budget Gaps	7.5	18.4	25.9

3.6 The Government will announce its Grant Settlement for Local Government in late December, at which point the Council's actual funding gap for 2015/16 will be identified. Further savings proposals to enable the Council to deliver a balanced budget for 2015/16 will be recommended to Council on 4th March 2015.

4.0 POLICY AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The revenue budget supports the Council in achieving the aims and objectives set out in the Community Strategy for Halton and the Council's Corporate Plan.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

5.1 The revenue budget supports the delivery and achievement of all the Council's priorities. The budget proposals listed in Appendix 1 have been prepared in consideration of all the Council's priorities.

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

6.1 Failure to set a balanced budget would put the Council in breach of statutory requirements. The budget is prepared in accordance with detailed guidance and a timetable to ensure statutory requirements are met and a balanced budget is prepared that aligns resources with corporate objectives.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

7.1 None.

8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1072

8.1 There are no background papers under the meaning of the Act.

	DEPARTMENT/ DIVISION/ SERVICE AREA	DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL	TOTAL BUDGET £'000	ESTIMATED BUDGET SAVING		PERM OR TEMP (P / T)	MANDATORY OR DISCRETIONARY SERVICE AFFECTED (M / D)
				2015/16 £'000	2016/17 £'000		
COMMUNITIES DIRECTORATE							
INCOME GENERATION OPPORTUNITIES							
1	Stadium	To review rental charges for all users and tenants of the Stadium and to explore other opportunities within existing spaces	86 current income target	40	-	P	D
2	Stadium	Stage a pop concert at the Stadium Meetings with potential partners to stage a concert at the Stadium, possibly need to seek invest to save funding.	N/A	100	-	P	D
3	School Meals	Increase the charge for a school meal by 10p	1,825 current income target	100	-	P	D
4	Stadium	Opportunity to host an annual vintage bike show on the pitch perimeter at the Stadium.	N/A	10	-	P	D
5	Waste Management	Introduce a charge for all recycling bins at any new properties and for any replacement bins. (similar to now with black bins)	374 current expenditure budget	50	-	P	D

	DEPARTMENT/ DIVISION/ SERVICE AREA	DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL	TOTAL BUDGET £'000	ESTIMATED BUDGET SAVING		PERM OR TEMP (P / T)	MANDATORY OR DISCRETIONARY SERVICE AFFECTED (M / D)
				2015/16 £'000	2016/17 £'000		
6	Waste Management	Charge for trade waste to be introduced at household recycling centres.	165 current income target	50	-	P	D
7	Leisure Recreation & Services	Host park events such as circus, fun fair, beer festivals, and theatres.	21 current income target	10	-	P	D
8	Leisure Recreation & Services	Allotment charges annual increase (on average 95p per week increase).	24 current income target	5	-	P	D
9	Leisure Recreation & Services	Further pursue commercial opportunities at The Brindley (e.g. more sell-out acts).	329 current ticket sales	25	-	P	D
10	Registration Services	Bereavement Services increased charges 5% above inflation in order to get closer to full cost recovery.	786 current income target	20	-	P	D
11	Registration Services	Registration Services opportunities (e.g. increase costs of wedding ceremonies).	147 current income target	10	-	P	D

	DEPARTMENT/ DIVISION/ SERVICE AREA	DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL	TOTAL BUDGET £'000	ESTIMATED BUDGET SAVING		PERM OR TEMP (P / T)	MANDATORY OR DISCRETIONARY SERVICE AFFECTED (M / D)
				2015/16 £'000	2016/17 £'000		
12	Catering Services	Increase income generation through hiring of basic catering equipment, introduce catering opportunities at Runcorn Town Hall, where appropriate café provisions within Community Centres, consider catering business opportunities as an invest to save.	N/A	5	-	P	D
EFFICIENCY OPPORTUNITIES							
13	Waste Management	A range of operational efficiency measures including route optimisation.	787	150	-	P	D
14	Waste Management	Cease third party recycling credit.	5	5	-	P	D
15	Library Service	Efficiency Review of Library Services.	2,095	230	-	P	M
16	Prevention and Assessment	Reduce the Reablement Service.	892	80	-	P	D
17	Prevention and Assessment	Re-engineer the Wardens Service (alternative response service) to provide primarily a telecare service.	696	100	-	P	D

	DEPARTMENT/ DIVISION/ SERVICE AREA	DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL	TOTAL BUDGET £'000	ESTIMATED BUDGET SAVING		PERM OR TEMP (P / T)	MANDATORY OR DISCRETIONARY SERVICE AFFECTED (M / D)
				2015/16 £'000	2016/17 £'000		
18	Prevention and Assessment /Commissioning	Reduce provision of the Halton Speak Out Self-Advocacy Service and Person Centred Planning Support contract.	96	46	-	P	D
19	Prevention and Assessment	Cease In-House support for Naughton Fields extra-care facility through transferring responsibility to HHT.	388	20	-	P	D
20	Prevention and Assessment	DM Commissioning (temporary secondment).	70	70	- 70	T	D
21	Commissioning and complex care	Management restructure.	-	50	-	P	D
22	Commissioning and complex care	Carers re-design utilising underspend on the 2014/15 carers budget.	440	50	- 50	T	M
OTHER BUDGET SAVINGS							
23	Prevention and Assessment	Externalise Home Improvement Agency.	120	30	-	P	M

	DEPARTMENT/ DIVISION/ SERVICE AREA	DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL	TOTAL BUDGET £'000	ESTIMATED BUDGET SAVING		PERM OR TEMP (P / T)	MANDATORY OR DISCRETIONARY SERVICE AFFECTED (M / D)
				2015/16 £'000	2016/17 £'000		
24	Prevention and Assessment	Re-design the contracts for Vision Rehabilitation Workers.	87	50	-	P	M
25	Prevention and Assessment	Sure Start for Later Life and Learning Disabilities Nursing Team reduce training budget as underspent in recent years.	30	23	-	P	M
26	Prevention and Assessment	Review allocation of funding in line with Better Care Fund.	731	731	- 731	T	M
TOTAL PERMANENT				1,209	0	P	
TOTAL TEMPORARY (ONE-OFF)				851	-851	T	
GRAND TOTAL				2,060	-851		

	DEPARTMENT / DIVISION / SERVICE AREA	DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL	TOTAL BUDGET £'000	ESTIMATED BUDGET SAVING		PERM OR TEMP (P / T)	MANDATORY OR DISCRETIONARY SERVICE AFFECTED (M / D)
				2015/16 £'000	2016/17 £'000		
CHILDREN & ENTERPRISE DIRECTORATE							
SHARED / COLLABORATIVE SERVICES							
1	Emergency Duty Team	Currently a shared service with St Helens. Proposal to include Warrington following their request to join the service, which has been agreed in principle. Work is underway with Warrington to evaluate new model and potential for cost savings from improved administrative procedures without any impact upon service delivery.	180	20 (includes 10k within Communities)	-	P	M
EFFICIENCY OPPORTUNITIES							
2	Children and Families Supervised Contact Service for Children	Original proposal to contract out not ultimately viable as would need additional investment. Now proposing deletion of a vacant Children's Social Worker post instead.	221	30	-	P	M

	DEPARTMENT / DIVISION / SERVICE AREA	DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL	TOTAL BUDGET £'000	ESTIMATED BUDGET SAVING		PERM OR TEMP (P / T)	MANDATORY OR DISCRETIONARY SERVICE AFFECTED (M / D)
				2015/16 £'000	2016/17 £'000		
3	Review of Property Assets and sites	<p>A full review of the Council's land and property assets will be undertaken.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To explore ways of minimising and reducing property/site related costs. To evaluate whether property/site related assets are sufficient and in the right condition to meet the Council's objectives. To consider alternative options for property provision. To investigate opportunities for sharing or leasing assets. To consider consolidating buildings further. To initially look at John Briggs House. 	12,000	1,000	1,500	P	D
TOTAL PERMANENT				1,050	1,500	P	
TOTAL TEMPORARY (ONE-OFF)				0	0	T	
GRAND TOTAL				1,050	1,500		

	DEPARTMENT/ DIVISION/ SERVICE AREA	DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL	TOTAL BUDGET £'000	ESTIMATED BUDGET SAVING		PERM OR TEMP (P / T)	MANDATORY OR DISCRETIONARY SERVICE AFFECTED (M / D)
				2015/16 £'000	2016/17 £'000		
POLICY & RESOURCES DIRECTORATE							
INCOME GENERATION OPPORTUNITIES							
1	Finance Dept / Audit & Op Finance Div / Purchase to Pay	Additional income to be generated from the on-going development of the Supplier Early Payment Discount Scheme.	-20	10	-	P	D
2	Finance Dept / Audit & Op Finance Div / Client Finance	Increase in the charges made for managing the finances of Appointeeship Clients from £5 to £6 per week.	-61	15	-	P	D
3	Human Resources	Generation of additional external income from provision of payroll, employee relations and recruitment services to academy schools, Mersey Gateway Crossings Board and Riverside College.	-411	30	-	P	D
	DEPARTMENT/	DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL	TOTAL BUDGET	ESTIMATED BUDGET SAVING		PERM OR	MANDATORY OR DISCRETIONARY

	DIVISION / SERVICE AREA		£'000	2015/16 £'000	2016/17 £'000	TEMP (P / T)	SERVICE AFFECTED (M / D)
4	Legal & Democratic Services Dept / Legal Services	Levy annual charge to Halton Borough Transport Ltd for legal services provided in order to ensure full cost recovery.	N/a	5	-	P	D
5	Public Health	Explore opportunities to generate additional income by providing Health Improvement Services to other councils, in particular packages such as weight management.	N/a	50	-	P	D
6	Policy Planning & Transportation/ Highways	Permitting of Roadworks – estimated start July 2015	N/a	100	50	P	D
7	Policy Planning & Transportation/ Development Control	Additional income generated from levying pre-application development control fees.	N/a	15	-	P	D
	DEPARTMENT/	DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL	TOTAL BUDGET	ESTIMATED BUDGET SAVING		PERM OR	MANDATORY OR DISCRETIONARY

	DIVISION / SERVICE AREA		£'000	2015/16 £'000	2016/17 £'000	TEMP (P / T)	SERVICE AFFECTED (M / D)
SHARED / COLLABORATIVE SERVICES							
8	Public Health	To work through Cheshire & Merseyside Public Health Network to provide joint work on social marketing, workforce development, training packages.	256	40	-	P	M
9	ICT and Support Services Department/	ICT staffing restructure in light of the Council's future ICT needs and income generation opportunities, resulting in the deletion of vacant posts.	2,920	100	-	P	D
PROCUREMENT OPPORTUNITIES							
10	Finance Dept / Audit & Op Finance Div / Purchase to Pay	Cease the invoice scanning contract with Northgate Systems and undertake all invoice scanning in-house.	8	8	-	P	D
	DEPARTMENT/	DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL	TOTAL BUDGET	ESTIMATED BUDGET SAVING		PERM OR	MANDATORY OR DISCRETIONARY

	DIVISION / SERVICE AREA		£'000	2015/16 £'000	2016/17 £'000	TEMP (P / T)	SERVICE AFFECTED (M / D)
11	Corporate	Reduction in surface water drainage charges at Murdishaw Leisure Centre following investigations by an external consultancy.	N/a	6	-	P	D
12	Public Health	Reduce the cost of Public Health contracts.	1,063	200	-	P	M
EFFICIENCY OPPORTUNITIES							
13	Finance Dept / Financial Management Division	Re-structure of Financial management was completed in 2013/14, balance of saving now realised following completion of post appointments.	1,297	30	-	P	D
14	Finance Dept / Procurement Division	Deletion of a vacant HBC5 Procurement Officer post and a vacant 0.5fte HBC7 Procurement Officer Post, with workloads being restructured.	648	44	-	P	D
15	Legal & Democratic Services Dept / Legal Services	Voluntary reduction in hours of an HBC3 Clerical Assistant post in Legal Services from full time to 3 days per week.	1,077	8	-	P	D
	DEPARTMENT/	DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL	TOTAL BUDGET	ESTIMATED BUDGET SAVING		PERM OR	MANDATORY OR DISCRETIONARY

	DIVISION / SERVICE AREA		£'000	2015/16 £'000	2016/17 £'000	TEMP (P / T)	SERVICE AFFECTED (M / D)
16	Policy Planning & Transportation/ Street Lighting	Energy and maintenance savings from street lighting equipment being transferred to Merseylink as part of the Mersey Gateway project.	50	50	-	P	M
17	Policy and Development Services/ Planning and Transport Policy Team	Voluntary reduction in hours agreed for a Transport Policy Officer post.	620	16	-	P	D
18	Legal & Democratic Services Dept / Democratic Services Division	Reduction in the frequency of Area Forum meetings, with resulting deletion of a vacant Committee Officer post through restructure of remaining posts within the Division	492	30	-	P	D

OTHER BUDGET SAVINGS

19	Finance Dept / Financial Management Division	Reduction in the budget for external audit fees relating to grant claim audits.	167	7	-	P	M
	DEPARTMENT/	DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL	TOTAL BUDGET	ESTIMATED BUDGET SAVING		PERM OR	MANDATORY OR DISCRETIONARY

	DIVISION / SERVICE AREA		£'000	2015/16 £'000	2016/17 £'000	TEMP (P / T)	SERVICE AFFECTED (M / D)
20	Corporate	Feed-in tariffs on previously installed solar panels will not be paid over to reimburse the Invest to Save fund (but the energy saving will still be), so as to lengthen repayment period.	N/a	30	-	p	D
21	Corporate	One-off backdated reimbursements received following various business rate revaluations.	N/a	30	- 30	T	D
22	Finance Dept / Audit & Op Finance Div / Insurance	Reduction in self-insurance costs relating to the lease car fleet, as the number of vehicles reduces as the scheme winds down until 2017, with the introduction of the salary sacrifice car scheme.	15	15	15	P	D
23	Finance Dept / Revenues, Benefits & Customer Svcs Division / Business Rates	Deletion of the charitable rate relief budget, which is no longer required to reimburse the national rates pool, following the introduction of the business rates retention scheme from 1/4/13. This will provide a one-off underspend saving from 2014/15 and a permanent budget saving from 2015/16 onwards.	120	120 120	- 120 -	T P	D
	DEPARTMENT/	DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL	TOTAL BUDGET	ESTIMATED BUDGET SAVING		PERM OR	MANDATORY OR DISCRETIONARY

	DIVISION / SERVICE AREA		£'000	2015/16 £'000	2016/17 £'000	TEMP (P / T)	SERVICE AFFECTED (M / D)
24	Finance Department / Revenues, Benefits & Customer Svcs Division / Business Rates & Council Tax	Unspent new burdens grant funding not utilised in past two years as significant changes to business rates and council tax arrangements have been implemented utilising existing staff resources.	N/a	300	- 300	T	M
25	Legal & Democratic Services Dept / Democratic Services Division	Use ticket income to meet the costs of the Mayor's Civic Ball.	35	3	-	P	D
26	Local Bus Support	Reduction in the current budget by a further 5% to be achieved through improved procurement. This would not result in the loss of any existing supported bus services.	534	27	-	P	D
27	Bus Shelters	Reduction in the current budget by 10%, which would reduce our ability to repair and maintain the bus stop infrastructure.	20	2	-	P	D
	DEPARTMENT/	DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL	TOTAL BUDGET	ESTIMATED BUDGET SAVING		PERM OR	MANDATORY OR DISCRETIONARY

	DIVISION / SERVICE AREA		£'000	2015/16 £'000	2016/17 £'000	TEMP (P / T)	SERVICE AFFECTED (M / D)
28	Logistics Division	Reduce current budget for Lowerhouse Lane Depot gas supplies by 30%, as a result of reduced costs experienced following major capital works at the Depot.	40	10	-	P	D
29	Policy Planning & Transportation/ Street Lighting	Release of a one-off reserve held in relation to a previous year undercharge for street lighting electricity charges, which is now time expired.	N/a	117	- 117	T	D
30	Policy Planning & Transportation/ Street Lighting	The Council charges developers a fee for the design, handling and installation of street lighting equipment. The proposed saving is from accumulated fees not utilised, as costs have been met from the existing street lighting budget.	N/a	100	- 100	T	D
31	Policy and Development Services	Reductions in various operational budgets.	44	24	-	P	D
TOTAL PERMANENT				995	65	P	
TOTAL TEMPORARY (ONE-OFF)				667	- 667	T	
GRAND TOTAL				1,662	- 602		

	DEPARTMENT/ DIVISION / SERVICE AREA	DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL	TOTAL BUDGET £'000	ESTIMATED BUDGET SAVING		PERM OR TEMP (P / T)	MANDATORY OR DISCRETIONARY SERVICE AFFECTED (M / D)
				2015/16 £'000	2016/17 £'000		
CORPORATE ITEMS							
1	Chief Executive	Income from Mersey Gateway Crossings Board for provision of Chief Executive for one day per week.	N/A	60	60	T	D
2	Reserves	One-off contributions from the following reserves; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General reserve • Insurance Reserve • Invest to Save Fund • Transformation Fund 	N/A	3,500 1,000 500 500	-3,500 -1,000 -500 -500	T T T T	D
3	Supplies & Services	8% reduction in general supplies and services budgets.	N/A	1,000	-	P	D
TOTAL PERMANENT				1,000	-	P	
TOTAL TEMPORARY (ONE-OFF)				5,560	-5,440	T	
GRAND TOTAL				6,560	-5,440		

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REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 20 November 2014

REPORTING OFFICER: Operational Director, Finance

PORTFOLIO: Resources

SUBJECT: Determination of the 2015/16 Council Tax Base

WARD(S): Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 There is a requirement for the Council to determine the 'Tax Base' for its area and also the tax base for each of the Parishes.
- 1.2 The Council is required to notify the tax base figure to the Cheshire Fire Authority, the Cheshire Police & Crime Commissioner and the Environment Agency by 31st January 2015. The Council is also required to calculate and advise if requested, the Parish Councils of their relevant tax bases.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That

- (1) **Council set the 2015/16 Council Tax Base at 32,100 for the Borough, and that the Cheshire Fire Authority, the Cheshire Police & Crime Commissioner and the Environment Agency be so notified; and**
- (2) **Council approve the Council Tax Base for each of the Parishes as follows:**

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

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The 'Tax Base' is the measure used for calculating the council tax and is used by both the billing authority (the Council) and the major precepting authorities (the Cheshire Fire Authority and the Cheshire Police & Crime Commissioner), in the calculation of their council tax requirements.
- 3.2 The tax base figure is arrived at in accordance with a prescribed formula, and represents the estimated full year number of chargeable dwellings in the Borough, expressed in terms of the equivalent of Band 'D' dwellings.
- 3.3 The Tax Base is calculated using the number of dwellings included in the Valuation List, as provided by the Listing Officer, as at 7th October 2014. Adjustments are then made to take into account the estimated number of discounts, voids, additions and demolitions during the period 7th October 2014 to 31st March 2015.
- 3.4 From 2013/14 onwards, the tax base calculation includes an element for the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (the replacement for Council Tax Benefit). The estimated amount of Council Tax Support payable for 2015/16, is converted into the equivalent number of whole properties which are deducted from the total. The reduced tax base will not result in an increase in Council Tax as the Council's budget requirement will be reduced by payment of a grant in lieu of Council Tax Support.
- 3.5 An estimated percentage collection rate is then applied to the product of the above calculation to arrive at the tax base for the year. Taking account of all the relevant information and applying a 96.5% collection rate, the calculation for 2015/16 gives a tax base figure of 32,100 for the Borough as a whole.
- 3.6 Taking account of all the relevant information and applying a 96.5% collection rate, the appropriate tax base figure for each of the Parishes is as follows

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

4.0 POLICY AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no direct policy implications arising from this report.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

5.1 The council tax base enables the Council to set the level of council tax to be charged for 2014/15, the income from which supports all of the Council's priorities.

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

6.1 There would be a significant loss of income to the Council if the council tax base were not agreed, as it would not be possible to set the level of council tax to be charged for 2015/16.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

7.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report

8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Working Papers	Kingsway House	P. McCann

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REPORT TO: Council

DATE: 10 December 2014

REPORTING OFFICER: Operational Director – Finance

PORTFOLIO: Resources

SUBJECT: 2014/15 Revised Capital Programme

WARD(S): Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To seek approval to a number of revisions to the Council's 2014/15 capital programme.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That the revisions to the Council's 2014/15 capital programme set out in paragraph 3.2 below, be approved.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 On 20th November 2014 the Executive Board received a report of spending against the Council's revenue budget and capital programme as at 30th September 2014. A number of revisions to the 2014/15 capital programme were recommended for approval by Council as outlined below.

3.2 The Council's 2014/15 capital programme has been revised to reflect a number of changes in spending profiles and funding as schemes have developed. These are reflected in the revised capital programme presented in Appendix 1. The schemes which have been revised within the programme are as follows

- (i) Grangeway Court
- (ii) ALD Bungalows
- (iii) Halton Carers Centre Refurbishment
- (iv) Lifeline Telecare Upgrade
- (v) Castlefields Regeneration
- (vi) Widnes Waterfront & Bayer
- (vii) Disability Discrimination Act (DDA)
- (viii) SciTech Daresbury – Site Connectivity

4.0 POLICY AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

5.1 There are no direct implications, however, the capital programme supports the delivery and achievement of all the Council's priorities.

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

6.1 There are a number of financial risks within the budget. However, the Council has internal controls and processes in place to ensure that spending remains in line with budget.

6.2 In preparing the 2014/15 budget, a register of significant financial risks was prepared which has been updated as at 30th September 2014.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

7.1 None.

8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1072

8.1 There are no background papers under the meaning of the Act.

Capital Expenditure to 30th September 2014

Directorate/Department	Actual Expenditure to Date £'000	2014/15 Cumulative Capital Allocation			Capital Allocation 2015/16 £'000	Capital Allocation 2016/17 £'000
		Quarter 2 £'000	Quarter 3 £'000	Quarter 4 £'000		
Children & Enterprise Directorate						
Schools Related						
Asset Management Data	5	5	8	10	0	0
Fire Compartmentation	2	2	10	39	0	0
Capital Repairs	706	706	1,000	1,150	0	0
Asbestos Management	8	8	15	25	0	0
Schools Access Initiative	10	10	70	100	0	0
Education Programme (General)	30	30	60	103	0	0
Inglefield	0	0	25	50	0	0
Basic Need Projects	0	0	0	983	892	936
School Modernisation Projects	132	132	400	683	0	0
Universal Infant School Meals	202	202	200	241	0	0
Lunts Heath Primary School	10	10	25	28	0	0
Beechwood Primary School	73	73	80	93	0	0
St Bedes Junior School	0	0	36	36	0	0
Halebank	0	0	10	20	0	0
Ashley School	328	328	350	369	0	0
Early Education for 2 Year Olds	160	160	220	334	0	0

Directorate/Department	Actual Expenditure to Date £'000	2014/15 Cumulative Capital Allocation			Capital Allocation 2015/16 £'000	Capital Allocation 2016/17 £'000
		Quarter 2 £'000	Quarter 3 £'000	Quarter 4 £'000		
Economy, Enterprise & Property						
Castlefields Regeneration	40	40	694	925	0	0
3MG	1,040	1,040	2,182	2,909	0	0
Widnes Waterfront	0	0	750	1,000	0	0
Johnsons Lane Infrastructure	14	14	349	466	0	0
Decontamination of Land	0	0	5	6	0	0
SciTech Daresbury – Power Infrastructure	988	988	1,376	1,915	0	0
SciTech Daresbury - Transport	0	0	73	177	0	0
SciTech Daresbury – Tech Space	0	0	0	0	8,630	0
Queens Arms	11	12	17	23	0	0
Former Crosville Site	0	0	389	518	0	0
Moor Lane Demolition	7	7	113	150	0	0
Moor Lane Property Purchase	160	160	160	160	0	0
Former Fairfield Site - Demolition	1	0	122	162	0	0
Former Fairfield Site – Contingency	35	34	34	34	0	0
Travellers Site Warrington Road	30	29	582	776	0	0
Widnes Town Centre Initiative	18	19	46	60	0	0
Lowerhouse Lane Depot - Upgrade	383	381	333	444	0	0
Disability Discrimination Act	31	51	59	150	300	300
Total Children & Enterprise	4,424	4,441	9,793	14,139	9,822	1,236

Directorate/Department	Actual Expenditure to Date £'000	2014/15 Cumulative Capital Allocation			Capital Allocation 2015/16 £'000	Capital Allocation 2016/17 £'000
		Quarter 2 £'000	Quarter 3 £'000	Quarter 4 £'000		
Policy & Resources Directorate						
ICT & Support Services						
ICT Rolling Programme	510	550	825	1,100	1,100	1,100
Policy, Planning & Transportation						
Local Transport Plan						
Bridge & Highway Maintenance	497	650	1,956	2,761	0	0
Integrated Transport & Network Management	34	50	454	1,020	0	0
Street Lighting – Structural Maintenance	40	50	125	200	200	200
Surface Water Management	0	1	146	195	0	0
Local Pinch Point Fund Programme – Daresbury Expressway	126	130	1,690	2,254	0	0
Mersey Gateway						
Land Acquisitions	5,198	5,198	9,102	9,923	6,663	1,672
Development Costs	973	973	2,080	3,289	2,909	2,924
Construction Costs	0	0	0	0	0	70,000
Other						
Risk Management	27	30	100	120	120	120

Directorate/Department	Actual Expenditure to Date £'000	2014/15 Cumulative Capital Allocation			Capital Allocation 2015/16 £'000	Capital Allocation 2016/17 £'000
		Quarter 2 £'000	Quarter 3 £'000	Quarter 4 £'000		
Mid-Mersey Sustainable Transport	4	5	299	399	0	0
Fleet Replacements	816	861	881	1,121	300	0
Brookvale Biomass Boiler	289	322	322	322	0	0
Total Policy & Resources	8,514	8,820	17,980	22,704	11,292	76,016

Directorate/Department	Actual Expenditure to Date £'000	2014/15 Cumulative Capital Allocation			Capital Allocation 2015/16 £'000	Capital Allocation 2016/17 £'000
		Quarter 2 £'000	Quarter 3 £'000	Quarter 4 £'000		
<u>Communities Directorate</u>						
Community & Environment						
Stadium Minor Works	6	15	23	30	30	30
Widnes Recreation Site	1,043	1,258	1,887	2,515	0	0
Children's Playground Equipment	4	15	59	79	65	65
Landfill Tax Credit Schemes	17	17	30	340	340	340
Upton Improvements	34	35	45	63	0	0
Crow Wood Park	0	0	9	13	0	0
Runcorn Hill Park	233	236	236	311	250	0
Open Spaces Schemes	138	130	142	189	0	0
Runcorn Cemetery Extension	0	0	0	9	0	0
Widnes Crematorium Cremators	105	198	297	396	0	0
Litter Bins	0	0	15	20	20	20
Prevention & Assessment						
Grants for Disabled Facilities	149	250	375	500	787	0
Energy Promotion	6	6	9	12	0	0
Joint Funding RSL Adaptations	89	100	150	200	0	0
Stair lifts (Adaptations Initiative)	119	125	187	250	0	0

Directorate/Department	Actual Expenditure to Date £'000	2014/15 Cumulative Capital Allocation			Capital Allocation 2015/16 £'000	Capital Allocation 2016/17 £'000
		Quarter 2 £'000	Quarter 3 £'000	Quarter 4 £'000		
Commissioning & Complex Care						
ALD Bungalows	0	0	100	100	200	100
Lifeline Telecare Upgrade	0	0	75	100	0	0
Grangeway Court	0	0	0	0	347	0
Halton Carers Centre Refurbishment	10	10	37	50	0	0
Section 256 Grant	0	0	42	55	0	0
Community Capacity Grant	0	0	162	216	0	0
Social Care Capital Grant	0	0	0	0	356	0
Total Communities Directorate	1,953	2,395	3,880	5,448	2,395	555
TOTAL CAPITAL PROGRAMME	14,891	15,656	31,653	42,291	23,509	77,807
Slippage (20%)				-8,458	-4,702	-15,561
					8,458	4,702
TOTAL				33,833	27,265	66,948

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