

Report of the Cabinet

The CABINET reports and recommends as follows:-

1. Council Tax Base 2015/2016

That they have given consideration to a report of the Director of Finance (copy attached) seeking approval to the calculation of the Council Tax Base for 2015/2016 in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and recommend to Council that:-

- (i) The report for the calculation of the Tax Bases for the City Council and Hetton Town Council for 2014/2015 be approved.
- (ii) That pursuant to the report and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as amended by Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2012 the amount calculated by Sunderland City Council as its Council Tax Base for the year 2014/2015, shall be £66,000 and for the area of Hetton Town Council shall be £3,301.

2. Revenue Budget 2015/2016 Proposals and Provisional Revenue Support Settlement 2015/2016

That they have given consideration to a joint report of the Chief Executive and Director of Finance (copy attached) on the provisional budget proposals 2015/2016 and provisional Revenue Support Settlement, as a basis for the continuation of consultation, prior to the receipt of the final Local Government Finance Settlement.

They also referred the report to the Scrutiny Committee for further advice and consideration. The Scrutiny Committee resolved that it was satisfied with the information provided on the Revenue Budget Proposals and Revenue Support Settlement. The Committee recognised the difficult financial situation that the Council was facing and in particular wished to acknowledge the work of the Finance Team in preparing the provisional budget proposals.

Accordingly the Cabinet recommends the Council to approve the provisional budget proposals, as a basis for the continuation of budget consultation, prior to the receipt of the final Local Government Finance Settlement 2015/2016.

3. Capital Programme – Third Review 2014/2015, Provisional Resources 2015/2016 and Treasury Management Review 2014/2015

That they have given consideration to a report of the Director of Finance which detailed the re-profiling of projects since the Second Capital Review for 2014/2015 was approved in October 2014, the inclusion of additional schemes and revisions to costs and resourcing for 2014/2015 since the Second Capital Review was reported, the allocation of capital resources for 2015/2016 subject to any adjustments required when final resource announcements are made, and the progress in implementing the Treasury Management Strategy for 2014/2015.

They referred the report to the Scrutiny Committee to note the variation to the Capital Programme 2014/2015 with an estimated cost variance of £250,000 or more, details of which are set out in the attached extract Appendix A. The Scrutiny Committee resolved that it was satisfied with the capital budget scheme variations and had no additional comment to make.

Accordingly, the Cabinet recommends the Council to note the variation to the Capital Programme for 2014/2015.

4. Local Council Tax Support Scheme

That they have given consideration to a report of the Director of Finance (copy attached) on an update on the consultation results for the Local Council Tax Support Scheme and to recommend that the Local Council Tax Support Scheme set out in the report be implemented with effect from 1 April 2015.

Accordingly, the Cabinet recommends the Council to:-

- (i) Consider feedback received during the consultation period from
 - precepting authorities,
 - the public, including representatives/representative groups of Council Tax payers and Council Tax benefit claimants, voluntary organisations and community groups.
- (ii) Approve the Council's Local Council Tax Support Scheme as set out in in the report for the financial year 2015/16.
- (iii) Authorise the Director of Finance to administer the Local Council Tax Support Scheme including undertaking the consideration and determination of applications for support and authorise the Head of Law and Governance to amend the constitution accordingly.
- (iv) Authorise the publication of the approved Scheme on the Council's website and in any additional manner determined by the Director of Finance in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Secretary.