

DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL – 6 MARCH 2013

Outstanding Recommendation

8. **COUNCIL BUDGET 2013/14 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2013/14 - 2015/16**

The Cabinet at its meetings on 4 February 2013 and 4 March 2013 and the Scrutiny (Policy and Performance) Committee at its meeting on 12 February 2012 considered the report of the Director of Finance, Housing and Community (circulated separately) upon the Council Budget 2013/14 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2013/14 – 2015/16. The Cabinet, at its meeting on 4 March 2013 recommended the following to Council:

- (a) That the draft General Fund Revenue Budget, the Capital and Special Projects Programmes, the Housing Revenue Account budget, the Council Tax Resolution and the content of the MTFP be approved (including the amendment of the General Fund Revenue Budget to reflect the withdrawal of charges for the purchase of grave space for a child under 12 years of age).
- (b) That it be noted that it is the view of the Director of Finance, Housing and Community that the budget has been prepared in an appropriate and prudent manner and that, based upon the information available, the budgets are robust and the estimated General Fund and Housing Revenue Account balances and reserves are considered adequate for the Council's current spending plans.
- (c) That, in setting the Budget for 2013/14, the grants to other organisations as determined by Cabinet and set out at Annex 11 of the report be released.
- (d) That the various recommendations at the end of the sections within the Budget and MTFP, and summarised at Annex 15 to Appendix 1 of the report, be approved, as follows:
  - (i) Confirm the adoption of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme and, in doing so, the determination to remove second homes and empty properties discounts made at the meeting of 30 January 2013, the effect of which will be as follows:
    - (A) Approval of the policy that empty homes discount is reduced to 0% for Class C empty properties from 1 April 2013.
    - (B) Approval of the removal of the second home discount so that Council Tax will be payable in full on these properties from 1 April 2013.
  - (ii) Approve the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2013/14 and the projected outturn for 2012/13.
  - (iii) Continue the practice of delegated authority to the Director of Finance, Housing and Community to approve revenue budget carry forwards

within the guidelines set out, and create and draw down Growth Point reserves in order to apply them to regeneration projects and support.

- (iv) Approve the policies and protocols regarding the General Fund balances and earmarked reserves, and transfers between reserves as set out in Annex 6.
- (v) Approve the 2012/13 projected outturn and the 2013/14 Housing Revenue Account budget at Annex 7 of the report.
- (vi) Approve the 2012/13 and 2013/14 transfers to the Housing Initiatives Reserve.
- (vii) Approve the basis upon which the capital and special projects programmes have been compiled.
- (viii) Delegate the decisions to apply capital receipts, revenue funds and other capital resources to finance the capital and special projects programmes to the Director of Finance, Housing and Community, in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder.
- (ix) Approve that capital resources required to finance new projects are secured before new projects commence.
- (x) Delegate the authorisation of projects up to £50,000 that are included in the capital and special revenue programmes to the Director of Finance, Housing and Community in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources and Performance.
- (xi) Delegate the authorisation of projects funded from the Capital Contingency to the Director of Finance, Housing and Community, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources and Performance.
- (xii) Approve that retained poolable housing capital receipts are used to fund capital allowances on Regeneration and Decent Homes agendas.
- (xiii) Approve the Treasury Management Strategy, including the Prudential Indicators and Minimum Revenue Provision statement.
- (xix) Approve the Council Tax Resolution as set out at Annex 10A.
- (xx) Note that, if the formal Council Tax Resolution at Annex 10A is approved, the total Band D Council Tax will be as set out at Annex 15 of the report.