



## **POLICY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 2ND JUNE 2015**

**SUBJECT: CORPORATE SERVICES AND MISCELLANEOUS FINANCE REVENUE  
BUDGETS 2015-16**

**REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES AND SECTION 151  
OFFICER**

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide Members with details of the 2015/16 revenue budgets for Corporate Services and Miscellaneous Finance.

### **2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 The report provides details of the 2015/16 revenue budgets for Corporate Services and Miscellaneous Finance and briefly outlines the next steps to progress the budget strategy for 2016/17 and 2017/18.

### **3. LINKS TO STRATEGY**

- 3.1 The contents of this report reflect the budget strategy agreed by Council at its meeting on the 25th February 2015.

### **4. THE REPORT**

#### **4.1 2015/16 Revenue Budget**

- 4.1.1 The Welsh Government's Revenue Support Grant (RSG) for Caerphilly CBC for the 2015/16 financial year is a reduction of 3.3% after adjusting for new responsibilities and transfers in i.e. a cash decrease of £8.892m.
- 4.1.2 Members will recall that as a consequence of the financial settlement a package of savings totalling £11.96m was agreed to enable the Council to deliver a balanced budget for the 2015/16 financial year. Savings for Corporate Services and Miscellaneous Finance amount to £4.27m.
- 4.1.3 The approved 2015/16 budgets for Corporate Services and Miscellaneous Finance total £76.302m and full details are provided in Appendix 1.

#### **4.2 Corporate Services**

- 4.2.1 The 2015/16 budget for Corporate Services is £23.229m, which is net of agreed savings totalling £1.490m.

4.2.2 In line with the budget strategy agreed at Council on the 25th February 2015 the Corporate Services base budget has been uplifted for inflation. An allowance of 1% has been made for pay (£269k) and 1.5% for non-pay (£93k).

4.2.3 The most significant other budget movement is £75k in relation to the running costs of the Bargoed Contact Centre.

#### **4.3 Miscellaneous Finance**

4.3.1 The 2015/16 budget for Miscellaneous Finance is £53.073m, which is net of agreed savings totalling £2.776m.

4.3.2 In line with the Council's budget strategy an uplift of 1.5% has been allocated to Miscellaneous Finance in respect of non-pay budgets (£174k).

4.3.3 The budget for the Council Tax Reduction Scheme has been increased by £443k in line with the increase in the Council Tax for 2015-16.

#### **4.4 Budget Strategy for 2016/17 and 2017/18**

4.4.1 No indicative RSG settlement figures for 2016/17 and 2017/18 have been provided by the Welsh Government. For planning purposes the Council's current Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) assumes further reductions in the RSG of 3.4% for both 2016/17 and 2017/18. This results in further savings required of £14.030m for 2016/17 and £12.105m for 2017/18.

4.4.2 During the coming months detailed work will be carried out to identify a range of savings proposals to meet the significant financial challenges that lie ahead. This process will adhere to the following principles that were agreed by Council at its meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> February 2015:-

- Protecting front-line services where we can and reducing expenditure on management and administrative costs.
- Increasing fees and charges where appropriate
- Reducing, rather than removing services where possible.
- Focussing on priorities.
- Looking at alternative ways of delivering services (collaboration, partnerships, community trusts, etc.).

### **5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 This report is for information purposes so the Council's Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) process does not need to be applied.

### **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 As identified throughout the report.

### **7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 The personnel implications of agreed savings will be carefully managed and where possible staff will be fully supported to identify appropriate redeployment opportunities.

## **8. CONSULTATIONS**

8.1 There are no consultation responses that have not been reflected in this report.

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

9.1 That Scrutiny Committee notes the content of this report.

## **10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

10.1 To ensure that the Scrutiny Committee is provided with full details of the 2015/16 revenue budgets for Corporate Services and Miscellaneous Finance.

## **11. STATUTORY POWER**

11.1 Local Government Acts 1972 and 2000.

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Background Papers  
Budget working papers – Accountancy Section

Appendices  
Appendix 1 – 2015/16 Revenue Budgets (Corporate Services and Miscellaneous Finance)