



**POLICY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE -  
24TH JULY 2013**

**SUBJECT: CORPORATE SERVICES & MISCELLANEOUS FINANCE REVENUE  
BUDGETS 2013-2014**

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

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**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To provide Members with details of the 2013/14 revenue budgets for Corporate Services and Miscellaneous Finance.

**2. SUMMARY**

2.1 The report summarises the budgets for the above services for the financial year 2013/2014.

**3. LINKS TO STRATEGY**

3.1 The contents of this report are in accordance with the Budget Strategy agreed by Council at its meeting on 27th February 2013.

**4. THE REPORT**

4.1 The approved 2013/14 budgets for Corporate Services and Miscellaneous Finance total £81.166m and full details are provided in Appendix 1.

**4.2 Corporate Services:**

4.2.1 The 2013/14 budget for Corporate Services is £25.57m, which is an increase of £1.75m on the revised budget for 2012/13.

4.2.2 In line with the budget strategy agreed at Council on the 27<sup>th</sup> February 2013 the Corporate Services base budget has been uplifted for inflation. An allowance of 1% has been made for pay (£213k) and 1.5% for non-pay (£67k). Funding of £12k has also been allocated to meet the increase in the cost of the Living Wage.

4.2.3 Additional funding of £500k has also been allocated to Corporate Services to meet the cost of no longer recharging the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for certain services. This action was taken as part of the funding strategy for the achievement of the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS). Further funding of £180k has also been allocated to meet welfare reform implementation costs.

4.2.4 The 2013/14 Corporate Services budget includes vacancy management savings target of £170k. There are also a number of budget virements into / from Corporate Services resulting in a net increase of £944k. The most significant of these are £407k in relation to Asset Management transfers and £485k from Miscellaneous Finance in relation to Health & Safety budgets.

### **4.3 Miscellaneous Finance:**

4.3.1 The 2013/14 budget for Miscellaneous Finance is £55.67m, which is an increase of £13.32m on the revised budget for 2012/13.

4.3.2 The 2013/14 Welsh Government Revenue Support Grant (RSG) settlement includes £13.66m funding transferred from the Department for Work & Pensions in relation to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS).

4.3.3 In line with the Council's budget strategy an uplift of 1% has been allocated to Miscellaneous Finance in respect of pay and 1.5% has been applied to non-pay budgets. These inflationary uplifts total £208k.

4.3.4 Funding of £1.21m has been included in the 2013/14 budget to meet capital financing costs in relation to the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) and £484k has also been included to support financing requirements for other Council capital expenditure.

4.3.5 Other 2013/14 growth funding allocated to Miscellaneous Finance totals £422k, which is mainly for annual increases in Landfill Tax and miscellaneous service pressures.

4.3.6 The 2013/14 Miscellaneous Finance budget includes savings totalling £3.607m that has been achieved in advance. These savings were used on a one-off basis in 2012/13 to support the capital programme but have now been applied to revenue budgets on a permanent basis. The budget also reflects a reduction of £52k in the Fire Service Levy for 2013/14. There are also a number of budget virements into Miscellaneous Finance totalling £826k, much of which is due to reinstating temporary virements that were agreed during 2012/13.

4.3.7 There has been a reduction in grant funding from Welsh Government of £214k in respect of the Outcome Agreement Grant and Private Finance Initiatives.

## **5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

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

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 As identified throughout the report.

## **7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 There are no personnel implications.

## **8. CONSULTATIONS**

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

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

9.1 Members are asked to note the content of this report.

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

10.1 To ensure that Members are aware of the content of the budget for Corporate Services and Miscellaneous Finance areas of the Chief Executive's Directorate.

## **11. STATUTORY POWER**

11.1 Local Government Act 1972 and 2003 and the Council's Financial Regulations.

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Consultees: Corporate Services Senior Management Team  
Cllr K Reynolds, Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Corporate Services  
N. Scammell, Acting Director of Corporate Services & S151 Officer  
S. Harris, Acting Head of Corporate Finance  
A. Southcombe, Finance Manager, Corporate Services  
G. Williams, Monitoring Officer

Background Papers:  
Budget Working Papers – Accountancy Section

Appendices:  
Appendix 1 Corporate Services and Miscellaneous Finance Revenue Budgets 2013/14

Links to Other Documents:  
Council Meeting 27/02/13 – Budget Proposals 2013/14 and Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2013/2016 (Agenda Item No. 2(b))  
Minutes - Council Meeting 27/2/2013: Budget Proposals 2013/14  
Agenda - Item No. 2(b)