



**Open Report on behalf of Andrew Crookham,  
Deputy Chief Executive & Executive Director - Resources**

Report to:	<b>Overview and Scrutiny Management Board</b>
Date:	<b>25 January 2024</b>
Subject:	<b>Council Budget 2024/25</b>

**Summary:**

At its meeting on 9 January 2024 the Executive approved the budget proposals described in the attached report (Appendix A) for consultation.

**Actions Required:**

The Committee is asked to consider and comment upon the Executive's budget proposals, as set out in Appendix A.

## **1. Background**

1.1 At its meeting on 9 January 2024 the Executive approved the budget proposals set out in the report as the preferred option for consultation. The report to the Executive describes these proposals in detail (Appendix A).

### Further Consultation

1.2 In addition to the review of budget proposals by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board further scrutiny and consultation arrangements are:

- All other Council Scrutiny Committees will have the opportunity to scrutinise budget proposals in detail in January;
- Budget proposals were publicised on the Council's website following the Executive meeting and provide the opportunity for the public to comment;
- Public awareness of the impact of the budget proposals on Council Tax will be raised using social media channels; and

- A consultation meeting with local business representatives, trade unions and other partners will take place at the end January 2024.

1.3 Consultation responses and comments will be available to be considered when the Executive makes its final budget proposals on 6 February 2024.

**2. Conclusion**

2.1 These budget proposals reflect the level of government funding available to the Council in 2024/25, as well as the proposal to increase Council Tax in 2024/25 by at least 2.99% and up to 4.99% (inclusive of 2% adult social care precept). Service areas have been reviewed and the budget proposals aim to support the Council's priorities within the financial resources available.

**3. Consultation**

**a) Risks and Impact Analysis**

An Equality Impact Assessment will be completed for the proposed increase in Council Tax. This will be reported to the Executive at its meeting on 6 February 2024. Further Risk and Impact Assessments will need to be undertaken on a service-by-service basis.

**4. Appendices**

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Executive Paper: Council Budget 2024/25 (including appendices).

**5. Background Papers**

The following background papers as defined in the Local Government Act 1972 were relied upon in the writing of this report.

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement announcements	Executive Director of Resources

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