



Budget Proposals 2018/19

Presentation by the Leader of the Council

**Overview & Scrutiny Committee
31st January 2018**

Background

- Initial Budget proposals agreed at Cabinet 27th Nov.
- Considered by O & S Committee 22nd Nov.
- Report for Cabinet 5th Feb. published
- A small number of changes and confirmations received, as follows

Provisional Finance Settlement – 19th Dec

Confirmed figures for 2018/19 and 2019/20 (yrs 3 & 4 of 4-year offer)

- Revenue Support Grant - £0.27m and Nil
- Business Rate Baseline - £3.35m and £3.43m
- Adjustment to Business Rates Tariff - £0.29m in 2019/20
- Council tax referendum principles – less than 3% or £5 whichever is higher for 2018/19 and 2019/20 (Shire District Councils)

Provisional Finance Settlement – 19th Dec

- Essex unsuccessful in bid to be Business Rate Pilot for 2018/19
- Council to participate in Essex Business Rate Pool for 2018/19 – potential share of growth – £560k to the Council
- Business Rate Retention and results of Fair Funding Review to be implemented in 2020/21

New Homes Bonus

- No changes to scheme for 2018/19
- Year 8 allocation - £16,240
- Total amount receivable in 2018/19 is £1.27m

Business Rates Retained

Calculations have been updated:

2017/18

- £4.55m which is £1.29m above Baseline

2018/19

- £4.53m which is £1.18m above Baseline

These are £224k and £232k higher than in November Report

Fees and Charges

Planning Application Fees

- Government issued Regulations on 20th December enabling planning application fees to be increased by 20% from 17th January
- Conditional on additional income raised is ringfenced for Planning services

Car Park charges

- Proposed increases as reported

Other Fees and Charges

- Set to recover cost or general increase of 3%

Assumptions Updates

Pay Award

- Offer by Employers Organisation – 5th December
- 2% per annum for majority of paypoints for 2 years
- Higher increases at the lower paypoints
- Adds £195k in 2018/19 and £210k in 2019/20

Council Taxbase

- Set at 51,980 (small increase of 80)

Community Transport Funding

- ECC has confirmed contribution frozen (at 2017/18 level) for 2018/19 and 2019/20

Additions/ Changes

Councillor Grant Scheme

- Following review agreed to continue scheme - £1,500 per councillor per annum

Proposed Savings - change

- To continue to provide refuse/recycling collection calendars

Council Tax & Financial Profile

	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22
Council Tax (Band D)	£175.41	£179.73	£183.24	£186.84
Increase	2.97%	2.99%	1.95%	1.96%
Revenue Account Shortfalls	Nil	£603k	£258k	£48k
Addition to Balances	£246k	-	-	-

Reserves & Balances

- Anticipated earmarked reserves
as @31st March 2019 £19.25m
- Anticipated unallocated balances
as @ 31st March 2019 £3.88m

Capital Programme

No changes from November report

- New schemes with total value - £1.64million for 2018/19

Major Capital Investment schemes will be presented to Members as the schemes progress and decisions are required

Next stages

- Cabinet 5th February 2018
- Council 19th February 2018