

AGENDA

for

the **ANNUAL MEETING** of the
Council to be held at

**THE COUNCIL HOUSE
ATHERSTONE**

on

10 MAY 2017

at

6.30pm

North Warwickshire Borough Council

Jerry Hutchinson LLB MBA Solicitor
Chief Executive
The Council House
South Street
Atherstone
North Warwickshire CV9 1DE

This matter is being dealt with by
Mr D Harris

Direct Dial : (01827) 719222

Your ref :

Our ref : DH/JB C7

Switchboard : (01827) 715341

Fax : (01827) 719225

E Mail : davidharris@northwarks.gov.uk

Date : 2 May 2017

To: All Members of the Council

Dear Sir / Madam

You are hereby summoned to attend the Annual Meeting of the Council, to be held in the Council Chamber, the Council House, South Street, Atherstone, on Wednesday 10 May 2017 at 6.30pm.

Members are invited to join the Mayor for prayers led by the Canon Paul Wilson from Curdworth, prior to the commencement of business. After prayer, the following business will be transacted:

- 1 Evacuation Procedure.
- 2 To elect the Mayor of the Borough for the ensuing year. (The Mayor will then make a declaration of acceptance of office and the Mayor and Mayoress/Consort will be invested with the Chain and Badge of Office by the retiring Mayor. The retiring Mayor and Mayoress will then be presented by the Mayor with Past Mayor's and Mayoress's Badges).
- 3 Apologies for absence / Members away on official Council business.
- 4 Declarations of Personal or Prejudicial Interest.
- 5 The Mayor to move, in accordance with Standing Order No 6(1):
"That the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 22 February 2017 be approved as a correct record".
- 6 To appoint the Deputy Mayor of the Borough for the ensuing year. (The Deputy Mayor will then make a declaration of acceptance of office and the Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayoress/Consort will be invested with their Badges of Office by the Mayor).

- 7 To receive the Mayor's announcements.
- 8 (a) To decide, in accordance with Standing Order No 23(2), the number of Members on each of the following for the ensuing year (current numbers in brackets):-
- Executive Board (10)
 - Community and Environment Board (13)
 - Resources Board (10)
 - Planning and Development Board (15)
 - Standards Committee (6)
 - Licensing Committee (15)
 - Special Sub-Group (6)
 - Safer Communities Sub-Committee (11)
 - Local Development Framework Sub-Committee (6)
 - Area Forums
- (b) After considering recommendations from the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the other political group on the Council (to be circulated at the meeting), to appoint Chairmen/Vice-Chairmen (with the exception of the Standards Committee), as appropriate, and other Members to the bodies referred to in (a) above;
- (c) After consideration of the recommendations of the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the other political group on the Council, to appoint representatives of the Council to serve on outside bodies, in accordance with Standing Order No 41.
- 9 To authorise the Chief Executive, in accordance with Article 13.05 of the Articles of the Constitution, to Sign and Seal, on behalf of the Council, any Orders, Deeds and Documents necessary to give effect to any resolution of the Council.

Yours faithfully



Chief Executive

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD AT THE COUNCIL
HOUSE, SOUTH STREET, ATHERSTONE ON
WEDNESDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2017**

Present: Councillor Smitten in the Chair.

Councillors Bell, Clews, Davey, L Dirveiks, N Dirveiks, Farrell, Ferro, Gosling, Hanratty, Hayfield, Henney, Humphreys, Ingram, Jarvis, Jenns, Jones, Lea, Lewis, Morson, Moss, Payne, Phillips, Reilly, Simpson, Singh, Smith, E Stanley, M Stanley, Sweet, Waters and D Wright

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Chambers, Davis and A Wright

Before the commencement of business Stella Wallace-Tween led the Council in Prayer.

35 Disclosable Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Councillors Morson, Sweet and Waters declared a prejudicial interest in Minute No 60 – Borough Care Service (Resources Board held on 30 January 2017) and for consideration of Borough Care Service matters during Minute No 64 - General Fund Revenue Estimates 2017 -2018 and Setting the Council Tax 2017 - 2018 (Executive Board held 7 February 2017), left the meeting and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

36 Minutes of the meeting of Full Council held on 7 December 2016

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 7 December 2016 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

37 Mayor's Announcements

There were no Mayor's Announcements.

38 Questions Pursuant to Standing Order No. 7

There were no Questions pursuant to Standing Order No 7.

39 Minutes of Boards/Committees

a) Area Forum (South) – 29 November 2016

It was proposed by Councillor Hayfield, seconded by Councillor D Wright and

Resolved:

That the notes of the meeting of Area Forum (South) held on 29 November 2016 be approved and adopted.

b) Area Forum (East) – 1 December 2016

It was proposed by Councillor Clews, seconded by Councillor Bell and

Resolved:

That the notes of the meeting of Area Forum (East) held on 1 December 2016 be approved and adopted.

c) Planning and Development Board – 12 December 2016, 16 January and 6 February 2017

It was noted that Councillor Davey's pecuniary interest in Minute No 76 Planning Applications (Application No 2017/0003 - Land on the corner of Merevale Lane, Baxterley, Atherstone, Warwickshire, CV9 2LA) was by virtue of his employer being employed by the applicant.

It was proposed by Councillor Simpson, seconded by Councillor Sweet and

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meetings of the Planning and Development Board held on 12 December 2016, 16 January and 6 February 2017, together with the recommendation contained therein, be approved and adopted.

d) Community and Environment Board – 23 January 2017

It was proposed by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor D Wright and

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Community and Environment Board held on 23 January 2017, together with the recommendations contained therein, be approved and adopted.

e) Resources Board – 30 January 2017

It was proposed by Councillor D Wright, seconded by Councillor Smith and

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of Resources Board held on 30 January 2017, together with the recommendations contained therein, be approved and adopted.

f) Licensing Committee – 31 January 2017

It was proposed by Councillor Jenns, seconded by Councillor Lewis and

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of Licensing Committee held on 31 January 2017, together with the recommendations contained therein, be approved and adopted.

f) Executive Board – 7 February 2017

(1) Minute No 64 - General Fund Revenue Estimates 2017 – 2018 and Setting the Council Tax 2017 – 2018

It was proposed by Councillor Humphreys, seconded by Councillor D Wright

a That the savings of £739,220 be approved (Appendix D);

b That a sum of £50,000 be made available for action to address fly tipping; a sum of £10,000 to improve links to Business, a sum of £10,000 for Community Partnership initiatives and £5,000 for raising awareness on health and wellbeing matters, to be funded from earmarked reserves;

c That the revised revenue estimate for 2016/17 and the revenue estimate for 2017/18 be approved (Appendix E);

d That the preferred Council Tax option for 2017/18 be a 0 % increase on Band D;

e That the Deputy Chief Executive's comments on the minimum acceptable level of general reserves be noted (Appendix F);

f That the manpower estimate for the year 2017/18 be approved (Appendix G);

It was then proposed by Councillor Farrell, seconded by Councillor Sweet by way of amendment

“That recommendation a is replaced by the following:

- a That the savings of £739,220 in Appendix D are amended by £298,000 as set out below;

Changes to Savings	2017/18 £
Reducing the charging for Borough Care, to take the most vulnerable and poorest pensioners out of paying for Borough Care	-100,000
Reverse the charge for replacement bins	-45,000
Re-instate the full operation of Arley Leisure Centre	-34,950
Reduce Corporate Communication activity, to leave a £10,000 budget	42,830
Reduce the contribution to the Building Maintenance Fund	21,000
Remove the Landscape budget	8,800
Reduce Special Responsibility Allowances for Councillors	10,360
Reduce the Civic Hospitality budget	8,600
Remove Corporate subscriptions to Outside Bodies	5,510
Reduce the provision for training	28,000
Reduce the recruitment budget	12,850
Senior Management Restructure (redundancy costs to be met from earmarked reserves)	340,000
TOTAL	298,000

That an additional recommendation is added:

To approve one off growth of £297,000 as set out below;

Growth	2017/18 £
Community Infrastructure Fund – to help communities impacted by housing and industrial development	160,000
Polesworth Pavilion Consultation – to engage with the community on how to rebuild the Polesworth Pavilion	5,000
Reducing deaths and serious accidents on our roads - to tackle speeding and dangerous driving on our roads, including the A51 in Kingsbury and A446 in Coleshill	7,000
Funding for a North Warwickshire Lorry Park - to investigate the possibility of establishing a lorry park in North Warwickshire to reduce the disruption caused by HGV's on our residential roads	25,000
Daw Mill Residents Action Group Fund – to provide	

<p>funding to the local residents group to protect their local area. The fund will ensure the residents group is able to fully express the views of residents and help protect our community from the damage that would be caused through any plans to develop the site.</p>	<p>30,000</p>
<p>North Warwickshire Tourism Fund – to promote out three market towns of Atherstone, Polesworth and Coleshill to encourage new businesses, visitors and ultimately improve the local economy. This will include using the Bike Race in Atherstone as a platform.</p>	<p>30,000</p>
<p>Kingsbury Development Fund – a fund to support local business and the economy both in Council owned shops and the wider area</p>	<p>20,000</p>
<p>Narrowing the Gap/Improving the educational attainment gap in Hartshill and Mancetter – A fund to provide a youth work project to reduce the educational inequalities students of Mancetter and Hartshill face, when compared with other areas of the Borough. A pilot project that could be rolled out elsewhere in future.</p>	<p>20,000</p>
<p>TOTAL</p>	<p>297,000</p>

That recommendations b and d are replaced by the following:

- b That the revised revenue estimate for 2016/17 and the revenue estimate for 2017/18, as amended by the additional savings and growth, be approved;**
- d That the preferred Council Tax option for 2017/18 be a 0% increase on Band D;**

recommendations c, e and f remain as set out.”

In accordance with Standing Order No11(3) the recorded vote on the amendment was as follows

For – Councillors L Dirveiks, N Dirveiks, Farrell, Ferro, Gosling, Henney, Lewis, Moss, Phillips, E Stanley and M Stanley (11)

Against – Councillors Bell, Clews, Davey, Hanratty, Hayfield, Humphreys, Ingram, Jarvis, Jenns, Jones, Lea, Payne, Reilly, Simpson, Singh, Smith, Smitten and D Wright (18)

Upon being put to the meeting the Mayor declared the amendment to be lost.

It was then proposed by Councillor Simpson, seconded by Councillor Humphreys by way of amendment

'That reports on the growth items listed in the proposed amendment by Labour including costings and sustainability issues be taken to relevant Boards.'

Upon being put to the meeting the Mayor declared the amendment to be carried.

In accordance with Standing Order No 11(3) the recorded vote on the amendment was as follows

For – Councillors Bell, Clews, Davey, L Dirveiks, N Dirveiks Farrell, Ferro Gosling, Hanratty, Hayfield, Henney, Humphreys, Ingram, Jarvis, Jenns, Jones, Lea, Lewis, Morson Moss, Payne, Phillips, Reilly, Simpson, Singh, Smith, Smitten, E Stanley, M Stanley, Sweet, Waters and D Wright (32)

Against – Nil

The substantive motion was then put to the meeting as follows

- a That the savings of £739,220 be approved (Appendix D);**
- b That a sum of £50,000 be made available for action to address fly tipping; a sum of £10,000 to improve links to Business, a sum of £10,000 for Community Partnership initiatives and £5,000 for raising awareness on health and wellbeing matters, to be funded from earmarked reserves;**
- c That the revised revenue estimate for 2016/17 and the revenue estimate for 2017/18 be approved (Appendix E);**
- d That the preferred Council Tax option for 2017/18 be a 0 % increase on Band D;**
- e That the Deputy Chief Executive's comments on the minimum acceptable level of general reserves be noted (Appendix F);**
- f That the manpower estimate for the year 2017/18 be approved (Appendix G); and**
- g That reports on the growth items listed in the proposed amendment by Labour including costings and sustainability issues be taken to relevant Boards.**

Upon being put to the meeting the Mayor declared the substantive motion to be approved.

In accordance with Standing Order No11(3) the recorded vote on the substantive motion was as follows

For – Councillors Bell, Clews, Davey, Hanratty, Hayfield, Humphreys, Ingram, Jarvis, Jenns, Jones, Lea, Payne, Reilly, Simpson, Singh, Smith, Smitten, Waters and D Wright (19)

Against – Councillors L Dirveiks, N Dirveiks, Farrell, Ferro, Gosling, Henney, Lewis, Morson, Moss, Phillips, E Stanley, M Stanley and Sweet (13)

It was then proposed by Councillor Humphreys, seconded by Councillor D Wright and

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of Executive Board held on 7 February 2017, together with the recommendations contained therein as amended as (1) above and as set out in Appendix 1 hereto, be approved and adopted.

40 **Notice of Motion under Standing Order No. 10**

There were no Notices of Motion received under Standing Order No 10.

41 **The Common Seal**

It was proposed by Councillor Simpson, seconded by Councillor Ferro and

Resolved:

That the Chief Executive be authorised to affix the Common Seal to any document as necessary to give effect to the decisions of the Council, in accordance with Article 13.05 of the Articles of the Constitution.

Chairman of the next ensuing meeting of the Council

GENERAL FUND REVENUE ESTIMATES 2017/18 AND SETTING THE COUNCIL TAX 2017/18

The Council is recommended to resolve as follows:

- a** That the savings of £739,220 be approved (Appendix D);
- b** That a sum of £50,000 be made available for action to address fly tipping; a sum of £10,000 to improve links to Business, a sum of £10,000 for Community Partnership initiatives and £5,000 for raising awareness on health and wellbeing matters, to be funded from earmarked reserves;
- c** That the revised revenue estimate for 2016/17 and the revenue estimate for 2017/18 be approved (Appendix E);
- d** That the preferred Council Tax option for 2017/18 be a 0 % increase on Band D;
- e** That the Deputy Chief Executive's comments on the minimum acceptable level of general reserves be noted (Appendix F);
- f** That the manpower estimate for the year 2017/18 be approved (Appendix G);
- g** That reports on the growth items listed in the proposed amendment by Labour including costings and sustainability issues be taken to relevant Boards.
- h1** That it be noted that in January 2017, the Council calculated the Council Tax Base for 2017/18:
 - a** for the whole Council area as £20,307.71 (item T in the formula in section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended [the "Act"]); and
 - b** for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates as in the attached Appendix B.
- h2** That the Council Tax Requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2017/18 (excluding Parish precepts) is £4,209,790;
- h3** That the following amounts be calculated by the Council for the year 2017/18, in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:-
 - a** £56,442,273.90 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils,
 - b** £51,282,333 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act,
 - c** £5,159,940.90 being the amount by which the aggregate at h3(a) above exceeds the aggregate of h3(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year (item R in the formula in section 31B of the Act),
 - d** £254.09 being the amount at h3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (h1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish Councils),

- e £950,150.90 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as per the attached Appendix B).
- f £207.30 being the amount of h3(d) above, less the result given by dividing the amount at h3(e) above by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precept relates.

h4 To note that for 2017/18, Warwickshire County Council and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire have issued precepts to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each of category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in the table below.

h5 That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the table below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2017/18 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.

Precepting Authority	Valuation Bands							
	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
North Warwickshire BC	138.20	161.23	184.27	207.30	253.37	299.43	345.50	414.60
Warwickshire CC	833.34	972.23	1,111.12	1,250.01	1,527.79	1,805.57	2,083.35	2,500.02
Warwickshire CC – Adult Social care	32.58	38.01	43.44	48.87	59.73	70.59	81.45	97.74
Warwickshire Police Auth.	127.99	149.32	170.65	191.98	234.64	277.30	319.97	383.96
Aggregate of Council Tax Requirements	1,132.11	1,320.79	1,509.48	1,698.16	2,075.53	2,452.89	2,830.27	3,396.32

h6 The Council has determined that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2017/18 is not excessive, in accordance with the principles approved under section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

COUNCIL TAX AMOUNTS 2017/18

APPENDIX B

Area Name	A	B	C	A	B	C
	Precept £	2016/17 Taxbase*	Band D £	Precept £	2017/18 Taxbase*	Band D £
<u>Parishes</u>						
Ansley	21,000.00	591.36	35.51	23,000.00	608.46	37.80
Arley	25,327.00	840.66	30.13	25,722.00	842.30	30.54
Astley	1,218.00	65.71	18.54	1,330.00	71.75	18.54
Atherstone	134,691.00	2,623.02	51.35	137,877.00	2,655.91	51.91
Austrey	10,400.00	384.75	27.03	15,000.00	385.22	38.94
Baddesley Ensor	47,700.00	497.31	95.92	49,140.00	505.64	97.18
Baxterley	10,769.00	122.67	87.79	10,984.38	122.80	89.45
Bentley/ Merevale	724.00	49.49	14.63	740.00	52.44	14.11
Caldecote	0.00	74.09	-	0.00	76.08	-
Coleshill	230,129.29	2,351.36	97.87	235,395.68	2,405.17	97.87
Corley	15,000.00	300.83	49.86	14,565.00	309.98	46.99
Curdworth	26,000.00	480.17	54.15	27,560.00	475.72	57.93
Dordon	23,460.00	829.22	28.29	23,694.60	842.50	28.12
Fillongley	13,987.00	636.42	21.98	16,316.00	632.33	25.80
Great Packington	0.00	54.23	-	0.00	53.42	-
Grendon	16,941.00	544.40	31.12	17,279.00	563.65	30.66
Hartshill	90,217.00	1,040.09	86.74	92,021.34	1,050.52	87.60
Kingsbury	29,375.00	2,352.77	12.49	31,702.00	2,355.70	13.46
Lea Marston	8,588.00	138.12	62.18	8,588.00	136.83	62.76
Little Packington	0.00	20.82	-	0.00	19.96	-
Mancetter	21,701.00	628.36	34.54	24,153.00	641.97	37.62
Maxstoke	4,853.00	115.08	42.17	5,375.00	115.88	46.38
Middleton	11,870.00	305.49	38.86	12,216.00	310.84	39.30
Nether Whitacre	10,640.00	465.02	22.88	12,195.00	469.65	25.97
Newton Regis/ Seckington	9,513.00	220.14	43.21	9,602.00	223.33	42.99
Over Whitacre	2,500.00	183.79	13.60	4,750.00	185.58	25.60
Polesworth	66,755.56	2,427.41	27.50	70,301.00	2,511.19	28.00
Shustoke	9,996.00	199.71	50.05	10,245.90	198.76	51.55
Shuttington	4,667.00	149.70	31.18	5,256.00	151.53	34.69
Water Orton	61,082.00	1,252.77	48.76	63,417.00	1,267.00	50.05
Wishaw	1,725.00	63.33	27.24	1,725.00	65.60	26.30
Total Precept	910,828.85	20,008.29	45.52	950,150.90	20,307.71	46.79

APPENDIX D

Savings/Additional Income included in 2017/18 figures

Board	Description	2017/2018
Planning	Reduced contribution to the Building Control Partnership	30,000
All	Pay Award 2016/17	85,920
All	Pay Award 2017/18	88,320
C & E	Reduced operation - ASC	34,950
C & E	Remove additional CAB grant	15,000
C & E	Charge for replacement bins	45,000
Resources	Shared Service Restructure	12,100
Resources	Assistant Central Services Officer post	25,370
Resources	Borough care Charges	265,040
Resources	Community Development restructure	70,640
Resources	Assistant Management Team and Civic Support Officer	5,600
Resources	Lease Car Allowance	13,850
Resources	Cost of Democratic Service – Journals & Newspapers	510
Resources	Cost of Democratic Service – Advertising and Promotion	1,000
Resources	Cost of Democratic Service – Telephones	1,100
Resources	Cost of Democratic Service – Conference Fees	150
Resources	Cost of Democratic Service – Corporate Subs	2,640
Resources	Cost of Democratic Service – Members Subsistence	230
Resources	Corporate & Democratic Core - Advertising	720
Resources	Compensation and Pensions – reduced contributions on past pension payments	9,030
Resources	NDR Reduction for Council Offices/ Old Bank House	2,900
Resources	Compensation and Pensions – reduced contributions on past pension payments	3,330
Resources	IT Support Officer	25,820
	Overall Total	739,220

SUMMARY OF REVENUE REQUIREMENTS

Revised Gross Expenditure 2016/17	Revised Gross Income 2016/17	Revised Net Expenditure 2016/17		Gross Expenditure 2017/18	Gross Income 2017/18	Net Expenditure 2017/18
£	£	£		£	£	£
8,043,340.00	2,715,010	5,328,330.00	Community and Environment	8,138,940.00	2,938,050	5,200,890.00
1,000,320.00	678,390	321,930.00	Planning and Development	889,580.00	636,700	252,880.00
126,780.00	131,100	(4,320.00)	Licensing	126,770.00	108,820	17,950.00
19,614,820.00	16,135,960	3,478,860.00	Resources	18,996,520.00	15,953,360	3,043,160.00
584,930.00	4,600	580,330.00	Executive	575,640.00	6,300	569,340.00
12,133,510.00	12,133,510	-	Council Housing	11,980,230.00	11,980,230	-
176,710.00	-	176,710.00	Contingencies	59,450.00	-	59,450.00
-	-	-	Growth	75,000.00	75,000.00	-
-	180,000	(180,000.00)	Interest on Balances	-	80,000	(80,000.00)
-	888,012	(888,012.00)	Financing Adjustment	-	876,900	(876,900.00)
119,000.00	-	119,000.00	Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay	119,000.00	-	119,000.00
70,620.00	-	70,620.00	Grant to Parish Councils	59,000.00	-	59,000.00
-	898,920	(898,920.00)	Revenue Support Grant	-	460,790	(460,790.00)
-	21,100	(21,100.00)	Transitional Grant	-	21,020	(21,020.00)
-	16,407,970	(16,407,970.00)	Business Rates	-	16,265,253	(16,265,253.00)
14,649,300.00	-	14,649,300.00	Business Rates - Tariff	14,471,993.00	-	14,471,993.00
-	350,000	(350,000.00)	Additional Business Rates	-	350,000	(350,000.00)
-	972,200	(972,200.00)	New Homes Bonus	-	958,970	(958,970.00)
-	91,870	(91,870.00)	Surplus/Deficit on Collection Fund	-	118,170	(118,170.00)
56,519,330.00	51,608,642	4,910,688.00		55,492,123.00	50,829,563	4,662,560.00
-	762,968	(762,968.00)	Use of Balances	-	452,770	(452,770.00)
56,519,330.00	52,371,610	4,147,720.00		55,492,123.00	51,282,333	4,209,790.00
910,828.85	-	910,828.85	Special Items - Parish Precepts	950,150.90	-	950,150.90
57,430,158.85	52,371,610	5,058,548.85		56,442,273.90	51,282,333	5,159,940.90

STATEMENT FROM THE DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Local Government Act 2003 requires the Chief Financial Officer to report on the robustness of the revenue estimates made for the budget calculations and the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves.

The information used in the preparation of the budget put forward for Members' approval tonight within the revenue budget resolution has undergone extensive and detailed analysis by;

- The Council's Management Team
- Assistant Directors and Budget holders within their areas of responsibility
- The Boards of the Council
- The Deputy Chief Executive, the Assistant Director (Finance and Human Resources) and staff within Management Accounts

The revenue estimates have been prepared within the guidelines established by the 2017 - 2021 Budget Strategy, approved by the Executive Board at its meeting in September 2016.

I am therefore convinced that the revenue estimates that are put forward for approval have been prepared upon realistic assumptions of Council service requirements and represent a robust budget.

Only identified savings have been included within the 2017/18 budget proposal being considered. In the event that some are not achieved, due to unexpected circumstances, the Council has sufficient reserves to cover any immediate budget shortfall and manage its financial position. A robust approach will need to be taken to achieve the savings targets over the remainder of the Medium Term Financial Strategy, to enable the Council to continue to manage its financial position. Where possible, the savings should be found and included in the budget as early as possible, as this has a beneficial impact on the level of balances available.

As part of the overall process, a comprehensive risk assessment has been undertaken of the Council's financial position and it has been determined that the Council's minimum general reserve provision of £1.42 million is appropriate for the Council and that the budgetary requirement set out for 2017/18 and the forecasts for the subsequent three years, will keep the level of reserves above this minimum level.

Therefore, I am of the view that the budget proposed for 2017/18 does provide for an adequate level of reserves, and this will be maintained over the Medium Term, provided the Council adheres to its approved Medium Term Financial Strategy and deliver the required savings.

MANPOWER BUDGET

The Board estimates contain the effect of the following changes in employee numbers.

	2016/17 Estimate (original) FTE	2017/18 Estimate FTE
Monthly Paid	363	355
Total	<hr/> 363 <hr/>	<hr/> 355 <hr/>