

**2009/10 Budget and Policy Framework
– General Fund Revenue Budget**

4th March 2009

Supplementary Report of the Head of Democratic Services

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To advise Council of the updated recommendations of Cabinet regarding the revenue budget, following the call-in of the decision to close various public toilets.

This report is public.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF CABINET

In respect of the General Fund Revenue Budget

1. That the City Council's 2009/10 General Fund Revenue Budget of £23.999M be approved, together with the updated supporting proposals as set out at Appendix A to this report, and the further supporting proposals as set out at Appendices B and C of the main agenda item.
2. That the Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2009/12 as set out at Appendix E of the main agenda item, as updated for recommendation (1) above, be approved.
3. That Council notes the Section 151 Officer's advice regarding robustness of budget estimates, the adequacy of reserves and balances and the affordability of borrowing, as set out in the main agenda item.

1.0 Report

- 1.1 At its meeting held on the 3rd March 2009, Cabinet considered the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's recommendations on the call-in regarding Cabinet's recommendations to Council on Public Toilet Review. After considering the call-in regarding Cabinet Minute 140 2008/09 Cabinet resolved:

“(1) That the toilets remain open with the exception of Regent Road and those adjacent to the Dome, Morecambe and that savings be made from the following budgets:

£12,000 savings from the mothballing of the 2 public toilets located at Regent Road and those adjacent to the Dome, Morecambe.

£11,000 additional savings from the Communications and Marketing Review, resulting in total savings of £41,000 in Year 1 and £61,000 for Years 2 and beyond. (To be achieved by including Your District Matters in the totality of the expenditure as part of the review.)

£31,000 of growth to be removed, in relation to the recurring item for Schools Recycling of £7,000 per year, and the one-off item for undertaking a Review of Parish Financial Arrangements.

- (2) That the Parish and Town Councils be consulted as to whether they would be prepared to take over the toilets in the long term.
- (3) That with regard to the Community Toilet Scheme the Council continues to discuss proposals for the use of toilets with local businesses.”

1.2 Following the decision of Cabinet, a revised schedule of Savings and Growth proposals is set out at **Appendix A**, for consideration by Council. This replaces the version included within the main agenda. In addition, an updated summary statement on future years' prospects is also provided at **Appendix B** to this report. This shows updated projections regarding Council Tax levels for future years, and summarises the new savings requirements assuming that Council retains a 4% target increase for Council Tax in future years. This assumption underpins the proposed Medium Term Financial Strategy.

1.3 With regard to the Capital Programme, there are no changes proposed, following the call-in. At present there is £100K allocated in 2010/11 for Toilets generally and this will be reviewed during next year, in view of the outcome of the consultation with parishes and discussions with local businesses.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The s151 Officer's comments are included in the main agenda item and she has nothing further to add.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

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