

EXECUTIVE

Date:Tuesday 8 December 2015Time:5.30 pmVenue:Rennes Room, Civic Centre, Paris Street, Exeter

Members are invited to attend the above meeting to consider the items of business.

If you have an enquiry regarding any items on this agenda, please contact Sarah Selway, Democratic Services Manager (Committees) on 01392 265275.

Entry to the Civic Centre can be gained through the Customer Service Centre, Paris Street.

Membership - Councillors Edwards (Chair), Denham, Hannaford, Leadbetter, Morris, Owen, Pearson and Sutton

Agenda

Part I: Items suggested for discussion with the press and public present

1 Apologies

To receive apologies for absence from Committee members.

2 Declarations of Interest

Councillors are reminded of the need to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests that relate to business on the agenda and which have not already been included in the register of interests, before any discussion takes place on the item. Unless the interest is sensitive, you must also disclose the nature of the interest. In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, you must then leave the room and must not participate in any further discussion of the item. Councillors requiring clarification should seek the advice of the Monitoring Officer prior to the day of the meeting.

3 Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 - Exclusion of Press and Public

It is considered that the Committee would be unlikely to exclude the press and public during consideration of any of the items on the agenda, but if it should wish to do so, the following resolution should be passed:-

RECOMMENDED that, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the consideration of the particular item(s) on the grounds that it (they) involve(s) the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the relevant paragraphs of Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Act.

4 Major Grants and New Homes Bonus Panel - Minutes 26 November 2015

To receive the minutes of the Major Grants and New Homes Bonus Panel of 26 (Pages 3 - November 2015. 4)

5 **2016/17 Budget Strategy and Medium Term Financial Plan**

To consider the report of the Assistant Director Finance. (Pages 5 - 20)

Date of Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Executive will be held on **Monday 18 January 2016** at 5.30 pm in the Civic Centre.

A statement of the executive decisions taken at this meeting will be produced and published on the Council website as soon as reasonably practicable.

Find out more about Exeter City Council services by looking at our web site *http://www.exeter.gov.uk.* This will give you the dates of all future Committee meetings and tell you how you can ask a question at a Scrutiny Committee meeting. Alternatively, contact the Democratic Services Officer (Committees) on (01392) 265115 for further information.

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Agenda Item 4

MAJOR GRANTS AND NEW HOMES BONUS PANEL

Thursday 26 November 2015

Present:-

Councillor Edwards (Chair) Councillor Sutton

Apologies:

Councillors Hannaford, Leadbetter, Principal Accountant and Community Involvement & Inclusion Officer

Also Present:

City Arts and Events Manager and Senior Valuer (Min. No. 10 only) and Assistant Democratic Services Officer (Committees)

10 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting held on 25 June 2015 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as correct.

11 PERFORMANCE REVIEW OF SERVICE AGREEMENTS WITH STRATEGIC ARTS ORGANISATIONS

The City Arts and Events Manager presented the report on the 12 month monitoring for 2014/15 which assesses the delivery of the Service Agreements with Exeter Phoenix, Exeter Northcott Theatre, Theatre Alibi, Spacex, Exeter Barnfield Theatre and The BikeShed Theatre. The report also commented on the progress of six month monitoring for Exeter Phoenix, Exeter Northcott Theatre, Theatre Alibi, BikeShed Theatre, Spacex, Kaleider, Double Elephant, Sound Gallery and Le Navet Bete for 2015/16; and to approve the final payments of annual grant funding for 2015/16 to the above organisations and the application process for annual funding for 2016/17.

The Chair requested that a press release is published on the funding support to arts organisations.

RESOLVED to recommend to Executive that:

- (1) The content of the monitoring reports for 2014/15 and progress towards delivery for 2015/16 be noted;
- (2) The final payment of funding for 2015/16 as set out under 4.2 and 4.3 of the report be approved;
- (3) A static level of funding from Exeter City Council for the existing core funded organisations in receipt of three year National Portfolio Funding (NPO) from Arts Council England be approved; and

(4) The balance of the major grants budget, £28,000 be allocated via an open application process and delegated to the Portfolio Holder for Economy and Culture in consultation with the Arts & Events Manager and the Head of Economy and Tourism, and the outcomes to be reported to the next Major Grants and New Homes Bonus Panel in February 2016.

(The meeting commenced at 4.30 pm and closed at 4.43 pm)

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE Date of Meeting: 8 December 2015 REPORT TO COUNCIL Date of Meeting: 15 December 2015 Report of: Assistant Director Finance Title: 2016/17 BUDGET STRATEGY AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

Is this a Key Decision?

No

* One that affects finances over £1m or significantly affects two or more wards. If this is a key decision then the item must be on the appropriate forward plan of key decisions.

Is this an Executive or Council Function?

Council

1. What is the report about?

1.1 To provide a strategic overview of the budgetary position for the 2016/17 financial year and beyond including an indication of the likely level of available resources and the known demand for resources and the proposals to ensure that a balanced budget is achieved.

2. Recommendations:

2.1 It is recommended that the contents of the report are noted and that the proposals to establish a balanced revenue budget and capital programme are approved.

3. Reasons for the recommendation:

3.1 The Council is required to set a balanced budget and Council Tax prior to the start of the financial year.

4. What are the resource implications including non financial resources.

4.1 The Council has a Medium Term Financial Plan that is balanced over the next four years. However the impact of the decisions set out in the Comprehensive Spending Review could have a significant detrimental effect on the Council's finances. The report notes the potential resources available to the Council over the medium term and the demand for those resources.

5. Section 151 Officer comments:

5.1 Subject to the outcome of the final settlement from Government, the Council is in a position to propose a balanced and funded budget for 2016/17. The assumptions are set out below and include an assumed 1.99% increase in Council Tax.

6. What are the legal aspects?

6.1 The requirement to set a balanced budget and Council Tax requirement is set out in the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

7. Monitoring Officer's comments:

7.1 This report raises no issues of concern for the Monitoring officer.

8. Report details:

8.1 Comprehensive Spending Review 2015

8.1.1 New Homes Bonus

The Government will consult on reforms to the New Homes Bonus, including means of sharpening the incentive to reward communities for additional homes and reducing the length of payments from six years to four years. This will include a preferred option for savings of at least £800 million, which can be used for social care. Details of both reforms will be set out as part of the local government finance settlement consultation, which will include consideration of proposals to introduce a floor to ensure that no authority loses out disproportionately. The total pot for New Homes Bonus only totals £1.5 billion so this represents a reduction of more than half the available resources and will have a significant, detrimental effect on the Council. If existing commitments are honoured, the impact will be felt towards the end of this MTFP period.

8.1.2 Move from Central Grant to 100% Business Rates Retention

The Spending Review and Autumn Statement confirms that by the end of the Parliament local government will retain 100 per cent of business rate revenues to fund local services, giving them control of £13 billion of additional local tax revenues, and £26 billion in total business rate revenues. The system of top-ups and tariffs which redistributes revenues between local authorities will be retained. The Uniform Business Rate will be abolished and any local area will be able to cut business rates as much as they like. The Government will consult about changes to the local government finance system in preparation for 100 per cent business rates retention. The consultation will take into account the main resources currently available to councils, including council tax and business rates. As part of these reforms, the main local government grant will be phased out and additional responsibilities devolved to local authorities, empowering them to drive local economic growth and support their local community. For example, the government will consider transferring responsibility for funding the administration of Housing Benefit for pensioners and Transport for London's capital projects to local government and will also consult on options to transfer responsibility for funding public health. The Government will consult on these and other additional responsibilities in 2016. Until the detail is known, it is difficult to assess the impact on the Council. At face value, this could be a positive opportunity, but more will be known once the consultation has been announced.

8.1.3 When taking into account OBR forecasts of income raised locally by councils, the overall position is a 6.7 per cent real terms reduction. The actual position for Exeter will be announced in late December.

8.2 Local Government Finance Settlement

8.2.1 The Local Government Finance settlement is currently anticipated to be announced during December 2015. At this stage therefore, the Medium Term Financial Strategy is based upon our best estimate of all the changes using both external advice and early release of some data by the Government.

8.3 Council Tax

8.3.1 The Government has made no announcement in respect of the local authority tax referendum threshold, other than to announce that Upper Tier Authorities may increase their Council Tax by up to two per cent above the threshold as long as the additional income is spent on Adult Social Care. The budget strategy for next year assumes that council tax will increase by 1.99%, which, along with the estimated surplus on the collection fund of £68,000 and increase in the taxbase will raise an extra £187,000.

8.4 **Other Budgetary Assumptions**

8.4.1 An overall allowance of £150,000 has been set aside for inflation. The inflationary increases allowed in the budget are:

Pay Award	1.0%
Pay – Increments	0.5%
Electricity	1.5%
Gas	1.5%
Oil	1.5%
Water	0.0%
Insurance	5.0%
Rates	1.2%
Fuel	0.0%
General Inflation	0.0%
Income (excluding Car Parks)	1.5%

- 8.4.2 General inflation has again been held at zero; however where there are contracts in place, inflation at around RPI has been added. The pay award for 2016/17 has yet to be agreed and therefore an estimate of 1% has been added in line with Government policy.
- 8.4.3 In respect of interest rates, next year's budget reflects the likelihood that whilst base rate may remain low, it is likely that the cost of borrowing will increase and the Council may begin to take out borrowing over a longer timeframe as a result.

8.5 Likely Revenue Resources 2015/16 To 2019/20

8.5.1 The Government is due to announce the provisional grant settlement for local government in December. The figures below have not been updated to reflect the Comprehensive Spending Review as there is insufficient information about the Business Rates retention scheme:-

	2015/16 £'000	2016/17 £'000	2017/18 £'000	2018/19 £'000	2019/20 £'000
RSG	2,899	2,131	1,486	885	762
Council Tax	4,761	4,948	5,014	5,153	5,294
Business Rates	5,099	5,147	5,291	5,464	5,598
Resources	12,759	12,226	11,791	11,502	11,654
Increase/(decrease)		(533)	(435)	(289)	152
Annual % change		(4.2%)	(3.6%)	(2.5%)	1.3%

8.6 Additional Spending Pressures

8.6.1 Additional Spending Pressures over the period are set out in Appendix 1 and total:

	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Additional Pressures	1,587	1,178	(41)	(481)	(45)

8.7 **Revenue Savings And Other Budgetary Reductions**

8.7.1 The updated Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) is set out in Appendix 2. The MTFP has identified savings to effectively balance the budget, subject to the changes from Government support to Business Rates self financing. In addition to the savings set out below, the Council has restructured its Minimum Revenue Provision and will use £1 million of New Homes Bonus a year to deliver a balanced budget:-

	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Savings identified	0	(975)	(475)	(520)	(64)

8.8 General Fund Capital Programme

8.8.1 Attached at appendix 3 is the proposed general fund capital programme for the next three years.

	2016/17 £'000	2017/18 £'000	2018/19 £'000
New Bids	644	19	0
Pre-approved	4,488	9,034	6,019
Total	5,132	9,053	6,019

8.9 Risk Assessment

- 8.9.1 It has already been mentioned above in this report that our financial forecasts are based on a number of assumptions including the level of inflation, interest rates, income levels, support from the government and general prevailing economic conditions. The main risks to the Council's financial position are as follows:
 - The implementation of the 100% Business Rates scheme, which could have a significant impact on the Councils finances. There is every chance that this may be positive rather than negative;
 - The consultation on New Homes Bonus, which if savings of £800 million are proposed, will have a significant, detrimental impact on the Council.

Although the Council faces risks from the assumptions and uncertainties outlined above these have been mitigated by the following:

• Adopting a prudent approach to financial forecasting which involves obtaining information from external professional sources

- Continuous monitoring and review of the key factors together with regular reports to Members on any key issues
- Regular budget monitoring meetings with budget managers to ensure that budget pressures are identified at the earliest opportunity
- The adoption of robust financial management arrangements including option appraisal, risk assessment and financial monitoring
- Retaining a prudent level of reserves and balances

9. How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan?

9.1 This is the strategic overview of the financial position of the Council

10. What risks are there and how can they be reduced?

- 10.1 The risks relate to failing to set a balanced Council budget and are mitigated by regular reporting to the Strategic Management Team and Members.
- 11. What is the impact of the decision on equality and diversity; health and wellbeing; safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults, community safety and the environment?
- 11.1 Not applicable
- 12. Are there any other options?
- 12.1 Not applicable

Assistant Director Finance

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972 (as amended) Background papers used in compiling this report:-None

Contact for enquires: Democratic Services (Committees) Room 2.3 01392 265275

SERVICE PRESSURES - ADDITIONS TO BASE BUDGET

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Jnavoidable or Already Committed from Previous Years						
Elections	43		43	(86)	43	
Living Wage	108	25	25	25	25	25
Additional National Insurance Contributions			300			
HB & CT Admin Grant		75	70	65	60	
Rugby World Cup	60	150	(220)			
Planning & Legal Staffing			53	25	26	
Planning income shortfall	168					
Pension backfunding			45			
Patnership Delivery Officer			15			
Elections - additional post			13			
Jnachievable Savings			96			
Customer Access restructure			51		(51)	
Events			225	(125)		(100)
Members Allowances			42			
livestock Centre reduced income			120	40		
Waste - increased budget			82			
Pool Feasibility Study	50	(100)				
Funding from NHB for Pool Feasibility		100				
,	429	250	960	(56)	103	(75)
New Revenue Bids - Recurring				. ,		
₋ong Service awards			10			
New Post - Exeter Futures			20			
Members allowances		10				
Exeter Respect Festival			20			(20)
Channel Shift		150	(1)	5	5	0
Aicrosoft Licences		60		_		
	0	220	49	5	5	-20
New Revenue Bids - Non Recurring						
EPC - Investment Properties		20	(20)			
_eisure Complex		500	(20)		(500)	
Listed Buildings improvements		000	139		(139)	
Differ	951	597	100		(109)	
Julei	951 951	1,117	119	0	(639)	0
	351	1,117	113		(039)	U U
Revenue Costs Arising from New Capital Bids						
tevenue oosis Ansing nom new Capital Dius						
Insurported Borrowing Costs of Capital Baseyment of Loop		0	0	50	50	50
Jnsupported Borrowing Costs of Capital - Repayment of Loan	0	0 0	0 0	50 50	50 50	50 50
	0	U	U	50	50	50

Page 11

	2014/15 £'000	2015/16 £'000	2016/17 £'000	2017/18 £'000	2018/19 5'000	2019/20 £'000
esources	2 000	2,000	2000	2000	£'000	2,000
	4,167	2 000	2 1 2 1	1 106	885	762
Revenue Support Grant	3,678	2,899	2,131	1,486		
Business Rates Income (assumed by Government)	-	3,748	3,827	3,938	-	4,194
Business Rates growth	1,241	1,201	1,170	1,203		1,254
Business Rates pooling benefit	228	150	150	150		150
Additional Business Rates	0.770	0 500	4.470	4 400	1,220	1,220
New Homes Bonus	2,778	3,529	4,178	4,438		4,000
Council Tax - 1.99%	4,570	4,761	4,948	5,014		5,294
Likely resources	16,662	16,288	16,404	16,229	16,875	16,874
penditure						
Service expenditure						
Committee expenditure base budget	11,796	12,059	12,527	12,830	12,654	11,953
Inflation	358	258	150	300	300	300
Potential increase in service costs	1,370	1,587	1,128	(1)	(481)	(45)
Budgeted reductions	(1,465)	(1,377)				
C C	12,059	12,527	13,805	13,129	12,473	12,208
Supplementary Budgets and AIM Carry Forward	414	965				
Net Interest	148	105	400	450	500	550
Deficit on Business Rates Collection Fund	1,215	728	0	0	0	0
Forecast Committee movements	(467)	(472)				
Repayment of debt	1,332	818	875	871	1,136	1,051
Additional repayment of debt	2,151	2,353	2,000	2,000	-	2,000
	16,852	17,024	17,080	16,450		15,809
Other funding				,		
Contribution to/ (from) earmarked reserves	(800)	(896)	267	682	897	844
Contribution to/ (from) balances - Other	610	160		(428)		285
	(190)	(736)	299	254	1,286	1,129
Identified Savings 2016-17			(975)	(475)	(520)	(64)
Further savings required			(0.0)	(()	()
Total Net Budget	16,662	16,288	16,404	16,229	16,875	16,874
			nal savings re			4.400
Opening General Fund Balance	3,365	3,975	4,135	4,167	-	4,128
Closing General Fund Balance	3,975	4,135	4,167	3,739		4,413
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23.9%

Balance as a percentage of budget

25.4%

25.4%

23.0%

24.5%

26.2%

MEDIUM TERM REVENUE PLAN (2014/15 - 2019/20)

GENERAL FUND - CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2016/17 AND FUTURE YEARS							
SCHEMES LISTED WITHIN COUNCIL PURPOSES		2016/17 £	2017/18 £	2018/19 £	Future Years £	What the scheme is trying to achieve	
COMMUNITY							
KEEP PLACE LOOKING GOOD							
Topsham Recreation Ground		3,530				This is the residual budget remaining as the main scheme has been completed.	
Sub Total - Keep place looking good		3,530	0	0	0		
KEEP ME/MY ENVIRONMENT SAFE & HEALTHY							
Heavitree Church Retaining Wall	#	55,000				To rebuild the retaining wall which is currently showing signs of weakness causing the headstone to lean outwards.	
Vehicle Replacement Programme		550,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	To ensure that the Council's vehicles are replaced that a safe and reliable fleet is maintained	
Sub Total - Keep me/my environment safe & healthy		605,000	400,000	400,000	400,000		
HELP ME FIND SOMEWHERE TO LIVE							
Disabled Facilities Grants		379,000	379,000	379,000	379,000	To meet the legal duty to pay grants to enable disabled people to remain in their homes	
Sub Total - Help me find somewhere to live		379,000	379,000	379,000	379,000		
COMMUNITY TOTAL		987,530	779,000	779,000	779,000		

1

	GENERAL FUND - CAPITAL F	PROGRAMME 2	016/17 AND F	UTURE YEA
SCHEMES LISTED WITHIN COUNCIL PURPOSES	2016/17 £	2017/18 £	2018/19 £	Future Years £
ECONOMY				
KEEP PLACE LOOKING GOOD				
Northbrook Flood Alleviation Scheme	498,13	30		
Sub Total - Keep place looking good	498,13	30 0	0	
PROVIDE GREAT THINGS FOR ME TO SEE & DO				
Sports Facilities Refurbishment	56,4	30 56,430	56,430	56,43
Sub Total - Provide great things to see & do	56,4	30 56,430	56,430	56,43
MAINTAIN THE ASSETS OF OUR CITY				
RAMM Roof	# 68,50	00		
Sub Total - Maintain the assets of our city	68,5	00 0	0	
DELIVER GOOD DEVELOPMENT				
Heavitree Environmental Improvements	22,8	80		
Leisure Complex - Build Project	1,400,0	00 8,000,000	5,000,000	
Sub Total - Deliver good development	1,422,8	80 8,000,000	5,000,000	

ARS	
	What the scheme is trying to achieve
	To provide match funding for the project proposed by the Environment Agency. Will only go ahead subject to match funding being available.
0	
30	To undertake replacement of plant and equipment within the leisure management contract.
30	
	To undertake essential works to mitigate Health and Safety risks identified in relation to RAMM roof access.
0	
	S106 funding to provide enhancements to the area.
	To develop a new leisure complex and swimming pool on part of the bus station site to replace Pyramids
0	

					Future	
SCHEMES LISTED WITHIN COUNCIL PURPOSES		2016/17 £	2017/18 £	2018/19 £	Years £	What the scheme is trying to achieve
KEEP ME/MY ENVIRONMENT SAFE & HEALTHY						
Guildhall & John Lewis MSCP Fire Alarms	#	60,000				To replace the current fire alarms as a result of fire risk assessment findings
Car Park Surfacing - Haven Road	#	30,000				To resurface damaged surfaces within the car park mitigate health and safety risks and to provide 40 additional income generating spaces for part of the year in the area adjacent to the basin.
Replace Lifts at Mary Arches MSCP	#	100,000				To improve reliability and increase accessibility to users of the car park.
Budlake Road Resurfacing	#	50,000				To resurface the heavily potholed road but only if agreement is obtained prior to works that the road will be adopted on completion.
Farmers Market Electricity Supply	#	20,000				To install a permanent electricity supply to be used for Exeter Farmers' Market and any other markets located at the junction of Fore Street and South Street.
Sub Total - Keep me/my environment safe & healthy		260,000	0	0	0	
ECONOMY TOTAL		2,305,940	8,056,430	5,056,430	56,430	

	GENERAL FUND -	CAPITAL PRO	OGRAMIME 20	16/17 AND FU	Future
SCHEMES LISTED WITHIN COUNCIL PURPOSES		2016/17 £	2017/18 £	2018/19 £	Years £
RESOURCES					
WELL RUN COUNCIL					
Annual Contribution to STRATA		53,900	53,900	53,900	53,900
Idox System for Planning	#	18,700	18,700		
HR System	#	67,130			
Convergence Projects	#	142,960			
Guildhall Wi-Fi	#	17,000			
Customer Contact Platform		60,000	45,000	30,000	
Invest to Save Opportunities		100,000			
Civic Centre Replacement Doors	#	15,000			
Energy Saving Projects		1,264,000			£1.4 m
Capitalised Staff Costs		100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Sub Total - Well run council		1,838,690	217,600	183,900	153,900
RESOURCES TOTAL		1,838,690	217,600	183,900	153,900
TOTAL CAPITAL PROGRAMME		5,132,160	9,053,030	6,019,330	989,330
New Bids #		644,290	18,700	0	
Pre-Approved		4,487,870	9,034,330	6,019,330	989,330

ARS	
	What the scheme is trying to achieve
900	
	Contribution to Strata led projects
	To install a fibre connection from the Civic Centre to the Guildhall to improve wi-fi access.
	To ensure that services are available online and to allow customers to transact with the Council without having to telephone or visit
	To allow services to invest in assets that will provide an on-going revenue saving
	To replace the failing access controlled doors at the Southernhay staff entrance and at the rear of Phase 1 to improve security and ensure emergency access is maintained at all times.
	The core aim for all projects is to reduce risk to the Council from the rapidly changing energy markets. The projects will address security of supply, mitigate the impact of inevitable increased energy costs, and bring income to the council
000	To provide for the cost of certain Council employees, which will be directly involved in the construction or acquisition of assets and qualify as capital expenditure, including engineers and surveyors
900	
900	

	GENERAL FUND - CAPITAL PRO	GRAMME 20 ⁴	16/17 AND FU	TURE YEA
SCHEMES LISTED WITHIN COUNCIL PURPOSES	2016/17 £	2017/18 £	2018/19 £	Future Years £
TOTAL CAPITAL PROGRAMME	5,132,160	9,053,030	6,019,330	989,33

EARS

What the scheme is trying to achieve

,330