

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

19 February 2009

Supplementary Report of the Chief Executive, Director of Finance, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance

Part 1- Public

Matters For Decision

1 SETTING THE BUDGET AND THE COUNCIL TAX FOR 2009/10

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 The Council has recently been notified of an award of grant through the Local Authority Business Growth Incentive Scheme (LABGI). The grant is for £123,042 and has been allocated by the Department for Communities and Local Government to help local authorities respond flexibly to the effects of the economic downturn in their area.
- 1.1.2 The budget reports to the Cabinet meeting held on 4 February did not reflect receipt of this grant because at the time the level of award was not known.
- 1.1.3 We recommend that the grant should be used wholly to assist council taxpayers in the borough by reducing the level of council tax increase that they would otherwise have faced for the duration of the medium term. Therefore, for 2009/10 we propose that the council tax at Band D should be set at £167.00 (an increase of 4.7%).
- 1.1.4 In respect of the minutes arising from the meeting of the Cabinet held on 4 February, the following amendments are proposed:-

1.2 Minute CB 09/17 – Setting the Budget for 2009/10

- 1.2.1 We propose that Recommendation 6 (page 59 of Minute book) should be amended to read :
- “ the adjustments to the draft Revenue Estimates outlined in paragraph 1.8.1 of the report *be amended to reflect the receipt of LABGI grant in both Revised and forward Estimates; and these be endorsed*”
- 1.2.2 We propose that Recommendation 8 (page 59 of Minute book) should be amended to read :

- The Medium Term Financial Strategy be updated in accordance with paragraph 1.8.11 of the report *and the adjustment in respect of the LABGI grant as set out above* and it be reaffirmed that a minimum general revenue reserve balance of £3m by the end of the strategy period continues to be appropriate for an authority of the size and scale of Tonbridge and Malling.”

1.2.3 All other Recommendations are unchanged.

1.2.4 In making the above recommendations, Members are referred to the updated Revenue Estimates Summary 2009/10 as attached, previously circulated as Annex 12 with the supplementary report to Cabinet on 4 February 2009. Members are also referred to updated copies of Annexes 18 and 19 for completeness.

1.2.5 The Director of Finance has confirmed that in her professional opinion, the Estimates as amended are robust and the level of Reserves adequate.

1.3 Minute CB 09/18 - Setting the Council Tax for 2009/10

1.3.1 We propose that the **attached Resolution** incorporating a revised Band D council tax for Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council of £167.00 and budget calculations as amended above, be substituted for that shown in the Minute Book (page 65 – 69).

1.3.2 As is the usual practice at the Council meeting, the Resolution also incorporates the council tax levels set by the Kent County Council, Kent Police Authority and Kent & Medway Towns Fire Authority.

1.4 Legal Implications

1.4.1 As set out in the reports presented to Cabinet on 4 February 2009

1.5 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.5.1 As set out in the reports presented to Cabinet on 4 February 2009

1.6 Risk Assessment

1.6.1 As set out in the reports presented to Cabinet on 4 February 2009

1.7 Recommendations

1.7.1 That the proposals made in paragraphs 1.2.1, 1.2.2 and 1.3.1 be **approved**.

Background papers:

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