

REPORT TO : **CABINET**
DATE : **3rd February 2016**
REPORT OF : **Councillor Gareth Molineux**
Portfolio Holder Resources
PREPARED BY : **Joe McIntyre**
Deputy Chief Executive

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY

2016/17 TO 2018/19

February 2016 Update

1. Purpose of Report

The report informs the Cabinet of the 3 year projections of income and spending for the Council ahead of formulating its 2016/17 Revenue and Capital Budget.

2. Recommendations

The Cabinet approves the report and the accompanying Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

3. Summary

The Medium Term Financial Strategy is attached to this report.

4. Detail

See the attached report on the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

5. Reasons for Recommendations

The Cabinet requires an update on its medium term financial outlook ahead of setting the Budget for 2016/17 and determining the level of Council Tax. This report also ensures those decisions are taken with a view to the overall position of the Council going forward and are not limited to a narrow one year perspective.

6. Alternative Options considered & Reasons for Rejection

Not applicable

7. Implications

Issue	Comments
Financial (inc mainstreaming)	As outlined in the report
Legal (including Human Rights Act requirements)	Not applicable
Assessment of Risk	<p>The Report contributes to the effective risk management of the Council by contributing to the overall financial context in which the Council takes budgetary and other operational decisions.</p> <p>The MTFS is revised on a regular basis to ensure it remains current and that changes in the financial outlook of the Council over the Medium Term are communicated to Members and appropriate action taken.</p>
Equality : Customer First Analysis	Not applicable as this report is for information only.
Key Decision	No

8. Consultations

Service Managers and their key staff are consulted during the early work on the compilation of the MTFS. CMT and Senior Councillors are regularly engaged in formulating forward views and policy objectives and these are taken into consideration when formulating the MTFS. Also an updated version of this report will be presented to the Council's Overview & Scrutiny Panel during February 2016, where both Councillors and Members of the Public are invited to attend and make comment on the report. All input is considered.

9. Links to Corporate Priorities

Priority	Comments
Corp Governance and Community Leadership	
Community Safety	
Housing and the Environment	
Economy and Employment	
Culture and Leisure	
Other priorities with partners: Health and Social Care Education and Lifelong Learning	The Medium Term Financial Strategy covers all aspects of these objectives.

10. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985: List of Background Papers

[Medium Term Financial Strategy October 2016](#)

11. Freedom of Information

The report does not contain any exempt information under the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12a and all information can be disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

12. Equality Impact Assessment

There are no specific measures within the report that require an Equality Impact Assessment. Individual proposals stemming from the budgetary process will be Equality Impact Assessed as required over the coming months.

HYNDBURN BOROUGH COUNCIL

MEDIUM TERM

FINANCIAL STRATEGY

February 2016

INTRODUCTION

1. This document sets out, for the next three years,
 - the way in which the Council goes about its financial planning processes, especially in relation to the corporate budget planning cycle, which is subject to the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules,
 - an updated action plan for the process and arrangements for reporting on progress to date in formulating and updating future years' budgets. Specifically this report updates the Medium Term Financial Strategy presented to Cabinet in October 2015.
2. Appendix 1 sets out the background to the current budget predictions in figures to give an idea of commitments, funding and potential Council Tax levels. It indicates that the Council will see a reduction in its resources of £235,000 in 2016/17 compared to the previous year with costs increasing by £666,000. In the following year 2017/18, the Council will lose £913,000 of revenue compared to the previous year and it is likely to see its cost rise by £961,000. In the final year of the MTFS, the resource decrease compared to the previous year is £448,000, with expected extra costs of £1,773,000.
3. Two further scenarios are provided in the following appendices to outline the potential range of values over the coming period, the first at Appendix 2 indicating the outer level of what the Council could face in a

pessimistic future, while Appendix 3 shows an optimistic forecast based on many things going in the Council's favour over the next 3 years.

4. There is significant divergence in the financial predictions for the 3 years between the Pessimistic and Optimistic Models. The divergence between the Pessimistic and Optimistic Models in terms of annual savings that need to be identified is almost £1.95m in 2017/18 and over £1.6m in 2018/19.
5. The Pessimistic Scenario shows, in addition to the losses caused by the reduction in Revenue Support Grant (RSG), a loss of 5% of Business Rates income over the next two years, decreasing resources by £175,000 in 2017/18 and £166,000 in 2018/19. Cost pressures over the same two years add £1,926,000 in 2017/18 and £2,113,000 in 2018/19. The largest items of cost increases are the ending of the Cost Share Agreement with Lancashire County Council and the potential need to fund Capital expenditure from the Revenue Account.
6. The Optimistic Scenario sees increased revenues from NNDR and Council Tax adding £382,000 of Revenue thereby offsetting the £713,000 loss of Revenue Support Grant in 2017/18 and a further £386,000 in 2018/19 to offset the RSG £447,000 loss. While costs only increase by £733,000 in 2017/18 and £1,051,000 in 2018/19, with the removal of the need to finance capital expenditure in 2018/19, the largest single contributor to the improved financial position.
7. Both scenarios are meant to show the outer limits of what might occur and what the Council would face in these circumstances and the reality is that the Council is very unlikely to suffer from all bad news or all good

news over the next 3 years and its fortunes will therefore lie somewhere between the two scenarios.

8. The figures in Appendix 1 therefore remain our current best estimate of the likely financial position over the next 3 years.

OBJECTIVES

9. The objectives of the Medium Term Financial Strategy are:

- to be the financial expression of the Corporate & Performance Plan; it is a financial strategy's role to provide the resources to deliver this plan, and in turn, the Corporate & Performance Plan and service plans need to be consistent with the Financial Plan,
- to ensure that commitments do not exceed forecasted anticipated resources over the period and for each year,
- that expenditure is increasingly focused on those areas which the Council has determined are its priority areas,
- that the level of Council Tax is planned in line with what the Council and the community as a whole regard as being acceptable, albeit within the context of guidelines from Central Government,
- to review the effectiveness of delivery of additional resources into priority areas, to ensure that the objectives set for these target areas are actually being achieved,

- to ensure that the Council is in a strong financial position as measured by size of balances and reserves (consistent with the Chief Financial Officer's recommendations),
- to improve value for money assessments in all services by delivering increased efficiency savings,

All of which must ensure compliance with the Council's Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules.

ELEMENTS OF THE MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY

10. The key elements of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) are:-

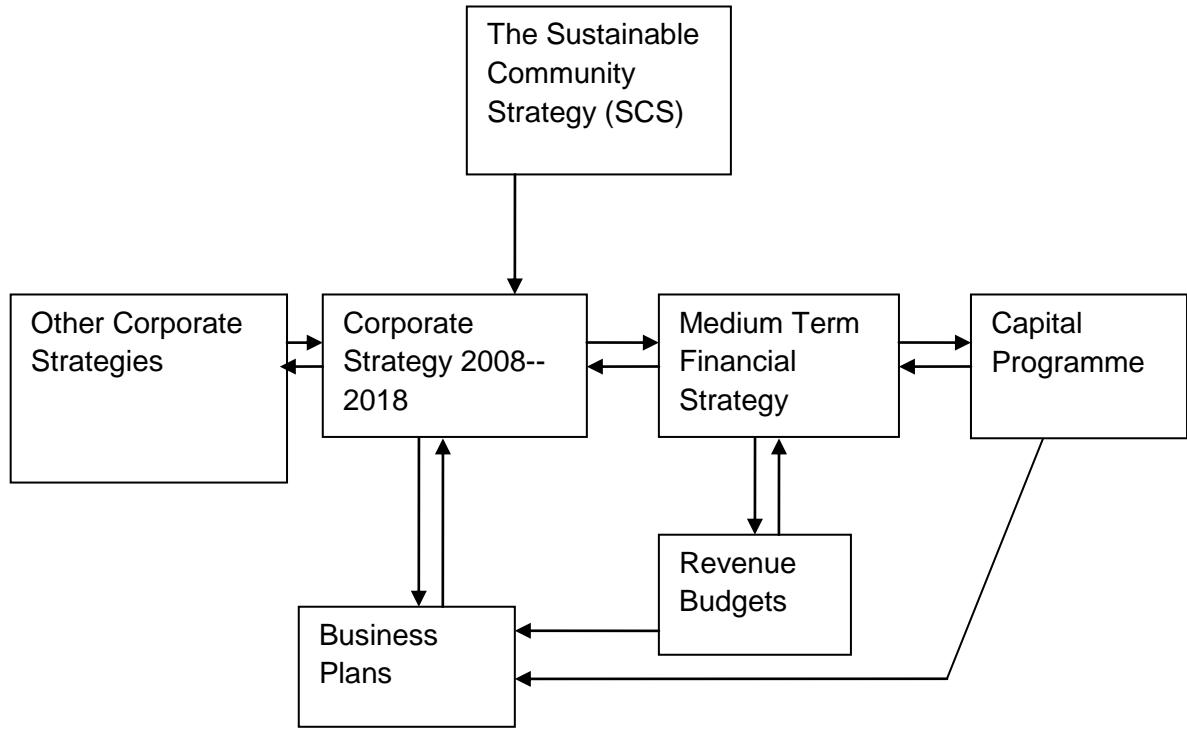
Forecasting	The Medium Term Financial Strategy needs to be underpinned by sound forecasting mechanisms for the likely resources available to the Authority over a three year period. The Cabinet receives reports on the achievement of the financial plan with future projections for the following three years at regular intervals.
Budget Monitoring & Forecasting	Budget monitoring reports and forecast commitments are reported to Cabinet, and are developed as the year progresses, as indeed are ways of balancing resources with any new commitment if potentially outside the financial plan.
Commitments	
Corporate strategic direction & priorities	In the context of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) the Council

of the Council

has a clear hierarchy of strategy documents (see chart below) headed by the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) which sets out the vision and high level priorities for the Council. The SCS drives the Corporate Strategy 2008-18 which links to the MTFS with details of committed events and their budget implications. These commitments are reflected in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework Rules and consequently in Services' Business Plans. This hierarchy of plans gives clear direction on the Council's priorities and actions.

It is for the Cabinet, subject to overall decision by the Council, to recommend precisely which areas are their priorities to receive additional investment and which will receive less in the light of such priorities. This process reaches its natural conclusion in the Annual Budget Report.

11. Strategy Hierarchy:-



Service planning to support overall strategy

12. The Corporate Strategy, together with Service Business Plans, provides a service planning structure that translates the priorities and aims of the overall strategy into measurable actions at the point of service delivery.
13. The Medium Term Financial Strategy, as it impacts on individual services' budgets, is reflected in service plans so that proper planning can take place in line with available resources. The preparation of service plans is also required in parallel with future years' budget plans since realistic levels of savings have to be determined for services in line with any overall shortfall in corporate funding. The Coalition Government's steps to balance the overall financial pressure stemming from the Economic

Recession have led to significant reductions of funds available from Government to support Hyndburn's activity up to the General Election in May 2015 and the new Conservative Government has announced plans to further reduce the public sector funding over the course of the new Parliament. This has further increased the pressures on Hyndburn to reduce costs. The impact of these changes can be seen at Appendix 1 and requires the Council to continue to make savings over the lifetime of the MTFS.

Integrated Resource Planning with Service Plans

14. Growth items in future years (both revenue and capital schemes as applicable) and areas for savings, need to be identified in the Service Plans and Financial Plans should be developed consistently so that the impact of one on the other is fully appreciated, subject of course to Service Plans remaining within the limits allowed in the agreed Medium Term Financial Strategy. This precludes bids for extra resources arising during the course of the year for implementation in that year unless other funding can be identified. Developments are planned in accordance with a timetable well ahead of the year of implementation. They form part of an agreed strategy and need to be consistent with the priorities identified within the plan. Individual bids for resources, taken in isolation from the overall planning process, should therefore not occur.

Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan

15. The Capital Strategy and the Asset Management Plan have been approved by Cabinet. Having determined the Capital Strategy it will be

vital for the Council to comply with it in determining schemes within the Capital Programme. Not doing so will have a detrimental effect on the achievement of the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

Background Information

16. The MTFS covers the period from 2016/17 to 2018/19. It is set against a background of continuing global financial volatility stemming from worldwide Recession that began as a result of the banking crisis in 2007/8. There are some indications that parts of the globe have recovered and are achieving positive economic growth.
17. However the picture remains fragile in both the US and the UK and there remains a concern of a long period of stagnation before any meaningful economic recovery is achieved.
18. There is continuing concern that Greece may not be able to meet its financial commitments and may not be able to continue with the Euro as its currency. If Greece defaults on its debts or exits the Euro there is concern this may lead to other Governments defaulting on their debts or leaving the Euro, all of which could create a long period of sustained economic uncertainty and a potential sharp downturn in the global economy.
19. Elsewhere, China and other nations are continuing to show strong relative growth compared to the West but with some indications the level of growth is slowing compared to recent years. There is also a continuing backdrop of increasing concern over currency rates and the potential escalation of these tensions into increased protectionism of national economies and the danger of trade wars emerging which will

further inhibit global recovery. The continuation of conflicts in Ukraine, Iraq and Syria, the mass migration into Europe, the recent Volkswagen emission scandal, North Korea's claim to have successfully tested the denotation of a nuclear bomb and recent falls in the Chinese Stock Market are all contributing to nervousness over the potential extent of any sustained world-wide economic recovery. The large drop in oil prices over the last 12 months is also causing some economists to express concerns over the future of worldwide economic growth.

20. Against this backdrop Britain has emerged from Recession and currently has the strongest level of growth among the major Western economies. The recovery has however been achieved on the back of major reductions in public spending and a commitment that this will need to continue for the next 3 to 5 years.
21. Local Government and particularly District Councils have faced significant reduction in Government funding as a consequence and the Local Government Settlement announced in late December 2015 maps out a continuing reduction in funding from Central Government to Local Government over the next 4 years, with District Councils again suffering the most from these reductions.
22. The estimated figures for the next 3 years, 2016/17 to 2018/19 are shown at the end of this document in Appendix 1. They show that by

2018/19, Hyndburn will be receiving £1.9m from Government compared to the £7.1m, it was receiving in 2010/11.¹ This is a reduction of 78%.

23. The Medium Term Financial Strategy assumes that the Council is able to deliver its 2015/16 Budget as planned. The Cabinet has requested that the Corporate Management Team continue to look to improve the position during 2015/16 to ensure value for money is being delivered across all services and further savings are made. The Council currently predicts that it will achieve a surplus on its Budget for 2015/16. The General Fund Balance stands at £2.5m at the end of March 2015, though with a number of commitments already against it². This level of Reserve would normally be viewed as providing strong cover against the potential liabilities the Council faces. However with:-

- large reductions in Central Government support for the next 3 to 5 years,
- Council Tax revenues likely to remain static over the period, due to strong local political desires to avoid increasing the burden of taxation on the public at the time of other significant financial pressures for the people of Hyndburn and changes in collection rates due to Council Tax Support replacing Council Tax Benefit.

¹ The figure is adjusted for a like for like basis and now excludes Business Rate funding which was part of government funding in 2010/11 but no longer forms part of Government funding in 2016/17. An adjustment of £3.1m has been applied to earlier figures to allow for like for like comparisons over the period. This is based on the Government's figure that £3.1m is the correct business rate figure currently for Hyndburn Council. No adjustment for inflation has been made as it is viewed this would be relatively small compared to the overall figure.

² These include repayment of taxi license fees incorrectly charged in previous years, amounts relating to Municipal Mutual Insurance which was liquidated in the 1990s and for which the Council has continuing liabilities, potential land search fees which may have to be repaid, historic insurance claims and invest to save and other expenditure authorised since the 31st March 2015.

- Cost inflation continuing while overall revenues decline,
- and the need to incur upfront costs to secure long term savings,

the level of Reserves at £2.5m can be viewed as just above the minimum level of provision in the much more volatile financial climate which we now face.

24. The format of the Medium Term Financial Strategy considers the current estimated resources available for 2016/17 and builds upon anticipated changes to income and costs over the 3 year period beyond. At this stage, the Medium Term Financial Strategy considers the broad strategic impact of known changes. As always, it is possible for new events to affect the budget position and these will be considered in future revisions to the Medium Term Financial Strategy. It is anticipated that the next update to the Medium Term Financial Strategy will occur in October 2016, immediately ahead of the Council starting its Budget process for 2017/18.

25. Despite the difficulties over the last 3 financial years the Council has continued to maintain its finances and provide value for money services. Balances stand in excess of £2.5m and we have generated significant savings in each of the last 10 financial years and expect to manage our finances during 2015/16 to once more achieve an underspend. It is likely that any savings this year will be used to fund the achievement of future savings, capital spend and investment.

Financial Analysis 2016/17 to 2018/19

26. This report at Appendices 1, 2 and 3 sets out the numerical values of the combined impact of the different financial assumptions for the next 3 years. Detailed commentary on the assumptions and their financial value is provided below. The report looks at the strategic shift in a number of the largest areas of the Council's Budget, before examining those changes which are a more persistent element within our financial forecasts.

Resources

27. From April 2011 the Council faced major changes in how it is funded as a result of Central Government decisions taken to reduce overall public sector spending in light of the worldwide recession and pressure to reduce the national deficit. These changes include:-

- ❖ The ending of the system of direct government funding to local government based on need;
- ❖ The introduction of a new system centred around how much revenue is collected locally as business rates, adjusted via a series of tariffs and top-ups;
- ❖ The transfer of the risk of non-collection of business rates and the cash flow impact to Councils away from HM Treasury;
- ❖ The ending of the national universal system for Council Tax benefit and its replacement by locally determined schemes with an accompanying 10% reduction in funding at a national level.

28. These changes have a high potential to significantly reduce the core funding of the Council in future years. The changes also create a much greater risk of volatility between years as business rate collection is much more prone to fluctuate than the previous system of government grants and Council Tax Support levels may vary significantly depending on the state of the economy and the number of claimants.

29. These changes effectively signal a period of decline in the overall resources available to the Council over the period of the Medium Term Financial Strategy. More detail on the nature of the changes and their impact is provided below.

Government Grant

30. The Local Government Settlement for 2016/17 has furthered altered the funding allocations for the Council compared to previous years. In 2015/16 Hyndburn Council was receiving Revenue Support Grant, Efficiency Support Grant and Council Tax Freeze Grant, as well as Homelessness Prevention Grant, Housing Benefit Administration Grant and New Homes Bonus. For 2016/17, the Government has merged Efficiency Support Grant and Council Tax Freeze Grant into Revenue Support Grant so that the individual amounts can no longer be identified and reduced the overall funding by £806,000 or 16%.

31. The impact on the overall Revenue Budget is 14% or £600,000 as our previous practice has been not to use all Government funding for Revenue purposes with some elements of Efficiency Support Grant, Council Tax Freeze Grant and all of New Homes Bonus being used to

support the Capital Programme³. Funding of the money we used to finance Capital Spend is down £206,000 or 24%. The impact of Capital Funding within the MTFS is dealt with later in the report.

Change In Government Support 2016/17 compared to 2015/16				
	2015/16	2016/17	Variance	Percentage Change
HBC REVENUE				
Revenue Support Grant	£ 2,312,430	£ 3,159,264	£ 846,834	
Efficiency Support Grant	£ 1,272,186		-£ 1,272,186	
Council Tax Freeze Grant Part 1	£ 78,146		-£ 78,146	
Housing Benefit Admin Grant	£ 605,143	£ 508,403	-£ 96,740	
Homelessness Prevention	£ 35,339	£ 35,423	£ 84	
HBC Revenue Change	£ 4,303,244	£ 3,703,090	-£ 600,154	-13.9%
HBC CAPITAL				
Efficiency Support Grant Part 2	£ 223,435		-£ 223,435	
Council Tax Freeze Grant Part 2	£ 106,814		-£ 106,814	
Council Tax Freeze Grant 2015/16	£ 53,171		-£ 53,171	
New Homes Bonus Main	£ 451,787	£ 639,204	£ 187,417	
New Homes Bonus Additional	£ 10,564		-£ 10,564	
HBC Capital Change	£ 845,771	£ 639,204	-£ 206,567	-24.4%
HBC Total Change	£ 5,149,015	£ 4,342,294	-£ 806,721	-15.67%

32. The Local Government Settlement for 2016/17 comes with an offer from the Government of a 4 year funding deal. It is not clear as yet what this offer entails. So far the Government has provided settlement figures for the next 4 years assuming local Councils accept the offer and has only so far stated that local Councils accepting the offer would have to produce an efficiency plan. More detail is expected to emerge over the next few months of any further criteria in return for the 4 year offer. Caution is also required over the published figures for the next 4 years as the Government will no doubt reserve the right to alter them in the future if

³ This was done to remove the dependency on Government Funds that were considered to be time limited and avoid building into the Revenue Budget additional spending which would subsequently be removed and thereby create further funding pressures once withdrawn by the Government. Using these “extra” funds from the Government for Capital purposes allowed us to finance key capital projects.

they need to and may alter them for all sorts of other reasons that they consider necessary. However, the published figures from DCLG are the best guide to the likely settlement we will receive over the next 4 years and they are presented below and used as the new basis for forecasting the most likely financial position of Government funding for the Council in its Medium Term Financial Strategy.

Change in Government Funding 2016/17 to 2019/20

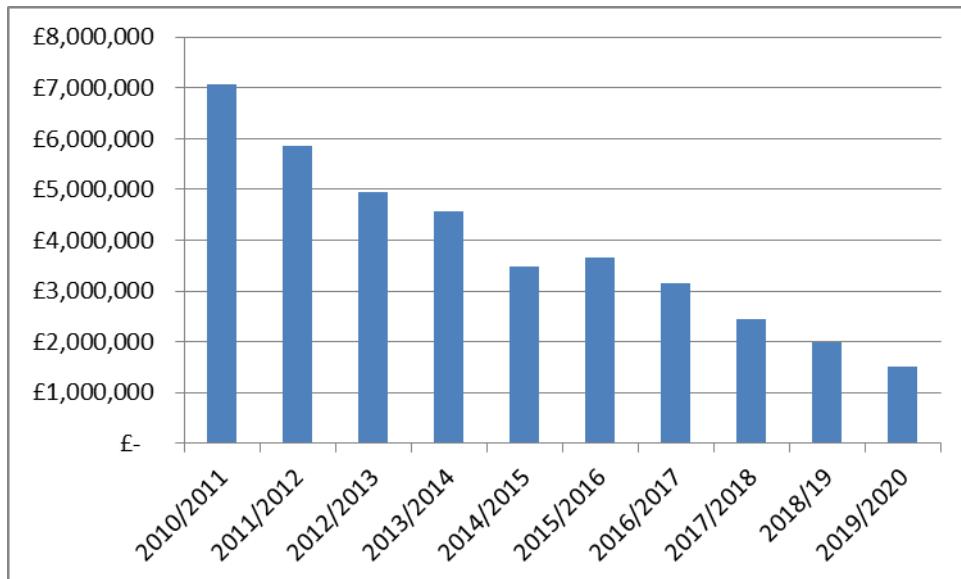
Year	RSG	Change	Cumulative		Percentage Change
			Change	Change	
2016/17	£ 3,159,264				
2017/18	£ 2,449,264	£ 710,000			22.5%
2018/19	£ 1,999,264	£ 450,000	£ 1,160,000		18.4%
2019/20	£ 1,499,264	£ 500,000	£ 1,660,000		25.0%

33. This shows a total reduction of £1.6m over the next 4 years, with a 22.5% reduction of £710,000 in 2017/18, a 18.4% further reduction in 2018/19 with a further loss of £450,000 of government funding, followed by another £500,000 removed from Revenue Support Grant in 2019/20, which will be a 25% reduction. Given we received £3.66m in RSG or the equivalent Government funding in 2015/16 this is a total loss of £5.54m of resources over the period 2016/17 to 2019/20 compared to having been funded at the same level as 2015/16 and represents a loss of 38% of potential revenue for that period.⁴

⁴ The total reduction in funding is likely to be higher than this in reality as we expect New Homes Bonus (which is not included in the figures above) to decline over this period as the Government has announced that it intends to cut funding for New Homes Bonus by around a third in addition to the reductions in RSG.

34. The total reduction in core Government funding for our Revenue Budget since 2010/11 is shown in the diagram below. This shows a drop from just over £7m in 2010/11 to £1.5m by 2019/20. A fall of £5.5m or 78%.

Reduction In Government Funding to Hyndburn Council 2010/11 to 2019/20



35. For the purposes of the MTFS the reduction in Government Funding remains significant over the next 3 years and is the largest variable factor in the Council's finance over this period. Setting aside the actual physical loss of cash over the period the Government's offer of a 4 years funding settlement is attractive if the requirements for accessing this certainty are not too onerous and the Government does not use other methods to adjust the figures subsequently. If the Government conditions are not onerous and some assurance around the stability of the commitment to 4 years funding can be substantiated it would be sensible to accept this

offer and recommendations will be made within the Revenue Budget 2016/17 papers to this effect.

Business Rates

36. The Government introduced changes to Council funding from April 2013, which ended the previous system of business rates collected locally but pooled nationally and redistributed by the Government via an assessment of “need”.
37. The new system from April 2013 attempts to allow Councils to retain the business rates raised locally. However the implementation of the new system significantly altered the original aspiration of local business rates retained locally and the current system sees the vast majority of business rates transferred away from Hyndburn. This is due to Government rules which firstly top-sliced 50% of locally collected business rates into a Central Government pot to support a variety of Government policies across Local Government. A further 10% of the monies collected is transferred to Lancashire County Council and the Fire and Rescue Authority, leaving Hyndburn with only 40% of the locally raised business rates. The 40% remaining is then further reduced under the rules introduced by the Government to further redistribute funds between local Councils. In a system called “Top-Ups and Tariffs” the Government determined amounts to be deducted from “Tariff” Councils to help fund Councils which did not have sufficient funding in their view to meet their expenditure needs.
38. As a consequence Hyndburn which raises around £20m in Business Rates each year is only allowed to retain about £3.1m from this source of funding.

39. The current system is designed to encourage local Councils to benefit from economic growth in its local area and therefore currently Hyndburn can benefit from local economic growth that increases business rates within its borders. The growth is split 50:50 with the Government, unless the Council enters into a Pooling arrangement for business rates with other Councils in which case it can retain 100% of the growth locally.⁵

40. The new system while providing a vehicle for local Councils to potentially benefit from growth in the local economy also has transferred the financial risk of declining business rates to local Councils and a local Council that was seeing local business premises close or move away from their local area would suffer declines in revenues. As well as closures, local councils are also facing the financial consequences of large scale business rating appeals, where businesses claim their properties have been over valued for business rating purposes and they require lowering. Successful appeals lead to both a lowering of the amount of business rates we can collect locally going forward and therefore to a lower amount of resources for the Council to spend and for the need to recompense for previous “over charged” years reducing further the sums that can be deployed to finance local public services.

41. The current estimate for 2016/17 of Business Rates income for the Council is £3,495,000. This is up from £3,245,000 in 2015/16 to reflect some local growth slightly outstripping local closures and appeals, the benefit of a proposed pooling agreement across 10 Lancashire Councils and a small surplus from previous years. The assumption over the

⁵ The downside to Pooling arrangements are that outside of a Pool, the Government guarantees every local council a minimum of 92.5% of their baseline funding, once a Pool is formed this guarantee is ended and Councils run the risk of being financially worse off if their business rates income plummets.

following two years within the MTFS is that this figure remains constant, with growth continuing to outperform negative factors such as closures, appeals and bad debts but only marginally, the Business Rate Collection Fund remaining in surplus and Business Rate Pooling continuing.

42. While for financial forecasting purposes it is assumed that Business Rate income to the Council will remain constant over the period between 2016/17 and 2018/19, it is possible that it could move in either direction, positively for the Council if local businesses continue to grow and appeals on business rates are largely unsuccessful. Or negatively, if the local or national economy weakens or appeals on business rate values are largely successful. This is covered in detail later in the report on the section on the various financial scenarios the Council faces.
43. The negative impact from a declining economy is currently viewed as less likely to occur given the signs of local business expansion and investment, as well as the United Kingdom's recovery from the Recession. However world markets remain volatile and there are a small but significant number of warnings in the financial press of the dangers of another major contraction in the global economy.
44. Business Rates growth does provide one of the few areas in which the Council could substantially increase its income and in the Optimistic Scenario up to £500,000 in each year of extra revenue is viewed as potentially possible in the right economic circumstances.

Council Tax

45. The Council expects to raise £4.4m in Council Tax in 2016/17. This is up 1.3% on the previous year and represents an additional £56,000 of

revenue at the Council's disposal. The increased revenue comes from growth in the council tax base via a small increase in the number of houses eligible to pay Council Tax from a combination of new builds and declining numbers of empty properties.

46. The assumption in the MTFS is that the charge to individual households for Council Tax by Hyndburn Council does not increase in any of the three years covered by the financial forecasts. Council Tax has not increased in Hyndburn since 2009/10 and there has been strong local political commitment not to add to the burden of local residents through the Recession by increasing Council Tax.
47. The Government has however signalled a change in the position it held throughout the last Parliament. Previously it strongly promoted that Council Tax should not be increased. Now the Government is indicating that a small amount of increase is to be expected. It has done this by building into its own forecasts for each local council an amount of revenue growth stemming directly from Council Tax increases, increasing the cap from 2% to 4% for adult social care councils, allowing small councils to increase their council tax by £5 or 2% whichever is the greater and not providing a council tax freeze grant.
48. In these circumstances and given the further reductions the Council faces in core Government Grant the Council may need to consider raising Council Tax from 2017/18 and this is considered in the Optimistic Scenario, where it added approximately £90,000 to the Council's revenue in 2017/18 and a similar amount in 2018/19. The cumulative impact of increasing council tax is important as raising Council Tax by 2% in both 2017/18 and 2018/19 leads to the Council having £180,000 more

revenue in 2018/19 than it had in 2016/17. It is not expected that Council Tax income will decline over the coming period and therefore the Pessimistic Scenario mirrors the Standard prediction.

Collection Fund Adjustment

49. The Collection Fund is the account into which all Council Tax is paid and then distributed to the relevant precepting authorities, Lancashire County Council, the Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner, the Lancashire Fire & Rescue Authority and Altham Parish Council. The Fund should fluctuate year on year around a neutral position and for forecasting purposes for 2016/17 we have assumed a surplus of £200,000 with the Fund in balance in the following two years. Any additional surplus above this figure of £200,000 will be held used in the first instance to assist in balancing the overall budget and any remaining funds above the requirement will be used to support Capital Expenditure or Invest to Save initiative or transferred to Reserves.

Expected Loss of Income

50. As part of its proposed reforms to the national Benefits System the Coalition Government announced plans to consolidate most benefit payments into a single system called Universal Credit. As part of this process Housing Benefit which is administered by local authorities will end, as least for those of working age and as such the Government is substantially reducing the amount it pays local councils to undertake this work. The Government announced an original timetable in which it envisages that all working age Housing Benefit Claims will cease by the start of the financial year 2018/19. This deadline does not look like it will now be achieved and the MTFS therefore adjusts for the loss of this

income over the next three years. The Optimistic Scenario shows a slightly lower reduction in the grant, assuming that the Government is unable to keep to its current timetable and has to delay the transfer of work away from the Council and continues to fund the work at a higher level.

51. The Government cancelled its direct funding for the Housing Market Renewal from the end of 2010/11. Our remaining activity in this area is limited to the residual funds we hold and as this funding is deployed our ability to fund capitalised costs disappears.
52. The remaining funds are expected to allow between one and two more years of funding in this area based on the money available to be carried forward. This reduction in Housing Market Renewal activity will bring with it a reduction in the amount of fees and capitalised time the Council can charge against this project. It is estimated that we will see no decline in income in 2016/17, with the remainder of the funding largely disappearing over the following 2 years. Again, for financial forecasting purposes we have shown this change as leading to an increase in the net spending of the Council, though clearly as this work comes to an end, we would expect to reduce the resources committed to this area or to switch the resource and funding to other programmes such as Empty Homes Cluster and Town Centre Regeneration.
53. Similar to the decline in the Housing Market Renewal Programme, our declining Capital Programme will also have a knock-on impact on our Revenue position. (See the section below for the impact on Capital Expenditure within the MTFS.) Over the last decade the Council has operated a significant Capital Programme in excess of £15m. The ending

of HMR and the substantial decline in external funding and the Council's other sources of finance for capital projects, has led to a large decline in Capital spend and the subsequent impact on fees and capitalisation of staff time to these types of projects. For 2016/17 we have reduced this income source from capital projects to revenue budgets by around £50,000 and we expect this to further decrease by £58,000 in 2017/18.

54. Currently the Council's Waste Service activity receives around £800,000 from recycling activities. This money comes from a combination of payments from Lancashire County Council for helping to avoid waste going to landfill and the sale of material which can be re-used. The County Council has announced that it will stop the payments to District Councils under this scheme known as "Cost Sharing" from 2018/19 and therefore the MTFS recognises the loss of this income and the potential knock-on loss of income from the money earned from recycling other materials. The combined loss of income of £800,000 is reduced by estimated savings of £150,000 that would have to be made as a minimum should this activity cease. More detailed figures will be produced when the final details are known nearer the time. The potential redundancy costs from these changes are also shown in the MTFS in 2017/18 and are covered below.

Changes in Costs

Salaries Costs

55. As an individual line across all budget areas the cost of employing staff at over £10m is the largest expense faced by the Council. Upward pressures

on this budget stemming from pay awards should be very low over the period of the MTFS.

56. The Government has signalled that it intends to limit pay increases in the public sector to 1% in each of the next few years. While no formal agreement has been reached between the local government employers side and the Trade Unions it is expected that pay settlements will be in line with the Government's objective and a 1% increase has been used over the 3 years.
57. It is possible that wage settlements will be higher if the economy shows stronger signs of recovery and this scenario is covered in the Pessimistic model. Given that resource levels are likely to shrink over the period, wage increases add to the overall pressures to make savings and may lead to redundancies.
58. There is no uplift in payroll costs expected to occur due to the introduction of the Living Wage. Currently the Council is paying above the levels proposed and estimates indicate that it will only have a small impact on our overall wage bill in 2018/19.
59. The 2017/18 salary projections figure also includes an uplift in National Insurance Contributions of £140,000 due to the additional charge all employers will face from the introduction of the Common State Pension.

60. The Government has also announced an Apprentice Levy on all employers of 0.5% of the payroll bill from April 2017. It is estimated that this could cost the Council an additional £50,000 per year depending on how it is to be calculated.

Pension Costs

61. Pension costs are not expected to increase over the period except in line with the small increase in the overall wages bill and therefore are considered negligible. A new Triennial Review of the Pension Funds overall position is expected over the next 3 years. Historically the Council has faced increased employer's contributions when the new rates are announced by the Actuary. However the Council has taken a number of steps to stem the tide of increased costs over recent years including paying contributions at a higher level than required by the Actuary and making one-off additional contributions into the Pension Fund whenever it could do so. This ensured at the last Triennial Valuation the Council's employer's contribution level was reduced for the first time and we would expect this to be the case at the next revaluation. It has also seen the Council move from one of the Employers required to make the highest contribution amongst Lancashire Districts to the third lowest. The MTFS does not show a saving resulting from this potential reduction at this time as it is expected we will continue our existing policy of paying at the current levels to further reduce the overall deficit and ease our long term financial commitments. The Council also intends to continue to make additional contributions to the Pension Fund when it has funds available to do so.

Pension Auto-Enrolment

62. The auto-enrolment of staff into pensions will enter its final phase in October 2017 with full years costs of £166,000 expected to be created. The MTFS therefore carries an additional £83,000 of costs for 2017/18 with a further £83,000 to be included the following year.

Potential Redundancy Costs

63. The MTFS recognises the potential for the Council to face significant redundancy costs in 2017/18 as it prepares to deal with a major shift in the funding of Waste Services in 2018/19. (Previous potential redundancy costs in relation to Housing Benefit have been removed from the forecast as the Government has indicated that it will reimburse any such costs to local government.⁶).

64. The proposed changes that lead to the redundancy costs stem from proposals from Lancashire County Council to end a Cost Share Agreement for the separate collection of different types of waste material that can be recycled. These changes are explained in detail above in the section on loss of income.

Supplies and Service Costs

65. General inflation continues across the economy and has been close to 5% in the recent past but has been declining over the last few years. It has fallen below the Bank of England target of 2% over the last year and dipped into deflation in the recent published figures. There is some belief that it will remain

⁶ The offer on redundancy costs will be closely monitored over the coming years, as the Government's offer on this point was not unconditional and there is potential scope for disagreement over the actual costs to be reimbursed.

below 2% over the next few years as well as some concern that it might be too low and that the Bank of England should take steps to push it upward.

66. Predicting the level of general inflation in the economy remains therefore a major challenge and one fraught with uncertainty. The MTFS therefore assumes that there is no need to increase Budgets for goods and services in 2016/17, but that inflation will push prices up in 2017/18 and 2018/19 by around an additional £200,000 per year. Fuel and utility costs which in previous years have been separately reported upon within the MTFS are now subsumed within the general inflationary category.

Capital Costs

67. The Council has over the last 11 years maintained a strong commitment not to borrow to finance Capital Expenditure. In doing so, it has ensured that it has not added to the burden of its revenue budget by having to pay increased loan costs. The intention within the MTFS is to maintain that commitment. The Capital Programme will be funded from a mixture of carry forward receipts from the Housing Market Renewal Programme, the use of one-off grants from the Government, external funding and existing Capital resources.

68. The ending of direct Housing Market Renewal Programme (HMR) has led to a substantial reduction in the overall size of the Capital Programme.

Residual HMR funds will be used over the next 36 months to complete work in this area.

69. External Funds are also likely to be less in abundance and this will further restrict the amount of capital works we will be able to undertake. It should however remain possible to secure some external funds to deliver specific projects.
70. The MTFS in February 2012 showed a need for the Council to begin to set aside a substantial amount (£750,000) from within its Revenue Budget in both 2013/14 and 2014/15 to fund a modest Capital Programme in these years. However due to careful financial management of the Capital Programme and effective husbandry of other resources, it should be possible in this MTFS to delay the need to fund future Capital Programmes from revenue spend until 2018/19.
71. This assumes a continuing commitment to limiting financial spend to a modest programme with only the highest priority capital projects receiving approval to proceed. It also assumes we will continue to earmark one-off grants such as New Homes Bonus for Capital and we will also support the Capital Programme from any additional revenue from surpluses on the Collection Fund or the Pooling of Business Rates etc. as well as any in-year savings that are generated and capital receipts.
72. This will enable us to escape the need to borrow over the period of the MTFS and we will therefore not increase our debt burden over the next 3 years.
73. The Capital Programme is always oversubscribed and the Council will continue to have to make tough choices over which projects to support in

line with its key objectives. It should however be able to fund its highest priority projects over the coming 3 years, without burdening future tax payers with an increased legacy of debt and interest payments, but this will mean earmarking an amount of revenue resources from 2018/19 to fund capital projects and this will have a big impact in the initial years in which this money is earmarked for this purpose, forcing the Council to generate additional savings in order to make that money available unless additional capital receipts or grants are generated.

74. Being able to delay having to start to make this revenue contribution to finance our capital expenditure is the single largest contribution to savings the Council can make on its MTFS in 2018/19. In the standard prediction (Appendix 1) this costs the Council £500,000 in 2018/19 and is equivalent to 22.5% of the savings it has to make that year. Therefore husbanding its current capital resources and applying intense scrutiny to any Capital Programme proposals over the next 3 years to determine if they are truly necessary will be the major factor at the Council's disposal in limiting the squeeze on spending and job reductions in those years. If the Council is able to make a major asset sale over the next few years, this would allow this receipt to fund future Capital Spend for a number of years and therefore delay substantially the need to finance future capital spend directly from the Revenue Budget.

Growth

75. With the current intense pressure around generating savings, no allowance has been made for additional finance within the MTFS for growth. Any such bids for new items of expenditure would need to be

considered very carefully as they would add pressure to the savings target in any year that they are proposed and would lead to further reductions in expenditure in other areas of Council funding as this would be the only means to fund them.

76. The Council does however need to find the £64,000 of corporate saving costs it committed to finding during 2014/15 on a permanent basis and this has been included as a growth item for 2016/17 as a means of ensuring the budget position for 2016/17 commences in a balanced state.

Reserves

77. Over the last 10 years, the Council has been able to rebuild its Revenue Reserves. This has seen the negative position of 2003/04 replaced by Balances at the 31st March 2015 of just over £2.5m though there are a number of commitments already against this balance that will see it reduced during the year unless further sums are added to it from in-year surpluses or other sources.

78. This level of Reserve would normally be viewed as healthy given an overall spend of around £11.4m in 2015/16, with a prediction this level of spend will decrease over the next few years. However the level of challenges faced by the Council would indicate that this level of Reserve may only be a minimum level of what is needed given the significant increase in costs and the reduction to its revenue funding that it faces. It is therefore recommended that Reserves are maintained at a minimum of £2.0m or strengthened at this time to meet any major challenges

which might occur over the next 3 years, which could not be dealt with via the normal budgetary process.

79. The threats to the Council outside its normal budgetary pressures

include,

- ❖ the continuing economic uncertainty which may lead to the Government having to reduce public sector expenditure further or requiring Local Government sector to shoulder more of the burden
- ❖ the Government's transfer of responsibility to local Councils for determining Council Tax Benefit and capping the amount it will reimburse in the future regardless of whether there is a surge in the numbers claiming
- ❖ the continuing risk of challenges to planning decisions and the costs of defending these through the legal process
- ❖ the threat of substantial claims under employment law
- ❖ the threat of having to repay some land charge search fees following a claim that these fees may have been levied contrary to European Environmental Law.
- ❖ the increased threat of industrial action during a period of public sector pay restraint and job losses
- ❖ emergency spend pressures in-year, due to one-off items of capital or revenue spend
- ❖ risks around the conclusion of the Housing Market Renewal Programme

- ❖ the continuing trading difficulties experienced by Hyndburn Leisure and the financial pressures on partner organisations and the third sector in general
- ❖ insurance claims for which cover is not in place, in particular claims relating to items formerly covered by Municipal Mutual Insurance which has gone into liquidation and historic employee health claims dating back to the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s.
- ❖ supplier failure during an elongated recession
- ❖ environmental warranties on our land and guarantees provided to Hyndburn Homes over land transferred to them
- ❖ the threat that Central Government will pass fines from Europe directly to Councils if the UK fails to meet its targets on climate change and environmental improvements.
- ❖ continuing reductions in our fees and charges income as the Recession continues
- ❖ the need to meet the cost of land acquisitions under the Community Right to Purchase legislation.

Other Assumptions

80. The MTFS assumes that the Council is able to present a balanced budget each year and operate within that budget and that it does not need to draw upon reserves or overspend within any financial year.

81. It assumes that any draw down of reserves is either immediately replenished within the financial year or a top slice of funding from the next year's budget is made to ensure they remain at the stated level.
82. It assumes that service provision remains largely within the current confines and that no major initiatives are imposed upon the Council without suitable funding provision. For instance, the MTFS does not allow for the return to weekly refuse collection without the Government providing the necessary funds not only to manage the change process, but also to meet the additional on-going revenue costs.

Equality Impact Assessment

83. There are no specific proposals within the MTFS that would require the completion of an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA). This document remains a high level strategic overview. Individual EIAs will be completed for relevant policy developments, service alterations and savings plans as they occur, as a response to the overall financial plans of the Council.

Scenarios

84. As with the previous MTFS we have attempted to outline the potential range of scenarios around the Council's Finances over the next few years, by varying some of the key assumptions. In order to avoid a myriad of possible scenarios, we have presented in Appendix 2 and Appendix 3, two scenarios towards either extreme side of the MTFS forecast. This allows the potential maximum and minimum range of savings over the next 3 years to be broadly established.

85. The Pessimistic Scenario presented at Appendix 2 looks at the baseline assumptions for the MTFS and adjusts them for the following reasons.

86. Business Rate Income is shown to decline by 5% each year representing a down turn in economic activity in Hyndburn, either due to local or national or international factors coupled with a lowering of the overall amounts collectable as a result of business rate appeals. A 5% downturn in these figures is the equivalent loss of around £170,000 per year. This is the only Revenue forecast altered in the Pessimistic Scenario as the Government Grant figures and Council Tax figures used in the Standard Model are not subject to variation and the Collection Fund is unlikely to trip into a deficit over the coming few years.

87. Housing Benefit Administration Grant is also shown as reducing by a further £175,000 in 2017/18 compared to the Standard Model on the basis that the conversion to Universal Credit is more aggressively pursued and reduction in local government support reduced as a consequence.

88. The Pessimistic Scenario also assumes that the Housing Market Renewal work moves at a faster pace in 2016/17 and as such there is less monies remaining in 2017/18 to finance revenue fees by £50,000. (This however does reduce the decrease the following year by £50,000, as there is only a finite amount of money remaining in the programme.)

89. Finally in the “Reductions to Income Section” of the calculation we have assumed that the Council is unable to extract £150,000 worth of savings from its Waste Services operations under the new arrangement that replaces the Cost Share Agreement and it is therefore left with the full impact of the £800,000 loss in income.

90. In our standard MTFS we have assumed a 1% pay award over each year of three years of the forecast. The Pessimistic Scenario allows for a 2% wage settlement in the two later years within the forecast, recognising that upward pressure may build for an enhanced settlement after a large number of years of enforced pay restraint. This potentially adds £280,000 to our costs over these years. This is not seen as a likely occurrence as the economy is unlikely to have sufficiently recovered to finance such rises and with little prospects of additional funding to finance such wage increases this level of wage settlement would simply lead to a reduction in the workforce.

91. General inflation continues to be difficult to predict. For the Pessimistic Scenario an assumption has been made that the costs of supplies and services rise by £300,000 in each of the next 2 years beyond 2016/17. This level of inflation to some extent would indicate an economy on the mend with suppliers confident of passing price increases on to customers and excess supply disappearing from the economy.

92. The combined impact of all these potential changes are illustrated at Appendix 2 and show that the savings target for 2017/18 would rise to £3.0m from £1.8m and increase the savings target to 26% from 16%. The savings target for 2018/19 of the MTFS increases from £2.2m to £2.7m.

93. While it is viewed as unlikely, though possible, that all these factors would combine against the Council, the Pessimistic Scenario at Appendix 2 indicates the Council does face a number of potential challenges, which would require the Council to take a number of much tougher decisions around its spending plans and priorities.

94. The level of savings required under the Pessimistic Scenario would put the Council's finances under severe strain and it is likely it would need to use a considerable amount of its reserves while it attempted to reconfigure its operations so that it could achieve the cost reductions necessary to continue to set a long term balanced budget.

95. The Optimistic Scenario is presented at Appendix 3. It assumes that an expanding local economy contributes to a growth in Business Rate Funding available to the Council of £250,000 each year and that Pooling operates in all 3 years. There is some indication that local manufacturing businesses are looking to increase their output and invest to expand which will lead to higher business rates being paid. This has however to be tempered by a potential downturn in the retail sector which could potentially limit any real gains achieved from the manufacturing side. In these circumstances a £250,000 annual growth figure would be viewed as towards the top end of what could be achieved.

96. The Optimistic Model also assumes the Council will be able to boost its Council Tax income from growth in the number of houses, reducing the number of people claiming Council Tax Support, increasing the yield from reducing empty properties, improving collection rates and raising council tax levels. There is some indication that Developers are now returning to Hyndburn and planning applications are being discussed for new housing in a variety of locations. Again assuming a high level of performance in all these areas it would be possible to boost council tax income by around £130,000 per year. The model also assumes that the Collection Fund can generate a surplus of £200,000 in each of the three financial years.

97. These changes see the Council's increased resources from business rates and council tax offset a large chunk of the loss of income from the Government and the Council has almost £600,000 more to spend in 2017/18 compared to the Standard Model and almost £1m more in 2018/19.

98. The model also assumes that the Department of Work & Pensions will not reduce the Grant for the administration of Housing Benefit at the level predicted in the Standard Model, but that it will slow down the reductions by £100,000 in 2017/18.

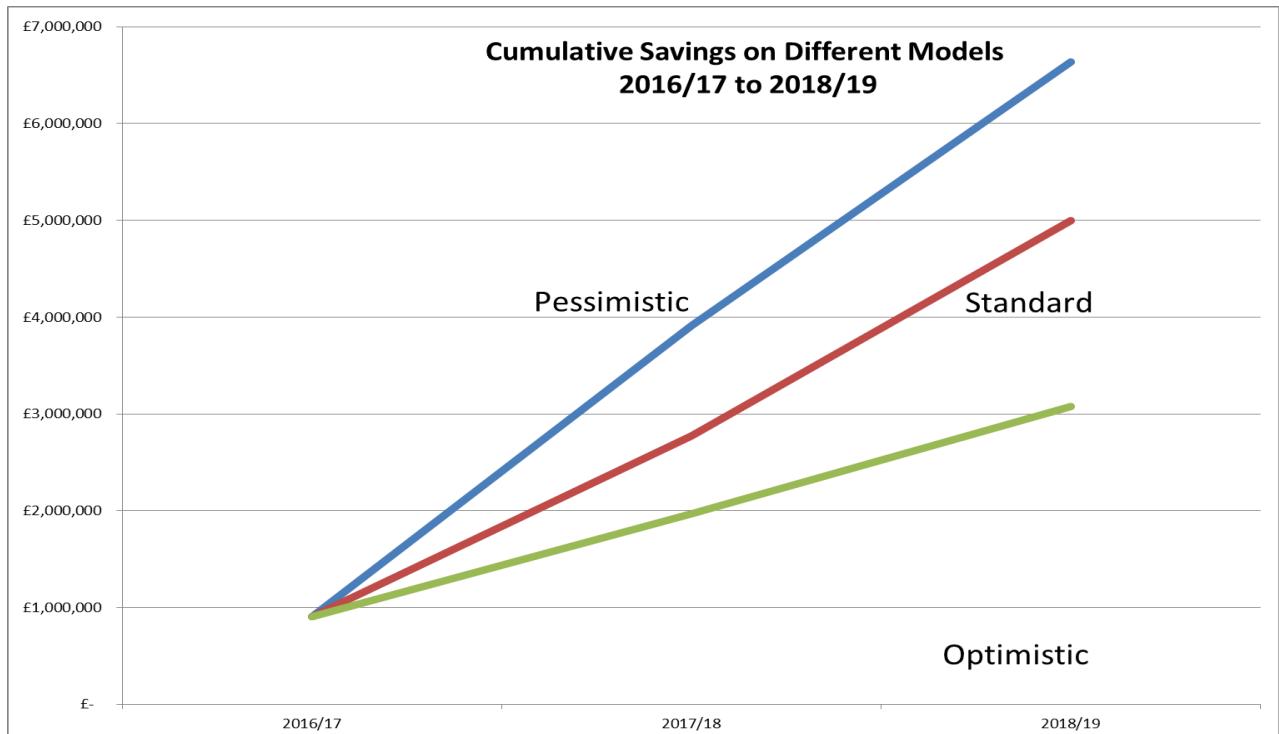
99. The speed at which the Housing Market Renewal programme uses its available fees budget is also assumed to be slower and therefore the reduction in 2017/18 is not as great as in the Standard Model and the residual amount is removed in 2018/19.

100. There is also an assumption that the cost impact of the ending of the Cost Share Agreement with Lancashire County Council over the collection of waste will not impact at the level of £650,000 as originally predicted but can be reduced downwards to around £500,000, by either agreeing a further funding stream from the County Council or finding further savings within the operational budgets from not doing this work.

101. Inflation is also assumed to be lower with the reductions we have seen over the last few months feeding into much lower prices in 2017/18 and 2018/19 leading to a reduced forecast by £100,000 in each of these years for the general impact of inflation.

102. The Optimistic Scenario considerably eases the overall savings required in each of the three years with the level of savings required below 8% in

2016/17 and around 10% in the following years. However this is a very optimistic view of what might occur and the most likely outcome remains those predicted in Appendix 1. The diagram below shows the potential range from the most optimistic to the most pessimistic put forward in this document.



103. The Overall best prediction of the savings required for the next three years are those presented at Appendix 1 of the report. This requires £900,000 of savings to be generated in 2016/17 to balance the Council's budget with further savings of £1.8m in 2017/18 and £2.2m in 2018/19. The Pessimistic and Optimistic Scenarios at Appendix 2 and Appendix 3 provide the most likely boundaries within which the savings target will fluctuate over the coming three years. There remains a potential for the savings target to fall outside these boundaries, though this is viewed as remote.

104. It is likely that the Council will encounter a mix of fortunes over the coming three years with some income and expenditure moving in a positive manner while others move negatively.

Robustness of Forecast

105. The robustness of the forecasts within the MTFS has improved with the announcement of a potential 4 year funding deal from the Government. This has removed a significant amount of the uncertainty around a major element of revenue forecasting. However there remains a number of large scale potential variables that will need to be closely monitored over the coming years to ensure the Council is able to effectively manage its Budget.

Overall Net Position

106. The Council faces continuing pressure on its finances over the next 3 years. The reductions in the level of government grant for 2016/17 and beyond are significant and the Council will need to take tough decisions over service provision to maintain a balanced budget in these circumstances. In addition it faces two major challenges around the ending of the Cost Share Agreement and the potential need to fund Capital Expenditure from Revenue resources in 2018/19, which add over a £1m to its budget problems. This is in addition to the usual pressures around wage settlements, goods and service inflation and changes to tax and pension rules which add costs to its operation.

107. The key to the future financial wealth of the Council remains tied to the performance of the national economy and Central Government finances

but a significant additional risk has been transferred to local government around the performance of business rates.

108. The Council therefore needs to continue to manage its revenue costs aggressively over the next 3 years. The single largest area of influence it can exert on its future financial position is around its Capital Programme. If the Capital Programme can continue to be self-financing beyond 2017/18 this will substantially ease the cumulative financial pressures on the Council over the 3 years of the MTFS.

Appendix 1

Three Year Standard Model Medium Term Financial Strategy 2016/17 to 2018/19

Available Resources	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Revenue Support Grant	£ 3,159,265	£ 2,446,543	£ 1,998,601
Efficiency Support Grant		£ -	£ -
Business Rates Funding	£ 3,494,786	£ 3,494,786	£ 3,494,786
Council Tax Freeze Grant		£ -	£ -
Council Tax	£ 4,400,396	£ 4,400,396	£ 4,400,396
Collection Fund Surplus Council Tax	£ 200,000	£ -	£ -
Total Available Resources	£ 11,254,447	£ 10,341,725	£ 9,893,783
Prior Year Spend	£ 11,489,122	£ 11,254,447	£ 10,341,725
Reductions in Income			
HB Admin Grant	£ 200,000	£ 200,000	£ 100,000
Operational Budget Adjustments	£ -	£ -	
Ending of ABG Support	£ -	£ -	
Reduction in Capitalisation	£ 50,000	£ 58,000	
Decreased HMR Fees	£ -	£ 100,000	£ 100,000
Corporate Savings Target Adjustment	£ 64,000	£ -	
Waste Service Ending of LCC Recycling Payments			£ 650,000
Expected Cost Increases			
Salaries & Pension Costs	£ 212,376	£ 140,000	£ 140,000
Additional National Insurance Costs	£ 140,000		
Apprenticeship Levy		£ 50,000	
Pension Auto Enrolment		£ 83,000	£ 83,000
Redundancy Costs		£ 130,000	
General Supplies & Services	£ -	£ 200,000	£ 200,000
Capital Funding Direct From Revenue			£ 500,000
Growth Items		£ -	£ -
Predicted New Operating Cost	£ 12,155,498	£ 12,215,447	£ 12,114,725
Costs Exceed Resources by	£ 901,051	£ 1,873,722	£ 2,220,942
Percentage Savings Required to Balance Budget	7.84%	16.65%	21.48%

Appendix 2

Three Year Pessimistic Model Medium Term Financial Strategy 2016/17 to 2018/19

Available Resources	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Revenue Support Grant	£ 3,159,265	£ 2,446,543	£ 1,998,601
Efficiency Support Grant		£ -	£ -
Business Rates Funding	£ 3,494,786	£ 3,320,047	£ 3,154,044
Council Tax Freeze Grant		£ -	£ -
Council Tax	£ 4,400,396	£ 4,400,396	£ 4,400,396
Collection Fund Surplus Council Tax	£ 200,000	£ -	£ -
Total Available Resources	£ 11,254,447	£ 10,166,986	£ 9,553,041
 Prior Year Spend	 £ 11,489,122	 £ 11,254,447	 £ 10,166,986
 Reductions in Income			
HB Admin Grant	£ 200,000	£ 375,000	£ 100,000
Operational Budget Adjustments	£ -	£ -	
Ending of ABG Support	£ -	£ -	
Reduction in Capitalisation	£ 50,000	£ 58,000	
Decreased HMR Fees	£ -	£ 150,000	£ 50,000
Corporate Savings Target Adjustment	£ 64,000	£ -	
Waste Service Ending of LCC Recycling Payments			£ 800,000
 Expected Cost Increases			
Salaries & Pension Costs	£ 212,376	£ 280,000	£ 280,000
Additional National Insurance Costs	£ 140,000		
Apprenticeship Levy		£ 50,000	
Pension Auto Enrolment		£ 83,000	£ 83,000
Redundancy Costs		£ 130,000	
General Supplies & Services	£ -	£ 300,000	£ 300,000
Capital Funding Direct From Revenue		£ 500,000	£ 500,000
 Growth Items		£ -	£ -
 Predicted New Operating Cost	 £ 12,155,498	 £ 13,180,447	 £ 12,279,986
 Costs Exceed Resources by	 £ 901,051	 £ 3,013,461	 £ 2,726,944
 Percentage Savings Required to Balance Budget	 7.84%	 26.78%	 26.82%

Appendix 3

Three Year Optimistic Model Medium Term Financial Strategy 2016/17 to 2018/19

Available Resources	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Revenue Support Grant	£ 3,159,265	£ 2,446,543	£ 1,998,601
Efficiency Support Grant		£ -	£ -
Business Rates Funding	£ 3,494,786	£ 3,744,786	£ 3,994,786
Council Tax Freeze Grant		£ -	£ -
Council Tax	£ 4,400,396	£ 4,532,396	£ 4,668,368
Collection Fund Surplus Council Tax	£ 200,000	£ 200,000	£ 200,000
Total Available Resources	£ 11,254,447	£ 10,923,725	£ 10,861,755
Prior Year Spend	£ 11,489,122	£ 11,254,447	£ 10,923,725
Reductions in Income			
HB Admin Grant	£ 200,000	£ 100,000	£ 100,000
Operational Budget Adjustments	£ -	£ -	
Ending of ABG Support	£ -	£ -	
Reduction in Capitalisation	£ 50,000	£ 30,000	£ 28,000
Decreased HMR Fees	£ -	£ 100,000	£ 100,000
Corporate Savings Target Adjustment	£ 64,000	£ -	
Waste Service Ending of LCC Recycling Payments			£ 500,000
Expected Cost Increases			
Salaries & Pension Costs	£ 212,376	£ 140,000	£ 140,000
Additional National Insurance Costs	£ 140,000		
Apprenticeship Levy		£ 50,000	
Pension Auto Enrolment		£ 83,000	£ 83,000
Redundancy Costs		£ 130,000	
General Supplies & Services	£ -	£ 100,000	£ 100,000
Capital Funding Direct From Revenue			£ -
Growth Items		£ -	£ -
Predicted New Operating Cost	£ 12,155,498	£ 11,987,447	£ 11,974,725
Costs Exceed Resources by	£ 901,051	£ 1,063,722	£ 1,112,970
Percentage Savings Required to Balance Budget	7.84%	9.45%	10.19%