

REPORT TO:	Council	
DATE:	25 February 2016	
REPORT OF:	Cllr Noordad Aziz, Chair of the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
REPORT AUTHOR:	Overview and Scrutiny Officer	
TITLE OF REPORT:	Overview and Scrutiny Consideration of the 2016/17 Budget Proposals	
EXEMPT REPORT:	No	
KEY DECISION:	No	If yes, date of publication:

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 This report informs Council of the recent consideration of the budget proposals for 2016/17 by the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting held on Tuesday 16th February, 2016.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That Council notes the following resolutions of the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- (1) That the Committee notes the content of the reports relating to; Prudential Indicators, Treasury Management and Investment Strategy 2016/17 – 2018/19, Medium Term Financial Strategy 2016/17 – 2018/19, General Fund Revenue Budget 2016/17 and General Fund Capital Budget 2016/17;
- (2) That having reviewed and debated the budget submitted, the Committee supports the content of the revenue and capital budget reports;
- (3) That the Committee requests that an accurate reserves figure is provided to Council;
- (4) That Council write to Central Government to request that final grant settlement figures are provided earlier in future years in order for the Council to set an accurate budget, and that this letter be given cross party support.

3. Reasons for Recommendations and Background

3.1 In accordance with the Council's Constitution, Part 3 - Responsibility for Functions, Appendix 1 - Terms of Reference, the main terms of reference request the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee ("The Committee") 'to consider the Cabinet's proposals to achieve a balanced budget in advance of the budget being determined by the Council'.

3.2 The Leader of the Council and the Portfolio Holder for Resources were requested to submit the following reports, which were considered by the Committee:

- a) Prudential Indicators, Treasury Management and Investment Strategy 2016/17 to 2018/19
- b) Medium Term Financial Strategy 2016/17 to 2018/19
- c) General Fund Revenue Budget 2016/17
- d) General Fund Capital Programme 2016/17

3.3 The Conservative and UKIP groups were invited to submit their own budget proposals to the Committee to be scrutinised. Both groups indicated that they would not be putting forward any budget proposals to the Committee meeting.

3.4 Members of the Public were invited to attend the meeting to hear about budget proposals and to ask questions about the budget if they so wished. A press release was issued, however, no written questions were received.

3.5 Individual Members were invited to the meeting of the Committee and to submit their ideas for the budget for the forthcoming financial year. No ideas were put forward by individual members of the Council.

3.6 The Leader of the Council, Portfolio Holder for Resources and the Deputy Chief Executive attended the meeting to submit their reports, and responded to the questions raised at the meeting by the Committee and other Members. The questions related to:-

- New Homes Bonus
- The deletion of several posts
- Charges for burials and cremations
- Responsibility for bus shelters
- Grants to Hyndburn Leisure
- Increasing income through trade waste
- Rishton Regeneration
- Planned asset improvements

3.7 Council's attention is drawn to the Committee's resolutions arising from this budget scrutiny meeting, as detailed in paragraph 2 of this report.

4. Alternative Options considered and Reasons for Rejection

4.1 The Conservative and UKIP groups were invited to submit alternative budget proposals. One suggestion regarding sponsorship opportunities for events was put forward UKIP and discussed.

5. Consultations

5.1 Members of the public and all Councillors were invited to put forward their suggestions for the budget. The Conservative and UKIP groups were also invited to submit their budget proposals.

6. Implications

Financial implications (including mainstreaming)	The Council Budget setting affects all services.
Legal and human rights implications	It is a Constitutional requirement for the Council to set the Budget.
Assessment of risk	Not applicable to this report
Equality and diversity implications <i>A Customer First Analysis should be completed in relation to policy decisions and should be attached as an appendix to the report.</i>	Not applicable to this report

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

Agenda, Reports and Minutes of the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday 16th February 2016.

<http://democracy.hyndburnbc.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=132&MId=184&Ver=4>

8. Freedom of Information

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