

**Open**

## **Cabinet**

## **Agenda**

**6pm**  
**Tuesday, 17th February 2015**  
**Council Chamber**  
**Wyre Forest House**  
**Finepoint Way**  
**Kidderminster**



## **Cabinet**

### **The Cabinet Members and their responsibilities:-**

<b>Councillor M J Hart</b>	<b>Leader of the Council &amp; Environmental Services</b>
<b>Councillor N J Desmond</b>	<b>Deputy Leader &amp; Resources and Transformation</b>
<b>Councillor J-P Campion</b>	<b>Planning and Economic Regeneration</b>
<b>Councillor H E Dyke</b>	<b>Operational Services</b>
<b>Councillor A Hingley</b>	<b>Health, Well-Being and Housing</b>

### **Scrutiny of Decisions of the Cabinet**

The Council has one Scrutiny Committee that has power to investigate policy issues and question members of the Cabinet who have special responsibility for a particular area of the Council's activities. The Cabinet also considers recommendations from this Committee.

In accordance with Section 10 of the Council's Constitution, Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, and Standing Order 2.4 of Section 7, any item on this agenda may be scrutinised by the Scrutiny Committee if it is "called in" by the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and any other three non-Cabinet members.

*The deadline for "calling in" Cabinet decisions is 5pm on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2015.*

Councillors wishing to "call in" a decision on this agenda should contact Sue Saunders, Committee and Electoral Services Officer, Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster. Telephone: 01562 732733 or email [susan.saunders@wyreforestdc.gov.uk](mailto:susan.saunders@wyreforestdc.gov.uk)

### **Urgent Key Decisions**

If the Cabinet needs to take an urgent key decision, the consent of the Scrutiny Committee Chairman must be obtained. If the Scrutiny Committee Chairman is unable to act the Chairman of the Council or in his/her absence the Vice-Chairman of the Council, must give consent. Such decisions will not be the subject to the call in procedure.

### **Declaration of Interests by Members – interests of members in contracts and other matters**

Declarations of Interest are a standard item on every Council and Committee agenda and each Member must provide a full record of their interests in the Public Register.

In addition, alongside the Register of Interest, the Members Code of Conduct ("the Code") requires the Declaration of Interests at meetings. Members have to decide first whether or not they have a disclosable interest in the matter under discussion.

Please see the Members' Code of Conduct as set out in Section 14 of the Council's constitution for full details.

### **Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) / Other Disclosable Interest (ODI)**

DPI's and ODI's are interests defined in the Code of Conduct that has been adopted by the District.

If you have a DPI (as defined in the Code) in a matter being considered at a meeting of the Council (as defined in the Code), the Council's Standing Orders require you to leave the room where the meeting is held, for the duration of any discussion or voting on that matter.

If you have an ODI (as defined in the Code) you will need to consider whether you need to leave the room during the consideration of the matter.

### **For further information**

If you have any queries about this Agenda or require any details of background papers, further documents or information you should contact Sue Saunders, Committee and Electoral Services Officer, Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster, DY11 7WF. Telephone: 01562 732733 or email [susan.saunders@wyreforestdc.gov.uk](mailto:susan.saunders@wyreforestdc.gov.uk)

Documents referred to in this agenda may be viewed on the Council's website - [www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/council/meetings/main.htm](http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/council/meetings/main.htm)

### **WEBCASTING NOTICE**

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At the start of the meeting the Chairman will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being filmed.

You should be aware that the Council is a Data Controller under the Data Protection Act 1998. The footage recorded will be available to view on the Council's website for 6 months and shall be retained in accordance with the Council's published policy.

**By entering the meeting room and using the public seating area, you are consenting to be filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting and or training purposes.**

If members of the public do not wish to have their image captured they should sit in the Stourport and Bewdley Room where they can still view the meeting.

If any attendee is under the age of 18 the written consent of his or her parent or guardian is required before access to the meeting room is permitted. Persons under 18 are welcome to view the meeting from the Stourport and Bewdley Room.

**If you have any queries regarding this, please speak with the Council's Legal Officer at the meeting.**

Wyre Forest District Council

Cabinet

Tuesday, 17th February 2015

Council Chamber, Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster

Part 1

Open to the press and public

Agenda item	Subject	Page Number
1.	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>	
2.	<b>Declarations of Interests by Members</b>  In accordance with the Code of Conduct, to invite Members to declare the existence and nature of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI's) and / or Other Disclosable Interests (ODI's) in the following agenda items and indicate the action that they will be taking when the item is considered.  Please see the Members' Code of Conduct as set out in Section 14 of the Council's Constitution for full details.	
3.	<b>Minutes</b>  To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on the 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2014.	7
4.	<b>CALL INS</b> a verbal update will be given on any decisions which have been "called in" since the last meeting of the Cabinet.	
5.	<b>Items Requiring Urgent Attention</b>  To consider any item which, in the opinion of the Chairman requires consideration at the meeting as a matter of urgency.	
6.	<b>Public Participation</b>  In accordance with the Council's Scheme for Public Speaking at Meetings of Full Council/Cabinet, to allow members of the public to present petitions, ask questions, or make statements, details of which have been received by 12 noon on Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2015. (See front cover for contact details).	

<b>7.</b>	<b>Leader of the Council</b>	
<b>7.1</b>	<b>Leader's Announcements</b>	

8.		
8.1	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Councillor N J Desmond</b></p> <p><b>Recommendations from the Cabinet Financial Strategy Advisory Panel on Results of Budget Consultation and Alternative Budgets</b></p> <p>To consider a report from the Chief Financial Officer on the results of the budget consultation exercise launched following the presentation of the Financial Strategy 2015/18 to Cabinet on the 16<sup>th</sup> December 2014, alternative budget proposals and recommendations from the Cabinet Financial Strategy Advisory Panel from their meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2015.</p> <p><i>The appendices to this report have been circulated electronically and a public inspection copy is available on request. (See front cover for details.)</i></p>	12
8.2	<p><b>Financial Strategy 2015-18</b></p> <p>To consider a report from the Chief Financial Officer which updates Members on the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2015-18 and make recommendations to Council on the proposed budget decision. Also to consider the report of the Chief Financial Officer in respect of statutory duties placed on Local Authority Chief Financial Officers in relation to budget setting and monitoring.</p> <p><i>The appendices to this report have been circulated electronically and a public inspection copy is available on request. (See front cover for details.)</i></p>	16
8.3	<p><b>Budget Monitoring Third Quarter 2014/15</b></p> <p>To consider a report from the Chief Financial Officer which asks Cabinet to note the projected variances.</p> <p><i>The appendices to this report have been circulated electronically and a public inspection copy is available on request. (See front cover for details.)</i></p>	26
9.	<p><b>To consider any other business, details of which have been communicated to the Solicitor to the Council before the commencement of the meeting, which the Chairman by reason of special circumstances considers to be of so urgent a nature that it cannot wait until the next meeting.</b></p>	
10.	<p><b>Exclusion of the Press and Public</b></p> <p>To consider passing the following resolution:</p> <p>“That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of “exempt information” as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act”.</p>	

Part 2

Not open to the Press and Public

11.	<b>To consider any other business, details of which have been communicated to the Solicitor to the Council before the commencement of the meeting, which the Chairman by reason of special circumstances considers to be of so urgent a nature that it cannot wait until the next meeting.</b>	
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**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL  
CABINET**

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER  
16TH DECEMBER 2014 (6.00PM)**

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**Present:**

Councillors: M J Hart (Chairman), J-P Campion, N J Desmond, H E Dyke and A T Hingley.

**Observers:**

Councillors: G W Ballinger, F M Oborski and J A Shaw.

**CAB.27 Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

**CAB.28 Declarations of Interests by Members**

No declarations of interest were made.

**CAB.29 Minutes**

**Decision: The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 18th November 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

**CAB.30 Call Ins**

No decisions had been called in since the last Cabinet meeting.

**CAB.31 Items Requiring Urgent Attention**

There were no items requiring urgent attention.

**CAB.32 Leader's Announcements**

The Leader of the Council advised that the Local Government settlement announcement was still awaited.

**CAB.33 Medium Term Financial Strategy 2015-18**

A report was considered from the Chief Financial Officer which provided Cabinet with financial information in order to make proposals for the Budget Strategy for period 2015-18.

Members were taken through the report and the key issues were highlighted which included a joint saving of £1m of moving into Wyre Forest House and moving to one location for the new leisure centre.

There was a proposal to commit to parish councils to take over community assets and a fund of £50K would be created.

A proposal was made to increase fees and charges which would generate income and hopefully protect front line services.

It was also proposed that the Town Centre Manager role would be funded for a further three years. The current post holder had done some excellent work across the towns in the Wyre Forest area and it was hoped this would continue.

The Corporate Leadership Team were thanked for their help and advice and the Cabinet Member for Resources and Transformation stated he looked forward to working with the other political parties to achieve a consensus on the budget before it was finalised at the Council meeting in February 2015.

A Member asked for information relating to the proposed £1m left in reserves compared to the previous four years and this would be provided.

**Decision:**

- 1. The fees and charges as set out in Appendix 4 – Part 1 of the report to Cabinet be noted.**
- 2. The fees and charges as set out in Appendix 4 – Part 2 of the report to Cabinet be approved and delegated authority be granted to the relevant officer in conjunction with the relevant Cabinet member that all other future decisions on fees and charges in respect of what are currently executive functions (other than car parking charges).**

**The following be endorsed and recommended to the Cabinet Financial Strategy Advisory Panel for scrutiny:**

- 3. The Council's updated Medium Term Financial Strategy;**
  - 3.1. Cabinet Proposals – taking into account the impact on the Council's Capital and Revenue Budgets for 2015-18 (Appendix 3) including;**
    - a) The creation of two new Localism Funds of £25k each. One fund would be for Parish Councils and the second for a wider range of local community groups; this would continue and extend the good work done so far with Parish and Town Councils;**
    - b) Funding for town centre manager post (growth item). The cost of this over the three years of the Strategy is £100,880;**



**c) Approval for the Members' Fund for 2016-17 of £33k.**

- 3.2 The level of net expenditure and resultant Council Tax for 2015-18 as per paragraph 8.2;**
- 3.3 The fees and charges in line with this strategy and the impact on the Council's Revenue Budget for 2015-18, as shown in Part 3 of Appendix 4, including Cabinet Proposals to increase external income by agreeing new charges for some services, included in Appendix 3;**
- 3.4 The Base Capital Programme and Vehicle, Equipment and Systems Renewal Schedule as set out in Appendix 6, Appendices A and B;**
- 3.5 The variations to the Capital Programme and Vehicle, Equipment and Systems Renewal Schedule in accordance with the Council's Budget Process;**
- 3.6 The first £244,000 of Right to Buy (RTB) receipts in 2015-16 and subsequent years be allocated to Disabled Facilities Grants (to a maximum Capital budget of £800,000) and any extra RTB Capital Receipts be allocated to general capital reserves.**

**CAB.34 National Non-Domestic Rates Write-off of Amounts Outstanding**

A report was considered from the Chief Financial Officer which asked Cabinet to give consideration to the writing off of £85,612.87 in respect of National Non-Domestic Rates.

Members were informed that every effort had been made to collect the outstanding sum of money but despite rigorous work, it had not been possible to do so.

**Decision: The total of £85,612.87 relating to outstanding National Non-Domestic Rates, as detailed in the Appendix of the report to Cabinet, be written off.**

**CAB.35 Kidderminster's Music Heritage Trail**

A report was considered from the Director of Economic Prosperity and Place that asked for approval of the Music Heritage Trail. The recommendations from the Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2014 were also considered.

Members were taken through the report and informed that Kidderminster had developed strong links with music and arts in the town going back to 1885. The consultation would run for 6 weeks and a final report would be presented in Spring 2015.

**Decision: The Music Heritage Trail (attached at Appendix 1 of the report to Cabinet) be approved for consultation.**

**CAB.36 Anti Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 214 – Consideration of a Public Spaces Protection Order for Kidderminster Town Centre**

A report was considered from the Director of Community, Wellbeing & Environment which asked for authority to be given to undertake a consultation for the implementation of a PSPO for Kidderminster Town Centre and subject to that consultation for a PSPO to be granted.

Members received a comprehensive report and advised they were pleased that the Council were progressing with the consultation as there had been issues in the town centre previously. It was also agreed that Father Lamb be added to the list of consultees.

**Decision:**

- 1. Delegated authority be granted to the Director of Community Wellbeing and Environment to undertake consultation for a period of 28 days, commencing 5<sup>th</sup> January 2015, on the implementation of a PSPO for Kidderminster Town Centre such order to be for a period of 3 years from the date it is made.**
- 2. The results of the consultation process to be reported to the March 2015 Cabinet with a recommendation on whether or not to proceed to make the Order for a PSPO for Kidderminster Town Centre.**

Councillor G W Ballinger left the meeting at this point, (6.43pm).

**CAB.37 ReWyre – A Strategic Action Plan for the Next 5 Years**

A report was considered from the Director of Economic Prosperity and Place which advised Cabinet of the key outcomes of the ReWyre Renewed 2014 Autumn Conference held in October 2014, to agree priorities for the ReWyre initiative for the period 2015-2019 and additional activities in support of the Council's priority to contribute to a successful local economy.

Members were taken through the report and the key achievements delivered by ReWyre and the State of the Area Debate were gone through in detail. Members stated that all the hard work that had been carried out would benefit the businesses and residents of Wyre Forest and hopefully would generate more jobs in the town of Kidderminster.

In response to a Member question, it was confirmed that the Weavers Cottages had been the subject of lottery funding and an agreed plan was in place.

A Member referred to the businesses in Lower Mill Street, Kidderminster and asked if there would be any grant money available for the owners. In response, Members were advised that the private developer was dealing with this.

**Decision:**

1. The outcomes of the ReWyre Project over the last five years be noted.
2. The ReWyre Action Areas 2015-19 as set out at paragraph 4.8 of the report to Cabinet be agreed.

**CAB.38 Recommendations from Committees**

Overview & Scrutiny, 6<sup>th</sup> November 2014

- Joint Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS) Task Group Final Report

**Decision:** The Joint Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS) Task Group Final Report be noted.

**CAB.39 Exclusion of Press and Public**

**Decision:** "Under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of "exempt information" as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

**CAB.40 Disposal of Land**

A report was considered from the Director of Economic Prosperity and Place on disposal of land.

**Decision:**

1. Delegated authority be granted to the Director of Economic Prosperity & Place, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning & Economic Regeneration and the Cabinet Member for Operational Services to:
  - a. Agree terms for and dispose of land referred to in the confidential report to Cabinet for a capital receipt that will be made available for the Evergreen Investment Fund.
  - b. Take the other consequential steps identified in paragraphs 2.2 and 2.3 of the confidential report to Cabinet.

The meeting closed at 19.21 pm.

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL****CABINET**  
**17<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2015****Recommendations from the Cabinet Financial Strategy Advisory Panel on Results of Budget Consultation and Alternative Budgets**

<b><u>OPEN</u></b>	
<b>CABINET MEMBER:</b>	Councillor N J Desmond
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:</b>	Chief Financial Officer
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	Tracey Southall Ext 2100 <a href="mailto:tracey.southall@wyreforestdc.gov.uk">tracey.southall@wyreforestdc.gov.uk</a>
<b>APPENDICES:</b>	Appendix 1 - Budget Consultation Results Appendix 2 - Labour Party Alternative Budget Proposals Appendix 3 - UKIP Alternative Budget Proposals  <i>The appendices to this report have been circulated electronically and a public inspection copy is available on request. (See front cover for details.)</i>

**1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To consider the results of the budget consultation exercise launched following the presentation of the Financial Strategy 2015/18 to Cabinet on the 16<sup>th</sup> December 2014, alternative budget proposals and recommendations from the Cabinet Financial Strategy Advisory Panel from their meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

**2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Cabinet is asked to **NOTE** the recommendations of the Cabinet Financial Advisory Panel on:

- 2.1 **The results of the budget consultation exercise and the alternative budget proposals as detailed within the report and appendices.**

**3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Following the consideration of the Financial Strategy 2015/18 on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2014 there has been extensive consultation on the proposals. The purpose of this report is to feed back recommendations from the Cabinet Financial Strategy Advisory Panel to the Cabinet on the results of the budget consultation and also alternative budget proposals. This will inform final recommendations for the budget to Council later this month. The main groups which have been consulted are:

- Council Tax Payers, Business Rate payers and Staff
- Other Members of the Council

- 3.2 This report summarises the consultation responses received and also includes the alternative budget proposals received from the Labour Party and UKIP included as Appendices 2 and 3, considered at the same Panel meeting.

#### **4. SUMMARY OF BUDGET CONSULTATION RESULTS**

- 4.1 The Council invited comments on the budgets proposals presented to Cabinet on the 16<sup>th</sup> December 2014. A total of 183 respondents accessed the consultation. A summary of the responses (top two categories of response) is shown below. A full list of the questions and more detailed analysis is available in Appendix 1.

***Question 1: Do you support a Council tax increase of 1.94% for 2015/16?***

Strongly Support	39.89%
Support	30.60%

***Question 2: Do you support a Council Tax increase of 1.94% for 2015/16 if the extra money is spent on economic regeneration?***

Support	28.89%
Strongly Support	21.67%

***Question 3: Do you support the funding for a Town Centre Manager being continued for the next three financial years?***

Support	39.43%
Strongly Support	19.43%

***Question 4: Do you support the proposal to increase the Parish Localism funding available?***

Support	31.95%
Strongly Support	20.12%

***Question 5: Do you agree that the Community Leadership Fund should continue in 2016/17?***

Strongly Disagree	25.75%
Disagree	22.75%

***Question 6: Do you agree that the council should move to 'all out' elections?***

Strongly Agree	66.67%
Agree	16.97%

***Question 7: Do you support the council adopting a more commercial approach to raise extra income to go towards protecting universal services that local communities value?***

Strongly Support	42.07%
Support	30.49%

**5 KEY ISSUES**

- 5.1 In making the final recommendation to Council on the Financial Strategy 2015/18, the Cabinet will consider the recommendations from the Cabinet Financial Strategy Advisory Panel that they note the budget consultation results as set out in this report and the alternative budget proposals contained in Appendices 2 and 3.

**6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications.

**7 LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 None.

**8 EQUALITY IMPACT NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

- 8.1 An equality impact assessment screening has been undertaken and it is considered that there are no discernible impacts on the nine equality strands.

**9 RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 9.1 It is good practice to determine the views of Council Tax payers in making determinations on the budgets.

**10 CONCLUSION/FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

- 10.1 The Council continues to engage with the public, staff, other Members and various stakeholders in setting the direction of the Council. In these times of financial austerity difficult choices will be required on selective reductions in costs in line with the Council's priorities. Although the total number of people accessing the budget consultation questionnaire is very low as a proportion of Wyre Forest's 98,000 residents, it is much higher than the previous response of just 50 and is the only information available as a sample of overall public opinion.
- 10.2 The budget consultation proposal that has received by far the strongest support is moving to whole council elections (84% support or strongly support, of whom 67% strongly support). However such a change does not feature in the Cabinet proposals published in December. In the light of the very strong message from the consultation results, the advisory panel considered whether a cross-party position to promote such a change is achievable, bearing in mind that it requires the support of 2/3 of councillors in a vote in a special council meeting, but concluded that the lack of political consensus made this difficult.
- 10.3 Consultation results show a clear majority support for a council tax increase (70% support or strongly support). Perhaps a little surprisingly, there was slightly lower support for an increase if the extra money was spent on economic regeneration (51% support or strongly support). This may indicate that a slightly greater number of respondents recognise the financial pressure the council is under; and that an increase is required generally to support the council's activities, when the total increase in council tax since 2010 is well behind inflation.

- 10.4 All the other consultation proposals received a clear majority of support with steps to take a more commercial approach also being popular (73% support or strongly support). The exception is the proposal to continue the community leadership fund for 2016-17. Funding is already in place for 2015-16. A majority of respondents oppose this proposal with 49% disagreeing or strongly disagreeing with it, compared to 35% who support or strongly support it. Of the 35% who support or strongly support, just 13% (21 respondents) strongly supported this proposal; 17% neither agree nor disagree. This response is consistent with current and past surveys that have shown a high level of opposition to spending on or associated with councillors (for example in respect of allowances and the frequency of elections).
- 10.5 The alternative budget proposals received from the Labour Party and UKIP are as detailed in Appendices 2 and 3 of this report.
- 10.6 The Cabinet Financial Strategy Advisory Panel considered both the budget consultation results and alternative budget proposals and recommended that Cabinet receive and note them when making further budget recommendations to Council in February.

## **11. CONSULTEES**

- 11.1 Corporate Leadership Team.  
11.2 Cabinet.

## **12. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

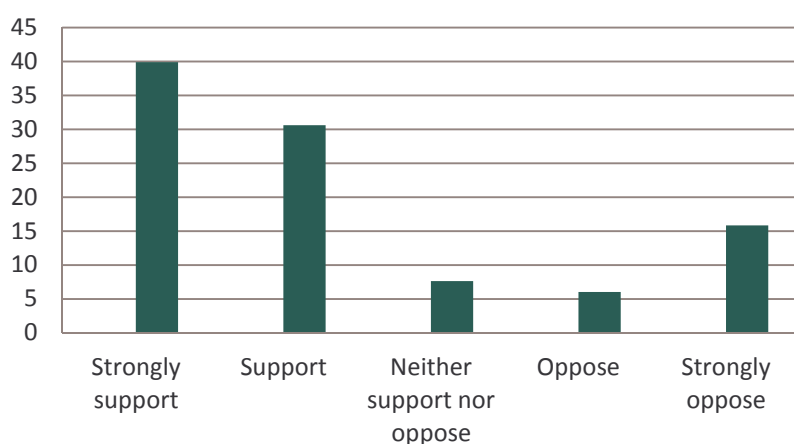
- 12.1 Cabinet Report on the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2015/18 16th December 2014.  
12.2 Agendas and Minutes of the Cabinet Financial Strategy Advisory Panel.

**Wyre Forest District Council**  
**Budget Consultation Results February 2015**  
**In total 183 respondents accessed the campaign**

The following charts show the total percentage of respondents recorded against each category of answer, for example on question 1 almost 40% of respondents strongly support a 1.94% increase in Council Tax for 2015/16.

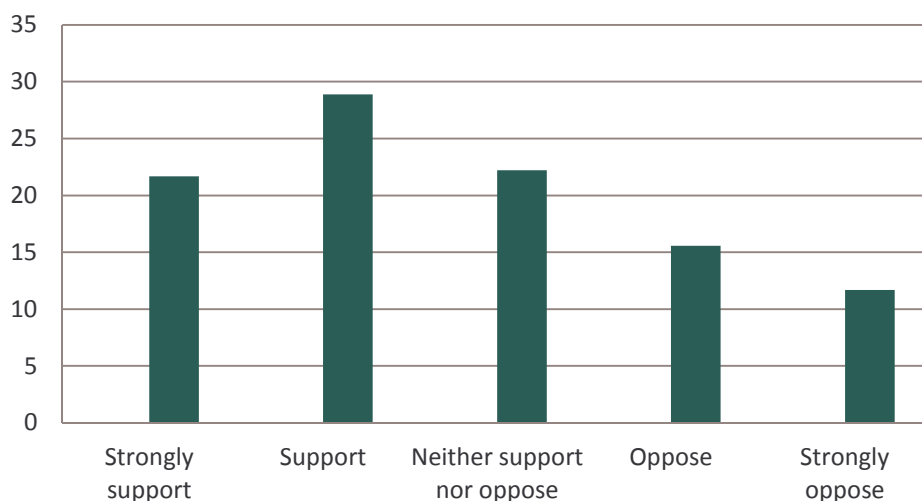
Question 1: Do you support a Council tax increase of 1.94% for 2015/16?

**Opinion on Council Tax Increase  
of 1.94%**



Question 2: Do you support a Council Tax increase of 1.94% for 2015/16 if the extra money is spent on economic regeneration?

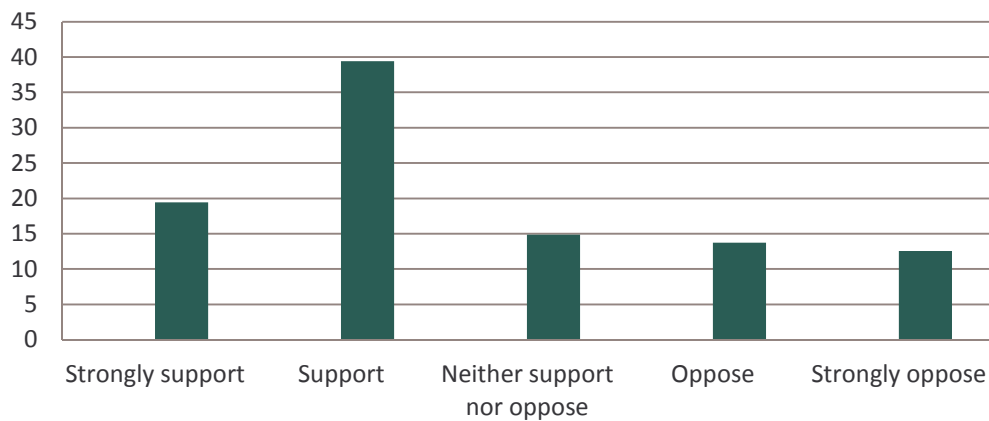
**Opinion on 1.94% increase to support  
economic regeneration**





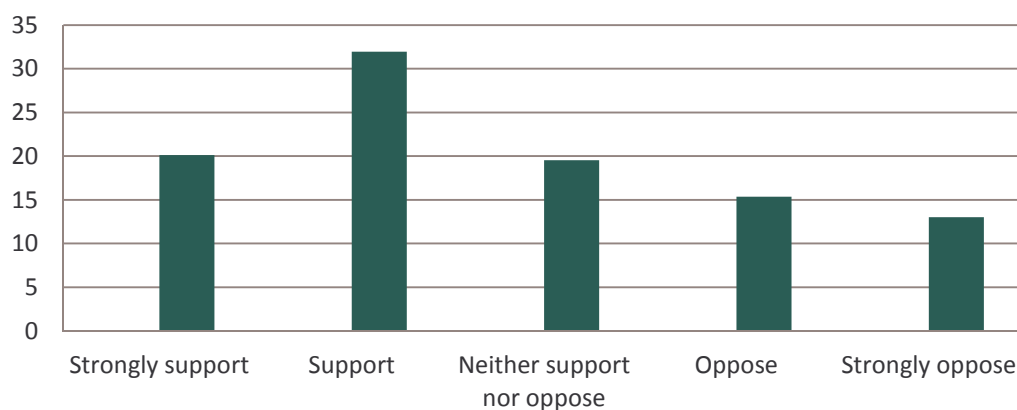
Question 3: Do you support the funding for a Town Centre Manager being continued for the next three financial years?

### Opinion on funding for Town Centre manager



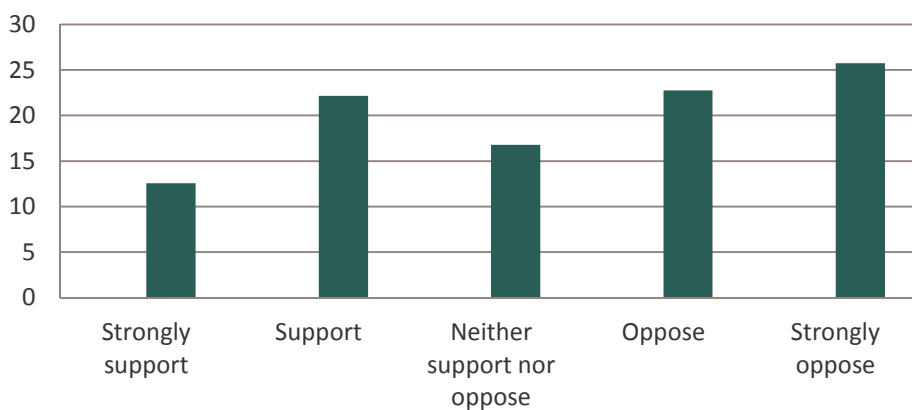
Question 4: Do you support the proposal to increase the Parish Localism funding available?

### Opinion on increasing the Parish Localism funding



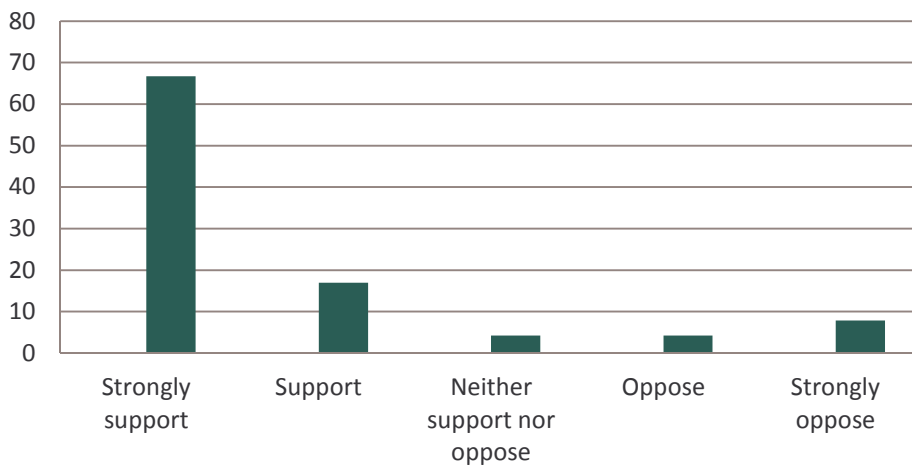
Question 5: Do you agree that the Community Leadership Fund should continue in 2016/17?

### Opinion on Community Leadership Fund



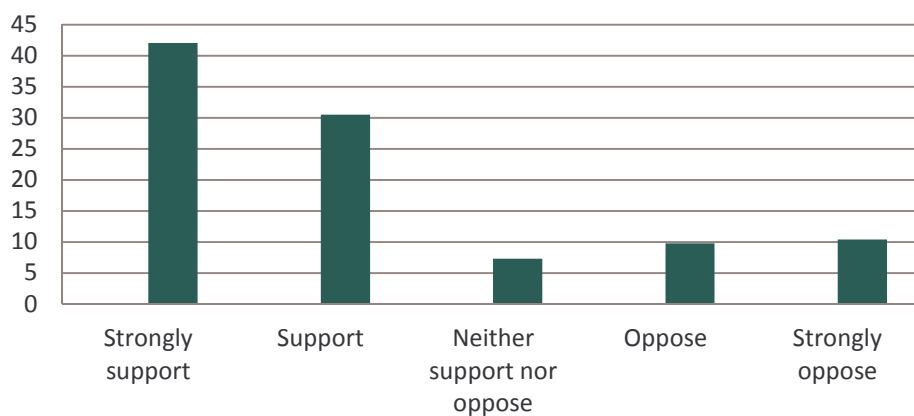
Question 6: Do you agree that the council should move to 'all out' elections?

### Opinion on all out elections



Question 7: Do you support the council adopting a more commercial approach to raise extra income to go towards protecting universal services that local communities value?

### Opinion on Council taking a commercial approach



**Question 10 – Box for Open Response – Any Further Comments – 63 responses**

***The comments in this appendix are as provided by people responding to the questionnaire and do not necessarily represent the views of the Council***

Cap pensions to 25000, cap salaries to 50000 ..stop making people redundant then employing them in their old jobs .....

Careful planning and less extreme measures will surely benefit the economy as well as local communities. Councillors should be more public and open to communities eg. Events, meetings, local papers and other media methods.

Charge local litter producing businesses e.g. Fast food shops, an annual contribution towards cost of street cleaning and local litter picks.

Council must save money and being more commercial is obvious and equally obvious is fixed term elections. I can't believe anyone would vote against it, if it saves big money.

Councillors must stop protecting their self-interest: elections every 4 years and cut the leadership fund

Councillors should take the auditors advice and decrease what they claim. The reduction in numbers is to be welcomed but they will still retain the money they claim now so more savings could be forthcoming if they adhered to what has been asked of them by the auditors. 42 councillors for a district is a disgrace as metropolitan boroughs do not have that many more councillors and serve much larger areas. Council tax should not be increased and you should take the government's grant. If anything needs cutting it is benefits to those in the district who make living on benefits a life choice (I have a couple of women nearby in new detached houses with three kids each who are doing precisely this and have everything imaginable and many cars parked up). Where is the money coming from if not from those of us who have worked hard all our lives and have a hard enough job coping with our own bills without propping up wasters to society who are not giving anything back to society. You should encourage more people to buy caravans and homes near the river to bring some wealth into the area. Stop keep taxing private homeowners out of existence and realise they are your assets not just items to be plundered.

Councillors are paid too much

Create a unitary authority thereby making considerable savings especially by reducing the allowances of "dual hatted" Members!

Do think the increase of 110% on Pensioners parking season tickets is excessive. The outline of bodies outside town hall on the precinct has gone on too long needs cleaning up. Worcester street needs regenerating. Woolworths and Littlewoods should be turned into 3floor shopping centre, with cheap rents to encourage small shopkeepers

Does the town centre manager cover all three towns in the district, if so what has the contribution been to Bewdley and Stourport

Elections every 4 years would stop the waste of tax payers money on frequent elections -may be the council will listen this year -if not what is the point of these surveys?

Fund Mental Health! Stop Wyre Forest Community Housing from mis-spending tenants rent! WFCH are spending more on new builds than on repairing or up keeping the ones they have. Tenants given the option to have the pipeline system switched off when it is not used or required or WFCH cannot provide the support needed.

Future councils should concentrate on building properly for the future of our town; they should not allow building of properties that only have a shelf life of 25 years or less, ie Bromsgrove st Glades, Doctors, Youth centre. If developers come here have real Architectural value put back into the town, the last example of this was the old Post office building in Exchange st. Fight to retain what little architecture remains, don't be so quick to destroy our history!

Get the Councillors to have fixed term elections as I'm sick of voting every year. As it saves £150k Councillors should have done this years ago!!!! I will be watching carefully to see what Councillors if any, oppose this common sense idea.

Given the funding pressures I think the planned council tax increase is fair. The Council seems to be doing all that it can to protect services in difficult times.

Good idea to save money on elections.....

Great idea about fixed term elections. Long overdue and its saves a lot of money!!! Keep up the excellent work on economic regeneration. [Two named councillors] are doing a fine job investing in the area

I believe that you should be investing the money we pay for Council Tax on regenerating Kidderminster town along with the approach from the station. I can't see the point of expanding the Wharf or Crossley Park as these are way out of the town main shopping areas. The Main roundabout at the bottom of Comberton Hill should have the subway filled and put the new walkway with controlled traffic signals to calm down this area into the town, as local and elderly residents get frightened and worried about going down into the abyss of doom as its depressing and untidy. The rubble from Crown House could be recycled into this as we are supposed to be a generation in recycling and doing our best for the environment.

I do not see the value of this survey None is costed so it is difficult to see that these proposals will save anywhere near your targeted savings In order that you can achieve these savings then more substantial changes need to be introduced which requires some radical thinkers in the process The change in the town will need to bring new trade into the area if they are to be judged a success I do not see how revamping the area around the Bullring will do this changing the only apparent fully trading commercial area in the town

I feel that the town of Stourport is classed as the poor relation in the Wyre forest district and would like to see the Basin regeneration scheme completed and the swimming pool left open to provide our children with the opportunity to learn to swim which is essential in a town which has two rivers and a canal.

I have seen many instances of money being wasted by Council not prepared to change but protect what has gone on for many years, I did not cause the financial situation I have had to make changes and cut my cloth to fit but the council make feeble gestures regarding making changes but rely on residents footing the bill to compensate for their incompetence. If the Council was a private business it would have gone bust many years ago its employees have been protected from the real business world.

I like the concept of a town centre manager however we have seen very little of their output. With most of Kidderminster consisting of empty shops and Bewdley getting a Tesco Express that nobody wanted, I cannot support future funding for them.

I like what the Council are doing to invest in the District. We need more businesses and highly paid jobs and at least they are trying to turn the corner. I also think fixed term elections is so obvious. I spoke to a UKIP chap and he didn't seem for it but could give me no credible reason why we should not have fixed terms. He didn't seem bothered about the savings either which was strange. I'm bored of voting every year and if it can save £150k, I hope it will be used to invest in parks, play areas and the things we need.

I oppose the plans to redevelop Lower Mill Street and Exchange Street, not because I am against progress but because the schemes are far too grandiose. By all means remove Crown House plant some trees shrubs etc leave the existing buildings and businesses i.e. Le Brassiere, Paradise Balti etc alone, We do not need Music Trails etc just look at Coronation Gardens a mess, look what you allowed to be done in front of the Town Hall yet another mess. Sort out the traffic flows into and out of the Town centre. Ask the people of Kidderminster to submit designs for the future layout. Have a competition with a prize for the winner. Then let the Townspeople decide. They will know best, and after all it is OUR town.

I think the rise in Council Tax should be used to maintain current services as far as possible - not to set up new ones. I also do not agree with the District Council selling off services or useable buildings. I also dislike the way the District Council is merging Kidderminster and Stourport by moving their headquarters and the leisure centre to the Stourport Road.

I want to see the Council carry on doing good work on economic regeneration. There are exciting plans for Kidderminster Town Centre which will make a big difference as they are long overdue. The 4 year fixed terms looks a really good idea and I can't believe Councillors have not done it before if it will save such large sums. It makes logical sense and will save big money

I would like to see more money spent in Stourport toilets put in for the visitors to the

town as we generate a lot of the income in the summer months and I would like a website where local community groups can find out what about grants and events that they could attend to raise their profile and raise money at the same time.

I would like to see the £1,000 Community Leadership Fund per councillor, scrapped. It is not always made available to cross sections of the community a District Councillor represents. In the same way, very few constituents are aware this fund exists. The reason being, that certain councillors do not bring it to the public's attention in the first place. I would like to see the £1,000 added to the sums proposed for Parish councils to run some of their own services. This way everyone benefits, not just a few.

I would like to see the council support younger people more. Kidderminster could be a better place to work and live with the right investment but I am not sure I will be able to stay here when I have finished my degree.

I would like to see the depot becoming more commercialised and branded to generate and competitive in generating private income.

if there is such a big saving for elections every 4 years why are you not doing this I'm concerned that the environmentally friendly heating system at the new Council offices has proved ineffective. I hope the Council will endeavour to claw back the extra money this has cost from whoever was responsible for this mistake.

In the past it has always been about cutting staff and staff benefits to save money while keeping attempting to keep all the same front line services and standards of service. This is no longer possible and the Public are none the wiser that this has happened. They still assume council employees enjoy the "good life" which the press and government say. There comes a time when front line services have to be affected or additional costs and the Public see that there is an effect for all the Government Cut Backs. This is not a Political Bash at the Conservatives and just the reality of the effect of severe cut backs to Local Councils.

It is good that councillors have cut their allowances but it's time to cut other costs too such as elections. Once every four years is enough, thanks.

Loaded Questions !! And what has age or where one lives in Wyre Forest got to do with the survey, drop these questions.

Love the idea of having elections every 4 years, such an easy way of saving money

Parking charges are too high. What is this income used for?

Please spend money on public toilets in Stourport we probably have the most tourist and the only public toilets are down the River what about the top of town. Push for more traders to be brought into Stourport

Question 7. - I oppose privatisation of any Council service provided on the basis of social need.

Question where you ask both about charging for some services eg bulky waste and putting out some services to private provision is impossible to answer in the same question! These are very different options and should not be linked.

Rather a narrow survey of opinion on a few minor areas of local government finances. Black or white answers are often inappropriate without some qualification as to how provision of service is intended.

Ridiculous that elections are three times in every four years: save money by changing elections and save services!!

Services to the vulnerable must be protected by cutting the wages of the better paid, if necessary.

Shame some of the questions are biased in the way they have been presented. Also there are other areas where saving could be made i.e. stop providing free refreshments at meetings (my company stopped this indulgence many years back). Re-visit councillors expenses, two independent reports claim councillor expenses in WFDC are over generous.

Stop the greed of councillors claiming expenses and cut their wages by 15% as they take liberty in claiming money. Also retire them off at 65 as too many old people on council have no idea what is needed

Stop wasting money on things like dogs hanging from string in the town centre  
Stop wasting my money on building huge modern council buildings. I find it appalling that you have wasted so much money on that eyesore on the Stourport Road and I have now read in the Shuttle that half of it is empty and you are looking to rent out space. Why can't you just keep to one building and stay there. You keep on moving and wasting money: i.e. Vicar Street office, Load Street Offices. Land Oak Office, Civic Centre offices Coventry Street Office plus numerous people working from home. You should be more accountable and publish in depth accounts that we can see and take the Council to task for being secretive and inefficient. Councillors should not be paid a wage they should be doing it for pure civic duty. I know of one councillor local to me who runs a full time business and has already been taken to task for not attending meetings. His place should be given to someone who has the time to do the job properly

Stop wasting our money on short term ventures.

Stourport adjusts seems to lose out when it comes to services and regeneration schemes, despite being charged an extra premium for our town council. It would be better if funds were allocated more fairly between the towns.

Take the extra 10p off for car parking machines, it is a nuisance. You can manage £1.0 coin and you don't mind paying extra if you only there for under the hour, but messing around having to find a 10p coin is an absolute drag. there should also be more on street parking ,I could spend loads of money in a quarter of an hour ,but



sometimes can't be bothered, or haven't the change to mess around with car park so I don't go and spend, stay at home and save money. Please think before you act. Get rid of Crown House soonest and that awful [words omitted] in the area by old post office and out flats and houses in Worcester Street like they have in areas of Worcester and other towns. Think

The cost of elections almost every year can't be justified. Protect services, councillors, and move to the same system as the county council!

The Council should continue to cut costs where possible, with more shared services and a joined up approach with other Councils. Councillors should move to fix terms. It's ridiculous we have to vote every year, it's confusing and pointless. If there is money to be saved as well then it's a no brainer

The council should fade away as parish and town councils take over.

The green waste service is excellent and the refuse men do a good job. The council should involve businesses to put money into regeneration and should make sure everyone pays what is due. I think the new leisure centre is in a good central position and am looking forward to it opening.

The question about moving to a system for councillor elections that costs less is really a no-brainer - why would the Council not do this? I assume this is the same as Birmingham Council has been told to do to save taxpayers money - I would be very surprised if any public are against this. You didn't need to ask this question Wyre Forest!

To save further money why not move the Hub to the new lavish Wyre Forest House and make it a public building!!

Try cutting the allowances to councillors

WFDC should seek to support local third sector groups in the area who provide valuable public services

Whilst I understand that we need to 'regenerate' our district the Council should have regard to the 'black hole' of savings that are still to be found within the current Strategy. Instead of using additional money on new Cabinet proposals why not use it plug the gap in the Wyre Forest Forward future savings and stop the annual staff 'cull'?

Why is Stourport on Severn run by [name omitted] when he to my knowledge has never been openly elected?

You do a good job but more needs to be done to save vital services and councillors should not be able to block funding from areas they see as already getting money as THIS IS NOT FAIR OR JUST

**Agenda Item No. 8.1**  
**Appendix 1**

You should scrap the leadership fund and give the funding to the town/parish councils so that a group of people will decide what is best for their town/village instead of one councillor giving away our money to buy votes.

<b>CABINET PROPOSALS DECEMBER 2014</b>				
	<b>Revised 2014/15</b>	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>2017/18</b>
Net Expenditure on Services	12,879,030	13,283,300	12,917,030	12,849,100
Less				
Original Cabinet Proposals		42,640	49,800	17,000
Net Expenditure	12,879,030	13,325,940	12,966,830	12,866,100
Contribution (from)/to Reserves	202,760	(402,630)	(332,890)	(542,210)
<b>Net Budget Requirement</b>	<b>13,081,790</b>	<b>12,923,310</b>	<b>12,633,940</b>	<b>12,323,890</b>
Less				
REVENUE SUPPORT GRANT (inc Bellwin)	2,982,060	1,921,070	1,554,800	1,282,220
BUSINESS RATES	2,432,280	2,517,150	2,624,420	2,716,200
NEW HOMES BONUS	1,263,170	1,794,780	1,794,780	1,536,360
HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION GRANT	107,030	106,990	0	0
COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BID/CHALLENGE	16,400	0	0	0
COLLECTION FUND SURPLUS	50,000	50,000	0	0
Council Tax Income	6,230,850	6,533,320	6,659,940	6,789,110
<b>COUNCIL TAX LEVY</b>	<b>201.45</b>	<b>205.36</b>	<b>209.34</b>	<b>213.40</b>
<b>COUNCIL TAX BASE</b>	<b>30,930</b>	<b>31,814</b>	<b>31,814</b>	<b>31,814</b>
<b>Reserves Statement</b>	<b>2014-15 £'000</b>	<b>2015-16 £'000</b>	<b>2016-17 £'000</b>	<b>2017-18 £'000</b>
Reserves as at 1st April	2,295	2,498	2,095	1,762
Contribution (from)/to Reserves	203	(403)	(333)	(542)
Reserves as at 31st March	2,498	2,095	1,762	1,220
<b>LABOUR PROPOSALS JANUARY 2015</b>				
	<b>Revised 2014/15</b>	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>2017/18</b>
Net Expenditure on Services	12,879,030	13,283,300	12,917,030	12,849,100
Less				
Cabinet Proposals as revised		27,560	35,890	36,880
Net Expenditure	12,879,030	13,310,860	12,952,920	12,885,980
Contribution (from)/to Reserves	202,760	(387,550)	(318,980)	(562,090)
<b>Net Budget Requirement</b>	<b>13,081,790</b>	<b>12,923,310</b>	<b>12,633,940</b>	<b>12,323,890</b>
Less				
REVENUE SUPPORT GRANT (inc Bellwin)	2,982,060	1,921,070	1,554,800	1,282,220
BUSINESS RATES	2,432,280	2,517,150	2,624,420	2,716,200
NEW HOMES BONUS	1,263,170	1,794,780	1,794,780	1,536,360
HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION GRANT	107,030	106,990	0	0
COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BID/CHALLENGE	16,400	0	0	0
COLLECTION FUND SURPLUS	50,000	50,000	0	0
Council Tax Income	6,230,850	6,533,320	6,659,940	6,789,110
<b>COUNCIL TAX LEVY</b>	<b>201.45</b>	<b>205.36</b>	<b>209.34</b>	<b>213.40</b>
<b>COUNCIL TAX BASE</b>	<b>30,930</b>	<b>31,814</b>	<b>31,814</b>	<b>31,814</b>
<b>Reserves Statement - LABOUR Proposals</b>	<b>2014-15 £'000</b>	<b>2015-16 £'000</b>	<b>2016-17 £'000</b>	<b>2017-18 £'000</b>
Reserves as at 1st April	2,295	2,498	2,110	1,791
Contribution (from)/to Reserves	203	(388)	(319)	(562)
Reserves as at 31st March	2,498	2,110	1,791	1,229

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**LABOUR PARTY PROPOSALS 2015/2016 ONWARDS**

Cost Centre	ACTIVITY AND DESCRIPTION OF LABOUR PROPOSAL	KEY	CHANGE IN RESOURCES			
			2015/16 £	2016/17 £	2017/18 £	After 31/03/2018 £
SUCCESSFUL LOCAL ECONOMY						
R705	<b><u>Economic Regeneration Activities</u></b> To continue funding for Town Centre Manager post for a further three years when the current funding ceases at the end of March 2015 with 50% funded from the SotAD approved revenue budget	C R S	- 16,640 1.00	- 16,800 1.00	- 17,000 1.00	- - -
CLEAN, GREEN AND SAFE COMMUNITIES						
R335	<b><u>Parish Localism Funds</u></b> To create two Parish Localism funds of £25k each from the balance of the existing fund of C£24k supplemented by Parish Councils and the second for an extended range of Community Groups. There will be revised award criteria for this funding to facilitate easier access and more clarity	C R S	- 26,000 -	- - -	- - -	- - -
R720	<b><u>Community Leadership Fund</u></b> To discontinue the fund of £1,000 per Member from 2015/16 onwards.	C R S	- 33,000 CR -	- - -	- - -	- - -
SECURING THE ECONOMIC PROSPERITY OF THE DISTRICT						
R675	<b><u>Housing Services/Empty Homes Resource</u></b> To supplement the current work undertaken by the Housing Services team to 1 full time equivalent with scope to undertake work on empty homes and other housing related work.	C R S	- 17,920 0.60	- 19,090 0.60	- 19,880 0.60	- 20,100 0.60
	<b>TOTALS</b>	C R S	- 27,560 1.60	- 35,890 1.60	- 36,880 1.60	- 20,100 0.60

<b>CABINET PROPOSALS DECEMBER 2014</b>				
	<b>Revised 2014/15</b>	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>2017/18</b>
Net Expenditure on Services	<b>12,879,030</b>	<b>13,283,300</b>	<b>12,917,030</b>	<b>12,849,100</b>
Less				
Original Cabinet Proposals		42,640	49,800	17,000
Net Expenditure	12,879,030	13,325,940	12,966,830	12,866,100
Contribution (from)/to Reserves	202,760	(402,630)	(332,890)	(542,210)
<b>Net Budget Requirement</b>	<b>13,081,790</b>	<b>12,923,310</b>	<b>12,633,940</b>	<b>12,323,890</b>
Less				
REVENUE SUPPORT GRANT (inc Bellwin)	2,982,060	1,921,070	1,554,800	1,282,220
BUSINESS RATES	2,432,280	2,517,150	2,624,420	2,716,200
NEW HOMES BONUS	1,263,170	1,794,780	1,794,780	1,536,360
HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION GRANT	107,030	106,990	0	0
COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BID/CHALLENGE	16,400	0	0	0
COLLECTION FUND SURPLUS	50,000	50,000	0	0
Council Tax Income	6,230,850	6,533,320	6,659,940	6,789,110
<b>COUNCIL TAX LEVY</b>	<b>201.45</b>	<b>205.36</b>	<b>209.34</b>	<b>213.40</b>
<b>COUNCIL TAX BASE</b>	<b>30,930</b>	<b>31,814</b>	<b>31,814</b>	<b>31,814</b>
<b>Reserves Statement</b>	<b>2014-15 £'000</b>	<b>2015-16 £'000</b>	<b>2016-17 £'000</b>	<b>2017-18 £'000</b>
Reserves as at 1st April	2,295	2,498	2,095	1,762
Contribution (from)/to Reserves	203	(403)	(333)	(542)
Reserves as at 31st March	2,498	2,095	1,762	1,220
<b>UKIP PROPOSALS JANUARY 2015</b>				
	<b>Revised 2014/15</b>	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>2017/18</b>
Net Expenditure on Services	<b>12,879,030</b>	<b>13,283,300</b>	<b>12,917,030</b>	<b>12,849,100</b>
Less				
Cabinet Proposals as revised		54,040	44,400	(5,600)
Net Expenditure	12,879,030	13,337,340	12,961,430	12,843,500
Contribution (from)/to Reserves	202,760	(414,030)	(327,490)	(519,610)
<b>Net Budget Requirement</b>	<b>13,081,790</b>	<b>12,923,310</b>	<b>12,633,940</b>	<b>12,323,890</b>
Less				
REVENUE SUPPORT GRANT (inc Bellwin)	2,982,060	1,921,070	1,554,800	1,282,220
BUSINESS RATES	2,432,280	2,517,150	2,624,420	2,716,200
NEW HOMES BONUS	1,263,170	1,794,780	1,794,780	1,536,360
HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION GRANT	107,030	106,990	0	0
COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BID/CHALLENGE	16,400	0	0	0
COLLECTION FUND SURPLUS	50,000	50,000	0	0
Council Tax Income	6,230,850	6,533,320	6,659,940	6,789,110
<b>COUNCIL TAX LEVY</b>	<b>201.45</b>	<b>205.36</b>	<b>209.34</b>	<b>213.40</b>
<b>COUNCIL TAX BASE</b>	<b>30,930</b>	<b>31,814</b>	<b>31,814</b>	<b>31,814</b>
<b>Reserves Statement - UKIP Proposals</b>	<b>2014-15 £'000</b>	<b>2015-16 £'000</b>	<b>2016-17 £'000</b>	<b>2017-18 £'000</b>
Reserves as at 1st April	2,295	2,498	2,084	1,757
Contribution (from)/to Reserves	203	(414)	(327)	(520)
Reserves as at 31st March	2,498	2,084	1,757	1,238

# WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

## UKIP PROPOSALS 2015/2016 ONWARDS

Cost Centre	ACTIVITY AND DESCRIPTION OF UKIP PROPOSAL	KEY	CHANGE IN RESOURCES			
			2015/16 £	2016/17 £	2017/18 £	After 31/03/2018 £
SUCCESSFUL LOCAL ECONOMY						
R705	<u>Kidderminster Christmas Lights</u> Seek Sponsorship for the Kidderminster Christmas Lights using the services of the Town Centre Manger to facilitate to reduce costs to the district council and secure similar arrangements to those currently in place for Stourport and Bewdley. Current costs are £20k per annum - seek to ultimately raise full funding.	C R S	- tba -	- tba -	- tba -	- tba -
R705	<u>Economic Regeneration Activities</u> To continue funding for Town Centre Manager post for a further 12 months - to be reviewed thereafter.- note: 50% funded from the SotAD approved revenue budget.	C R S	- 16,640 1.00	- - -	- - -	- - -
CLEAN, GREEN AND SAFE COMMUNITIES						
R335	<u>Parish Localism Funds</u> To create two Parish Localism funds of £25k each from the balance of the existing fund of C£24k supplemented by Parish Councils and the second for an extended range of Community Groups. There will be revised award criteria for this funding to facilitate easier access and more clarity.	C R S	- 26,000 -	- - -	- - -	- - -
R720	<u>Community Leadership Fund</u> Discontinue the fund of £1,000 per Member from 2015/16 onwards.	C R S	- 33,000 CR -	- - -	- - -	- - -
SECURING THE ECONOMIC PROSPERITY OF THE DISTRICT						
R187	<u>Car Parking</u> Car Parking - move the free market day option from current car parks to better alternatives Severn Meadows (219 spaces) to Vale Rd: (72 spaces) Kidderminster arrangement - as current Bewdley arrangement - as current To consider the provision of additional free car parking within all town centres by exploration of improved potential for this across the district as part of the car parking review to be reported in June.	C R R R S	- 5,600 CR - - -	- 5,600 CR - - -	- 5,600 CR - - -	- 5,600 CR - - -
R295	<u>Worcestershire Hubs</u> Promote and develop the Hub within the heart of the community within Bewdley and Stourport subject to business case viability with increased emphasis on promotion and development of the council's services and local communities for a trial period of two years.	C R S	- 50,000 1.3	- 50,000 1.3	- - -	- - -
R705	<u>Commercial Activity</u> Prepare a business case to set out the case for developing a commercial arm for the Council - utilising the Town Centre Manager role to help deliver commercial opportunities.	C R S	tba	tba	tba	tba
R229	<u>External Income - Depot</u> External Income - review use of Depot facilities to provide a commercial vehicle washing and servicing centre for use by local operators.	C R S	tba	tba	tba	tba
	TOTALS	C R S	- 54,040 2.3	- 44,400 1.3	- 5,600 CR -	- 5,600 CR -

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL****CABINET**  
**17<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2015****Financial Strategy 2015-18**

<b>OPEN</b>	
<b>CABINET MEMBER:</b>	Councillor N J Desmond
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICERS:</b>	Chief Financial Officer/Chief Executive
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	Tracey Southall, Ext. 2100 <a href="mailto:tracey.southall@wyreforestdc.gov.uk">tracey.southall@wyreforestdc.gov.uk</a>
<b>APPENDICES:</b>	<p>Appendix 1 - Updated Base Budget Projections 2015-18</p> <p>Appendix 2 - Part 1 - Updated Capital Programme</p> <p>Appendix 2 - Part 2 - Updated Vehicle, Equipment and Systems Renewals Schedule</p> <p>Appendix 3 - Updated Cabinet Proposals</p> <p>Appendix 4- Fees and Charges</p> <p>Appendix 5 - Report of the Chief Financial Officer in respect of Sections 25-28 Local Government Act 2003</p> <p><i>The appendices to this report have been circulated electronically and a public inspection copy is available on request.</i></p>

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To update Cabinet on the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2015-18 and make recommendations to Council on the proposed budget decision. Also to consider the report of the Chief Financial Officer in respect of statutory duties placed on Local Authority Chief Financial Officers in relation to budget setting and monitoring.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The CABINET having re-considered the Financial Strategy 2015-18, the results of the Council Tax consultation exercise and recommendations of the Cabinet Financial Strategy Advisory Panel **RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL** that it:

**2.1 THREE YEAR BUDGET, CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND POLICY FRAMEWORK 2015-18**

- 2.1.1 **APPROVES** the updated Medium Term Financial Strategy 2015-18;
- 2.1.2 **APPROVES** the updated Cabinet Proposals – taking into account the impact on the Council's Capital and Revenue Budgets for 2015-18 as shown in Appendix 3;

- 2.1.3 **APPROVES** the fees and charges in line with this Strategy and the impact on the Council's Revenue Budget for 2015-18, as shown in Appendix 4;
- 2.1.4 **APPROVES** the updated Capital Programme and Vehicle, Equipment and Systems Renewal Schedule as set out in Appendix 2, Parts 1 and 2;
- 2.1.5 **APPROVES** that the first £244,000 of Right to Buy (RTB) receipts in 2015-16 and subsequent years be allocated to Disabled Facilities Grants (to a maximum Capital budget of £800,000 pa) and any extra RTB Capital Receipts be allocated to general capital reserves;
- 2.1.6 **APPROVES** that any Final Accounts savings arising from 2014-18 over and above the target allowed for in the Council's Financial Strategy, together with surplus Earmarked Reserves, be allocated by the Chief Financial Officer in consultation with the Leader;
- 2.1.7 **The General Fund Revenue Budget be APPROVED** including all updates from the position in December 2014 as set out in this report.

## 2.2 **COUNCIL TAX**

- 2.2.1 **SETS the** Council Tax for Wyre Forest District Council on a Band D Property at £205.36. for 2015-16 (£201.45 2014-15) which represents a 1.94% increase on Council Tax from 2014-15.
- 2.2.2 **ENDORSES** the provisional Council Tax on a Band D Property in 2016-17 of £209.34 and £213.40 in 2017-18, an increase of 1.94 % per annum over 2015-16.
- 2.2.3 **NOTES** the Chief Financial Officer's opinion on the budget proposals, recommended by the Cabinet in this report, as detailed in Appendix 5 of this report.

## 3. **KEY ISSUES**

- 3.1 On 16<sup>th</sup> December 2014, Cabinet considered a report on proposals for the Budget Strategy for the period 2015-18. Central Government have now confirmed the final Local Government Finance Settlement for the Council is in line with the Provisional Settlement issued in December 2014. There have also been a number of other funding changes and Council approvals since the December report that impact on budget recommendations. This report provides an updated position including the Final Settlement for 2015-16 now this has been published and a proposed budget decision for Council to consider on the 25<sup>th</sup> February 2015.
- 3.2 The following assumptions included in the Medium Term Financial Strategy are now updated:
  - Final Finance Settlement
  - Council Tax Base
  - New Burdens Funding



- Value of the approval by December Council of the IRP recommendations and also in relation to Polling Places
- The position in relation to New Homes Bonus
- Collection Fund Surplus
- Release of surplus earmarked reserves
- Revised schedule of Cabinet Proposals

- 3.3 The Referendums Relating to Council Tax Increases (Principles) (England) Report 2015-16 was announced on the 3<sup>th</sup> February 2015. This confirmed that council tax increases of 2% and above will trigger a referendum. Therefore the 1.94% increase assumed within the Strategy and endorsed by the recent public consultation exercise (see paragraph 3.4 below) would not trigger a referendum. Taking into account the freeze in council tax for three years prior to 2014-15 the increase for 2015-16 means that council tax for Wyre Forest District Council will have been held below inflation across that five year period.
- 3.4 As agreed by the Cabinet Financial Strategy Advisory Panel, a Council Tax Consultation exercise was launched on the 17<sup>th</sup> December 2014 to run until the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2015. The results of this consultation are reported as a separate item on this agenda and show that over 70% of the 183 respondents are in favour of the Council Tax increase of just under 2% for 2015-16. This has informed the final decision to recommend retaining the current proposal for the small increase in 2015-16, rather than accepting the freeze grant offer.
- 3.5 The Capital Programme considered by December Cabinet has now been updated to include all final amendments. The revised Capital Programme for this Financial Strategy is included in Appendix 2.
- 3.6 Fees and Charges requiring Council approval are detailed in Appendix 4.
- 3.7 The overall financial implications of the updated Cabinet Proposals are shown in Appendix 3. Revisions are as detailed below:
- 3.7.1 Firstly, additional expenditure for economic regeneration of £200,000 in total over the Strategy. The Council is committed to supporting local economic recovery and through the ReWyre and State of the Area programmes has already supported growth in local businesses, stimulated inward investment in new jobs and infrastructure, offered new opportunities to improve skills and improve town centres. The new proposal will continue to support these and other essential strategic imperatives including the priority for setting out development plans for Worcester Street and the wider Eastern Gateway in Kidderminster. Funding will also continue for the Town Centre's Manager post for a three year period to progress the work already underway to support retail centres.
- 3.7.2 Secondly, in line with the Council's current position and in the light of alternative budget proposals, to continue to progress a commercial approach in all areas of service activity and seek sponsorship where ever possible. This will include a review of the effectiveness of economic regeneration in respect of Christmas activities. No savings have been assumed but are to be confirmed in due course.
- 3.7.3 Thirdly, to consider ideas put forward within the alternative budget proposals as part of the planned car parking review to be reported in June 2015.

- 3.7.4 Fourthly, to retain the Community Leadership Fund for 2015-16 in line with the already approved budget and then in light of the consultation response, to undertake a review to consider the future of the fund to be fed into the budget process next year. This changed approach reflects the feedback from the consultation, in which a majority of respondents opposed the proposal to provide funding in 2016-17, with 49% disagreeing or strongly disagreeing. This response is consistent with current and past surveys that have shown a high level of opposition to spending on or associated with councillors (for example in respect of allowances and the frequency of elections).
- 3.7.5 Fifthly, to recognise continuing pressures on the waste collection service as a result of the new homes built in the district, there is a proposal to provide additional revenue funding of £105k over the Strategy. This is for additional waste crew resource to meet increased demand as and when this is needed to ensure this key service can be maintained. Costs could include temporary vehicle hire to cover extensive repairs of council owned vehicles. As part of this proposal, but outside the term of this strategy an extra refuse vehicle is needed in 2018-19 at a capital cost of £170k and revenue costs (including the cost of borrowing) of around £60k pa.
- 3.7.6 Finally, to continue to explore and consider alternative provision of service delivery by joint working, sharing and /or commissioning to protect front-line services. This includes continued active participation in the county-wide Project Optimise initiative. A business case for each proposal will be considered taking into account affordability, efficiency and service delivery when financial implications will be confirmed.
- 3.8 The question in the consultation that received by far the strongest support was moving to whole council elections (84% support or strongly support, of whom 67% strongly support). The benefits of whole council elections would, among other things, include savings worth £150k over a three year term. The strategic alliance supports such a change and has sought to build support from the other political groups to bring forward a proposal to change the electoral cycle for consideration by a special meeting of the Council. It has now been confirmed that there is insufficient political support to progress this approach at this time.
- 3.9 The decision to remain a member of the Worcestershire Business Rates Pool will help to protect the Council from any business rate reductions and help maximise the benefit by retaining more of the business rates delivered from economic growth within Worcestershire. Economic and subsequent business rates growth remains a key priority for this Council. The position in relation to appeals and resultant uncertainty due to the impact on performance remains a concern; this is being managed by the Chief Financial Officer in conjunction with the other treasurers within the Pool. Business rates projections included within the December Cabinet report are now confirmed.
- 3.10 Taking these measures into account the projected Base Budget net expenditure for 2015-16 is estimated to be £13,393,230 (see paragraph 7.5). This is £518,570 more than currently estimated to be raised from Council Tax, Business Rates Income retained, Collection Fund Surplus and Revenue Support Grant.

#### **4. LOCAL AUTHORITY REVENUE FINANCE SETTLEMENT FOR 2015-16**

- 4.1 The Final Local Government Settlement announced on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2015 confirmed the provisional figures released in December 2014. The Settlement was for 2015-16 only. As predicted, the austerity measures look set to continue until 2019, although the outlook for local government will be confirmed following the general election in May. The Council's updated summary Budget can be seen at Table 7.5.
- 4.2 Key issues emerging from this year's funding announcements, including the Autumn Statement made in December 2014, are as follows:
- There is a cut in net Aggregate External Finance of 13.9 % in 2015-16, on a like for like basis when compared with 2014-15.
  - On the Government's measure, there is an overall reduction of revenue spending power for local government of 1.8 % in 2015-16. This includes the Better Care Funding in full. Excluding council tax income this is a cut of 3.7 % in 2015-16, a greater reduction than the 3.5 % reduction announced in December 2013's illustrative 2015-16 settlement.
  - This Council has 3.6% reduction in the DCLG calculation of "estimated revenue spending power" which is slightly worse than the average. Worcester City has a 4.3% reduction whilst Wychavon enjoys a 1.4% growth.
  - Local authorities freezing or lowering Council Tax in 2015-16 will receive a Council Tax Freeze Grant equivalent to a 1% increase in Council Tax. Those increasing Council Tax by 2% or above will be required to hold a local referendum.
  - Income from business rates will be affected by the measures announced in the 2014 Autumn Statement. These are:
    - Business rates will increase by 2% instead of 2.3 % RPI for September 2014.
    - A £1,000 discount for all retail, pubs, cafes (excluding banks and betting offices) with rateable values below £50,000 will be increased to £1,500 for 2015-16.
    - The doubling of Small Business Rate Relief will continue for a further year.
    - The Government will pay for this Small Business Rate Relief through a Section 31 grant so that councils are fully compensated. Figures reflected in the Settlement aggregate this grant into local business rates.
- 4.3 The LGA has calculated that councils across England will receive 8.5% less funding from government to run local services for 2015-16, when council tax, ring fenced funding and the element of the Better Care Fund attributable to the NHS is removed from the calculation.
- 4.4 New Burdens Funding of £25k for 2015-16 was announced as part of the Settlement so this has now been included in the Housing Benefits budget.

- 4.5 The following table identifies the position in relation to total Government grant taking into account the one-year Finance Settlement for 2015-16 confirmed on the 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2015. The table includes specific grants such as the Council Tax Freeze Grant, Council Tax Localisation Grant and Homelessness Prevention Grants, along with projected Business Rates income. Business Rates projections as previously reported in December are also confirmed. The total funding position is £88,870 better off than originally predicted over the term of the Strategy compared to the December 2014 Cabinet report. This assumes the funding increase notified in 2015-16 continues going forward, reduced in line with other funding assumptions.

Year	Government Support as at December 2014 including Business Rates	Government Support as per Finance Settlement (2015-16 only)	Variance to Assumption	Year on Year Decrease based on Finance Settlement Figures including Business Rates	
	£	£	£	£	%
2013-14	6,287,770	6,287,770	n/a		
2014-15	5,459,370	5,459,370	n/a	828,400	13.17
2015-16	4,545,210	4,581,630	36,420	877,740	16.08
2016-17	4,179,220	4,208,360 est	29,140	373,270	8.15
2017-18	3,998,420	4,021,730 est	23,310	186,630	4.43
	<b>Total Variance</b>	<b>More Grant</b>	<b>88,870</b>		

#### 4.5.1 Business Rates

The Finance Settlement included an additional circa £18k Business Rates growth for 2015-16 compared to assumptions in the above table. Our slightly more pessimistic estimates are based on local knowledge and business rates intelligence on the risk of further appeals that reduce our potential total Business Rates collectible for the year. Any improvement in performance will be factored into next year's budget strategy when there is more certainty that this is achievable.

- 4.6 The local welfare support funding passported by the County to this Council was previously only confirmed for the two years 2013-14 and 2014-15 as part of the Social Fund. However the Final Government Settlement 2015-16 included an announcement of £74m additional funding for upper-tier authorities to assist them in dealing with pressures on local welfare and health and social care. The County have confirmed they will passport a share of this funding to district councils, our share will be £105k. In addition to this, the County has further committed to providing a total allocation from their own budgets of £0.4 million for 2015-16 as long as the allocation is matched by district councils. This Council's share of this funding is £84k and can be match funded in total, for the greater part by our renewed funding of the homelessness budget from our own resources rather than use of the previously passported monies. This funding is currently used to assist people in financial crisis. These new funding arrangements with the County Council will mitigate what would otherwise have been a significant impact in terms of services for these individuals and our running costs. It is hoped that this further funding may last two years.
- 4.7 The Council remains in the Worcestershire Business Rates Pool to help mitigate any reduction in this key funding stream. The most up-to-date monitoring figures for 2014-15 forecast that this Council's position will be slightly above baseline. Depending on

the overall performance of the Pool at the end of 2014-15 we may not need to be compensated from the Risk Reserve this year but are unlikely to achieve anything above minimal growth already assumed. Nevertheless pool membership is still beneficial in overall financial terms and it is possible the position will improve slightly at year-end. Going forward it is vital we attract new businesses to grow our Business Rates.

## **5. COUNCIL TAX BASE**

- 5.1 The Council Tax Base for 2015-16 has now been confirmed and has risen from the previously assumed 30,930 to 31,814 being an increase of 884 or a healthy 2.85% compared to 2014-15 due to the number of new houses being built and forecast to be occupied. This is forecast to generate additional Council Tax income of £182k in 2015-16, rising over the term of the Strategy to take into account planned increases of just under 2% per annum, resulting in additional income of around £555k over the three year term. Modest stepped increases have now also been assumed of 150 additional properties per year from 2016-17 onwards.
- 5.2 It was agreed that tax freeze grant for 2014-15 and 2015-16 would be built into the Spending Review baseline and this has been confirmed for 2014-15. Whilst this has been done with the intention of giving maximum possible certainty for councils that the extra funding for freezing council tax will remain available, it fails to compensate councils fully for the loss of income from this key funding stream if a freeze is agreed and the grant taken. This is due to a lower council tax baseline for future years and a 1% freeze grant offer rather than up to the referendum limit.
- 5.3 A Budget Consultation exercise was launched following December 2014 Cabinet and this included two specific questions related to Council Tax increases. The results of this consultation are reported in the separate report on this agenda and have informed the final decision to maintain the current proposal for a modest increase of 1.94%.

## **6. NEW HOMES BONUS**

- 6.1 The Council had previously estimated the income it expected to receive from new homes bonus and this was built into the base budget. The assumption continues to be adopted that new funding will not be provided after 2015-16 due to the General Election. It is as yet unknown, if and how this funding stream might be replaced by the next government.
- 6.2 Notification of our New Homes Bonus allocation for 2015-16 was received on the 30<sup>th</sup> January 2015. Unfortunately, for the first time this falls below our estimates. This is due to a lower number of net additional new homes for which the grant is payable compared to the base budget projection. The updated figures are shown in the table in 7.5 demonstrating that this reduction can be contained within the overall budget strategy as updated in this report.

## **7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The Cabinet Proposals previously considered have now been supplemented and a new schedule is shown in Appendix 3.

- 7.2 The Council Tax Collection Fund surplus for 2015-16 has now been confirmed at £75k an improvement on the former estimate of £50k. Projections of £50k pa can also now be included for 2016-17 and 2017-18.
- 7.3 The savings of £40k pa from 2015-16 due to the approval of the IRP and Polling Places recommendations by December Council are also reflected in the updated figures.
- 7.4 Earmarked reserves of £55k have been identified as no longer required and released into general balances.
- 7.5 The following table demonstrates the updated position for the Council when all the revisions included in this report are incorporated into the Base Budget. The Council is forecast to hold a balance of £1,122k at the end of 2017-18 (see reserves table in 7.6).

	Revised 2014-15 £	2015-16 £	2016-17 £	2017-18 £
Total Net Expenditure on Services (per Appendix 1)	12,789,130	13,235,590	12,888,360	12,820,510
<u>Less</u>				
Cabinet Proposals identified in Appendix 3		157,640	146,800	77,000
Net Expenditure	12,789,130	13,393,230	13,035,160	12,897,510
Contribution (from)/to Reserves	292,660	(518,570)	(400,850)	(546,460)
<b>Net Budget Requirement</b>	<b>13,081,790</b>	<b>12,874,660</b>	<b>12,634,310</b>	<b>12,351,050</b>
<u>Less</u>				
Revenue Support Grant (including Bellwin 2014-15)	(2,974,200)	(2,019,010)	(1,583,940)	(1,305,530)
Business Rates	(2,547,170)	(2,562,620)	(2,624,420)	(2,716,200)
New Homes Bonus	(1,263,170)	(1,684,610)	(1,684,610)	(1,426,190)
Community Right to Bid/Challenge	(16,400)	0	0	0
Collection Fund Surplus	(50,000)	(75,100)	(50,000)	(50,000)
Council Tax Income	(6,230,850)	(6,533,320)	(6,691,340)	(6,853,130)
WFDC Council Tax @ 1.94% increase 2015-16 onwards	<b>201.45</b>	<b>205.36</b>	<b>209.34</b>	<b>213.40</b>

- 7.6 Reserves available as part of the three year financial strategy are as shown in the following table. Taking all of the revisions contained in this report into account this shows a reduction of £98k at the end of 2017-18 compared to the December forecast. Consideration was given to funding the overall net additional expenditure from the saving that would accrue if the council moved to whole council elections. However, as noted in the earlier report about the recommendations from the Cabinet Financial Strategy Advisory Panel, the Panel concluded that there was a lack of political consensus about that issue. Therefore it is proposed that the net increase in expenditure should be funded from reserves. However, the reduction is not considered to be significant, given that the reserves level remains at over £1m and additional funding for economic regeneration work should result in increased business rates income in the fullness of time.

<b>Reserves Statement</b>	<b>2014-15 £'000</b>	<b>2015-16 £'000</b>	<b>2016-17 £'000</b>	<b>2017-18 £'000</b>
Reserves as at 1st April	2,295	2,588	2,069	1,668
Contribution (from)/to Reserves	293	(519)	(401)	(546)
Reserves as at 31st March	2,588	2,069	1,668	1,122

## **8. EQUALITY IMPACT NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

- 8.1 Where the Cabinet Proposals represent significant changes to service delivery, an EIA on the protected groups has been undertaken.

## **9. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 9.1 Achieving financial sustainability is the most significant risk facing the Council. The work undertaken by the Cabinet Financial Strategy Advisory Panel provided some options for the Cabinet to consider in making its recommendations on the medium term financial strategy.
- 9.2 The improved council tax base and continuing progress with the Wyre Forest Forward Transformation savings both contribute to the mitigation of the financial risk of this budget strategy.
- 9.3 The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 require Local Authorities to fully consider and manage Risk as part of the Budget process. Appendix 5 of the December 2014 Cabinet report showed an analysis of the significant financial risks which are affecting the Council. This has been reviewed and remains current.
- 9.4 All local authorities are required to formalise their approach to risk management and evidence it more directly as part of the budgetary process. This requirement has arisen as a result of:-
- a. ***The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011.***
  - b. ***Prudential Framework:-***
    - i. The assessment of affordability of financial plans requires a judgement about risk. Prudential Indicators are the monitoring tool to assess performance and risk.
  - c. ***CIPFA Guidance on Reserves and Balances:-***
    - i. Highlighting the need to consider risks facing the authority. The risks posed by the continuing austerity measures place pressure on the Council to hold higher levels of reserves to ensure ongoing sustainability. This is detailed in Appendix 5.

## **10. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

### **10.1 Local Government Act 2003**

- 10.1.1 The Local Government Act 2003 (Sections 25-28) places duties on Local Authorities on how they set and monitor budgets.

- 10.1.2 Sections 25-27 require the Section 151 Officer to report on the robustness of the estimates and the adequacy of its proposed financial reserves. This is reported to Council as Appendix 5 of this report.
- 10.1.3 Section 28 places a statutory duty on an Authority to review its budget from time to time during the year. If the Budget Monitoring Report shows that there has been deterioration in the Authority's financial position, the Authority must take such action as it concludes necessary. The Council currently reviews the Budget on a quarterly basis, with CLT/Cabinet receiving monthly budget monitoring reports, and this practice will continue.

**11. CONSULTEES**

- 11.1 Corporate Leadership Team.
- 11.2 Cabinet.

**12. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 12.1 Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011.
- 12.2 Cabinet Report on the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2015–18 16<sup>th</sup> December 2014.
- 12.3 Agendas and Minutes of the Cabinet Financial Strategy Advisory Panel.
- 12.4 Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 2015-16.
- 12.5 Final Local Government Finance Settlement 2015-16 including Referendum Relating to Council Tax Increase (Principles) (England) Report 2015-16 – confirmed 3<sup>th</sup> February 2015; debate and final approval 10<sup>th</sup> February 2015.



WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCILREVENUE BUDGET TOTAL REQUIREMENTS - DISTRICT COUNCIL PURPOSES

SERVICE	2014/15		2015/16			2016/17			2017/18		
	Original Estimate £	Revised Estimate £	At Nov.14 Prices £	Inflation £	TOTAL £	At Nov.14 Prices £	Inflation £	TOTAL £	At Nov.14 Prices £	Inflation £	TOTAL £
CHIEF EXECUTIVE	5,237,290	5,714,420	5,150,440	59,410	5,209,850	5,267,370	112,000	5,379,370	5,408,480	165,860	5,574,340
COMMUNITY WELL-BEING AND ENVIRONMENT	6,420,450	6,348,920	6,355,890	90,350	6,446,240	5,760,820	139,530	5,900,350	5,052,800	189,470	5,242,270
ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND PLACE	2,423,370	2,198,870	2,336,520	28,850	2,365,370	2,264,850	55,970	2,320,820	2,253,960	90,070	2,344,030
LESS: CAPITAL ACCOUNT	14,081,110	14,262,210	13,842,850	178,610	14,021,460	13,293,040	307,500	13,600,540	12,715,240	445,400	13,160,640
INTEREST RECEIVED	(1,059,650)	(1,397,580)	(653,670)	800	(652,870)	(510,960)	1,570	(509,390)	(73,320)	2,310	(71,010)
INCREASES IN FEES AND CHARGES	(129,600)	(75,500)	(76,540)	0	(76,540)	(90,000)	0	(90,000)	(100,000)	0	(100,000)
	0	0	(56,460)	0	(56,460)	(112,790)	0	(112,790)	(169,120)	0	(169,120)
<b>TOTAL NET EXPENDITURE ON SERVICES</b>	<b>12,891,860</b>	<b>12,789,130</b>	<b>13,056,180</b>	<b>179,410</b>	<b>13,235,590</b>	<b>12,579,290</b>	<b>309,070</b>	<b>12,888,360</b>	<b>12,372,800</b>	<b>447,710</b>	<b>12,820,510</b>
LESS: CONTRIBUTION (FROM) TO RESERVES	104,370	292,660			(360,930)			(254,050)			(469,460)
<b>NET BUDGET REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>12,996,230</b>	<b>13,081,790</b>			<b>12,874,660</b>			<b>12,634,310</b>			<b>12,351,050</b>
LESS: REVENUE SUPPORT GRANT	(2,912,200)	(2,912,200)			(2,019,010)			(1,583,940)			(1,305,530)
BUSINESS RATES	(2,532,170)	(2,547,170)			(2,562,620)			(2,624,420)			(2,716,200)
COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BID/CHALLENGE	(16,400)	(16,400)			0			0			0
COLLECTION FUND SURPLUS	(50,000)	(50,000)			(75,100)			(50,000)			(50,000)
NEW HOMES BONUS	(1,254,610)	(1,263,170)			(1,684,610)			(1,684,610)			(1,426,190)
BELLWIN GRANT	0	(62,000)			0			0			0
<b>GENERAL EXPENSES -</b>											
COUNCIL TAX INCOME	<b>6,230,850</b>	<b>6,230,850</b>			<b>6,533,320</b>			<b>6,691,340</b>			<b>6,853,130</b>
<b>COUNCIL TAX LEVY</b>		<b>201.45</b>			<b>205.36</b>			<b>209.34</b>			<b>213.40</b>
<b>COUNCIL TAX BASE</b>		<b>30,930</b>			<b>31,814</b>			<b>31,964</b>			<b>32,114</b>

## CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2014 TO 2018

## APPENDIX 2 - Part 1

Detail	2014/2015		2015/2016 Estimate £	2016/2017 Estimate £	2017/2018 Estimate £	Prior to 01/04/2014 £	Total £
	Original £	Revised £					
<b>1. COMMITTED EXPENDITURE</b>							
<b>1. CHIEF EXECUTIVE</b>							
New Headquarters - Office Accommodation	-	604,030	-	-	-	9,395,970	10,000,000
Contribution towards replacement of Civic Facilities in Stourport-on-Severn (following the Community Asset Transfer of the Civic Centre in 2013/14)	-	450,000	-	-	-	10,000	460,000
Boundary Wall at 49 Worcester Street	10,000	-	10,000	-	-	-	10,000
ICT Strategy	641,080	477,250	200,000	-	-	1,829,960	2,507,210
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>651,080</b>	<b>1,531,280</b>	<b>210,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11,235,930</b>	<b>12,977,210</b>
<b>2. COMMUNITY WELL-BEING AND ENVIRONMENT</b>							
Future Leisure Provision	7,616,530	2,237,640	8,215,840	3,621,450	-	127,270	14,202,200
Paddling Pools - Strategic Review	-	10,600	-	-	-	220,110	230,710
St Mary's Churchyard Boundary Wall	-	2,840	-	-	-	36,960	39,800
Northwood Lane Improvements	-	10,000	10,000	-	-	-	20,000
Liveability Scheme: Brinton Park	210	-	210	-	-	388,290	388,500
Stourport Sports Village	18,170	18,170	-	-	-	511,690	529,860
Franchise Street S106 - Brinton Park	53,370	-	53,370	-	-	8,840	62,210
Franchise Street S106 - Arts Development	9,330	-	9,330	-	-	-	9,330
Public Conveniences Refurbishment	20,530	10,000	10,530	-	-	-	20,530
Parking Facilities: Payment under Contractual Agreement	159,280	95,000	64,280	-	-	33,220	192,500
Parking Facilities: Improvement to Car Parks	19,860	-	19,860	-	-	280,140	300,000
Waste Strategy - Garden Waste Containers	-	3,330	-	-	-	64,150	67,480
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>7,897,280</b>	<b>2,387,580</b>	<b>8,383,420</b>	<b>3,621,450</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,670,670</b>	<b>16,063,120</b>
<b>3. ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND PLACE</b>							
Housing Strategy:							
Disabled Facilities Grants	462,100	800,000	556,000	556,000	-	8,347,390	10,259,390
Affordable Housing Grants to Registered Social Landlords	69,000	-	69,000	-	-	3,023,740	3,092,740
Housing Assistance (including Decent Homes Grant)	456,110	150,000	403,840	-	-	1,546,530	2,100,370
Planning Delivery Grant Capital Projects	26,240	-	26,240	-	-	231,520	257,760
Flood Relief	32,010	32,010	-	-	-	166,990	199,000
Repair and Renew Flood Grants	-	8,000	25,000	-	-	-	33,000
North Worcs Water Management Capital Projects - Redditch Schemes	134,380	60,000	84,380	-	-	5,620	150,000
North Worcs Water Management Capital Projects - Bromsgrove Schemes	36,370	37,300	-	-	-	17,100	54,400
WETT Programme - Regulatory Services	53,360	105,110	-	-	-	21,580	126,690
Regeneration of Economic Development	1,063,060	328,710	600,000	-	-	371,290	1,300,000
Carbon Management Plan	128,800	128,810	22,960	-	-	55,600	207,370
Bewdley Medical Centre	250,000	100,000	-	150,000	-	-	250,000
Bridge Street Capital Works	90,000	90,000	-	-	-	-	90,000
Future Investment Evergreen Fund*	-	-	424,000	316,000	451,000	-	1,191,000
* Subject to Business Case consideration by Overview and Scrutiny Committee							
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>2,801,430</b>	<b>1,839,940</b>	<b>2,211,420</b>	<b>1,022,000</b>	<b>451,000</b>	<b>13,787,360</b>	<b>19,311,720</b>
<b>4. VEHICLE, EQUIPMENT &amp; SYSTEMS RENEWAL SCHEDULE</b>							
Vehicles & Equipment	882,420	556,420	463,000	348,000	941,500	5,712,590	8,021,510
Financial Management System Replacement	67,470	20,000	49,500	-	-	17,570	87,070
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>949,890</b>	<b>576,420</b>	<b>512,500</b>	<b>348,000</b>	<b>941,500</b>	<b>5,730,160</b>	<b>8,108,580</b>
<b>TOTAL COMMITTED EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>12,299,680</b>	<b>6,335,220</b>	<b>11,317,340</b>	<b>4,991,450</b>	<b>1,392,500</b>	<b>32,424,120</b>	<b>56,460,630</b>

## CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2014 TO 2018

## APPENDIX 2 - Part 1

Detail	2014/2015		2015/2016 Estimate £	2016/2017 Estimate £	2017/2018 Estimate £	Prior to 01/04/2014 £	Total £
	Original £	Revised £					
<b><u>2. FINANCING</u></b>							
Capital Receipts: Funding Approved	1,005,270	927,990	546,380	-	-		1,474,370
New Headquarters Office Accommodation - Temporary Borrowing/Asset Disposals	-	604,030	-	-	-		604,030
Evergreen Fund - Future Asset Disposals	-	-	424,000	316,000	451,000		1,191,000
Contribution towards replacement of Civic Facilities - Capital Receipts Funding	-	450,000	-	-	-		450,000
Future Leisure Provision Scheme - Temporary Borrowing/Asset Disposals	-	-	-	1,429,000	-		1,429,000
Future Leisure Provision Scheme - Sport England Grant	1,000,000	-	1,000,000	1,000,000	-		2,000,000
Future Leisure Provision Scheme - Prudential Borrowing	6,616,530	2,237,640	7,215,840	1,192,450	-		10,645,930
Prudential Borrowing for WETT Programme - Regulatory Services Scheme	53,360	105,110	-	-	-		105,110
Prudential Borrowing for Regeneration of Economic Development Scheme	1,063,060	328,710	600,000	-	-		928,710
Prudential Borrowing for Paddling Pools Scheme	-	10,600	-	-	-		10,600
Prudential Borrowing for Carbon Management Scheme	128,800	128,810	22,960	-	-		151,770
Disabled Facilities Grant	462,100	462,100	556,000	556,000	-		1,574,100
Decent Homes Grant	301,310	150,000	176,850	-	-		326,850
Liveability/Heritage Lottery Grant Funding (for Brinton Park)	210	-	210	-	-		210
Planning Delivery Grant	26,240	-	26,240	-	-		26,240
S.106 Funding (Parking - Contractual Agreement)	159,280	95,000	64,280	-	-		159,280
S.106 Funding (Franchise Street)	62,700	-	62,700	-	-		62,700
S.106 Funding (for Stourport Sports Village)	18,170	18,170	-	-	-		18,170
Flood Relief Grant (from DCLG)	32,010	32,010	-	-	-		32,010
Repair and Renew Flood Grants (from DCLG)	-	8,000	25,000	-	-		33,000
North Worcs Water Management Capital Projects - Redditch BC Funding	134,380	60,000	84,380	-	-		144,380
North Worcs Water Management Capital Projects - Bromsgrove DC Funding	36,370	37,300	-	-	-		37,300
Vehicles & Equipment (Prudential Borrowing)	882,420	556,420	463,000	348,000	941,500		2,308,920
Financial Management System Replacement (Prudential Borrowing)	67,470	20,000	49,500	-	-		69,500
<u>Direct Revenue Funding:</u>							
Waste Strategy - Garden Waste Containers	-	3,330	-	-	-		3,330
Bewdley Medical Centre	250,000	100,000	-	150,000	-		250,000
	12,299,680	6,335,220	11,317,340	4,991,450	1,392,500		24,036,510

# VEHICLE, EQUIPMENT AND SYSTEMS RENEWALS SCHEDULE 2014 TO 2018

APPENDIX 2 Part 2

Detail	2014/2015		2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018
	Original £	Revised £	Estimate £	Estimate £	Estimate £
<b>1. VEHICLES</b>					
Refuse Freighter	80,000	86,000	-	-	80,000
Refuse Freighter	80,000	86,000	-	-	80,000
Refuse Freighter	80,000	86,000	-	-	80,000
Refuse Freighter	80,000	-	-	-	80,000
Refuse Freighter	-	-	-	-	80,000
CMP Electric Bin Lifts	18,000	36,000	-	-	31,500
Refurbishment Fund	-	25,000	-	-	-
Refuse Freighter - training re-fit	-	7,000	-	-	-
Refuse Freighter	-	80,000	-	-	80,000
Refuse Freighter	-	80,000	-	-	80,000
Flatbeds for Bulky	-	-	-	45,000	-
Flatbeds for Bulky	-	-	-	-	40,000
Ford Fusion	12,000	-	12,000	-	-
Ford Fusion	12,000	-	12,000	-	-
Ford Connect	18,000	-	18,000	-	-
Ford Connect	-	-	-	18,000	-
Ford Ranger 4x4	23,000	-	23,000	-	-
Ford Ranger 4x4	23,000	-	-	23,000	-
Blitz Vehicle	-	-	-	30,000	-
Mechanical Sweeper (Medium)	120,000	-	120,000	-	-
Mechanical Sweeper (Johnson V650)	-	-	-	100,000	-
Mechanical Sweeper (Small JOHNSON C200)	-	-	-	-	70,000
Mechanical Sweeper (Small JOHNSON C200)	70,000	-	70,000	-	-
Mechanical Sweeper (Small JOHNSON C200)	70,000	-	70,000	-	-
Transit Van	20,000	-	20,000	-	-
Transit Van	-	-	-	20,000	-
Transit Van	20,000	-	20,000	-	-
Garage Equipment - Replacement (slippage from prior years)	23,420	23,420	-	-	-
Iveco Daily	30,000	-	30,000	-	-
Iveco Daily	30,000	-	30,000	30,000	-
Iveco Daily	-	-	-	-	30,000
Iveco Daily	-	-	-	-	30,000
Iveco Daily	-	-	-	-	30,000
Iveco Daily	-	-	-	-	30,000
Iveco Daily	-	-	-	-	30,000
Iveco Daily	-	-	-	-	30,000
Midi Tractor	-	-	-	-	30,000
Mowing Machine	35,000	35,000	-	-	-
WeedSprayer (mobile)	-	12,000	-	-	-
Timberwolf chipper	-	-	-	30,000	30,000
Tractor	-	-	-	32,000	-
Canter	38,000	-	38,000	-	-
Small Van - Low range electrical	-	-	-	20,000	-
<b>2. OTHER</b>					
Financial Management System replacement	67,470	20,000	49,500	-	-
	949,890	576,420	512,500	348,000	941,500

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL****REVISED CABINET PROPOSALS 2015/16 ONWARDS**

Cost Centre	ACTIVITY AND DESCRIPTION OF CABINET PROPOSAL	KEY	CHANGE IN RESOURCES			
			2015/16 £	2016/17 £	2017/18 £	After 2017/18 £
SUCCESSFUL LOCAL ECONOMY						
R705	<b><u>Economic Regeneration Activities</u></b> To continue funding for Town Centre Manager post for a further three years when the current funding ceases at the end of March 2015 with 50% funded from the SotAD approved revenue budget.	C R S	- 16,640 1.00	- 16,800 1.00	- 17,000 1.00	- - -
R705	<b><u>Economic Regeneration Activities</u></b> The Council is committed to supporting our local economic recovery and through our ReWyre and State of the Area programmes has already supported growth in our local businesses, stimulated inward investment in new jobs and infrastructure, offered new opportunities to improve skills and improved our town centres. We will continue to support these and other essential strategic imperatives including our priority for setting out development plans for Worcester Street and the wider Eastern Gateway in Kidderminster.	C R S	- 100,000 -	- 100,000 -	- - -	- - -
R705	<b><u>Commercial Activity/External Income</u></b> In line with Council's current position and in light of alternative budget proposals, to continue to progress the commercial approach in all areas of service activity and seek sponsorship where ever possible. This will include a review of the effectiveness of economic regeneration in respect of Christmas activities.	C R S	- tbc -	- tbc -	- tbc -	- tbc -
R187	<b><u>Car Parking</u></b> To consider ideas put forward as part of alternative budget Proposals as part of planned car parking review to be reported in June 2015.	C R S	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -
CLEAN, GREEN AND SAFE COMMUNITIES						
R335	<b><u>Parish Localism Funds</u></b> To create two Parish Localism funds of £25k each from the balance of the existing fund of C£24k supplemented by Parish Councils and the second for an extended range of Community Groups. There will be revised award criteria for this funding to facilitate easier access and more clarity.	C R S	- 26,000 -	- - -	- - -	- - -
R720	<b><u>Community Leadership Fund</u></b> In light of the consultation responses and alternative budget proposals, to retain this fund of £1,000 per Member for 2015/16 and then to undertake a review to consider its use and effectiveness to inform decision making for 2016/17.	C R S	- - -	- tbc -	- - -	- - -
R002	<b><u>Waste Collection Services</u></b> Due to the projected growth in new homes in the District provide additional resources for waste collection crew and vehicle support.	C R S	- 15,000 0.75	- 30,000 1.50	- 60,000 3.00	170,000 120,000 3
Various	<b><u>Joint Working</u></b> To continue to explore and consider alternative provision of service delivery by joint working, sharing and or commissioning to protect front-line services. To include continued participation in the county wide Project Optimise initiative. A business case for each proposal will be considered taking into account affordability efficiency and service delivery.	C R S	tbc tbc tbc	tbc tbc tbc	tbc tbc tbc	tbc tbc tbc
	<b>TOTALS</b>	C R S	- 157,640 1.75	- 146,800 2.50	- 77,000 4.00	170,000 120,000 3.00

**KEY - Changes in Resources**

- C Capital  
 R Revenue  
 S Staffing - Stated in FTEs

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL****FEES AND CHARGES 2015/2016****COUNCIL**

Cost Centre	ACTIVITY AND DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE OPTION	KEY	CHANGES IN RESOURCES		
			2015/16 £	2016/17 £	2017/18 £
	<b><u>CHIEF EXECUTIVE</u></b>				
<b>R310</b>	<b><u>Council Tax and NNDR</u></b>	C	-	-	-
	Summons Costs £50	R	-	-	-
	Liability Order Costs £30	S	-	-	-
	£80				
	Bi-annual review of summons costs and liability orders to reflect inflation and additional Magistrates Court costs.				
<b>R310</b>	<b><u>Council Tax and NNDR</u></b>	C	-	-	-
	New penalties for non Compliance Discount applications / failure to notify of change implemented in 2014/15, so no increase proposed.	R	-	-	-
		S	-	-	-
<b>R500</b>	<b><u>Elections and Electoral Registration</u></b>	C	-	-	-
	Increase charges by 5% in line with Council Policy.	R	120 CR	120 CR	120 CR
		S	-	-	-
	<b><u>ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND PLACE</u></b>				
<b>R605</b>	<b><u>Development Control - Planning Advice</u></b>	C	-	-	-
	Increase charges by 5% in line with Council Policy.	R	20 CR	20 CR	20 CR
		S	-	-	-
<b>R605</b>	<b><u>Development Control - Permitted Developments</u></b>	C	-	-	-
	Increase charges by 5% in line with Council Policy.	R	30 CR	-	-
		S	-	-	-
<b>R605</b>	<b><u>Development Control - Pre-application advice</u></b>	C	-	-	-
	Increase charges by 5% in line with Council Policy.	R	350 CR	250 CR	250 CR
		S	-	-	-
<b>R625</b>	<b><u>Building Control - Decision Notices</u></b>	C	-	-	-
	To increase charges by 5% for copies of decision notices held by the Council prior to the formation of the North Worcestershire Building Control Shared Service.	R	-	-	-
		S	-	-	-
<b>R605</b>	<b><u>Development Control - Sale of Documents</u></b>	C	-	-	-
	Increase charges by 5% in line with Council Policy.	R	110 CR	110 CR	110 CR
		S	-	-	-
<b>R637</b>	<b><u>Environmental Health - Water Sampling</u></b>	C	-	-	-
	Water sampling and analysis charges are set by Worcs Regulatory Services. No increase is being proposed.	R	-	-	-
		S	-	-	-
<b>R638</b>	<b><u>Licensing Activities - Hackney Carriages</u></b>	C	-	-	-
	To propose no increase to Hackney Carriage licences	R	-	-	-
		S	-	-	-
<b>R638</b>	<b><u>Licensing Activities - General Licensing</u></b>	C	-	-	-
	Increase charges by 5% in line with Council Policy.	R	1,210 CR	1,210 CR	1,210 CR
		S	-	-	-
<b>R638</b>	<b><u>Licensing Activities - Gambling Act 2005 (Premises)</u></b>	C	-	-	-
	Increase charges by either 5% in line with Council Policy or up to prescribed maximum level (if this is lower).	R	320 CR	320 CR	320 CR
		S	-	-	-
	<b>TOTALS</b>	C	-	-	-
		R	2,160 CR	2,030 CR	2,030 CR
		S	-	-	-



Service	Elections and Electoral Registration	Service Managers	Head of Transformation and Communication
Directorate	Chief Executive	Cabinet Member	Resources and Transformation

## PROPOSAL OF SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES

INCOME DESCRIPTION	Current Charge TO 31/03/2015 £	Proposed Charge FROM 1/04/2015 £ *	Proposed Charge FROM 1/04/2015 £ **
<b>Elections and Electoral Registration</b>			
<b>Council Tax and NNDR</b>			
<b>SALE OF EDITED AND FULL ELECTORAL REGISTERS</b>			
Charges for Market Registers only (per legislation)			
<b>Edited and Full Register</b>			
Data	20.00 plus 1.50 per 1,000 entries	21.00 plus 1.60 per 1,000 entries	No VAT currently charged
Printed	10.00 plus 5.00 per 1,000 entries	11.00 plus 5.25 per 1,000 entries	No VAT currently charged
<b>Overseas Electors</b>			
Data	20.00 plus 1.50 per 1,000 entries	21.00 plus 1.60 per 1,000 entries	No VAT currently charged
Printed	10.00 plus 5.00 per 1,000 entries	11.00 plus 5.25 per 1,000 entries	No VAT currently charged
<b>Marked Registers</b>			
Data	10.00 plus 1.00 per 1,000 or part	11.00 plus 1.05 per 1,000 or part	No VAT currently charged
Printed	10.00 plus 2.00 per 1,000 or part	11.00 plus 2.10 per 1,000 or part	No VAT currently charged
<b>Council Tax and NNDR</b>			
Summons costs	45.00	50.00	No VAT currently charged
Liability Orders	30.00	30.00	No VAT currently charged
Penalties for non Compliance Discount applications / failure to notify of change	New charge	70.00	No VAT currently charged

## NOTES:

\* Charge before VAT (if applicable) at the prevailing rate

\*\* Charge inclusive of VAT (if applicable) i.e. total fee payable at the prevailing VAT rate



Service	Planning & Building Control	Service Manager	Development Control Manager
Directorate	Economic Prosperity & Place	Cabinet Member	Planning and Economic Regeneration

## PROPOSAL OF SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES

INCOME DESCRIPTION	Current Charge TO 31/03/2015 £	Proposed Charge FROM 1/04/2015 £ Charges before VAT *	Proposed Charge FROM 1/04/2015 £ Charges inclusive of VAT **
<b>Planning Advice</b>			
<b>Building Control Decision Notices (Pre 01/01/2012)</b>			
<b>Sale of Copy Documents</b>			
Reply to general individual queries, Planning or Building Control for up to 6 questions (after that the full Local Land Charge Search fee will be charged)	22.00 per Question	23.00 per Question	No VAT currently charged
If any query requires a site visit to be made (e.g. compliance with conditions)	59.00	62.00	No VAT currently charged
<b>Charges for Copy Documents</b>			
Monthly Decision List	Free	0.00	0.00
Weekly Planning Application List	Free	0.00	0.00
Decision Notices	17.00	15.00	18.00
Decision Notices Additional Copies	1.00	0.83	1.00
A4 - For each copy	1.00	0.83	1.00
A3 - For each copy	1.10	0.83	1.00
A2 - For each copy	2.70	2.50	3.00
A1 - For each copy	3.50	3.33	4.00
A0 - For each copy	4.60	4.17	5.00
Note Copies, where appropriate, are available free up to a cumulative single transaction value of £10 for individuals (the discretion of Director of Service to be applied in cases of multiple separate transactions) and charged at full cost to representatives of professional and/or commercial companies.			

## NOTES:

\* Charge before VAT (if applicable) at the prevailing rate

\*\* Charge inclusive of VAT (if applicable) i.e. total fee payable at the prevailing VAT rate





Service	Planning	Service Manager	Development Control Manager
Directorate	Economic Prosperity & Place	Cabinet Member	Planning and Economic Regeneration

## PROPOSAL OF SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES

INCOME DESCRIPTION	Current Charge	Proposed Charge	Proposed Charge
	TO 31/03/2015	FROM 1/04/2015	FROM 1/04/2015
Permitted Developments and Pre-application Advice	£	£	£
		Charges before VAT	Charges inclusive of VAT
		*	**
<b>Permitted Development enquiries</b>			
<b>Proposed development type</b>			
Householder	Free	Free	Free
Other	Free	Free	Free
<b>Pre-Application advice</b>			
<b>Householder</b>	Free	Free	Free
Cost of each additional meeting	Free	Free	Free
1 - 4 dwellings	Free	Free	Free
Cost of each additional meeting	Free	Free	Free
Cost of Highway Advice	Free	Free	Free
Cost of each additional meeting with Highway Authority	Free	Free	Free
<b>Residential Development (see note 1)</b>			
5 - 9 dwellings (site <1ha) (gross floor area <1,000m2)	Free	Free	Free
Cost of each additional meeting	Free	Free	Free
Cost of Highway Advice	Free	Free	Free
Cost of each additional meeting with Highway Authority	Free	Free	Free
10 - 49 dwellings (site 1-1.25ha) (gross floor area 1,000 - 2,499m2)	1,182.00	1,034.17	1,241.00
Cost of each additional meeting	591.00	517.50	621.00
Cost of Highway Advice	414.00	362.50	435.00
Cost of each additional meeting with Highway Authority	207.00	180.83	217.00
50 - 199 dwellings (site 1.26-2ha) (gross floor area 2,500 - 9,999m2)	2,365.00	2,069.17	2,483.00
Cost of each additional meeting	875.00	765.83	919.00
Cost of Highway Advice	828.00	724.17	869.00
Cost of each additional meeting with Highway Authority	307.00	268.33	322.00
200+ dwellings (site 2+ha) (gross floor area +10,000m2)	3,547.00	3,103.33	3,724.00
Cost of each additional meeting	1,182.00	1,034.17	1,241.00
Cost of Highway Advice	1,241.00	1,085.83	1,303.00
Cost of each additional meeting with Highway Authority	414.00	362.50	435.00
<b>Non Residential/Commercial Development (see note 1)</b>			
Gross floor area up to 500m2 (site up to 0.5ha)	Free	Free	Free
Cost of each additional meeting	Free	Free	Free
Cost of Highway Advice	Free	Free	Free
Cost of each additional meeting with Highway Authority	Free	Free	Free
Gross floor area 501m2 - 999m2 (site 0.5 -1ha)	Free	Free	Free
Cost of each additional meeting	Free	Free	Free
Cost of Highway Advice	Free	Free	Free
Cost of each additional meeting with Highway Authority	Free	Free	Free
Gross floor area 1,000 - 2,499m2 (site 1-1.25ha)	1,182.00	1,034.17	1,241.00
Cost of each additional meeting	591.00	517.50	621.00
Cost of Highway Advice	414.00	362.50	435.00
Cost of each additional meeting with Highway Authority	207.00	180.83	217.00
Gross floor area 2,500 - 9,999m2 (site 1.26-2ha)	2,365.00	2,069.17	2,483.00
Cost of each additional meeting	875.00	765.83	919.00
Cost of Highway Advice	828.00	724.17	869.00
Cost of each additional meeting with Highway Authority	307.00	268.33	322.00
Gross floor area +10,000m2 (site +2ha)	3,547.00	3,103.33	3,724.00
Cost of each additional meeting	1,182.00	1,034.17	1,241.00
Cost of Highway Advice	1,241.00	1,085.83	1,303.00
Cost of each additional meeting with Highway Authority	414.00	362.50	435.00



Service	Planning	Service Manager	Development Control Manager
Directorate	Economic Prosperity & Place	Cabinet Member	Planning and Economic Regeneration

## PROPOSAL OF SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES

INCOME DESCRIPTION	Current Charge	Proposed Charge	Proposed Charge
	TO 31/03/2015	FROM 1/04/2015	FROM 1/04/2015
	£	£	£
Permitted Developments and Pre-application Advice		Charges before VAT *	Charges inclusive of VAT **
<b>Other Categories</b>			
Advertisements	Free	Free	Free
Cost of each additional meeting	Free	Free	Free
Change of Use	Free	Free	Free
Cost of each additional meeting	Free	Free	Free
Telecommunications	Free	Free	Free
Cost of each additional meeting	Free	Free	Free
Glasshouses/Poly Tunnels	Free	Free	Free
Cost of each additional meeting	Free	Free	Free
Others (see note 2)	Free	Free	Free
Cost of each additional meeting	Free	Free	Free
<b>Historic Environmental and Tree related enquiries</b>			
Separate Listed Building and Conservation Area Advice			
(Up to 3 Separate Matters)	37.00	32.50	39.00
(More than 3 Separate Matters)	72.00	63.33	76.00
Cost of each additional meeting	18.00	15.83	19.00
Separate Tree related Advice - number of trees not exceeding 10	37.00	32.50	39.00
Cost of each additional meeting	18.00	15.83	19.00
Separate Tree related Advice - number of trees over 10 but not exceeding 30	72.00	63.33	76.00
Cost of each additional meeting	18.00	15.83	19.00
<b>Exemptions</b>			
As set out in Guidance Note (e.g. Parish Councils, etc)			

## NOTES:

\* Charge before VAT (if applicable) at the prevailing rate

\*\* Charge inclusive of VAT (if applicable) i.e. total fee payable at the prevailing VAT rate

Note 1 - If only principle to be discussed

Note 2 - Includes other development proposals such as variation or removal of conditions-proposed changes of use, car parks and certificates of lawfulness.



Service	Worcestershire Regulatory Services	Service Manager	Worcestershire Regulatory Services Officer
Directorate	Economic Prosperity & Place	Cabinet Member	Environmental Services

**PROPOSAL OF SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES**

INCOME DESCRIPTION	Current Charge TO 31/03/2015 £	Proposed Charge FROM 1/04/2015 £ Charges before VAT *	Proposed Charge FROM 1/04/2015 £ Charges inclusive of VAT **
<b>Water Sampling and Analysis Charges - Set By Worcestershire Regulatory Services</b>			
<b>POLLUTION CONTROL</b>			
<b>Water Sampling Charges</b>			
The Regulations allow local authorities to charge a fee, subject to prescribed maximum levels to enable reasonable costs of services (lab fees etc) to be recovered.			
<b>Proposed Fees and Charges</b>			
Risk Assessment	40.00 per hour (up to £500 Max)	40.00 per hour (up to £500 Max)	48.00 per hour (up to £600 Max)
Sampling (each visit)	100.00 Max	100.00 Max	120.00 Max
Investigation (each investigation)	40.00 per hour (up to £100 Max)	40.00 per hour (up to £100 Max)	48.00 per hour (up to £120 Max)
Granting an Authorisation	100.00 Max	100.00 Max	120.00 Max
Analysing a sample			
- taken under regulation 10 (small supplies)	25.00 Max	25.00 Max	30.00 Max
- taken during check monitoring	100.00 Max	100.00 Max	120.00 Max
- taken during audit monitoring	500.00 Max	500.00 Max	600.00 Max

**NOTES:**

\* Charge before VAT (if applicable) at the prevailing rate

\*\* Charge inclusive of VAT (if applicable) i.e. total fee payable at the prevailing VAT rate

Where the request is made by the Owner/Occupier and the Authority is not the only service provider - VAT will be added

Where the authority instigates the testing under regulations i.e. Periodic tests, assessments - VAT is not applicable in this instance



Service	Worcestershire Regulatory Services	Service Manager	Worcestershire Regulatory Services Officer
Directorate	Economic Prosperity & Place	Cabinet Member	Environmental Services

**PROPOSAL OF SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES**

INCOME DESCRIPTION	Current Charge TO 31/03/2015 £	Proposed Charge FROM 1/04/2015 £ Charges before VAT *	Proposed Charge FROM 1/04/2015 £ Charges inclusive of VAT **
<b>Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Fees</b>			
Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Drivers Licence (valid for 2 years)	295.00	295.00	No VAT currently charged
Drivers' Knowledge Test	54.00	54.00	No VAT currently charged
Drivers Badge	25.00	25.00	No VAT currently charged
Hackney Carriage Vehicle	416.00	416.00	No VAT currently charged
Private Hire Vehicle	416.00	416.00	No VAT currently charged
Private Hire Operators	463.00	463.00	No VAT currently charged
Vehicle Decals - Replacements	19.00	19.00	No VAT currently charged
Vehicle Retest Fee (if re-tested within 48 hours of failure)	31.00	25.83	31.00
Vehicle Retest Fee (if re-tested after 48 hours of failure)	59.00	49.17	59.00
Change of Business (Sell Car and Transfer Plate)	105.00	105.00	No VAT currently charged
Exemption Notice (Executive Vehicles)	29.00	29.00	No VAT currently charged
Internal (Executive Vehicles) Car Plate	21.00	21.00	No VAT currently charged
External Car Plate	49.00	49.00	No VAT currently charged
Disclosure Scotland check	62.00	62.00	No VAT currently charged

**NOTES:**

\* Charge before VAT (if applicable) at the prevailing rate

\*\* Charge inclusive of VAT (if applicable) i.e. total fee payable at the prevailing VAT rate



Service	Worcestershire Regulatory Services	Service Manager	Worcestershire Regulatory Services Officer
Directorate	Economic Prosperity & Place	Cabinet Member	Environmental Services

**PROPOSAL OF SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES**

INCOME DESCRIPTION	Current Charge TO 31/03/2015 £	Proposed Charge FROM 1/04/2015 £ Charges before VAT *	Proposed Charge FROM 1/04/2015 £ Charges inclusive of VAT **
<b>Licensing and Registration</b>			
Acupuncture, Tattooing, Electrolysis, Ear Piercing, Skin Piercing & Semi-Permanent Skin Colouring -			
Certificate of Registration: (a) Person	156.00	164.00	No VAT currently charged
(b) Premise	226.00	237.00	No VAT currently charged
(c) Persons & Premises	380.00	399.00	No VAT currently charged
Animal Boarding Establishments*** Initial	321.00	337.00	No VAT currently charged
Renewal	212.00	223.00	No VAT currently charged
Vet fees/Animal welfare visit (if applicable)	Charged at Cost	Charged at Cost	
Dangerous Wild Animals*** Initial	321.00	337.00	No VAT currently charged
Renewal	212.00	223.00	No VAT currently charged
Vet fees/Animal welfare visit (if applicable)	Charged at Cost	Charged at Cost	
Dog Breeding Establishments*** Initial	321.00	337.00	No VAT currently charged
Renewal	212.00	223.00	No VAT currently charged
Vet fees/Animal welfare visit (if applicable)	Charged at Cost	Charged at Cost	
Pet Animals Act*** Initial	321.00	337.00	No VAT currently charged
Renewal	212.00	223.00	No VAT currently charged
Vet fees/Animal welfare visit (if applicable)	Charged at Cost	Charged at Cost	
Public Realm and Streetscene (Control of Street Furniture)	303.00	318.00	No VAT currently charged
Riding Establishments*** Initial	321.00	337.00	No VAT currently charged
Renewal	212.00	223.00	No VAT currently charged
Vet fees/Animal welfare visit (if applicable)	Charged at Cost	Charged at Cost	
Sex Establishments Initial	4,740.00	4,977.00	No VAT currently charged
Renewal	1,820.00	1,911.00	No VAT currently charged
Transfer	329.00	345.00	No VAT currently charged
Zoo Licences*** Initial	1,549.00	1,626.00	No VAT currently charged
	(plus Inspector's expenses)	(plus Inspector's expenses)	
Renewal	1,391.00	1,461.00	No VAT currently charged
	(plus Inspector's expenses)	(plus Inspector's expenses)	
Vet fees/Animal welfare visit (if applicable)	Charged at Cost	Charged at Cost	

**NOTES:**

\* Charge before VAT (if applicable) at the prevailing rate

\*\* Charge inclusive of VAT (if applicable) i.e. total fee payable at the prevailing VAT rate

\*\*\*Plus Vet fees where applicable



Service	Worcestershire Regulatory Services	Service Manager	Worcestershire Regulatory Services Officer
Directorate	Economic Prosperity & Place	Cabinet Member	Environmental Services

**PROPOSAL OF SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES**

INCOME DESCRIPTION	Current Charge TO 31/03/2015 £	Proposed Charge FROM 1/04/2015 £ Charges before VAT *	Proposed Charge FROM 1/04/2015 £ Charges inclusive of VAT **
<b>Gambling Premises License Fees</b>			
Bingo Club - New Application	2,302.00	2,417.00	No VAT currently charged
Annual Fee	659.00	692.00	No VAT currently charged
Application to vary	1,152.00	1,210.00	No VAT currently charged
Application to Transfer	790.00	830.00	No VAT currently charged
Application for re-instatement	790.00	830.00	No VAT currently charged
Application for Provisional Statement	2,302.00	2,417.00	No VAT currently charged
Licence Application (Provisional Statement holders)	790.00	830.00	No VAT currently charged
Copy Licence	35.00	25.00	No VAT currently charged
Notification of change	66.00	50.00	No VAT currently charged
Betting Premises - New Application (excluding Tracks)	1,976.00	2,075.00	No VAT currently charged
Annual Fee	395.00	415.00	No VAT currently charged
Application to vary	987.00	1,036.00	No VAT currently charged
Application to Transfer	790.00	830.00	No VAT currently charged
Application for re-instatement	790.00	830.00	No VAT currently charged
Application for Provisional Statement	1,976.00	2,075.00	No VAT currently charged
Licence Application (Provisional Statement holders)	790.00	830.00	No VAT currently charged
Copy Licence	35.00	25.00	No VAT currently charged
Notification of change	66.00	50.00	No VAT currently charged
Tracks - New Application	1,646.00	1,728.00	No VAT currently charged
Annual Fee	659.00	692.00	No VAT currently charged
Application to vary	822.00	863.00	No VAT currently charged
Application to Transfer	625.00	656.00	No VAT currently charged
Application for re-instatement	625.00	656.00	No VAT currently charged
Application for Provisional Statement	1,646.00	1,728.00	No VAT currently charged
Licence Application (Provisional Statement holders)	625.00	656.00	No VAT currently charged
Copy Licence	35.00	25.00	No VAT currently charged
Notification of change	66.00	50.00	No VAT currently charged
Family Entertainment Centres - New Application	1,317.00	1,383.00	No VAT currently charged
Annual Fee	492.00	517.00	No VAT currently charged
Application to vary	659.00	692.00	No VAT currently charged
Application to Transfer	625.00	656.00	No VAT currently charged
Application for re-instatement	625.00	656.00	No VAT currently charged
Application for Provisional Statement	1,317.00	1,383.00	No VAT currently charged
Licence Application (Provisional Statement holders)	625.00	656.00	No VAT currently charged
Copy Licence	35.00	25.00	No VAT currently charged
Notification of change	66.00	50.00	No VAT currently charged
Adult Gaming Centres - New Application	1,317.00	1,383.00	No VAT currently charged
Annual Fee	659.00	692.00	No VAT currently charged
Application to vary	659.00	692.00	No VAT currently charged
Application to Transfer	625.00	656.00	No VAT currently charged
Application for re-instatement	625.00	656.00	No VAT currently charged
Application for Provisional Statement	1,317.00	1,383.00	No VAT currently charged
Licence Application (Provisional Statement holders)	625.00	656.00	No VAT currently charged
Copy Licence	35.00	25.00	No VAT currently charged
Notification of change	66.00	50.00	No VAT currently charged
Temporary Use Notices - New Application	335.00	352.00	No VAT currently charged
- Copy of Notice	25.00	25.00	No VAT currently charged

**NOTES:**

\* Charge before VAT (if applicable) at the prevailing rate

\*\* Charge inclusive of VAT (if applicable) i.e. total fee payable at the prevailing VAT rate



Service	Worcestershire Regulatory Services	Service Manager	Worcestershire Regulatory Services Officer
Directorate	Economic Prosperity & Place	Cabinet Member	Environmental Services

**PROPOSAL OF SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES**

INCOME DESCRIPTION	Current Charge TO 31/03/2015 £	Proposed Charge FROM 1/04/2015 £ Charges before VAT *	Proposed Charge FROM 1/04/2015 £ Charges inclusive of VAT **
<b>Street Trading</b>			
Single Unit up to 12 x 12 (max 5m length) Food - Initial	1,918.00	2,014.00	No VAT currently charged
- Renewal	1,824.00	1,915.00	No VAT currently charged
Single Unit up to 12 x 12 (max 5m length) Non-Food - Initial	1,604.00	1,684.00	No VAT currently charged
- Renewal	1,442.00	1,514.00	No VAT currently charged
For every additional 12 x 12 or part thereof or length more than 5m	790.00	830.00	No VAT currently charged
Mobile Traders	752.00	790.00	No VAT currently charged

**NOTES:**

\* Charge before VAT (if applicable) at the prevailing rate

\*\* Charge inclusive of VAT (if applicable) i.e. total fee payable at the prevailing VAT rate



Service	Worcestershire Regulatory Services	Service Manager	Worcestershire Regulatory Services Officer
Directorate	Economic Prosperity & Place	Cabinet Member	Environmental Services

**PROPOSAL OF SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES**

INCOME DESCRIPTION	Current Charge TO 31/03/2015 £	Proposed Charge FROM 1/04/2015 £ Charges before VAT *	Proposed Charge FROM 1/04/2015 £ Charges inclusive of VAT **
<b>Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013</b>			
Site Licence - Initial	305.00	320.00	No VAT currently charged
Site Licence - Renewal	252.00	265.00	No VAT currently charged
Collectors Licence - Initial	152.00	160.00	No VAT currently charged
Collectors Licence - Renewal	100.00	105.00	No VAT currently charged
Variation of Licence	68.00	71.00	No VAT currently charged
Copy of licence (if lost or stolen)	26.00	27.00	No VAT currently charged

**NOTES:**

\* Charge before VAT (if applicable) at the prevailing rate

\*\* Charge inclusive of VAT (if applicable) i.e. total fee payable at the prevailing VAT rate





Service	Worcestershire Regulatory Services	Service Manager	Worcestershire Regulatory Services Officer
Directorate	Economic Prosperity & Place	Cabinet Member	Environmental Services

**PROPOSAL OF SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES**

INCOME DESCRIPTION	Current Charge TO 31/03/2015 £	Proposed Charge FROM 1/04/2015 £ Charges before VAT *	Proposed Charge FROM 1/04/2015 £ Charges inclusive of VAT **
<b>Control of Dogs</b>			
Dog Recovery Fee	25.00	26.00	No VAT currently charged
Dog Recovery Fee - out of hours	55.00	58.00	No VAT currently charged
Repeat offence - charge in addition to fees above	25.00	26.00	No VAT currently charged

**NOTES:**

\* Charge before VAT (if applicable) at the prevailing rate

\*\* Charge inclusive of VAT (if applicable) i.e. total fee payable at the prevailing VAT rate

**Report of the Chief Financial Officer in respect of  
Sections 25-28 Local Government Act 2003**

**1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To consider the report of the Chief Financial Officer in respect of statutory duties placed on Local Authority Chief Financial Officers in relation to budget setting and monitoring.

**2. RECOMMENDATION** (see 2.2.3 of main report)

**The CABINET is asked to RECOMMEND THAT COUNCIL NOTE:**

- 2.1 The Chief Financial Officer's opinion on the budget proposals, recommended by the Cabinet on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2015, as detailed in this report.**

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Sections 25 to 28 of the Local Government Act 2003 (The Act) place statutory duties on Local Authorities on how they set and monitor budgets. The Act requires local authorities to ensure that the Budget estimates are robust, Reserves are adequate and the Budget is monitored on a regular basis.
- 3.2 Section 25 requires the Chief Financial Officer to report to the Council on the robustness of the estimates it makes when calculating its budget requirement under Section 32 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and on the adequacy of its proposed financial reserves.
- 3.3 Section 26 requires authorities to adhere to their approved policies in relation to Reserves when setting budgets to ensure that the minimum Reserve levels are maintained.
- 3.4 Section 27 requires the Chief Financial Officer, at the time of the budget setting, to report if it appears that a reserve in relation to the previous financial year is likely to be inadequate. The reasons for the inadequacy and a recommended course of action must be considered by Council.
- 3.5 Section 28 places a statutory duty on the Council to review its budget and all calculations related to it from time to time. If the review shows a deterioration in the financial position, the Council must take such action as it considers necessary (if any) to address the situation.
- 3.6 Whilst Sections 25-27 relate specifically to budget and council tax setting for the following financial year, these Sections are being more widely interpreted by External Auditors to include the period of the Council's Financial Strategy; as a consequence it is necessary to report not only on next year's Budget but on the period covered by the Three Year Budget Strategy (2015-18).

**4. KEY ISSUES – CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER’S OPINION ON 2015-18 BUDGET & THREE YEAR BUDGET STRATEGY**

In respect of the Budget Proposals recommended by the Cabinet, in my opinion:-

- 4.1 The estimates made for the purposes of Section 32 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 calculations are robust.
- 4.2 The Reserves outlined in the Three Year Budget and Policy Framework Report to the Cabinet on this agenda are adequate in relation to the 2015-18 Budget. The work done by the Cabinet Financial Strategy Advisory Panel this year and resultant Cabinet report recommendations, supplemented by the updates included in the latest Cabinet report are instrumental in continuing to promote economic growth and moving the Council closer to a sustainable balanced budget in the future, that is less reliant on the use of reserves. The continuing Transformation Programme required to deliver the savings required is progressing well but remains challenging and is not without risk; this will need to continue to be carefully managed and mitigated by the member and officer Leadership team.
- 4.3 The Council have adopted the general principles of the CIPFA Guidance on Local Authority Reserves and Balances, which outline a minimum Reserve (Working Balance) for this Council which has been adhered to in the Financial Strategy 2015-18.
- 4.4 It is important that the level of reserves is carefully monitored and reviewed as the impact of the Local Government Finance Reforms become clear and also once future funding levels are known. The Local Government Finance Reforms place significantly increased risk on local authority income and funding streams and the levels of reserves may need to be reviewed as the reforms are implemented and their impacts become clear.
- 4.5 The Cabinet monitors Budgets on a monthly basis in accordance with Section 28 of the 2003 Act, including ‘Budget Risk Management’ and takes appropriate action to ensure financial accountability.

**5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no Financial Implications.

**6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 These are contained in Paragraph 3 of this report.

**7. EQUALITY IMPACT NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

- 7.1 An Equality Impact Assessment screening has been undertaken and it is considered that there are no discernible impacts on the six equality strands.

**8. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 8.1 Contained within the Financial Strategy 2015-18 and subsequent Cabinet reports are the significant risks and mitigating actions which have been identified, allied to the budget process.

- 8.2 There are three significant financial risks affecting the Council over the next three years:
- Future funding from Central Government in light of continued austerity and uncertainty presented by the General Elections in May;
  - The volatility of future income due to the Local Government Finance Reforms and;
  - Further savings required from the Transformation Programme are significant and will prove challenging to deliver.
- 8.3 It is for the reasons such as the above that the Council retains a working balance reserve of £1,000,000, increased from £700,000 in 2012/13. This fund is also available to provide cover for urgent unforeseen expenditure e.g. in respect of a civil emergency. The Transformation Fund is held to fund one-off costs of implementation of Transformation work and consideration should be given to increasing this from Final Accounts savings, in accordance with the delegations in the separate budget report on this agenda.

## **9. CONCLUSION/FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

- 9.1 Whilst the Council continues to be reliant on contributions from reserves to balance its budget over the term of the Financial Strategy, the ongoing Transformation Programme should deliver ongoing savings to improve this. However the uncertainty around future funding streams and levels mean it is difficult to confirm when net expenditure and funding should be aligned.
- 9.2 There is the risk that further reductions in grant beyond 2015-16 will be greater than originally anticipated. Any reductions in grant would require to be met with further reductions in spending and increased income from fees and charges. It would not be realistic to expect any further shortfall to be met from reserves.
- 9.3 The Local Government Finance Reforms and political uncertainty due to the General Election in May 2015, mean that there is increased volatility in income and funding streams and the level of reserves may need to be reconsidered once the impact of the reforms become clear.

## **10. CONSULTEES**

- 10.1 Leader of the Council  
10.2 Cabinet Member for Resources and Transformation  
10.3 CLT

## **11. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 11.1 Local Government Act 2003 Sections 25-28  
11.2 Local Government Finance Act 1992 Section 32

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL****CABINET**  
**17<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2015****Budget Monitoring Third Quarter 2014/15**

<b>OPEN</b>	
<b>CABINET MEMBER:</b>	Councillor N J Desmond
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:</b>	Chief Financial Officer
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	Tracey Southall Ext. 2100 <a href="mailto:Tracey.southall@wyreforestdc.gov.uk">Tracey.southall@wyreforestdc.gov.uk</a> Kath Pearsall Ext.2165 <a href="mailto:Kathryn.pearsall@wyreforestdc.gov.uk">Kathryn.pearsall@wyreforestdc.gov.uk</a>
<b>APPENDICES:</b>	Appendix 1 - Wyre Forest District Council General Fund Total Requirements - District Council Purposes Appendix 2 - Budgetary Control Reports - Revenue Appendix 3 - Capital Programme 2014/15 Appendix 4 – Wyre Forest Forward/ Cabinet Proposal Progress Report Appendix 5 - Budget Risk Matrix  <i>The appendices to this report have been circulated electronically and a public inspection copy is available on request. (See front cover for details.)</i>

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To monitor the Revenue Budget and Capital Programme in accordance with the Local Government Act 2003.
- 1.2 To inform members of the Housing Benefit Overpayment debt position as a 30<sup>th</sup> December 2014.
- 1.3 To inform members of the Sundry/Property debt position as at 30<sup>th</sup> December 2014.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Cabinet is asked to **DECIDE:-**

- 2.1 That the projected budget variations and comments outlined within this report and appendices 2 to 5 be noted.

**3. KEY ISSUES - BUDGET MONITORING 1st QUARTER 2014/15**

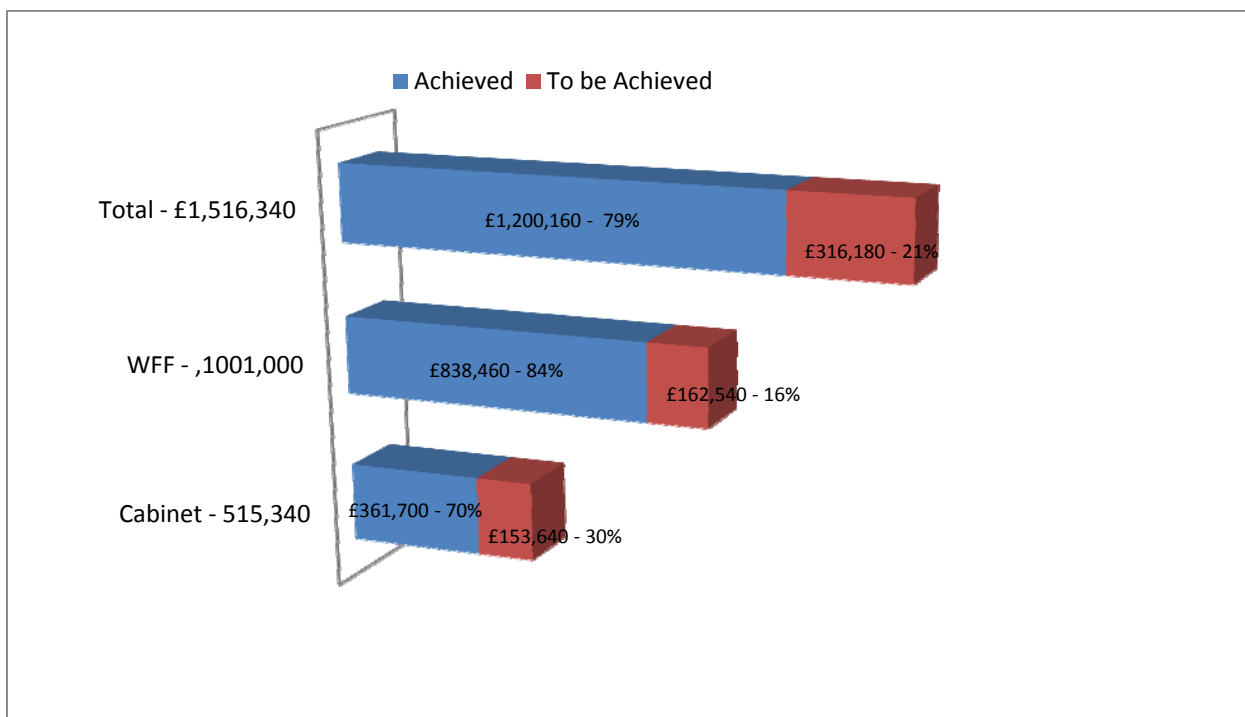
- 3.1 The projected outturn at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014 is an under spend of £43,000. The details are in **Appendix 2** and the main variances are:
  - £90,000 favourable – Pay Costs, including Agency

- £40,000 favourable – Savings in Administrative costs across all Services
- £24,000 favourable – Increased income from cemeteries.
- £10,000 favourable – Capital – Increased investment interest as a result of capital programme slippage.
- £10,000 favourable – Refund from North Worcestershire Water Management (NWWM) Shared Service
- £3,000 favourable: No Ordnance Survey fees payable for 2014-15
- £94,000 adverse: Reduction in anticipated Income: Planning (£57K), Land Charges (£20K) and Lease Premiums (£17K).
- £40,000 adverse: Reduction in Trade Waste Collections and increase in Landfill costs (£20K) and increase in material costs should in part be offset by increased external income (£20K)

### 3.2 Wyre Forest Forward Savings Programme/Cabinet Proposals

3.2.1 The review of all aspects of the Council to ensure we deliver a balanced budget and services of real value to our residents, has already achieved substantial savings. Progress achieved so against Wyre Forest plans and Cabinet Proposals, together, with the current shortfall in savings targets are detailed in **Appendix 4**. WWF savings and Cabinet Proposals of £1.2m have been identified against the of £1.516m for 2014-15

#### Summary of 2014/15 Wyre Forest Forward and Cabinet Proposal Savings



### 3.3 Net Expenditure

The level of net expenditure should represent the level of resource employed by the Council in order to undertake its statutory and discretionary service. This is because the Council's commercial activity should be undertaken only if the charges made, cover the costs of the service provided, or beyond that, make a contribution to the Council's overheads.

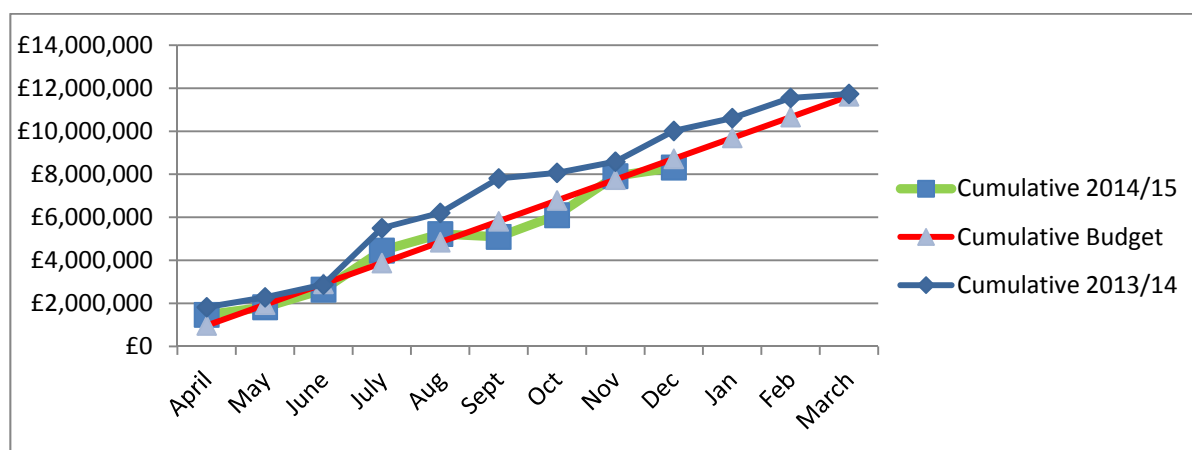
At the financial year end, the overall final position is forecasted to be:

#### Summary of main variances to budget

DIRECTORATE	Revised Budget 14-15	December 2014 position (including commitments)	Final predicted outturn	Variance against revised budget
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Positive Variance</b>				
Chief Executive	5,766	4,442	5,718	<b>Cr 48</b>
Community Well-Being and Environment	6,360	4,643	6,327	<b>CR 33</b>
Capital Account	<b>Cr 1,473</b>	<b>Cr 1,341</b>	<b>Cr 1,483</b>	<b>Cr 10</b>
<b>Negative Variance</b>				
Economic Prosperity and Place	2,226	571	2,274	<b>48</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	12,879	8,315	12,836	<b>CR43</b>
Cabinet savings , WFF savings and Bellwin now included within revised budget				

The profile of net expenditure varies against budget, not only because of the fluctuation in income, but also to reflect the seasonal variations in activity and the way that payments are made to, and received from, organisations, including government and other Councils. This is shown in the graph below:

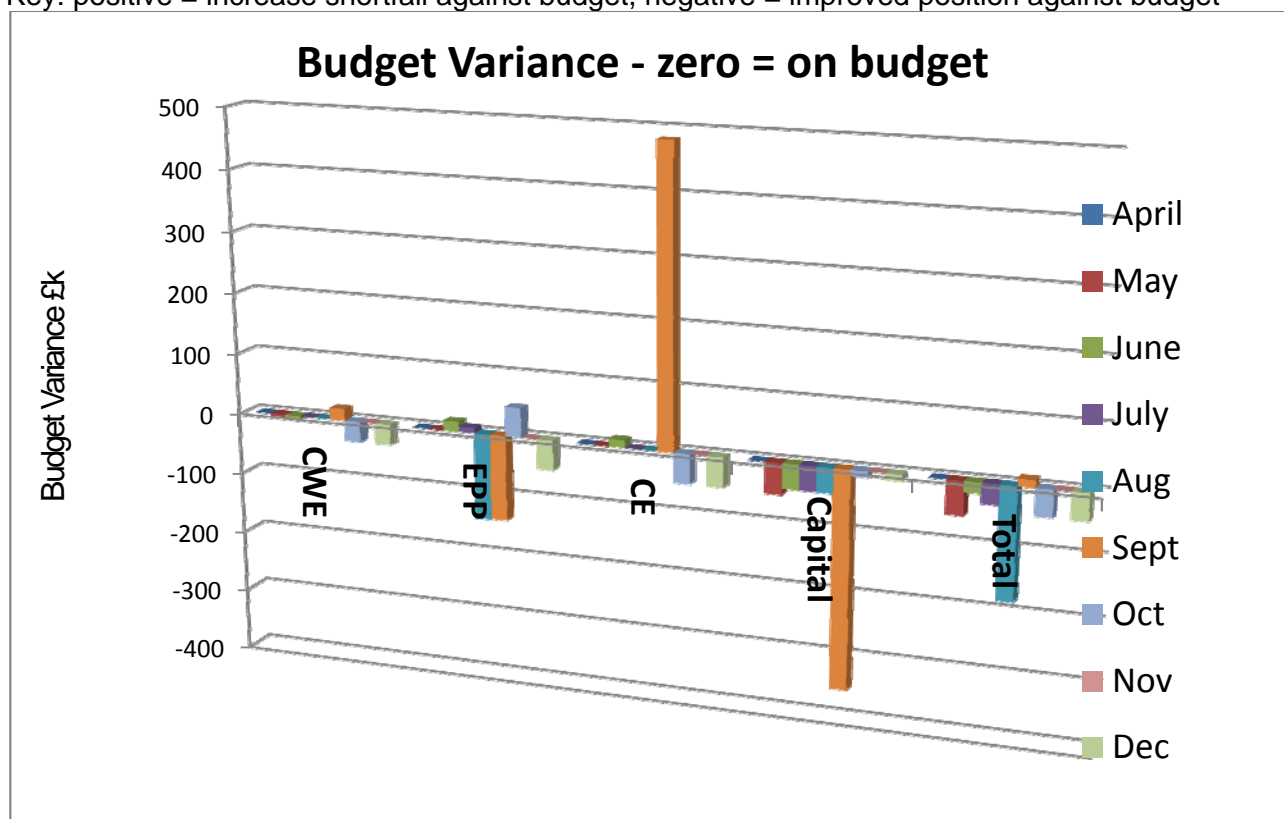
**Net Revenue Expenditure profile (including commitments) during 2014/15 compared against budget**



The latest Q3 outturn prediction in the following charts shows changes in final year outturn based on monthly forecasts.

**Changes in Final year Outturn based on monthly forecasts**

Key: positive = increase shortfall against budget, negative = improved position against budget



CWE – Community Well Being and Environment  
 EPP – Economic Prosperity and Place  
 CE – Chief Executive/Corporate



### 3.4 External Income

External Income is a very important element within the finances of the Council, it affects the level of resources the Council can fund and makes an important contribution to a balanced budget.

The level of external income predicted for 2014/15 is £5.249m, against a 2013/14 actual performance of £4.973m and furthermore £323K above Original Budget for 2014/15, but by £16K above the 2014/15 Revised Budget target.

#### Summary of income performance against budget throughout the year

(Note all figures are cumulative)

##### Summary of income performance against budget throughout the year

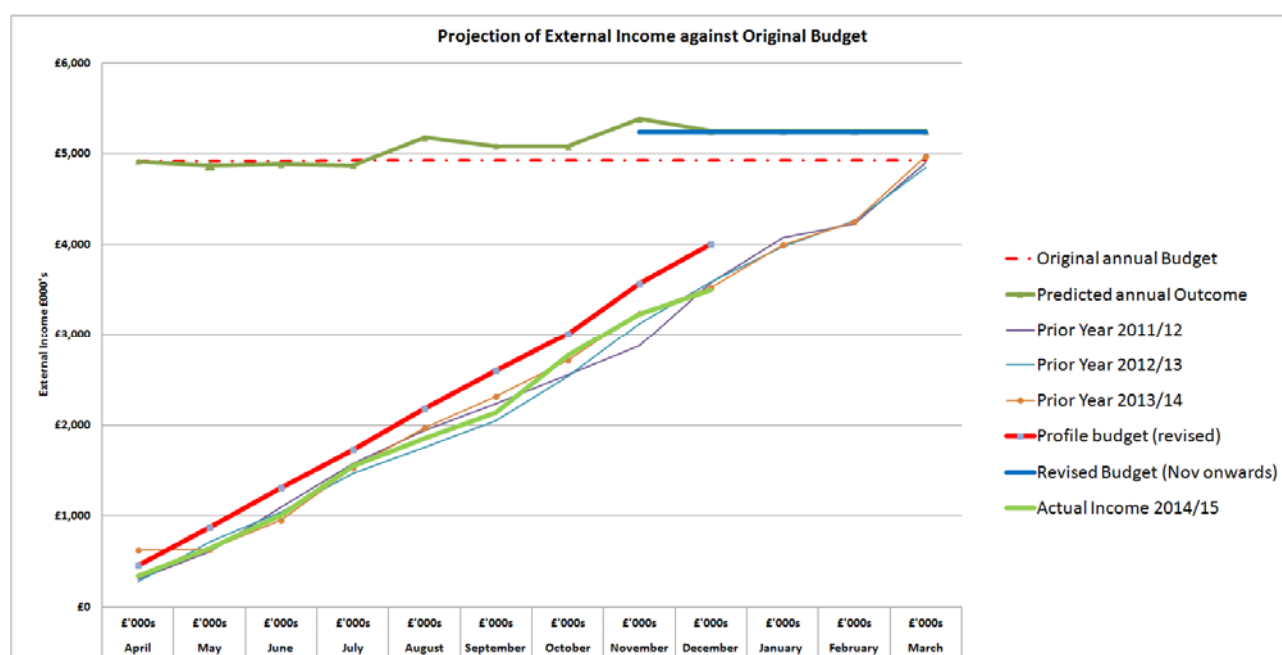
Note all figures are cumulative £000's

	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March
	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s
Original annual Budget	£4,914	£4,914	£4,914	£4,926	£4,926	£4,926	£4,926	£4,926	£4,926	£4,926	£4,926	£4,926
Revised Budget (Nov onwards)								£5,233	£5,233	£5,233	£5,233	£5,233
Predicted annual Outcome	£4,914	£4,869	£4,882	£4,871	£5,176	£5,082	£5,081	£5,380	£5,249	£5,249	£5,249	£5,249
Actual Income 2014/15	£343	£637	£1,005	£1,544	£1,849	£2,138	£2,769	£3,230	£3,496			
Prior Year 2013/14	£625	£636	£953	£1,535	£1,963	£2,317	£2,709	£3,233	£3,522	£3,991	£4,252	£4,973
Prior Year 2012/13	£279	£713	£1,043	£1,469	£1,757	£2,047	£2,537	£3,117	£3,583	£3,974	£4,263	£4,848
Prior Year 2011/12	£305	£603	£1,095	£1,574	£1,938	£2,233	£2,551	£2,870	£3,574	£4,068	£4,227	£4,894
Profile budget (revised)	£456	£876	£1,307	£1,724	£2,180	£2,596	£3,009	£3,563	£4,001			

External Income is very close with the actual position achieved this time last year, allowing some degree of confidence in the annual budget target. The latest projections exceed the overall budget target £16K.

As in previous years, the actual income generated lags behind the profiled budget – this is mainly due to recharges made in arrears, annual contract arrangements with the County or other Local Government bodies.

#### Projection of External Income against Original and Revised Budget



### Summary of Income performance by Category - December 2014

Category All figures in £'000s	Original Budget 2014/15 £000's	Revised Budget 2014/15 £000's	Projection as at Dec 2014 £000's	Actual Dec YTD £000's	% achieved of Revised Budget	Projected Year End Variance £000's	% achieved of projection
Fees and Charges	£3,148	£3,245	£3,168	£2,262	69.7%	-£77	71.4%
Grant or Subsidies	£44	£116	£225	£168	145.2%	£109	74.6%
Interest	£130	£76	£86	£54	71.6%	£10	63.2%
Other	£141	£140	£140	£117	83.5%	£0	83.5%
Rental Income	£673	£747	£720	£448	59.9%	-£27	62.1%
Shared Services Income	£791	£909	£910	£448	49.2%	£1	49.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>£4,926</b>	<b>£5,233</b>	<b>£5,249</b>	<b>£3,496</b>	<b>66.8%</b>	<b>£16</b>	<b>66.6%</b>

Actual income is 66.6% of budget - and therefore 8.4% points below the target position as at December 2014 – this amounts to a £440K shortfall of actual income against revised budget at this stage of the year.

Based upon the income projection completed each month - the following variations to budget have been identified; all other income is expected to be on budget.

### Summary of the Predicted Variations to Income Targets

Account Code Description	2014/15 Budget	2014/15 Profiled Budget	2014/15 Actual To Date	Projection to Year End	Variance Projection Less Budget	Comment
<b>Some Sections predict external income in excess of revised budget</b>						
S.106/Commuted sum funding Revenue Contribution	-£11,850.00	-£8,888.64	-£111,843.95	-£120,850.00	-£109,000.00	Bellway S106 used for Springfield Park
Fees and Charges - Cemetery	-£26,800.00	-£19,052.12	-£33,615.34	-£50,800.00	-£24,000.00	
WFDC act and performer ticket income	-£20,000.00	-£15,002.00	-£32,932.25	-£40,000.00	-£20,000.00	More events
Interest Received	-£65,000.00	-£48,756.50	-£53,895.71	-£75,000.00	-£10,000.00	Deferral of capital projects
<b>Some predict a shortfall in income</b>						
Other Industrial Estates - Lease Premiums	-£127,470.00	-£95,615.24	-£4,571.00	-£110,470.00	£17,000.00	Coppice Industrial Estate on target, Firs Industrial Estate into 2015/16
Land Charges	-£179,220.00	-£140,651.86	-£125,601.50	-£159,220.00	£20,000.00	
Parking Fees	-£1,219,480.00	-£948,809.03	-£848,030.25	-£1,189,480.00	£30,000.00	Low Fine issue
Garage Trading Account	-£58,500.00	-£45,319.95	-£15,865.37	-£28,500.00	£30,000.00	Down one mechanic - not able to take on outside work
Planning Application Fees	-£365,600.00	-£274,236.56	-£242,237.00	-£300,000.00	£65,600.00	

Note – variances in external income do not always translate in to variances in the final outturn due to variances in expenditure. For example, the £109K of S106 monies will be exactly matched by external costs.

### 3.5 Capital Programme

The updated Capital Programme and Vehicle, Equipment and Systems Renewal Schedule for 2014/15 is enclosed as **Appendix 4**.

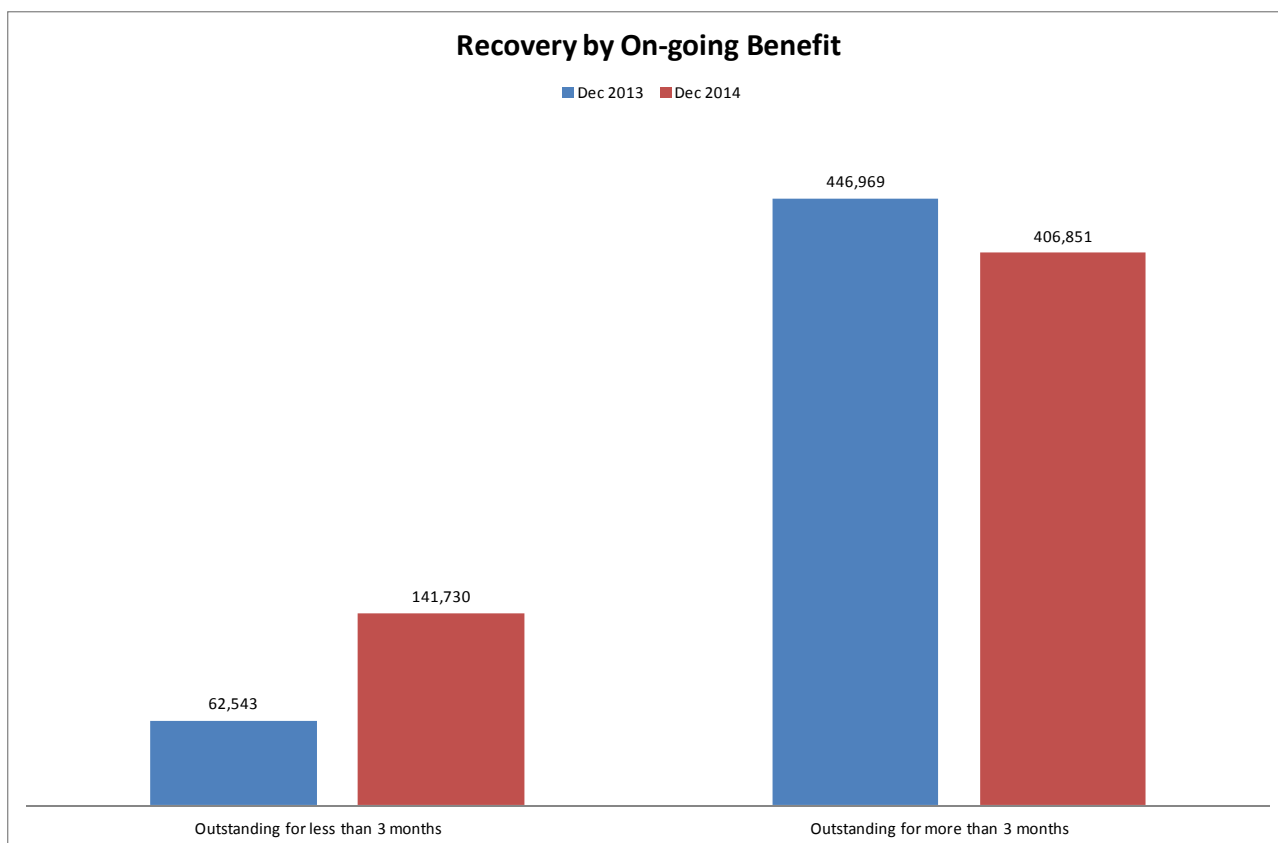
### 3.7 Risk Matrix

The Budget Risk Matrix has been reviewed to reflect the current assessment of risk. A copy is enclosed for information as **Appendix 5**.

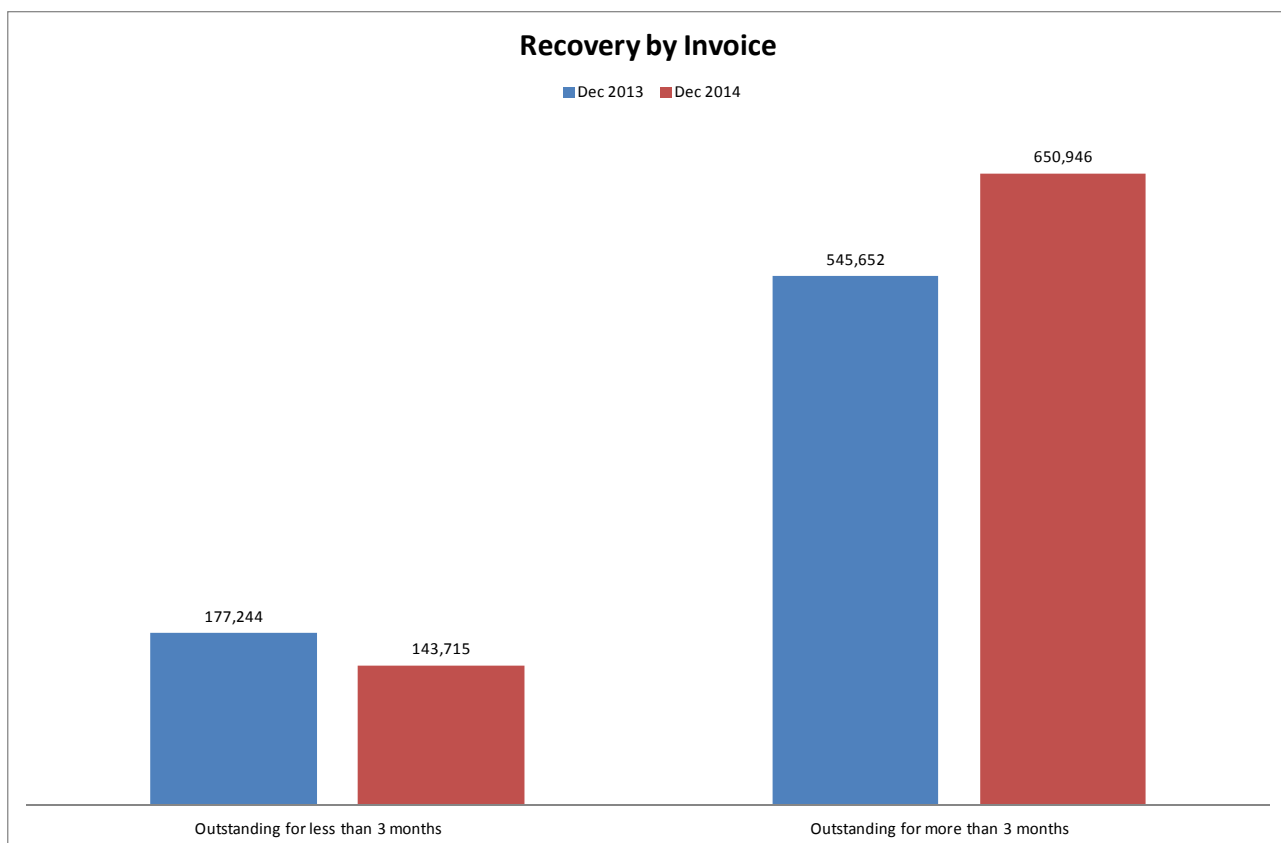
### 3.8 Income and Outstanding Debt

The position relating to Housing Benefit Overpayment is shown in the next two graphs, split to show those debts being recovered from on-going benefit and those debts being recovered via an invoice:

#### Comparison of the value of Housing Benefit Overpayment outstanding as at March 2013 and March 2014



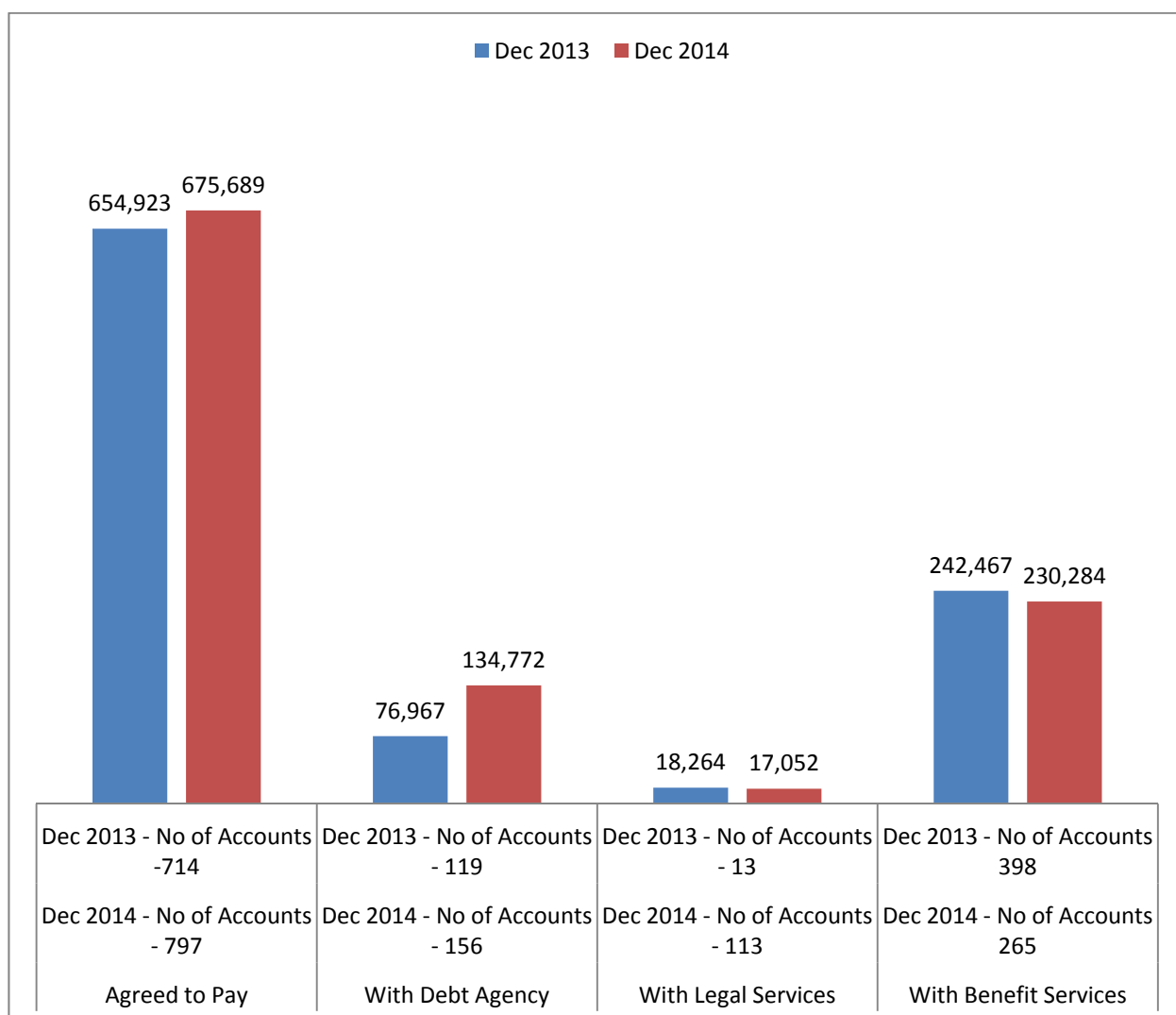
*(E.G. In December 2013 the total value of debts outstanding for less than three months, being collected from on-going benefit was £62,543, compared to December 2014 where £141,730 was outstanding for less than three months)*



*(E.G. In December 2013 the total value of debts outstanding for less than three months, being collected by invoice was £177,244, compared to December 2014 where £143,715 was outstanding for less than three months)*

Debts over three months old have agreements in place to pay, have been referred to Collectica Enforcement Services, our Debt Collection Agency or the Council's Legal Services, or remain with the Benefit Service to pursue. The number of accounts, the value outstanding and how this will be collected in shown in the graph below:

**Housing Benefit Overpayment outstanding and the number of Accounts over 3 months old and their status as at December 2013 and December 2014**



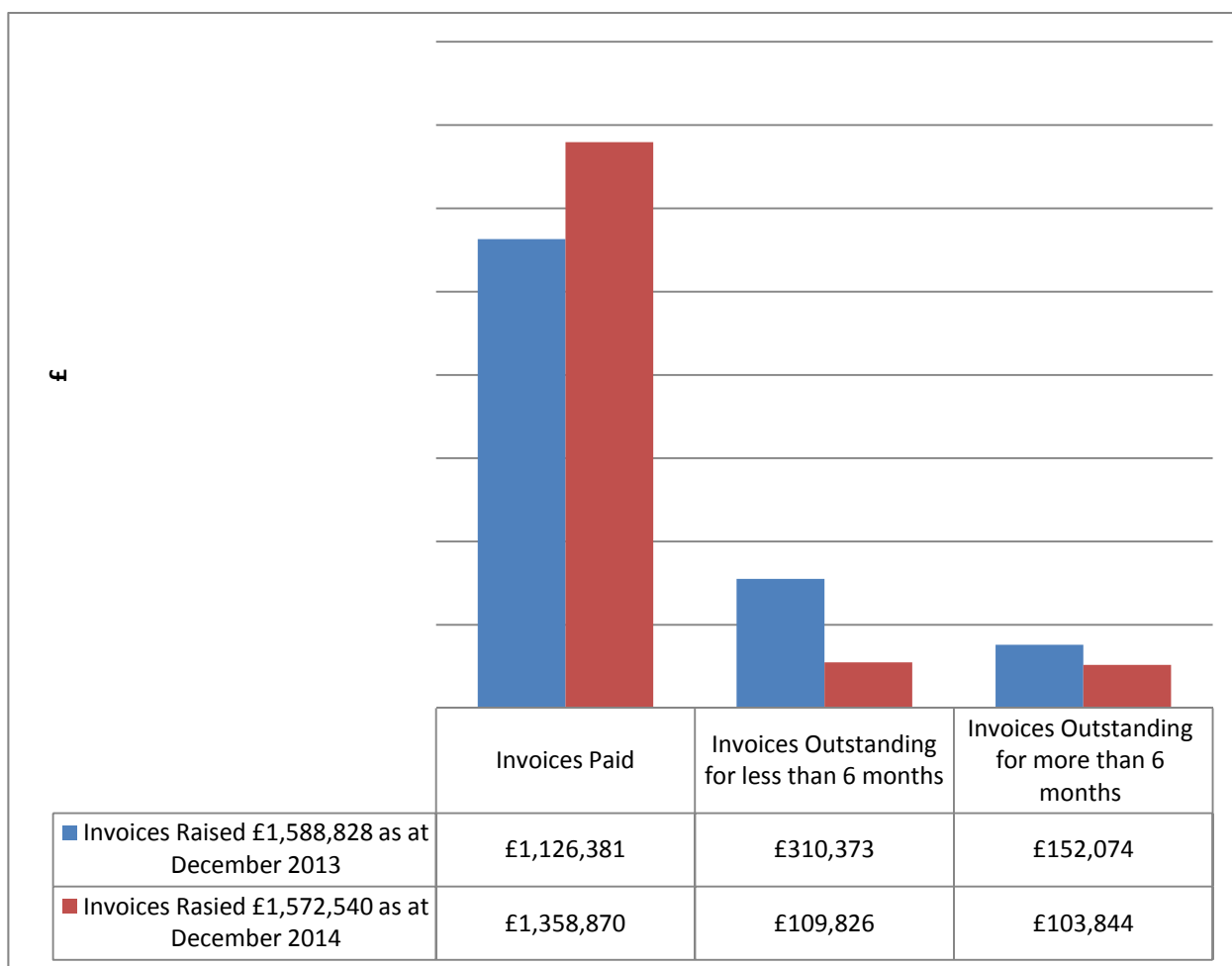
*(E.G. In December 2013, 714 claimants with a total debt of £654,923 had agreed to pay compared to December 2014, where 797 claimants with a total debt of £675,689 had agreed to pay)*

3.9 The position relating to Sundry/Property Customer Invoices are as follows:

Sundry Customer Invoices:

- The Council raised £1.6 million in Sundry customer invoices during the period to 30<sup>th</sup> December 2014 (£1.6 million to 30<sup>th</sup> December 2013)

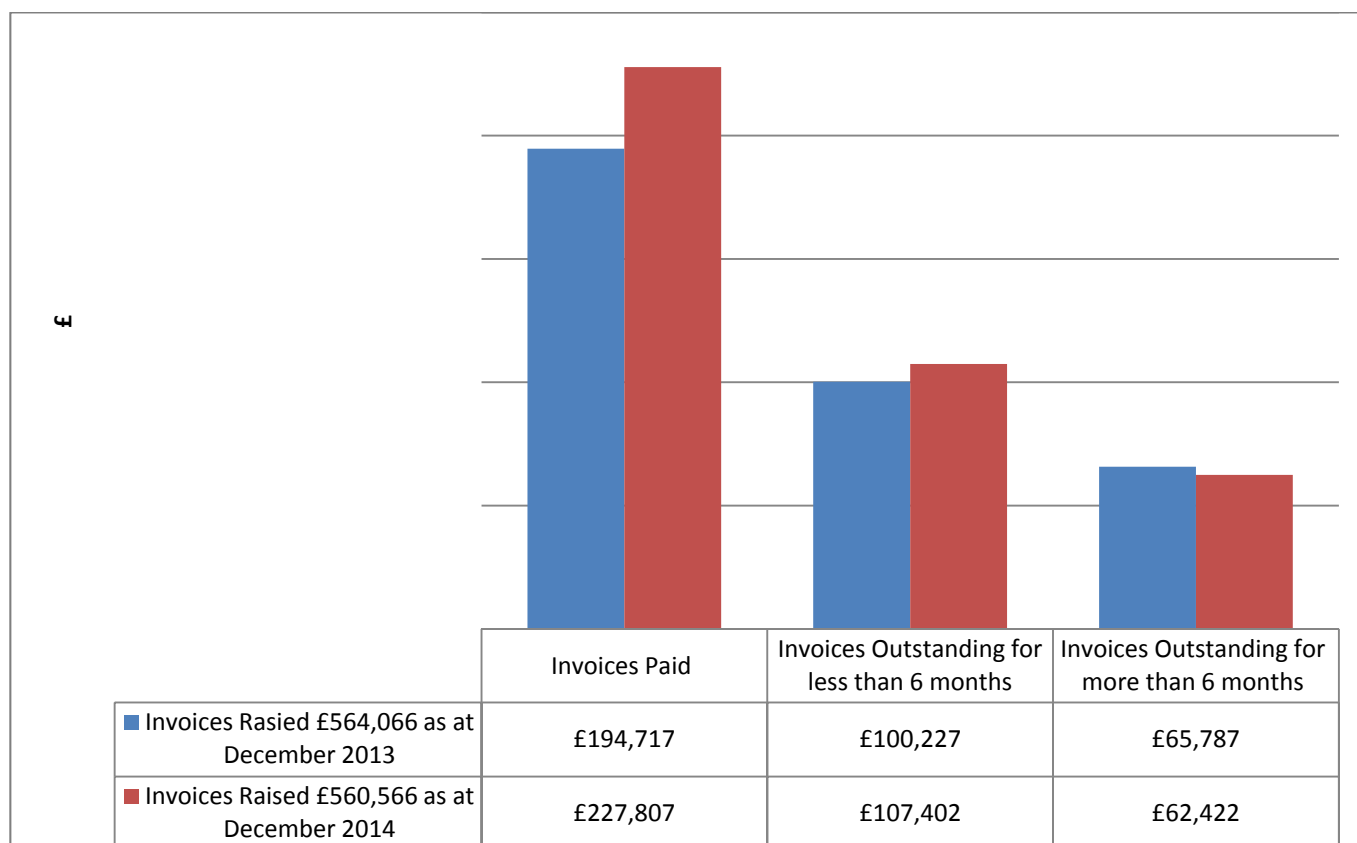
**Sundry Invoices and Debt**



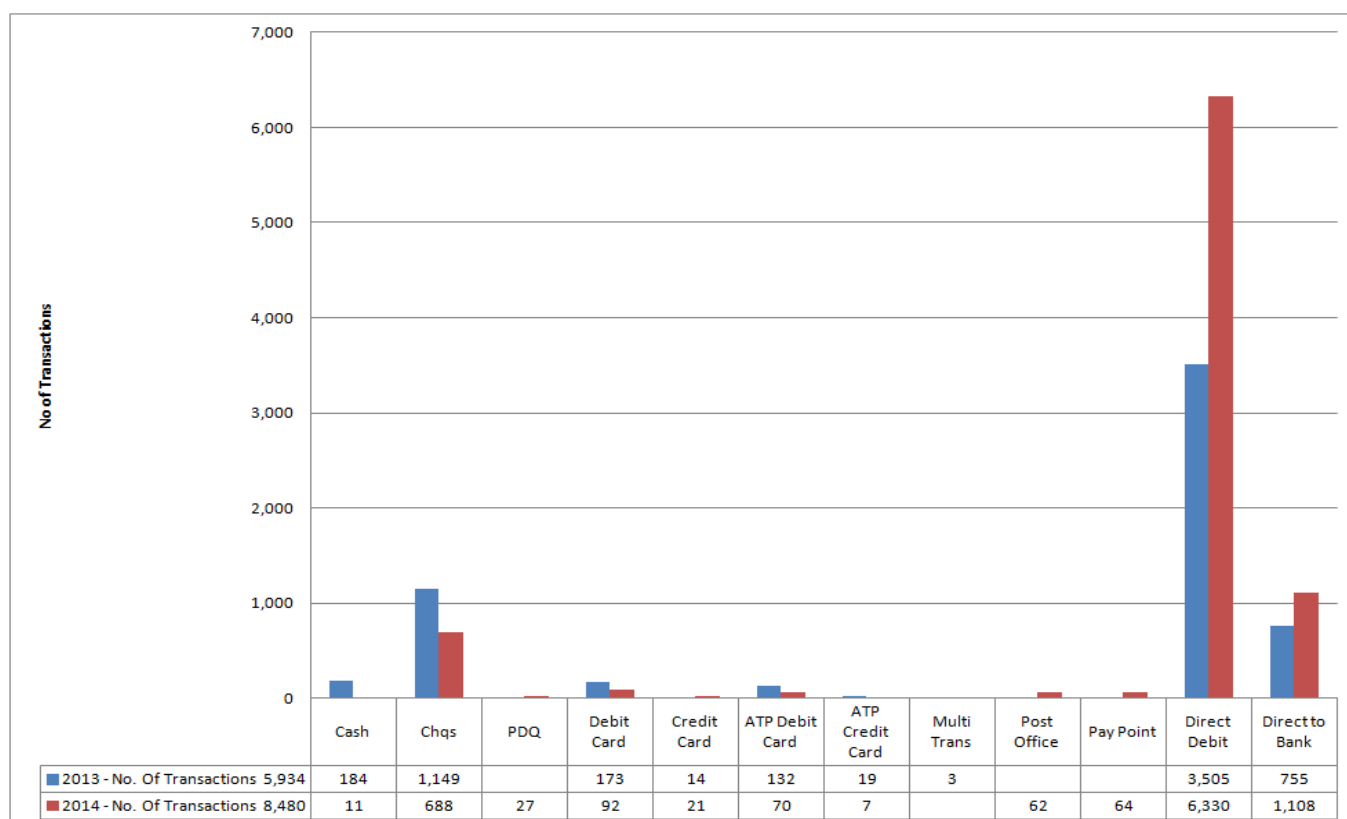
**Property Customer Invoices**

- The Council raised £0.560 million in Property customer invoices during the period to 30<sup>th</sup> December 2014 (£0.564 to 30<sup>th</sup> December 2013)

**Property Invoices and Debt**



**3.10 Comparison of payment methods for customer invoices raised as at December 2013 and December 2014**



- 3.11 No write offs for Sundry and Property debt to December 2014. £1,887 has been authorised for Sundry Depot debt write off by the S151 Officer in January 2015. (£3,257 Sundry debt write offs to December 2013).

**4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS - BUDGET MONITORING 3<sup>rd</sup> QUARTER 2014/2015**

- 4.1 A copy of the Cabinet's proposed Revised Revenue Budget is enclosed as **Appendix 1** for Members' information.
- 4.2 It was announced on the 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2015 that the Final Local Government Settlement would be broadly in line with the provisional settlement released on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2014. The Settlement is for 2015-16 only. As predicted, the austerity measures look set to continue until 2019, although the outlook for local government will be confirmed following the general election in May. While the report suggests a small under spend, overall, close monitoring by the Chief Financial Officer and all Directorates will continue.
- 4.3 These remain challenging times for the Council as we come to grips with an environment where funding is almost certain to continue to decrease and Councils such as Wyre Forest have ambitious savings plans to bridge the gap between reducing funding and the cost of services. So far, we are progressing well with the Wyre Forest Forward Savings Programme and the Cabinet Proposal approved savings and have achieved around 79.1% of the target savings for this year.
- 4.4 Housing Benefits overpayments – the council needs to monitor performance as it receives from the Department of Work and Pensions benefit subsidy on those payments which are identified as overpayments. The rate of subsidy varies dependent on the classification of the overpayment. In addition should the Council recover the full or any part of an overpayment then those recovered monies can be retained by the Council.
- 4.5 Sundry/Property Debt – The income generated through the raising of invoices is a very important part of the Council's finances. We will continue to monitor Sundry and Property debt to ensure that invoices are paid in a timely manner and that processes are in place to recover outstanding income.

**5. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The Local Government Act 2003 (sections 25–29) placed additional duties on Local Authorities on how they set and prioritise budgets.
- 5.2 Section 28 places a statutory duty on an authority to review its budget from time to time during the year. If the Budget Monitoring Report shows that there has been deterioration in the Authority's financial position, the Authority must take such action as it concludes necessary. The Cabinet currently reviews the Budget on a quarterly basis.
- 5.3 Our External Auditor's Grant Thornton make an assessment based on the annual programme of external audit work. The focus is on ensuring there are proper arrangements in place for securing financial reliance and that the organisation has



proper arrangements for challenging how it secures economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

**6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 6.1 This is a financial report and there is no requirement to undertake an Equality Impact Assessment.

**7. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 7.1 The budget risk matrix in **Appendix 5** is regularly reviewed and updated. Regular monitoring of expenditure and other financial information mitigates risk for the Council.

**8. CONCLUSIONS/ACTION**

- 8.1 The information contained within Appendices 2, 3, 4, and 5 provides Members with an overview of financial trends within the period to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014.

**9. CONSULTEES**

- 9.1 Corporate Leadership Team.  
9.2 Cabinet.

**10. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Council 26<sup>th</sup> February 2014.

Cabinet Report on Final Accounts 2013/14 19<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

Cabinet Financial Strategy 2015/18 16<sup>th</sup> December 2014.

Hyperlink to Committees Reports

<http://www.wyreforest.gov.uk/council/meetings/2014.htm>

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL****REVENUE BUDGET TOTAL REQUIREMENTS - DISTRICT COUNCIL PURPOSES**

SERVICE	2014/15		2015/16			2016/17			2017/18		
	Original Estimate £	Revised Estimate £	At Nov.14 Prices £	Inflation £	TOTAL £	At Nov.14 Prices £	Inflation £	TOTAL £	At Nov.14 Prices £	Inflation £	TOTAL £
CHIEF EXECUTIVE	5,237,290	5,765,490	5,182,700	59,500	5,242,200	5,280,060	111,960	5,392,020	5,422,630	165,700	5,588,330
COMMUNITY WELL-BEING AND ENVIRONMENT	6,420,450	6,360,070	6,337,170	90,080	6,427,250	5,736,720	139,160	5,875,880	5,027,230	188,980	5,216,210
ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND PLACE	2,423,370	2,226,550	2,370,710	29,010	2,399,720	2,305,020	56,290	2,361,310	2,294,150	90,540	2,384,690
<b>LESS: CAPITAL ACCOUNT</b>	14,081,110	14,352,110	13,890,580	178,590	14,069,170	13,321,800	307,410	13,629,210	12,744,010	445,220	13,189,230
INTEREST RECEIVED	(1,059,650)	(1,397,580)	(653,670)	800	(652,870)	(510,960)	1,570	(509,390)	(73,320)	2,310	(71,010)
INCREASES IN FEES AND CHARGES	(129,600)	(75,500)	(76,540)	0	(76,540)	(90,000)	0	(90,000)	(100,000)	0	(100,000)
<b>TOTAL NET EXPENDITURE ON SERVICES</b>	0	0	(56,460)	0	(56,460)	(112,790)	0	(112,790)	(169,120)	0	(169,120)
	<b>12,891,860</b>	<b>12,879,030</b>	<b>13,103,910</b>	<b>179,390</b>	<b>13,283,300</b>	<b>12,608,050</b>	<b>308,980</b>	<b>12,917,030</b>	<b>12,401,570</b>	<b>447,530</b>	<b>12,849,100</b>
<b>LESS: REVENUE SUPPORT GRANT</b>	(2,920,060)	(2,920,060)			(1,921,070)			(1,554,800)			(1,282,220)
BUSINESS RATES	(2,417,280)	(2,407,280)			(2,491,660)			(2,560,010)			(2,598,510)
BUSINESS RATES GROWTH	0	(25,000)			(25,490)			(64,410)			(117,690)
HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION GRANT	(107,030)	(107,030)			(106,990)			0			0
COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BID/CHALLENGE	(16,400)	(16,400)			0			0			0
COLLECTION FUND SURPLUS	(50,000)	(50,000)			(50,000)			0			0
NEW HOMES BONUS	(1,254,610)	(1,263,170)			(1,794,780)			(1,794,780)			(1,536,360)
BELLWIN GRANT	0	(62,000)			0			0			0
<b>GENERAL EXPENSES - COUNCIL TAX INCOME</b>	(6,230,850)	(6,230,850)			(6,533,320)			(6,659,940)			(6,789,110)
<b>(SURPLUS) / DEFICIT FOR YEAR</b>	<b>(104,370)</b>	<b>(202,760)</b>			<b>359,990</b>			<b>283,090</b>			<b>525,210</b>
<b>COUNCIL TAX LEVY</b>		<b>201.45</b>			<b>205.36</b>			<b>209.34</b>			<b>213.40</b>
<b>COUNCIL TAX BASE</b>		<b>30,930</b>			<b>31,814</b>			<b>31,814</b>			<b>31,814</b>

# **BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT** **MAJOR REVENUE VARIATIONS QUARTER THREE (To 31st December 2014)**

Total Revised Budget 2014/2015	12,879,030
Additional Expenditure/(Projected Saving) on Original Budget	<b>(43,000)</b>
Total Quarter Three Projection to Year End 2014/2015	<b>12,836,030</b>

<b>Description of Estimated Major Variances</b>	<b>Extra Costs/ Reduced Income £</b>	<b>Savings/ Additional Income £</b>
<b><u>Chief Executive</u></b>		
1. Ordnance Survey - No fees for 2014-15		(3,000)
<b><u>Community Well Being and Environment</u></b>		
1. Cemetery - Sale of Additional Plots		(24,000)
2. Waste Services - reduction in Trade Waste Income and increase in landfill costs	20,000	
3. Parks and Open Spaces - increase in material costs should in part be offset by increased external income	20,000	
<b><u>Economic Prosperity and Place</u></b>		
1. Planning - Reduction in applications income	57,000	
2. Land Charges - Reduction income	20,000	
3. Lease Premiums - delay in completion of contracts at Coppice Industrial Estate. Income to fall into 2015-16	17,000	
4. North Worcestershire Water Management Shared Service - Refund on Contributions		(10,000)
<b><u>Capital Account</u></b>		
1. Borrowing Costs - Delay in Borrowing		(10,000)
<b><u>Corporate Variations</u></b>		
1. Pay Costs (including Agency)		(90,000)
2. Savings in Administrative Expenses across all service areas		(40,000)
	134,000	(177,000)
<b>Increase/(Decrease) on Original Budget (based on Quarter Three 2014/2015 Projection)</b>		<b>£ (43,000)</b>

**Q3 Budget Monitoring 2014/15 (to December 2014)**  
**Capital Programme 2014/15**

Capital project description	2014/15 Budget (Full Year)	YTD Actual Expenditure (Net Income)	Commitment	Year To Date Expenditure Including Commitments	Projected Total 2014/15 Expenditure	Slippage to 2015/16	Explanation
<b><u>CHIEF EXECUTIVE</u></b>							
New Headquarters - Office Accommodation	604,030	14,764	192,895	207,659	414,030	190,000	Contractor account still to be finalised due to outstanding issues.
Contribution towards Replacement of Civic Facilities in Stourport	450,000	450,000	0	450,000	450,000	0	Complete.
ICT Strategy	477,250	286,971	8,754	295,725	387,250	90,000	Planning, Land Charges and GIS replacement to be progressed next year
Financial Management System Replacement	20,000	0	725	725	0	20,000	2015/16 consultancy services for implementation of new functionality after upgrade in 2013/14. Further upgrades to system anticipated for intervention 'Help me make good financial decisions' in 2015/16.
<b>Total S6 CHIEF EXECUTIVE</b>	<b>1,551,280</b>	<b>751,736</b>	<b>202,374</b>	<b>954,110</b>	<b>1,251,280</b>	<b>300,000</b>	
<b><u>COMMUNITY WELL-BEING AND ENVIRONMENT</u></b>							
Parking Facilities: Payments under Contractual Agreement	95,000	74,330	998	75,328	85,000	10,000	To continue Car Park refurbishment programme.
St Mary's Churchyard Boundary Wall	2,840	0	0	0	0	2,840	To slip into 2015/16.
Vehicle Renewals (Capital Programme)	556,420	166,395	0	166,395	178,395	377,420	See separate Vehicle, Equipment and Systems Renewal Schedule.
Stourport Sports Village	18,170	13,170	0	13,170	13,170	5,000	Scheme complete. Awaiting retentions.
Waste Strategy - Green Waste Containers	3,330	3,330	0	3,330	3,330	0	Scheme complete.
Load Street Public Conveniences Refurbishment	10,000	0	0	0	10,000	0	Refurbishment complete - awaiting invoices. Any balance to slip into 2015/16.
Future Leisure Provision	2,237,640	1,514,324	62,705	1,577,029	2,237,640	0	Site purchase complete. Contract awarded in January 2015. Construction anticipated to commence March 2015.
Paddling Pools - Strategic Review	10,600	10,598	0	10,598	10,600	0	Scheme complete.
Northwood Lane Improvements	10,000	0	0	0	5,000	5,000	Remaining monies to be spent in 15/16 on Park.
<b>Total S11 COMMUNITY WELL BEING &amp; ENVIRONMENT</b>	<b>2,944,000</b>	<b>1,782,147</b>	<b>63,703</b>	<b>1,845,850</b>	<b>2,543,135</b>	<b>400,260</b>	

**Q3 Budget Monitoring 2014/15 (to December 2014)**  
**Capital Programme 2014/15**

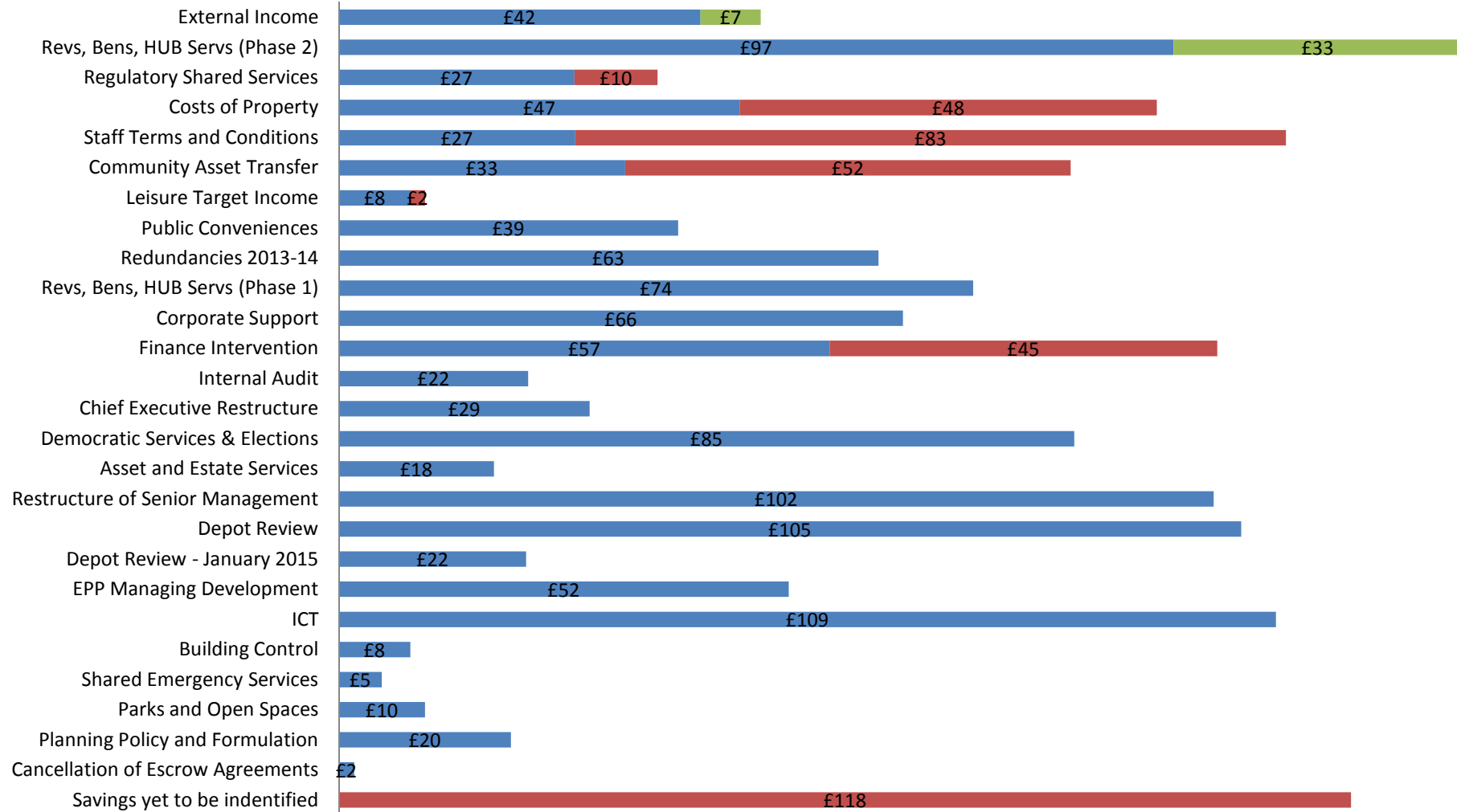
Capital project description	2014/15 Budget (Full Year)	YTD Actual Expenditure (Net Income)	Commitment	Year To Date Expenditure Including Commitments	Projected Total 2014/15 Expenditure	Slippage to 2015/16	Explanation
<b><u>ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND PLACE</u></b>							
Disabled Facilities Grants	800,000	272,531	0	272,531	680,000	120,000	Budget increased half way through year so although demand is more than budget, additional approvals will complete towards end of financial year or in next financial year.
Discretionary Grant Payments	40,000	Cr 7,497	0	Cr 7,497	10,000	30,000	Repayments received more than expenditure so far. Approximately £40k of loans in preparation but will not complete this year.
Regional Housing Initiatives	50,000	10,601	0	10,601	45,000	5,000	£35k approved grants in progress.
Wyre Insulation Scheme	25,000	0	8,950	8,950	10,000	15,000	Large multi-property scheme due for completion in 2015/16 will require this slippage plus next year budget. Delays to get project off ground due to scale of works.
Adaptation Assistance	35,000	20,896	0	20,896	35,000	0	Cases due for completion by end of year.
Flood Relief	32,010	0	0	0	0	32,010	Capital identified to flood relief projects. Contributions to potential capital schemes in 2015/16 Areley Kings and Bewdley areas.
WETT Programme - Regulatory Services	105,110	230	6,487	6,718	105,110	0	Schemes being progressed.
Regeneration of Economic Development	328,710	123,758	73,106	196,864	328,710	0	Schemes being progressed.
Carbon Management Plan	128,810	0	1,501	1,501	18,500	110,310	£13,500 electric bin lifts. Est. £5k for design/spec for lighting projects. Implementation into 2015/16 along with heating project for Bewdley Museum.
Bewdley Medical Centre	100,000	893	84,688	85,581	100,000	0	Scheme being progressed.
North Worcs Water Management Capital Projects-Redditch	60,000	9,215	3,685	12,900	43,000	17,000	Ongoing capital schemes in Redditch. RBC being invoiced as works undertaken and works will be ongoing through 2015/16 on various schemes.
North Worcs Water Management Capital Projects-Bromsgrove	37,300	32,077	4,941	37,018	37,300	0	Retention payment expected to be made by end of financial year,
Bridge Street Capital Works	90,000	0	0	0	90,000	0	Works complete. Awaiting Invoices.
<b>Total S5 ECONOMIC PROSPERITY &amp; PLACE</b>	<b>1,831,940</b>	<b>462,705</b>	<b>183,359</b>	<b>646,063</b>	<b>1,502,620</b>	<b>329,320</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,327,220</b>	<b>2,996,587</b>	<b>449,436</b>	<b>3,446,023</b>	<b>5,297,035</b>	<b>1,029,580</b>	

**Q3 Budget Monitoring 2014/15 (to December 2014)**  
**Vehicle, Equipment and System Renewals 2014/15**

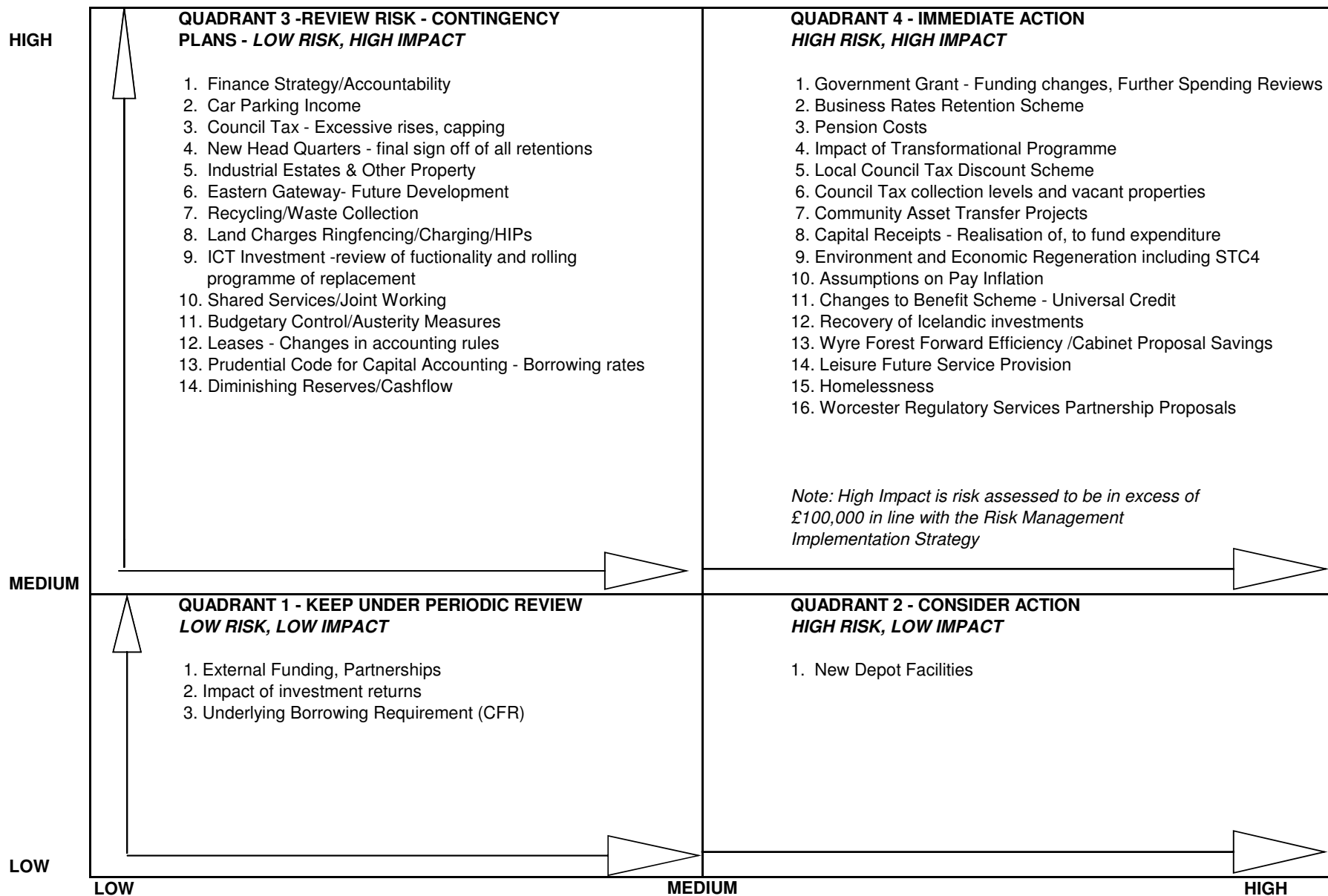
Detail	Revised Capital Programme 2014/15 £	Q3 Expenditure 2014/15 £	Projected Total 2014/15 Expenditure £	Slippage to 2015/16 £	Old Vehicle Fleet Number to be replaced	COST CENTRE	Comments
<b>1. <u>VEHICLES</u></b>							
Refuse Freighter	80,000	79,985	79,985	0	83	R002	Complete.
Refuse Freighter	80,000	79,985	79,985	0	84	R002	Complete.
Refuse Freighter	86,000	0	0	86,000	186	R002	Awaiting refurbishment, expected 1st quarter of 2015/16.
Refuse Freighter	86,000	0	0	86,000	187	R002	Awaiting refurbishment, expected 1st quarter of 2015/16.
Refuse Freighter	86,000	0	0	86,000	185	R002	Awaiting refurbishment, expected 1st quarter of 2015/16.
Refurbishment Fund	25,000	0	0	25,000	tba		To slip into 2015/16.
Refuse Freighter - refit as driver trainer	7,000	0	6,425	0	refir		Complete.
Garage Equipment - Replacement (slippage)	23,420	0	0	23,420		R229	To slip into 2015/16.
Mowing Machine	35,000	0	0	35,000	190	R236	To slip into 2015/16.
WeedSprayer (mobile)	12,000	0	12,000	0			Anticipated to be spend by end of financial year.
CMP Electrical Bin Lifts	36,000	0	0	36,000	185, 186, 187, 83 & 84		To slip into 2015/16 along with refurbishments.
<b>2. <u>OTHER</u></b>							
Financial Management System replacement	20,000	0	20,000	20,000	-	R430	2015/16 consultancy services for implementation of new functionality after upgrade in 2013/14. Further upgrades to system anticipated for intervention 'Help me make good financial decisions' in 2015/16.
	576,420	159,970	198,395	397,420			

## 2014/15 WWF and Cabinet Proposal Savings £'000

■ Achieved ■ to be Achieved ■ Over Acheived



## IMPACT





## BUDGETARY RESPONSE TO EACH RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUE IN ORDER OF QUADRANT

ISSUE	BUDGETARY RESPONSE
<b>Quadrant 1 - Low Risk, Low Impact</b> 1. External Funding, Partnerships  2. Impact of Investment Returns  3. Underlying Borrowing Requirement (CFR)	<b>Keep under periodic review</b> Continue to evaluate sustainability of each scheme as part of project appraisal.  Continue to monitor and report as appropriate. The Governor of the bank of England has indicated that the rate will remain at 0.50%. Balances available for investment are reducing over the MTFP and this together with the lower returns has been taken into account in the base budget. We continue to work with Capita Asset Services in this area. The rising CFR over the term of the Budget Strategy will be carefully monitored in close liaison with Capita Asset Services to gauge both the timing and type of external borrowing.
<b>Quadrant 2 - High Risk, Low Impact</b> 1. New Depot Facilities	<b>Consider Action</b> Under consideration as part of longer term Budget Process
<b>Quadrant 3 - Low Risk, High Impact</b> 1. Finance Strategy/Accountability 2. Car Parking Income  3. Council Tax - Excessive rises, referendum 4. New Headquarters final sign off of all retentions 5. Industrial Estates and Other Property 6. Eastern Gateway - Future Development 7. Recycling/Waste Collection  8. Land Charges Ring fencing /Charging/HIPs 9. ICT Investment - review of functionality and rolling programme of replacement  10. Shared Services Joint working 11. Budgetary Control/Austerity Measures 12. Leases – changes in accounting rules 13. Prudential Code for Capital Accounting – Borrowing rates 14. Diminishing Reserves/Cash flow	<b>Review Risk - Contingency Plans</b> Council are required to adopt a three year Balanced Budget Strategy. Usages/Income level are beginning to recover from the economic down and will continue to be closely monitored Low risk due to political prudence/Key Commitments. Managed closely by CLT/Cabinet Managed through Property Disposal Strategy Development opportunities continue to be explored. Efficiencies due to changes in collection patterns continue to provide savings over prior years. Capacity of the service due to additional housing will be factored into the Budget process Reduced income allowed for within Base Budget reduces the scale of any challenge. ICT Strategy Group oversees/enhances the governance, planning and delivery arrangements of the strategy between ICT and council service areas  Shared Services partnerships continue to contribute to collaborative efficiencies but will be monitored to ensure risk is managed and mitigated. Continue to discourage non-essential expenditure, monthly budget monitoring reports provide more management information Planned changes for the future accounting for leases could impact on the revenue budget, this will be monitored during the introduction in 2014 External borrowing is now £5m, rates remain low but the economy is still volatile and future rates difficult to predict; Capita Asset Services continue to provide technical advice Cash flow management will be tighter given reduction in capital and revenue reserves and use of the Capita Cash flow model is being trialled to improve management information to help mitigate any risk in this area
<b>Quadrant 4 - High Risk, High Impact</b> 1. Government Grant –Funding Changes, further Spending Reviews, recent Spending round and New Homes Bonus  2. Business Rates Retention Scheme  3. Pension Costs  4. Impact of Transformational Programme  5. Local Council Tax Discount Scheme 6. Council Tax Collection levels and vacant properties  7. Community Asset Transfer Projects (CATS)	<b>Immediate Action</b> Significant issue given the scale of the Spending deficit. The New Finance Strategy Review Panel and early budget process will assist Wyre Forest Forward coordinating Councils future plans. Funding arrangements introduce uncertainty and risk, the decision to join the Worcestershire Pool should mitigate this, together with our robust regeneration programme Impact of pension changes introduced from 1st April 2014 will be considered in liaison with the County – the position is closely monitored on an ongoing basis.  Wyre Forest Forward is managing the Transformation Process. Further Management Restructure to commence in August 2014 lead by consultant Colin Williams from West Midlands Employers The impact of the Local Scheme will be kept under review by the Chief Financial Officer/CLT Assumptions in relation to decreased collection rates have been made in the Council Tax Base calculations as a result of the Local Council Tax Discount Scheme and these will be carefully managed and reported on. Wyre Forest Forward is continuing to manage CATS with CLT
<b>Quadrant 4 - High Risk, High Impact</b> 8. Capital Receipts - Realisation of to fund expenditure 9. Environment and Economic Regeneration including STC4 10. Assumptions on Pay inflation 11. Changes to Housing Benefit Scheme – universal credit/localisation of support for Council Tax from 2013 12. Recovery of Icelandic Investments 13. Wyre Forest Forward Efficiency savings 14. Leisure Future Service Provision  15. Homelessness	<b>Immediate Action</b> Capital Programme funding reflects realistic timescale for the realisation of asset disposal receipts. Temporary borrowing will be used when necessary. The Council continues to be proactive in this area and this is closely monitored by Cabinet/CLT 3 year pay agreement with 1.25% in 2013-14, 0.75% in 2015-16 and 0.5% for 2016-17. 1% Assumed thereafter. This will be kept under review The major overhaul of the benefits systems continues to be carefully managed and monitored  The Council was proactive in this area with the sale of the Landsbanki Claim in January 2014. This continues to be closely monitored by Cabinet/CLT Progress continues to be monitored and reported regularly to members Up-to-date market data and expert advice from Sport England obtained prior to tender. Affordability evaluation to be undertaken on return of tenders in mid September. The Council Tax Benefit Reform and progressing Welfare Reform and Universal Credit could all increase the number of Homelessness cases within the district. This will be carefully monitored and managed by the Housing Team.