

SECTION 2

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Please note these recommendations only include a provisional Council Tax level for the GLA as its final budget was not agreed when this report was dispatched. This means that the statutory calculation of the total amount of Council Tax under Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1999 may be amended by:

- (a) the final Greater London Authority precept; and
- (b) any other significant changes to the budget figures,

The Executive is recommended that this report and recommendations (excluding 2.6 and 2.7) is forwarded to Full Council on 2nd March 2009 who are asked to:

In respect of Section 3

- 2.1 Note the process, including consultation, that has led to these budget proposals.

In respect of Section 4

- 2.2 Note the final 2007/08 outturn and the treatment of the Capital Financing Charges budget.
- 2.3 Note the latest forecast for the General Fund outturn (Appendix A) for 2008/09.

In respect of Section 5

- 2.4 Agree the General Fund revenue budget for 2009/10, as summarised in Appendix B, or consider any amendments to that budget.
- 2.5 Agree the Service Area budgets including the growth and savings and other adjustments detailed in Appendices C and D.
- 2.6 Agree, in principle, to the deletion of the current Assistant Director (Finance and Resources for Adult Social Care) and Head of Finance (Housing) posts and to authorise the Director of Housing and Community Care to confirm the decision, subject to consultation with the affected postholders
- 2.7 Agree, in principle, to establish a new Assistant Director (Finance and Resources for Housing and Community Care) post to head up the finance function within the Housing and Community Care Directorate and to authorise the Director of Housing and Community Care to confirm the decision, subject to consultation with the affected postholders.

- 2.8 Note Appendix F and agree the budgets for central items and other budgets, or consider any amendments to those budgets.
- 2.9 Note and, where appropriate, make provision for the contingent liabilities and risks set out in this section of the report.
- 2.10 Agree the approach to balances set out in the report.
- 2.11 Receive the report from the Director of Finance and Corporate Resources in paragraph 5.46 in respect of his statutory duty under Section 25 of 2003 Local Government Act.

In respect of Section 6

- 2.12 Note that the GLA precept is to be approved at the meeting of the Greater London Assembly on 11th February 2009.
- 2.13 Note the advice of officers on the capping limit.
- 2.14 Agree there is no surplus or deficit at 31st March 2009 for that part of the Collection Fund relating to community charge.
- 2.15 Note and consider the advice of the Borough Solicitor as set out in Appendix O.
- 2.16 Agree the instalment dates for council tax and NNDR for 2009/10, and the recovery policy for council tax as set out in Appendix H(ii).

In respect of Section 7

- 2.17 Agree the Medium Term Financial Strategy and the provisional service area cash limits for 2010/11 to 2012/13 set out in Appendix I.

In respect of Section 8

- 2.18 Agree the Dedicated Schools Budget set out in Appendix K(i).

In respect of Section 9

- 2.19 Agree the Housing Revenue Account budget set out in Appendix L.

In respect of Section 10

- 2.20 Note the latest forecast outturn position on the 2008/09 capital programme, and agree the revised budgets.
- 2.21 Note the properties included within the disposals programme set out in Appendix M(vi).

- 2.22 Agree the 2009/10 to 2012/13 programme as set out in Appendix M(iii), including the new capital allocations.
- 2.23 Note the inclusion in this Capital Programme of all capital schemes, irrespective of the source of funding and agree that all schemes are subject to the approval procedures as set out in the Constitution.
- 2.24 Note the levels of supported and unsupported borrowing forecast for 2009/10 and future years and the impact on council tax levels.
- 2.25 Adopt the policy on repayment of principal in 2009/10 as set out in paragraphs 10.22 to 10.30.

In respect of Section 11

- 2.26 Agree the Treasury Management Strategy and the Annual Investment Strategy for 2009/10.

In respect of Section 12

- 2.27 Note the requirements of the Prudential Code.
- 2.28 Agree the Prudential Indicators set out in this section for affordability, capital spending, external debt and treasury management.
- 2.29 Note the arrangements for monitoring and reporting on Prudential Indicators.

In respect of Section 13

- 2.30 Note the measures in place to help deliver Value for Money.

In respect of Section 14

- 2.31 Note and agree the procedures for controlling expenditure set out in section 14.
- 2.32 Agree the updated schedule of Provisions and Earmarked Reserves set out in Schedule 1 of Appendix P.

In addition

- 2.33 Authorise the council's Director of Finance and Corporate Resources to:
 - (a) Make payments on approved capital schemes in 2009/10.
 - (b) Borrow in 2009/10 up to the limits agreed within the Prudential Indicators.
 - (c) Enter such leasing arrangements as are necessary to finance the programme for 2009/10 and terminate or renegotiate any existing leases.

- (d) Make such minor adjustments to budgets as are necessary.

The following sections of the recommendations relate to the calculation of the budget and council tax as set out by the statutory framework. Amendments to the above recommendations which alter figures in Appendix B will require this section to be changed to reflect these.

- 2.34 In agreeing the above recommendations and the budget in Appendix B, we note that the effect of all these measures is to produce overall council expenditure in 2009/10 of £262.990m.
- 2.35 That we note that £1.154m is attributable to the net deficit on the Collection Fund.
- 2.36 That we note that at its meeting on 12th January 2009 General Purposes Committee calculated the amount of 95,279 as its Council Tax Base for the year 2009/10 in accordance with the Local Authorities (calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992.
- 2.37 In relation to the council tax for 2009/10 we resolve:

That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2009/10 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:

- (a) £967,459,000 being the aggregate of the amount that the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2)(a) to (e) of the Act.
- (b) £705,623,000 being the aggregate of the amounts that the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3)(a) to (c) of the Act.
- (c) £261,836,000 being the amount by which the aggregate at (a) above exceeds the aggregate at (b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year.
- (d) £160,941,000 being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its general fund in respect of redistributed non-domestic rates and revenue support grant reduced by the amount of the sums which the Council estimates will be transferred in the year from its general fund to its collection fund in accordance with Section 97(4) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.
- (e) £1,058.94 being the amount at (c) above less the amount at (d) above, all divided by the amount for the taxbase specified above calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.

(f) Valuation Bands

| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| 705.96 | 823.62 | 941.28 | 1,058.94 | 1,294.26 | 1,529.58 | 1,764.90 | 2,117.88 |

being the amounts given by multiplying the amount at (e) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

- 2.38 That it be noted that for the year 2009/10 the Greater London Authority has stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, in respect of the Greater London Authority, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

| Valuation Bands | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H |
| £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| 206.55 | 240.97 | 275.40 | 309.82 | 378.67 | 447.52 | 516.37 | 619.64 |

- 2.39 That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (f) and the precepting authority referred to in the preceding paragraph above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of council tax for the year 2009/10 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

| Valuation Bands | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H |
| £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| 912.51 | 1,064.59 | 1,216.68 | 1,368.76 | 1,672.93 | 1,977.10 | 2,281.27 | 2,737.52 |

- 2.40 (a) That the Director of Finance and Corporate Resources be and is hereby authorised to give due notice of the said council tax in the manner provided by Section 38(2) of the 1992 Act.
- (b) That the Director of Finance and Corporate Resources be and is hereby authorised when necessary to apply for a summons against any council tax payer or non-domestic ratepayer on whom an account for the said tax or rate and any arrears has been duly served and who has failed to pay the amounts due to take all subsequent necessary action to recover them promptly.
- (c) That the Director of Finance and Corporate Resources be and is hereby authorised to collect revenues and distribute monies from the Collection Fund and is authorised to borrow or to lend money in accordance with the regulations to the maximum benefit of each fund.