

COUNCIL – 19 FEBRUARY 2013

BUSINESS STRATEGY AND SERVICE & RESOURCE PLANNING

2013/14 TO 2016/17

Second Supplementary Report by Assistant Chief Executive & Chief Finance Officer

Flood Defence Levy

1. Since the papers for the Council meeting on 19 February were published, information has been received from the Environment Agency on the flood defence levy for 2013/14.
2. The County Council's flood defence levy comprises amounts for three regions: Thames, Severn Trent and Anglian Central, with the Thames region making up over 99% of the total. The 2013/14 flood defence levy is £0.531m, an increase of £0.054m from the previous year.
3. The 2013/14 proposed budget for the flood defence levy (as set out in Annex 2 of the Cabinet's report) is £0.478m, £0.053m less than the confirmed levy.

Referendum Limit

4. As set out in the previous supplementary report, the limit for triggering a referendum has been confirmed as an increase in the relevant basic amount of council tax of over two per cent. The relevant basic amount of council tax is the council tax requirement less the amount of any levies, divided by the tax base. The County Council's relevant basic amount of council tax for 2013/14 is £1,182.49. This compares to £1,159.58 for 2012/13, an increase of 1.976%.

Conclusion

5. As the £0.053m shortfall in budget for the flood defence levy does not have a significant impact on the budget proposals it is suggested that it is met from balances in 2013/14. This will mean that a change to the proposed budget is not required.
6. The increase in the County Council's relevant basic amount of council tax is below the amount deemed to be excessive and therefore a referendum will not be required.

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Assistant Chief Executive & Chief Finance Officer

February 2013

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