

MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

From: Assistant Director - Corporate Resources	Report Number: C/03/17
To: Full Council	Date of meeting: 23 February 2017

JOINT MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY AND 2017/18 BUDGET

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To consider the Joint Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and 2017/18 Budget, covering the General Fund, Council Housing and Capital Investment.
- 1.2 These reflect the challenges and opportunities facing the Council in the short and medium/long term, the business model that is being put in place to address these and an investment strategy to deliver the Council's strategic priority outcomes as set out in the Joint Strategic Plan.
- 1.3 This report sets out, therefore, how the Council intends to use its available resources and funding to not only achieve the agreed strategic priority outcomes but also realign resources to them and undertake a programme of transformational activities and projects over the medium term.
- 1.4 To consider the proposals from the Green Party Group on the 2017/18 Budget - see Appendix G.
- 1.5 To enable Members to consider key aspects of the 2017/18 Budgets, including Council Tax and Council House rent levels.

2. Recommendations to Council

- 2.1 That the Joint Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and Budget proposals set out in the report be approved.
- 2.2 That the General Fund Budget for 2017/18 is based on a council tax increase of 5p per week for a Band D property to support the Council's overall financial position be approved.
- 2.3 That the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Investment Strategy 2017/18 to 2021/22 and HRA Budget for 2017/18 be agreed.
- 2.4 That rent increases under Pay to Stay for tenants with a household income above £60k is not introduced.
- 2.5 That the mandatory decrease of 1% in Council House rents, equivalent to an average rent reduction of £0.84 a week, as required by the Welfare Reform and Work Bill be implemented.
- 2.6 That garage rents be increased by 10% to provide some additional income to the HRA (an average increase of 74 pence per week per garage).

- 2.7 Sheltered Housing service charges to be increased by 20% with a cap set at £4 per week (10% with a cap of £2 last year) to reduce subsidy by £80k.
- 2.8 That the utility charges for sheltered tenants are not changed as they are in line with costs.
- 2.9 That in principle, Right to Buy receipts should be retained to enable continued development and acquisition of new council dwellings.
- 2.10 That capital spend is reduced by £1.5m in 2017/18 and for each year in 2018/19 to 2021/22.
- 2.11 That the revised HRA Business Plan in Appendix D be noted. A further review will be undertaken, and a revised Babergh Mid Suffolk Building Services Plan and HRA Business Plan will be presented to Executive Committee in April.
- 2.12 That the proposed capital programme in Appendix C be agreed.
- 2.13 That the following additional recommendations related to the Budget are approved:
- a) The 2017/18 Precept dates shown in Appendix F.
- b) The statement from the Chief Financial Officer under section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 covering the robustness of estimates and adequacy of reserves set out in Appendix E and the minimum safe contingency level of unearmarked reserves is £1.05m.
- c) The 2017/18 Budget and Council Tax resolutions as set out in Appendix F.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 These are detailed in the report.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 These are detailed in the report.

5. Risk Management

- 5.1 This report is most closely linked with the following Significant Business Risk:- 5f – Failure of the Councils to become financially sustainable in response to funding changes. Key risks are as follows:

GENERAL FUND			
Risk Description	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Measures
Failure to plan and identify options to meet the medium term budget gap and savings or additional income not being realised.	Unlikely - 2	Bad - 3	Clear priority outcomes and robust business cases for investment plus use of the Transformation Fund to support the MTFs and an Investment Strategy.

GENERAL FUND			
Risk Description	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Measures
			Further use of Priority Based Resourcing approach to align resources to priorities
Failure to implement cost sharing protocol results in inaccurate or unfair allocation of shared costs and income.	Highly Unlikely - 1	Noticeable - 2	Assessment made for 2017/18 Budget, which will be reviewed further to ensure it is robust and accurate. Amend if circumstances change.
Uncertainty on the level of Business Rates income due to the volatility caused by vacant properties, growth levels and appeals	Unlikely – 2	Noticeable – 2	Finance, Shared Revenues Partnership, and Economic Development working closely to understand the Business Rates base, key rate payers along with appeal projections and horizon scanning
HRA			
Ongoing impacts of the Welfare and Funding Reforms could lead to unpreparedness for further changes.	Unlikely - 2	Bad - 3	Ensure adequate bad debt provision and that the Income Management Strategy seeks to mitigate the impact of the changes on residents, the Council's income streams and budgets.
Failure to spend retained RTB receipts within 3 year period, will lead to requirement to repay to Government with an additional 4% interest.	Unlikely - 2	Bad - 3	Provision has been made in the updated HRA Investment Strategy to enable match funding and spend of RTB receipts, subject to the announcement of the details of the Housing & Planning Bill measures affecting council housing.
Council Housing self-financing results in a greater risk to investment and service delivery plans from inflation and other variables.	Unlikely - 2	Noticeable - 2	Inflation and interest rate assumptions have been modelled in the HRA business plan. Capital receipts and capital programme funding reviewed.

5.2 A risk assessment by the Section 151 Officer on the General Fund Budget proposals and the adequacy of General Fund reserves, as required by statute is attached at Appendix E.

6. Consultations

6.1 The HRA budget proposals were presented to the Joint Housing Board meeting in January 2017.

7. Equality Analysis

7.1 Equality Analyses will be undertaken for any service areas where significant changes are proposed as a result of the above process.

8. Shared Service / Partnership Implications

8.1 The Joint Strategic Plan and MTFS determine and shape the Council's future plans and service provision, with regard to each Council's financial position.

8.2 The Budgets for 2017/18 reflect the estimated sharing of costs and savings between the two Councils. However, there are and will be ongoing differences in the detailed financial position of each Council's General Fund and HRA. There will be instances, therefore, when staff resources and money is focused on a specific priority in one Council.

8.3 Actual staffing and other costs will have to be reflected in the accounts year on year and funding adjusted accordingly to ensure that each Council's finances are accounted for separately and that costs and benefits from integration and shared services continue to be allocated appropriately to each Council.

9. Links to Joint Strategic Plan

9.1 Ensuring that the Council has the resources available is what underpins the ability to achieve the priorities set out in the Joint Strategic Plan.

10. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

10.1 In recent years the government policy frameworks have been reducing core funding for local government as part of its deficit reduction strategy and increasingly incentivising funding to councils to deliver local economic and housing growth and to facilitate the development of strong, safe, healthy and self-sufficient communities. This is continuing, so encouraging and supporting both business and housing growth is essential to the financial future of the Council.

10.2 The Council recognised the changing funding landscape, the challenges and opportunities this creates and has developed a Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) that responds to this challenge. The updated MTFS is attached at Appendix H and continues the direction of travel of the Councils in developing the business model to respond to the financial challenges.

10.3 The strategic response to those challenges, to ensure long term financial sustainability, is set out in six key actions:

- (a) Aligning resources to the Councils' refreshed strategic plan and essential services.
- (b) Continuation of the shared service agenda, collaboration with others and transformation of service delivery.
- (c) Behaving more commercially and generating additional income.
- (d) Considering new funding models (e.g. acting as an investor).
- (e) Encouraging the use of digital interaction and transforming our approach to customer access.
- (f) Taking advantage of new forms of local government finance (e.g. New Homes Bonus, Business Rates Retention).

The actions that have been taken under this strategy since 2014/15 mean that the Council is in a better position to withstand the reduction in government grant and achieve a balanced budget in 2017/18.

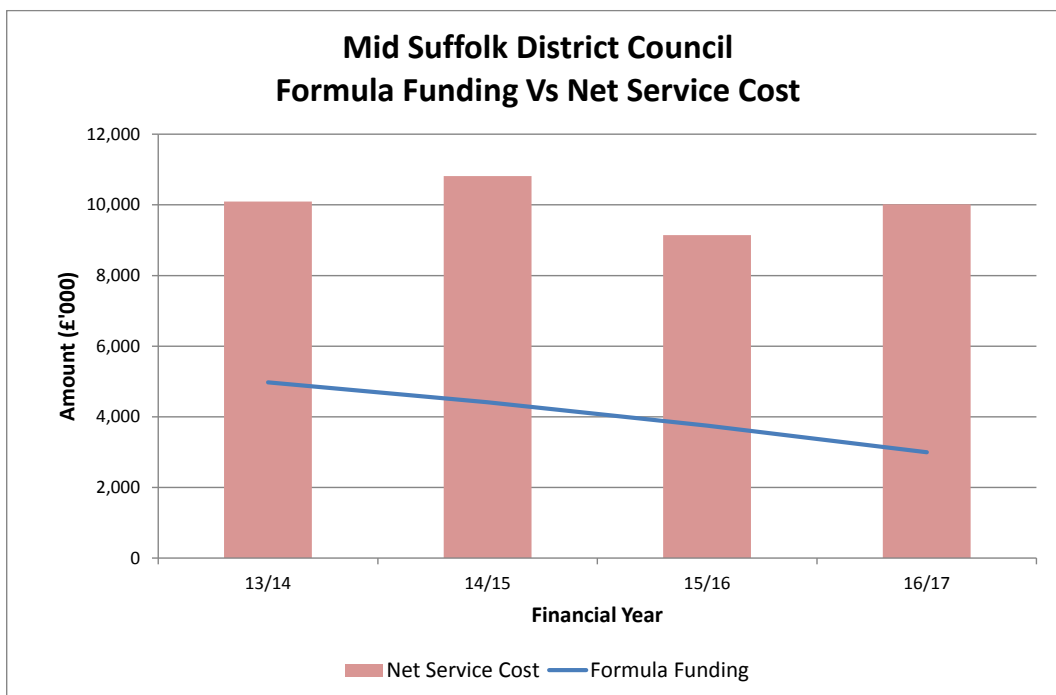
- 10.4 The details within the Joint MTFs show the funding surplus / pressures over the three years 2018/19 to 2020/21, the strongest financial position shows a surplus £0.5m, and the weakest financial position, a deficit of £1.0m and the level of resources that could be available to fund those pressures. This has been updated following the Local Government Finance Settlement announcement on 15 December.
- 10.5 In recognition of the changing landscape for local authorities, the Joint Strategic Plan has been reviewed and refreshed. Complementing this has been a focussed management review to ensure that the Council has the right skills and capacity to support the MTFs.
- 10.6 The Transformation Fund has been supplemented with New Homes Bonus and Business Rates Grant and used cautiously over the last three years to support the transition to the different business model and this will continue during 2017/18. It will also be used to fund staff that are involved in projects that support new ways of working. Work is currently underway to review the resources required from the Transformation Fund to support the Joint Strategic Plan in the short and medium term, but some will need to be retained to protect the Council against the uncertainties of moving to 100% retention of business rates in 20/20.
- 10.7 Each Council is being asked to agree the key aspects of the proposed Budget for 2017/18 and endorse the Joint MTFs in order to achieve a sustainable financial basis in the medium term. Without this strategy, which focuses on achieving outcomes, invest to save and generating income, there is a significant risk that each Council will be unsustainable financially in the medium to longer term.

GENERAL FUND (GF)

11 GF Financial Position

- 11.1 Funding arrangements for councils have changed significantly with Revenue Support Grant being substantially withdrawn. The Council has seen a 69% cumulative cut in revenue support grant over the four years since 2013/14.

- 11.2 The Council's service cost budget has remained fairly static over the same period, as various budget saving and income generating initiatives have meant that service levels could be maintained. The Council has also become more reliant on Business Rates income and 'incentivised' funding such as the New Homes Bonus to support the Council's service cost budget. Since New Homes Bonus was introduced in 2011/12 the Council has received £9m in total, most of which has been transferred to the Transformation Fund reserve, however in 2015/16 and 2016/17 an element of this was used to balance the budget.
- 11.3 The graph below shows the service cost budget since 2013/14 and the Revenue Support Grant including the business rates element of the formula funding, over the same period.



- 11.4 Total Formula Funding (Revenue Support Grant + Baseline Business Rates) is reducing by a further 17% in 2017/18. This includes, in relation to the Revenue Support Grant (RSG) element, a further cut of £547k or 60%. New Homes Bonus (NHB) is reducing from £2.641m to £2.028m. Included within this report are provisional settlement figures as announced on 15 December 2016, the details of which are set out below. The debate on the final settlement will take place in the House of Commons on 20 February 2017. A verbal update will be provided at this Council meeting.

- Continuation of the council tax referendum threshold at 2% for most authorities;
- All shire district councils and the lowest quartile of Police and Crime Commissioners will be able to increase council tax by the greater of 2% or £5;
- Parish and town councils will continue to not be subject to the council tax referendum

- Reduction in the number of years that a NHB payment is paid from 6 years currently to 5 years in 2017/18 and 4 years in 2018/19;
- NHB baseline for growth has been set at 0.4%, so only growth above that figure will receive a NHB payment in future;
- Continuation of the rural (SPARSE) services delivery grant;
- Full reimbursement from Government of the extension of the rural business rate relief to 100%. Mid Suffolk currently awards 50% discretionary relief on top of the 50% mandatory relief therefore there will be a financial benefit from this change. We are currently awaiting the new limits that will be effective from April 2017, therefore this has not been included within this report.

11.5 In order to receive certainty over the settlement numbers for the next three years from central government, councils were required to submit an efficiency plan. Mid Suffolk District Council took advantage of gaining certainty for the next three years by submitting the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Joint Strategic Plan by way of demonstrating that the Council has an efficiency plan.

11.6 Looking ahead to 2018/19 and beyond, the Government's indication is that Revenue Support Grant will reduce to £36k in 2018/19, followed by a tariff payable to central government of £337k in 2019/20 to redistribute the core funding and council tax generating capabilities to other councils across the country based on spending needs. The tariff is expected to disappear in 2020/21, however we do not know how business rates distribution will be affected, therefore we have left it in the MTFs but we will be keep it under review.

11.7 Council Tax, Business rates and new homes growth will, therefore, be the main sources of income (plus other income generated locally) if we are to achieve a sustainable budget in the years ahead.

11.8 It must be emphasised that the total estimated core funding for next year and future years is not a fixed guaranteed amount as it is now dependent on variations in business rates income. This is carefully monitored and the volatility and risks, for example the level of appeals, will affect the amount of income received. Business Rates revaluation comes into effect from April 2017, there will be tariffs and top-ups in place for each local authority to ensure that they are in the same position pre-revaluation. There will be transitional arrangements put in place however we are still awaiting the detail of this.

12. GF Overall Financial and Budget Strategy (short and medium term)

12.1 In order to address the budget gap, both in the short and medium term the budget process for 2017/18 has involved several strands of work with the focus on maximising our income streams, continuing to make efficiencies and productivity savings and using new ways of working to be as cost effective as possible.

12.2 Finance has worked closely with Corporate Managers and reviewed each budget in detail and taken a zero based budget approach for each service, challenging budgets and focussing on the service needs rather than a historic view that has traditionally occurred.

- 12.3 The Corporate Manager for Finance and the Senior Business Partner have attended all the service team meetings to discuss the funding challenges and to explore and capture ideas they have for savings, efficiency and income generating ideas.
- 12.4 These suggestions along with a great deal of work that is already happening across the Councils on the Capital Investment Strategy, Public Realm Review, Leisure Strategy Review and the Public Access Transformation and Accommodation Review were reviewed at the relevant Portfolio Holder briefings. The items that have been included in the base budget are shown on Appendix B
- 12.5 Further work will continue on these and other initiatives during the year as set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) at Appendix H, some of the strands that require further work at this stage are:
- Accommodation – the 2017/18 budget report includes the savings as per the business case report (C/70/16) approved at Council 22nd September. The costs and savings of the Public Access work will continue throughout the next 12 months and will be monitored and reported through the budget monitoring process. The final full year costs and savings will be incorporated in the 2018/19 budgets that will be set in February 2018.
 - Public Realm Review – work is continuing on options appraisal through the Task and Finish Group. The decision on which option to pursue will be taken by members in 2017/18 and will be built into the 2018/19 budgets once this decision has been made.
 - Leisure Review – work is progressing on the Leisure Review and at the time of preparing the budget for 2017/18 the Council has not reviewed or made decisions on any proposals. This work will continue and options will be considered toward the end of 2016/17 and into 2017/18.
- 12.6 Some key pieces of work during 2016/17 have contributed to the Council's financial sustainability over the short to medium term. The remainder of the £10m cash investment that was approved as part of the Councils Treasury Management Strategy is expected to be invested in the final quarter of 2016/17, the projected return from this is £149k per annum.
- 12.7 In November 2016 both Councils approved the three strands of the Assets and Investment Strategy, comprising investment (profit for purpose), regeneration and development, and asset management, in 2017/18 this is expected to generate £247k.
- 12.8 There are several assumptions within the MTFS that can significantly impact on the Councils financial position over the medium term, New Homes Bonus, Council Tax and Tax Base increase are some of the key assumptions. Within the MTFS at Appendix H we have modelled the strongest, medium and weakest financial positions and other assumptions. The budget gaps of each are as follows:

		2017/18 Cumulative Shortfall in Funding (Surplus funds) £000	2018/19 Cumulative Shortfall in Funding (Surplus funds) £000	2019/20 Cumulative Shortfall in Funding (Surplus funds) £000	2020/21 Cumulative Shortfall in Funding (Surplus funds) £000
Weakest Financial Position	Tax Base 0.8% Council Tax 0%	(0)	(615)	430	978
Medium Financial Position	Tax Base 1% Council Tax 2%	(0)	(872)	(156)	129
Strongest Financial Position	Tax Base 1.5% Council Tax £5	(0)	(966)	(408)	(484)

12.9 Council Tax income is set locally (within Government guidelines) and has an impact on the income the Council can generate. A 1% increase in Council Tax will generate an additional £57k per annum.

13. GF 2017/18 Budget

13.1 The original budget surplus for 2017/18 as identified in the MTFs approved by Council in February 2016 was £1.1m, after taking into account additional budgetary pressures including inflation and the work outlined above, the revised surplus is £1.6m, which will be transferred to the Transformation Fund. A summary of savings and pressures can be found at Appendix B.

13.2 Part of the 2017/18 budget proposals is the allocation of £250k to support community capacity building. Details of how this money will be used will be developed before the start of the new financial year by establishing a task and finish group.

13.3 In order to achieve a balanced budget for 2017/18 Mid Suffolk has had to utilise £0.76m of the £2.028m of New Home Bonus expected in 2017/18 compared to £537k of the £2.6m received in 2016/17. This does not include the £250k to support community capacity building.

13.4 A number of key assumptions have been made in formulating the General Fund Budget proposals. The overall picture is set out in Appendix A with further detail in Appendix B of which some of the key aspects are outlined below:-

- A Council Tax increase in the Band D Council Tax of 5p per week for a Band D property, which takes it to £161.97 and equates to a 1.64% increase;
- Car parking fees are not being increased for the seventh successive year in order to support Stowmarket Town Centre, but other fees and charges e.g. land charges will be increased by 3%.
- Insurance premiums are expected to increase by 2% based on the information provided by our brokers.
- For salaries we have assumed a 1% pay award and an increment for all staff that are eligible.
- No changes to the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme are proposed, residents will continue to pay 5%.

- 13.5 The key changes between the 2016/17 and 2017/18 Budgets are summarised in Appendix B. In order to provide further details on the 2017/18 budget, a full breakdown can be found in the form of the Council's Budget Book attached at Appendix I.
- 13.6 In relation to earmarked reserves, the estimated balance of earmarked reserves at the end of 2017/18 is £13m, including the Transformation Fund balance of £10.5m. Further details of the earmarked reserves can be found in Appendix H attachment 5. In addition to this there is £1.052m, the minimum approved level, in the General Fund reserve/working balance.

14 GF Capital Programme Investments

- 14.1 The Capital Programme is attached at Appendix C.
- 14.2 A zero-based approach has been adopted for the preparation of the Capital Programme for 2017/18 to 2021/22, to ensure that resources are aimed at delivery of the Council's strategic priorities.

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA)

15 HRA Financial Position

- 15.1 The HRA Business Plan has been updated to reflect the impact of the 1% rent reduction required by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in 2016/17 for 4 years across the Plan's 30 year life. The Business Plan is attached at Appendix D and shows details for years 1-5.
- 15.2 The self-financing regime replaced the Housing Revenue Account subsidy system on 1 April 2012. Mid Suffolk's settlement payment was calculated at £57m. This was based on projected levels of income, expenditure and existing stock values and took HRA long term borrowing levels to £82m.
- 15.3 HRA Capital Financing Requirement levels are predicted to be £86.7m at 31 March 2017 providing borrowing headroom of £4.1m. New build/acquisitions funding within the Capital Programme 2017– 2021 totals £17.6m and HRA reserve balances 2017 – 2021 are forecast at £9.1m. This will provide a total HRA Investment Fund contribution of £30.8m to deliver Members' strategic housing priorities and outcomes.
- 15.4 The Joint Strategic Plan sets out clearly the Councils' aligned strategic priorities. The key housing projects supporting delivery of the priorities are outlined in the HRA Business Plan.
- 15.5 For example: The delivery of the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) 65 new affordable homes, and the acquisition of 9 affordable homes (2015/16) which will become new HRA assets. These new homes will deliver New Homes Bonus for the Council, additional rent and council tax and local businesses will benefit. All these factors will bring growth to our local economy.

16 HRA Overall Financial and Budget Strategy (short and medium term)

16.1 The Mid Suffolk HRA Business Plan faces some challenges in the short and medium term. These challenges were exacerbated by the proposals announced in the Chancellor's July 2016 Budget:

- The Welfare Reform and Work Bill includes a requirement of all social landlords to reduce their rents by 1% each year from 2016 to 2019
- This Bill reduced the benefit cap for working age families from £23k to £20k
- The Housing and Planning Bill includes requirements for households with an income higher than £30k to be charged higher rents. However in the Autumn Statement 2016 this amount was amended to £60k and changed it from being a mandatory policy to discretionary.
- The Bill also requires councils to sell their high value council homes to fund Right to Buy discounts for housing association tenants. A letter from the Housing Minister following the Autumn Statement explained that the pilot scheme for housing association Right to Buy will be expanded. The government will fund the expanded scheme and the levy will not be brought in for 2017/18. Details of how the levy will be calculated are still unknown. On advice from the Chartered Institute of Housing, the budget does not include a figure for the levy.
- The impact of these measures and the action required to mitigate them are described in section 18.4 of this report

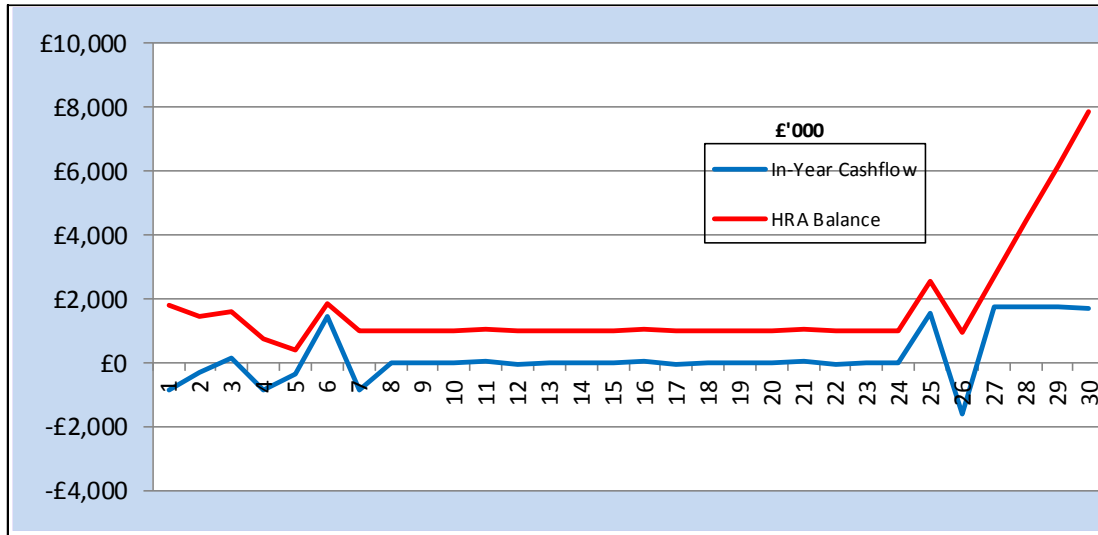
17 HRA Potential Resources Available for Investment

17.1 A key aspect of the HRA Business Plan is the revenue cash flow predicted over the coming years. Another important feature is the amount available for building new homes. Both are illustrated in the following graphs:-

Graph A - Revenue cash flows from 2016/17 for 30 years

This graph shows reserve balances within the HRA stabilising at £1m by Year 7 (2023/24) based on annual rent reductions of 1% for the next three years.

Graph A



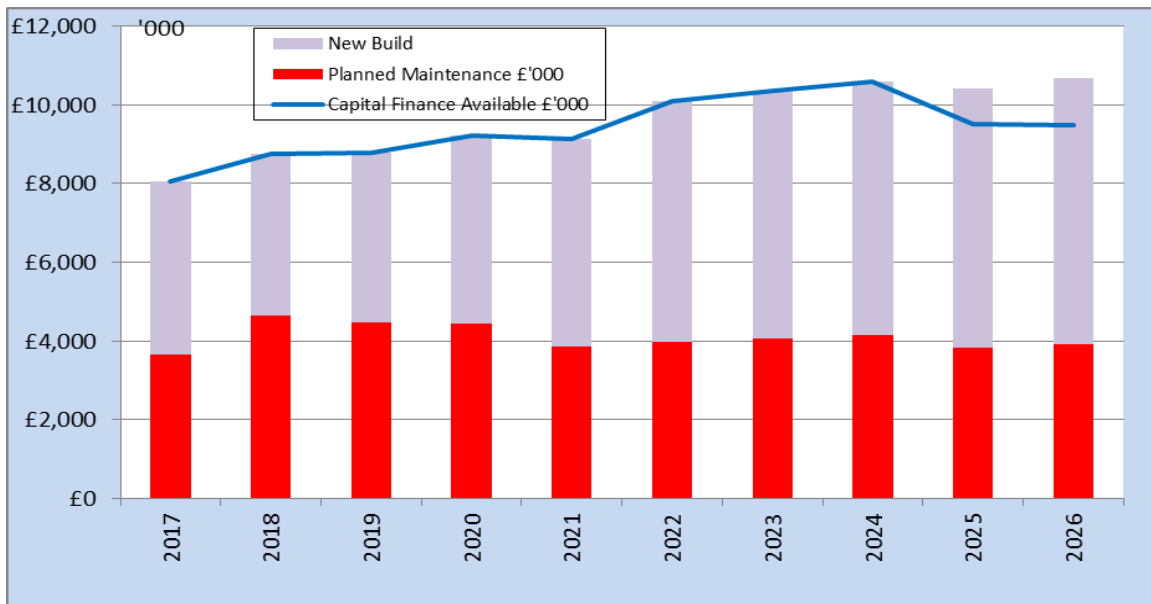
Graph B - Capital Programme from 2017/18 for 10 years (based on a 1% rent reduction in years 2 to 4 and £1.5m Capital spend reduction in 2017/18)

Graph B shows proposed Capital Programme expenditure and debt cap levels within the HRA Business Plan up to Year 10 (2017/18 to 2026/27) including a £1.5m reduction in 2017/18. The graph shows that from 2024 onwards there is not enough finance available to cover capital expenditure.

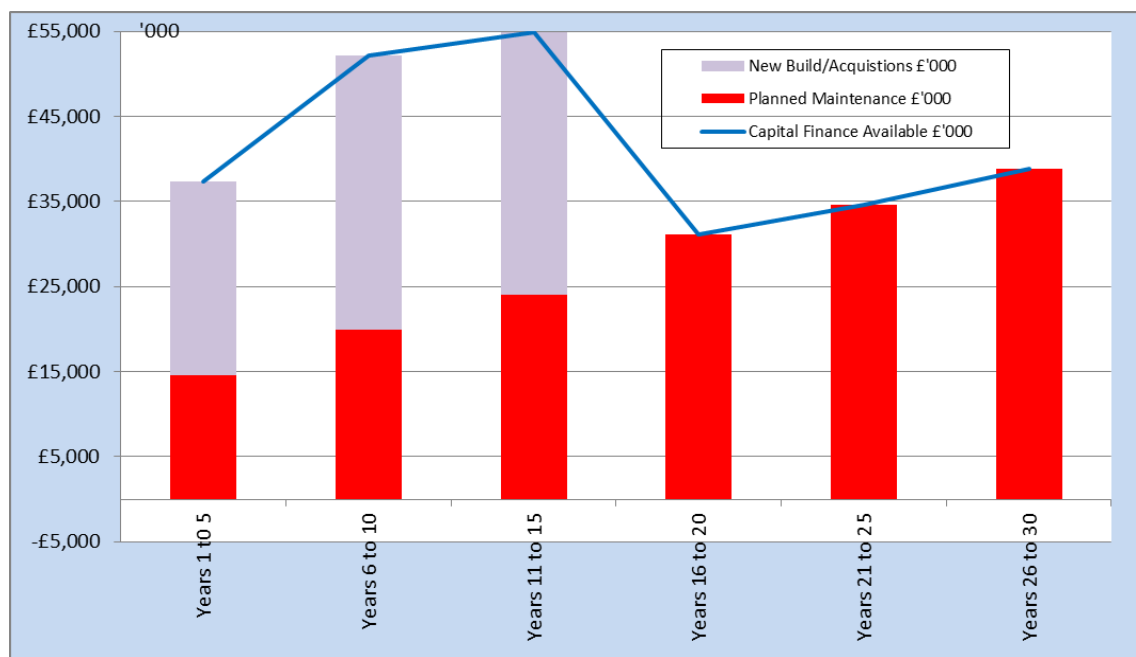
Graph C depicts how much finance would be available over the 30 year plan if the capital spend was reduced by £1.5m from 2018/19 to 2021/22.

Graphs A and B are inter-dependent with revenue surpluses providing financial availability for investment in homes and improvement programmes.

Graph B



Graph C



18 HRA Key Challenges

18.1 HRA Self-financing has provided significant opportunities for Mid Suffolk. The development of 38 new council homes supported by Homes and Communities Agency Grant funding is a good example of how the funds available within the HRA are being used differently.

18.2 These opportunities, however, are threatened by the proposals described in paragraph 16.1. The table in paragraph 19.1 sets out the HRA budget for 2017/18 and highlights the variances from the current year as a result of a 1% rent reduction (an average decrease of 84 pence per week for Mid Suffolk tenants).

18.3 It is important to understand that the 30 year HRA business plan was predicated on an annual rent increase of CPI + 1%, the formula agreed by the government in 2014. In business planning terms, the loss to the HRA is therefore greater than 1% per annum. The cumulative impact of the rent reduction results in a reduced income (against business plan projections) to the HRA as follows:

Year 1:	£0.3m
Years 1 to 4:	£4.0m
Years 1 to 10:	£15.6m

This will reduce the resources available to deliver services, to maintain and improve the existing housing stock and to develop new council housing.

18.4 A balanced budget has been achieved for 2017/18 by reducing both revenue and capital budgets (see table in 19.1). A fundamental review of the housing service has been undertaken during 2016/17 to identify savings, efficiencies and income generation opportunities that will achieve a sustainable business plan into the future. The review has examined:

- Performance management measures.
- A review of garages was commenced to identify their condition and whether there are redevelopment opportunities on the sites or if they should be demolished and replaced with parking bays. 28 sites were identified as having development potential. These are being further explored by the Investment & Development team who will report to the Joint Housing Board early in the new year.
- Our approach to HRA business planning includes reviewing and realigning housing stock condition data and capital programme expenditure. Our current stock condition data is six years old. A project is underway to renew the data to enable an evidence based programme of capital works to be designed for 2017/18 and the following two years. In the meantime, all non-essential work has been ceased. We believe a fresh sample stock condition survey will be required in 2019/20. A contingency amount, based on the HRA Business Plan model, has been put into the 2017/18 Budget and 4 year MTFS 2017/18 and will be allocated against the relevant areas of spend once the Capital Programme is completed.
- The Sheltered Housing Review concluded that some schemes which are difficult to let should be 'de-sheltered' ahead of a predicted reduction in Housing Related Support funding.
- Reviewing the existing Capital Projects Team (formerly part of the Asset Management Team) and Private Sector Housing Team has brought them together in one team called Property Services. This has led to a change in the approach to the way the work is being carried out and how the teams were structured to introduce a more efficient and consistent way of working. The new structure will be in place by March 2017.
- Councillors approved the formation of a new Babergh and Mid Suffolk Building Services (BMBS) which will carry out responsive repairs and programmes works. The BMBS business plan forecasts a surplus in year two of trading (2018/19). The back office team structure is currently under review, along with the Property Services team.
- A new HRA Accounting Team was set up following the appointment of a Professional Lead HRA Accountant in July 2016. A review of the Budget setting and monitoring process, financial controls, support required by Corporate Managers and the Assistant Director and Capital spend will be completed by March 2017.
- Leaseholders service charges are being reviewed to identify the gap between costs incurred and the amount recharged. This is currently ongoing and will be completed in 2017/18 as part of the Home Ownership Review project, so any increase in income identified has not been put into the 2017/18 Budget.

18.5 **Garage rents** – these are not controlled by the same regime as council house rents. Members therefore have the option to impose a rent increase and may wish to take the opportunity to raise additional income through this route. Table 1 provides details of the additional income generated by a range of rent increases:

Table 1

Increase	Average increase per garage per week	Additional income per annum
	Pence	£
CPI + 1% (1.90%)	14	8,068
5% Increase	37	21,216
10% Increase	74	42,484

- 18.6 **Sheltered housing** - Mid Suffolk currently subsidises sheltered service charges from the HRA by approximately £100k each year. The new pressures of rent reduction and the high value asset levy make this subsidy unsustainable. A review of the service charges is being undertaken by an external resource to identify the costs that should be recharged. Workings show the following amounts of additional income if each tenant was charged: -

Table 2

Weekly/Annual	Total additional income at £4 increase per week	Total additional income at £3 increase per week	Total additional income at £2.50
Weekly Total	1,544	1,158	965
Annual Total	80,288	60,216	50,180

- 18.7 Utility charges were reduced by 20% last year and these are now in line with the energy costs (£213k cost vs £217k utility charge) so no change is required in 2017/18

HRA New Build programme and retention of Right to Buy receipts

- 18.8 Right to Buy (RTB) sales have exceeded projections in business plans. In 2015/16 Mid Suffolk sold 32 homes against original projections of 26 sales prior to the policy of reinvigorating RTB and "1-4-1" re-provision.
- 18.9 The money received from RTB sales can only be used as 30% towards the cost of a replacement home. The remaining 70% of the replacement cost has to be found from other HRA resources. As sales increase, it means that the level of match funding required (70%) increases. If the receipts are not spent within the 3 year period allowed, they have to be repaid to Government with 4% above the base rate interest added.

18.10 The Government has applied a cap to the amount that Councils can borrow through the HRA. This means that borrowing levels are artificially restricted. The supported spending of RTB receipts, building new council homes and investing in the maintenance and improvement of council homes is still achievable within current borrowing headroom in the next 4 years. However, the 1% rent reduction and the proposed high value dwellings levy threaten to make finding the 70% match funding for Right to Buy receipts unsustainable. The rescinding of the mandatory pay to stay policy referred to in 16.1 will go some way to mitigating this risk as it was predicted that more tenants would want to buy their homes if the rent was increased.

19 HRA Budget 2017/18

19.1 The table below sets out the HRA budget for 2017/18, based on a 1% rent decrease, highlighting the variance from 2016/17.

Description	2016/17 £000	2017/18 £000	Variance £000	Reason
Rent and other income	(15,424)	(15,551)	(127)	Based on a proposed average rent decrease of 1%. Offset by increase in affordable rents, decrease in void days and changes in service charges and garage rents
Bad Debt Provision	75	111	36	Universal Credit is being implemented during 2017/18, so the provision has been increased to reflect the likelihood of additional rent arrears and bad debts.
Interest	(15)	(27)	(12)	
Total Net Income	(15,364)	(15,467)	(103)	
Repairs and Maintenance, Management and other costs	6,070	6,135	65	Reflects the BMBS deficit in year one of £191k which has been partially offset by a decrease in salaries based on averages of staff being made redundant due to restructuring of Sheltered Accommodation Property Services. There have also been savings in transport costs, Council Tax on void properties and equipment.
Capital Charges	3,017	3,042	25	Reflects interest costs on long term loans.
Depreciation	3,406	3,407	1	
Revenue Contribution to Capital Programme	3,733	3,597	(136)	Reflects a small decrease due to reduction in Capital Programme spend which is funded by Major Repairs Reserves, Grants and Receipts and then a call on revenue balances
Total Expenditure	16,226	16,181	(45)	

Description	2016/17 £000	2017/18 £000	Variance £000	Reason
In-year operating (surplus)/deficit	862	714	(148)	
Year-end transfer to/from reserves	(862)	(714)	148	
Total	0	0	0	

19.2 A revised and updated HRA Business Plan is attached at Appendix D, based on annual rent increases of -1% and also reflecting:-

- HCA scheme development costs;
- Funding to support spend of RTB receipts and capital programme expenditure.

19.3 The HRA Business Plan is currently viable over the next 8 years only; and shortfalls in the available funding then continue for a number of years before returning to surplus in year 25. As a result of this, further review work will be undertaken on the business plan and mitigation measures put in place to bring back into surplus over the period of the plan. The revised plan will be brought back to Executive Committee in April.

19.4 The established rent formula empowers Government to restrict our ability to increase rents through applying a 'limit rent' (the average rent level at which full housing benefit will be paid). If our average rent exceeds this amount then a payment has to be made to the Government to make up the difference. Limit rent figures were published at the end of January 2017 and based on analysis to date should not impact further on rent levels.

20 HRA Capital Programme Investment

20.1 The Capital Programme is attached at Appendix C. This does not include any projections for High Value Asset Levy at present.

20.2 The proposed Capital Programme headlines for 2017/18 – 2020/21 are:-

Expenditure	£m
Housing Maintenance Programmes	12.9
New build (HCA programme)	0.7
RTB receipt funding	17.3
Total	30.9
Financing	
Capital receipts disposals and RTB receipts and HCA Grant	8.2
Revenue Contributions	22.7
Borrowing	0
Total	30.9
Remaining Borrowing Headroom available (31 March 2021)	4.8

21. Appendices

Title	Location
Appendix A – General Fund Budget Summary 2017/18	Attached
Appendix B – Movement of service cost budget year on year	Attached
Appendix C – Capital Programmes	Attached
Appendix D – Updated HRA Business Plan	Attached
Appendix E – Robustness of Estimates and Adequacy of Reserves	Attached
Appendix F – Budget, Funding and Council Tax Requirements	Attached
Appendix G - Recommendations from the Green Party Group on the 2017/8 Budget Proposals	Attached
Appendix H – Joint Medium Term Financial Strategy	Attached
Appendix I – Budget Book 2017/18	Attached

22. Background Documents

Local Government Finance Settlement.

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General Fund Budget Summary 2017/18**GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET SUMMARY**

	2016/17 £'000	2017/18 £'000	Movement £'000
1 Employee Costs	8,322	8,752	430
2 Premises	773	725	(48)
3 Supplies & Services	3,543	4,083	540
4 Transport	331	335	3
5 Contracts	3,020	3,078	58
6 Third Party Payments	18,250	16,964	(1,286)
7 Income	(27,156)	(25,497)	1,659
8 Transfers to HRA / Capital (recharge model)	(1,214)	(1,298)	(84)
9 Capital charges & Investment Income	683	65	(618)
10 <u>Transfers to Reserves</u>			
(a) New Homes Bonus	2,641	2,028	(613)
(b) S31 Business Rates Grant	569	600	31
(c) Other	110	99	(11)
Service Cost	9,873	9,934	60
11 Grants to parishes (LCTS)	45	-	(45)
12 Transformation Fund -Delivery Plan Projects	2,000	-	(2,000)
Net Service Cost	11,919	9,934	(1,986)
13 Transformation Fund - Staffing (NHB)	(427)	(490)	(63)
14 Transformation Fund - Delivery Plan projects (NHB)	(2,000)	-	2,000
15 Transformation Fund - Community Capacity Building (NHB)	-	(250)	(250)
16 Transfers from Reserves - earmarked	(82)	(82)	-
17 New Homes Bonus to balance budget	(110)	(267)	(157)
18 Deficit / (Surplus) on Collection fund	(120)	(89)	31
19 Revenue Support Grant (RSG)	(918)	(371)	547
20 Baseline business rates	(2,081)	(2,124)	(42)
21 Business rates – growth/pooling benefit	(79)	(79)	-
22 Transition Grant	(39)	(39)	0
23 Rural Services Support Grant	(430)	(347)	82
24 Council Tax	(5,632)	(5,796)	(165)
Total Funding	(11,919)	(9,934)	1,985
25 Shortfall in funding / (Surplus Funds)	-	-	-

Council Tax Base	-35,336	(35,786)	(450)
Council Tax for Band D Property	159.36	161.97	2.61
Council Tax	(5,632)	(5,796)	(164)

Movement of Service Cost budget year on year

Appendix B

MID SUFFOLK - MOVEMENT YEAR ON YEAR	16/17 to 17/18 £000
Net Service Cost previous year	11,918
Cost Pressures	
<u>Inflation</u>	
Employees	85
Contracts	66
Premises	2
Supplies & Services	5
Other	1
<u>Financially Sustainable Councils</u>	
Employee costs including increments	406
Pension fund deficit (1% increase for the next 3 years)	54
Insurance Premiums	36
Business Rates	32
Sub total cost pressure	687
<u>Other increases to net service cost</u>	
<u>Agree where growth goes</u>	
Strategic Planning	24
<u>Communities embrace new homes growth</u>	
Development Management - (net) fee income plus legal and consultancy fees	73
<u>Digital by Design</u>	
ICT & Information Management - change to Suffolk County Council contract	35
Organisational Development - transfer of Payroll services to Suffolk County Council	14
<u>Environment</u>	
Car Parks - income shortfall	80
<u>Financially Sustainable Councils</u>	
Revenues and Benefits - adjustment to bad debt provision	91
VAT, District Valuers and Treasury Management consultancy	22
Shared Legal Team	21
Modern Apprenticeship Levy	15
Senior Leadership Team - corporate subscriptions	12
Banking Charges	10
Other changes	12
<u>Strengthened and clear governance to enable delivery</u>	
Members Allowances - Special Responsibility Allowance	15
<u>Targeted grants and funding to support Community Capacity Building</u>	250
<u>Leisure</u>	
Leisure Contract	28
Sub total other increases to net service cost	702
<u>Actions to offset increases to net service cost</u>	
Inflation - income	(21)
Removal of £2m for Delivery Plan Projects	(2,000)
<u>Engage with and support businesses to thrive</u>	
Open for Business	(15)
<u>Environment</u>	
Public Realm - waste disposal costs	Initiative (104)
<u>Financially Sustainable Councils</u>	
Change to Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)	(222)
Increase in charge to HRA / Capital	(85)
SRP contract reduction	(82)
Accommodation review	Initiative (69)
Other savings - headquarters building	(30)
Removal of grants to Parishes	(45)
Building Control - fee income	(45)
Photocopying costs	(20)
Movement in Reserves (Transfers to)	(11)
Communications	(15)
Increase to Corporate and Democratic Core Charge	(12)
Sustainable Environment including Suffolk Climate Change Partnership	(18)
Other changes	(18)
<u>Property investment to generate income and regenerate local areas</u>	
Investment income (net) Holding Company	Initiative (247)
Investment income (net) Pooled Funds	Initiative (149)
PV panel income - feed in tariff	(87)
<u>Targeted grants and funding to support Community Capacity Building</u>	
Community Grants	(10)
<u>Waste</u>	
Garden and trade waste income	(70)
Sub total actions	(3,373)
Total Net Service Cost movement	(1,984)
New Net Service Cost	9,934

CAPITAL PROGRAMME FOR 2017/18 TO 2020/21**GENERAL FUND**

MID SUFFOLK CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2017/18 - 2020/21	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	TOTAL BUDGET (over 4 years)	Capital Receipts	Reserves	Revenue Contributions	Government Grants	S106	Borrowing	Total Financing
GENERAL FUND	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£000's	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Supported Living												
Mandatory Disabled Facilities Grant	300	300	300	300	1,200				1,076		124	1,200
Discretionary Housing Grants	100	100	100	100	400						400	400
Empty Homes Grant	100	100	100	100	400						400	400
Total Supported Living	500	500	500	500	2,000	0	0	0	1,076	0	924	2,000
Strategic Planning												
Grants for Affordable Housing	250	250	250	250	1,000						1,000	1,000
Total Strategic Planning	250	250	250	250	1,000	0	0	0	0	0	1,000	1,000
Environment and Projects												
Replacement Refuse Freighters - Joint Scheme	170	0	170	170	510						510	510
Recycling Bins	100	100	100	100	400						400	400
Total Environmental Services	270	100	270	270	910	0	0	0	0	0	910	910
Communities and Public Access												
Planned Maintenance / Enhancements - Car Parks	204	162	125	109	599						599	599
Streetcare - Vehicles and Plant Renewals	81	44	44	44	213						213	213
Play Equipment	25	25	25	25	100						100	100
Community Development Grants	189	189	189	189	756						756	756
Total Communities and Public Access	499	420	383	367	1,668	0	0	0	0	0	1,668	1,668
Leisure Contracts												
Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre - structural repairs	43	0	0	0	43						43	43
Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre - roofing	170	440	0	0	610						610	610
Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre - general repairs	200	95	0	0	295						295	295
Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre - car park	120	60	0	0	180						180	180
Stradbroke Pool - general repairs	98	30	35	0	163						163	163
Total Leisure Contracts	631	625	35	0	1,291	0	0	0	0	0	1,291	1,291

CAPITAL PROGRAMME FOR 2017/18 TO 2020/21**GENERAL FUND**

MID SUFFOLK CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2017/18 - 2020/21	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	TOTAL BUDGET (over 4 years)	Capital Receipts	Reserves	Revenue Contributions	Government Grants	S106	Borrowing	Total Financing
GENERAL FUND	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£000's	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Capital Projects												
HQ - Equipment Renewals	20	0	0	0	20						20	20
Planned Maintenance - Corporate Buildings	82	80	80	80	322						322	322
Carbon Reduction	50	50	50	50	200						200	200
Total Capital Projects	152	130	130	130	542	0	0	0	0	0	542	542
Investment and Commercial Delivery												
Open for Business	30	30	30	30	120						120	120
Land assembly, property acquisition and regeneration opportunities	1,925	1,925	1,925	1,925	7,700						7,700	7,700
Total Investment and Commercial Delivery	1,955	1,955	1,955	1,955	7,820	0	0	0	0	0	7,820	7,820
Corporate Resources												
ICT - Hardware / Software costs	763	200	200	200	1,363	95					1,268	1,363
Total Corporate resources	763	200	200	200	1,363	95	0	0	0	0	1,268	1,363
Total General Fund Capital Spend	5,019	4,180	3,723	3,672	16,593	95	0	0	1,076	0	15,423	16,593

CAPITAL PROGRAMME FOR 2017/18 TO 2020/21**HRA**

MID SUFFOLK CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2017/18 - 2020/21	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	TOTAL BUDGET (over 4 years)	Capital Receipts	Reserves	Revenue Contributions	Government Grants	S106	Borrowing	Total Financing
HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£000's	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Capital Projects												
Planned maintenance	3,321	2,891	2,848	2,748	11,808	2,196	2,657	6,955				11,808
ICT Projects	85	0	0	0	85	0	0	85				85
Environmental Improvements	40	40	40	40	160	0	120	40				160
Disabled Facilities work	200	200	200	200	800	49	600	151				800
New build programme inc acquisitions	4,432	4,906	4,916	3,783	18,038	700	14,273	2,950	115			18,038
Total HRA Capital Spend	8,078	8,037	8,004	6,771	30,891	2,945	17,650	10,181	115	0	0	30,891

HRA Business Plan – 2017 to 2022

Year	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
£'000					
Total Income	(15,551)	(15,486)	(15,409)	(15,657)	(15,927)
EXPENDITURE:					
General Management	1,361	1,943	1,992	2,041	2,092
Special Management	1,185	1,214	1,245	1,276	1,308
Other Management	196	65	124	190	265
Bad Debt Provision	111	145	178	181	148
Responsive & Cyclical Repairs	3,394	3,344	3,512	3,688	3,894
Total Revenue Expenditure	6,246	6,712	7,050	7,376	7,707
Interest Paid	3,042	3,164	3,263	3,286	3,277
Interest Received	(27)	(49)	(56)	(46)	(36)
Depreciation	3,407	3,445	3,445	3,445	3,531
Net Operating Income	(2,883)	(2,215)	(1,706)	(1,596)	(1,447)
APPROPRIATIONS:					
Revenue Contribution to Capital	3,597	2,048	2,563	1,973	1,040
Total Appropriations	3,597	2,048	2,563	1,973	1,040
ANNUAL CASHFLOW	714	(167)	857	377	(407)
Opening Balance	(1,812)	(1,099)	(1,265)	(409)	(31)
Closing Balance	(1,098)	(1,265)	(409)	(31)	(438)

Section 25 report on the robustness of estimates and adequacy of reserves

1. Background

- 1.1 Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 requires Councils, when setting its annual General Fund Budget and level of Council Tax, to take account of a report from its Section 151 Officer on the robustness of estimates and adequacy of reserves. This report fulfils that requirement for the setting of the Budget and Council Tax for 2017/18.
- 1.2 This is to ensure that when deciding on its Budget for a financial year, Members are made aware of any issues of risk and uncertainty, or any other concerns by the Chief Financial Officer (CFO). The local authority is also expected to ensure that its budget provides for a prudent level of reserves to be maintained.
- 1.3 The CFO has assessed that the minimum safe contingency level of unearmarked General Fund working balance/general reserve is £1.05m (the same figure as 2016/17).
- 1.4 Section 26 of the Act empowers the Secretary of State to set a minimum level of reserves for which a local authority must provide in setting its budget. Section 26 would only be invoked as a fallback in circumstances in which a local authority does not act prudently, disregards the advice of its CFO and is heading for financial difficulty. The Section 151 Officer and Members, therefore have a responsibility to ensure in considering the Budget that:
- It is realistic and achievable and that appropriate arrangements have been adopted in formulating it
 - It is based on clearly understood and sound assumptions and links to the delivery of the Council's strategic priorities
 - It includes an appropriate statement on the use of reserves and the adequacy of these.

2. Basis of Advice for Section 25 Report

- 2.1 In forming the advice for this year's Section 25 report, the CFO has considered the following:
- The requirement established in the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) to ensure that a safe contingency level of reserves is maintained
 - The degree to which the Council's financial plans are aligned to the Council's statutory obligations, local priorities and policy objectives
 - The adequacy of the information systems underpinning the Council's financial management processes
 - Risks associated with the Council's activities, as identified within the Significant Business Risks Register
 - The level of earmarked reserves and unearmarked reserves within the General Fund and the degree to which uncertainties exist within the proposed 2017/18 budget.

3. Robustness of Estimates

3.1 In terms of the overall approach to financial planning and setting the budget, the following aspects increase confidence in the robustness of estimates:

- Cost pressures and variations in key areas of income and expenditure have been carefully considered and reflected in the Budget
- Key assumptions have been made and updated during the Budget process to reflect the changing economic position and latest information
- Existing and new risks and uncertainties have been identified and carefully considered
- Detailed scrutiny, review and challenge of budgets by finance officers, Assistant Directors and Corporate Managers
- The Scrutiny Committee has reviewed the proposed Budget for 2017/18 and their views are provided with the Budget report.

3.2 No Budget can, however, be completely free from risk and these are still prevalent in the ongoing financial climate. This means that the Budget will always have a certain amount of uncertainty. The following are the main areas identified:

- **Government Funding** - The Council's funding now includes a reliance on business rates income and other 'incentivised' funding such as the New Homes Bonus. Councils currently retain 50% of the business rates that are collected, this will increase to 100% from 2020 along with devolved responsibilities, the details of which are still to be announced. The risks of bad debts and other losses on collection as well as the impact of rating appeals and revaluation from April 2017 may affect the Council's income. An allowance has been made for these, but the actual amount of income could be higher or lower than this. The Council has included the amount reflected in the Government's 'baseline assessment', plus an element from being part of the Suffolk Pool in the 2017/18 Budget, but the actual amount of income could be lower - or higher (High Risk)
- **Welfare Reforms, Benefits and Council Tax Reductions** –The Budget for 2017/18 assumes that current caseloads will continue throughout next year. The impact of the introduction of Universal Credit on the Shared Revenues Partnership workload is still largely unknown. Further roll-out will take place during 2017/18. (Medium Risk)
- **Capital Financing Costs** - These are influenced by variable factors such as cash flow, variations in the capital programme, interest rates, availability of capital receipts and other sources of capital funding and borrowing/financing costs. (Medium Risk)
- **Income** - Whilst the Budget for 2017/18 has been prepared on the basis of trying to ensure that income estimates are realistic and achievable, with specific allowances for increased or reduced income on specific services, it is unknown as to how the economy and customer demand will fare during next year. Income has been included from the Capital Investment Fund following agreement by Council to establish the company structure, but the timing of investments in 2017/18 is still unknown.

The amounts included in the Budget are therefore uncertain and variances may occur. (Medium Risk)

- **Inflation and Other Cost Pressures** – Allowances for inflation have been made on some budgets including major contracts, where there is a contractual requirement to do so. (Low Risk)

3.3 Taking all of the above into consideration, the Section 151 Officer's opinion is that the Council's Budget and estimates are reasonable but cannot be absolutely robust, so a full assurance cannot be given that there will be no unforeseen adverse variances. This is an expected and acceptable situation for any organisation that is dealing with a large number of variables and going through a transformation programme. Also, the general economic situation continues to impact on expenditure and income. Provided that the minimum safe level of reserves is maintained, any variations arising as a result of lack of robustness in the estimates should be manageable.

4 Adequacy of Reserves

4.1 There is no available guidance on the minimum level of reserves that should be maintained. Each authority should determine a prudent level of reserves based upon their own circumstances, risk and uncertainties. Regard has been had to guidance that has been issued to CFO's and the risks and uncertainties faced.

4.2 The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) states that the Council is required to maintain adequate financial reserves to meet the needs of the authority. This is the General Reserve and provides a safe level of contingency.

4.3 The CFO's opinion is that the minimum level of unearmarked reserves should, for the time being, be maintained at the current level of £1.05m without increasing the risk to the Council. This represents 11% of the annual General Fund Budget, which is relatively low compared to a number of councils but is seen as acceptable, so no action is required as part of the 2017/18 Budget. This is partly based on the understanding that there are further sums available in earmarked reserves that will not be fully spent during 2017/18 as set out below.

4.4 Levels of earmarked reserves (excluding those relating to the Housing Revenue Account, but including the Transformation Fund) are forecast to be £11.9m as at 31 March 2018. The level of earmarked reserves as at the 31 March 2018 will depend on the extent to which the New Homes Bonus money that is transferred to the Transformation Fund is spent in 2017/18. The Transformation Fund is supporting the delivery of the Council's Joint Strategic Plan in 2017/18.

5. Background Documents

Local Government Act 2003; Guidance Note on Local Authority Reserves and Balances – CIPFA 2003; Medium Term Financial Strategy

Katherine Steel
Assistant Director, Corporate Resources
(Chief Financial Officer / Section 151 Officer)

Budget, Funding and Council Tax Requirements

1. The precept requirements of Parish / Town Councils must be aggregated with the requirement of this authority to arrive at an average Council Tax figure for the district / parish purposes. This figure however is totally hypothetical and will not be paid by any taxpayer (other than by coincidence). A schedule of the precept requirements from Parish / Town Councils will be reported to Council on 23 February.
2. The County and the Police and Crime Commissioner's precept requirements are added to this.
3. The legally required calculation is set out below:
 - 1) The General Fund Budget requirement for the District Council purposes in 2017/18 will be £161.97, based on an increase to Council Tax of 5p per week for a Band D property which is the equivalent to 1.6%.
 - 2) The County Council precept requirement is £1,183.50 for a Band D property in 2017/18, an increase of 3%.
 - 3) The Police and Crime Commissioner's precept requirement is increasing by 1.97% to £176.85.
 - 4) At the time of preparing this report, not all Parish / Town Councils have supplied formal notification of their 2017/18 precept. These are highlighted in yellow at Appendix F. The final figures will be reported to Council.
4. Mid Suffolk is a billing authority and collects council tax and non-domestic rates on behalf of the other precepting authorities i.e. Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner and Parish / Town Councils. The dates that monies collected are paid over to the County Council, and the Police and Crime Commissioner ("precept dates") need to be formally agreed under Regulation 5(i) of the Local Authorities (Funds) (England) Regulations 1992.
5. Established practice is for payments to be made in 12 equal instalments on the 15th of each month or the next banking day if the 15th falls on a weekend or bank holiday. Accordingly the precept dates applicable for 2017/18 are expected to be as follows:

18 April 2017	15 May 2017	15 June 2017	17 July 2017
15 August 2017	15 September 2017	16 October 2017	15 November 2017
15 December 2017	15 January 2018	15 February 2018	15 March 2018

Budget and Council Tax Resolutions 2017/18

Summary of Budget 2017/18

	2017/18 Budget Requirement £	2017/18 Council Tax at Band D £	2016/17 Budget Requirement £
Mid Suffolk District Council			
General Fund Budget Requirement - District Council Purposes	8,844,995	247.17	9,253,791
Parish/Town Council Precepts (net of Council Tax Support Scheme grant)	2,293,457	64.09	2,269,266
	11,138,452	311.26	11,523,057
Settlement Funding from Government	(2,573,049)	(71.90)	(3,032,842)
Rural Services Delivery Grant	(347,457)	(9.71)	(430,312)
Transition Grant	(39,426)	(1.10)	(39,426)
Collection Fund Surplus	(88,910)	(2.48)	(120,000)
MSDC's basic amount under section 33 of the 1992 Local Government Act	8,089,610	226.06	7,900,477
LESS Parish/Town Council Precepts	(2,293,457)	(64.09)	-2,269,266
Basic amount under s.34 of the 1992 Act for dwellings to which no special items relate	5,796,153	161.97	5,631,211
Suffolk County Council Precept Requirement	42,352,352	1,183.50	40,602,239
Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner's Requirement	6,328,698	176.85	6,128,340
Basic amount for areas where there are no special items.	54,477,203	1,522.32	52,361,790

Council Tax Resolution 2017/18

1. It is a requirement for the billing authority to calculate a council tax requirement for the year as opposed to its budget requirement.
2. It be noted that the Council, as delegated to the Section 151 Officer, calculated the taxbase:
 - a) for the whole Council area as 35,785.78 and,
 - b) for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates as further detailed in Appendix F.
3. The council tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2017/18 (excluding Parish precepts) is £5,796,153
4. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2017/18 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:

a)	53,069,979	Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A)(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils (gross expenditure)
b)	(44,980,368)	Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for items set out in Section 31(A)(3) of the Act (gross income)
c)	8,089,610	Being the amount by which the aggregate at 4(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 4(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its council tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31A(4) of the Act) (net expenditure)
d)	226.06	Being the amount at 4(c) above (item R) all divided by item T (2 above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year (including Parish precepts) (average council tax)
e)	2,293,457	Being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as per Appendix F)
f)	161.97	Being the amount at 4(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 4(e) above by item T (1(a) above) calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precept relates (basic council tax)

5. To note that Suffolk County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in Section 7 below.

6. That the Council in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the table below and further in Appendix F as the amounts of council tax for 2017/18 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.
7. Since Executive Committee on 6 February 2017, the precept levels of other precepting bodies have been received. These are detailed below;

a) **Suffolk County Council**

Suffolk County Council met on 9 February 2017 and set their precept at £42,352,352. This includes an adjustment for the Collection Fund contribution of £456,920 and results in a Band D council tax of £1,183.50.

b) **Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner**

The Police and Crime Commissioner has set their precept at £6,328,698, adjusted by a Collection Fund contribution of £68,965. This results in a Band D council tax of £176.85.

c) **Mid Suffolk District Council**

The General Fund council tax requirement for Mid Suffolk District Council is based on an increase in council tax from £159.36 to £161.97 for a Band D property.

d) **Aggregated council tax requirement**

The aggregated council tax requirement for Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner and Mid Suffolk District Council results in a Band D council tax of £1,522.32.

	Suffolk County Council	Police and Crime Commissioner	Mid Suffolk District Council	Aggregated Council Tax requirement
Valuation Bands	£	£	£	£
A	789.00	117.90	107.98	1,014.88
B	920.50	137.55	125.98	1,184.03
C	1,052.00	157.20	143.97	1,353.17
D	1,183.50	176.85	161.97	1,522.32
E	1,446.50	216.15	197.96	1,860.61
F	1,709.50	255.45	233.96	2,198.91
G	1,972.50	294.75	269.95	2,537.20
H	2,367.00	353.70	323.94	3,044.64

8. The Town and Parish Council Precepts for 2017/18 are detailed further in Appendix F and total £2,293,457. The decrease in the average Band D for Town and Parish Councils is 0.2% and results in an average Band D council tax figure of £64.09 for 2017/18.

Appendix F

Council Taxbase for Parishes and District – 2017/18

Parish	COUNCIL TAX BASE		% Change
	16/17	17/18	
Akenham	21.65	22.22	2.57%
Ashbocking	141.10	143.01	1.34%
Ashfield-cum-Thorpe	94.65	94.30	-0.37%
Aspall	28.14	28.56	1.47%
Athelington	19.43	19.65	1.12%
Bacton	443.49	448.28	1.07%
Badley	33.28	32.61	-2.05%
Badwell Ash	311.34	307.93	-1.11%
Barham	531.07	526.91	-0.79%
Barking	164.69	167.88	1.90%
Battisford	238.68	243.32	1.91%
Baylham	111.81	120.66	7.33%
Bedfield	154.24	159.78	3.47%
Bedingfield	97.20	99.34	2.15%
Beyton	300.90	304.02	1.03%
Botesdale	277.69	275.75	-0.70%
Braiseworth	31.25	31.27	0.06%
Bramford	806.19	828.91	2.74%
Brome and Oakley	200.36	195.25	-2.62%
Brundish	74.07	73.57	-0.68%
Burgate	68.03	69.99	2.80%
Buxhall	164.67	162.74	-1.19%
Claydon	744.23	748.68	0.59%
Coddenham	262.43	270.85	3.11%
Combs	301.79	303.03	0.41%
Cotton	231.18	231.11	-0.03%
Creeting St Mary	285.57	287.69	0.74%
Creeting St Peter	102.14	103.15	0.98%
Crowfield	155.44	160.60	3.21%
Darmsden	17.44	17.44	0.00%
Debenham	779.58	784.91	0.68%
Denham	74.80	75.71	1.20%
Drinkstone	277.16	279.27	0.76%
Earl Stonham	249.48	252.40	1.16%
Elmswell	1,350.93	1,349.16	-0.13%
Eye	781.84	786.86	0.64%
Felsham	169.77	175.79	3.42%
Finningham	200.94	197.05	-1.97%
Flowton	48.39	48.28	-0.23%
Framsden	139.03	140.85	1.29%
Fressingfield	426.81	418.92	-1.88%
Gedding	50.41	50.31	-0.20%
Gipping	25.93	25.93	0.00%
Gislingham	404.91	420.52	3.71%
Gosbeck	82.37	85.19	3.31%
Great Ashfield	148.71	150.94	1.48%
Great Blakenham	504.44	624.64	19.24%
Great Bricett	195.43	200.00	2.29%
Great Finborough	302.93	309.39	2.09%
Harleston	62.64	61.89	-1.21%
Haughley	569.50	582.82	2.29%
Helmingham	66.29	66.49	0.30%
Hemingstone	94.14	95.79	1.72%
Henley	229.06	230.89	0.79%
Hessett	202.13	200.77	-0.68%
Hinderclay	121.95	121.17	-0.64%
Horham	120.99	120.16	-0.69%
Hoxne	353.65	359.47	1.62%
Hunston	55.18	55.44	0.47%
Kenton	91.69	96.11	4.60%
Langham	40.29	41.98	4.03%
Laxfield	354.61	354.88	0.08%

Parish	COUNCIL TAX BASE		% Change
	16/17	17/18	
Little Blakenham	106.20	108.57	2.18%
Little Finborough	25.04	26.23	4.54%
Mellis	200.42	200.18	-0.12%
Mendham	175.99	172.68	-1.92%
Mendlesham	504.35	511.05	1.31%
Metfield	169.76	174.11	2.50%
Mickfield	86.37	88.29	2.17%
Monk Soham	73.67	73.15	-0.71%
Needham Market	1,496.63	1,508.65	0.80%
Nettlestead	40.43	40.09	-0.85%
Norton	388.82	399.82	2.75%
Occold	190.17	195.22	2.59%
Offton	150.57	153.07	1.63%
Old Newton with Dagworth	417.76	418.16	0.10%
Onehouse	277.45	276.50	-0.34%
Palgrave	355.11	351.03	-1.16%
Pettaugh	86.59	89.68	3.45%
Rattlesden	373.32	374.85	0.41%
Redgrave	255.67	257.93	0.88%
Redlingfield	51.55	51.96	0.79%
Rickinghall Inferior	159.77	158.07	-1.08%
Rickinghall Superior	312.34	319.19	2.15%
Ringshall	240.61	244.39	1.55%
Rishangles	37.14	37.07	-0.19%
Shelland	25.32	23.97	-5.63%
Somersham	243.88	243.31	-0.23%
Southolt	28.56	29.48	3.12%
Stoke Ash	81.09	81.16	0.09%
Stonham Aspal	236.58	240.86	1.78%
Stonham Parva	134.60	136.80	1.61%
Stowlangtoft	81.98	87.24	6.03%
Stowmarket	6,279.56	6,343.12	1.00%
Stowupland	652.71	646.82	-0.91%
Stradbroke	538.56	546.31	1.42%
Stuston	84.04	86.53	2.88%
Syleham	95.22	95.01	-0.22%
Tannington	39.71	40.79	2.65%
Thorndon	292.48	294.76	0.77%
Thornham Magna	79.52	80.46	1.17%
Thornham Parva	27.75	27.58	-0.62%
Thrandeston	70.35	72.64	3.15%
Thurston	1,197.97	1,203.56	0.46%
Thwaite	62.27	61.65	-1.01%
Tostock	193.91	191.12	-1.46%
Walsham-le-Willows	463.91	471.58	1.63%
Wattisfield	191.30	192.78	0.77%
Westhorpe	80.10	80.14	0.05%
Wetherden	235.22	237.27	0.86%
Wetheringsett-cum-Brockford	266.30	269.36	1.14%
Weybread	172.80	176.34	2.01%
Whitton	23.48	24.76	5.17%
Wickham Skeith	136.18	133.43	-2.06%
Wilby	125.86	126.97	0.87%
Willisham	101.60	100.63	-0.96%
Wingfield	147.82	144.01	-2.65%
Winston	66.93	66.90	-0.04%
Woolpit	757.45	784.83	3.49%
Worlingworth	301.94	306.97	1.64%
Worham	318.11	328.00	3.02%
Wyverstone	134.24	133.32	-0.69%
Yaxley	200.94	202.90	0.97%
	35,336.10	35,785.78	1.26%

Appendix F

Precepts and Council Tax Band D for Parishes

Parish	2016/17 Parish Precept	Tax Base	Council Tax Band D	2017/18 Parish Precept	Tax Base	Council Tax Band D	Increase / Decrease (-)
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Akenham	-	21.65	-	-	22.22	-	0.00
Ashbocking	1,800.00	141.10	12.76	1,836.00	143.01	12.84	0.08
Ashfield-cum-Thorpe	1,700.00	94.65	17.96	1,700.00	94.30	18.03	0.07
Aspall	-	28.14	-	-	28.56	-	0.00
Athelington	179.88	19.43	9.26	182.71	19.65	9.30	0.04
Bacton	20,803.00	443.49	46.91	21,452.00	448.28	47.85	0.95
Badley	-	33.28	-	-	32.61	-	0.00
Badwell Ash	12,891.90	311.34	41.41	14,181.00	307.93	46.05	4.64
Barham	24,208.00	531.07	45.58	24,692.00	526.91	46.86	1.28
Barking	8,488.00	164.69	51.54	8,688.00	167.88	51.75	0.21
Battisford	10,325.00	238.68	43.26	10,725.00	243.32	44.08	0.82
Baylham	-	111.81	-	-	120.66	-	0.00
Bedfield	3,000.00	154.24	19.45	3,000.00	159.78	18.78	-0.67
Bedingfield	1,420.00	97.20	14.61	1,420.00	99.34	14.29	-0.31
Beyton	9,370.00	300.90	31.14	11,336.00	304.02	37.29	6.15
Botesdale	24,000.00	277.69	86.43	27,500.00	275.75	99.73	13.30
Braiseworth	-	31.25	-	-	31.27	-	0.00
Bramford	63,166.00	806.19	78.35	64,935.00	828.91	78.34	-0.01
Brome and Oakley	6,500.00	200.36	32.44	6,630.00	195.25	33.96	1.51
Brundish	3,483.67	74.07	47.03	3,518.51	73.57	47.83	0.79
Burgate	2,818.87	68.03	41.44	2,813.74	69.99	40.20	-1.23
Buxhall	3,931.00	164.67	23.87	4,002.00	162.74	24.59	0.72
Claydon	41,108.07	744.23	55.24	42,121.96	748.68	56.26	1.03
Coddenham	50,000.00	262.43	190.53	56,622.00	270.85	209.05	18.53
Combs	6,850.00	301.79	22.70	6,850.00	303.03	22.61	-0.09
Cotton	5,700.00	231.18	24.66	6,000.00	231.11	25.96	1.31
Creeting St Mary	8,700.00	285.57	30.47	9,000.00	287.69	31.28	0.82
Creeting St Peter	4,870.00	102.14	47.68	4,900.00	103.15	47.50	-0.18
Crowfield	2,500.00	155.44	16.08	2,600.00	160.60	16.19	0.11
Darmsden	-	17.44	-	-	17.44	-	0.00
Debenham	66,219.00	779.58	84.94	68,868.00	784.91	87.74	2.80
Denham	2,403.00	74.80	32.13	2,800.00	75.71	36.98	4.86
Drinkstone	4,562.00	277.16	16.46	4,823.00	279.27	17.27	0.81
Earl Stonham	5,850.00	249.48	23.45	6,037.16	252.40	23.92	0.00
Elmswell	112,606.00	1,350.93	83.35	116,837.00	1,349.16	86.60	3.25
Eye	77,058.15	781.84	98.56	79,103.98	786.86	100.53	1.97
Felsham	5,763.00	169.77	33.95	6,162.00	175.79	35.05	1.11
Finningham	6,500.00	200.94	32.35	6,695.00	197.05	33.98	1.63
Flowton	-	48.39	-	-	48.28	-	0.00
Framsden	6,200.00	139.03	44.59	9,200.00	140.85	65.32	20.72
Fressingfield	15,750.00	426.81	36.90	18,755.00	418.92	44.77	7.87
Gedding	1,000.00	50.41	19.84	1,000.00	50.31	19.88	0.04
Gipping	1,160.36	25.93	44.75	1,332.15	25.93	51.37	6.63
Gislingham	14,286.00	404.91	35.28	14,460.00	420.52	34.39	-0.90
Gosbeck	1,000.00	82.37	12.14	1,000.00	85.19	11.74	-0.40
Great Ashfield	1,890.00	148.71	12.71	1,890.00	150.94	12.52	-0.19
Great Blakenham	30,995.00	504.44	61.44	39,000.00	624.64	62.44	0.99
Great Bricett	9,500.00	195.43	48.61	9,750.00	200.00	48.75	0.14
Great Finborough	9,610.00	302.93	31.72	10,586.00	309.39	34.22	2.49
Harleston	1,628.00	62.64	25.99	1,700.00	61.89	27.47	1.48
Haughley	43,298.00	569.50	76.03	44,813.00	582.82	76.89	0.86
Helmingham	2,400.00	66.29	36.20	3,150.00	66.49	47.38	11.17
Hemingstone	2,000.00	94.14	21.24	2,000.00	95.79	20.88	-0.37
Henley	12,111.00	229.06	52.87	12,111.00	230.89	52.45	-0.42
Hessett	8,500.00	202.13	42.05	8,900.00	200.77	44.33	2.28
Hinderclay	4,500.00	121.95	36.90	4,500.00	121.17	37.14	0.24
Horham	1,120.12	120.99	9.26	1,117.29	120.16	9.30	0.04
Hoxne	14,790.00	353.65	41.82	15,085.00	359.47	41.96	0.14
Hunston	-	55.18	-	-	55.44	-	0.00
Kenton	-	91.69	-	-	96.11	-	0.00
Langham	-	40.29	-	-	41.98	-	0.00
Laxfield	39,500.00	354.61	111.39	39,500.00	354.88	111.31	-0.08
Little Blakenham	5,250.00	106.20	49.44	5,500.00	108.57	50.66	1.22
Little Finborough	-	25.04	-	-	26.23	-	0.00

Appendix F

Precepts and Council Tax Band D for Parishes

Parish	2016/17 Parish Precept	Tax Base	Council Tax Band D	2016/17 Parish Precept	Tax Base	Council Tax Band D	Increase / Decrease (-)
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Mellis	6,300.00	200.42	31.43	6,500.00	200.18	32.47	1.04
Mendham	6,000.00	175.99	34.09	6,000.00	172.68	34.75	0.65
Mendlesham	34,500.00	504.35	68.40	35,000.00	511.05	68.49	0.08
Metfield	5,250.00	169.76	30.93	5,250.00	174.11	30.15	-0.77
Mickfield	3,630.00	86.37	42.03	4,200.00	88.29	47.57	5.54
Monk Soham	1,500.00	73.67	20.36	1,500.00	73.15	20.51	0.14
Needham Market	98,530.00	1,496.63	65.83	-	1,508.65	-	-65.83
Nettlestead	1,962.25	40.43	48.53	-	40.09	-	-48.53
Norton	20,000.00	388.82	51.44	20,000.00	399.82	50.02	-1.42
Occold	7,000.00	190.17	36.81	7,000.00	195.22	35.86	-0.95
Offton	5,044.87	150.57	33.51	5,128.48	153.07	33.50	-0.00
Old Newton with Dagworth	18,694.64	417.76	44.75	21,477.85	418.16	51.36	6.61
Onehouse	12,785.00	277.45	46.08	12,800.00	276.50	46.29	0.21
Palgrave	13,900.00	355.11	39.14	14,595.00	351.03	41.58	2.43
Pettaugh	1,750.00	86.59	20.21	1,750.00	89.68	19.51	-0.70
Rattlesden	9,632.00	373.32	25.80	10,046.00	374.85	26.80	1.00
Redgrave	10,258.00	255.67	40.12	10,580.00	257.93	41.02	0.90
Redlingfield	-	51.55	-	-	51.96	-	0.00
Rickinghall Inferior	6,373.74	159.77	39.89	6,753.23	158.07	42.72	2.83
Rickinghall Superior	12,460.26	312.34	39.89	13,636.77	319.19	42.72	2.83
Ringshall	6,600.00	240.61	27.43	6,600.00	244.39	27.01	-0.42
Rishangles	-	37.14	-	-	37.07	-	0.00
Shelland	100.00	25.32	3.95	100.00	23.97	4.17	0.22
Somersham	13,710.00	243.88	56.22	14,465.00	243.31	59.45	3.23
Southolt	-	28.56	-	-	29.48	-	0.00
Stoke Ash	2,262.56	81.09	27.90	2,391.44	81.16	29.47	1.56
Stonham Aspal	6,000.00	236.58	25.36	7,000.00	240.86	29.06	3.70
Stonham Parva	6,976.83	134.60	51.83	6,500.00	136.80	47.51	-4.32
Stowlangtoft	1,650.00	81.98	20.13	3,300.00	87.24	37.83	17.70
Stowmarket	832,500.11	6,279.56	132.57	884,654.62	6,343.12	139.47	6.89
Stowupland	32,600.00	652.71	49.95	32,600.00	646.82	50.40	0.45
Stradbroke	29,967.00	538.56	55.64	31,480.00	546.31	57.62	1.98
Stuston	-	84.04	-	-	86.53	-	0.00
Syleham	1,500.00	95.22	15.75	1,515.00	95.01	15.95	0.19
Tannington	-	39.71	-	-	40.79	-	0.00
Thorndon	12,500.00	292.48	42.74	12,500.00	294.76	42.41	-0.33
Thornham Magna	759.00	79.52	9.54	774.00	80.46	9.62	0.07
Thornham Parva	300.00	27.75	10.81	300.00	27.58	10.88	0.07
Thrandeston	2,400.00	70.35	34.12	2,600.00	72.64	35.79	1.68
Thurston	80,582.83	1,197.97	67.27	90,959.00	1,203.56	75.57	8.31
Thwaite	1,737.44	62.27	27.90	1,816.56	61.65	29.47	1.56
Tostock	7,848.17	193.91	40.47	7,735.00	191.12	40.47	-0.00
Walsham-le-Willows	19,550.00	463.91	42.14	20,100.00	471.58	42.62	0.48
Wattisfield	5,500.00	191.30	28.75	6,050.00	192.78	31.38	2.63
Westhorpe	1,600.00	80.10	19.98	1,600.00	80.14	19.97	-0.01
Wetherden	11,923.00	235.22	50.69	12,164.83	237.27	51.27	0.58
Wetheringsett-cum-Brockford	8,170.00	266.30	30.68	8,510.00	269.36	31.59	0.91
Weybread	4,237.50	172.80	24.52	4,300.00	176.34	24.38	-0.14
Whitton	1,296.93	23.48	55.24	1,393.04	24.76	56.26	1.03
Wickham Skeith	2,200.00	136.18	16.16	2,400.00	133.43	17.99	1.83
Wilby	3,500.00	125.86	27.81	3,500.00	126.97	27.57	-0.24
Willisham	3,404.13	101.60	33.51	3,371.52	100.63	33.50	-0.00
Wingfield	4,259.00	147.82	28.81	4,315.00	144.01	29.96	1.15
Winston	600.00	66.93	8.96	600.00	66.90	8.97	0.00
Woolpit	28,000.00	757.45	36.97	28,000.00	784.83	35.68	-1.29
Worlingworth	12,707.00	301.94	42.08	12,707.00	306.97	41.39	-0.69
Wortham	13,181.13	318.11	41.44	13,186.26	328.00	40.20	-1.23
Wyerstone	3,060.00	134.24	22.79	3,120.00	133.32	23.40	0.61
Yaxley	5,250.00	200.94	26.13	5,250.00	202.90	25.87	-0.25
Total	2,269,266.41	35,336.10	64.22	2,293,457.10	35,785.78	64.09	-0.13

Precept for each banding by Parish

	Valuation Bands							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Mid Suffolk District Council	107.98	125.98	143.97	161.97	197.96	233.96	269.95	323.94
Suffolk County Council	789.00	920.50	1,052.00	1,183.50	1,446.50	1,709.50	1,972.50	2,367.00
Police and Crime Commissioner	117.90	137.55	157.20	176.85	216.15	255.45	294.75	353.70
Aggregate of Council Tax Requirements	1,014.88	1,184.03	1,353.17	1,522.32	1,860.61	2,198.91	2,537.20	3,044.64
Parish	Total Amount of Council Tax for 2017/18							
	6/9 ths	7/9 ths	8/9 ths		11/9 ths	13/9 ths	15/9 ths	18/9 ths
	Band A £	Band B £	Band C £	Band D £	Band E £	Band F £	Band G £	Band H £
Akenham	1,014.88	1,184.03	1,353.17	1,522.32	1,860.61	2,198.91	2,537.20	3,044.64
Ashbocking	1,023.44	1,194.01	1,364.59	1,535.16	1,876.31	2,217.45	2,558.60	3,070.32
Ashfield-cum-Thorpe	1,026.90	1,198.05	1,369.20	1,540.35	1,882.65	2,224.95	2,567.25	3,080.70
Aspall	1,014.88	1,184.03	1,353.17	1,522.32	1,860.61	2,198.91	2,537.20	3,044.64
Athelington	1,021.08	1,191.26	1,361.44	1,531.62	1,871.98	2,212.34	2,552.70	3,063.24
Bacton	1,046.78	1,221.24	1,395.71	1,570.17	1,919.10	2,268.02	2,616.95	3,140.34
Badley	1,014.88	1,184.03	1,353.17	1,522.32	1,860.61	2,198.91	2,537.20	3,044.64
Badwell Ash	1,045.58	1,219.84	1,394.11	1,568.37	1,916.90	2,265.42	2,613.95	3,136.74
Barham	1,046.12	1,220.47	1,394.83	1,569.18	1,917.89	2,266.59	2,615.30	3,138.36
Barking	1,049.38	1,224.28	1,399.17	1,574.07	1,923.86	2,273.66	2,623.45	3,148.14
Battisford	1,044.27	1,218.31	1,392.36	1,566.40	1,914.49	2,262.58	2,610.67	3,132.80
Baylham	1,014.88	1,184.03	1,353.17	1,522.32	1,860.61	2,198.91	2,537.20	3,044.64
Bedfield	1,027.40	1,198.63	1,369.87	1,541.10	1,883.57	2,226.03	2,568.50	3,082.20
Bedingfield	1,024.41	1,195.14	1,365.88	1,536.61	1,878.08	2,219.55	2,561.02	3,073.22
Beyton	1,039.74	1,213.03	1,386.32	1,559.61	1,906.19	2,252.77	2,599.35	3,119.22
Botesdale	1,081.37	1,261.59	1,441.82	1,622.05	1,982.51	2,342.96	2,703.42	3,244.10
Braiseworth	1,014.88	1,184.03	1,353.17	1,522.32	1,860.61	2,198.91	2,537.20	3,044.64
Bramford	1,067.11	1,244.96	1,422.81	1,600.66	1,956.36	2,312.06	2,667.77	3,201.32
Brome and Oakley	1,037.52	1,210.44	1,383.36	1,556.28	1,902.12	2,247.96	2,593.80	3,112.56
Brundish	1,046.77	1,221.23	1,395.69	1,570.15	1,919.07	2,267.99	2,616.92	3,140.30
Burgate	1,041.68	1,215.29	1,388.91	1,562.52	1,909.75	2,256.97	2,604.20	3,125.04
Buxhall	1,031.27	1,203.15	1,375.03	1,546.91	1,890.67	2,234.43	2,578.18	3,093.82
Claydon	1,052.39	1,227.78	1,403.18	1,578.58	1,929.38	2,280.17	2,630.97	3,157.16
Coddenham	1,154.25	1,346.62	1,539.00	1,731.37	2,116.12	2,500.87	2,885.62	3,462.74
Combs	1,029.95	1,201.61	1,373.27	1,544.93	1,888.25	2,231.57	2,574.88	3,089.86
Cotton	1,032.19	1,204.22	1,376.25	1,548.28	1,892.34	2,236.40	2,580.47	3,096.56
Creting St Mary	1,035.73	1,208.36	1,380.98	1,553.60	1,898.84	2,244.09	2,589.33	3,107.20
Creting St Peter	1,046.55	1,220.97	1,395.40	1,569.82	1,918.67	2,267.52	2,616.37	3,139.64
Crowfield	1,025.67	1,196.62	1,367.56	1,538.51	1,880.40	2,222.29	2,564.18	3,077.02
Darmsden	1,014.88	1,184.03	1,353.17	1,522.32	1,860.61	2,198.91	2,537.20	3,044.64
Debenham	1,073.37	1,252.27	1,431.16	1,610.06	1,967.85	2,325.64	2,683.43	3,220.12
Denham	1,039.53	1,212.79	1,386.04	1,559.30	1,905.81	2,252.32	2,598.83	3,118.60
Drinkstone	1,026.39	1,197.46	1,368.52	1,539.59	1,881.72	2,223.85	2,565.98	3,079.18
Earl Stonham	1,030.83	1,202.63	1,374.44	1,546.24	1,889.85	2,233.46	2,577.07	3,092.48
Elmswell	1,072.61	1,251.38	1,430.15	1,608.92	1,966.46	2,324.00	2,681.53	3,217.84
Eye	1,081.90	1,262.22	1,442.53	1,622.85	1,983.48	2,344.12	2,704.75	3,245.70
Felsham	1,038.25	1,211.29	1,384.33	1,557.37	1,903.45	2,249.53	2,595.62	3,114.74
Finningham	1,037.53	1,210.46	1,383.38	1,556.30	1,902.14	2,247.99	2,593.83	3,112.60

Appendix F

Precept for each banding by Parish

	Valuation Bands							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Mid Suffolk District Council	107.98	125.98	143.97	161.97	197.96	233.96	269.95	323.94
Suffolk County Council	789.00	920.50	1,052.00	1,183.50	1,446.50	1,709.50	1,972.50	2,367.00
Police and Crime Commissioner	117.90	137.55	157.20	176.85	216.15	255.45	294.75	353.70
Aggregate of Council Tax Requirements	1,014.88	1,184.03	1,353.17	1,522.32	1,860.61	2,198.91	2,537.20	3,044.64
Flowton	1,014.88	1,184.03	1,353.17	1,522.32	1,860.61	2,198.91	2,537.20	3,044.64
Framsden	1,058.43	1,234.83	1,411.24	1,587.64	1,940.45	2,293.26	2,646.07	3,175.28
Fressingfield	1,044.73	1,218.85	1,392.97	1,567.09	1,915.33	2,263.57	2,611.82	3,134.18
Gedding	1,028.13	1,199.49	1,370.84	1,542.20	1,884.91	2,227.62	2,570.33	3,084.40
Gipping	1,049.13	1,223.98	1,398.84	1,573.69	1,923.40	2,273.11	2,622.82	3,147.38
Gislingham	1,037.81	1,210.77	1,383.74	1,556.71	1,902.65	2,248.58	2,594.52	3,113.42
Gosbeck	1,022.71	1,193.16	1,363.61	1,534.06	1,874.96	2,215.86	2,556.77	3,068.12
Great Ashfield	1,023.23	1,193.76	1,364.30	1,534.84	1,875.92	2,216.99	2,558.07	3,069.68
Great Blakenham	1,056.51	1,232.59	1,408.68	1,584.76	1,936.93	2,289.10	2,641.27	3,169.52
Great Bricett	1,047.38	1,221.94	1,396.51	1,571.07	1,920.20	2,269.32	2,618.45	3,142.14
Great Finborough	1,037.69	1,210.64	1,383.59	1,556.54	1,902.44	2,248.34	2,594.23	3,113.08
Harleston	1,033.19	1,205.39	1,377.59	1,549.79	1,894.19	2,238.59	2,582.98	3,099.58
Haughley	1,066.14	1,243.83	1,421.52	1,599.21	1,954.59	2,309.97	2,665.35	3,198.42
Helmingham	1,046.47	1,220.88	1,395.29	1,569.70	1,918.52	2,267.34	2,616.17	3,139.40
Hemingstone	1,028.80	1,200.27	1,371.73	1,543.20	1,886.13	2,229.07	2,572.00	3,086.40
Henley	1,049.85	1,224.82	1,399.80	1,574.77	1,924.72	2,274.67	2,624.62	3,149.54
Hessett	1,044.43	1,218.51	1,392.58	1,566.65	1,914.79	2,262.94	2,611.08	3,133.30
Hinderclay	1,039.64	1,212.91	1,386.19	1,559.46	1,906.01	2,252.55	2,599.10	3,118.92
Horham	1,021.08	1,191.26	1,361.44	1,531.62	1,871.98	2,212.34	2,552.70	3,063.24
Hoxne	1,042.85	1,216.66	1,390.47	1,564.28	1,911.90	2,259.52	2,607.13	3,128.56
Hunston	1,014.88	1,184.03	1,353.17	1,522.32	1,860.61	2,198.91	2,537.20	3,044.64
Kenton	1,014.88	1,184.03	1,353.17	1,522.32	1,860.61	2,198.91	2,537.20	3,044.64
Langham	1,014.88	1,184.03	1,353.17	1,522.32	1,860.61	2,198.91	2,537.20	3,044.64
Laxfield	1,089.09	1,270.60	1,452.12	1,633.63	1,996.66	2,359.69	2,722.72	3,267.26
Little Blakenham	1,048.65	1,223.43	1,398.20	1,572.98	1,922.53	2,272.08	2,621.63	3,145.96
Little Finborough	1,014.88	1,184.03	1,353.17	1,522.32	1,860.61	2,198.91	2,537.20	3,044.64
Mellis	1,036.53	1,209.28	1,382.04	1,554.79	1,900.30	2,245.81	2,591.32	3,109.58
Mendham	1,038.05	1,211.05	1,384.06	1,557.07	1,903.09	2,249.10	2,595.12	3,114.14
Mendlesham	1,060.54	1,237.30	1,414.05	1,590.81	1,944.32	2,297.84	2,651.35	3,181.62
Metfield	1,034.98	1,207.48	1,379.97	1,552.47	1,897.46	2,242.46	2,587.45	3,104.94
Mickfield	1,046.59	1,221.03	1,395.46	1,569.89	1,918.75	2,267.62	2,616.48	3,139.78
Monk Soham	1,028.55	1,199.98	1,371.40	1,542.83	1,885.68	2,228.53	2,571.38	3,085.66
Needham Market	1,014.88	1,184.03	1,353.17	1,522.32	1,860.61	2,198.91	2,537.20	3,044.64
Nettlestead	1,014.88	1,184.03	1,353.17	1,522.32	1,860.61	2,198.91	2,537.20	3,044.64
Norton	1,048.23	1,222.93	1,397.64	1,572.34	1,921.75	2,271.16	2,620.57	3,144.68
Occold	1,038.79	1,211.92	1,385.05	1,558.18	1,904.44	2,250.70	2,596.97	3,116.36
Offton	1,037.21	1,210.08	1,382.95	1,555.82	1,901.56	2,247.30	2,593.03	3,111.64
Old Newton with Dagworth	1,049.13	1,223.98	1,398.84	1,573.69	1,923.40	2,273.11	2,622.82	3,147.38
Onehouse	1,045.74	1,220.03	1,394.32	1,568.61	1,917.19	2,265.77	2,614.35	3,137.22
Palgrave	1,042.60	1,216.37	1,390.13	1,563.90	1,911.43	2,258.97	2,606.50	3,127.80
Pettaugh	1,027.89	1,199.20	1,370.52	1,541.83	1,884.46	2,227.09	2,569.72	3,083.66
Rattlesden	1,032.75	1,204.87	1,377.00	1,549.12	1,893.37	2,237.62	2,581.87	3,098.24
Redgrave	1,042.23	1,215.93	1,389.64	1,563.34	1,910.75	2,258.16	2,605.57	3,126.68
Redlingfield	1,014.88	1,184.03	1,353.17	1,522.32	1,860.61	2,198.91	2,537.20	3,044.64
Rickinghall Inferior	1,043.36	1,217.25	1,391.15	1,565.04	1,912.83	2,260.61	2,608.40	3,130.08
Rickinghall Superior	1,043.36	1,217.25	1,391.15	1,565.04	1,912.83	2,260.61	2,608.40	3,130.08
Ringshall	1,032.89	1,205.03	1,377.18	1,549.33	1,893.63	2,237.92	2,582.22	3,098.66
Rishangles	1,014.88	1,184.03	1,353.17	1,522.32	1,860.61	2,198.91	2,537.20	3,044.64
Shelland	1,017.66	1,187.27	1,356.88	1,526.49	1,865.71	2,204.93	2,544.15	3,052.98
Somersham	1,054.51	1,230.27	1,406.02	1,581.77	1,933.27	2,284.78	2,636.28	3,163.54
Southolt	1,014.88	1,184.03	1,353.17	1,522.32	1,860.61	2,198.91	2,537.20	3,044.64
Stoke Ash	1,034.53	1,206.95	1,379.37	1,551.79	1,896.63	2,241.47	2,586.32	3,103.58
Stonham Aspal	1,034.25	1,206.63	1,379.00	1,551.38	1,896.13	2,240.88	2,585.63	3,102.76
Stonham Parva	1,046.55	1,220.98	1,395.40	1,569.83	1,918.68	2,267.53	2,616.38	3,139.66
Stowlangtoft	1,040.10	1,213.45	1,386.80	1,560.15	1,906.85	2,253.55	2,600.25	3,120.30

Precept for each banding by Parish

	Valuation Bands							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Mid Suffolk District Council	107.98	125.98	143.97	161.97	197.96	233.96	269.95	323.94
Suffolk County Council	789.00	920.50	1,052.00	1,183.50	1,446.50	1,709.50	1,972.50	2,367.00
Police and Crime Commissioner	117.90	137.55	157.20	176.85	216.15	255.45	294.75	353.70
Aggregate of Council Tax Requirements	1,014.88	1,184.03	1,353.17	1,522.32	1,860.61	2,198.91	2,537.20	3,044.64
Stowmarket	1,107.86	1,292.50	1,477.15	1,661.79	2,031.08	2,400.36	2,769.65	3,323.58
Stowupland	1,048.48	1,223.23	1,397.97	1,572.72	1,922.21	2,271.71	2,621.20	3,145.44
Stradbroke	1,053.29	1,228.84	1,404.39	1,579.94	1,931.04	2,282.14	2,633.23	3,159.88
Stuston	1,014.88	1,184.03	1,353.17	1,522.32	1,860.61	2,198.91	2,537.20	3,044.64
Syleham	1,025.51	1,196.43	1,367.35	1,538.27	1,880.11	2,221.95	2,563.78	3,076.54
Tannington	1,014.88	1,184.03	1,353.17	1,522.32	1,860.61	2,198.91	2,537.20	3,044.64
Thorndon	1,043.15	1,217.01	1,390.87	1,564.73	1,912.45	2,260.17	2,607.88	3,129.46
Thornham Magna	1,021.29	1,191.51	1,361.72	1,531.94	1,872.37	2,212.80	2,553.23	3,063.88
Thornham Parva	1,022.13	1,192.49	1,362.84	1,533.20	1,873.91	2,214.62	2,555.33	3,066.40
Thrandeston	1,038.74	1,211.86	1,384.99	1,558.11	1,904.36	2,250.60	2,596.85	3,116.22
Thurston	1,065.26	1,242.80	1,420.35	1,597.89	1,952.98	2,308.06	2,663.15	3,195.78
Thwaite	1,034.53	1,206.95	1,379.37	1,551.79	1,896.63	2,241.47	2,586.32	3,103.58
Tostock	1,041.86	1,215.50	1,389.15	1,562.79	1,910.08	2,257.36	2,604.65	3,125.58
Walsham-le-Willows	1,043.29	1,217.18	1,391.06	1,564.94	1,912.70	2,260.47	2,608.23	3,129.88
Wattisfield	1,035.80	1,208.43	1,381.07	1,553.70	1,898.97	2,244.23	2,589.50	3,107.40
Westhorpe	1,028.19	1,199.56	1,370.92	1,542.29	1,885.02	2,227.75	2,570.48	3,084.58
Wetherden	1,049.06	1,223.90	1,398.75	1,573.59	1,923.28	2,272.96	2,622.65	3,147.18
Wetheringsett-cum-Brockford	1,035.94	1,208.60	1,381.25	1,553.91	1,899.22	2,244.54	2,589.85	3,107.82
Weybread	1,031.13	1,202.99	1,374.84	1,546.70	1,890.41	2,234.12	2,577.83	3,093.40
Whitton	1,052.39	1,227.78	1,403.18	1,578.58	1,929.38	2,280.17	2,630.97	3,157.16
Wickham Skeith	1,026.87	1,198.02	1,369.16	1,540.31	1,882.60	2,224.89	2,567.18	3,080.62
Wilby	1,033.26	1,205.47	1,377.68	1,549.89	1,894.31	2,238.73	2,583.15	3,099.78
Willisham	1,037.21	1,210.08	1,382.95	1,555.82	1,901.56	2,247.30	2,593.03	3,111.64
Wingfield	1,034.85	1,207.33	1,379.80	1,552.28	1,897.23	2,242.18	2,587.13	3,104.56
Winston	1,020.86	1,191.00	1,361.15	1,531.29	1,871.58	2,211.86	2,552.15	3,062.58
Woolpit	1,038.67	1,211.78	1,384.89	1,558.00	1,904.22	2,250.44	2,596.67	3,116.00
Worlingworth	1,042.47	1,216.22	1,389.96	1,563.71	1,911.20	2,258.69	2,606.18	3,127.42
Wortham	1,041.68	1,215.29	1,388.91	1,562.52	1,909.75	2,256.97	2,604.20	3,125.04
Wyverstone	1,030.48	1,202.23	1,373.97	1,545.72	1,889.21	2,232.71	2,576.20	3,091.44
Yaxley	1,032.13	1,204.15	1,376.17	1,548.19	1,892.23	2,236.27	2,580.32	3,096.38

10 February 2017

Proposed amendment to Mid Suffolk District Council budget proposals for 2017/18 from the Green Party Group:

As an amendment to the 2017/18 budget *District Councillor Andrew Stringer*, Leader of the Green Group of District Councillors proposes initiatives to:

- Regenerate and enhance our local district town, Stowmarket, making it an inspiring place for residents, visitors and businesses; and use the Trees for Life scheme to link residents with their outdoor spaces;
- Provide greater support for the vulnerable and those with disabilities through changes to community transport, broadband connectivity, better allocation of disability grant funding and the provision of a councillor locality budget;
- Enable the building of new affordable homes, support Community Land Trusts, assist communities in coping with new development and work with them to facilitate housing for those with specialist needs.

Total funding required for all initiatives is £2,880,000 in capital and £382,000 in revenue. It is proposed to fund these initiatives from the New Homes Bonus – funds that have been collected since 2011/12 and by the end of 2017/18 will have totalled £11.06 million, £10.49 million of which is in a reserve called the “Transformation Fund”.

For full details see Attachment 1 attached.

Notes on allocation and spend for Green Group amendment to budget proposals:

Estimated proposed costs:

	Capital £000	Revenue £000	Notes
Stowmarket Regeneration and business support			
- Local history sculpture trail	20	1	1
- Parking review		20	
- Town "gateway" enhancements	50	0	
Trees for life		15	2
Community Transport		30	3
Support for the vulnerable	0	0	4
Broadband connectivity	10	1	5
District Councillor localities budget funding	0	200	6
Building new homes	2,000	70	7
Community Land Trusts	400		8
Community development support	400		9
Specialist housing support		45	10

Explanatory Notes

1. **Regeneration of Stowmarket and business support** – Bring about greater regeneration of Stowmarket, our district town, inspiring visitors to visit, residents to be proud of their town and investors and businesses to see an active, lively town by:
 - a. Developing a sculpture trail through and round the town focusing on local history boosting interest and visits to the town. (As shown with the Pigs Gone Wild in Ipswich which added £1 million to Ipswich's economy in three months) To then be extended to other market towns and large villages as appropriate.;
 - b. Reviewing the parking regime by offering the first 30 minutes free and with one day per week "free after 3" and ensuring parking charges and times are relevant to businesses within the town. (As shown in Bury St Edmunds where this was trialled for a year in 2013 and is still in place.) The boost to town shops and businesses provided by these measures will easily outweigh the cost as has been shown with other Suffolk initiatives.
 - c. Developing "gateway points on the road network into the town, as identified by The Civic Trust report *A vision for Stowmarket*, which would be visually enhanced to give visitors a positive impression of the town as they entered. Based on this a five-year project is proposed investing £50,000 per year in conjunction with infrastructure improvements and housing developments.

2. **A tree for life** – to supply a young fruit tree of a local variety to mark the birth of each child in the District. Trees can be supplied direct to the household or donated to local community orchards or woodlands. (As per Cambridge City Council *Trees for babies* scheme.)

- 3. Community transport** - Provide vouchers for use on Connecting Communities transport to holders of disability or age-related bus passes without the requirement to relinquish their bus pass. To qualify, individuals would have fewer than three buses per week to a market town. Individuals would be granted a maximum number of vouchers per person per year as per the existing Suffolk on Board system. Currently bus pass holders are not able to access community transport without relinquishing their bus passes which makes travel more expensive for them and increases the chances of social exclusion.
- 4. Support for the vulnerable** – Ensure full use of disabled adaptations grants to improve the quality of life of residents with lifelong conditions or disabilities. Conduct a pilot project for two years, funded from existing capital budget which is regularly under-spent, to install equipment similar to the *Safe and Secure* scheme with registered contractors. To be reviewed through existing occupational therapist contract.
- 5. Broadband connectivity** – Ensure all residents of sheltered housing schemes and emergency accommodation have access to broadband via in-house Wi-Fi. This is vital as the Council expects all residents who are in need of social housing, including the homeless, to apply for a home online via the web-based Choice Based Lettings scheme.
- 6. District Councillor localities budget** – As per last year, provide a fund of £200,000 (£5,000 per Councillor) for funding local projects that benefit the community but that have difficulty in getting funding or need an extra boost.
- 7. Building new homes** - Work with developers to unlock sites with existing planning permission that have not been built out. Provide a single point of contact, employing a negotiator-type role to focus on ongoing dialogue with developers to remove obstacles to getting these built out – and to be the first point of contact for future potential developments. To provide funding via a £2 million fund from the £10.4 million available Transformation Fund, to work through ways to get these sites built out.
Currently there are over 2,300 planning permissions in Mid Suffolk district that have been granted but not built. Housing completions are extremely low and new affordable homes are desperately needed in towns and key service areas.
- 8. Community Land Trust for Self-build housing** – The district council supports the creation of Community Land Trusts (CLTs) and will review available land for this purpose and/or help negotiate with landowners for the provision of such land. The Council will also set up a £400,000 fund from which development finance is available to CLTs.
- 9. Community Development Support** – Provide a fund of one year's worth of New Homes Bonus (approximately £400,000 for this year) from which communities who have had housing delivery in their areas can apply. The fund should be used to mitigate the effects of housing development or to improve services needed to go alongside development.
New Homes Bonus is only payable where housing has been delivered and the communities concerned should therefore be able to use this fund in their areas. This is an approach used in many district council areas and communities. (The remaining 80% of New Homes Bonus for that year will be used for district-wide projects.)

10. Specialist Housing Support – Provide a fund for feasibility studies working with local communities to facilitate development of specialist housing for the elderly or those with special housing needs. Ensure this work is joint with Suffolk County Council supporting their health and social care priorities to enable the elderly and vulnerable to stay in their own communities in housing schemes developed sympathetically with those communities.