

REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS AND COUNCIL TAX 2013/14

Submitted by: Executive Director (Resources and Support Services)

Portfolio: Finance and Budget Management

Wards(s) affected: All

Purpose of the Report

This report sets out the recommendations of Cabinet for the Revenue and Capital Budgets for 2013/14 and sets out the recommendations for setting the 2013/14 Council Tax.

Recommendations

That the Council approve the recommendations set out in Appendix 'A'.

1. Background

1.1 This report is the culmination of the 2013/14 budget process, which started before the current 2012/13 budget was set. The Cabinet and the Transformation and Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee (TROSC) have already considered the content of the 2013/14 Budget and the resultant Council Tax which is recommended. At its meeting on 6 February 2013 the Cabinet considered the comments of the TROSC of 24 January. After considering the various comments made the Cabinet recommend an unchanged Council Tax for this Council in 2013/14 of £176.93 (based on Band D), supporting a net Revenue Budget after use of reserves of £14,118,640.

2. General Fund Budget 2012/13 – Projected Out-turn

2.1 Monthly reports monitoring actual spending against budget have shown only small variances throughout the first ten months of the year.

2.2 The major pressure affecting the current budget continues to be that some sources of income (e.g. land charges fees, planning fees, market stall rents, commercial property rents, car parking fees) are yielding less compared to what would be expected to be received. All of these are areas which it was predicted would be affected by the current economic situation when the 2012/13 Budget was set in February 2012 and accordingly an allowance of £200,000 was included in the budget to cover such eventualities. Although this allowance is now insufficient to cover the likely total income shortfall for the year, there are a number of areas where spending is less than budgeted, which, if the trend continues, will to a large extent offset this.

2.3 Taking account of the above factors it appears likely that the outturn for 2012/13 will not differ significantly from the budget.

2.4 There have been a number of notable achievements so far in 2012/13, as set out below:

- Rationalisation of accommodation in the Civic offices to provide the letting space for co-location with key partners (Staffordshire County Council June 2012, and Police October 2012). Frontline police staff now present at the Guildhall and Kidsgrove Town Hall.
- Completion of the first two phases of the public realm work, which included changes to the layout of the bus station, the bus lane on Barracks Road, and entrance to the Ironmarket
- Recruitment of a Town Centres Manager

- 47 affordable housing units completed this year, adding to the programme of planned developments.
- Funding secured from the Health Service, West Midlands Ambulance and Safer Nights to provide a First Aid Triage Hub to support 10 operations as a pilot commencing April 2013.
- Progress with engagement of partners in developing key projects such as Let's Work Together and Troubled Families continues.
- Newcastle was the lead authority for a new postal contract with other local authorities, procured through a procurement framework agreement with anticipated savings per year of approximately £41,000. Overall procurement savings with various contracts identified this year totalling approx. £129,000.
- Recycling & Waste undertook a review of how street sweepings are processed resulting in a saving of approximately £50,000 for the Borough Council and £80,000 for the County Council.
- Street Pastor scheme has 10 volunteers currently being trained and three churches of various faiths signed up to the scheme's Charter and the second phase of the CCTV Volunteer project has seen a further 6 volunteers engaged.
- Successful delivery of the Community Engagement Framework has led to a further expansion this year due to a higher number of volunteer groups and individuals involvements.
- In partnership with other Staffordshire authorities, Newcastle has led a successful funding application for £39,000 from IEWM to support the councils to develop their trade waste and trade recycling services.
- Negotiated a two year price increase freeze with the Council's recycling contractor and also the green and food waste contractor making a saving of £10,000 in this financial year.
- Recycling & Waste has won two awards; Recycling Awareness Campaign 2012 and Best Local Authority 2012 UKAD & Biogas Association.
- Several awards gained by the Operations section; Gold standard in Britain in Bloom for 11th year running, Bronze award at Tatton Park, 9 green flags (highest in Staffordshire and third in West Midlands). Bereavement services gained gold standard in the Charter for the Bereaved.
- Working in partnership with Aspire to improve collection facilities in multi-occupancy properties and all schools now engaged in recycling with the authority.
- Kidsgrove Swimming Pool re-opened in November.
- Throughout July and August over 400 activities, ranging from craft activities, to learn to swim or to own a pony for the day, were promoted as part of the summer holiday programme for young people.
- Progress with consolidation of ICT software to improve efficiencies, reduce costs and make the best use of ICT.
- Customer Service has received the Customer Service Excellence award for the second year running.
- Commissioned projects to be delivered by the Third Sector.

3. **Revenue Budget 2013/14**

- 3.1 Excluding levies for Town and Parish Councils the recommended Borough Council Tax for a 'Band D property' remains at £176.93, the same level as in 2012/13.

	Estimated Expenditure £	Rate of Council Tax (Band D) £ p
Borough Council requirements –		
Total Net Expenditure	14,118,640	410.89
Less: External Support	<u>7,093,630</u>	<u>206.44</u>
	7,025,010	204.45
Collection Fund Deficit 2012/13	<u>3,700</u>	<u>0.11</u>
Requirement without Council Tax Support Grant	7,028,710	204.56
Less: Council Tax Support Grant	<u>949,280</u>	<u>27.63</u>
Borough Council Tax Requirement	<u>£6,079,430</u>	<u>£176.93</u>

Appendix 'B' sets out the budget summarised over services. Copies of detailed budgets are available on request.

In addition to the basic Council Tax we are required to levy additional charges in the following parishes. These are shown below:

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Rate of Council Tax (Band D) £ p</u>
Audley	19.17
Betley, Balterley and Wrinehill	17.26
Chapel and Hill Chorlton	15.23
Keele	22.88
Kidsgrove	14.77
Loggerheads	21.46
Madeley	44.60
Maer	18.64
Silverdale	7.99
Whitmore	21.04

The above levies are based on the requirements supplied by the parishes, all of which have forwarded their official precept demands to the Council.

4. Medium Term Financial Strategy and Budgets for 2013/14

- 4.1 Members will recall that the Council's updated Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), as reported to Cabinet on 16 January 2013, forecast a budget shortfall of £1.783m for 2013/14, with additional shortfalls of £1.509m for 2014/15, £0.797m for 2015/16, £0.655m for 2016/17 and £0.657m for 2017/18. Officers are examining the implications of the forecasts for 2014/15 onwards for future budgets and will carry out an update of the MTFS and report to Cabinet in the new financial year to enable members to consider a budget strategy to bridge the predicted gap.
- 4.2 The 'gap' between expenditure and resources for 2013/14 of £1.783m arises from the factors set out in the table below:-

<u>CHANGES TO BASE BUDGET</u>	
<u>ADDITIONAL INCOME</u>	£'000
Fees and Charges	105
TOTAL ADDITIONAL INCOME (A)	105
<u>ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE & LOSS OF INCOME</u>	
Loss of Revenue Support Grant and NNDR Grant	366
2012/13 Council Tax Freeze Grant - one year funding only	172
Planning Delivery Grant exhausted	100
Pay Awards	132
Incremental Rises	50
Superannuation increase in employers contribution	148
Reduced Vacancy Factor allowance	65
Price Increases e.g. energy, fuel, rates, insurances, supplies & services	71
Loss of Investment Interest due to less capital available to invest	59
Corporate Priorities (Apprentices, Home Security & Town Centre Partnership)	80
Adjustments re One-Off items included in Base	(90)
Additional Items since MTFs approved in November 2012 (see 3.4 above)	156
TOTAL ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE AND LOSS OF INCOME (B)	1,309
<u>OTHER ITEMS</u>	
USE OF BUDGET SUPPORT FUND IN 2012/13 BUDGET (C)	179
CONTRIBUTION TO INSURANCE FUND TO REPLENISH BALANCE (D)	100
ADDITIONAL INCOME SHORTFALLS PROVISION (see 3.5 below) (E)	300
NET INCREASE IN BASE BUDGET (B+C+D+E-A)	1,783

- 4.3 In addition the Council also has a medium term capital programme. Details of this can be found in Appendix F to this report.
- 4.4 A number of proposals have been identified to bridge the £1.783m "Gap", following a service challenge process initiated by the Budget Review Group and subsequent consideration of options for producing a balanced budget by the Group. Some consist of savings in expenditure whilst others involve increasing income. These proposals total £1,898,000 and are summarised in the table below and set out in detail at Appendix C.
- 4.5 It should be noted that following issues raised at the Scrutiny Café and the TROSC meeting of 24 January, these proposals have been amended in so far as the proposal to delete £35,000 from the budget in respect of a vacant Planning Policy Officer post has been withdrawn. Alternative savings have been found, comprising:

- Additional income (£10,000) expected to arise from the implementation of charges for planning policy advice, as reported to Cabinet on 6 February;
- Additional savings in relation to the retendering of the contract for postal services (£14,000);
- There has been an opportunity to carry out a minor restructure to the Community Business Unit in the Operations Service, which will give rise to net first year savings of £11,000.

Category	Amount	Comments
	£'000	
Procurement	344	Smarter procurement and reductions in the amount of supplies procured
Additional Income	365	Includes new sources of income and additional income arising from increased activity. This amount is additional to the amount of £105,000 included in the MTFS in respect of a general 2% increase in fees and charges.
Good Housekeeping Efficiencies	328	Various savings arising from more efficient use of budgets
Staffing Efficiencies	500	No redundancies arise from these proposals.
Better Use of Assets	6	Streetscene plant and equipment efficiencies
Additional and Accumulated New Homes Bonus	204	The amount of NHB payable increases each year in line with new homes completed. £204k is half of the estimated additional sum available. The remaining £204k is to be used to support the housing element of the capital programme.
Implementation of Council Tax Reforms	81	Additional income arising largely from changes in respect of empty property and second homes. This is the Council's share of the total additional income which may arise.
Council Tax Freeze Grant 2013/14	70	See 4.6 below
Total	1,898	

4.6 It is not proposed to increase the Council's Council tax for 2013/14. The Council would be permitted to increase tax by up to 2.0 per cent, above which it is required to conduct a referendum to determine the views of taxpayers. The government again wish to see no increase in Council Tax for 2013/14 and are once more offering to pay a non specific grant to those councils which do not increase their council tax for 2013/14. The basis is less than the previous two council tax freeze grants, being payable at a rate equivalent to a 1.0 per cent increase in the authority's 2012/13 basic amount of council tax multiplied by its council tax base. For Newcastle, this would result in a grant of around £70,000 being payable, which is included in the table of proposals to close the budget gap at paragraph 4.5 above. The grant will be payable for two years, 2013/14 and 2014/15, no more payments being made after 2014/15. The grant of £173,000 in respect of the 2011/12 freeze will continue to be paid in 2013/14 and 2014/15, after which it will cease and is included in the base budget, so does not represent additional income.

4.7 **Corporate Priorities.** A number of Council priorities have been provided for in the formulation of the MTFS, these include:

- **Town Centre Partnership (£30,000).** The development/improvement of the two main town centres (Newcastle and Kidsgrove) has been identified as a clear priority. In order to demonstrate that the Council is able to support and develop the town centres as vibrant places where people want to visit, work, invest and shop, the Council will seek to work in partnership with local businesses to develop an action plan for improving the economic prospects of the town centres.
- **Apprenticeships (£40,000).** In order to improve the opportunities and training prospects of young people in the Borough, the Council will provide further apprenticeship opportunities through the establishment of a 'shared apprenticeship scheme' in partnership with other local organisations within both the public and private sectors. Further details will be included in a report to Cabinet on 6 March 2013.
- **Home Security Support for Vulnerable Residents (£10,000).** Helping vulnerable people, including the elderly is a key priority of the Council. Community safety and fear of crime also remain an important theme for the council and partner agencies. In relation to home security there are two key issues: firstly the standard/condition of the property and secondly, the likelihood of the resident being targeted by a criminal. The Council seeks to address these issues by responding to resident requests for assistance and proactively targeting areas high crime in partnership with the Police.

Other noteworthy activities which are planned to be carried out during 2013/14 to be met from provision within the revenue or capital budgets are:

- Delivery and implementation of a new core CRM system due to go live in the summer of 2013
- Reviews and implementation of new strategies and policies over a wide range of services
- Funded through the European Regional Development Fund, a Newcastle Business Enterprise Coach to support unemployed people to be self-employed.
- Investigation and implementation of a new kerbside collection for small electrical appliances
- Completion of the gating off of problematic alleyways under the Green Routes scheme
- Implementation of the outcomes of the community centres review
- Partnership working with registered providers and the Homes and Communities Agency to deliver new affordable housing in line with the Local Investment Plan
- Work and Development of Warm Zone Eco brokerage service
- Completion of public realm improvements in the town centre and introduction of new market stalls
- Facilitation of the commencement of a new community fire station at Loggerheads
- Identification of a development partner to take forward the retail-led redevelopment of the former Sainsbury/Ryecroft site.
- Consultation to be undertaken by the council with communities on a draft Site Allocation Policies Local Plan around summer 2013.
- Establishment of a new Procurement Gateway process and progress work where analysis has identified procurement savings.

4.8 **Revenue Investment Fund.** In order to allow further initiatives to be brought forward in 2013/14 and/or future years it is intended to establish a "Revenue Investment Fund" which can be used to fund suitable projects. Accordingly, a sum of £100,000 has been included in the proposed budget as an initial contribution to set up the fund. Depending upon the Council's future budget position, further contributions to the fund may be made in the following years to enable this process to continue.

4.9 **Invest to Save.** During the budget challenge process a number of “invest to save” proposals were identified, which although requiring some expenditure to be incurred in the first instance could be capable of producing savings in future years. These require further study to determine their viability so nothing in relation to them has been included in the draft 2013/14 budget. However, it is proposed that viable proposals could be financed from the Budget Support Fund with the fund being “repaid” out of the revenue budget as resulting savings arise. Once the fund has been repaid the full amount it originally financed in respect of a particular proposal, the savings will be retained within the revenue budget, thereby providing an ongoing benefit. The balance that will be available in the Budget Support Fund at 1 April 2013 is estimated to be around £450,000. It is not proposed to make any contribution from the Budget Support Fund to support the 2013/14 budget. The fund should, therefore be able to sustain financing a reasonable number of “invest to save” projects. The repayment of its original funding via savings made could make further funding available if further “invest to save” proposals are identified in future years.

4.10 **Living Wage Initiative.** Cabinet decided at its meeting on 16 January 2013 that the Council will implement the Living Wage Initiative from 1 April 2013, whereby all of its workers will be paid at least the minimum wage (currently £7.45 per hour). The cost of bringing the small number of employees who currently fall below the minimum level is estimated to be £15,000, which is provided for in the proposed budget.

4.11 **Grant Funding.** The budget review challenge process has identified a range of grant funding arrangements and contributions made to various bodies, which taken together amount to around £623,000. It was noted that many of these arrangements have been in place for a number of years. Some, notably those covered by the third sector commissioning framework have been reviewed more recently but other areas have continued long standing practice. It is, therefore, intended to review all grant funding apart from the third sector commissioning activity. This amounts to a total of £374,250 of Borough Council resourcing. The Budget Review Group has felt that grant allocations should be subjected to close scrutiny to ensure that funding is:

- Appropriate for purpose
- Delivers its intended objectives
- Offers value for money
- Is supportive of the Council's priorities
- Meets the requirements of the Social value Act and gives social as well as economic benefit

It is not intended to consider changes or reductions in grant funding in 2013/14, rather to carry out a value for money exercise in relation to each of the various funding headings so that consideration can be given to the future level of grant funding for 2014/15 onwards. In parallel with this it is intended to review the governance arrangements which underpin the assessment and allocation of resources, in particular to examine the role which the Locality Action Partnerships can play as a mechanism for devolving funding and decision making to local communities.

4.12 Bringing together all the above, the result is a balanced budget, as shown in the table below:

	£'000	Report Reference
Changes to Base Budget	1,783	4.2
Savings/Increased Income	(1,898)	4.4
Establishment of Revenue Investment Fund	100	4.8
Living Wage Initiative	15	4.10
BUDGET SHORTFALL ('GAP')	-	

4.13 The government have now notified the Council of the final amount of its formula grant for 2013/14. This is the same as was notified as the provisional settlement figure, i.e. a decrease of £0.395m compared with 2012/13, which represents a 5.4% reduction.

5 **Balances and Reserves**

5.1 The Council's Balances and Reserves Strategy for 2012/13 is that there should be a minimum General Fund balance of £1.4m and a minimum balance on the Contingency Reserve of £100,000. The Council currently holds these reserves.

5.2 A review of all the Council's Balances and Reserves together with a risk assessment has been carried out. Details of these are included in Appendices D and E.

5.3 The review and risk assessment indicate the following:

- Most of the reserves are still adequate to meet normal levels of expenditure, with two exceptions set out below
- The Insurance Fund will be insufficient to meet the cost of premiums and claims from 2013/14 onwards, with the shortfall indicated as at 31 March 2014 being around £124,000.
- By 2014/15 the Renewals and Repairs Fund is likely to be insufficient to meet the cost of repairs and maintenance of council buildings and structures, with an estimated balance of £3,000 by 31 March 2014. It is felt that a balance of £3,000 provides too small a margin to cater for any unforeseen requirements.
- The level of minimum balances required after considering the risk assessment has reduced to £1.3m. This is due to a number of factors, for example:
 - ◆ The inclusion of an increased allowance for income shortfalls in the 2013/14 budget means that this risk is reduced and therefore requires less to be held in balances to mitigate any potential losses
 - ◆ Amounts of money invested that are potentially at risk continue to reduce
 - ◆ The risk of a National insurance increase has reduced as the Chancellor made no mention of an increase in his Autumn Statement

5.4 It is proposed, therefore, to reduce the amount held as a minimum balance by £200,000 and to use this to top up the Insurance Fund by £150,000 and the Renewals and Repairs Fund by £50,000.

5.5 Previous reports have drawn attention to the situation with regard to Municipal Mutual Insurance (MMI), whereby the Council may be subject to clawback in respect of claims settled by the company after they went into administration. Potentially the liability could amount to around £721,000. Current advice is that authorities should set aside around 25% of their potential liability as a provision to meet this eventuality. Presently, an amount of £100,000 is set aside in such a provision (the MMI Provision). A further £80,000 would be required to be set aside to represent 25% of the liability. It is proposed, therefore, that £80,000 be transferred from the Standards Fund, which has a balance of £95,000, into the MMI Provision. It is considered that the remaining balance on the Standards Fund will be sufficient to meet foreseeable costs, since only £5,000 has been charged to the Fund since it was established in 2005/06.

5.6 Based on these minimum levels of reserves being sustained the Executive Director (Resources and Support Services) is of the opinion that the Revenue Budget is robust and that the Council's Revenue Reserves are adequate to support it based on the assumptions set out in this report.

6 Consultation

- 6.1 An extensive public consultation exercise was carried out, beginning with a special budget edition of the "Reporter", which invited readers to complete a brief questionnaire setting out their views concerning options for the 2013/14 budget. There were also pages within the Council's website devoted to the budget consultation, including an online version of the questionnaire. Following on from this, a number of meetings were held at various locations across the Borough, giving opportunities for residents to contribute their views. In addition, Cabinet members and officers were available on a number of days, situated in gazebos in the town centres, to answer questions concerning the 2013/14 budget and to receive the views of the public. The Council's e-Panel was also consulted.
- 6.2 The Medium Term Financial Strategy and the budget proposals have also been considered by the TROSC at their meetings on 30 October 2012, 10 December 2012 and 24 January 2013. In addition members had the opportunity to raise issues and receive explanations concerning the proposed budget for 2013/14 at a Scrutiny Café event held on 17 January. Following the January TROSC meeting, the Chair fed back the Committee's comments to the Cabinet at their meeting on 6 February 2013.
- 6.3 A series of training sessions were also arranged to help members to appreciate the issues relating to the budget process and content and the changes being made to the local government finance system by central government, in order to assist them in their scrutiny role.

7. Risks

- 7.1 Appendix 'E' shows the risk assessment in relation to the 2013/14 General Fund Revenue Budget.

8. Capital Programme 2012/13 - 2013/14

- 8.1 The Capital Programme 2012/13 - 2013/14, recommended by Cabinet, is attached at Appendix 'F', together with a summary of the proposed financing of the Programme. This contains projects directed towards meeting the Council's corporate priorities, as reflected in its Capital Strategy. The revenue consequences of the Capital Programme have been incorporated in the 2013/14 Revenue Budget.
- 8.2 New schemes total £615,500 plus £1,114,000 relating to the Housing Capital Programme. The remainder of items included in the Programme relate to continuing expenditure on current schemes, funding for which has already been approved. A summary of the new items included in the Programme and how they are proposed to be funded, is set out below:

Scheme	Cost	Funding		
		New Homes Bonus	Disabled Facilities Grant	Capital Receipts
	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s
Housing Programme				
Disabled Facilities Grants	864	350	514	
Social Housing	65	65		
Empty Homes	30	30		
Health and Safety	50	50		
Warm Zone	60	60		
Home Improvement Agency	40	40		

Landlord Accreditation Scheme	5	5		
Vehicles Replacement	280			280
Waste Bins	50			50
Stock Condition Works				
Museum	15			15
Clayton Community Centre	15			15
Knutton Community Centre	30			30
Red St Community Centre	75			75
Commercial Portfolio	40			40
Civic Offices	50			50
Footpath Repairs	25			25
Play Area Refurbishment *	25			25
Railings/Structures Repairs	10			10
TOTAL	1,729	600	514	615

* Included in Replacement/Repair of Play Equipment in Appendix F

8.3 Continuation of the capital programme beyond 2013/14 is dependent upon the achievement of a programme of receipts from the disposal of assets. It is essential that sufficient capital receipts are generated from these asset sales to enable essential capital investment to take place.

8.4 The Chartered Institute for Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Prudential Code for Capital Finance, which the Council has adopted, requires the calculation of a Prudential Indicator in relation to the capital programme. This is to demonstrate the incremental impact of capital investment decisions upon the council tax, in other words what the additional cost to the General Fund Revenue Account will be as a result of carrying out the projects contained in the proposed capital programme, compared to the situation which existed based on the programme approved at last year's council tax setting Council meeting. The Indicator shows that the incremental impact is estimated to be £7,090 (in a full year once the projects are complete and operational), which equates to a council tax levy of £0.21, using the current council tax base for calculation purposes. This is based on £709,000 additional capital expenditure funded from Council resources and an assumed interest rate of 1.0%. Provision has been made in the 2013/14 budget for the cost of funding the capital programme in terms of reduced interest as a result of using capital receipts and reserves arising from the profiled capital spend.

9. **Co-operative Working with other Staffordshire Authorities**

9.1 A number of initiatives, outlined below, are underway or proposed whereby the Borough Council will work in co-operation with other Staffordshire Authorities for the overall benefit of the Staffordshire area and to deal with issues specific to Newcastle, particularly in the realm of economic regeneration and development. When these initiatives become fully operational they are likely to result in additional funds being available to further these objectives, on top of those available from the Council's own budgets or resources.

9.2 **District Deal.** This landmark agreement was signed at the Council meeting on 28 November 2012 by the Leaders of the Borough and County Councils. It sets out ways in which the two councils will work together to deliver beneficial outcomes for the people of this part of Staffordshire. It is one of a series of such agreements between the County Council and Staffordshire Districts, intended to translate the principles of the Stoke on Trent and Staffordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) into District Deals for individual District Council areas within the LEP. The District Deal confirms the two councils' shared priorities and commitments that will help support their aspirations and accelerate local growth. Areas identified for cooperative working include:

- Economic Development
- Transport and Infrastructure
- Culture and Environment
- Skills and Educational Attainment
- Vulnerable Communities
- Procurement

9.3 **Council Tax Technical Reforms Pooling.** The Local Government Finance Act 2012 allows local authorities who are billing authorities to apply certain technical reforms to council tax, largely in respect of empty homes and second homes, whereby increased charges may be levied on the owners or occupiers. The majority of the resulting additional income would benefit the major precepting authorities, particularly Staffordshire County Council; the Borough Council retaining only around 12.2 per cent of the total, an estimated £81,000 for 2013/14. However, discussions are ongoing with the County Council and the other District Councils in Staffordshire to pool the additional income arising from implementing the reforms into a fund to promote economic regeneration and other Council priorities in Staffordshire. By this means, it is intended that the initiative of the billing authorities to implement the technical reforms will result in tangible benefits to their own areas.

9.4 **Business Rates Pool Fund.** As a result of changes to the treatment of business rates collected by councils arising from the Local Government Finance Act 2012, which will allow part of the amount collected to be retained by them, the Council agreed to participate in a Stoke on Trent and Staffordshire Business Rates Pool to pool retained rates relating to a number of Staffordshire authorities, including Staffordshire County Council and Stoke-on-Trent City Council. This has benefits with regard to maximising the total amount retained, with the additional amount gained by pooling being available to participating authorities in a number of ways. One of the features of the pooling arrangement will be the establishment of an investment fund, which will receive 40 per cent of the amount gained each year. This will be used to finance projects which will contribute to economic regeneration within the areas of the participating authorities. Consideration of projects to be supported from the fund will be by the Pool Board, which consists of seven members, one from each of the participating authorities.

10. List of Appendices

Appendix A - Recommendations

Appendix B - Revenue Budget 2013/14

Appendix C - Savings and Efficiencies

Appendix D - Actual and Estimated Reserves at 31 March 2012 to 2014

Appendix E - Risk Assessment

Appendix F - Capital Programme 2012/13 to 2013/14, including financing of expenditure