

Ordinary Council - 1 March 2017 - Proposed Conservative Group amendment.

Amendment 1 - Additional Recommendations

2. Recommendations

General Fund:

- 2.1 To approve the General Fund - Revised MTFP for 2017/18 as shown in Table 7 at paragraph 8.2 which includes the proposed savings target envelope as shown in Table 8 at paragraph 8.7 of this report.

- 2.1b To agree the General Fund budget detail savings and growth outlined in Table 8.1.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

- 2.2 To approve the HRA Business Plan for 2017/18 and beyond as shown in Appendix E of this report.
- 2.3 To approve a 1% decrease in rents for 2017/18 and for the following 2 years.
- 2.4 To recommend to apply the formula rent to all new tenancies from April 2017/18.

Capital programme

- 2.5 To approve the proposed Capital Programme and Funding totalling £33.9 million for 2017/18 to 2019/20 as set out in Tables 15 and 16 of this report.
- 2.6 To approve the Treasury Management and Investment Strategy as set out in Section 12 of this report.
- 2.7 To note the Section 151 Officer's Assurance Statement as set out in Section 13 of this report.

Council Tax 2017/18

- 2.8 To approve a Council Tax increase of £5 (Band D) for 2017/18, to fund the growth items outlined in Table 8.1.

Amendment 2 - Insert Table 8.1

Addressing the Funding Gap

- 8.4 The MTFP provides the framework with which the Council will achieve its aspirations.
- 8.5 The Council will continue to explore opportunities to identify and secure additional income with which to support services, it is clear that there is also the opportunity to balance its budget through the strict management of expenditure levels and securing efficiencies.
- 8.6 Services need to continue to drive through efficiencies and continually review their working practices and operations to try and make them as efficient as possible.
- 8.7 Savings Targets are proposed to bridge some of the funding gap as outlined below in Table 8 and detailed in Table 8.1.

Table 8 – Proposed Savings Targets

Proposed Savings Targets	2017/18 £'000	2018/19 £'000	2019/20 £'000
Additional Income Generation Target	516	540	540
Efficiencies Target	415	415	415
Re-prioritisation of Services Target	49	75	75
Total Savings Target	980	1,030	1,030

Table 8.1 - Proposed Savings/Growth - Detail

Proposed Savings/Growth	2017/18 £'000	2018/19 £'000	2019/20 £'000
Additional Income			
Council Tax Increase of £5 pa (Band D property)	160	160	160
Growth (linked to Council Tax increase)			
Additional Neighbourhood Action Team Resources	(80)	(80)	(80)
Allowance for Economic Growth initiatives	(10)	(10)	(10)
Additional resources to enhance and support community values/safety	(30)	(20)	(20)
Income generation projects and vehicle delivery resources	(40)	(30)	(30)

Table 8.1 (cont) - Proposed Detailed Savings

Proposed Savings	2017/18 £'000	2018/19 £'000	2019/20 £'000
Other Income Initiatives			
Sponsorship and New Funding Initiatives	85	57	57
Parking Season Ticket Reviews	150	150	150
Additional Depot Income from Parking Charges	20	20	20
Fees & Charges	120	140	140
Town Hall Parking Charges	36	20	0
Enforcement Activity	20	25	25
Park and Stride Facility at Shenfield	25	48	68
Senior officer initiatives	60	60	60
Total - Additional Income	516	540	540
Efficiencies			
Delay Inflationary Fuel Costs	50	50	50
No Inflationary Pay Increase	80	80	80
Shared Service Opportunities	125	125	125
Procurement Efficiencies	100	100	100
Income from the Public Sector Hub for NNDR	20	20	20
Management Efficiency Strategies	40	40	40
Total - Efficiencies	415	415	415
Re-prioritisation of Services			
Reduction in Parish Grants	39	39	39
Removal of Parish LCTS Grant	20	20	20
Review of Grant Subsidies	0	16	16
Implementation costs of re-prioritisation	(10)	0	0
Total - Re-prioritisation of Services	49	75	75
Grand Total	980	1,030	1,030

Section 151 Officer Comment: *the above proposals and estimates appear reasonable and viable*

Ordinary Council - 1 March 2017 - Proposed amendments from the Labour Group

Amendment 1

Council Tax - Reduction in reliefs for Second Homes and Empty Properties

For the financial year 2017/18 onwards Brentwood Borough Council removes its Second Home Discount (10%) from Council Tax and reduces the Empty Home Council Tax Discount (100%) from three months to two weeks.

This can be immediately implemented, as confirmed by advice from officers.

Section 151 Officer Comment: *I can endorse this proposal in terms of the potential yield possible, having looked at the relevant statistics for Brentwood. There would need to be recognition that other factors may affect the potential gains, e.g. late or non-payment of council tax which would trigger additional costs associated with debt management.*

Table 8.1 – Proposed Savings - Detail

Proposed Savings	2017/18 £'000	2018/19 £'000	2019/20 £'000
Additional Income			
Reduction in reliefs for Second Homes and Empty Properties	45	45	45

Amendment 2

Creating a revenue stream through early payment of invoices

Creating a revenue stream through early payment of invoices - the London Boroughs of Bexley and Croydon to produce rebate income from early payment of invoices to achieve a return on procurement costs of around 0.1%. The income will be related to spending – and as such larger in years with greater capital spending.

There is a delay in implementation to find an appropriate partner to implement this scheme.

Section 151 Officer Comment: *Whilst there is certainly scope to generate some efficiencies via early payment of bills, the gains are low and the effort in finding an appropriate partner may be prohibitive and any value could be diluted by administrative costs.*

Table 8.1 – Proposed Savings - Detail

Proposed Savings	2017/18 £'000	2018/19 £'000	2019/20 £'000
Additional Income			
Creating a revenue stream through early payment of invoices	5	10	10

Amendment 3

Memorial Walls

Build a Memorial Wall both for former residents and pets. Estimates have been developed taking costs of similar local authority and applying a prudent take up of 150 total per year.

There is a lower income in year 2017/18 to account for the construction and any necessary planning requirements.

Section 151 Officer Comment: *This is a good idea and worth pursuing.*

Table 8.1 – Proposed Savings - Detail

Proposed Savings	2017/18 £'000	2018/19 £'000	2019/20 £'000
Additional Income			
Memorial Walls	20	40	40

Table 15 – Capital Programme 2017/18 to 2019/20 – Existing & New Proposals

	2017/18 £'000	2018/19 £'000	2019/20 £'000
New Schemes			
Memorial Walls	20	1	1

Amendment 4

Develop the Business Case for Brentwood Lets

Use experience of the Housing Department to set up a private sector focused letting agency. Given numerous problems with local letting agencies and potential to work more closely with CAB set up 'best practice' model. This could potentially be a sustainable income stream for the Council, alongside offering benefits in cost reduction on homelessness and housing concerns through strengthened delivery.

Section 151 Officer Comment: *This is a reasonable point in terms of avoiding paying market rates to external letting management agencies, however there would be internal costs to factor into the equation, no least the staff time in managing the function.*

Table 8.1 – Proposed Savings - Detail

Proposed Savings	2017/18 £'000	2018/19 £'000	2019/20 £'000
Additional Income			
Growth			
Develop the Business Case for Brentwood Lets	(5)	0	0

Ordinary Council - 1 March 2017 - Liberal Democrats Group proposal

“The Lib Dem Group would like to propose that this Council investigates and invests in the work needed to set up a LATCO to enable Brentwood Borough Council to generate revenue in addition to grants and council tax income through entrepreneurial ideas.”

Section 151 Officer Comment: *The proposal is reasonable and is worthy of progression and development by officers if agreed as an amendment by Council.*