



Cabinet

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| Date: | Monday, 21 February 2011 |
| Time: | 6.15 pm |
| Venue: | Committee Room 1 - Wallasey Town Hall |

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SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

3. **COUNCIL BUDGET 2011-12 (Pages 1 - 18)**
Final Budget Proposal

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CABINET BUDGET PROPOSAL 2011 - 2012

This is a time of huge change, challenge and opportunity. We all recognise that the national debt crisis has had a significant impact on the way that everyone who delivers public services will do business in the future. Wirral Council has risen to the challenge and put in place changes that have led to a stronger, more open and honest Council delivering better services.

Every pound the Council spends running itself is a pound not available to spend on residents priorities. Wirral residents said they wanted us to reduce management costs and we have made good progress in this area, repairing and driving forward the Strategic Change Programme and examining every area of Council business to make sure that we are making the best use of every resource available to us. This has included reducing absence amongst staff, reducing costly office accommodation and cutting our administrative burden. We have reduced the number of Senior Managers we employ by a quarter - to date we have cut management costs saving £13.6 million over the next five years.

Our focus on driving down the cost of running the Council has enabled us to produce a budget that protects delivery of services on the ground. By reducing management costs and what we spend on administration we have been able to ensure we continue to deliver the services that matter the most. In addition it has enabled us to invest further where necessary to protect those who are most vulnerable in our society.

Jobs matter and the prudent steps we have taken will ensure that we can continue to support our local employers to create job opportunities, particularly for our young people to rebalance our local economy for the benefit of families in every part of Wirral.

The successful implementation of the budget and policy strategy laid out immediately following the formation of our Administration has ensured that we have avoided the crisis management seen in other local authorities and have delivered a **0% rise in the Council Tax for Wirral residents**. We also recognise the burden that would be placed on those with modest fixed incomes by a rise in Council Tax and we have therefore **maintained Council tax relief for over 75's** ensuring that no Wirral resident will see their Council Tax rise this coming year.

Cutting the cost of Council administration

Through our commitment to making every pound of the public's money matter we note that the following savings have been identified:

Savings previously agreed by Council

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Early Voluntary Retirement & Voluntary Severance | £24.3 million |
| Additional saving arising directly from the consultation exercise | £0.691 million |
| Strategic Change Programme | £10.725 million |
| Every Pound Matters | £12.3 million |

The Administration has continued to examine all reserves and departmental budgets for further savings opportunities and have identified the following further savings:

New savings

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Consequential non staff cost savings arising from Early Voluntary Retirement & Voluntary Severance programme | £300,000 savings to the Council's car allowance bill £200,000 savings to the Council's office supplies bill £250,000 additional pay bill savings arising from overtime costs of staff who have left |
| Further development of the Council's Strategic Change Programme | £500,000 driving down what we spend on contracts |
| Every Pound Matters | £240,000 - from a 40% reduction in consultancy budget £1.075 million by Broadband re-phasing one off saving and aligning with the tender process £2.2 million Housing benefit reserve and provision transfer to balances |

It is noted that the Coalition Government has made an additional £4.9 million available to Wirral Council to be deployed, with the agreement of NHS Wirral, to support Adult Social Care where there is a health benefit.

Cabinet notes that in the settlement for 2011-12 there is no increase (or decrease) in school funding per pupil. The Administration particularly welcomes the £5 million contribution to the Schools Budget from the Coalition Government's pupil premium.

In addition and due to the effective use of the Efficiency Investment Budget over the last 10 months, £5.5 million of additional revenue expenditure is available to invest in this fund to support Council services through a period of rapid and dynamic change.

It is because of this Administration's commitment to achieve the maximum value from each pound of tax payer's money and the prudent management of the Council's finances that we have achieved a 0% Council Tax increase. Importantly we are able to ensure that the things residents have told us matter the most will be part of the Council's ongoing budget. In addition where we have found one-off savings, this money will be invested in projects for the forthcoming year that will further enrich people's lives.

We therefore announce the following:

Your FAMILY: Services for Children and Young People

Wirral is home to almost 78,000 children and young people. It is a good place to grow up and most children and young people will fulfil the aspirations that we, their parents and their carers have for them. However, some children and young people experience real disadvantage, poverty, hardship and failure to achieve the results they should in school. Our work will be targeted at seeking to ensure that all of our young people grow up in safety and have the best possible start in life.

Caring for our most vulnerable children

It be noted that an additional £1 million has been placed in the Council's base budget to supplement and enhance the Government's new Early Intervention Grant to:

- Give the highest priority to protecting, promoting and enhancing Sure Start and our Children's Centres. This means in Wirral there will be no reduction in the overall Sure Start budget: **£700,000**.
- We are committed to continuing the excellent work undertaken by the Council and a range of partners from across the Community, Voluntary and Faith sector to support and raise the aspirations of disabled children: **£300,000**.

In addition

- The Administration is aware of the potential impact on schools budgets from the effects of outstanding equal pay claims. To protect the education of all Wirral children, and spending in our class rooms, we will make a contribution to the costs of equal pay in schools from the equal pay reserve: **£1 million**.
- We will enhance every Sure Start Centre, enabling our dedicated staff to offer even more opportunities for the children and families they serve during 2011-2012. This will include an additional £2,000 grant for every Centre to buy new equipment and offer additional enriching activities and experiences for families: **£32,000**.
- Residents who provide foster care opportunities for children to be brought up in a safe and caring environment deserve all the support we can provide. Our residents provided the highest response of all as part of the Wirral's Future consultation when asked to suggest ideas about how more carers could be recruited. We are therefore ensuring that foster care allowances are increased in line with national recommendations: **£130,000**.
- We will invest to cover inflation costs of our independent residential care contracts: **£95,000**.
- Wirral Council is the parent to around 650 children who are in our care. Many receive valuable support and assistance from their peers on the Children in Care Council. During 2011-2012 we will invest further in a wide range of communication and

engagement services to ensure we involve even more of our children in this activity: **£20,000.**

- The transition to becoming an adult can be difficult for many children who have been in care or who have experienced difficulties and chaos in their young lives. We will therefore protect the Stop Gap service which is an intensive support programme for Wirral's vulnerable, homeless 16-17 year old young people, who have complex or multiple needs: **£87,000.**
- Following the introduction of youth hubs elsewhere in the Wirral, we will provide the resources necessary to progress the development of the brand new youth hub facility in Birkenhead with the 'Onside' organisation, local youth partners and the Fire Service: **£50,000.**
- The Administration recognise that despite the significant amount of work that has taken place since 2006/7 through the Wirral Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy, which itself has led to a sustained reduction in alcohol-specific hospital admissions for young people, Wirral remains one of the worst areas in the country for alcohol specific hospital admissions for under 18s. We also recognise the valuable work undertaken by our Trading Standards Officers to combat the illegal sale of alcohol to young people.

In line with the recommendations of the Scrutiny Review of Access to Alcohol by Young People in Wirral, we will make permanent the Trading Standards posts required to continue the work to control the illicit sale of alcohol to young people: **£40,000.**

- We are committed to tackling child poverty in Wirral, and in line with our commitment to consult, involve and engage, during 2011-2012, we will invest in targeted engagement with Wirral organisations and local communities to develop an action plan for Wirral with the aim of lifting children and families out of poverty: **£10,000.**

Your FAMILY: Adult Social Services

A key priority for the Council is to improve the quality of services we deliver for vulnerable people. This necessity was highlighted by the 2010 Care Quality Commission inspection report which found that our services were simply not good enough. A robust plan is now in place to ensure urgent and lasting improvements are made.

Wirral's Future consultation identified two key priorities for future delivery of services; **affordability and quality**

- We will therefore invest to ensure we have the staff in place with the necessary skills to provide rigorous quality assurance of provision for our vulnerable residents so that we can secure for them the improvements we have committed to deliver: **£600,000**.
- We also know that the number of older people in need of our care is increasing. The Adult Social Services Task Force considered this and recommended that budgets should properly reflect demand where the needs of vulnerable people are known. Therefore rather than expect the department to meet this demand within existing budgets we are increasing the budget of Adult Social Services appropriately: **£2 million**.
- The Council's support for children with learning disabilities is excellent – support that should be maintained as they become adults. We are therefore providing further investment into the support of young adults with Learning Disabilities as they make the transition from childhood to adult: **£800,000**
- No one deserves our support more than the men and women who have served their country in the Armed Forces. We will establish an Armed Forces Community Welfare Pathway to support the men and women we have asked to fight our country's wars by providing office accommodation and start up costs for volunteers to then signpost members of the armed forces, their families and local veterans to a range of support services with set up funding this year: **£20,000**.

Your NEIGHBOURHOOD

We understand that the most important influence on residents overall quality of life is the house and street where they live. We are committed to listening and engaging with Wirral residents and providing opportunities to get involved with the issues that matter the most to them. We know Wirral's environment really matters to local people and we are strongly committed to reducing Wirral's carbon footprint. We will deliver improvements in recycling while putting in place further innovative energy saving measures to deliver on our 60% carbon reduction target by 2025.

- Wirral's Future consultation identified anti-social behaviour as a key concern to Wirral residents and it is vital that we provide the most effective action possible. We will conduct a full review of the Council's and partner organisation approach, including the implementation of our commitment to community justice in this vital area. Therefore we will provide funding to the ASB team for a further twelve months to enable this review to take place: **£290,000**.
- In addition, we will re-introduce daytime staffing of the CCTV control room at a cost of £60,000 to the base budget. Any additional income arising from increased issuing of fixed penalty notices as a result of the improved monitoring of CCTV will be directed to a community fund, with the proceeds applied to future community projects: **£60,000**.
- We will secure the provision of advocacy and support service for survivors of domestic violence coupled with the provision of information and intelligence to make Wirral communities safer: **£500,000**.
- The Coalition Government's new Homelessness grant will be invested to combat homelessness, assist those facing re-possession, prevent tenancy fraud and reduce levels of under occupation. It will also be used to support the Citizens Advice Bureau assist residents facing problems in their housing: **£171,000**.
- We will make a significant additional capital investment to maintain and improve Wirral's roads through a programme of highway maintenance and road safety improvements: **£1.6 million**.
- We are committed to making our roads safer in residential areas and outside our schools by implementing statutory 20 mph speed restrictions in non-major routes in residential areas throughout Wirral. Any of the £275,000 committed to this project last year and still not spent will be rolled forward and added to a further £275,000 in 2011-2012.
- We will make a significant capital investment in solar energy on appropriate Council buildings. Such an investment will add to revenue costs however, the proposed investment will yield savings in energy costs in excess of the capital financing costs, result in CO₂ savings of approximately 400 tonnes per year and provide a major boost for employment in Wirral's growing low carbon economy: **£2.8 million**.

- The Administration welcomes the success and the 30 local jobs created by the free household insulation initiative. We confirm our commitment to continuing with the programme to provide free insulation to every household in Wirral. Cabinet notes that £729,000 of the £1.049 million committed last year has been spent to date, and confirms that the balance will be rolled forward and added to a further £1.049 million in 2001/12.
- This Administration appreciates the valuable work undertaken by community groups and understands the financial pressures that make it difficult for them to invest in their buildings in order to reduce overheads. We will therefore add £57,000 to the balance of the Community Energy Efficiency Fund, bringing the total to £110,000. To widen and increase access to these much needed resources, we will also, as a matter of urgency, reduce the bureaucracy placed on voluntary and community groups by simplifying the application and approval process. These funds will be allocated to Area Forums for them to recommend to Cabinet appropriate schemes for approval: **£110,000**.
- The Administration believes the Assistant Recycling Project Officers have made a significant contribution to sustaining the improvement in Wirral's recycling performance and reducing the amount of contaminated recycling that would otherwise be sent to landfill thereby reducing the Council's exposure to landfill tax. Therefore, we will make the six Assistant Recycling Project Officer posts permanent: **£95,000**.
- We will also make a revenue investment in our waste infrastructure: **£202,000**.
- We note the success of the work of the Dog Fouling Enforcement Team, currently carried out by staff working through the Future Jobs Fund. The work of this team has resulted in significant reductions in dog fouling in targeted locations as well as additional benefits in relation to Streetscene such as litter enforcement. We will therefore establish this team, team leader and 4 dog fouling wardens on a permanent basis with an additional £10,000 to deliver extra enforcement activity at weekends: **£120,000**.
- To support the fantastic work of the volunteers and our staff who have worked hard to establish a Friends of Birkenhead Kennels Group, we will demonstrate the Council's support for their commitment and initiative by investing during the year to make improvements they have requested to the Council's dog kennels: **£7,400**.
- We will ensure our Streetscene activity is not compromised and that our contract delivers an excellent standard of service by meeting inflation costs on the existing contract: **£400,000**.
- We will invest in our vibrant weekend football leagues by investing £20,000 in the provision of equipment and pitch clean ups. We also believe that children's play areas should be cleansed at weekends so that they remain clean, safe and available for children at the times when they are most likely to be used. We will therefore provide an

additional £40, 000 to enable weekend inspection and cleaning work to be carried out: **£60,000**.

- We acknowledge the commitment demonstrated by our allotment holders and the support groups they have created. In recognition of this we will make a fund available for new and existing sites to bid into to invest in improvement works: **£50,000**.
- We welcome the security we have brought to our Leisure Centres by our swift actions this year and reaffirm our commitment to ensure that the existing scheme of free swimming at Council facilities for residents under 18 and over 60 are funded on an ongoing basis through the Base Budget.

We note that more than £1 million has been invested in Wirral libraries since May 2010. As this Administration recognises that Wirral's libraries are a vital part of our civil society and the public's commitment to them is part of what makes Wirral special we reject the approach taken by other local authorities and will not be closing any libraries

- This Administration also recognises that our libraries are a major asset and are not solely about books. We will implement a communication and engagement campaign to promote Wirral's Library service across all communities, with particular emphasis on the most hard to reach groups in our society. During 2011-2012 we will aim to communicate the huge range of services contained within a library to encourage people – particularly those who are isolated, lonely or feel excluded from society - to utilise their local facility as a safe, warm and secure social space with provision to access services, search for jobs and training, improve literacy levels or to meet and make friends: **£20,000**.
- During 2011-2012 we will modernise the service our libraries provide to make them more attractive and equipped for 21st Century users by investing in the installation of wi-fi, information screens and a brand new e-book service in every library: **£120,000**.
- During 2011-2012 we will ensure that the 'Get into reading' project continues through investing a further year's funding in this important project. Building on our parenting role to the children in our care we will place a particular focus on promoting and improving reading to this group of Wirral's children: **£100,000**.

Your ECONOMY

We will continue to listen to and support our employers, investors and residents to secure our economic recovery. We will give priority to supporting our small businesses and making Wirral a place where business chooses to invest and create jobs. We will seek to achieve a rebalanced economy that retains and attracts our young people and provides opportunity for all to realise their full potential.

Crucially we will maximise our investment in the Wirral Apprentice Programme - guaranteeing even more local people benefit. We will also ensure that every young person leaving school has access to training or a job.

In December we announced an investment of £2.845 million to support the recommendations arising from the Wirral's Future Consultation. This included £500,000 to support a further 142 Apprentices taking the total supported to 313, £200,000 to link business growth with delivering jobs for local people, and £200,000 to support the development of social enterprises and mutuals in Wirral's economy.

Today we are able to announce further support for local businesses and the jobs they can create:

Keeping It Local initiative

We know that Wirral's district and local retail centres are very important to local people as well as providing valuable local jobs. We are therefore announcing specific measures during 2011-2012 to support their 'bounce back' and assist them to regain their once vibrant environment.

- Following the success of the biggest ever package of reduced car parking charges over Christmas 2010 and to encourage local people to shop in Wirral all car parking, including on street, from Monday through to Friday will be 'free after three': **£482,000**.
- The challenges and issues of empty shops continue to be a problem for many of our district and local shopping centres. We note the early enthusiasm for the pilot projects in Egremont, Bromborough and New Ferry and will therefore, in consultation with local traders and Area Forums, allocate additional funds of £17,500 to address the issue of empty shops this is in addition to the funds already allocated: **£192,500**.
- To make our 27 local and district shopping centres more attractive places to visit, shop and do business, we will, in consultation with local traders and Area Forums, carry out a focussed programme of street cleansing including deep clean, gum removal, repairs and environmental enhancements: **£500,000**.
- From within the Councils current resources we will work with voluntary groups to assist local businesses identify low cost common sense solutions to improve access for people with a disability.

We will give additional support to Wirral's local shops and businesses by seeking to develop innovative publicity and advertising partnerships. This will be achieved from within existing Council press and publicity resources

A thorough evaluation of the results and economic impact of our 'Keeping It Local Initiative' will be reported to an appropriate meeting of Cabinet.

Supporting our small businesses

Our Administration believes supporting Wirral's 6,755 small and medium sized businesses which together employ some 65,000 people is vital. Research has shown us it is these businesses which properly supported can provide the rapid growth and jobs needed to help rebalance our local economy.

- We will therefore provide dedicated business support and advice to all who have the potential to grow, helping them to identify new business opportunities and access new markets.
- We will also develop a Wirral Business Angels programme whilst further developing and enhancing business workshops delivered through Invest Wirral.

This initial two year investment will ensure an additional 100 jobs are created or safeguarded this year and an additional £2 million invested over and above agreed annual targets: **£250,000**.

- During 2011-2012 the Council will via a successful European Social Fund bid matched from the Working Neighbourhood reserve, invest to support over 700 people currently without jobs who have experienced ill health and other complex problems: **£1.5 million**.

The Administration welcomes the fact that unlike other neighbouring Authorities, and consistent with our experience of what achieves the best outcomes, we have chosen to deliver this activity through voluntary, community and faith sector organisations utilising their experience and links into our communities and with the hardest to reach groups in Wirral.

Taken together the measures announced in this section of our budget proposal and economic regeneration activity in the next 12 months will help create or safeguard 925 jobs and secure some £16 million of additional private sector investment.

Your COUNCIL

As a 'can-do' Council, we want to be the best we can. Our aim is to deliver first class services, which are affordable, sustainable and meet the needs of local people. Wherever possible we will do this through listening to, engagement with and the empowerment of individuals and communities in both the design and delivery of local services, and by working together with partners in the public, private, community, voluntary and faith sectors.

This Administration will invest in and enhance Wirral's Big Society. The Community, Voluntary and Faith sector in Wirral deliver a wide range of services and activities for local people. This includes direct delivery of services for the most vulnerable, advocacy and advice services along with many community-led activities which have a huge impact and make a really positive impact to people's quality of life.

Unlike neighbouring Authorities, we will continue to maintain our investment of around **£11 million**, commissioning services from the Community, Voluntary and Faith sector and providing grants to local organisations. As part of our drive to ensure everything we do is open and transparent we will publish full details of this funding. The dedicated Big Society Unit, established in December 2010, will work with the sector to ensure that a clear funding strategy is put in place which will support the Council to deliver its priorities, provide high-quality local services and enable local organisations to develop and grow.

This Administration believes that a key element of Wirral's Big Society is involving residents in determining Council priorities and giving local residents the opportunity to make real decisions on matters affecting their neighbourhood.

Wirral's Future be a part of it has been a huge success enabling Wirral people to get involved in reshaping Council services and deciding what is after all, their Councils priorities. We therefore request that the interim Chief Executive takes all necessary steps, within current resources, to initiate the next phase of Wirral's Future consultation programme for 2011/12 to further embed our Administrations approach of listening, engaging and consulting with our residents.

Our eleven Area Forums are a real strength for Wirral and have been actively involved in distributing funding and helping to set local priorities. Their activities have improved neighbourhoods and communities. We will continue to support and enhance the important role they play by:

- Area Forums will be supported to more robustly influence the way in which we invest our resources in the future. Each Forum will be assisted to develop their own Local Plan with £5,000 provided to each this year to help them to organise community consultation: **£55,000**.
- We recognise Area Forum funding has been distributed in previous years from a variety of sources including one off policy options. This includes, Funds for You – voluntary, community and faith sector grants of £170, 000, You Decide funding of £220, 000 and

Winter resilience funding of £55,000. We note this totals £445, 000 equating to £40, 500 per Area Forum. This investment will now be safeguarded. In addition, this year we will distribute £200,000 for local road safety schemes as identified by each Area Forum. The Administration will work to increase the transparency and simplify the distribution of all the resources identified: **£645,000**.

- Recognising the value our residents place upon demonstrating their commitment to ethical and responsible trade we will provide resources for a Wirral wide Fair Trade project involving schools, businesses and faith groups, to increase awareness and enhance the Borough's existing Fair Trade status: **£10,000**.

From April 2012, in line with the Coalition Governments democratising of Health Service funding, Public Health will integrate fully with the Council. With full support from all of our Wirral Health partners, including the three Pathfinder GP Commissioning Consortia, Wirral has applied for early adopter status to start the transfer of responsibilities during 2011. The interim Chief Executive will bring an early report to the Council's Cabinet which will detail the integration of Wirral's Public Health service with other Council services and outline the Council's role in fulfilling this new function which currently includes £22 million in public health service spending.

Council Staff

Our employees are the Council's most valuable resource as it is they who oversee or deliver services to the people we serve. It is therefore vital that we continue to improve the way we communicate with each other. We will therefore ensure all staff have an e-mail adress and access to a computer. It is noted that this can be achieved at no additional cost to the Council and that by connecting all staff in this way a platform will be provided from which we can build a wide array of digital services for staff to reduce administrative and back office costs still further.

The Adminstration realise that to allow the 1,100 staff who applied to leave the Council to go will require leadership, imagination, commitment and resources to support the 5,000 people who remain if we are to ensure that the new ways of providing services are to be succesfully and effectively achieved.

- The Efficiency Investment Budget will be used to meet the full costs of any restructuring and retraining requirements that, have been identified by each Chief Officer. This funding will be released on the confirmation of an appropriate business case by the Strategic Change Programme Board. To meet the full costs of all restructuring requirements identified by Chief Officers: **£2 million**.

The Administration is also aware that 108 people working for Wirral residents have been working for the Council on temporary contracts for over two years. We believe that this is unacceptable leading as it does to unnecessary personal anxiety and financial insecurity. We therefore request the Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development to implement a process of issuing every member of staff who has been on a tempory contract in excess of two years with a permanent contract of employment.

In summary, this budget proposal has ensured that no part of Wirral has been left behind and that all of our residents and communities benefit from the Administrations prudent management of the Councils resources.

- **It will keep Wirral children and young people safe and improve their life chances**
- **It will put the most vulnerable members of our society at the heart of all we do as a Council**
- **It will support the creation of private sector employment and the rebalancing of Wirral's economy**
- **It will deliver long overdue environmental improvements to our local shopping centres**
- **It will deliver a step change in carbon reduction and improving our environment, while delivering a major boost to Wirral's low carbon economy**
- **It will foster Wirral's Big Society by changing the way we deliver services, giving greater power to all local residents to improve their neighbourhoods and by protecting spending to voluntary, community and faith based organisations**
- **It will deliver a stronger, listening, more open and honest Council with radically reduced senior management costs delivering better services**

No Wirral resident will see their Council Tax rise this coming year.

We have ensured that we enter the next financial year with balances of £14 million, a prudent approach that secures the Council's long term financial security and we commend it to the Council and the people of Wirral.

Any requirement of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970 to consider reports be dispensed with on the grounds that, in the opinion of the Council, the matters are urgent.

That for the financial year 2011/12 the Council will ensure that no pensioner household over 75 will have any increase in Council Tax liability, including the consequences of any police and fire increases. This applies where:

(i) the Council Tax payer pays Council Tax in Wirral as their main home and all individuals in the household that are counted as resident for Council Tax purposes are aged 75 or over on 1 April 2011 (but where the qualifying age criterion is met after 1 April 2011 eligibility will be effective from the relevant birth date only);

(ii) this reduction will be calculated after deduction of all other Council Tax discounts and reliefs;

(iii) application must be made for the reduction where it is not currently in payment or the potential claimant is not in receipt of Council Tax Benefit;

No pensioner household in receipt of full Council Tax Benefit will qualify for the reduction.

It be noted that, at its meeting on 9 December 2010 the Council calculated the figure of 104,879 as its council tax base for the year 2011/12 in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, made under Section 33 (5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

The following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2011/12 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and the Collection Fund (Council Tax Benefit) (England) Direction 2002:-

(a) £833,250,000 being the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2)(a) to (c) of the Act;

(b) £541,706,000 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3)(a) to (c) of the Act;

(c) £291,544,000 being the amount by which the aggregate at (a) exceeds the aggregate at (b), calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year;

(d) £160,110,000 being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its General Fund in respect of redistributed Non-Domestic Rates and Revenue Support Grant, adjusted for the amount of the sums which the Council estimates will be transferred in the year between its Collection Fund and its General Fund in accordance with Section 97(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 and any amount which the Council estimates to be transferred between its Collection Fund and its

General Fund pursuant to the Collection Fund (Community Charges) Directions under Section 98(4) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, issued on 7 February 1994;

(e) £1,253.20 being the total amount at (c) less the amount at (d), divided by the council tax base, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year;

| Wirral Services | | Valuation Bands | | | | | |
|------------------------|-----------|------------------------|-----------|---|-----------|---|-----------|
| A | £835.47 | B | £974.71 | C | £1,113.96 | D | £1,253.20 |
| E | £1,531.69 | F | £1,810.18 | G | £2,088.67 | H | £2,506.40 |

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

It is noted that this equates to 0% Wirral Council Tax rise.

It be noted that for the year 2011/12 the major precepting authorities have stated the following amounts of precept issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

| Fire | | Valuation Bands | | | | | |
|-------------|--------|------------------------|--------|---|---------|---|---------|
| A | £43.18 | B | £50.38 | C | £57.57 | D | £64.77 |
| E | £79.16 | F | £93.56 | G | £107.95 | H | £129.54 |

| Police | | Valuation Bands | | | | | |
|---------------|---------|------------------------|---------|---|---------|---|---------|
| A | £97.49 | B | £113.73 | C | £129.98 | D | £146.23 |
| E | £178.73 | F | £211.22 | G | £243.72 | H | £292.46 |

Having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts for Wirral services and the Fire and Police precepts, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts of council tax for the year 2011/12 for each of the categories of dwelling shown below:-

| Wirral Council | | Valuation Bands | | | | | |
|-----------------------|---------|------------------------|-----------|---|-----------|---|-----------|
| A | £976.14 | B | £1,138.82 | C | £1,301.51 | D | £1,464.20 |

E £1,789.58 F £2,114.96 G £2,440.34 H £2,928.40

It is noted that this equates to a 0% overall increase in Council Tax.

WIRRAL COUNCIL
SUMMARY OF GENERAL FUND ESTIMATES
CABINET BUDGET PROPOSAL

| | BASE ESTIMATE 2010/11 £ | CURRENT ESTIMATE 2010/11 £ | BASE ESTIMATE 2011/12 £ |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| EXPENDITURE | | | |
| Departmental budgets | 309,262,300 | 302,247,200 | 267,861,600 |
| Merseytravel | 27,344,000 | 27,344,000 | 28,817,000 |
| Local Pay Review | 1,130,800 | 956,300 | 956,300 |
| LABGI & LAA Grants | (1,600,000) | 0 | 0 |
| Council Tax Freeze Grant | 0 | 0 | (3,285,000) |
| Contribution to fund EVR / VS Scheme | 0 | 2,600,000 | 4,400,000 |
| Net budget | 336,137,100 | 333,147,500 | 298,749,900 |
| Contribution from balances | (4,354,000) | (3,919,400) | (2,805,900) |
| Contribution from balances (EVR / VS) | 0 | (2,600,000) | (4,400,000) |
| BUDGET REQUIREMENT | 331,783,100 | 326,628,100 | 291,544,000 |
| INCOME | | | |
| Revenue Support Grant | 20,016,300 | 20,016,300 | 37,498,000 |
| National Non Domestic Rate | 137,844,200 | 137,844,200 | 121,312,000 |
| Area Based Grant | 42,725,000 | 37,570,000 | 0 |
| Council Tax Income | 131,197,600 | 131,197,600 | 131,434,000 |
| Collection Fund Surplus | 0 | 0 | 1,300,000 |
| TOTAL INCOME | 331,783,100 | 326,628,100 | 291,544,000 |
| STATEMENT OF GENERAL BALANCE | | | |
| General Balance at 1 April | 10,723,000 | 10,723,000 | 14,070,600 |
| Adjustment (following 2009/10 outturn) | 0 | 3,035,000 | 0 |
| Contribution from Insurance Fund | 0 | 3,400,000 | 0 |
| Contribution from Reserves / Provisions | 0 | 3,432,000 | 0 |
| Budgeted contribution | (4,354,000) | (6,519,400) | (7,205,900) |
| GENERAL BALANCE AT 31 MARCH | 6,369,000 | 14,070,600 | 6,864,700 |

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