

WIRRAL COUNCIL

FINANCE AND BEST VALUE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

24 MARCH 2009

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

PROJECTED BUDGET 2010-2011

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report presents the projected budget for 2010-2011 which will be the final year of the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 (CSR).

2. BUDGET 2009-10

- 2.1. The summary budget for 2009-10 as agreed by the Council on 2 March 2009 is as follows:

	£m
Base Budget	316.9
Resources	
Formula Grant	152.8
Area Based Grant	31.0
Council Tax	129.0
Collection Fund	-0.7
Use of Balances	<u>4.8</u>
	316.9

3. COMPREHENSIVE SPENDING REVIEW

- 3.1. The Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) 2007, was announced on 9 October 2007. An initial report on the Pre Budget Statement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer including the CSR was presented to the Cabinet on 1 November 2007. The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) announced the three year provisional Local Government Finance settlement on 6 December 2007 and the final settlement on 24 January 2008.
- 3.2. The provisional Local Government Finance Settlement for 2009-10 was issued by the DCLG on 26 November 2008. The provisional settlement restated the indicative figures included in the settlement issued on 24 January 2008 and was reported to Cabinet on 10 December 2008.
- 3.3. The final settlement was issued on 21 January 2009 which again confirmed the indicative figures for 2010-11. However, as the global recession gathers pace there must be concern about whether the Government will be able to deliver the indicative settlement for 2010-11.

- 3.4. The next Comprehensive Spending Review is scheduled for 2010 which will outline the Government expenditure plans for 2011 to 2014. The extent of the support that the Government will need to provide to the economy in a global recession could result in a cash freeze in Government grants for the period of the next CSR.

4. **VARIATIONS IDENTIFIED FOR 2010-2011**

- 4.1. **Inflation** – Provision is included for pay and prices at 2% and for income at 3%.
- 4.2. **Capital Financing** – Cabinet on 10 December 2008 agreed the capital programme for 2009-2012 at an additional financing cost totalling £2.9m for 2010-11.
- 4.3. **Waste Disposal** – The waste disposal levy is projected to increase by 15.7%, £2.6m.
- 4.4. **Pension Fund** - The Pension Fund was actuarially revalued as at 31 March 2007. The phased implementation of the revised contribution rates over three years was agreed by the Cabinet on 12 December 2007.
- 4.5. **Merseytravel** – The Merseytravel levy is projected to increase by 4% in 2010-11, £1.0m.
- 4.6. **Invest to Save Schemes** – The Cabinet has agreed a number of invest to save schemes which will reduce expenditure by £0.4m in 2010-11.
- 4.7. **Private Finance Initiative** – Increase in PFI payments of £1.1m in 2010-11 as the PFI reserve reduces.
- 4.8. **Benefits Subsidy** – The Department for Work and Pensions has announced that benefits subsidy will be reduced by 3% per annum in real terms, 5% per annum in cash for certain elements of the subsidy, a reduction of £0.3m per annum.
- 4.9. **Other Unavoidable Growth** – A number of relatively minor items of unavoidable growth of less than £0.2m will arise. These should total less than £1m.

5. **OTHER DEVELOPMENTS**

- 5.1. There are a number of other developments which are likely to impact on the financial position of the Authority during 2010-11. The impact of these issues will be reported to the Cabinet as and when they are resolved. Some of the potentially most important issues are:-
- (a) Global recession. This is likely to impact on the budget in many ways and will be kept under continuous review.

- (b) Review of the Local Authority Business Growth Incentive Scheme. A consultation paper on a revised scheme to commence in 2009 was reported to the Cabinet on 29 November 2007. A further consultation paper has been received which if implemented could result in a grant of £0.2m in 2009-10 and £0.5m in 2010-11.
- (c) Review of Supporting People Grant to be undertaken in 2009 with the grant to be absorbed into the Area Based Grant from 2010-11.
- (d) Implementation of supplementary business rates which was reported to Cabinet on 29 November 2007.
- (e) Review of the Area Cost Adjustment.
- (f) Review of the population statistics to include the effects of recent migration, which was reported to the Cabinet on 16 April 2008.
- (g) Review of the funding of social care with proposals to be released in 2009.
- (h) Transfer of the responsibilities of the Learning and Skills Council to Local Authorities from 2010-11.
- (i) Introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy in October 2009.
- (j) Implementation of International Financial Reporting Standards from 2010 which will increase leasing costs.

6. **BALANCES**

- 6.1. The balances for 2009-10 have been set at £6m.

7. **EFFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS**

- 7.1. The gap between projected expenditure and anticipated resources will need to be bridged by a combination of savings and/or increased Council Tax.
- 7.2. The efficiencies agreed in preparing the budget for 2009-10 included £0.5m which will become effective from 2010-11.
- 7.3. Apportionment of the efficiency requirement in line with the agreed three year efficiency plan would produce the following targets:-

	£000
Adult Social Services	2,070
Children & Young People	1,200
Corporate Services	70
Finance	530
Law/HR/Asset Management	190
Regeneration	920
Techical Services	<u>620</u>
	5,600

- 7.4. Part of the Efficiency Investment Budget for 2010-11 is again being used to fund the following teams which are working on the delivery of the corporate change programme:-

	£m
Procurement and Creditors	1.3
Change	0.7
Customer Services Development	0.2
Adult Social Services Reform	<u>0.5</u>
	2.7

- 7.5. I am assuming an annual Council Tax increase of 4%.

- 7.6. The Minister for Local Government has stated that the Council Tax capping limit is likely to remain at 5%.

8. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1. The projected budgets for 2010-11 is compiled from the base budget for 2009-10 approved by Council on 2 March 2009, the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2009-2012 agreed by the Cabinet on 23 July 2008, and updated for the issues outlined in this report. The projected budget is shown in the Appendix.

9. **STAFFING IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1. There are none arising from this report.

10. **EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1. There are none arising form this report.

11. **HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1. There are none arising from this report.

12. **LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

- 12.1. There are none arising from this report.

13. **COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

- 13.1. There are none arising from this report.

14. **PLANNING IMPLICATIONS**

- 14.1. There are none arising from this report.

15. **LOCAL MEMBER SUPPORT IMPLICATIONS**

15.1. There are none arising from this report.

16. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

16.1. Comprehensive Spending Review – Treasury – October 2007
Medium Term Financial Strategy – 2009-2012 – July 2008
Formula Grant Settlement 2009-10 –DCLG –January 2009.
Estimates 2009-10 – March 2009

17. **RECOMMENDATION**

17.1. That the projected budget for 2010-11 be updated and reported regularly to the Cabinet.

IAN COLEMAN
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

FNCE//09

**WIRRAL COUNCIL
PROJECTED BUDGET 2010-11**

	£m
Base Budget	314.2
Increased Requirements	
Pay Inflation	3.3
Price Inflation	3.6
Capital Financing	2.9
Waste Disposal	2.6
Pension Fund Revaluation	0.5
Merseytravel	1.0
Private Finance Initiative	1.1
Benefits Subsidy	0.3
Supporting People	10.3
Unavoidable Growth	1.0
Efficiency Investment Fund	<u>2.6</u>
	343.4
Reduced Requirements	
Income Inflation	-1.0
Invest To Save	-0.4
LABGI	-0.3
Area Based Grant	-0.4
Agreed Efficiencies	<u>-0.5</u>
Forecast Expenditure	341.1
Resources	
Formula Grant	157.9
Area Based Grant	41.0
Council Tax	129.0
LAA Reward Grant	1.4
LABGI	0.5
Reserves	<u>0.5</u>
Forecast Resources	330.3
Shortfall	10.8
Council Tax Increase	5.2
Efficiencies required	5.6