

### OFFICER OPTIONS 2008/09 – 2011/12

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#### 1. Purpose

- 1.1 To inform the Committee of options put forward by officers for consideration by the Cabinet during the budget setting process for 2008/09
- 1.2 The outcome of the current exercise will form the basis of the consultation budget being discussed by the Cabinet on 18 December 2007 and will lead to the final budget to be considered by the Council in February 2008.

#### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Committee considers the options put forward by officers as part of the process to set the Council Tax level for 2008/09.

#### 3. Issues and Choices

- 3.1 In common with exercises undertaken in previous years to set the level of Council Tax, officers have produced a list of options where savings could be found against existing budgets.
- 3.2 In producing options officers have, wherever possible, looked to produce all options that are legally possible. The relevant officers have also, in consultation with Corporate Directors, categorised the options under four headings: Definite, Probable, Possible and No.
- 3.3 The full list of officer proposals is attached as an **Annex**.
- 3.4 The next stage of this process is that the options be considered by Portfolio Holders prior to the production of the consultation budget which will be considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on 18 December 2007.
- 3.5 During January 2008 the consultation budget will be reported to each Policy Development Committee along with the comments of Corporate Directors.

#### 4. Implications

##### 4.1 Policy

The choices taken as part of the budget process to arrive at an agreed budget may, depending on the nature of the choices, involve changes in policy and/or service levels.

## 4.2 Resources

This report deals with financial resource issues throughout.

Background Papers:       Officer Working Papers.