

**Council Meeting on 23rd February 2015****Amendment to Item 9 - 2015/16 Council Tax****Proposed: Cllr Wilkins****Seconded: Cllr Dunn**

After allowing for the report from the Director of Finance the following amendments are proposed to the recommendations of the Executive set out in the Blue Book on pages 55-96.

The following changes be made to the recommended budget for 2015/16:

Recommendation 2.1:

- (b) approve the draft revenue budgets for 2015/16 with the following amendments:
  - (i) that the following revenue savings in 2015/16 do not proceed:
    - 1. total of £1,865k in 2015/16 as marked Recommendation 1 in the attached spreadsheet;
    - 2. total of £1,283k in 2015/16 as marked Recommendation 2 in the attached spreadsheet;
    - 3. line 66 of savings options totalling £202k in 2015/16 - cease funding for BME groups. Ethnic Comms Programme/Somali women and men, BACA, Pineapple club (£111k). Keyring service (£91k);
    - 4. line 71 of savings options totalling £230k in 2015/16 – Bromley Youth Music Trust.
  - (ii) agree the utilisation of funding as follows:
    - a sum of £2m is set aside from underspends in 2014/15 as an earmarked reserve to contribute towards the budget shortfall in 2015/16;

- the balance of £1,580k be utilised from general fund balances in 2015/16 to support the revenue budget.
- (iii) We note that work is ongoing on proposals for use of at least £3m of the PIL funds namely the Bromley Town Centre Housing Zone Bid. We hope that this is successful and would further urge that every effort is then made to expedite this project as soon as possible.

Bromley needs housing, whether affordable, supported, for purchase or rent, or otherwise e.g. respite/care homes, to reduce the housing register, reduce spend on emergency accommodation, and also to help people who are in substandard or unsuitable housing.

On the basis of the above, Council are requested to agree that the sum of £4.4m of New Homes Bonus set aside to increase the Council's investment Fund in 2015/16 Budget instead be invested in the construction of affordable and social housing.

#### Recommendation 2.3:

- (iii) that the following amounts be calculated for the year 2015/16 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the Act):
- (a) £563,776k being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act.
  - (b) £434,875k being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.