

## ESSENTIAL REFERENCE PAPER 'A'

Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities/ Objectives	The budget and MTFP apply resources to achieve all the Council's priorities
Consultation:	The outcome from consultation will be reported separately as Essential Reference Paper D
Legal:	<p>The Council must set a lawful and balanced budget and subsequently set a council tax for 2013/14 within prescribed time frames.</p> <p>Members should have regard to the advice of the Section 151 but may take decisions at variance with this advice where there are reasonable grounds to do so.</p> <p>It is an offence for any Member with arrears of council tax outstanding for two months or more to attend any meeting of the Council or its committees at which a decision affecting the budget is made unless the Member concerned declares at the outset of the meeting that s/he is in arrears and will not be voting on the decision for that reason.</p>
Financial:	As set out in the report.
Human Resource:	Where savings options may cause redundancy the relevant HR policies will apply and those savings remain subject to the outcome of the application of those policies.
Risk Management:	Contingencies are included and the level of reserves forms part of the corporate approach to mitigation of risk.