

COUNCIL OF THE ISLES OF SCILLY	IFCA	3 MARCH 2016	PART 1 DECISION
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Title	BUDGET AND LEVY FOR THE INSHORE FISHERIES CONSERVATION AUTHORITY		
Presented by	Diana Mompoloki		
Role	Senior Manager: Strategic Development		
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Notification of an Executive Decision: No			

Recommendation:

- 1 That members note the budget for 2015/16.
- 2 That Members advise Full Council that the 2016/17 levy on the Council of the Isles of Scilly will be £13,789, with a proviso for an additional £5,000 if required – this must be agreed by the IFCA committee.
- 3 That Members recommend the proposed 2016/17 budget to Full Council.

1. Summary/Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides Members of the Committee with information regarding revenue income and expenditure against the budget as at November 2016 for the financial year 2015/16. Any significant variations against the budget are highlighted and explanations given as appropriate.
- 1.2 The report also details a review of the 2014/15 actual revenue budget and proposes the budget for the next 2 financial years.

2. Intended Outcomes

- 2.1 The monitoring information as at January 2016, month 10 of the 2015/16 financial year, shows a projected underspend of £17,749 to profiled budget. Any underspend will be transferred into ring-fenced reserves. This underspend is predominantly due to the Chief Fisheries Officer (CFO) undertaking the role on a part time basis. This is unlikely to continue. The ring fenced reserve is for large scale capital purchases such as a new IFCA vessel in the future. The reserve together with the likely underspend from this year will be £43,955 in the 2016/17 financial year.

- 2.2 Appendix 1 summarises the budget position as 15 November 2015, together with the expected outturn for March 31st and the proposed budgets 2016/17 and 2017/18. As observed earlier the employee line is significantly underspent due to the part time nature of the CFO.
- 2.3 The current arrangement of the Chief Fisheries officer working 2 days a week will end on 30th June 2016 as when he retires. The Committee have a number of options regarding the statutory role of the CFO to review (which Members will find attached in a separate paper brought before this Committee).
- 2.4 The New Burdens Funding, which is funding from DEFRA ring fenced in our Local Support Grant from DCLG, for the IOS IFCA is budgeted to be £109,726 for the 2016/17 financial year. On this basis it is advised that the levy to the local Authority (Council of the Isles of Scilly) should be £13,789 for 2016/17 (£123,515 2016/17 estimated budget less £109,726 New Burdens Funding). This will allow delivery of the Annual Plan and the continued successful delivery of Defra and the IFCA's objectives. The Levy is the shortfall between the Defra funding and the budget required to deliver the IFCA. In 2015/16 it was agreed by the IFCA that they would accept the cut to the Council Levy as long as there was an opportunity to retrieve those funds if it was required. It is suggested that this proviso stands in this financial year as it is difficult to judge the cost of recruiting and retaining a suitably qualified CFO.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 That members note the budget for 2015/16.
- 3.2 That Members advise Full Council that the 2016/17 levy on the Council of the Isles of Scilly will be £13,789 with a proviso for an additional £5,000 if required – this must be agreed by the IFCA committee.
- 3.3 That Members recommend the proposed 2016/17 budget to Full Council.

4. Implications

4.1 *Financial*

This is contained in the body of the report. The IFCA has various statutory functions which need to be delivered, these are covered by the Levy and the DEFRA grant. It must be balanced as with all Council budgets.

4.2 *Legal*

The IFCA is a Levy body on the Council, this means that it can set a budget which the Council of the Isles of Scilly is legally obliged to accept. It is not capped and if the IFCA committee chose they could demand a higher or lower levy of the Council, but it must be based on the delivery of the IFCA objectives and statutory duties.

4.3 Other implications

Other implications are limited but it is worth noting that the IFCA is an enforcement body and that the IFCA has a legal requirement to protect the marine environment and healthy seas.

4.4 Corporate plan

The Council has 4 overarching Corporate Strategies as set out in the Corporate Plan:

- Enabling healthy lifestyles, independent living and access to good quality healthcare.
- Supporting a strong local economy by creating opportunities for better learning, greater investment and more jobs. Enabling access to employment that pays a living wage.
- Facilitate the delivery of decent and affordable homes for our community.
- Driving improvements to the quality of the wider environment we live in and ensuring that our infrastructure is compliant and conforms to the highest standards.

This report enables the Council to meet the objectives of the Corporate Plan by through improving the quality of our marine environment, and in doing so enabling residents and organisations other than the Council to play an active role in enhancing the quality of life on Scilly.

4.5 Risk Management

4.5.1 We cannot recruit or implement the proposals for replacing the Chief Fisheries Officer and it becomes a far costlier exercise. Leading to lack of delivery of the IFCA statutory functions

4.5.2 The Council cannot afford the amount levied and the budget is further squeezed.

4.5.3 The IFCA vessel needs replacing before sufficient reserves are saved.

5. Supporting Documentation

Appendix 1 – IFCA Budget

Sign off

Financial		Date
Legal	Richard Burraston	15/02/2016
Head of Department / Chief Executive	Diana Mompoloki	Date
Committee Chairman/Vice-Chairman	Andrew Guy	Date

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