

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
THURSDAY, 23 FEBRUARY 2023

ADDITIONAL PAPERS

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COUNCIL – 23 FEBRUARY 2023

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR R JOHNSON TO COUNCILLOR R BAYLISS

“Could the portfolio holder, inform me what the cost of heating the Current Council Offices has been in the last 3 months considering most staff are hybrid?”

REPONSE FROM COUNCILLOR R BAYLISS TO COUNCILLOR R JOHNSON

Heating costs for the council offices over the period in question were £6,685.57 excluding vat. This includes standing charges of £1,150.72.

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COUNCIL – 23 FEBRUARY 2023

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR T EYNON TO COUNCILLOR R BAYLISS

Please could the portfolio holder provide the following information regarding the sheltered accommodation at St Mary's Court and Fairfield Court, Hugglescote?

- Current EPC ratings and expiry of the same
- The number of properties which have had loft insulation or windows upgraded under the Warm Homes Scheme
- The timing of planned replacement of double-glazed windows and number of reports of blown double glazed windows, including details of the Council's repairs response
- the condition of the roofs of the bungalows and whether they remain watertight.

RESPONSE FROM COUNCILLOR R BAYLISS TO COUNCILLOR T EYNON

Regarding EPCs – these are provided for each of the properties individually. They are all either C or D. Individual properties details can be viewed via the government website - [Find an energy certificate - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/find-an-energy-certificate) or officers can provide a full list.

The EPCs are all from various dates – the earliest being in 2013 with the remainder in 2014 and 2015, with one undertaken in 2021 as part of the renewal process.

EPCs are regarded as a ten-year life and are on a programme on renewal in line with that. Regarding ratings being adequate, it is widely acknowledged that any properties that fall under an EPC rating of D or below can be classed as in fuel poverty depending on disposable income. We do not hold information on tenants' income with asset management as this is protected under the relevant data protection legislation. A new project to assess heating systems and controls in our sheltered schemes has been proposed for 23/24 with a review being undertaken in April 2023 subject to budget approvals.

Turning to the Warm Homes scheme - We have not upgraded properties under Warm Home Scheme. This scheme is automatically applied by the energy supplier and not the landlord. We have been reviewing the ECO4 and Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) funding and we are awaiting confirmation from the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy whether our bid for SHDF funding is approved. We will find out within the next 3-4 weeks if we are successful.

Regarding Window replacements and updates there have been a number of window replacements and updates mainly when properties have been void. A full list can be provided by officers.

Turning to Roofs - These properties were constructed circa 1970's and roof renewals are not due for another 20 years, we are not aware of any particular failures, however as with all our homes repairs are undertaken as necessary.

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COUNCIL – 23 FEBRUARY 2023

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR M WYATT TO COUNCILLOR R BAYLISS

“Residents on Haslyn Walk in Greenhill have suffered flooding on numerous occasions and horrendous parking problems due to the lack of parking.

Residents have been promised action and plans have been agreed upon by all parties involved but to date, nothing has happened.

Can the portfolio holder give an update on the situation so we can finally have this issue sorted out asap.”

REPONSE FROM COUNCILLOR R BAYLISS TO COUNCILLOR M WYATT

There have been some delays in moving this project forward, primarily due to investigations around the flooding issues. We have engaged with Seven Trent to explore these issues further and to identify the correct owner and who is responsible. But it remains Seven Trents responsibility to identify this, and we are awaiting a response. The parking elements of the scheme is being actively progressed and it is intended for a planning application to come forward for this work by 31 March this year, and subject to that being permitted, works are likely to start this, Summer. Should works be required by the council to address flooding issues that are our responsibility these will be incorporated into the above if possible or addressed a second scheme so as not to delay the parking improvements further.

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COUNCIL, THURSDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2023

AMENDMENT TO THE BUDGET SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR S SHEAHAN

I move the amendments to recommendations to item 12 GENERAL FUND BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2023/24 with amended areas highlighted in red.

Should these changes be agreed, members will need to be mindful of the consequential changes to agenda item 14 COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION 2023/24. A separate Report has been prepared and will be issued to members should these proposed changes be agreed.

AGENDA ITEM 12 BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2023/24

Recommendations	<p>COUNCIL IS RECOMMENDED:</p> <p>1. TO APPROVE THE GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET FOR 2023/24 AS SUMMARISED IN SECTION 2 OF THIS REPORT, SUBJECT TO THE CHANGES SHOWN IN THIS ALTERNATIVE BUDGET. THIS INCLUDES:</p> <p>a. INCREASING THE DISTRICTS SHARE OF COUNCIL TAX IN 2023/24 BY £3.24 TO £161.82 FOR A BAND D PROPERTY</p> <p>b. INCREASING THE SPECIAL EXPENSES SHARE OF THE COUNCIL TAX AS SET OUT IN SECTION 2.1</p> <p>c. CHANGES TO THE FEES AND CHARGES AS DETAILED IN APPENDIX 3(A) TO 3(C), EFFECTIVE FROM 1 APRIL 2023</p> <p>d. DELEGATING AUTHORITY TO THE HEAD OF COMMUNITY SERVICES TO CONSIDER ANY OBJECTIONS RECEIVED IN RELATION TO THE PROPOSED VARIATION OF FEES FOR VEHICLE AND OPERATORS' LICENCES UNDER S.70 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976, TO DETERMINE WHETHER IN LIGHT OF ANY OBJECTIONS THE VARIATION IN FEES SHOULD BE MODIFIED AND TO SET ANOTHER DATE ON WHICH THE VARIATION IN FEES WILL COME INTO FORCE, WITH OR WITHOUT MODIFICATION, AFTER CONSIDERATION OF THE SAID OBJECTIONS.</p> <p>2. TO NOTE THE GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET FOR 2024/25 TO 2027/28 SUBJECT TO THE CHANGES SHOWN IN THIS ALTERNATIVE BUDGET (APPENDIX 1).</p> <p>3. TO APPROVE THE CORPORATE CHARGING POLICY 2023-2026 (APPENDIX 3D)</p>
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	<p>4. TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME (APPENDIX 4) FOR 2023/24 AND PLANNED FINANCING, AS SET OUT IN SECTION 3 OF THIS REPORT.</p> <p>5. TO NOTE THE REMAINING ELEMENTS OF THE GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2024/25 – 2027/28.</p> <p>6. TO APPROVE THE FLEET REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME FOR 2024/25, TO ALLOW VEHICLES TO BE ORDERED IN ADVANCE ONCE APPROVAL HAS BEEN GIVEN TO MOVE THIS FROM THE DEVELOPMENT TO THE ACTIVE POOL (APPENDIX 4).</p> <p>7. TO APPROVE THE SPECIAL EXPENSES REVENUE BUDGET FOR 2023/24 (APPENDIX 6) AS SUMMARISED IN SECTION 4 SUBJECT TO THE CHANGES SHOWN IN THIS ALTERNATIVE BUDGET. THIS INCLUDES:</p> <p>a. SETTING THE SPECIAL EXPENSE BAND D COUNCIL TAX AT THE LEVELS DETAILED IN TABLE 4 OF THIS REPORT.</p> <p>8. TO APPROVE THE CONTINUATION OF NWLDC IN THE LEICESTER AND LEICESTERSHIRE ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP (LLEP) BUSINESS RATES POOL IN 2023/24.</p> <p>9. TO APPROVE THE DRAWDOWN FROM RESERVES TO FUND THE ONE OFF BUDGET PROPOSALS AS DETAILED IN THE GENERAL FUND BUDGET SUMMARY 2023/24 TO 2027/28 (APPENDIX 1).</p> <p>10. TO APPROVE THE CONTRIBUTION TO RESERVES AS DETAILED IN THE GENERAL FUND BUDGET SUMMARY 2023/24 TO 2027/28 (APPENDIX 1).</p> <p>11. TO DELEGATE AUTHORITY TO THE S151 OFFICER IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CORPORATE PORTFOLIO HOLDER TO ACTION A VIREMENT ON GROUNDS MAINTENANCE AND EVENTS TO REALIGN THE BUDGETS ON SPECIAL EXPENSES SUBJECT TO THE CHANGES SHOWN IN THIS ALTERNATIVE BUDGET.</p>

1.0 PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE GENERAL FUND BUDGETS

1.1 The Labour Group proposes eight changes to the General Fund budgets as set out below:

- A. That more targeted support be provided to more vulnerable residents to address the cost of living crisis. We propose a budget of £30k as a one-off additional grant

to Citizens Advice Bureau to be used specifically to employ an advisor for the next year to assist with financial advice. This is a one-year commitment subject to a review towards the end of the year.

- B. That an additional Planning Enforcement Officer be employed at an additional annual cost of £43k.
- C. That a part time staff resource of £22k is provided to promote North West Leicestershire as a tourism destination.
- D. That an incentive scheme to 'rebalance the economy' by working with business representatives and skills advisors in the area at an additional cost of £41k per annum.
- E. That the Council reduces its expenditure on consultants over the next five years. Expenditure to be reduced by 25% in 2023/24, 35% in 2024/25 and 50% from 2025/26 onwards.
- F. That the District Council increases the level of its procurement spend in the local North West Leicestershire economy. As well as demonstrating the additional local spend, we would expect the Council to work more closely with local business groups in order to promote local procurement. We would expect any premium from buying local to be covered by overall efficiencies in procurement spend during the year. There are no additional financial implications arising from this proposal.
- G. To produce a detailed business case to build and operate workspaces for small businesses. The business case will have particular focus to promoting creative industry businesses and providing workspace that enables businesses to 'start up' and grow within North West Leicestershire. This is a one off cost of £25k in 2023/24.
- H. It is proposed to increase the District element of the Council Tax in 2023/24 by £3.24 on a Band D property. This will see the Band D District element increase from £158.58 to £161.82 (a 2.04% increase).

The impact of these changes are summarised in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Summary of changes to the General Fund Budget

	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000	Total £'000
GF Starting position						
GF Surplus/(Deficit)	(24)	1,628	2,208	2,469	3,905	10,186
Labour Alternative Budget changes	0	(55)	(50)	(27)	(15)	(147)
(see Paragraph 1.1 above and Appendix 11 for further detail on the proposed changes)						
GF Alternative Budget Surplus/(Deficit)	(24)	1,573	2,158	2,442	3,890	10,039

2.0 PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE SPECIAL EXPENSES BUDGETS

- 2.1 The Labour Group proposes to increase the budget for the Special Expense areas by £49k to be funded from an increase in Council Tax for Coalville of 9% and other Special Expense areas of 5%. The budget for each special expense area is set out in a Revised Appendix 6 and the Band D Special Expenses Council Tax are set out in the table below:

Table 2: Band D Special Expenses Council Tax			
	22/23	Increase	23/24
Appleby Magna	£7.08	£0.35	£7.43
Coalville	£73.81	£6.64	£80.45
Coleorton	£10.63	£0.53	£11.16
Hugglescote	£15.27	£0.76	£16.03
Lockington & Hemington	£13.72	£0.69	£14.41
Measham	£1.87	£0.09	£1.96
Oakthorpe & Donisthorpe	£6.10	£0.31	£6.41
Ravenstone with Snibston	£1.29	£0.06	£1.35
Stretton-en-le-Field	£73.11	£3.66	£76.77
Whitwick	£9.55	£0.48	£10.03

- 2.2 The increase in the Special Expense level of Council Tax is required to be included in the calculations when assessing the District level of Council Tax increase against the statutory requirements for a council tax referendum. The maximum Council Tax allowed increase for district councils without triggering the need to hold a referendum is an increase of upto 3% or £5, whichever is higher.
- 2.3 The average increase in Band D Council Tax of the District Council element and the Special Expenses element is £4.51, or 2.58%.

3.0 CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER ASSESSMENT OF ROBUSTNESS OF BUDGET ESTIMATES AND ADEQUACY OF RESERVES

- 3.1 Section 25(1) of the Local Government Finance Act 2003 requires the Chief Finance Officer (CFO) to provide their professional assessment on the robustness of budget estimates and the adequacy of reserves prior to the Budget and Council Tax being considered by Council. Agenda item 10 provides Council with the CFO's assessment on the Administration's proposed budget.
- 3.2 The CFO has undertaken an initial review of the alternative budget proposals contained in this report and can indicatively provide a positive opinion. However, it should be noted this review has not been undertaken in the level of depth as the proposed Administration's budget due to the short period of time available to assess the proposals. If Alternative Budget proposals were adopted by Council a more in depth review would be required as part of their implementation.

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL GENERAL FUND SUMMARY BUDGET 2023/24 to 2027/28

2022/23		2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
Budget £	Service	Indicative £	Indicative £	Indicative £	Indicative £	Indicative £
282,310	Chief Executive	401,840	401,840	331,030	331,030	331,030
724,900	Human Resources	740,310	742,140	744,220	746,710	749,370
1,486,570	Legal & Support Services	1,654,930	1,683,780	1,691,180	1,697,700	1,703,320
2,493,780	Total Chief Executive's Department	2,797,080	2,827,760	2,766,430	2,775,440	2,783,720
347,920	Strategic Director of Place	340,600	340,600	340,600	340,600	340,600
6,776,570	Community Services	6,321,690	5,913,920	5,746,040	5,598,480	5,407,000
1,031,610	Planning & Infrastructure	985,399	1,018,399	1,018,399	1,018,399	1,018,399
893,070	Economic Regeneration	897,140	897,140	897,140	897,140	897,140
12,420	Joint Strategic Planning	9,080	6,460	4,660	2,820	950
9,061,590	Total Director of Services	8,553,908	8,176,519	8,006,839	7,857,439	7,664,089
560,010	Strategic Housing	797,733	797,733	797,733	797,733	797,733
1,199,820	ICT	1,208,970	1,226,470	1,226,470	1,226,470	1,236,470
213,930	Property Services	245,660	230,780	232,400	234,050	235,730
951,330	Revenues & Benefits	1,131,260	1,139,590	1,160,360	1,181,970	1,204,450
898,150	Customer Services	958,060	950,790	952,210	953,660	955,140
1,094,790	Finance	1,147,750	1,015,890	1,017,710	1,019,240	1,020,840
4,918,030	Total Director of Housing & Customer Services	5,489,433	5,361,253	5,386,883	5,413,123	5,450,363
0	Estimated Pay Award and Inflation Contingency	651,230	1,165,990	1,519,460	1,889,370	2,259,190
16,040	Non Distributed - Revenue Expenditure on Surplus Assets	107,530	109,410	110,390	111,390	112,410
70,690	Non Distributed - Retirement Benefits	67,380	69,980	71,330	72,710	74,120
40,750	Corporate & Democratic Core	70,410	70,410	70,410	70,410	70,410
	Amendment for Alternative Labour Budget	118,000	63,000	68,000	91,000	103,000
16,600,880	NET COST OF SERVICES	17,854,972	17,844,322	17,999,742	18,280,882	18,517,302
(1,684,570)	Net Recharges from General Fund	(1,827,750)	(1,827,750)	(1,827,750)	(1,827,750)	(1,827,750)
14,916,310	NET COST OF SERVICES AFTER RECHARGES	16,027,222	16,016,572	16,171,992	16,453,132	16,689,552
	CORPORATE ITEMS AND FINANCING					
	Corporate Income and Expenditure					
1,762,293	Net Financing Costs	1,763,264	2,925,844	2,925,844	2,925,844	2,925,844
(4,895)	Investment Income	(335,200)	(135,200)	(125,200)	(125,200)	(125,200)
31,741	Localisation of CT Support Grant - Parish & Special Expenses	15,871	0	0	0	0
0	Revenue Contribution to Capital	0	0	0	0	0
16,705,449	NET REVENUE EXPENDITURE	17,471,157	18,807,216	18,972,636	19,253,776	19,490,196
(895,000)	Targeted savings in relation to J2SS	0	0	0	0	0
	Budget Proposals Funded from Reserves - One-Off	(290,195)	(161,905)	(92,590)	(94,100)	(87,795)
1,196,055	Contribution to/(from) Balances/Reserves	24,032	0	0	0	0
17,006,504	MET FROM GOVT GRANT & COUNCIL TAX	17,204,994	18,645,311	18,880,046	19,159,676	19,402,401
	ANTICIPATED BASELINE FUNDING GAP	0	1,573,302	2,158,001	2,441,737	3,890,009

2022/23		2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
Budget £	Service	Indicative £	Indicative £	Indicative £	Indicative £	Indicative £
	Financed By					
2,218,274	New Homes Bonus	1,219,692	1,194,745	-	-	-
153,126	Transfer from/(to) Collection Fund - CT Prev Yrs Surplus/(Deficit)	25,056	-	-	-	-
5,642,435	Council Tax	5,889,277	6,069,887	6,209,161	6,351,694	6,497,562
2,403,617	National Non-Domestic Rates Baseline	2,493,566	2,499,955	2,548,123	2,601,109	2,654,094
6,222,377	Business Rates Retained Growth & Renewables Disregard	6,222,377	6,126,039	2,002,389	2,028,000	2,053,596
0	Business Rates Reserve	-	-	-	-	-
200,977	Lower Tier Services Grant	-	-	-	-	-
165,699	2022/23 Services Grant	97,213	125,383	-	-	-
0	Minimum Funding Guarantee	1,167,635	1,056,000	-	-	-
0	Revenue Support Grant	90,178	-	737,491	717,217	697,289
0	Other Grants from Government	-	-	-	-	-
0	Transitional Relief	-	-	5,224,881	5,019,919	3,609,851
17,006,504	TOTAL FUNDING AVAILABLE	17,204,994	17,072,009	16,722,045	16,717,939	15,512,392

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**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
ALTERNATIVE BUDGET 2023/24 - LIST OF CHANGES**

Item Number	Details	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000	Total £'000
1	Targeted Advice - Cost of Living That more targeted support be provided to more vulnerable residents to address the cost of living crisis. We propose a budget of £30k as a one-off additional grant to Citizens Advice Bureau to be used specifically to employ an advisor for the next year to assist with financial advice. This is a one-year commitment subject to a review towards the end of the year.	30	0	0	0	0	30
2	Additional Enforcement Officer That an additional Planning Enforcement Officer be employed at an additional annual cost of £43k.	43	44	45	46	47	225
3	Tourism Advice/Promotion That a part time staff resource of £22k is provided to promote North West Leicestershire as a tourism destination.	22	22	23	23	24	114
4	Rebalancing' the Economy That an incentive scheme to 'rebalance the economy' by working with business representatives and skills advisors in the area at an additional cost of £41k per annum.	41	42	42	43	43	211
5	Reduce Consultancy Spend That the Council reduces its expenditure on consultancy budgets over the next five years. Expenditure to be reduced by 25% in 2023/24, 35% in 2024/25 and 50% from 2025/26 onwards.	(43)	(45)	(42)	(21)	(11)	(162)
6	Buy Local That the District Council increases the level of its procurement spend in the local North West Leicestershire economy. As well as demonstrating the additional local spend, we would expect the Council to work more closely with local business groups in order to promote local procurement. We would expect any premium from buying local to be covered by overall efficiencies in procurement spend during the year. There are no additional financial implications arising from this proposal.	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Promoting Workspace for 'Start Up' Small Businesses, with a focus on the Creative Industry To produce a detailed business case to build and operate workspaces for small businesses. The business case will have particular focus to promoting creative industry businesses and providing workspace that enables businesses to 'start up' and grow within North West Leicestershire.	25	0	0	0	0	25
8	Council Tax (Whole District Element Only) Additional Council Tax to fund Alternative Budget proposals is an additional £3.24 per annum for a band D property, equivalent to a 2.04% increase.	(118)	(118)	(118)	(118)	(118)	(590)
TOTAL GENERAL FUND		0	(55)	(50)	(27)	(15)	(147)
1	Special Expenses To increase the budget for Special Expense areas	49	49	49	49	49	245
2	Council Tax (Special Expenses Element Only) Additional Council Tax for Coalville (9% increase) and other Special Expense areas (5% increase).	(49)	(49)	(49)	(49)	(49)	(245)
TOTAL SPECIAL EXPENSES		0	0	0	0	0	0

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**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
ALTERNATIVE BUDGET 2023/24 - LIST OF CHANGES**

Item Number	Details	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000	Total £'000
1	Targeted Advice - Cost of Living That more targeted support be provided to more vulnerable residents to address the cost of living crisis. We propose a budget of £30k as a one-off additional grant to Citizens Advice Bureau to be used specifically to employ an advisor for the next year to assist with financial advice. This is a one-year commitment subject to a review towards the end of the year.	30	0	0	0	0	30
2	Additional Enforcement Officer That an additional Planning Enforcement Officer be employed at an additional annual cost of £43k.	43	44	45	46	47	225
3	Tourism Advice/Promotion That a part time staff resource of £22k is provided to promote North West Leicestershire as a tourism destination.	22	22	23	23	24	114
4	Rebalancing' the Economy That an incentive scheme to 'rebalance the economy' by working with business representatives and skills advisors in the area at an additional cost of £41k per annum.	41	42	42	43	43	211
5	Reduce Consultancy Spend That the Council reduces its expenditure on consultancy budgets over the next five years. Expenditure to be reduced by 25% in 2023/24, 35% in 2024/25 and 50% from 2025/26 onwards.	(43)	(45)	(42)	(21)	(11)	(162)
17 6	Buy Local That the District Council increases the level of its procurement spend in the local North West Leicestershire economy. As well as demonstrating the additional local spend, we would expect the Council to work more closely with local business groups in order to promote local procurement. We would expect any premium from buying local to be covered by overall efficiencies in procurement spend during the year. There are no additional financial implications arising from this proposal.	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Promoting Workspace for 'Start Up' Small Businesses, with a focus on the Creative Industry To produce a detailed business case to build and operate workspaces for small businesses. The business case will have particular focus to promoting creative industry businesses and providing workspace that enables businesses to 'start up' and grow within North West Leicestershire.	25	0	0	0	0	25
8	Council Tax (Whole District Element Only) Additional Council Tax to fund Alternative Budget proposals is an additional £3.24 per annum for a band D property, equivalent to a 2.04% increase.	(118)	(118)	(118)	(118)	(118)	(590)
TOTAL GENERAL FUND		0	(55)	(50)	(27)	(15)	(147)
1	Special Expenses To increase the budget for Special Expense areas	49	49	49	49	49	245
2	Council Tax (Special Expenses Element Only) Additional Council Tax for Coalville (9% increase) and other Special Expense areas (5% increase).	(49)	(49)	(49)	(49)	(49)	(245)
TOTAL SPECIAL EXPENSES		0	0	0	0	0	0

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COUNCIL, THURSDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2023

AMENDMENT TO THE HRA BUDGET SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR S SHEAHAN

I move the amendments to recommendations to item 13 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET AND RENTS 2023/24 with amended areas highlighted in red.

Should these changes be agreed, members will need to be mindful of the consequential changes to agenda item 11 CAPITAL STRATEGY, TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS.

AGENDA ITEM 13 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET AND RENTS 2023/24

Recommendations	COUNCIL IS RECOMMENDED:
	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. TO APPROVE THE HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) BUDGET FOR 2023/24 (APPENDIX 1) AS SUMMARISED IN SECTION 2 OF THIS REPORT. THIS INCLUDES:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. INCREASING RENTS BY UP TO 7%b. CHANGES TO FEES AND CHARGES AND SERVICES CHARGES, AS DETAILED IN APPENDIX 32. TO NOTE THE HRA BUDGET FOR 2024/25 TO 2027/28 (APPENDIX 1). SUBJECT TO CHANGES SHOWN IN THIS ALTERNATIVE BUDGET IN TABLE 1.3. TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED HRA CAPITAL PROGRAMME FOR 2023/24 (APPENDIX 4) AND PLANNED FINANCING, AS SET OUT IN SECTION 3 OF THIS REPORT. SUBJECT TO CHANGES SHOWN IN THIS ALTERNATIVE BUDGET IN TABLE 2.4. TO APPROVE THE FLEET REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME FOR 2024/25 (APPENDIX 4), TO ALLOW VEHICLES TO BE ORDERED IN ADVANCE ONCE APPROVAL HAS BEEN GIVEN TO MOVE THE SCHEME FROM THE DEVELOPMENT POOL TO THE ACTIVE POOL.5. TO NOTE THE REMAINING ELEMENTS OF THE HRA CAPITAL PROGRAMMES 2024/25 – 2027/28 AS DETAILED IN APPENDIX 4 SUBJECT TO CHANGES SHOWN IN THIS ALTERNATIVE BUDGET

1.0 PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGETS

- 1.1 Labour Group proposes to increase the capital budget for supply of 70 additional homes over a two year period to rent at affordable rent levels. The capital cost of £12.5m would be funded from additional borrowing (£8m) and the use of Right To Buy Receipts (£4.5m). The additional revenue costs would be offset by the additional revenue generated through rental income.

1.2 The revenue impact of this change is summarised in table 1 below.

Table 1: Summary of changes to the Housing Revenue Account Budget.

	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000	Total £'000
HRA Starting position						
HRA (Surplus)/Deficit	4,479	1,098	-	-	-	5,577
HRA External Borrowing	0	5,513	7,331	7,678	6,581	27,103
Labour Alternative Budget Changes						
1.1) Additional net surplus from additional new supply programme.	(84)	(105)	(14)	(20)	(29)	(252)
HRA Labour position						
HRA Alternative Budget Surplus/(Deficit)	4395	991	(14)	(20)	(29)	5,323
Alternative HRA Borrowings	1,258	12,122	7,408	7,812	6,706	35,306

1.3 The impact of depreciation is not shown in the above table as this is an accounting adjustment which in the HRA can be used to fund capital expenditure via the Major Repairs Reserve.

1.4 Table 2 below shows the summary of the HRA Capital programme including the change to new supply.

	2023/24 Budget £'000	2024/25 Indicative £'000	2025/26 Indicative £'000	2026/27 Indicative £'000	2027/28 Indicative £'000	Total £'000
Stock Investment	8,539	8,039	7,400	7,250	7,250	38,478
Estate Improvements	1250	620	720	620	620	3,830
Fleet Replacement	55	211	699	0	0	965
Other Capital	2,382	925	800	650	650	5,407
Total Approved Programme	12,226	9,795	9,619	8,520	8,520	48,680
Development Pool	2,948	3,805	2,378	3,750	1,000	13,881
Labour Proposal	4,025	8,372	0	0	0	12,397
Total Development Pool	6,973	12,177	2,378	3,750	1,000	26,278
Housing Revenue Account Total	19,199	21,972	11,997	12,270	9,520	74,958

- 1.5 The consequential impact of this proposed change on the Capital Strategy, Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators report at agenda item 11 will be actioned under the delegation provided to the Section 151 Officer.

2.0 Chief Finance Officer Assessment of Robustness of Budget Estimates and Adequacy of Reserves

- 2.1 Section 25(1) of the Local Government Finance Act 2003 requires the Chief Finance Officer (CFO) to provide their professional assessment on the robustness of budget estimates and the adequacy of reserves prior to the Budget and Council Tax being considered by Council. Agenda item 10 provides Council with the CFO's assessment on the Administration's proposed budget.
- 2.2 The CFO has undertaken an initial review of the alternative budget proposals contained in this report and can indicatively provide a positive opinion. However, it should be noted this review has not been undertaken in the level of depth as the proposed Administration's budget due to the short period of time available to assess the proposals. If Alternative Budget proposals were adopted by Council a more in depth review would be required as part of their implementation.

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Council Procedure Rules – Motions and Amendments

What members can do

- When seconding a motion, a member may reserve their speech until later in the debate (rule 14.3).
- Members may only speak once on a motion or amendment whilst it is being debated (rule 14.5, 14.5(a)).
- Members may also move a further amendment if the motion has been amended since they last spoke (rule 14.5(b)).
- Members can exercise a right of reply, raise a point of order or make a personal explanation during debate (rule 14.5(d), (e) and (f)).
- Members can speak on the main issues if their first speech was on an amendment (rule 14.5(c)).
- The mover of a motion has a right of reply at the close of debate on the motion, before it is put to the vote (rule 14.9.1).
- The mover of a motion has a right of reply at the close of debate on any amendment (rule 14.9.2).

What members can't do

- Members cannot make a speech until a motion has been seconded (rule 14.1).
- Members cannot speak again whilst a motion is being debated, except to exercise a right of reply, raise a point of order or make a personal explanation (rule 14.5, 14.5(a) to (f)).
- Members cannot speak for more than 5 minutes without the consent of the Chairman (rule 14.4).
- The mover of a motion may not speak on an amendment, other than to exercise his right of reply (rule 14.9.2).
- The mover of an amendment has no right of reply at the close of debate (rule 14.9.3).

Motions and Amendments – Flowchart

