

Title of Report	ROBUSTNESS OF BUDGET ESTIMATES AND ADEQUACY OF RESERVES	
Presented by	Councillor Nicholas Rushton Corporate Portfolio Holder	PH Briefed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y
Background Papers	Capital Strategy, Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators 2023/24 Report (Council 23 February 2023) General Fund Budget and Council Tax 2023/24 Report (Council 23 February 2023) Housing Revenue Account Budget and Rents 2023/24 Report (Council 23 February 2023)	Public Report: Yes Key Decision: Yes
Financial Implications	In line with statutory requirements the report provides the Section 151 Officer's advice on the robustness of budget estimates and the adequacy of reserves in the draft budget. Signed off by the Section 151 Officer: Yes	
Legal Implications	No direct legal implications arising. Signed off by the Deputy Monitoring Officer: Yes	
Staffing and Corporate Implications	Signed off by the Head of Paid Service: Yes	
Purpose of Report	To ensure the council meets its statutory requirements when considering its budget.	
Reason for Decision	To meet the requirements of the Section 25(1) of the Local Government Act 2003	
Recommendations	THAT CABINET NOTES THE S151 OFFICER'S ADVICE SET OUT IN SECTION 7 OF THE APPENDIX, AND CAREFULLY CONSIDERS THE CONTENT OF THIS REPORT AS PART OF PROPOSING TO COUNCIL THE GENERAL FUND BUDGET REPORT 2023/24, HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET 2023/24 REPORT AND THE CAPITAL STRATEGY AND TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2023/24	

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Section 25(1) of the Local Government Act 2003 (the “2003 Act”) requires that the Chief Financial Officer (Section 151 Officer under the Local Government Act 1972) reports to the Council when setting its Council Tax on:
- the robustness of the estimates in the budget.
 - the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves.
- 1.2 Section 25(2) of the 2003 Act requires the Council to have regard to this report in approving the budget and Council Tax.
- 1.3 The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Financial Management Code reinforces this requirement stating that the statement in relation to the proposed financial reserves should consider whether the level of general reserves are appropriate for the risks (both internal and external) to which the Council is exposed and give reassurance that the authority’s financial management processes and procedures are able to manage those risks
- 1.4 While the statutory local authority budget setting process continues to be on an annual basis, a longer-term perspective is essential if local authorities are to demonstrate their financial sustainability.
- 1.5 The Report from the Chief Finance Officer to Council is set out in Appendix A.

Policies and other considerations, as appropriate	
Council Priorities:	The report encompasses the Council’s budget, therefore, is relevant to all Council Priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Supporting Coalville to be a more vibrant, family-friendly town- Support for businesses and helping people into local jobs- Developing a clean and green district- Local people live in high quality, affordable homes Our communities are safe, healthy and connected
Policy Considerations:	None
Safeguarding:	None
Equalities/Diversity:	There has been equality impact assessments conducted by services on relevant proposals during the budget setting period.
Customer Impact:	Customers are likely to be impacted by the changes to fees and charges and special expenses precepts set out in this report.
Economic and Social Impact:	The General Fund capital programme allocates £9.9 million to investing in Coalville Regeneration Projects over five years.
Environment and Climate Change:	The General Fund budget sees substantial new investment of £7.4m in the replacement of council vehicles and reducing the Council’s carbon

	<p>emissions. There's £0.8m investment in bins and recycling containers to increase recycling from households.</p> <p>On revenue the Climate Change Programme Manager post has been funded for the next five years from reserves.</p> <p>The HRA budget includes a capital programme of Zero Carbon works to dwellings worth £13.8m.</p>
Consultation/Community/Tenant Engagement:	The draft budget was considered by Corporate Scrutiny and has been the subject of consultation with the public. In addition, the Housing Revenue Account draft budget has been shared with and considered by the Tenants Forum.
Risks:	This report provides the Section 151 Officers view on the robustness of budget estimates and adequacy of reserves. The report identifies the key risks, provides an assessment of these and proposed mitigating actions to manage those risks.
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