

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
 COUNCIL – THURSDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2024



| | | |
|--|--|---------------------------|
| Title of Report | GENERAL FUND BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2024/25 | |
| Presented by | Councillor Nick Rushton Corporate Portfolio Holder | |
| Background Papers | General Fund Budget and Council Tax 2023/24 – Council 23 February 2023 Draft General Fund Budget 2024/25 - Cabinet 9th January 2024 Corporate Scrutiny Minutes – 4th January 2024 | Public Report: Yes |
| Financial Implications | This report sets out the General Fund, Special Expenses Revenue and Capital Programme for 2024/25 to 2028/29, which are needed for the Council to continue to deliver its services to residents, tenants and businesses. | |
| | Signed off by the Section 151 Officer: Yes | |
| Legal Implications | There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. | |
| | Signed off by the Monitoring Officer: Yes | |
| Staffing and Corporate Implications | The report and its appendices set out plans to create new posts and remove vacant posts from the establishment. | |
| | Signed off by the Head of Paid Service: Yes | |
| Purpose of Report | To allow the Council to approve the 2024/25 budgets. | |
| Recommendations | COUNCIL IS RECOMMENDED: 1. TO APPROVE THE GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET FOR 2024/25 AS SUMMARISED IN SECTION 2 OF THIS REPORT. THIS INCLUDES INCREASING THE DISTRICT COUNCIL'S SHARE OF COUNCIL TAX IN 2024/25 BY 2.75% 2. TO NOTE THE GENERAL FUND REVENUE INDICATIVE BUDGET FOR 2025/26 TO 2028/29 (APPENDIX 1). 3. TO NOTE THE GENERAL FUND FEES AND CHARGES (APPENDIX 3). 4. TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME (APPENDIX 4) FOR 2024/25 AND PLANNED FINANCING, AS SET OUT IN | |

Type text here

| | |
|--|--|
| | <p style="text-align: center;">SECTION 3 OF THIS REPORT.</p> <p>5. TO NOTE THE REMAINING ELEMENTS OF THE GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2025/26 – 2028/29.</p> <p>6. TO APPROVE THE SPECIAL EXPENSES REVENUE BUDGET FOR 2024/25 (APPENDIX 6) AS SUMMARISED IN SECTION 4, INCLUDING SETTING THE SPECIAL EXPENSE BAND D COUNCIL TAX AT THE LEVELS DETAILED IN TABLE 4 OF THIS REPORT.</p> <p>7. TO APPROVE THE CONTINUATION OF NWLDC IN THE LEICESTER AND LEICESTERSHIRE ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP (LLEP) BUSINESS RATES POOL IN 2024/25.</p> <p>8. TO APPROVE THE DRAWDOWN FROM RESERVES TO FUND THE ONE-OFF BUDGET PROPOSALS AS DETAILED IN THE GENERAL FUND BUDGET SUMMARY 2024/25 TO 2028/29 (APPENDIX 1).</p> <p>9. TO APPROVE THE CONTRIBUTION FROM RESERVES AS DETAILED IN THE GENERAL FUND BUDGET SUMMARY 2024/25 TO 2028/29 (APPENDIX 1).</p> <p>10. DELEGATE RESPONSIBILITY TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES (SECTION 151 OFFICER) AND THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDER TO SPEND £500K FROM THE MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN (MTFP) RESERVE ON THE TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME.</p> |
|--|--|

1.0 BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

1.0.1 The Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) sets out the financial strategic direction for the Council and is updated as it evolves and develops throughout the year, to form the framework for the Council’s financial planning.

1.0.2 The purpose of the MTFP is to set out the key financial management principles, budget assumptions and service issues. It is then used as the framework for the detailed budget setting process to ensure that resources are effectively managed and are able to deliver the aspirations of the Council, as set out in the Council Plan, over the medium term.

1.1 Context

1.1.1 The Council is setting its budget at a time when it faces a range of issues to contend with. In broad terms these can be split into three categories; economic, local government and locally in North West Leicestershire. Each of these is explored below:

1.2 Economic

1.2.1 The recent report by the Office of Budget Responsibility (OBR) in respect of the Economic and Fiscal Outlook describes how the economy has proved to be more resilient to the shocks of the Covid pandemic and energy crisis than anticipated. GDP stood nearly 2% above its pre-pandemic level and around 3% above the OBR March forecast but is now expected the economy will grow more slowly over the medium term.

1.2.2 Inflation was expected to fall below 5% by the end of the calendar year, which was achieved with the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) being confirmed at 4.0% in December 2023. However, it is not forecast to return to its 2% target until the first half of 2025.

1.3 Local Government

1.3.1 High inflation, energy prices and pay awards have put substantial financial pressure on councils. The Local Government Association has estimated that councils face a funding gap of £2.4bn in 2023/24 and £1.6bn in 2024/25. These gaps relate to funding needed to maintain services at their current level.

1.3.2 The Autumn Statement 2023 announced in November 2023 was silent on wider issues in respect of local government funding for 2024/25 and beyond, including council tax referendum principles, grant funding and total increase in spending power. However, there were announcements welcomed by district councils including:

- Increasing the Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rate to the 30th percentile of local market rents from April 2024, The LHA is designed to ensure that people receive enough housing benefit to cover the cost of renting a typical home in their area that is large enough for their needs.
- £120m funding for local authorities in England and the devolved administrations to invest in homelessness prevention, including to support Ukrainian households who can no longer remain in sponsorship.
- Extending 'thank you' payments for Homes for Ukraine sponsors into a third year.
- Creating the flexibility for Local Planning Authorities to charge a locally-set premium fee for major planning applications, allowing them to recover the full cost.
- £110m Local Nutrient Mitigation Fund for councils to mitigate the impact of nutrient pollution in waterways and deliver thousands of homes that have been on hold. The Council would use monies secured from the Local Mitigation Fund to appoint specialist consultants to develop a detailed mitigation strategy and to identify short, medium and long term potential mitigation measures that could enable phosphate nutrient neutrality to be achieved for anticipated new housing and economic development in the River Mease Special Area of Conservation catchment.

1.3.3 Ahead of the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement, the Government released a Policy Statement 2024 to 2025. It sets out the Government's intentions for the Local Government Finance Settlement 2024/25. It confirmed the Council Tax referendum principles for 2024/25, this being a principle of up to 3% or £5, whichever is higher, for shire district councils.

- 1.3.4 In addition, the Statement confirmed that all local authorities will see at least a 3% increase in their Core Spending Power before any decision they make about organisational efficiencies, use of reserves and Council Tax levels through a funding guarantee. Core Spending Power includes revenue from Council Tax, business rates, grants and other sources.
- 1.3.5 The Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement was announced on 18 December 2023 and has been incorporated into the budget position for 2024/25. There are no details of funding streams for 2025/26 onwards.

1.4 Local – North West Leicestershire

- 1.4.1 North West Leicestershire District Council continues to face increased costs from high inflation and pay awards.
- 1.4.2 In recent years the Council has seen growth in its business rate income as new companies have moved into the area due to its location and excellent communication links. This has led to the Council being the largest beneficiary in England from the business rates growth retention scheme. The business rates growth has enabled the Council to fund services without increasing council tax.
- 1.4.3 This continues to present the Council's highest financial risk as government has indicated that it is looking to reset the business rates growth baseline and redistribute resources to councils across the country with a fair funding review which is expected to be implemented in 2026.
- 1.4.4 Recognising the wider context within which the budget is being set, the Council made improvements to financial management in the last 12 months and has continued to use processes to develop its budget plans for 2024/25 and over the medium term. This recognises the greater focus within the organisation on its finances. The process, coupled with that used in previous years, has involved:
- Services completing budget proposals to justify the need for any changes to the budget.
 - Budget STAR Chamber sessions between Directors and Heads of Service.
 - Regular reporting to the Corporate Leadership Team on the Council's overall budget position.
 - Engagement with councillors through Portfolio Holder briefings, Strategy Group and an all-councillor budget briefing.
 - Further engagement through scrutiny and consultation with the public.

1.5 Principles Underpinning the Budget Strategy

- 1.5.1 The Council has a number of agreed principles as a basis for financial management and budget planning as follows:

| Guiding Principles | Key Strategies for Developing Budget 2024/25 and MTFP 2024-29 |
|--|---|
| Financial Stability and Sustainability | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan ahead for potential Government funding changes (including Business Rates Reset) • Do not become overly reliant on Business Rates funding for on-going service provision |

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use future surpluses in Business Rates funding for future one off investment to reduce ongoing revenue costs or generate income |
| Resources Focussed on Priorities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Align resources to Council Delivery Plan objectives |
| Maximising Our Sources of Income | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fees and Charges maximised in accordance with the Corporate Charging Policy (increased by inflation) |
| Managing our Risks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acceptable level of risk tolerance Review of reserves strategy and position |

1.6 Budget Assumptions

1.6.1 The following budget assumptions have been built into the forecast:

- Pay award – additional 2.75% for 2023/24 (4% had been included within the 2023/24 budgets), 3% in 2024/25 and 2% thereafter.
- Contracts have been linked to the CPI/Retail Prices Index (RPI) as per individual agreements.
- Inflation – fuel and utilities inflation are very volatile which was reflected in the large increases in the budget in 2023/24 (see table below). After reviewing the current prices and future indications based on the best information available, the decision has been taken that there is sufficient budget in 2024/25 to meet demand.

| Cost | Increase in Budget 2023/24 |
|-------------|-------------------------------|
| Fuel | 30% |
| Gas | 86% |
| Electricity | 100% |

- Fees and charges – where relevant, budgets have been increased by 7% which was slightly higher than the September CPI of 6.7%. This is in line with the Corporate Charging Policy and supports cost recovery where the Council has not increased charges in previous years. There are also some charges where the charge has been increased above the 7% which are included in the budget options on Appendix 2. See section 2.4 for more detailed information on fees and charges.
- In broad terms other expenditure has not had any inflationary factor applied with a few exceptions where material costs have had to be increased to keep up with rising prices (e.g. Grounds Maintenance).

2.0 GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2024/25

2.1 General Fund Budget Summary

2.1.1 Appendix 1 shows the general fund budget position for 2023/24 and the budget for approval for 2024/25, as well as an indicative budget for 2025/26 to 2028/29.

2.1.2 Table 1 below highlights that in 2024/25 the net revenue expenditure has increased by £804k compared to 2023/24 and the anticipated funding has also increased by (£206k). However, it should be noted that £771k of this sum relates to one-off expenditure and will be funded from reserves.

Table 1: Changes to the General Fund budget from the previous year

| | 2023/24 | 2024/25 | Movement |
|----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Total Funding | (17,087) | (17,293) | (206) |
| Net Revenue Expenditure | 17,353 | 18,157 | 804 |
| Funding (surplus)/deficit | 266 | 864 | 598 |
| Contributions to/(from) reserves | (266) | (864) | (598) |

2.1.3 To balance the budget in 2024/25, £864k is being met from reserves. Of this £771k is to fund one-off budget expenditure proposals which are discussed in further detail in section 2.2 below and is being met from the MTFP reserve. A further £93k is a contribution from the Business Rates Reserve (BRR) to fund the current budget gap in 2024/25.

2.1.4 The forecast financial position for the medium term is set out in Appendix 1. Although the Council currently has a balanced budget for 2024/25 with the shortfall of £93k being funded from the BRR, there is uncertainty for the future as the budget gap for 2025/26 is £380k, increasing to £1,885k in 2028/29. It is not part of the Council's financial strategy to continue to use the BRR to fund revenue expenditure as detailed above in section 1.5.1.

2.1.5 It should be noted that this is a much-improved position from last financial year when the budget gap for 2024/25 was £1,628k, increasing to £3,905k in 2027/28. The budget options proposed for 2024/25 have helped to reduce the base funding position. However, there is still a funding gap over the medium-term coupled with an uncertain economic climate and ambiguity in respect of the local government finance funding regime.

2.1.6 A robust corporate and financial plan is required to bridge the funding gap and ensure the Council can balance its budget for 2025/26 and over the medium term. This plan should initially focus on being more efficient with the aim of having the same service outcomes at a lower cost. However, it needs to be flexible enough to adapt to potential national changes to local government funding, which may require reductions in service levels in the future. There is a Transformation Programme planned to support this which is detailed in section 2.3.1 below.

2.2 Budget Changes to the MTFP

2.2.1 Appendix 2 sets out the most significant planned changes to the general fund budgets for 2024/25 to 2028/29.

2.2.2 Looking at 2024/25 specifically, the total budget proposals show an overall saving of £489k and include:

- **Cost pressures totalling £1.2m.** The most significant cost pressures relate to:
 - pay related costs which are due to increase by £0.5m, due to a combination of funding the unbudgeted balance of the pay award for 2023/24 and incremental increases for 2024/25. These additional costs have been offset by an increase in the vacancy allowance saving of 1% (from 2% to 3%) which provides an additional £200k saving to offset the increased budgeted pay costs in 2024/25 of 3%. This is based on historical data and forecasted trends.
 - service pressures of £886k which includes £700k for one off-costs funded from reserves, the largest being £500k investment to provide capacity for the Transformation Programme. Other significant pressures include £40k increase on insurance costs due to the additional premiums mainly in relation to property and motor due to inflation and the Council's claim history, £60k for additional finance systems administration support required for the finance system and £32k for additional security costs required for Council premises.

- **Budget Options totalling (£277k)** – these are net savings which have been identified across all service areas and are detailed in Appendix 2. Heads of Service were tasked with trying to achieve 10% net saving across their services. These are discussed in further detail in section 2.3 below. The main areas of savings/increased income are:
 - **Housing £120k** – £50k reduction in temporary accommodation demand along with £70k increase in income from a change to the temporary accommodation charging policy.
 - **Property Services £68k** – achieved through the closure of the Council Offices at Whitwick Road.
 - **Planning £67k** – reduction in contribution to the Strategic Growth Plan.

- **Changes to income, which see a net income increase of £373k.** The largest increase in income relates to investment income of £275k due to higher interest rates and investment balances previously predicted, along with increased income of £90k from a 7% increase on fees and changes which is set out in paragraph 1.6.1 above. Other changes to income relate to changes to recharges to both the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Special Expenses. There are some changes to income which have been included as part of Budget Options.

- **Budget efficiencies totalling £46k.** This is where the Council has identified where some budgets can be decreased by identifying efficiencies from centralisation and removal of nominal budgets to achieve budget savings.

- **Technical Adjustments totalling £1m.** The main area adjusted is Financing Costs (cost of debt) which shows a reduction of £1m, due to the outturn of the 2022/23 being lower than originally predicted for the general fund capital programme and the 2023/24 programme being funded from the business rates reserve.

2.3 The Year Ahead by Service Area

2.3.1 Transformation

2.3.1.1 The transformation programme aims to improve the performance, efficiency and effectiveness of the Council. It may involve redesigning processes, systems and structures, as well as changing the culture, behaviours and skills of the workforce.

2.3.1.2 The benefits of the transformation programme include better outcomes for citizens, customers and stakeholders, as well as reduced costs and increased productivity. It will align with the priorities as set out in the Council Delivery Plan (CDP).

2.3.1.3 A transformation programme requires significant investment in terms of time, resources and money. This one-off investment is necessary to enable the changes to be implemented and sustained, as well as to overcome the challenges and risks that may arise during the transition. Therefore, it is important to justify the investment by demonstrating how it will contribute to the strategic objectives and priorities of the Council. One of the main priorities, as set out in the CDP, is to close the funding gap over the medium-term that has resulted from reduced central government grants, the planned business rates reset, increased demand for services and rising costs.

2.3.1.4 If the funding gap is left unaddressed, it could lead to financial instability, service deterioration and statutory failure. The transformation programme can help to close the funding gap by delivering efficiencies and savings across the Council. By streamlining processes, eliminating waste and duplication, and optimising resources, the programme can reduce the operational costs of delivering services. By enhancing quality, responsiveness and innovation, the programme can increase customer satisfaction, loyalty and retention, as well as generate new income streams.

2.3.1.5 By aligning services with needs, expectations and preferences, the programme can improve outcomes for citizens, communities and partners, as well as reduce demand for costly interventions. Therefore, investing in the transformation programme is not only desirable but essential for the future sustainability and success of the Council. It will enable the Council to achieve its vision of being a modern, efficient and customer-focused organisation that delivers value for money and excellent services for all.

2.3.1.6 The programme aims to achieve the following outcomes:

- Streamline processes and reduce duplication of work across departments and functions;
- Enhance collaboration and communication among staff, partners and stakeholders;
- Implement innovative solutions and best practices to deliver better outcomes for our customers; and
- Increase customer satisfaction and trust in the local government services.

- 2.3.1.7 The transformation programme requires an upfront investment to cover the costs of planning, designing and implementing the changes. However, this investment will be offset by the savings and benefits that will be generated by the programme in the long term.
- 2.3.1.8 One of the key aspects of the transformation programme is to ensure that the Council listens to and involves staff in the process. That is why several workshops and feedback sessions were recently held with senior leaders and staff where they had the opportunity to share opinions, concerns and suggestions about areas of focus for transformation. The feedback will help the Council to identify the main challenges and opportunities that it faces as an organisation, and to prioritise the actions and initiatives that will enable the Council to achieve our strategic goals.
- 2.3.1.9 The workshops focused on the following themes:
- Culture and Values
 - Getting the Basics Right, Doing the Basics Well
 - Delivering Our Priorities
 - Customer Experience
 - Value for Money
 - Financial Sustainability
- 2.3.1.10 The initial feedback included the following:
- Ensuring visible leadership at every staff location
 - Sharing knowledge
 - Streamlining ICT systems
 - Improving digital access for staff and customers
 - Rolling programme of service reviews to optimise the customer experience
 - Reviewing all assets
 - Ensuring customer insight and feedback drives continuous improvement in process and provision
 - Engaging customers consistently across the Council
 - Reviewing current service providers and suppliers to prioritise key contracts for essential services
 - Identifying and maximising commercial opportunities
 - Ensuring fees and charges are aligned to the market.
- 2.3.1.11 The Council has already commenced work to review all of its contracts to establish where procurement savings can be made. There are also service reviews in train which include waste and housing.
- 2.3.1.12 A Steering Group made up of senior officers will be a key governance mechanism that provides strategic direction, oversight and decision-making for the programme. The Group will:
- Define the vision, objectives, scope and benefits of the transformation programme;
 - Approve the programme plan and priorities, budget, resources and the risk management strategy;
 - Monitor and review the programme progress, performance and outcomes;
 - Resolve any issues, conflicts or dependencies that arise during the programme;
 - Ensure alignment and coordination with other programmes and projects within the Council;

- Communicate and engage with internal and external stakeholders to secure their support and feedback; and
- Manage any changes or deviations from the original programme plan.

2.3.1.13 It is proposed that an investment of £500k will be spent on the programme to provide the necessary resources to align with the programme's objectives and priorities. It is recommended that responsibility for spending the £500k is delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Director of Resources (Section 151 Officer) and relevant Portfolio Holder. The investment will be met from the Medium-Term Plan Reserve. There will be further reports to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet.

2.3.2 ICT

2.3.2.1 Moving to a hybrid/agile working operating model has meant that the service supports 350 officers, as well as councillors, which is a pressure on ICT services. There is a greater focus on IT audits and this will continue over the short and medium term to ensure that the Council is compliant with ICT standards and practices.

2.3.2.2 There are a number of ICT systems which require upgrades as the software reaches end of life or end of contract.

2.3.2.3 There are likely to be several projects emerging from the Transformation Programme which will require ICT support.

2.3.2.4 The service will review the numerous ICT contracts in places across the Council with a view to reducing them, as well as ensuring that the systems deliver value for money.

2.3.3 Finance

2.3.3.1 During 2024/25, the finance team will continue to develop the Unit 4 finance system which went live in April 2023. Further development will allow more tasks to be completed in the system, such as budget monitoring and forecasting and continue to automate processes. To aid the development, two service pressures have been requested, £60k in relation to enable Embridge Consulting to support with Systems Administration and £50k for additional resources for Phase 3 of the project.

2.3.3.2 Key objectives for the year will be to ensure that the team is fully resourced, and the Statutory Accounts and Returns are completed in a timely manner. The team will also be leading on the procurement of the corporate insurance contract which will be live from October 2024. A £40k budget pressure has been included in the budget for the insurance contract until September 2024. The Council is looking for savings from the new contract commencing in October 2024.

2.3.4 Legal and Support Services

2.3.4.1 A priority for the Democratic Services Team will be to manage the Local Government Boundary Commission Review of Electoral Arrangements. Additional capacity has been secured to support this work through the Association of Electoral Administrators. This cost has been managed through existing budgets within the service. The Democratic Services Team will also be managing elections (PCC and

Parliamentary) in 2024. Strong project management is in place for forthcoming elections.

2.3.4.2 In terms of Legal Services, there remains a vacant post on the establishment which is currently filled with locum support. This cost is being met from existing budgets within the service. Work is ongoing with the Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development to review the approach to recruitment of this post.

2.3.4.3 The resources and structure of the Internal Audit team were reviewed in 2023 to ensure that appropriate audit coverage was provided to the Council, both in terms of General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA). The number of Audit days per year was increased from 130 to 315. This was necessary to provide an appropriate level of audit assurance to managers and members of Audit and Governance Committee. It is necessary to review the level of recharges to the HRA to ensure that they are commensurate with the number of audit days provided to the Housing Service.

2.3.5 Organisational Development

2.3.5.1 A key focus for the HR team in the next few years will be recruitment and retention issues affecting parts of the workforce and ensuring the Council remains an attractive employer to both new applicants while retaining existing employees. The Council will also be seeking to achieve greater efficiency through the reduction of sickness absences.

2.3.6 Strategic Housing

2.3.6.1 There continues to be increasing demand for the Council's statutory homelessness service. This has led to increasing expenditure in recent years, in particular in relation to emergency accommodation.

2.3.6.2 This year the Council has developed a new Homelessness Strategy and revised the allocations policy to place a greater emphasis on reducing demand for temporary accommodation and ensuring on those occasions that such provision is required it is delivered in the most cost-effective way possible. The budget has been adjusted to reflect the expected impact of that work.

2.3.6.3 The Housing Choices Service is the only section of the Council to be accessible through freephone numbers. As communication preferences have changed it is felt that this is no longer necessary to ensure that the service is accessible.

2.3.7 Community Services

2.3.7.1 As a front facing function within the Council incorporating waste, parks, car parks, toilets, burials, leisure, markets, licencing, environmental health, community safety, community focus, environmental protection and fleet, the service continues to be affected by significant inflationary pressures related to contracts, fuel, materials, vehicle costs and utilities.

2.3.7.2 Other service changes anticipated focus on the service areas of Disabled Facilities Grants, public toilets, burials, trade waste, pest control and the parking service. Work is also underway to ensure that the new checks carried out on goods entering Great

Britain from the EU are carried out on a full cost recovery basis at East Midlands Airport.

- 2.3.7.3 Work continues on zero carbon measures across the Council and new schemes will be rolled out as business cases are developed for the Council's fleet and buildings particularly in order that the Council can meet its aspiration to be zero carbon by 2030 for its own operations.

2.3.8 Planning and Development

2.3.8.1 The Planning Skills Delivery Fund refers to the £24m of government funding available to local authorities over two years to help with the implementation of the proposed reforms in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act. This fund has been allocated in recognition of the fact that support is needed to help planning services deal with a variety of issues currently facing the planning system. Local Authorities in England were given the opportunity to apply for funding of up to £100k to help support the processing of planning applications. The Planning and Development Team has been awarded a grant of £95k to contribute to some additional Urban Design and heritage resource and support with validation of planning applications.

2.3.8.2 With the recent cancellation of the eastern leg of HS2 from Birmingham to East Midlands Parkway, the existing budget of £25k for the consultants who have been supporting the Council (SLC Rail) support will no longer be required.

2.3.8.3 The key service issue for the Planning Policy team is to continue to progress the Local Plan Review. There are associated risks with this work, including any unanticipated requirement for additional evidential work over and above that currently budgeted for. As a result of upcoming changes to Regulations, the Local Plan will need to be submitted by the end of June 2025. If it is not possible to meet this deadline, then some of the existing evidence is at risk of being dated and so will need to be renewed at a significant cost to the Council. The new Regulation may also result in the need for new evidence or requirements which would add to the cost. Should this deadline be met there is a risk that the Local Plan Examination is longer and more contentious than might be anticipated and as such more expensive with the increased risk of the plan being found unsound.

2.3.8.4 The key service issue for the Planning and Development Team is to maintain the high level of performance achieved in meeting government targets for the determination of planning applications. Planning application fee income has dropped significantly so far in the first three quarters of 2023/24 because of the current economic situation and cost of living crisis. However, planning application fees increases of 35% for majors and 25% for all other applications came into force on 6 December 2023 and the impact of this in Quarter 4 of 2023/24 and also in 2024/25 will continue to be closely monitored. Officers are aware of a small number of major planning applications expected in 2024/25 which could secure up to half of the projected fee income for the year. Any additional fee income received over and above the projected budget will be put in reserve to manage workload peaks and troughs and to balance the Planning and Development budget in future years.

2.3.9 Property Services and Economic Regeneration

2.3.9.1 The Council's portfolio of properties suffers from a backlog of maintenance issues as a result of historic funding challenges within the public sector. The stock also

continues to age, presenting increased maintenance needs. It will be necessary to continue to prioritise repair and refurbishment works going forward which will be assisted by the planned introduction of a new Asset Management system, alongside the development of an improvement planned preventative maintenance plan.

2.3.9.2 The Council's historic prioritisation of economic growth has delivered a local economy with higher employment rates and job availability than many comparable areas. The district is also a highly attractive area to potential inward investors. A priority set out in the Council Delivery Plan is to develop a district-wide regeneration framework which will help ensure that future activities are focused on the most important challenges or greatest opportunities.

2.4 Fees and Charges

2.4.1 The Council provides a large number of services to local residents and businesses that incur a fee. Appendix 3(a) to 3(c) sets out key changes to fees and charges for 2024/25.

2.4.2 The fees and charges have been increased by 7% which is slightly higher than the September CPI of 6.7%. Where appropriate, it has been considered, areas where demand has changed which impacts on the income.

2.4.2 There have been some changes to the income targets for 2024/25 which are detailed as part of the Budget Options shown in Appendix 2.

2.5 Funding

2.5.1 The funding position for the General Fund is based on the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement (LGFS) announced in December 2023. The key funding changes are:

- **Reduction in New Homes Bonus** - Removal of the final legacy payment is now expected in 2025/26.
- **Minimum Funding Guarantee** - This is estimated as £1.6m in 2024/25 and £2.2m in 2025/26. This grant is to ensure the Council is not significantly affected by the reduced New Homes Bonus Grant and the loss of the Lower Tier Services Grant in 23/24.
- **Increase in Business Rates** - Business rate income used to fund the budget is expected to decrease by £100k. Growth has increased and other than the £93k used to fund the budget gap it is recommended that the additional income is set aside within the business rates reserve to fund the capital programme. This is due to the risk North West Leicestershire faces from a potential business rates reset which could happen in 2026/27. North West Leicestershire has seen the biggest growth above its business rates baseline in all local authorities in England and therefore, could face a significant reduction in funding if and when such a policy is implemented.
- **Revenue Support Grant** – There is estimated to be a small increase of £6k in this grant in 2024/25 to £96k but reducing to £80k in 25/26.

- **Reduction in Services Grant** - It is estimated that this grant will reduce from £93k in 2023/24 to £15k in 2024/25 and will cease after 2025/26.
- **Council Tax income is assumed to increase by £270k** - This is caused by growth in the district, an increase in Council Tax 2.75% and an increase in collection rate of 0.5%. This has been set based on the council tax base calculated for 2024/25.

2.6 General Fund Reserves

2.6.1 The MTFP reserve is to help manage deficits and funding volatility. The value of this reserve is forecast to be £7.9 million as at 31 March 2024.

2.6.2 In addition to these reserves, the Council also has earmarked reserves estimated to be £2.6m as at 31 March 2024, falling to £2m by 31 March 2025 and general balances of £1.5m. A summary of these reserves can be found in table 2 below.

Table 2: Summary of estimated reserves 2024/25 – 2028/29

| Reserve Name | Estimated Balance as at 1/4/24 £ | Commitments & Budget Proposals 24/25 £ | Estimated balance as at 31/3/25 £ | Future commitment incl budget proposals 25/26 to 28/29 £ | Estimated Balance 31/3/29 £ |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| Earmarked reserves - General Fund | 2,639,807 | (679,648) | 1,960,159 | (632,122) | 1,328,037 |
| MTFP Reserve | 7,936,684 | (700,000) | 7,236,684 | 0 | 7,236,684 |
| Business Rates Reserve | 3,081,378 | (127,590) | 2,953,788 | 5,027,762 | 7,981,550 |
| General Balance (minimum level of reserves) - General Fund | 1,544,493 | 0 | 1,544,493 | 0 | 1,544,493 |
| TOTAL ALL RESERVES - GENERAL FUND | 15,202,362 | (1,507,238) | 13,695,124 | 4,395,640 | 18,090,764 |
| | | | | | |

2.6.3 Earmarked reserves are those reserves that have been earmarked for a specific purpose. The estimated balances include items currently committed and also £112k used to fund one off budget proposals over the four years from 2024/25 to 2027/28. A table showing details by service can be found in Appendix 5.

2.6.4 The MTFP reserve is expected to be £7.2m after taking into account the funding of one-off budgets for 2024/25. It will be used to mitigate unbudgeted pressures (including anticipated Government funding reduction), pump-priming invest to save opportunities and the transformation programme, and funding the capacity to deliver a medium-term financial plan.

2.6.5 Contributions into the business rates reserve are expected to be £7.9m in 2024/25 and £8.5m in 2025/26. As mentioned above in 2.5.1, this is due to Business Rates growth, Leicestershire Business Rates Pool allocations and Freeport allocations. It is proposed to use this reserve to fund the capital programme. The figures in Table 2 are net of forecast funding of the capital programme.

2.6.6 General balances are the minimum level of reserves that is prudent to hold.

3.0 CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2024/25 TO 2028/29

3.1 General Fund and Special Expenses Capital Programme

3.1.1 Capital Strategy

3.1.2 The Capital Strategy includes a number of key changes and improvements for the 2024/25 and future years' programme.

3.1.3 A key change introduced in 2023/24 is a move away from using external borrowing to fund programmes. This eliminates the Council's exposure to increases in interest rates. Schemes would be funded from internal sources such as reserves, (mainly the MTFP and the Business Rates Reserves), capital receipts, and revenue contributions. External grant applications would be made for schemes which qualify for such funding.

3.1.4 The capital programme is divided into two parts – active projects and schemes in a development pool. The active projects are schemes which have been approved by Council (in-year or in previous years) and currently being delivered. Some new schemes have been added to the active pool as part of the budget process and these are proposed to be approved by Council when the budget is considered in February 2024.

3.1.5 Projects in the development pool are subject to a full business case being developed before moving to the active category. The business case is scrutinised by the Capital Strategy Group before going onto Cabinet or Council for full approval in line with the Constitution.

3.1.6 These planned improvements to managing schemes through their project lifecycle will contribute towards better financial management and governance.

3.1.7 The Capital Strategy is available within the Capital Strategy, Treasury Strategy and Prudential Indicators report on the same agenda.

3.2.1 2024/25-2028/29 Capital Programme

3.2.2 The proposed General Fund capital programme is outlined in Appendix 4. The five-year programme totals £22 million, a £3.8 million increase on the previous five-year programme.

- **Stenson square public realm:** This is a £2m investment to create a new public realm. This scheme will invest in Council owned land at Stenson square and London Road car park to create improved facilities for the general public.
- **Investment in Council owned land:** Investment of £3.7m. Business cases will be developed to explore further developments to support regeneration and bring employment to the district as well as generate income to support council services.
- **UK Shared Prosperity Investment Programme:** The Council has been awarded £1.3m capital grant from the Department of levelling-up, housing and communities to undertake various projects in the district. This is year three of a three-year programme to deliver schemes including refurbishment of Moira

furnace, development at memorial square to provide new office accommodation and the creation of an eco-park among other schemes.

- **Fleet replacement programme:** A programme to replace old vehicles with environmentally friendly fleet for services such as waste, parks and housing. The old vehicles would be sold and the receipts from sales re-invested in the programme. This is year three of this programme. A business case is currently in progress for investment required for future years.
- **Marlborough Centre purchase and renovation:** The Council acquired the Marlborough centre property in 2022/23. The building will be redeveloped to provide residential apartment properties and commercial units. The residential units will be sold after completion to generate capital receipts and the commercial units will be let to businesses to generate income to support service provision.

3.3 Funding the Capital Programme

3.3.1 Each capital programme is funded from a variety of sources, including revenue, reserves and grants. Table 3 below summarises the current identified funding sources for each year of the general fund capital programme.

Table 3: Sources of funding for the General Fund capital programme

| | 24/25 Budget £'000 | 25/26 Indicative £'000 | 26/27 Indicative £'000 | 27/28 Indicative £'000 | 28/29 Indicative £'000 |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Capital Receipts | 48 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Government Grants | 3,756 | 670 | 670 | 670 | 670 |
| Reserves | 8,078 | 4,845 | 2,229 | 301 | 0 |
| Revenue Contributions | 34 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 11,916 | 5,515 | 2,899 | 971 | 670 |

3.3.2 The monies set out in the Reserves line in the table above will be drawn down from the Business Rates Reserve. As per paragraph 2.5.5, there is forecast to be sufficient monies in the reserve to finance the capital programme commitments in both 2024/25 and 2025/26.

4.0 SPECIAL EXPENSES 2024/25

4.1 During 2023/24, the Council operated ten special expense accounts where it provides additional services specific to some areas of the district. The Council's Special Expense Policy sets out the criteria and services that are classified as special expenses.

4.2 The special expenses budget includes a five-year Planned and Preventative Maintenance (PPM) programme which should provide sufficient budget to cover future planned maintenance along with a programme for play equipment replacement. The PPM programme has been reviewed and updated as part of the budget preparation.

- 4.3 It should be noted any increases in council tax for special expense areas are considered as part of the District Council's proportion of the council tax when calculating and considering the Referendum Principles for increases in Council Tax.
- 4.4 As part of the budget process the net expenditure requirements for each special expense area have been reviewed against the level of funding available through precepts, grants, S106 Funding and earmarked reserves. In line with statutory requirements for the Council it is important that each special expense area produces a balanced budget and is financially sustainable. A key element of good practice financial sustainability is to have a minimum level of balances for each special expense area, which is recommended at circa 10% of reoccurring expenditure.

4.5 2024/25 Budget Setting

- 4.5.1 As part of the process of setting the 2024/25 budget for special expenses and the requirement to set a balanced budget, the Director of Resources requested a root and branch review of all income and expenditure in relation to special expenses. During this review and after seeking legal advice it was identified that the expenditure in relation to 'Closed Churchyards' and the subsidy in relation to grounds maintenance at Owen Street Coalville has been incorrectly treated as a special expense rather than General Fund expenditure.
- 4.5.2 The special expenses areas affected are: Appleby Magna, Coalville, Coleorton, Hugglescote and Donington-le-Heath, Lockington-cum-Hemington, Measham, Ravenstone with Snibston, Stretton-en-le-field and Whitwick.
- 4.5.3 For 2024/25 the expenditure in relation to 'Closed Churchyards' has been removed from the special expenses and included in the General Fund. For four special expense areas (Appleby Magna, Lockington-cum-Hemington, Measham, Ravenstone with Snibstone, Stretton-en-le-field) this was the only expenditure. Therefore, the precept for 2024/25 has been removed. This will reduce the special expense areas to six.
- 4.5.4 For Coleorton, Hugglescote and Donington-le-Heath, Ravenstone with Snibstone and Whitwick the expenditure for 'Closed Churchyards' has been removed from future budgets and the precept has been reviewed and reduced accordingly.
- 4.5.5 The subsidy in relation to grounds maintenance at Owen Street Coalville has been removed from future Coalville special expense budgets and included in the general fund.
- 4.5.6 Due to the short budget setting timetable and the need to undertake further work on the treatment of previous years expenditure, a report will be taken through the governance process (Corporate Scrutiny, Cabinet and Council (if necessary) in summer 2024.
- 4.5.7 A budget requirement covering the period 2024/25 to 2028/29 has been produced for each special expense area and is available at Appendix 6. The special expense budget requirements areas include a budget for PPM which should provide sufficient funding to cover future planned maintenance along with a programme for play equipment replacement (where applicable). The PPM programme has been updated as part of the budget preparation.

4.6 Special Expense Precepts 2024/25

- 4.6.1 The Council is required to set a balanced budget for each special expenses account. It is good practice to have a minimum level of balances, which is recommended at circa 10% of reoccurring expenditure. With the exception of Oakthorpe, Donisthorpe and Acresford, all special expense accounts have sufficient balances forecast for 2024/25.
- 4.6.2 In relation to Oakthorpe, Donisthorpe and Acresford, there is a deficit balance brought forward from 2022 due to the replacement of fencing at the play area. The proposal is to increase the precept to enable the recovery of the deficit over the next three years.
- 4.6.3 Table 4 below shows the proposed Band D Council Tax for the special expense areas.

Table 4 – Band D Annual Precept for each Special Expense Area

| Special Expense Area | Council Tax Band D 2023/24 | Increase/ (Decrease) | Council Tax Band D 2024/25 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Appleby Magna | 7.08 | -7.08 | 0.00 |
| Coalville | 73.81 | 5.17 | 78.98 |
| Coleorton | 10.63 | -7.12 | 3.51 |
| Hugglescote/Donington-le-Heath | 15.27 | -6.44 | 8.83 |
| Lockington-Cum-Hemington | 13.72 | -13.72 | 0.00 |
| Measham | 1.87 | -1.87 | 0.00 |
| Oakthorpe, Donisthorpe & Acresford | 6.10 | 6.10 | 12.20 |
| Ravenstone with Snibstone | 1.29 | -0.13 | 1.16 |
| Stretton-en-le-field | 73.11 | -73.11 | 0.00 |
| Whitwick | 9.55 | -2.90 | 6.65 |
| Note: The table excludes funding from localised council tax support grant, Section 106 contributions, income (e.g. event or rents) and earmarked reserves. | | | |

- 4.6.4 Special expense budgets, just like all Council budgets, are subject to the inflationary pressures of the current economic environment. To ensure a balanced budget is proposed and mitigate any funding gaps, action has been taken to minimise PPM expenditure. As well as seeking to increase income from Section 106 contributions and fees & charges.
- 4.6.5 There are potential risks in these mitigating actions. For example, minimising PPM expenditure in 2024/25 by deferring non-essential spend to future years, may lead to higher routine maintenance in the short term. This may take time to implement the impact of reductions in service levels which could lead to short term cost pressure on the wider general fund.

5.0 KEY RISKS TO THE BUDGET

- 5.1 Table 5 below provides an assessment of the key risk areas to determine the robustness of the estimates and adequacy of reserves included in the General Fund budgets:

Table 5: Key Risks to the Budget

| Area | Y/N | Comments |
|---|-----|---|
| Is performance against the current year's budget on track and where | Y | The 2023/24 financial monitoring is showing a projected overspend of £252k on the |

| Area | Y/N | Comments |
|--|-------|---|
| variances are evident, ongoing and unavoidable, are they appropriately reflected in the plans? | | General Fund. Work is currently on-going within services to mitigate these pressures and minimise any drawdown from reserves. The on-going and unavailable pressures, alongside potential reductions in reserve levels, have been factored into budget plans for 2024/25 and the medium term. |
| Are arrangements for monitoring and reporting performance against the savings plans robust? | Y & N | <p>In recent years the Council has not been required to make significant savings to maintain its financial position. Therefore, clear savings plans and delivery has not been required.</p> <p>With such a significant funding gap estimated for 2024/25, there are a range of budget options proposed for the General Fund Budget 2024/25. Where it is appropriate, delivery of savings/efficiencies will be monitored throughout the financial year and reported to stakeholders alongside the financial monitoring reports on a quarterly basis.</p> <p>As part of the Council's Transformation Programme, project management principles will be adopted with a suite of guidance and templates to support good practice, which, in turn will help the Council manage and monitor large scale transformation programmes.</p> |
| The reasonableness of the underlying budget assumptions | Y | <p>All budget proposals have been justified by service managers, reviewed by finance and subject to budget challenge sessions in the new process.</p> <p>External review has also been undertaken by the treasury advisers, Arlingclose, on the Treasury Management Strategy.</p> |
| The alignment of resources with the Council's service and organisational priorities | Y | <p>Resources are aligned to the current priorities of the Council.</p> <p>A new Council Delivery Plan (CDP) has been developed and was approved by Council on 14 November 2023. The CDP is aligned to the resources available and risks faced by the Council.</p> <p>The Council's ambition to be carbon neutral by 2030 is likely to require additional investment, however, the Council will look to maximise grant funding made available to it to support this priority. An exercise to identify the costs of getting to net zero will be completed in 2024/25.</p> |
| A review of the major risks associated with the budget | Y | The major risks within the budget have been assessed and are set out in the budget report, including mitigations and strategies about how these are being managed. |

| Area | Y/N | Comments |
|--|-----|---|
| The availability of un-earmarked reserves to meet unforeseen cost pressures | Y | <p>The Council has a minimum level of reserves for General Fund of (£1.5m). In the Audit Commission's 'Striking a Balance' report published in 2012, the majority of Chief Finance Officers at the national level regarded an amount of between three and five per cent of Council's net spending as a prudent level for risk-based reserves. Over the medium term the Council's forecast figure is between £264k and £1,556k.</p> <p>The General Fund position has been risk assessed to take account of potential unforeseen pressures.</p> |
| Have realistic income targets been set and 'at risk' external funding been identified? | Y | <p>An assessment of income targets has been undertaken as part of the development of the draft budget.</p> <p>The income areas which have the greatest risk (including business rates, council tax, planning and leisure) have had greater focus for this work and focus in the budget challenge sessions.</p> <p>Fees and charges have been increased, where it is appropriate to do so, in accordance with the Council's Corporate Charging Policy.</p> |
| Has a reasonable estimate of demand cost pressures been made? | Y | <p>The enhanced budget process used in the development of the draft budget has improved the reasonableness of estimates.</p> |
| Has a reasonable estimate of future income been made? | Y | <p>The budget proposals presented by services were reviewed by finance and subject to budget challenge sessions.</p> |
| Have one-off cost pressures been identified? | Y | <p>All pressures have been reviewed to assess if they are one-off or ongoing in nature. One-off proposals are to be funded from reserves. Services will need to ensure exit plans exist for one off expenditure.</p> |
| Are arrangements for monitoring and reporting performance against the budget plans robust? | Y | <p>For 2023/24, quarterly financial reporting to Cabinet and Scrutiny Committee has been introduced.</p> <p>The new finance system is intended to bring enhanced financial reporting for budget holders to support robust and regular monitoring of budgets.</p> <p>The Council will also need to enhance its development, monitoring and delivery of its plans to deliver balanced budgets over the</p> |

| Area | Y/N | Comments |
|--|-------|--|
| | | medium term. |
| Is there a reasonable contingency available to cover the financial risks faced by the Council? | Y | The Council has incorporated estimates for pay award, inflation and demand pressures into its budget. It has also made provisions for key income streams not materialising for business rates and council tax. |
| Is there a reasonable level of reserves, which could be used to mitigate any issues arising and are they reducing as the risks decrease? | Y | The Council has a range of earmarked, MTFP and minimum levels of reserves to ensure its financial stability. |
| The strength of the financial management function and reporting arrangements? | Y & N | The Council implemented a new financial system in April 2023 to improve its reporting. Further enhancements to the system are required in the short-term to deliver this. A review of the Financial Procedures Rules is planned. |
| Have the previous years Accounts been signed off by external audit to verify balances? | N | The Council's Accounts for 2021/22 are currently being audited. The audit for the 2022/23 accounts will commence in Spring 2024. Budget estimates and reserves balances for 2024/25 and beyond are based on the latest information incorporated into the 2021/22 and 2022/23 accounts. |
| Has there been a degree and quality of engagement with colleagues and councillors in the process to develop and construct the budget? | Y | There has been a continuation of the improvements introduced to the budget setting process last year. This has included a series of budget challenge sessions between the Directors and Heads of Service, as well as engagement with Corporate Leadership Team, Portfolio Holders, Strategy Group and an all councillor briefing. |

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 Consultation with Members

6.1.1 The Corporate Scrutiny Committee considered the draft general fund budget at the meeting on the 4 January 2024. Members asked a number of questions around the proposals, and more detail can be seen in the minutes for the meeting, which are included as a background paper to this report.

6.1.2 There were also further questions which were taken away by officers to answer following the meeting which are detailed in Appendix 8 of this report.

6.2 Public Consultation

- 6.2.1 As part of the budget consultation, the Council launched an online survey on 10 until the 23 January 2024 to seek the views of residents and businesses on the main changes within the budget. The survey was promoted via social media and set out the key changes to the budget and asked responders to state the extent to which they supported the proposed changes. Residents could also provide additional comments if they wanted to.
- 6.2.2 As part of the budget consultation, officers also wrote to representatives of the trade unions, parish and town councils and the federation of small businesses. These groups were asked to provide written comments or to complete the online survey in line with the timescales for the public consultation.
- 6.2.3 At the time of writing the report, the consultation has not ended. This section of this report will be updated prior to the Council meeting and an addendum will be provided to the Cabinet meeting on 31 January 2024.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 Based on the assumptions made in the Budget 2024/25 and MTFP 2024-29 for income and expenditure, the Council can set a balanced proposed budget for 2024/25.
- 7.2 Further work will need to be carried out going forward on balancing the budget gap for future years from 2025/26 onwards.
- 7.3 There has been equality impact assessments conducted by services on relevant proposals during this period.

| Policies and other considerations, as appropriate | |
|--|--|
| Council Priorities: | The budget provides funding for the Council to deliver against all its priorities. |
| Policy Considerations: | None |
| Safeguarding: | None |
| Equalities/Diversity: | There have been equality impact assessments conducted by services on relevant proposals during this period. |
| Customer Impact: | Customers are likely to be impacted by the changes to fees and charges and District and special expenses precepts set out in this report. |
| Economic and Social Impact: | The General Fund capital programme allocates £7.9m to investing in Coalville Regeneration Projects over five years. £3.7m is being invested in Council owned land to support regeneration and bring employment to the district. The Council has been awarded £1.3m in government grants to undertake regeneration projects in the district. This includes refurbishment |

| Policies and other considerations, as appropriate | |
|--|--|
| | of Moira Furnace and provision of office spaces. |
| Environment, Climate Change and Zero Carbon: | <p>The budget sees investment of £1.5m in the replacement of council vehicles and reducing our carbon emissions. There is £0.8m investment in bins and recycling containers to increase recycling from households.</p> <p>The Council also has a permanent Climate Change Programme Manager post</p> |
| Consultation/Community/Tenant Engagement: | <p>Corporate Scrutiny Committee – 4 January 2024 Public consultation - 10 January to 23 January 2024 Parish and town councils, trade unions and the Federation of Small Businesses - 10 January to 23 January 2024.</p> <p>The results of the above consultations are detailed in this report.</p> |
| Risks: | <p>The budgets will be monitored throughout the year to ensure the Council remains within its funding envelope and planned budget savings are delivered. Key risks to the budget are discussed in further detail in section 5 of the report.</p> |
| Officer Contact | <p>Anna Crouch Head of Finance anna.crouch@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p> |

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL GENERAL FUND SUMMARY BUDGET 2024/25 to 2028/29

| 2023/24 | | 2024/25 | 2025/26 | 2026/27 | 2027/28 | 2028/29 |
|-------------------|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Budget £ | Service | Indicative £ | Indicative £ | Indicative £ | Indicative £ | Indicative £ |
| 277,030 | Chief Executive | 201,490 | 201,490 | 201,490 | 201,490 | 201,490 |
| 740,310 | Human Resources | 732,700 | 734,780 | 737,270 | 739,930 | 739,930 |
| 1,654,930 | Legal & Support Services | 1,873,460 | 1,880,860 | 1,887,380 | 1,893,000 | 1,893,000 |
| 2,672,270 | Total Chief Executive's Directorate | 2,807,650 | 2,817,130 | 2,826,140 | 2,834,420 | 2,834,420 |
| 340,600 | Strategic Director of Place | 137,970 | 137,970 | 137,970 | 137,970 | 137,970 |
| 1,141,250 | Property & Economic Regeneration | 1,277,660 | 1,129,280 | 1,130,930 | 1,132,610 | 1,132,610 |
| 985,399 | Planning & Infrastructure | 1,070,580 | 1,073,730 | 1,073,730 | 1,081,585 | 1,081,585 |
| 9,080 | Joint Strategic Planning | (2,890) | (4,600) | (6,340) | (8,120) | (9,930) |
| 2,476,329 | Total Place Directorate | 2,483,320 | 2,336,380 | 2,336,290 | 2,344,045 | 2,342,235 |
| 6,321,690 | Community Services | 6,623,890 | 6,361,330 | 6,183,610 | 5,992,800 | 5,793,900 |
| 797,733 | Strategic Housing | 537,688 | 537,688 | 537,688 | 537,688 | 537,688 |
| 7,119,423 | Total Community Services Directorate | 7,161,577 | 6,899,017 | 6,721,297 | 6,530,487 | 6,331,587 |
| 114,980 | Strategic Director of Resources | 237,130 | 237,130 | 237,130 | 237,130 | 237,130 |
| 959,610 | Customer Services | 1,009,760 | 1,011,180 | 1,012,630 | 1,014,110 | 1,014,110 |
| 1,086,770 | Finance | 1,052,640 | 1,044,460 | 985,990 | 987,590 | 987,590 |
| 1,131,260 | Revenues & Benefits | 1,170,850 | 1,191,620 | 1,213,230 | 1,235,710 | 1,235,710 |
| 1,208,970 | ICT | 1,221,640 | 1,161,280 | 1,161,280 | 1,171,280 | 1,171,280 |
| 70,810 | Business Change | 570,090 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4,572,400 | Total Resources Directorate | 5,262,110 | 4,645,670 | 4,610,260 | 4,645,820 | 4,645,820 |
| 107,530 | Non Distributed - Revenue Expenditure on Surplus Assets | 115,140 | 116,120 | 117,120 | 118,140 | 118,140 |
| 67,380 | Non Distributed - Retirement Benefits | 69,980 | 71,330 | 72,710 | 74,120 | 74,120 |
| 70,410 | Corporate & Democratic Core | 92,500 | 92,500 | 92,500 | 92,500 | 92,500 |
| 651,230 | Estimated Pay Award | 526,781 | 877,711 | 1,247,621 | 1,617,441 | 1,987,441 |
| 17,736,972 | NET COST OF SERVICES | 18,519,058 | 17,855,858 | 18,023,938 | 18,256,973 | 18,426,263 |
| (1,827,750) | Net Recharges from General Fund | (1,859,136) | (1,859,136) | (1,859,136) | (1,859,136) | (1,859,136) |
| 15,909,222 | NET COST OF SERVICES AFTER RECHARGES | 16,659,922 | 15,996,722 | 16,164,802 | 16,397,837 | 16,567,127 |
| | CORPORATE ITEMS AND FINANCING | | | | | |
| | Corporate Income and Expenditure | | | | | |
| 1,763,264 | Net Financing Costs | 1,906,878 | 1,876,250 | 1,827,678 | 1,790,447 | 1,761,552 |
| (335,200) | Investment Income | (410,200) | (200,200) | (200,200) | (200,200) | (200,200) |
| 15,871 | Localisation of CT Support Grant - Parish & Special Expenses | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 17,353,157 | NET REVENUE EXPENDITURE | 18,156,600 | 17,672,772 | 17,792,280 | 17,988,084 | 18,128,479 |
| (290,195) | Budget Proposals Funded from Reserves - One-Off | (770,805) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 24,116 | Contribution to/(from) Balances/Reserves | (93,047) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 17,087,078 | MET FROM GOVT GRANT & COUNCIL TAX | 17,292,748 | 17,292,753 | 17,193,408 | 16,719,795 | 16,243,634 |
| | ANTICIPATED BASELINE FUNDING GAP | | 380,019 | 598,872 | 1,268,290 | 1,884,845 |

| 2023/24 | | 2024/25 | 2025/26 | 2026/27 | 2027/28 | 2027/28 |
|-------------------|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Budget £ | Service | Indicative £ | Indicative £ | Indicative £ | Indicative £ | Indicative £ |
| | Financed By | | | | | |
| 1,219,692 | New Homes Bonus | 918,476 | - | - | - | - |
| 25,056 | Transfer from/(to) Collection Fund - CT Prev Yrs Surplus/(Deficit) | 11,470 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5,771,361 | Council Tax | 6,041,652 | 6,316,254 | 6,603,504 | 6,903,678 | 7,217,545 |
| 8,715,943 | National Non-Domestic Rates | 8,619,604 | 8,673,565 | 4,899,552 | 4,984,281 | 5,076,051 |
| 1,171,479 | Minimum Funding Guarantee | 1,590,099 | 2,207,349 | - | - | - |
| 93,369 | Services Grant | 15,296 | 15,296 | - | - | - |
| 90,178 | Revenue Support Grant | 96,151 | 80,289 | 297,580 | 253,041 | 204,597 |
| 0 | Transitional Relief | 0 | 0 | 5,392,772 | 4,578,795 | 3,745,441 |
| 17,087,078 | TOTAL FUNDING AVAILABLE | 17,292,748 | 17,292,753 | 17,193,408 | 16,719,795 | 16,243,634 |

North West Leicestershire District Council

General Fund Budget Amendments to the MTFP 2024/25 to 2028/29

| Change to MTFP | Proposal Description & Service Impact | Directorate | 2024/25 | 2025/26 | 2026/27 | 2027/28 | 2028/29 |
|---|---|------------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|----------|----------|
| | | | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Pay Award 23/24 | Budget 4%, actual £1,925 per FTE | Various | 367,830 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Pay Award Future Years | Including NI & Pension & other minor amendments | Various | 14,120 | 8,320 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other Pay | Other salary adjustments | Various | (52,848) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Incremental increases | | Various | 132,140 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Vacancy Allowance Increase | Applied a consistent 2% across the general fund | Various | (195,960) | (10,860) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Members allowances - Pay Award | Pay award | Chief Executives | 20,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Pay Related Costs | | | 285,282 | (2,540) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Increase in Legal Services Budget | Required for specialist legal advice | Chief Executives | 5,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Members allowances - Special Responsibility Allowance | Possible creation of a Scrutiny Commission SRA and levels of subsistence | Chief Executives | 3,200 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Local Resilience Forum | Increase in our contribution to the Local Resilience Forum | Chief Executives | 2,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Security costs | Additional costs for security required at Council Premises | Place | 31,500 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Insurance | Increased insurance costs net of recharge to HRA | Resources | 40,000 | 40,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| ICT Firmstep Licences | Firmstep licences - entering into a 3 year contract which will mean a £5.5k increase from 23/24-25/26. | Resources | 5,500 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Finance System Admin Support | System admin support required for Unit 4 | Resources | 60,000 | 0 | (60,000) | 0 | 0 |
| External Audit Fees | Increase in audit fees net of recharge to HRA | Resources | 22,460 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Transformation (one off costs) | Service Transformation Project Team - funded from the MTFP reserve | Resources | 500,000 | (500,000) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| System Improvements (one off costs) | Finance System - Phase 3 - funded from the MTFP reserve | Resources | 50,000 | (50,000) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Feasibility Funding (one off costs) | Feasibility for Capital Projects - funded from the Business Rates Reserve | Place | 150,000 | (150,000) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Community Services | Community Safety Support Officer (focused upon significant ASB increases in the district) | Communities | 17,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Service Pressures | | | 886,660 | (660,000) | (60,000) | 0 | 0 |
| Audit Recharges to HRA | Review the HRA recharges to reflect the allocation of Audit days to HRA | Chief Executives | (29,000) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Project External Consultancy Support | This was originally set aside for corporate project support but has not been used as project support has been factored into the business cases assessment process where needed. This will continue to be the case in future projects. | Chief Executives | (20,000) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Emergency Planning | This is a highly unpredictable budget as it is difficult to predict emergency planning events, and as part of our Category 1 responder role we would be obliged to find any budget needed to support our communities in the event of a major incident. In quiet years the budget has not been spent historically. | Chief Executives | (2,000) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Corporate Training | Central training budget saving | Chief Executives | (15,000) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Housing Income | Charging policy for temporary accommodation | Communities | (5,000) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Housing Income | New temporary accommodation provision | Communities | (70,000) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| Change to MTFP | Proposal Description & Service Impact | Directorate | 2024/25 | 2025/26 | 2026/27 | 2027/28 | 2028/29 |
|-----------------------------|--|-------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|------------------|
| | | | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Community Services | Increase pest control charges by 3% (7% inflation dealt with via fees and charges) | Communities | (500) | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Community Services | Set new port health charges to ensure full cost recovery (new port health regime to be introduced in April 2024 following EU exit) | Communities | (23,000) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Community Services | Back-office administration Cost Savings - various | Communities | (24,600) | (1,400) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Community Services | Leisure Contract – net impact of costs associated with the contract | Communities | 264,000 | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Community Services | Leisure Contract – net impact of income associated with the contract | Communities | 13,170 | 1,940 | 1,370 | 2,370 | (197,630) |
| Community Services | LED Lighting installations on council car parks | Communities | (4,000) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Community Services | Revise SLA with Castle Donington College meaning the school retain all the income with costs risk transfer | Communities | 0 | (1,000) | (1,000) | (1,000) | (1,000) |
| Housing | Reduction in temporary accommodation demand | Communities | (50,000) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Housing Choices | Removal of freephone number - we now have a customer services centre to provide access | Communities | (2,500) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Community Services | Adjust the budget to reflect the re-introduction of charges to use Ashby and Coalville public conveniences in early 2024 as well as operational savings as per the capital programme report approved at Full Council in September 2023 | Communities | (27,000) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Community Services | Stop providing a toilet service in Ashby from April 25 and seek the asset and service transfer of Ashby public toilets | Communities | 0 | (21,000) | (5,000) | 0 | 0 |
| Community Services | Delete the Council's budget for the Free Tree Scheme. This would mean that the National Forest area will be the only part of the district benefiting from free trees fully funded by the National Forest Company | Communities | (9,000) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Community Services | Increase the charge for any additional garden waste bins to align with charges across Leicestershire. Inflation of 7% will be applied to this charge through fees and charges. (total increase from £45 pa to £57pa) | Communities | (13,000) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Community Services | No longer print and distribute annual waste collection calendars to every house in the district and instead promote Councils website. Savings amount to staff time, printing costs and travel costs which will all reduce carbon emissions | Communities | (15,000) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Community Services | Reduce the Council's Community Grant Funding budget: Age UK £21,990 reduce by a third each year over three years to zero. Citizens Advice £62,000 to remain and Small Grants Scheme £19,500 to be reviewed in 2025/26 following implementation of community lottery scheme | Communities | (7,330) | (7,330) | (7,330) | 0 | 0 |
| Community Services | Reduce the Council's contribution to the running of Ibstock Leisure Centre to Zero over three years. The grant in 23/24 is £15k | Communities | (5,000) | (5,000) | (5,000) | 0 | 0 |
| Planning Skills Grant | Planning Skills Grant (one-off) – bid to assist with validation of planning applications for urban design and conservation processes. Total grant £95k shown net of expenditure. | Place | (3,155) | 3,155 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| HS2 Consultancy | HS2 – budget for consultants no longer required | Place | (25,000) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Closure of Council Offices | Council Offices Budget – to reflect closure of Whitwick Road Council offices | Place | (67,600) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Town Centre WiFi | Town Centre Wifi – service provider has decided to withdraw from the market | Place | (11,000) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ashby Museum Grant | Ashby Museum – removal of grant | Place | (1,460) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Strategic Growth Plan | NWLDC contribution to work in connection with Strategic Growth Plan | Place | (67,000) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| ICT | Resources to match demand and efficiencies from contracts | Resources | (51,800) | (60,400) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| ICT | Increase costs due to SAN Network less maintenance savings | Resources | (5,000) | | | | |
| Total Budget Options | | | (276,775) | (91,035) | (16,960) | 1,370 | (198,630) |
| Corporate Income | Investment Income | Corporate | (275,000) | 200,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Joint Strategic Planning | Additional income from partners | Place | (8,530) | 90 | 100 | 90 | 1,810 |
| Fees & Charges | Increase in fees and charges income across the authority by 7% | Various | (89,640) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fees & Charges | Reduction in BDA charges for 1-3 items from £30 to £25 | Communities | 7,500 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| Change to MTFP | Proposal Description & Service Impact | Directorate | 2024/25 | 2025/26 | 2026/27 | 2027/28 | 2028/29 |
|--|--|-------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| | | | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Recharge Income | Increased recharges to HRA - Grounds Maintenance | Communities | (44,850) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Recharge Income | Net reduction in other recharges to HRA (buildings, postage, printing, insurance, piperlife line) | Various | 37,970 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Changes In Income | | | (372,550) | 200,090 | 100 | 90 | 1,810 |
| Budget efficiencies | Removal of nominal budgets | Various | (37,300) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Budget efficiencies | Centralisation of budgets | Various | (9,080) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Efficiencies | | | (46,380) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Special Expenses | Special Expenses overtime transferred back to General Fund | Communities | (6,100) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Special Expenses | Owen Street Maintenance transferred to General Fund reducing subsidy by 20% annually | Communities | 12,800 | (2,560) | (2,050) | (1,640) | (1,310) |
| Special Expenses | Transfer of Closed Church yards to General Fund | Communities | 98,070 | (58,330) | (11,150) | 940 | 1,040 |
| Corporate | Various adjustments relating to recharges | Various | (129,506) | (2,100) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Financing Costs | Changes to the net financing costs following the budget proposals for capital and the forecast carried forwards for 23/24. | Corporate | (1,018,966) | 40,286 | (7,860) | (36,230) | (28,896) |
| Total Technical Adjustments | | | (1,043,702) | (22,704) | (21,060) | (36,930) | (29,166) |
| TOTAL BUDGET AMENDMENTS TO MTFP | | | (567,465) | (576,189) | (97,920) | (35,470) | (225,986) |

North West Leicestershire District Council
Proposed Fees & Charges 2024/25 - Place Directorate

| Service | Fee/Charge | Charging Policy | 2023/24 Fees | Percentage Change in | | Basis for Change |
|----------|--|-------------------------|--|-----------------------|--------|------------------------------|
| | | | | 2024/25 Proposed Fees | Fees | |
| Property | Rent of Commercial Property | Rent agreement | Negotiated with tenant dependant on size of building and market rates | No change | 0% | |
| Property | Maintenance Charge for Commercial Property | % of rent | Currently 5% of rent, increasing to 10% on extension of lease and for new tenants. | Various | 5% | Where new lease negotiated. |
| Property | Service Charges for Commercial Property | Actual cost | As per actual costs incurred | No change | 0% | |
| Planning | Copy Planning/ Planning App Documents | | £2.50 to £100 | No change | 0% | |
| Planning | Search fees LLC1 | Trfd to Land Registry | £1 to £6 | £ - | -100% | Transferred to Land Registry |
| Planning | Search fees CON29 | | £0 to £128 | No change | 0% | |
| Planning | Planning Application Fees | Set Nationally | Various | Various | 25-35% | Set Nationally |
| Planning | Planning Conditions Discharge | Set Nationally | Various | Various | 25-35% | Set Nationally |
| Planning | Pre-application fees | Individually determined | Various | Various | 25-35% | |

North West Leicestershire District Council
Proposed Fees & Charges 2024/25 - Communities Directorate

| Service | Fee/Charge | Charging Policy | 2023/24 Fees | 2024/25 Proposed Fees | Percentage Change in Fees | Basis for Change |
|---|---|-------------------------------|---|---|---------------------------|--|
| Waste Services | Bulky Collections | Full Cost Recovery | £28 For 1-3 items, £5.80 for each additional item | £25 For 1-3 items, £6.20 for each additional item | 7%/-11% | reduction for 1-3 items and inflationary/corporate increase for each additional item |
| Waste Services | POP's Collections | Full Cost Recovery | £35 For 1-3 items, £7.25 for each additional item up to a maximum of 6 items | £37.50 For 1-3 items, £7.80 for each additional item up to a maximum of 6 items | 7% | inflationary/corporate increase |
| Waste Services | Trade Refuse | Full Cost Recovery | between £9.35 to £19.80 for 240l, 360l, 1100l bins (per bin per collection) | between £10.00 to £21.20 for 240l, 360l, 1100l bins (per bin per collection) | 7% | inflationary/corporate increase |
| Waste Services | Trade Sacks | Full Cost Recovery | £3.20 per sack (min 50 sacks) | £3.40 per sack (min 50 sacks) | 7% | inflationary/corporate increase |
| Waste Services | Trade Recycling | Full Cost Recovery | between £4.00 to £6.80 for 240l, 360l, 1100l bins (per bin per collection) | between £4.30 to £7.30 for 240l, 360l, 1100l bins (per bin per collection) | 7% | inflationary/corporate increase |
| Waste Services | Additional Garden Waste bin collection | Subsidised/Full Cost Recovery | £45.00 | £57.00 | 27% | inflationary/corporate increase of 7% plus additional 20% increase to bring inline with other districts average charge |
| Waste Services | Emptying of litter bins | Full Cost Recovery | between £3.50 to £6.30 (per bin per wk) | between £3.80 to £6.70 (per bin per wk) | 7% | inflationary/corporate increase |
| Waste Services | MOT's - Staff vehicles | Subsidised | £37.00 | £40.00 | 8% | inflationary/corporate increase & competitive rate |
| Waste Services | Air Con Service - Staff vehicles | Full Cost Recovery | £40.00 | £43.00 | 7% | inflationary/corporate increase |
| Leisure Services | Football pitch fees | Subsidised | Per match - Junior £33.00, Adult £56.00. Per season - Junior £312.00, Adult £563.00 | Per match - Junior £35.00, Adult £60.00. Per season - Junior £334.00, Adult £602.00 | 7% | inflationary/corporate increase |
| Leisure Services | 3G Pitch fees (Hermitage Rec Grd) | Subsidised/Full Cost Recovery | between £31.75 to £79.30 depending on pitch size and Adult/Junior | between £34.00 to £85.00 depending on pitch size and Adult/Junior | 7% | inflationary/corporate increase |
| Environmental Prot (Leisure Services -Special Expenses) | Burial fees | Full Cost Recovery | between £62 to £1,905 | Fees vary from £79.00 to £2,244.00 | between 17% - 27% | 10% increase for Hugglescote and Whitwick to bring in line with Coalville, plus inflationary/corporate increase and further 10% increase to bring in line with other authorities |
| Environmental Protection | Public Conveniences - Ashby & Coalville | Full Cost Recovery | flat rate of £0.30p | flat rate of £0.30p | 0% | |
| Environmental Protection | EV | Profit Generating | 70p kwh | 70p kwh | 0% | |
| Environmental Protection | New Market | Full Cost Recovery | Fees vary from £17.50 to £60 | Fees vary from £17.50 to £60 | 7% | inflationary/corporate increase |
| Environmental Protection | Private Sector Housing | Full Cost Recovery | From £106 to £475 | From £113 to £508 | 7% | inflationary/corporate increase |
| Environmental Protection | Scrap Metal Dealers - Licenses | Full Cost Recovery | Fees vary from £38 to £553 | Fees vary from £41 to £592 | 7% | inflationary/corporate increase |
| Environmental Protection | High Hedges | Full Cost Recovery | £553.00 | £592.00 | 7% | inflationary/corporate increase |
| Environmental Protection | Noise surveys | Full Cost Recovery | £451.00 | £483.00 | 7% | inflationary/corporate increase |
| Environmental Protection | Caravans/Mobile Homes | Full Cost Recovery | Fees vary from £79 to £412 | Fees vary from £85 to £441 | 7% | inflationary/corporate increase |

| Service | Fee/Charge | Charging Policy | 2023/24 Fees | 2024/25 Proposed Fees | Percentage | |
|----------------------|--|-------------------------------|--|--|----------------|--|
| | | | | | Change in Fees | Basis for Change |
| Environmental Health | Licensing | Subsidised/Full Cost Recovery | Fees vary between £3 and £64,000 | Fees vary between £3.21 and £64,000 | 0% | Statutory Fees |
| Environmental Health | Health and Food Safety | Full Cost Recovery | Fees vary between £5 and £160 | Fees vary between £5.50 and £172 | 7% | inflationary/corporate increase |
| Environmental Health | Border Inspection Post | Full Cost Recovery | Fees vary between £26.00 and £196 | Fees vary between £10 and £199 | 7% | New regulations coming in April 2024 - fees & charges still being reviewed |
| Environmental Health | Pest Control | Subsidised/Full Cost Recovery | Fees vary between £18 and £200 | Fees vary between £19.80 and £220 | 10% | increase of 7% due to inflation and a further 3% to bring charge in line with private sector charges |
| GF Housing | Caravan Site Rental | Rental Agreement | £39.84 from April 2023 on anniversary of individual rental agreement | £43.39 from April 2023 on anniversary of individual rental agreement | 8.9% | September RPI |
| GF Housing | Lifelines for Private Customers - Basic | Contract | £4.78 pw | £5.10 pw | 6.7% | September CPI |
| GF Housing | Lifelines Private Customers - Enhanced | Contract | £7.20 pw | £7.68 pw | 6.7% | September CPI |
| GF Housing | Lifelines for Registered Providers - Basic | Contract | £2.18 to £3.81 pw | £2.33 to £4.07 pw | 6.7% | September CPI |

North West Leicestershire District Council
Proposed Fees & Charges 2024/25 - Resources & Chief Executive Directorates

| Service | Fee/Charge | Charging Policy | 2023/24 Fees | | 2024/25 Proposed Fees | Percentage | |
|------------------------|---|-----------------|---|--|-----------------------|----------------|--|
| | | | | | | Change in Fees | Basis for Change |
| Legal | Legal fees various | | Various hourly rates depending on grade of person doing the work | | Various | 0 | No Change |
| | | | Data - per 1000 electors or part thereof £1.50 + handling fee £20 | Data - per 1000 electors or part thereof £1.50 + handling fee £20 | | | No Change on sale of register, but no longer allowed to charge for |
| | | | Printed copy per 1000 electors or part thereof £5 + handling fee £10 | Printed copy per 1000 electors or part thereof £5 + handling fee £10 | | | allowed to charge for |
| Democratic Services | Electoral Registration sale of register | Statutory | Certificate of Registration (subject to review) £10. | Certificate of Registration (subject to review) £0. | | 0 | Certificate of Registration. |
| | | | Renaming existing property £42.25 | Renaming existing Property £46.50. | | | |
| | | | Naming/numbering existing property £42.25 | Naming/numbering existing property £46.50. | | | |
| | | | Naming/numbering a development of up to 5 plots £42.25 per Plot | Naming/numbering a development of up to 5 plots £46.50 per plot. | | | |
| | | | Naming/numbering a development of more than 5 plots £211.25 + £22.25 for each plot from 6 onwards | Naming/numbering a development of more than 5 plots £232.50 + £24.50 for each plot from 6 onwards. | | | |
| | | | Naming a street £158 | Naming a street £174. | | | |
| | | | Change to development after notification: Admin £55.50 plus £28.25 per plot | Change to development after notification: Admin £61.25 plus £31.25 per plot | | | |
| | | | Street re-naming at residents request £276.50 plus all compensation met by applicant | Street re-naming at residents request £305 plus all compensation met by applicant | | | |
| | | | Confirmation of postal address details £28.25 | Confirmation of postal address details £31.25 | | | |
| Democratic Services | Address Management | | Number a new flat complex £28.25 per flat | Number a new flat complex £31.25 per flat. | | 10% | |
| | | | Mono 6p + paper and finishing | Mono 7p + paper and finishing | | | |
| | | | Colour 7.5p + paper and finishing | Colour 8p + paper and finishing | | | |
| ICT | Print Room Sales | Cost plus 25% | +25% for external customers | +25% for external customers | | 6.67%-16.67% | Inflationary |
| Finance - Fin Planning | External charges (Insurance) | Cost | | | Cost | Various | As per cost |

| PROJECT | 2024/25 | 2025/26 | 2026/27 | 2027/28 | 2028/29 | Funding Source |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------------|
| | For Approval | Indicative | Indicative | Indicative | Indicative | |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | |
| ACTIVE PROJECTS | | | | | | |
| Coalville Regeneration Projects | | | | | | |
| Marlborough Square Improvements | 991,713 | | | | | Reserves |
| Marlborough Centre Purchase and Renovation | 2,238,028 | 1,152,923 | | | | |
| Total Coalville Regeneration Projects | 3,229,741 | 1,152,923 | - | | - | |
| Systems / ICT Schemes | | | | | | |
| Laptop replacements | 8,727 | | | | | Reserves |
| SharePoint | 10,000 | | | | | |
| Total Systems / ICT Schemes | 18,727 | - | - | - | - | |
| Other Capital Schemes | | | | | | |
| Disabled Facility Grants | 2,428,745 | | | | | Grants and Reserves |
| CCTV | 49,969 | | | | | |
| Memorial Clock Tower | 9,000 | | | | | |
| Total Other Capital Schemes | 2,487,714 | - | - | - | - | |
| TOTAL ACTIVE PROJECTS - MAIN PROGRAMME | 5,736,182 | 1,152,923 | - | - | - | |

| PROJECT | 2024/25 | 2025/26 | 2026/27 | 2027/28 | 2028/29 | Funding Source |
|---------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|----------------|
| | For Approval | Indicative | Indicative | Indicative | Indicative | |

DEVELOPMENT POOL

Coalville Regeneration Projects

| | | | | | | |
|--|------------------|----------------|---|---|---|----------|
| Coalville Regeneration Framework | 1,041,616 | 500,000 | | | | Reserves |
| Demolition of Council Offices | 150,000 | | | | | |
| Total Coalville Regeneration Projects | 1,191,616 | 500,000 | - | - | - | |

Systems / ICT Schemes

| | | | | | | |
|--|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---|----------|
| Laptop Replacements | 49,000 | 92,000 | 49,000 | 49,000 | | Reserves |
| Firewall Replacement | | | | 50,000 | | |
| Hosted SBC to Cloud | 15,000 | | | | | |
| Replacement of NetApp Storage Solution | 70,000 | | | | | |
| Total Systems / ICT Schemes | 134,000 | 92,000 | 49,000 | 99,000 | - | |

Fleet Replacement and Infrastructure Programme

| | | | | | | |
|--|------------------|---|---|---|---|----------------------------------|
| Fleet Replacement Programme | 1,496,643 | | | | | Capital receipts and Reserves |
| Solar Panels - Ashby Leisure Centre/Coalville Leisure Centre | 195,000 | | | | | |
| Total Fleet Replacement and Infrastructure Programme | 1,691,643 | - | - | - | - | |

Other Capital Schemes

| | | | | | | |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------------------|
| Disabled Facility Grants | | 670,310 | 670,310 | 670,310 | 670,310 | Grants and Reserves |
| UK Shared Prosperity Investment Plan Programme | 292,690 | | | | | |
| Moira Furnace (Phase 1) | 230,000 | | | | | |
| The Courtyard Roof repair | 200,000 | | | | | |
| Hermitage Rec Ground Demolition | 96,068 | 50,000 | | | | Reserves |
| Hermitage Recreational Ground 3G Pitch | | | 130,000 | | | |
| Refuse Bins & Recycling Containers | 194,000 | 200,000 | 200,000 | 202,000 | | |
| Electrical vehicle charging infrastructure/strategy | 50,000 | | | | | Grants |
| UKSPF - Moira Furnace (Phase 2) | 300,000 | | | | | |
| UKSPF - Memorial Workspace | 350,000 | | | | | |
| UKSPF - National Forest | 171,000 | | | | | |
| UKSPF - Kegworth Quiet-Way | 150,000 | | | | | |
| UKSPF - Mantle Lane Bridge | 64,060 | | | | | |

| PROJECT | 2024/25 | 2025/26 | 2026/27 | 2027/28 | 2028/29 | Funding Source |
|--|-------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | For Approval | Indicative | Indicative | Indicative | Indicative | |
| Stenson Square Public Realm | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 | | | | Reserves |
| Nottingham road enterprise park - (business workspace development) | | 1,850,000 | 1,850,000 | | | |
| Hermitage Play Area Fencing | 18,000 | | | | | |
| Parks depot electric gates | 13,000 | | | | | |
| Total Other Capital Schemes | 3,128,818 | 3,770,310 | 2,850,310 | 872,310 | 670,310 | |
| TOTAL DEVELOPMENT POOL - MAIN PROGRAMME | 6,146,077 | 4,362,310 | 2,899,310 | 971,310 | 670,310 | |
| | | | | | | |
| TOTAL - MAIN PROGRAMME | 11,882,259 | 5,515,233 | 2,899,310 | 971,310 | 670,310 | |

SPECIAL EXPENSES PROGRAMME

DEVELOPMENT POOL

Cemeteries

| | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|---------|
| Hugglescote cemetery - new burial area works | 34,000 | | | | | Revenue |
| Total Cemeteries | 34,000 | - | - | - | - | |
| TOTAL DEVELOPMENT POOL | 34,000 | - | - | - | - | |
| | | | | | | |
| TOTAL GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME | 11,916,259 | 5,515,233 | 2,899,310 | 971,310 | 670,310 | |

North West Leicestershire District Council

Estimated Reserves 2024/25 to 2028/29

| TEAM | Estimated Balance as at 1/4/24 £ | Commitments & Budget Proposals 24/25 £ | Estimated balance as at 31/3/25 £ | Future commitment incl budget proposals 25/26 to 28/29 £ | Estimated Balance 31/3/29 £ |
|--|---|---|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| Earmarked Reserves: | | | | | |
| Chief Exec | 334,000 | 0 | 334,000 | 0 | 334,000 |
| Human Resources | 30,000 | 0 | 30,000 | 0 | 30,000 |
| Legal & Support Services | 121,413 | 0 | 121,413 | (121,413) | 0 |
| Property & Economic Regeneration | 204,300 | (204,300) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Planning | 640,522 | (12,250) | 628,272 | (111,817) | 516,455 |
| Joint Strategic Planning | 91,017 | 0 | 91,017 | 0 | 91,017 |
| Community Services | 791,185 | (392,293) | 398,892 | (398,892) | 0 |
| Strategic Housing | 207,647 | 0 | 207,647 | 0 | 207,647 |
| Finance | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| ICT | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Customer Services | 6,273 | 0 | 6,273 | 0 | 6,273 |
| Revenues & Benefits | 142,645 | 0 | 142,645 | 0 | 142,645 |
| Business Change | 70,805 | (70,805) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| MTFP Reserve | 7,936,684 | (700,000) | 7,236,684 | 0 | 7,236,684 |
| Business Rates Reserve | 3,081,378 | (127,590) | 2,953,788 | 5,027,762 | 7,981,550 |
| Total earmarked reserves - General Fund | 13,657,869 | (1,507,238) | 12,150,631 | 4,395,640 | 16,546,271 |
| Other reserves General Fund: | | | | | |
| General Balance (minimum level of reserves) | 1,544,493 | 0 | 1,544,493 | 0 | 1,544,493 |
| Total other Reserves - General Fund | 1,544,493 | 0 | 1,544,493 | 0 | 1,544,493 |
| TOTAL ALL RESERVES - GENERAL FUND | 15,202,362 | (1,507,238) | 13,695,124 | 4,395,640 | 18,090,764 |
| Total earmarked reserves - Special Expenses | 8,060 | (8,060) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other reserves Special Expenses: | | | | | |
| General Balance | 64,649 | 29,442 | 94,091 | 0 | 94,091 |
| Total other Reserves - Special Expenses | 64,649 | 29,442 | 94,091 | 0 | 94,091 |
| TOTAL ALL RESERVES - SPECIAL EXPENSES | 72,709 | 21,382 | 94,091 | 0 | 94,091 |

COALVILLE SPECIAL EXPENSES BUDGET REQUIREMENT 2024/25-2028/29

| COALVILLE | 2024/25 Budget | 2025/26 Budget | 2026/27 Budget | 2027/28 Budget | 2028/29 Budget |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Cemetery | (14,440) | (14,440) | (14,440) | (14,440) | (14,440) |
| Planned Preventative Maintenance (Cemetery) | 12,090 | 116,740 | 7,670 | 7,980 | 8,300 |
| Other Expenses | 5,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| Parks, Recreation Grounds & Open Spaces | 294,190 | 293,850 | 293,490 | 297,710 | 297,540 |
| Planned Preventative Maintenance (Parks/Recreation Grounds) | 24,400 | 123,860 | 234,390 | 20,740 | 342,760 |
| Events | 96,860 | 96,860 | 96,860 | 96,860 | 96,860 |
| Net Cost of Services | 418,100 | 621,870 | 622,970 | 413,850 | 736,020 |
| Service & Committee Management | 90,030 | 90,030 | 90,030 | 90,030 | 90,030 |
| Net Cost of Services after Recharges | 508,130 | 711,900 | 713,000 | 503,880 | 826,050 |
| Funded By: | | | | | |
| Contribution To/ (From) Reserves | 32,646 | (166,073) | (162,075) | 52,190 | (264,786) |
| Precept (Council Tax) | (540,776) | (545,827) | (550,925) | (556,070) | (561,264) |
| Localisation of Council Tax Support Grant | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Funding | (508,130) | (711,900) | (713,000) | (503,880) | (826,050) |

| WHITWICK | 2024/25 Budget | 2025/26 Budget | 2026/27 Budget | 2027/28 Budget | 2028/29 Budget |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cemetery | (4,440) | (4,440) | (4,440) | (4,440) | (4,440) |
| Open Space and Car Park | 4,220 | 4,220 | 4,220 | 4,220 | 4,220 |
| Planned Preventative Maintenance | 4,730 | 3,280 | 3,610 | 5,270 | 4,370 |
| Net Cost of Services | 4,510 | 3,060 | 3,390 | 5,050 | 4,150 |
| Service Management | 14,130 | 14,130 | 14,130 | 14,130 | 14,130 |
| Net Cost of Services after Recharges | 18,640 | 17,190 | 17,520 | 19,180 | 18,280 |
| Funded By: | | | | | |
| Contribution To/ (From) Reserves | (299) | 1,188 | 896 | (727) | 211 |
| Precept (Council Tax) | (18,341) | (18,378) | (18,416) | (18,453) | (18,491) |
| Localisation of Council Tax Support Grant | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Funding | (18,640) | (17,190) | (17,520) | (19,180) | (18,280) |

| HUGGLESCOTE & DONINGTON-LE-HEATH | 2024/25 Budget | 2025/26 Budget | 2026/27 Budget | 2027/28 Budget | 2028/29 Budget |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cemetery | (190) | (190) | (190) | (190) | (190) |
| Planned Preventative Maintenance | 9,980 | 36,750 | 7,430 | 3,330 | 3,660 |
| Net Cost of Services | 9,790 | 36,560 | 7,240 | 3,140 | 3,470 |
| Service Management | 14,770 | 14,770 | 14,770 | 14,770 | 14,770 |
| Net Cost of Services after Recharges | 24,560 | 51,330 | 22,010 | 17,910 | 18,240 |
| Funded By: | | | | | |
| Contribution To/ (From) Reserves | (1,372) | (27,446) | 2,592 | 7,431 | 7,862 |
| Precept (Council Tax) | (23,188) | (23,884) | (24,602) | (25,341) | (26,102) |
| Localisation of Council Tax Support Grant | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Funding | (24,560) | (51,330) | (22,010) | (17,910) | (18,240) |

| COLEORTON | 2024/25 Budget | 2025/26 Budget | 2026/27 Budget | 2027/28 Budget | 2028/29 Budget |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Open Space | 1,010 | 1,010 | 1,010 | 1,010 | 1,010 |
| Planned Preventative Maintenance | 1,300 | 880 | 970 | 1,070 | 1,180 |
| Net Cost of Services | 2,310 | 1,890 | 1,980 | 2,080 | 2,190 |
| Service Management | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Net Cost of Services after Recharges | 2,310 | 1,890 | 1,980 | 2,080 | 2,190 |
| Funded By: | | | | | |
| Contribution To/ (From) Reserves | (239) | 197 | 124 | 40 | (53) |
| Precept (Council Tax) | (2,071) | (2,087) | (2,104) | (2,120) | (2,137) |
| Localisation of Council Tax Support Grant | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Funding | (2,310) | (1,890) | (1,980) | (2,080) | (2,190) |

| OAKTHORPE, DONISTHORPE & ACRESFORD | 2024/25 Budget | 2025/26 Budget | 2026/27 Budget | 2027/28 Budget | 2028/29 Budget |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Play Areas | 4,250 | 4,250 | 4,250 | 4,250 | 4,250 |
| Planned Preventative Maintenance | 1,660 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 50,200 |
| Net Cost of Services | 5,910 | 4,250 | 4,250 | 4,250 | 54,450 |
| Service Management | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Net Cost of Services after Recharges | 5,910 | 4,250 | 4,250 | 4,250 | 54,450 |
| Funded By: | | | | | |
| Contribution To/ (From) Reserves | 5,424 | 7,241 | 7,401 | 7,563 | (42,473) |
| Precept (Council Tax) | (11,334) | (11,491) | (11,651) | (11,813) | (11,977) |
| Localisation of Council Tax Support Grant | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Funding | (5,910) | (4,250) | (4,250) | (4,250) | (54,450) |

| RAVENSTONE | 2024/25 Budget | 2025/26 Budget | 2026/27 Budget | 2027/28 Budget | 2028/29 Budget |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Open Space | 480 | 480 | 480 | 480 | 480 |
| Planned Preventative Maintenance | 640 | 700 | 770 | 850 | 940 |
| Net Cost of Services | 1,120 | 1,180 | 1,250 | 1,330 | 1,420 |
| Service Management | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Net Cost of Services after Recharges | 1,120 | 1,180 | 1,250 | 1,330 | 1,420 |
| Funded By: | | | | | |
| Contribution To/ (From) Reserves | 117 | 70 | 13 | (53) | (129) |
| Precept (Council Tax) | (1,237) | (1,250) | (1,263) | (1,277) | (1,291) |
| Localisation of Council Tax Support Grant | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Funding | (1,120) | (1,180) | (1,250) | (1,330) | (1,420) |

**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
GENERAL FUND SUMMARY BUDGET RECONCILIATION
DRAFT BUDGET 2024/25 TO PROPOSED BUDGET 2024/25**

| Service | 2024/25 | | | Reason for Change |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---|
| | Draft £ | Proposed £ | Variance £ | |
| Chief Executive | 207,370 | 201,490 | (5,880) | Pay award held corporately |
| Human Resources | 748,990 | 732,700 | (16,290) | Pay award held corporately |
| Legal & Support Services | 1,921,310 | 1,873,460 | (47,850) | Pay award held corporately |
| Total Chief Executive's Directorate | 2,877,670 | 2,807,650 | (70,020) | |
| Strategic Director of Place | 147,730 | 137,970 | (9,760) | Virement £6k/Pay award held corporately £4k |
| Property & Economic Regeneration | 1,313,220 | 1,277,660 | (35,560) | Pay award held corporately |
| Planning & Infrastructure | 1,028,040 | 1,070,580 | 42,540 | Skills grant £95k/Pay award held corporately -£52k |
| Joint Strategic Planning | 8,440 | (2,890) | (11,330) | Increased income from partners/Pay award held corporately |
| Total Place Directorate | 2,497,430 | 2,483,320 | (14,110) | |
| Director of Communities | 1,036,771 | 0 | (1,036,771) | Customer Services transferred to Resources |
| Community Services | 6,764,095 | 6,623,890 | (140,205) | Pay award held corporately -£249k Closed Churchyards/Memorial Square transfer to GF +£98k Reduced Bulky income £7.5k Car allowances virement - Head of Comm Services £3k |
| Strategic Housing | 697,669 | 537,688 | (159,981) | Virement -£134k/Pay award held corporately -£17k/Piper lifelines -£9k |
| Total Community Services Directorate | 8,498,535 | 7,161,578 | (1,336,957) | |
| Strategic Director of Resources | 242,730 | 237,130 | (5,600) | Pay award held corporately |
| Customer Services | 0 | 1,009,760 | 1,009,760 | Customer Services transferred from Communities/Pay award held corporately |
| Finance | 1,075,180 | 1,052,640 | (22,540) | Pay award held corporately |
| Revenues & Benefits | 1,196,330 | 1,170,850 | (25,480) | Pay award held corporately |
| ICT | 1,237,390 | 1,221,640 | (15,750) | Pay award held corporately |
| Business Change | 567,990 | 570,090 | 2,100 | - |
| Total Resources Directorate | 4,319,620 | 5,262,110 | 942,490 | |
| Non Distributed - Revenue Expenditure on Surplus Assets | 115,140 | 115,140 | 0 | - |
| Non Distributed - Retirement Benefits | 69,980 | 69,980 | 0 | - |
| Corporate & Democratic Core | 92,570 | 92,500 | (70) | - |
| Estimated Pay Award | 0 | 526,781 | 526,781 | Pay award moved from services |
| NET COST OF SERVICES | 18,470,945 | 18,519,059 | 48,114 | |
| Net Recharges from General Fund | (1,834,456) | (1,859,136) | (24,680) | Strategic Housing Virement £134k/Changes to recharges - £167k/Piper lifelines £9k |
| NET COST OF SERVICES AFTER RECHARGES | 16,636,489 | 16,659,923 | 23,434 | |
| CORPORATE ITEMS AND FINANCING | | | 0 | |
| Corporate Income and Expenditure | | | 0 | |
| Net Financing Costs | 2,158,138 | 1,906,878 | (251,260) | Change of funding from internal borrowing to funded by the Business Rates Reserve. |
| Investment Income | (410,200) | (410,200) | 0 | |
| Localisation of CT Support Grant - Parish & Special Expenses | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| NET REVENUE EXPENDITURE | 18,384,427 | 18,156,601 | (227,826) | |
| Budget Proposals Funded from Reserves - One-Off | (849,655) | (770,805) | 78,850 | Removed double counted Climate Change reserve |
| Contribution to/(from) Balances/Reserves | (176,294) | (93,047) | 83,247 | |
| MET FROM GOVT GRANT & COUNCIL TAX | 17,358,479 | 17,292,749 | (65,730) | |
| ANTICIPATED BASELINE FUNDING GAP | 0 | 0 | 0 | |

| Service | 2023/24 | | | Reason for Change |
|--|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|---|
| | Revised Draft £ | Proposed £ | Variance £ | |
| Financed By | | | | |
| New Homes Bonus | 1,219,692 | 918,476 | (301,216) | As per Local Government Settlement announcement |
| Transfer from/(to) Collection Fund - CT Prev Yrs Surplus/(Deficit) | 0 | 11,470 | 11,470 | Surplus now calculated |
| Council Tax | 6,121,420 | 6,041,652 | (79,768) | |
| National Non-Domestic Rates | 8,619,604 | 8,619,604 | 0 | |
| Minimum Funding Guarantee | 1,220,492 | 1,590,099 | 369,607 | As per Local Government Settlement announcement |
| Services Grant | 81,120 | 15,296 | (65,824) | As per Local Government Settlement announcement |
| Revenue Support Grant | 96,151 | 96,151 | 0 | |
| Transitional Relief | | 0 | 0 | |
| TOTAL FUNDING AVAILABLE | 17,358,479 | 17,292,748 | (65,731) | |

Corporate Scrutiny Committee 4 January 2024 – Response to Questions Raised

| | Question | Response |
|---|--|--|
| 1 | In respect of Local Nutrient Mitigation Fund – was this addressing existing problems or future problems? | Both as it will address existing problems preventing new development coming forward and with nutrient pollution, and address future problems to allow development to come forward in the future and with future nutrient pollution issues. |
| 2 | What is the Liability Benchmark? | <p>The Liability Benchmark is effectively the Net Borrowing Requirement of a local authority plus a liquidity allowance. In its simplest form, it is calculated by deducting the amount of investable resources available on the balance sheet (reserves, cash flow balances) from the amount of outstanding external debt and then adding the minimum level of investments required to manage day-to-day cash flow.</p> <p>CIPFA recommends that the optimum position for external borrowing should be at the level of the Liability Benchmark (i.e., all balance sheet resources should be used to maximise internal borrowing). If the outputs show future periods where external loans are less than the Liability Benchmark, then this indicates a borrowing requirement thus identifying where the authority is exposed to interest rate, liquidity and refinancing risks. Conversely where external loans exceed the Liability Benchmark then this will highlight an overborrowed position which will result in excess cash in the organisation requiring investment thus exposing the authority to credit and reinvestment risks and a potential cost of carry. The treasury strategy should explain how the treasury risks identified by the Liability Benchmark are to be managed over the coming years.</p> |
| 3 | Further details of assumptions used in the MTFP to provided? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place Directorate decreased due to one-off £150k capital feasibility. • Joint Strategic Planning decreased due to increased income from partners to cover pay inflation that is shown within Corporate. |

| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finance decreased due to one-off £110k new finance system consultancy in 2024/25 (now amended to £50k removed in 25/26 and £60k in 26/27). ICT decreased due to development options. Business change decreased due to funding for these posts to be found from savings. Most of these are funded from reserves. Community Services decreased due to increased fees from leisure contract | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|--------|--------|-----|-------------|--|--|--|---------------|--------|--------|----|--------------------------------|-------|-----|-------|
| 4 | What was the forecast outturn for 2022/23? | <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>GENERAL FUND REVENUE</th> <th>2022/23 Revised Budget £'000</th> <th>Provisional Outturn £'000</th> <th>Variance £'000</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Net Revenue</td> <td>15,811</td> <td>16,121</td> <td>312</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Expenditure</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Funding</td> <td>17,006</td> <td>17,030</td> <td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>General Fund Surplus/(Deficit)</td> <td>1,195</td> <td>909</td> <td>(288)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Link to report: NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL</p> | GENERAL FUND REVENUE | 2022/23 Revised Budget £'000 | Provisional Outturn £'000 | Variance £'000 | Net Revenue | 15,811 | 16,121 | 312 | Expenditure | | | | Total Funding | 17,006 | 17,030 | 24 | General Fund Surplus/(Deficit) | 1,195 | 909 | (288) |
| GENERAL FUND REVENUE | 2022/23 Revised Budget £'000 | Provisional Outturn £'000 | Variance £'000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Net Revenue | 15,811 | 16,121 | 312 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Expenditure | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Funding | 17,006 | 17,030 | 24 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| General Fund Surplus/(Deficit) | 1,195 | 909 | (288) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | Sensitivity analysis on the pay awards of 4%, 5% and 6% | The additional cost per 1% above the current estimate of 3% in 2024/25 would be an additional £175k in the budget for 2024/25. Therefore, an estimated pay award of 5% would require an additional £350k and 6% an additional £525k in the budget. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | Request for details of headroom on the HRA. | Until 2018 the HRA for NWLDC was subject to a debt cap of £90.262m. Following the removal of the debt cap in 2018, Councils are able to set their own limit and borrow prudentially. In NWLDC, the maximum debt is now set taking into account the total value of loans outstanding and the level of borrowing required to fund the proposed capital programme. This is subject to the HRA being able to pay the financing costs over the term of the borrowing. This can be explored or future years in the work being undertaken for the Asset Management and Business Plan for the HRA. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| 6 | Further detail requested on Stenson Square | A meeting was held on 17 January 2024 with Cllrs Blunt, Rushton, Sheahan, Lambeth, Moulton and Wyatt with officers in attendance. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|--|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---|------|------|------|------|------|--------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 7 | The £3.7m investment in Council owned land – how much of the £3.7m has been allocated | As above. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | Discrepancies in the HRA report – e.g. questioned the brought forward balances. | These will be corrected for the Final Budget Report to be presented to Cabinet on 31 January 2024. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | What are the assumptions for Council Tax increases over the medium term? | <p>There is an assumed Council taxbase increase in each of the years of MTFP based on historical data and forecasts provided by external advisers. The taxbase increases assumed are set out in the table below:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>2024/25</th> <th>2025/26</th> <th>2026/27</th> <th>2027/28</th> <th>2028/29</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>%</td> <td>2.7%</td> <td>2.1%</td> <td>2.4%</td> <td>2.2%</td> <td>2.3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Band D</td> <td>1,174</td> <td>789</td> <td>921</td> <td>864</td> <td>923</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>In addition, a Council Tax increase of 2.75% is assumed for each of the above years.</p> | | 2024/25 | 2025/26 | 2026/27 | 2027/28 | 2028/29 | % | 2.7% | 2.1% | 2.4% | 2.2% | 2.3% | Band D | 1,174 | 789 | 921 | 864 | 923 |
| | 2024/25 | 2025/26 | 2026/27 | 2027/28 | 2028/29 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| % | 2.7% | 2.1% | 2.4% | 2.2% | 2.3% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Band D | 1,174 | 789 | 921 | 864 | 923 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | Why has the increase for Ashby public conveniences gone in 2024/25 when the increase was agreed this year? | Income budget for 2023/24 was only £5k, therefore the budget increased by £11k to reflect increased charges at both sites and operational savings from vacant posts of £16k. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11 | Why is the contribution to the strategic growth plan being cut by £67k? | This is the North West Leicestershire share of Joint Strategic Planning projects. The budget was increased in 2023/24, but there is nothing in the pipeline for 2024/25 and so is no longer required. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12 | Further detail required of the £264k net cost of the leisure contract | These are the estimated costs of utilities benchmarking under the leisure contract and increased cost of business rates at Whitwick and Coalville Leisure centres. Members of the Committee have had previous briefings on this issue. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 14 | What are the efficiencies on the £1.8m in the HRA? | £1.2m Responsive Repairs £0.5m Domestic Renewable Heat Initiative | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |