

HOMES & COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

24 JANUARY 2022

HOMES & COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE REVENUE BUDGET 2022/23

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To seek approval from the Committee for the 2022/23 base budget in **Appendix A** to be recommended to Policy & Finance Committee at its meeting on 21 February 2022 for inclusion in the overall council budget; and
- 1.2 To seek approval from the Committee for the 2022/23 fees & charges in **Appendix D** to be recommended to Policy & Finance Committee at its meeting on 21 February 2022 and Council at its meeting on 08 March 2022.

2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 Business managers and service budget officers have been working with officers in the Financial Services team to prepare a general fund budget for 2022/23 and medium-term financial plan for between 2022/23 and 2025/26. The general fund budgets have been prepared in line with the Budget Strategy agreed by Policy & Finance Committee on 24 June 2021.
- 2.2 The budget and medium-term financial plan have been developed to reflect, in financial form, the corporate priorities of the Council. Where further targeted areas of focus have been identified, additional resources have been directed to these business units.
- 2.3 **Appendices A** and **B** summarise the budgets proposed for the Committee for 2022/23 by service team and subjective level respectively. These **appendices** exclude capital charges and central support recharges, because service officers do not have direct influence over how much they pay for these. The budgets in this report and its **appendices** are for controllable costs: costs which service officers have direct influence over.

Revenue Budget

- 2.4 The 2022/23 General Fund revenue budget will be derived from the 2022/23 base budget within the 2021/22 - 2024/25 (2021/25) Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) approved by Full Council on 9 March 2021. This will be adjusted for changes which have been approved by either SLT or Policy & Finance (P&F) Committee since 9 March 2021; changes in inflation and other assumptions; and growth and efficiencies proposed by services.
- 2.5 *Table 1* summarises the changes between the 2022/23 base budget within the 2021/25 MTFP and the current draft 2022/23 budget for services in the Committee.

Table 1: changes between the 2022/23 base budget within the 2021/25 MTFP and the current draft 2022/23 budget for services in the Committee

2022/23 base budget (approved by Full Council on 9 March 2021)	£2.107m
Changes agreed by either SLT or P&F after approval of 2021/25 MTFP	£0.046m
Changes in assumptions (such as inflation)	£(0.246)m

Growth	£0.032m
Efficiencies	-
2022/23 budget (current draft for services in the Committee)	£1.939m
2022/23 budget: change from Full Council approval on 9 March 2021	£(0.168)m

2.6 **Appendix C** lists the main reasons for the changes in *Table 1*.

Fees & Charges

2.7 Officers have considered the Fees and Charges Toolkit approved by Economic Development Committee on 20 November 2019 when setting the level of fees & charges. The proposed fees & charges for 2022/23 are in **Appendix D** for consideration.

3.0 Proposals

3.1 Officers are proposing to the Committee that it recommends to Policy & Finance Committee at its meeting on 21 February 2022:

- a) the 2022/23 base budget in **Appendix A** for inclusion in the overall council budget;
- b) and to Council on 08 March 2022 the 2022/23 fees & charges in **Appendix D**.

4.0 Equalities Implications

4.1 Business Managers consider the implications on equalities when assessing how best to deliver the services they are responsible for.

5.0 Digital Implications

5.1 None

6.0 Financial Implications (FIN21-22/4451)

6.1 The Committee's proposed 2022/23 budget is £168,000 less than its base budget within the 2021/25 MTFP: a decrease of 8%. Employee budgets of £2.287m account for 75% of controllable costs. Significant budget savings cannot be achieved without affecting staffing levels.

6.2 The council's medium-term financial plan for between 2022/23 and 2025/26 requires significant savings in future years, as changes to how councils manage their finances and other challenges take effect.

6.3 It is important that the Committee continually scrutinises and reviews its budget in order to identify additional savings which will be achieved in future years.

7.0 Community Plan – Alignment to Objectives

7.1 The proposals in this report support the council to achieve multiple objectives of the Community Plan 2020-2023, though particularly the objectives to:

- a) *“Create more and better quality homes through our roles as landlord, developer and planning authority”; and*
- b) *“Reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, and increase feelings of safety in our communities”.*

8.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

- a) **that the following recommendations be made to Policy & Finance Committee at its meeting on 21 February 2022:**
 - i. **the 2022/23 base budget in Appendix A for inclusion in the overall council budget;**
 - ii. **and to Council on 08 March 2022 the 2022/23 fees & charges in Appendix D.**

Reason for Recommendations

To ensure that the budgets and fees & charges finally proposed for 2022/23 are recommended to Policy & Finance Committee on 21 February 2022.

Background Papers

Nil

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