

POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

27 JANUARY 2022

POLICY & FINANCE 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 its meeting on 21 February 2022 for inclusion in the overall council budget.
- 1.2 To seek approval from the Committee for the 2022/23 fees & charges in **Appendix D** to be recommended to its meeting on 21 February 2022 and Council at its meeting on 8 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 strategy agreed by this 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 this 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)	£5.556m
Changes agreed by either SLT or P&F after approval of 2021/25 MTFP	£0.028m
Changes in assumptions (such as inflation)	£0.110m
Growth	£0.173m

Efficiencies	£(0.200)m
2022/23 budget (current draft for services in the Committee)	£5.667m
2022/23 budget: change from Full Council approval on 9 March 2021	£0.111m

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 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 arising from this report.

6.0 Financial Implications (FIN21-22/3858)

6.1 The Committee's proposed 2022/23 budget is £111,000 more than its base budget within the 2021/25 MTFP: an increase of 2%. Employee budgets of £5.615m account for 69% of controllable costs (excluding Housing Benefit expenditure). 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 all of the objectives of the Community Plan 2020-2023.

8.0 RECOMMENDATION

That the following recommendations be made to its meeting on 21 February 2022:

- i. the 2022/23 base budget in Appendix A for inclusion in the overall council budget; and**
- ii. to Council on 8 March 2022 the 2022/23 fees & charges in Appendix D.**

Reason for Recommendation

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

Background Papers

Nil.

For further information please contact Nick Wilson (Business Manager – Financial Services) on Extension 5317 or Mohammed Sarodia (Assistant Business Manager – Financial Services) on Extension 5537.

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