



Report to: Policy and Resources Committee, 9th February 2021

**Report of: Chairs of the Place and Economic Development Sub-Committee,
Environment Committee and Communities Committee**

**Subject: DRAFT BUDGET 2021/22 AND DRAFT MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN
2021-2026 – CONSULTATION WITH POLICY COMMITTEES**

1. Recommendation

1.1 That the Committee consider the proposed amendments to the draft budget for the Council for the financial year 2021/22 and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2020-2026.

2. Background

- 2.1 At its meeting of 15 December 2020, the Committee referred the proposed Draft Budget and Council Tax for 2021/22 and the draft Medium-Term Financial Plan 2021-2026 or consultation with a request for feedback to its next meeting.
- 2.2 Under the Council's Budget and Policy Framework in Part 7 of the Council's Constitution, the development of the budget is based on the principle that the Policy and Resources Committee will agree the Budget in consultation with the relevant committees. The consultation period runs from 15 December 2020 until 9 February 2021. During the consultation period the Council's Policy Committees (namely the Place and Economic Development Sub-Committee, the Environment Committee and the Communities Committee) may respond to the draft budget.
- 2.3 The above committees have considered the draft budget as presented on 15 December and have forwarded the proposals in the attached schedule for consideration (Appendix 1). The Committee is asked to consider these and make recommendations accordingly to Full Council at its meeting of 23 February 2021.

3. Section 151 Officer Comments

- 3.1 The proposals cumulatively recommend an addition to budgets of £162,500 in 2021/22. All of these represent one-off charges. There are no proposed changes to revenue budgets that will have an ongoing impact on the Medium Term Financial Plan.
- 3.2 The cumulative impact of each of the proposals is shown in the following table. The one-off items will be charged to the relevant reserve pending an agreed alternative source. In the absence of a specific reserve the charge will be funded by the Council's general non-earmarked risk reserves until a new reserve can be established from a year-end surplus.

Table 1: Committee funding proposals

Committee Proposal	Requested Allocation £000	Proposed Source	Total £000
Environment			
Gull control – additional activities	7.5	-	7.5
Communities			
Support to Citizens Advice Bureau	35.0	Hardship Fund	
Ward Councillors Funding to support Ward based responses to Covid 19	70.0	Covid Funding Tranche 5 (21/22)	
Child Poverty Task & Finish Group enabling budget	50.0	-	155.0
Place and Economic Development	0		
Total			162.5

3.3 Proposals in the above table that are not funded from currently existing reserves are chargeable to the 2021/22 budget as one-off items and will represent, in effect, additions to the transfer from reserves identified in the Budget Report. The impact of these proposals is set out in Table 2.

Table 2: MTFP impact of proposals not allocated to existing reserves

	£
Transfer to/from reserves as proposed	712,000
Gull control – additional activities	7,500
Ward Councillors Funding to support Ward based responses to Covid 19	70,000
Child Poverty Task & Finish Group enabling budget	50,000
Revised transfer to/from reserves	839,500

Ward(s): All wards
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Background Papers: None