



Report to: Health and Wellbeing Committee, 7th February 2022

Report of: Corporate Director – Finance and Resources

Subject: SETTING OF THE BUDGET FOR 2022/23 AND MTFP TO 2026/27

1. Recommendation

1.1 That the Committee review any new budget proposals from members and make recommendations to Policy and Resources Committee as appropriate.

2. Background

2.1 The Council produces a detailed balanced budget for the forthcoming year and a Medium Term Financial Plan for the next 5 years setting out the high level pressures and opportunities that are likely to need to be addressed.

2.2 As part of this process, each of the Policy Committees is invited to review the revenue budgets for services within its remit and to submit proposals for changes to budgets and any new proposed expenditure to the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration.

3. Review of Service Budgets

3.1 The Committee does not currently have any specific revenue budget lines allocated. During 2022/23, the allocation of the Council's services across the various policy committees will be reviewed and those that are relevant to this Committee will be reassigned.

3.2 In light of any changes experienced by the Council in the last 12 months, Members are asked to consider whether amendments are needed to the Council's budgets in order to continue to achieve objectives and to deliver the relevant aims of the City Plan. The MTFP for the current financial year is provided at **Appendix 1**. It can be seen that there is a continuing budget gap which is proposed at this stage to be financed from reserves.

3.3 Given that the Council faces a reduction in its future funding, the budget-setting exercise is likely to result in a reduction or reallocation of resources rather than an increase in the net budget available.

4. Projects and Capital Expenditure

4.1 The Council's draft Capital Programme to 2026/27 is shown in **Appendix 2**.

4.2 Members are asked to consider whether the current projects are still appropriate for each service and whether there are any further needs that require addressing.

- 4.3 The approach adopted should be to focus on addressing the key themes identified in the City Plan. This should include greater detail on the proposed spend against each allocation and phasing the projects across the full 5 year term of the MTFP based on the need and importance of each one.
- 4.4 The Chair of the Committee has received one additional proposal which is for the recruitment of an Active Travel Officer. This would be a full-time post on a 3 year fixed term contract. Funding of £100,000 would be required. This is the subject of a separate report elsewhere on the agenda.
- 4.5 Given that the Council faces a reduction in its future funding, recommendations should be prioritised to ensure the limited resources are allocated most effectively.

5. Implications

5.1 Financial and Budgetary Implications

Should members have any proposals for new City Plan themes or projects that require funding for inclusion in the 2022-2027 MTFP, these should be discussed and, if appropriate, approved by this committee. They will then be forwarded to the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee on 8 February 2022 for consideration along with those proposals submitted by the council's other policy committees and committees.

5.2 Legal and Governance Implications

Responsibility for setting the budget rests with Full Council which receives recommendations from the Policy and Resources Committee. Any proposals agreed by this Committee must therefore be forwarded to the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration at its meeting of 8 February 2022 before being recommended, if approved, to the Full Council meeting of 22 February 2022.

5.3 Risk Implications

The pandemic has had a significant effect on the Council's income from Fees and Charges, particularly from car parking. Whilst there has been some recovery from the low levels experienced during the periods of lockdown, income has yet to return to the pre-pandemic levels. The Budget for 2022/23 assumes that all income streams will have recovered and will be back to the levels experienced in previous years.

5.4 Corporate/Policy Implications

None directly arising from this report.

5.5 Equality Implications

None directly arising from this report.

5.6 Human Resources Implications

None directly arising from this report.

5.7 Health and Safety Implications

None directly arising from this report.

5.8 Social, Economic and Environmental Implications

None directly arising from this report.

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Background Papers: None