



Report to: Health and Wellbeing Committee, 14th November 2022

Report of: Corporate Director - Finance and Resources

Subject: SETTING OF THE BUDGET FOR 2023/24 AND MTFP TO 2027/28

1. Recommendation

1.1 That the Committee considers the priorities for the Council and recommends any change of emphasis for the services' income and expenditure allocations.

2. Background

- 2.1 The budgets for 2022/23 were approved by Full Council on 22 February 2022 and published in the annual Budget Book.
- 2.2 These provide detailed budgets for each of the Council's services covering both income and expenditure.
- 2.3 The Council also produces a Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for the next 5 years setting out the high level pressures and opportunities that are likely to need to be addressed. Revenue and capital spending decisions made during each budget cycle feed into the MTFP and determine the level of reserves that the Council needs to ensure that services can be sustained in future.

3. Review of Service Budgets

- 3.1 Members are asked to consider any potential changes in the budgets for the areas that fall under the remit of this committee.
- 3.2 Members are invited to submit suggestions of potential service improvements that could be considered by the Services' in order to continue to achieve service objectives and to deliver the relevant aims of the City Plan.
- 3.3 Given that the Council faces a reduction in its future funding and has experienced a reduction in its income, this 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 Members have previously received a report on actions arising from the report by the Child Poverty Action Group and an allocation of £50,000 was made as part of the 2022/23 budget. This currently remains unspent.
- 4.2 The 2022/23 budget also included a £100,000 allocation for an Active Travel Officer for a period of 3 years. Recruitment for this post has been completed.

- 4.3 The revision of the City Plan for 2021-2026 has been finalised. The aspects of the new City Plan relevant to this committee are being addressed through the Worcester City District Collaborative which has been formed as part of implementing the Worcestershire Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- 4.4 In addition, the 2022/23 Q2 year-end forecast Capital Programme is shown on **Appendix 1** and the 2022-2026 Capital programme approved as part of the Budget in February 2022 is shown in **Appendix 2**.
- 4.5 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. This should include phasing the projects across the full 5 year term of the MTFP based on the need and importance of each one.
- 4.6 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
None arising directly from this report.

5.2 Legal and Governance Implications
The Council has a requirement to set a balanced budget for 2022-23.

5.3 Risk Implications
None arising directly from this report.

5.4 Corporate/Policy Implications
None arising directly from this report.

5.5 Equality Implications
None arising directly from this report.

5.6 Human Resources Implications
None arising directly from this report.

5.7 Health and Safety Implications
None arising directly from this report.

Ward(s): All
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Background Papers: None