

Present: Councillors Robertson (Chair), Bennett, Bick, Herbert, Payne, Smart, S. Smith and Sweeney

Executive Councillor: Davey (Executive Councillor for Finance, Resources and Transformation)

<p style="text-align: center;">RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL (EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND TRANSFORMATION- COUNCILLOR DAVEY)</p>
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General Fund Medium Term Financial Strategy

The attached report presents and recommends the budget strategy for the 2023/24 budget cycle and specific implications. The report recommends the approval of new revenue and capital items as shown in the MTFS.

At this stage in the 2023/24 budget process the range of assumptions on which the Budget Setting Report (BSR) published in February 2022 was based need to be reviewed in light of the latest information available to determine whether any aspects of the strategy need to be revised further. This then provides the basis for updating the budget for 2023/24 and to provide indicative budgets to 2032/33. All references to the recommendations to Appendices, pages and sections relate to MTFS Version 1.0

The recommended budget strategy is based on the outcome of the review undertaken together with financial modelling and projections of the council's expenditure and resources in light of local policies and priorities, national policy and economic context. Service managers have identified financial and budget issues and pressures and this information has been used to inform the MTFS.

The Strategy and Resource Scrutiny Committee considered and approved the recommendations (unanimous bar ii).

Accordingly, Council is recommended to:

General Fund Revenue

- i) Agree the budget process and timetable as outlined in Section 8 [page 25] of the MTFS document.

- ii) (by 6 votes in favour, 2 abstentions) Agree the incorporation of changed assumptions as presented in Section 3 [pages 10 and 11], which provide an indication of the net savings requirement, by year for the next five years [page 13], and revised projections for General Fund (GF) revenue and funding as shown in Appendix A [page 26] and reserves, Section 6 [page 18].
- iii) Agree the 2022/23 revenue budget proposal as set out in Section 4 [page 12], for a £1,122k increase in pay budgets to reflect the current pay offer

Capital

- iv) Note the changes to the capital plan and funding as set out in Section 5 [pages 15 to 17] and Appendix B [pages 27 to 30] of the MTFS document.
- v) Agree capital spending proposals as set out below.

Ref.	Description - £'000s	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Total
	Proposals							
SC826	WREN solar project	-	1,170	130	-	-	-	1,300
SC654	Redevelopment of Silver Street Toilets	141	-	-	-	-	-	141
	Total proposals	141	1,170	130	0	0	0	1,441

- vi) Agree changes to GF reserve levels, the prudent minimum balance being set at £6.854m and the target level at £8.225m as detailed in Section 6 [page 18].
- vii) Agree that the remaining balance of £213k on the Cambridge Live Development Fund is transferred to the GF reserve and the fund is closed [page 20]