

16 January 2023

**National Highways  
Stafford Brooks Project  
presentation to commence  
at 6.15pm**

Dear Members

**Council Meeting**

I hereby give notice that a meeting of the Council will be held in the **Council Chamber, County Buildings, Martin Street, Stafford** on **Tuesday 24 January 2023 at 7.00pm** to deal with the business as set out on the agenda.



Tim Clegg  
Chief Executive

## COUNCIL MEETING - 24 JANUARY 2023

Mayor, Councillor Philip Leason MBE

### AGENDA

- 1 Approval of the Minutes of the meetings of Council held on 22 November and 6 December 2022 as published on the Council's website.
- 2 Apologies for Absence
- 3 Declarations of Interest
- 4 Announcements (Paragraph 3.2(iii) of the Council Procedure Rules)
- 5 Public Question Time  
Nil
- 6 Councillor Session  
Nil
- 7 Notice of Motion  
Nil

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10 Joint Appointments Committee	66 - 70
11 Any items referred from Scrutiny Committee(s)	-

**Chief Executive**

Civic Centre  
Riverside  
Stafford  
ST16 3AQ

## Agenda Item 8

<b>Committee:</b>	Council
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	24 January 2023
<b>Report of:</b>	Section 151 Officer
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Chris Forrester
<b>Telephone Number:</b>	01543 464334
<b>Ward Interest:</b>	Nil
<b>Report Track:</b>	Council 24/01/2023 Cabinet 19/01/2023

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The following matter was considered by Cabinet at its meeting held on 19 January 2023 and is submitted to Council for approval.

## General Fund Revenue Budget and Capital Programme 2023-26

### 1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To propose to the Council the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2023-24, the updated Capital Programme 2023-26 and indicative budgets for 2024-25 to 2025-26.

### 2 Recommendation

- 2.1 That the following be recommended to the Council:

- (a) The Budget Requirement for the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2023-24 be set at £16.199 million;
- (b) The indicative General Fund Revenue Budgets be set at £15.095 million for 2024-25 and £15.826 million for 2025-26;
- (c) The budget pressures, savings and income generation set out in paragraphs 5.5 - 5.6 be approved;
- (d) The General Fund working balance be set at a minimum of £1.0 million;
- (e) The detailed capital programme as set out in **APPENDIX 2** be approved;
- (f) That the Council Tax for 2023-24 be increased by 1.9% to £168.52;
- (g) The Council's Tax Base be set at 48,863.55 (as determined by the Head of Finance);

(h) Note that the inflation parameter for fees and charges for 2023-24 was generally set at 5%.

### **3 Key Issues and Reasons for Recommendations**

3.1 This report sets out the current position on the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2023-24 and indicative budgets for 2024-25 to 2025-26. It also reflects the position on the Local Government Finance Settlement 2023-24, New Homes Bonus Grant allocation, the position on the Council's Collection Fund, the Council's Tax Base for 2023-24 and the consequential Council Tax for 2023-24.

3.2 The budget for 2023-24 is based on the estimated outturn position for 2022-23, which has been updated to reflect known changes and estimates for 2023-24.

3.3 Indicative budgets have been set out for 2024-25 and 2025-26 which include the key issues which it is anticipated will have a potential impact on the Council's finances. However, it should be noted that there are substantial uncertainties regarding the central Government policy for local government finance. There is significant risk to the council's financial position in 2025-26 should the business rates reset take place. It cannot be assumed that support will be provided to manage this reduction in resources by central government at this time. The council is still operating with a one year financial settlement.

### **4 Relationship to Corporate Business Objectives**

4.1 The revenue budget and the capital programme have been based on the Council's priorities.

### **5 Report Detail**

5.1 Individual draft Portfolio Budgets for each of the Council's five Portfolios together with a Capital Programme were proposed by the Cabinet at its meeting on 1 December 2022. The respective Portfolio Budgets were submitted to the Economic Development and Planning Scrutiny Committee on 5 January 2023; Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee on the 10 January 2023 and Resources Scrutiny Committee on the 3 January 2023; as part of the Budget consultation process. The results of the consultation with the scrutiny committees are attached as **APPENDIX 8**.

## **Budget Issues and Adjustments 2023-24**

### **Inflation**

- 5.2 The budgets for 2023-24 reflect the £1,925 pay award for 2022-23. A provision of 4% has been included for 2023-24; then 2% for 2024-25 and 2025-26.
- 5.3 Individual calculations have been carried out in respect of the budgets most affected by inflation. Inflation as measured by the Consumer Prices Index (November 2022) is 10.7% and for the Retail Prices Index it is 14%. Some contracts, most significantly for Freedom Leisure but also Veolia, have been individually calculated to reflect high inflation figures (the relevant index is CPI in January, at 10%). For 2024-25 the general inflation assumption is 4% and thereafter and for other non-staffing budgets it is 2%.

### **Spending pressures/Loss of income**

- 5.4 The detailed budgets have been refreshed to reflect the forecast for 2022-23. Additional provision has been made within Portfolio budgets for inflation and other general items, including for a pay award and increments.
- 5.5 The pressures on the 2023-24 Portfolio budgets (recurring in future years) are itemised below:
- The fireworks display in support of the Christmas lights switch-on event was previously externally funded. It is proposed that the £8,000 cost be funded by the Council.
  - There is an increased cost of contractors maintaining Local Nature Reserves of £10,000.
  - A small increase in the cost of the Development team of £4,000.
- 5.6 There are also some one-off pressures in 2023-24 that will be funded from reserves:
- A £35,000 cost of developing and implementing a developer payment regime to fulfil Biodiversity Net Gain obligations.
  - A £25,000 cost of an IT solution for Land Charges to replace the current system which will cease to be supported and is needed to enable the migration of part of the service to the Land Registry.
  - Additional costs associated with the leisure contract, details of which are contained in a separate report on the agenda.

### **Budget savings proposals**

- 5.7 The savings proposals are set out in Table 1 below. They amount to £0.876 million in 2023-24 and a cumulative £1.711 million in 2024-25:

**Table 1: Proposed budget savings**

<b>Description</b>	<b>2023-24 £000</b>	<b>2024-25 £000</b>
Efficiencies in telephone operating system	8	8
Reduction in printers/colour printing	11	19
Reduced corporate support administration	27	27
More efficient CCTV monitoring aligned to night time economy	29	29
Leasing vacant areas of the Civic Centre	233	233
Shared Services savings	144	544
Reduce maintenance budgets	25	25
Reduce energy costs through LED lighting	37	45
Remove concessionary parking	15	15
Efficiencies in Pest Control service		20
Reduced overtime	30	30
Streetscene efficiencies	45	115
Efficiencies in bedding flowers/cauldrons	45	45
Efficiencies in Bereavement	40	40
Efficiencies in cleaning at Waterfront car park and civic centre	50	50
Increase garden waste charges from 2024		187
Optimise bus shelter advertising to fund maintenance		20
Lease car park concessions		80
Development support efficiencies	13	25
New Planning fees	26	56
Reductions in underspending overhead budgets	98	98
<b>Total</b>	<b>876</b>	<b>1,711</b>

5.8 The above proposed savings present real challenges, in terms of the work needed to deliver them, the consultation required, and the potential impact on services. Every effort has been made to minimise the impact on front-line services and to minimise any redundancies. The challenges facing local government as a whole are exceptional when setting next year's budget - most councils will be facing decisions that involve the severe curtailment or closure of some services. Others are indicating that they cannot survive financially without additional support. The Borough's position is difficult, with significant savings underpinning next year's budget - but it is manageable, assuming the savings are approved.

### **Business Rates Income**

5.9 Business Rates (sometimes called National Non-Domestic Rates or NNDR) income for 2023-24 has been updated to reflect the Business Rates revaluations. Business Rates increase each year in accordance with inflation, but there is no actual increase in business rates chargeable, with the Government freezing the Business Rates multiplier and local government being compensated for the difference via a Section 31 grant.

- 5.10 The Council's exposure to volatility in Business Rates is a key risk with a reduction in income from business rates due to the failure or temporary closure of a key industry and successful appeals against Rateable Values and backdated refunds. In order to mitigate this risk as much as possible, provision is made in both the budget and final accounts for a reduction in income due to appeals.

### **2021-22 Outturn**

- 5.11 Due to technical and resource challenges, the final outturn for 2021-22 is only just being finalised at the time of publication of this report. However, the provisional position is for a £484,000 underspend. This is after setting aside £900,000 to mitigate the impact of the potential business rates reset. A separate 2021-22 final accounts report will be produced and will contain detailed variances. The headline reasons for the underspend are related to staffing - difficulties with recruitment and holding posts vacant pending shared services; and some fees and charges income over-achieving a budget which was set at a prudent level, following the impact of Covid.

### **2022-23 Forecast Outturn**

- 5.12 The Budget for 2022-23 is monitored against the profiled budget. The latest position reflects the downturn in income, inflationary increases in costs and known changes in the forecast outturn. The revised forecast for the year is for a £25,000 underspend.

### **Local Government Finance Settlement 2023-24 and Autumn Statement**

- 5.13 The Local Government Finance Settlement for 2023-24 was received by the Council in December.
- 5.14 In particular the Settlement determines both the core funding to the Council and basis of incentive funding for Business Rates. A Baseline Funding Level was determined at the commencement of the current scheme in 2013-14 with a Tariff paid to central government representing the difference between income collected and the Baseline. The Baseline Funding now represents the sole form of core funding following the demise of Revenue Support Grant.
- 5.15 The Autumn Statement on 17 November included a proposed change to the Council Tax referendum rules for lower tier councils. It is now possible to increase Council Tax by 2.99% (rather than the higher of 2% or £5) without holding a referendum. The Statement also made various updates to policy regarding Business Rates reliefs and the Household Support Fund and New Homes Bonus for one year (2023-24), but did not include statements on New Homes Bonus for the medium term, the Fair Funding Review or a Business Rates reset.

- 5.16 The 2022-23 Settlement included £455,000 for a Lower Tier Services Grant and £195,000 for a Services Grant. Both of these grants were stated as one-off, so have been excluded for 2023-24.

### **Business Rates Pooling and Retention**

- 5.17 There is an assumption that any reset of Business Rates growth achieved to date will be deferred until at least 2025-26. The Tariff paid to Central Government has increased due to the revaluations but the council has been compensated by grant for one year to offset this increase.
- 5.18 The Budget assumes that the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Business Rates Pool will remain in place. It is also likely that even if there is a 50% reset in business rates growth with effect from 1 April 2025, then transitional relief and/or the use of the Council's reserves set aside for smoothing Business Rates fluctuations may well nullify any losses that would otherwise have been incurred in 2025-26 and 2026-27.
- 5.19 Business Rates increase each year in line with the prevailing CPI of the preceding September. The freezing of the NNDR multiplier will result in a loss of income to the Council, offset by compensation for this loss via the NNDR Multiplier Section 31 grant. Section 31 Grant will cover the whole loss.
- 5.20 An analysis of the revised Retained Business Rates income for the Council is set out in **APPENDIX 3**.

### **New Homes Bonus**

- 5.21 Allocations for the New Homes Bonus (NHB) scheme for 2023-24 were £598k. In previous years, there were legacy payments, e.g. the NHB for 2019-20 was paid for four years. NHB became payable for one year only from 2020-21. It is therefore assumed that the amount allocated in 2023-24 over and above the amount in line with the original scheme will not be reflected in 2024-25 and 2025-26.
- 5.22 The Budget assumes a total allocation for Stafford of £598k for 2023-24 and £356k for each of 2024-25 and 2025-26.

### **Lower Tier Services Grant**

- 5.23 The Government introduced a Lower Tier Services Grant payment in 2022-23 of £455,000, which it was stated was one-off. It has not been repeated in 2023-24.

### **Rural Services Delivery Grant**

- 5.24 The 2022-23 allocation of £26,000 has not been repeated in 2023-24.

### Services Grant

- 5.25 The Government introduced a Services Grant payment in 2022-23 of £195,000 which it was stated was one-off. It has not been repeated in 2023-24.

### Funding guarantee grant and core spending power grant

- 5.26 Two new grants have been allocated to the council for 2023-24. These are the funding guarantee grant of £1.594 million and the core spending power grant of £110k. It is assumed that these are one off payments and are therefore not reflected in budgets post 2023-24.

### Revenue Budget Summary 2023-24

- 5.27 The Portfolio Budget position set out below reflects the forecast outturn position for 2022-23, the proposed budget for 2023-24, and indicative budgets for 2024-25 and 2025-26. The detailed budgets are included in **APPENDIX 1**.

**Table 2: Revenue Budget Recommended to Council**

	<b>Forecast Outturn 2022-23 £000</b>	<b>Budget 2023-24 £000</b>	<b>Indicative Budget 2024-25 £000</b>	<b>Indicative Budget 2025-26 £000</b>
<b>Net Expenditure</b>				
Portfolio budgets	15,197	16,172	15,867	16,304
Invest income and technical financing adjustments	842	772	275	19
<b>Net Spending</b>				
<b>Less: government Grants</b>				
NNDR multiplier - S.31	147	147	147	147
One off Service Grant	195			
New Homes Bonus	1,702	598	350	350
<b>Budget Requirement</b>	<b>13,995</b>	<b>16,199</b>	<b>15,095</b>	<b>15,826</b>
<b>Financing</b>				
Business Rates	5,545	6,256	6,377	5,692
Lower Tier Grant	455			
Council Tax Income	8,020	8,235	8,475	8,722

	<b>Forecast Outturn 2022-23 £000</b>	<b>Budget 2023-24 £000</b>	<b>Indicative Budget 2024-25 £000</b>	<b>Indicative Budget 2025-26 £000</b>
Fund guarantee grant		- 1,594		
Core spending power grant		- 110		
<b>Total Financing</b>	<b>14,020</b>	<b>16,195</b>	<b>14,852</b>	<b>14,414</b>
<b>Transfer from/(to) Balances</b>	- 25	- 4	- 243	- 1,412

- 5.28 The above budgets are in general based upon the maintenance of existing service provision and delivery of the priorities set out in the Corporate Business Plan. The portfolio budgets incorporate the proposed pressures and savings in paragraphs 5.5-5.7.
- 5.29 As indicated above details are only currently available for the 2023-24 financial year. Limited amendments have been made to assumptions in relation to the new funding regime for 2024-25 and onwards. The Business Rates Scheme in particular carries the greatest uncertainty, along with any outcome from the Fair Funding Review. In light of the uncertainty as reflected in various sections of this report, it is difficult to project the true overall position over the medium term.
- 5.30 The Indicative Budget for 2023-24 brought to Cabinet on the 1 December 2022 suggested a £0.900 million gap. When comparing the currently proposed 2023-24 Budget to the anticipated 2023-24 Indicative Budget from December, the major differences are as set out in Table 3. This list represents the reasons why there is a minimal drawdown from reserves in 2023-24:

**Table 3: Changes in 2023-24 budget assumptions**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Change £000</b>
Portfolio budgets higher than anticipated	160
Investment income and technical financing adjustments higher than anticipated	1,000
New Homes Bonus higher than anticipated	-98
Business Rates higher than anticipated	-252
Other unbudgeted for grants	-1,704
<b>Total</b>	<b>-894</b>

- 5.31 The primary changes in the table above are the new grants paid to the council as a one off (Funding guarantee grant £1.594m and Core spending power grant £0.110m) and the technical adjustment moving £1.000m to a reserve to offset the borrowing cost for Future High Streets Fund.
- 5.32 Table 2 identifies £0.243 million in 2024-25 that represents an unfunded budget gap that will need to be identified. This compares to the budget gap of £4k in 2023-24.
- 5.33 A Business Rates reset will have a negative impact on the Borough, as the amount currently received is based on a low baseline - above which the Borough retains Business Rates income. A Business Rates review is likely to reset this baseline to a higher level for Stafford, which will leave less scope to generate the same level of income as in the past. There is no certainty that this change will happen in 2025-26, but an assumption needed to be made, because the Government has signalled in the past that such a review will be forthcoming. The Council has long anticipated the change and holds a reserve to provide a buffer for significant fluctuations, and this will enable losses of the magnitude set out above, at least in the short term, to have no impact on the revenue budget. It is also likely that such a major change would be accompanied by transitional relief, which will soften the losses resulting from the policy change, albeit for a limited period.

### **Reserves and Balances**

- 5.34 Reserves and balances comprise general reserves, the Working Balance and Earmarked Reserves. They help the Council to cope with unpredictable financial pressures and plan for future spending commitments. They are an essential part of good financial management and assist the Section 151 Officer in providing reassurance to Council on the robustness of the estimates and the adequacy of reserves. (see **APPENDIX 6**)
- 5.35 The Council holds a number of earmarked reserves for specific purposes. Earmarked reserves are itemised in **APPENDIX 4**. The main change since the budget report that was taken in December 2022 is the creation of a £1.569m reserve offset the cost of borrowing for the Future High Streets Fund.
- 5.36 The Working Balance - the current policy has for a number of years been to maintain the level of the General Fund balance at a minimum of £1 million. This is maintained over the planning period, and supplemented by the Revenue Surplus reserve.

### **Capital Programme 2022-23 to 2025-26**

- 5.37 The Capital Programme is attached as **APPENDIX 2**.
- 5.38 By far the most significant project is regarding the Future High Streets Fund. Some £2.18 million is programmed to be spent this year on this project, with a further £19.3 million over 2023-24 and 2024-25.

### **Council Tax Base and Collection Fund**

- 5.39 The final part of the consideration of the Budget is the Council Tax Base. This is the number of properties in the borough expressed in terms of Band D equivalents. (**APPENDIX 5**)
- 5.40 The Council's Tax Base is now estimated to be 48,863.55 representing an increase of 0.77% on 2022-23. The increase reflects the net increase in new properties built, offset by the cost of the Local Council Tax Reduction scheme.
- 5.41 The Tax Base has been calculated as follows:

Council Tax base for budget setting purposes	52,238.79
Less: impact of Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme	<u>-3,375.24</u>
	<b><u>48,863.55</u></b>

- 5.42 The Local Council Tax Reduction scheme is anticipated to incorporate changes to reflect a Cost of Living adjustment. This will be proposed to take the form of a more generous scheme for those most in need. A separate report will be seeking approval for the revised scheme in due course.
- 5.43 The Council's Collection Fund has been reviewed as part of the budget process.

### **Council Tax 2023-24**

- 5.44 In determining the level of Council Tax for 2023-24 Cabinet will need to take into account the medium term financial position and the Council Tax Referendum Thresholds.
- 5.45 The current indicative budget for 2023-24 assumed that Council Tax would increase by 1.9% for 2023-24.
- 5.46 This proposed increase is within the guidelines for district councils as contained in existing Government policy, which until the Government's Autumn Statement required a referendum if a council proposed an increase of 1.99% or more (or up to £5) whichever is the higher. The Autumn Statement has proposed allowing the referendum threshold to be increased to 2.99%. Increasing the proposed council tax from 1.9% has not been assumed at this stage, but an additional 1% increase in Council Tax would generate approximately £80,000 a year.

- 5.47 The proposed level of Stafford's Council Tax for 2023-24 is £168.52 for a Band D property with the overall level of Council Tax subject to final determination by Council on 15 February 2023. The figures set out in this report may require minor amendment if any further information emerges before then. Such an increase amounts to £3.14 on a Band D property, or about 6p per week.
- 5.48 The total Council Tax for the Borough will reflect the spending decision made by the County Council, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Fire Authority. In addition, in certain areas, parish council precepts are also added to the overall bill.

### **Financial Planning**

- 5.49 The Government has intended to introduce a new financial regime for local government for a number of years. There was an original delay, then Covid, then the Ukraine war, cost of living crisis and change in Prime Minister and Cabinet. These major changes have understandably made it difficult for Government to focus on longer term planning for local government finance, just as the same issues make it difficult for local authorities themselves to plan. The changes to the local government financial regime potentially include Business Rates Retention and the reset of Business Rates, a replacement for New Homes Bonus and a Fair Funding Review.
- 5.50 Each of these issues have been discussed in previous years' budget reports, with the conclusion that it was impossible to determine how both Core and Incentive based funding will change under the new regime. Material variances exist between the best /worst case future scenarios and it is essential that a prudent approach is adopted until further details become available.
- 5.51 The Council has at the present date minimal uncommitted capital resources. Its future programme will be financed by the generation of capital receipts and prudential borrowing subject to its financing being prudent, sustainable and affordable. Although with the advent of higher interest rates, it is becoming harder to justify borrowing to fund capital spending, especially as there is also an opportunity cost to borrowing, of foregoing an investment return.
- 5.52 The major potential adverse impact over the medium term is regarding Government policy, a Business Rates reset being the most significant. However, any reset is likely to be accompanied by a reasonable lead-in, with transitional relief. The Council also holds a reserve to soften the impact of Business Rates fluctuations, which could support the 2024-25 Budget is needs be.

## **6 Implications**

### **6.1 Financial**

Contained in the report.

### **6.2 Legal**

Nil.

### **6.3 Human Resources**

Nil.

### **6.4 Human Rights Act**

Nil.

### **6.5 Data Protection**

Nil.

### **6.6 Risk Management**

A risk register is included in **APPENDIX 7**.

### **6.7 Community Impact Assessment Recommendations**

#### **Impact on Public Sector Equality Duty:**

The Borough Council considers the effect of its actions on all sections of our community and has addressed all of the following Equality Strands in the production of this report, as appropriate: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.

#### **Wider Community Impact:**

Consultation will be carried out if there are any changes to services that have a significant impact on customers or the community.

## **7 Previous Consideration – Cabinet – 19 January 2023 – Minute No TBC**

## **8 Background Papers - files are available in Financial Services.**

Environment

	Outturn 2022-2023 £	Budget 2023-2024 £	Budget 2024-2025 £	Budget 2025-2026 £
<b>1 Management &amp; Support</b>				
Employee Expenses	365,210	436,770	445,620	454,720
Transport Related Expenditure	7,270	2,920	2,920	2,920
Supplies & Services	33,080	33,080	33,080	33,080
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>405,560</b>	<b>472,770</b>	<b>481,620</b>	<b>490,720</b>
<b>Management &amp; Support Net Expenditure</b>	<b>405,560</b>	<b>472,770</b>	<b>481,620</b>	<b>490,720</b>
<b>2 Regulatory Services</b>				
Employee Expenses	606,710	645,340	658,940	672,860
Premises Related Expenditure	8,840	9,950	10,150	10,350
Transport Related Expenditure	30,350	34,170	34,790	35,110
Supplies & Services	67,840	67,840	67,840	67,840
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>713,740</b>	<b>757,300</b>	<b>771,720</b>	<b>786,160</b>
Income	(246,050)	(263,360)	(263,360)	(263,680)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(246,050)</b>	<b>(263,360)</b>	<b>(263,360)</b>	<b>(263,680)</b>
<b>Regulatory Services Net Expenditure</b>	<b>467,690</b>	<b>493,940</b>	<b>508,360</b>	<b>522,480</b>
<b>3 Strategic Health Delivery</b>				
Employee Expenses	91,060	58,220	59,460	60,730
Transport Related Expenditure	2,460	4,100	4,100	4,100
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>93,520</b>	<b>62,320</b>	<b>63,560</b>	<b>64,830</b>
Income	(35,350)	-	-	-
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(35,350)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Strategic Health Delivery Net Expenditure</b>	<b>58,170</b>	<b>62,320</b>	<b>63,560</b>	<b>64,830</b>
<b>4 Partnerships Environmental Management</b>				
Employee Expenses	44,130	47,820	48,780	49,780
Premises Related Expenditure	90	90	90	90
Transport Related Expenditure	190	190	190	190
Supplies & Services	24,210	54,600	19,600	19,600
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>68,620</b>	<b>102,700</b>	<b>68,660</b>	<b>69,660</b>
Income	(9,880)	(45,080)	(10,080)	(10,280)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(9,880)</b>	<b>(45,080)</b>	<b>(10,080)</b>	<b>(10,280)</b>
<b>Partnerships Environmental Management Net Expenditure</b>	<b>58,740</b>	<b>57,620</b>	<b>58,580</b>	<b>59,380</b>

Environment

	Outturn 2022-2023 £	Budget 2023-2024 £	Budget 2024-2025 £	Budget 2025-2026 £
<b>5 Waste &amp; Recycling</b>				
Employee Expenses	61,000	68,800	70,330	71,930
Transport Related Expenditure	5,080	5,080	5,080	5,080
Supplies & Services	152,420	157,850	157,850	158,050
Third Party Payments	4,197,770	4,817,060	4,914,100	5,057,980
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>4,416,270</b>	<b>5,048,790</b>	<b>5,147,360</b>	<b>5,293,040</b>
Income	(2,935,380)	(2,953,770)	(3,209,900)	(3,281,670)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(2,935,380)</b>	<b>(2,953,770)</b>	<b>(3,209,900)</b>	<b>(3,281,670)</b>
<b>Waste &amp; Recycling Net Expenditure</b>	<b>1,480,890</b>	<b>2,095,020</b>	<b>1,937,460</b>	<b>2,011,370</b>
<b>6 Bereavement Services</b>				
Employee Expenses	303,250	274,670	281,140	285,000
Premises Related Expenditure	211,100	242,940	256,230	265,300
Transport Related Expenditure	6,960	6,960	6,960	6,960
Supplies & Services	302,540	251,630	252,200	253,170
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>823,850</b>	<b>776,200</b>	<b>796,530</b>	<b>810,430</b>
Income	(1,752,570)	(1,840,110)	(1,895,180)	(1,929,950)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(1,752,570)</b>	<b>(1,840,110)</b>	<b>(1,895,180)</b>	<b>(1,929,950)</b>
<b>Bereavement Services Net Expenditure</b>	<b>(928,720)</b>	<b>(1,063,910)</b>	<b>(1,098,650)</b>	<b>(1,119,520)</b>
<b>7 Misc Highways Functions (ex Planning)</b>				
Premises Related Expenditure	42,540	43,990	45,330	46,080
Supplies & Services	630	630	630	630
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>43,170</b>	<b>44,620</b>	<b>45,960</b>	<b>46,710</b>
Income	(5,000)	(5,000)	(25,000)	(25,000)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(5,000)</b>	<b>(5,000)</b>	<b>(25,000)</b>	<b>(25,000)</b>
<b>Misc Highways Functions (ex Planning) Net Expenditure</b>	<b>38,170</b>	<b>39,620</b>	<b>20,960</b>	<b>21,710</b>
<b>8 Drainage Services</b>				
Premises Related Expenditure	4,460	4,550	4,550	4,640
Supplies & Services	106,110	110,100	110,100	112,300
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>110,570</b>	<b>114,650</b>	<b>114,650</b>	<b>116,940</b>
<b>Drainage Services Net Expenditure</b>	<b>110,570</b>	<b>114,650</b>	<b>114,650</b>	<b>116,940</b>
<b>9 Street Scene</b>				
Employee Expenses	1,970,530	2,021,200	2,043,570	2,086,000
Premises Related Expenditure	58,520	71,070	76,010	79,080
Transport Related Expenditure	308,600	307,300	307,300	313,360
Supplies & Services	472,370	418,960	418,960	420,990
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>2,810,020</b>	<b>2,818,530</b>	<b>2,845,840</b>	<b>2,899,430</b>
Income	(763,790)	(768,210)	(768,210)	(782,720)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(763,790)</b>	<b>(768,210)</b>	<b>(768,210)</b>	<b>(782,720)</b>
<b>Street Scene Net Expenditure</b>	<b>2,046,230</b>	<b>2,050,320</b>	<b>2,077,630</b>	<b>2,116,710</b>

Environment

	Outturn 2022-2023	Budget 2023-2024	Budget 2024-2025	Budget 2025-2026
	£	£	£	£
<b>10 Cleansing Services</b>				
Premises Related Expenditure	44,960	46,310	47,350	48,590
Supplies & Services	18,830	18,850	18,850	18,870
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>63,790</b>	<b>65,160</b>	<b>66,200</b>	<b>67,460</b>
Income	(350)	(360)	(360)	(370)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(350)</b>	<b>(360)</b>	<b>(360)</b>	<b>(370)</b>
<b>Cleansing Services Net Expenditure</b>	<b>63,440</b>	<b>64,800</b>	<b>65,840</b>	<b>67,090</b>
<b>11 Pest Control</b>				
Employee Expenses	176,500	198,480	182,640	186,850
Transport Related Expenditure	12,170	10,220	10,220	10,420
Supplies & Services	44,070	44,070	44,070	44,070
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>232,740</b>	<b>252,770</b>	<b>236,930</b>	<b>241,340</b>
Income	(151,470)	(177,480)	(177,480)	(181,030)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(151,470)</b>	<b>(177,480)</b>	<b>(177,480)</b>	<b>(181,030)</b>
<b>Pest Control Net Expenditure</b>	<b>81,270</b>	<b>75,290</b>	<b>59,450</b>	<b>60,310</b>
<b>12 Dog Warden Service</b>				
Supplies & Services	4,370	5,170	5,170	5,170
Third Party Payments	6,150	6,360	6,360	6,490
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>10,520</b>	<b>11,530</b>	<b>11,530</b>	<b>11,660</b>
Income	(11,420)	(11,640)	(11,640)	(11,870)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(11,420)</b>	<b>(11,640)</b>	<b>(11,640)</b>	<b>(11,870)</b>
<b>Dog Warden Service Net Expenditure</b>	<b>(900)</b>	<b>(110)</b>	<b>(110)</b>	<b>(210)</b>
<b>13 CCTV</b>				
Premises Related Expenditure	11,010	12,350	13,590	14,270
Supplies & Services	17,820	16,480	16,480	16,480
Third Party Payments	116,780	94,860	99,810	101,810
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>145,610</b>	<b>123,690</b>	<b>129,880</b>	<b>132,560</b>
<b>CCTV Net Expenditure</b>	<b>145,610</b>	<b>123,690</b>	<b>129,880</b>	<b>132,560</b>
<b>Environment Net Expenditure</b>	<b>4,026,720</b>	<b>4,586,020</b>	<b>4,419,230</b>	<b>4,544,370</b>

**Environment Portfolio****Variation Statement 2022/2023 to 2024/2025**

	2023/2024 Indicative	Real Terms / Efficiency Variations	2023/2024 Budget	2024/2025 Indicative	Real Terms / Efficiency Variations	2024/2025 Budget	Inflation	Real Terms / Efficiency Variations	2025/2026 Budget
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
<b>Employee Costs</b>	3,626	125	3,751	3,732	58	3,790	68	10	3,868
<b>Premises Related Costs</b>	322	109	431	333	120	453	9	7	469
<b>Transport Related Costs</b>	383	- 12	371	383	- 11	372	6	-	378
<b>Supplies and Services</b>	1,218	- 39	1,179	1,218	- 73	1,145	6	- 1	1,150
<b>Third Party Payments</b>	4,518	401	4,919	4,680	340	5,020	99	47	5,166
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	10,067	584	10,651	10,346	434	10,780	188	63	11,031
<b>Income</b>	- 6,216	151	- 6,065	- 6,264	- 97	- 6,361	- 80	- 46	- 6,487
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	3,851	<b>735</b>	4,586	4,082	<b>337</b>	4,419	108	<b>17</b>	4,544

**Environment Portfolio****Proposed Real Terms / Efficiency Variations****2023/24 Change**

	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
<b><u>Real Term Variations</u></b>		
Pay award and Pension changes		216
Increased utility charges		114
Reduced leased car costs		-12
Waste		
Inflation	515	
Revised property growth	-14	
Reduced postage and advertising	-10	
Dry recycling gate fees - changes in prices and glass provision	-94	
Green gate fees - revised tonnage due to take up	5	
Increased recycling credits - revised tonnage	-5	
Sale of dry recycling materials - increased prices	-93	304
Garden waste income - reduced income		70
CCTV contract inflation		21
Reduced bereavement income		207
Reduced sow and penk drainage levy		-6
Budget savings		
More efficient CCTV monitoring aligned to night time economy	-29	
Reduce maintenance budgets	-5	
Reduced overtime	-30	
Streetscene efficiencies	-20	
Efficiencies bedding flowers / cauldrons	-45	
Efficiencies in Bereavement	-40	
Reduction in underspending overhead budgets	-15	-184
Budget pressures		
Increased cost of contractors maintaining Local Nature Reserves		10
Develop and implement regime to fulfil Biodiversity Net Gain Obligations		
Expenditure	35	
Reserve funding	-35	
minor variations		-5
		<b><u>735</u></b>

2024/25 Change

	£'000	£'000
<b><u>Real Term Variations</u></b>		
Pay award and pension changes		188
Increased utility charges		125
Reduced leased car costs		-11
Waste		
Inflation	403	
Revised property growth	-11	
Reduced postage and advertising	-10	
Dry recycling gate fees - changes in prices and glass provision	-65	
Green gate fees - revised tonnage due to take up	6	
Increased recycling credits - revised tonnage	-13	
Sale of dry recycling materials - increased prices	-93	217
Garden waste income - reduced income		57
CCTV contract inflation		26
Reduced bereavement income		151
Reduced sow and penk drainage levy		-6
Budget savings		
More efficient CCTV monitoring aligned to night time economy	-29	
Reduce maintenance budgets	-5	
Reduced overtime	-30	
Streetscene efficiencies	-40	
Efficiencies bedding flowers / cauldrons	-45	
Efficiencies in Bereavement	-40	
Increase garden waste charges from 2024	-187	
Optimise bus shelter advertising to fund maintenance	-20	
Reduction in underspending overhead budgets	-15	-411
Budget pressures		
Increased cost of contractors maintaining Local Nature Reserves		10
Develop and implement regime to fulfil Biodiversity Net Gain Obligations		
Expenditure	35	
Reserve funding	-35	-
minor variations		-9
		<b><u>337</u></b>

2025/26 Change

	£'000	£'000
<b><u>Real Term Variations</u></b>		
Increase in pension costs		9
Waste		
Property growth	33	
Dry recycling gate fees	15	
Garden waste income	<u>-42</u>	6
Minor variation		<u>2</u>
		<u><b>17</b></u>

Community

	Outturn 2022-2023 £	Budget 2023-2024 £	Budget 2024-2025 £	Budget 2025-2026 £
<b>1 Private Sector Housing (Standards)</b>				
Employee Expenses	140,450	124,450	127,110	129,820
Transport Related Expenditure	4,320	3,620	3,620	3,620
Supplies & Services	25,370	25,670	25,670	25,670
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>170,140</b>	<b>153,740</b>	<b>156,400</b>	<b>159,110</b>
Income	(19,440)	(6,390)	(6,390)	(6,520)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(19,440)</b>	<b>(6,390)</b>	<b>(6,390)</b>	<b>(6,520)</b>
<b>Private Sector Housing (Standards) Net Expenditure</b>	<b>150,700</b>	<b>147,350</b>	<b>150,010</b>	<b>152,590</b>
<b>2 Housing Act Sewerage Works</b>				
Premises Related Expenditure	2,230	2,170	2,170	2,210
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>2,230</b>	<b>2,170</b>	<b>2,170</b>	<b>2,210</b>
<b>Housing Act Sewerage Works Net Expenditure</b>	<b>2,230</b>	<b>2,170</b>	<b>2,170</b>	<b>2,210</b>
<b>3 Private Sector Hsg (Loans &amp; Mortgages)</b>				
Premises Related Expenditure	5,900	5,730	5,730	5,850
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>5,900</b>	<b>5,730</b>	<b>5,730</b>	<b>5,850</b>
Income	(11,310)	(11,490)	(11,490)	(11,670)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(11,310)</b>	<b>(11,490)</b>	<b>(11,490)</b>	<b>(11,670)</b>
<b>Private Sector Hsg (Loans &amp; Mortgages) Net Expenditure</b>	<b>(5,410)</b>	<b>(5,760)</b>	<b>(5,760)</b>	<b>(5,820)</b>
<b>4 Partnerships</b>				
Supplies & Services	25,290	25,290	25,290	25,290
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>25,290</b>	<b>25,290</b>	<b>25,290</b>	<b>25,290</b>
<b>Partnerships Net Expenditure</b>	<b>25,290</b>	<b>25,290</b>	<b>25,290</b>	<b>25,290</b>
<b>5 Homelessness &amp; Housing Advice</b>				
Employee Expenses	449,870	490,300	500,560	510,940
Premises Related Expenditure	58,150	58,290	59,480	61,030
Transport Related Expenditure	8,290	5,670	5,670	5,670
Supplies & Services	134,580	124,700	124,700	126,910
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>650,890</b>	<b>678,960</b>	<b>690,410</b>	<b>704,550</b>
Income	(56,400)	(57,000)	(57,000)	(57,000)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(56,400)</b>	<b>(57,000)</b>	<b>(57,000)</b>	<b>(57,000)</b>
<b>Homelessness &amp; Housing Advice Net Expenditure</b>	<b>594,490</b>	<b>621,960</b>	<b>633,410</b>	<b>647,550</b>
<b>6 Glover Street</b>				
Premises Related Expenditure	18,890	19,620	20,750	21,530
Supplies & Services	650	650	650	650
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>19,540</b>	<b>20,270</b>	<b>21,400</b>	<b>22,180</b>
Income	(20,870)	(21,200)	(21,200)	(21,630)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(20,870)</b>	<b>(21,200)</b>	<b>(21,200)</b>	<b>(21,630)</b>
<b>Glover Street Net Expenditure</b>	<b>(1,330)</b>	<b>(930)</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>550</b>

Community

	<b>Outturn 2022-2023</b>	<b>Budget 2023-2024</b>	<b>Budget 2024-2025</b>	<b>Budget 2025-2026</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>7 Grants &amp; Contributions</b>				
Supplies & Services	128,960	128,960	128,960	128,960
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>128,960</b>	<b>128,960</b>	<b>128,960</b>	<b>128,960</b>
<b>Grants &amp; Contributions Net Expenditure</b>	<b>128,960</b>	<b>128,960</b>	<b>128,960</b>	<b>128,960</b>
<b>Community Net Expenditure</b>	<b>894,930</b>	<b>919,040</b>	<b>934,280</b>	<b>951,330</b>

Community Portfolio

Variation Statement 2023/2024 to 2025/2026

	2023/2024 Indicative	Real Terms / Efficiency Variations	2023/2024 Budget	2024/2025 Indicative	Real Terms / Efficiency Variations	2024/2025 Budget	Inflation	Real Terms / Efficiency Variations	2025/2026 Budget
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
<b>Employee Costs</b>	591	24	615	609	19	628	12	1	641
<b>Premises Related Costs</b>	65	21	86	66	22	88	2	1	91
<b>Transport Related Costs</b>	16	- 7	9	16	- 7	9	-	-	9
<b>Supplies and Services</b>	316	- 11	305	316	- 11	305	2	-	307
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	988	27	1,015	1,007	23	1,030	16	2	1,048
<b>Income</b>	- 88	- 8	- 96	- 88	- 8	- 96	- 1	-	- 97
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	900	<b>19</b>	919	919	<b>15</b>	934	<b>15</b>	<b>2</b>	951

**Community Portfolio****Proposed Real Terms / Efficiency Variations****2023/24 Change**

	£'000	£'000
<b><u>Real Term Variations</u></b>		
Pay award and pension changes		27
Increased utility charges		13
Additional licence fee income		-8
Budget savings		
Reduction in underspending overhead budgets	-16	-16
Minor variations		3
		<b><u>19</u></b>

**2024/25 Change**

	£'000	£'000
<b><u>Real Term Variations</u></b>		
Pay award and pension changes		21
Increased utility charges		14
Additional licence fee income		-8
Budget savings		
Reduction in underspending overhead budgets	-16	-16
Minor variations		4
		<b><u>15</u></b>

**2025/26 Change**

	£'000	£'000
<b><u>Real Term Variations</u></b>		
Increase in pension costs		2
		<b><u>2</u></b>

Leisure and Culture

	Outturn 2022-2023 £	Budget 2023-2024 £	Budget 2024-2025 £	Budget 2025-2026 £
<b>1 Leisure Section</b>				
Employee Expenses	104,460	108,940	111,280	113,650
Transport Related Expenditure	3,180	3,180	3,180	3,180
Supplies & Services	10,150	5,360	5,360	5,360
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>117,790</b>	<b>117,480</b>	<b>119,820</b>	<b>122,190</b>
Income	(31,560)	(31,560)	(31,560)	(31,560)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(31,560)</b>	<b>(31,560)</b>	<b>(31,560)</b>	<b>(31,560)</b>
<b>Leisure Section Net Expenditure</b>	<b>86,230</b>	<b>85,920</b>	<b>88,260</b>	<b>90,630</b>
<b>2 Allotments</b>				
Premises Related Expenditure	4,540	4,510	4,510	4,600
Supplies & Services	14,040	14,400	14,400	14,400
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>18,580</b>	<b>18,910</b>	<b>18,910</b>	<b>19,000</b>
Income	(1,200)	(1,200)	(1,200)	(1,200)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(1,200)</b>	<b>(1,200)</b>	<b>(1,200)</b>	<b>(1,200)</b>
<b>Allotments Net Expenditure</b>	<b>17,380</b>	<b>17,710</b>	<b>17,710</b>	<b>17,800</b>
<b>4 Ancient High House</b>				
Premises Related Expenditure	10,650	10,330	10,330	10,540
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>10,650</b>	<b>10,330</b>	<b>10,330</b>	<b>10,540</b>
<b>Ancient High House Net Expenditure</b>	<b>10,650</b>	<b>10,330</b>	<b>10,330</b>	<b>10,540</b>
<b>5 Broadeye Windmill</b>				
Premises Related Expenditure	3,120	5,830	6,340	6,630
Supplies & Services	70	70	70	70
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>3,190</b>	<b>5,900</b>	<b>6,410</b>	<b>6,700</b>
<b>Broadeye Windmill Net Expenditure</b>	<b>3,190</b>	<b>5,900</b>	<b>6,410</b>	<b>6,700</b>
<b>6 Izaak Walton Cottage</b>				
Premises Related Expenditure	8,570	8,310	8,310	8,480
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>8,570</b>	<b>8,310</b>	<b>8,310</b>	<b>8,480</b>
<b>Izaak Walton Cottage Net Expenditure</b>	<b>8,570</b>	<b>8,310</b>	<b>8,310</b>	<b>8,480</b>
<b>7 Stafford Castle</b>				
Premises Related Expenditure	13,090	12,690	12,690	12,940
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>13,090</b>	<b>12,690</b>	<b>12,690</b>	<b>12,940</b>
<b>Stafford Castle Net Expenditure</b>	<b>13,090</b>	<b>12,690</b>	<b>12,690</b>	<b>12,940</b>
<b>8 Borough Tourism</b>				
Supplies & Services	26,640	16,640	16,640	16,640
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>26,640</b>	<b>16,640</b>	<b>16,640</b>	<b>16,640</b>
<b>Borough Tourism Net Expenditure</b>	<b>26,640</b>	<b>16,640</b>	<b>16,640</b>	<b>16,640</b>

Leisure and Culture

	<b>Outturn 2022-2023</b>	<b>Budget 2023-2024</b>	<b>Budget 2024-2025</b>	<b>Budget 2025-2026</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>9 Leisure Management Contract</b>				
Supplies & Services	160,590	277,630	377,210	441,470
Third Party Payments	682,710	681,550	602,280	565,610
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>843,300</b>	<b>959,180</b>	<b>979,490</b>	<b>1,007,080</b>
Income	(87,530)	(145,170)	(159,370)	(185,330)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(87,530)</b>	<b>(145,170)</b>	<b>(159,370)</b>	<b>(185,330)</b>
<b>Leisure Management Contract Net Expenditure</b>	<b>755,770</b>	<b>814,010</b>	<b>820,120</b>	<b>821,750</b>
<b>10 Leisure Strategy</b>				
Employee Expenses	411,640	322,260	330,910	340,020
Premises Related Expenditure	5,100	4,950	4,950	5,050
Transport Related Expenditure	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Supplies & Services	90,230	90,230	90,230	90,230
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>508,470</b>	<b>418,940</b>	<b>427,590</b>	<b>436,800</b>
<b>Leisure Strategy Net Expenditure</b>	<b>508,470</b>	<b>418,940</b>	<b>427,590</b>	<b>436,800</b>
<b>11 Parks &amp; Open Spaces</b>				
Employee Expenses	263,320	267,300	233,330	237,640
Premises Related Expenditure	429,170	511,540	433,280	443,830
Transport Related Expenditure	5,250	5,350	5,350	5,460
Supplies & Services	176,240	142,710	54,470	54,460
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>873,980</b>	<b>926,900</b>	<b>726,430</b>	<b>741,390</b>
Income	(187,430)	(246,600)	(103,740)	(105,660)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(187,430)</b>	<b>(246,600)</b>	<b>(103,740)</b>	<b>(105,660)</b>
<b>Parks &amp; Open Spaces Net Expenditure</b>	<b>686,550</b>	<b>680,300</b>	<b>622,690</b>	<b>635,730</b>
<b>Leisure and Culture Net Expenditure</b>	<b>2,116,540</b>	<b>2,070,750</b>	<b>2,030,750</b>	<b>2,058,010</b>

Leisure PortfolioVariation Statement 2022/2023 to 2024/2025

	2023/2024 Indicative	Real Terms / Efficiency Variations	2023/2024 Budget	2024/2025 Indicative	Real Terms / Efficiency Variations	2024/2025 Budget	Inflation	Real Terms / Efficiency Variations	2025/2026 Budget
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Employee Costs	804	- 105	699	863	- 187	676	6	9	691
Premises Related Costs	470	88	558	452	29	481	10	1	492
Transport Related Costs	10	-	10	10	-	10	-	-	10
Supplies and Services	559	- 12	547	618	- 60	558	-	65	623
Third Party Payments	628	54	682	544	58	602	12	- 48	566
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>2,471</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>2,496</b>	<b>2,487</b>	<b>- 160</b>	<b>2,327</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>2,382</b>
<b>Income</b>	<b>- 323</b>	<b>- 102</b>	<b>- 425</b>	<b>- 296</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>- 296</b>	<b>- 2</b>	<b>- 26</b>	<b>- 324</b>
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>2,148</b>	<b>- 77</b>	<b>2,071</b>	<b>2,191</b>	<b>- 160</b>	<b>2,031</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2,058</b>

**Leisure Portfolio****Proposed Real Terms / Efficiency Variations****2023/24**

	£'000	£'000
<b><u>Real Term Variations</u></b>		
Pay award and Pension changes		-120
Increased utility charges		30
Leisure Management Contract		
Third Party Payments - Inflation		53
HLF Victoria Park (rephased)		
Employees	39	
Premises	63	
Supplies	-2	
Income	-100	0
Budget savings		
Reduce maintenance budgets	-6	
Streetscene efficiencies	-25	
Reduction in underspending overhead budgets	-10	-41
minor variations		1
		<b><u>-77</u></b>

**2024/25**

	£'000	£'000
<b><u>Real Term Variations</u></b>		
Pay award and Pension changes		-163
Increased utility charges		34
Leisure Management Contract		
Third Party Payments - Inflation		59
Budget savings		
Reduce maintenance budgets	-6	
Streetscene efficiencies	-75	
Reduction in underspending overhead budgets	-10	-91
minor variations		1
		<b><u>-160</u></b>

**2025/26 Change**

	£'000	£'000
<b><u>Real Term Variations</u></b>		
Increase in pension costs		10
Leisure management contract		
Base contract change	-49	
Equalisation reserve	47	
Equalisation reserve Income	-9	-11
minor variations		2
		<b><u>1</u></b>

Planning and Regeneration

	Outturn 2022-2023 £	Budget 2023-2024 £	Budget 2024-2025 £	Budget 2025-2026 £
<b>1 Management and Support</b>				
Employee Expenses	352,360	347,070	341,510	349,120
Transport Related Expenditure	4,860	4,860	4,860	4,860
Supplies & Services	72,290	60,920	60,920	60,920
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>429,510</b>	<b>412,850</b>	<b>407,290</b>	<b>414,900</b>
Income	(28,620)	(29,080)	(29,080)	(29,550)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(28,620)</b>	<b>(29,080)</b>	<b>(29,080)</b>	<b>(29,550)</b>
<b>Management and Support Net Expenditure</b>	<b>400,890</b>	<b>383,770</b>	<b>378,210</b>	<b>385,350</b>
<b>2 Building Control</b>				
Supplies & Services	2,180	2,180	2,180	2,180
Third Party Payments	169,470	181,090	184,740	188,530
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>171,650</b>	<b>183,270</b>	<b>186,920</b>	<b>190,710</b>
<b>Building Control Net Expenditure</b>	<b>171,650</b>	<b>183,270</b>	<b>186,920</b>	<b>190,710</b>
<b>3 Development Management</b>				
Employee Expenses	1,081,560	1,074,760	1,097,640	1,120,280
Transport Related Expenditure	29,790	25,740	26,050	26,210
Supplies & Services	193,390	193,390	193,390	193,390
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>1,304,740</b>	<b>1,293,890</b>	<b>1,317,080</b>	<b>1,339,880</b>
Income	(1,020,910)	(866,830)	(896,830)	(897,950)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(1,020,910)</b>	<b>(866,830)</b>	<b>(896,830)</b>	<b>(897,950)</b>
<b>Development Management Net Expenditure</b>	<b>283,830</b>	<b>427,060</b>	<b>420,250</b>	<b>441,930</b>
<b>4 Forward Planning</b>				
Employee Expenses	280,900	291,340	297,370	303,400
Transport Related Expenditure	9,490	11,550	11,860	12,020
Supplies & Services	80,040	270,650	169,610	51,190
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>370,430</b>	<b>573,540</b>	<b>478,840</b>	<b>366,610</b>
Income	(32,220)	(224,460)	(123,420)	(5,000)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(32,220)</b>	<b>(224,460)</b>	<b>(123,420)</b>	<b>(5,000)</b>
<b>Forward Planning Net Expenditure</b>	<b>338,210</b>	<b>349,080</b>	<b>355,420</b>	<b>361,610</b>
<b>5 Land Charges - Local Searches</b>				
Employee Expenses	53,010	55,740	56,940	58,140
Supplies & Services	73,060	98,060	73,060	73,060
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>126,070</b>	<b>153,800</b>	<b>130,000</b>	<b>131,200</b>
Income	(88,620)	(146,840)	(121,840)	(121,840)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(88,620)</b>	<b>(146,840)</b>	<b>(121,840)</b>	<b>(121,840)</b>
<b>Land Charges - Local Searches Net Expenditure</b>	<b>37,450</b>	<b>6,960</b>	<b>8,160</b>	<b>9,360</b>

Planning and Regeneration

	<b>Outturn 2022-2023</b>	<b>Budget 2023-2024</b>	<b>Budget 2024-2025</b>	<b>Budget 2025-2026</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>6 Off Street Parking Services</b>				
Employee Expenses	74,880	79,630	81,310	83,020
Premises Related Expenditure	862,870	863,810	893,160	917,660
Transport Related Expenditure	1,140	1,140	1,140	1,140
Supplies & Services	108,760	102,960	102,960	103,160
Third Party Payments	415,800	457,360	475,660	485,180
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>1,463,450</b>	<b>1,504,900</b>	<b>1,554,230</b>	<b>1,590,160</b>
Income	(2,392,420)	(2,399,510)	(2,479,510)	(2,481,110)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(2,392,420)</b>	<b>(2,399,510)</b>	<b>(2,479,510)</b>	<b>(2,481,110)</b>
<b>Off Street Parking Services Net Expenditure</b>	<b>(928,970)</b>	<b>(894,610)</b>	<b>(925,280)</b>	<b>(890,950)</b>
<b>7 Land &amp; Properties</b>				
Premises Related Expenditure	70,710	67,260	67,420	68,780
Supplies & Services	8,810	2,010	2,010	2,010
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>79,520</b>	<b>69,270</b>	<b>69,430</b>	<b>70,790</b>
Income	(53,290)	(51,690)	(51,690)	(51,690)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(53,290)</b>	<b>(51,690)</b>	<b>(51,690)</b>	<b>(51,690)</b>
<b>Land &amp; Properties Net Expenditure</b>	<b>26,230</b>	<b>17,580</b>	<b>17,740</b>	<b>19,100</b>
<b>8 Economic Growth and Strategic Projects</b>				
Employee Expenses	323,760	349,750	357,050	363,910
Premises Related Expenditure	36,140	38,260	38,620	39,510
Transport Related Expenditure	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
Supplies & Services	30,690	31,860	31,860	31,860
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>393,090</b>	<b>422,370</b>	<b>430,030</b>	<b>437,780</b>
Income	(99,450)	-	-	-
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(99,450)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Economic Growth and Strategic Projects Net Expenditure</b>	<b>293,640</b>	<b>422,370</b>	<b>430,030</b>	<b>437,780</b>
<b>9 Borough Markets</b>				
Employee Expenses	117,640	142,790	145,900	148,980
Premises Related Expenditure	166,710	192,180	201,620	208,400
Transport Related Expenditure	850	850	850	850
Supplies & Services	70,630	70,910	70,910	71,220
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>355,830</b>	<b>406,730</b>	<b>419,280</b>	<b>429,450</b>
Income	(182,070)	(200,880)	(200,880)	(201,330)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(182,070)</b>	<b>(200,880)</b>	<b>(200,880)</b>	<b>(201,330)</b>
<b>Borough Markets Net Expenditure</b>	<b>173,760</b>	<b>205,850</b>	<b>218,400</b>	<b>228,120</b>
<b>Planning and Regeneration Net Expenditure</b>	<b>796,690</b>	<b>1,101,330</b>	<b>1,089,850</b>	<b>1,183,010</b>

**Planning and Regeneration Portfolio**

**Variation Statement 2022/2023 to 2024/2025**

	2023/2024 Indicative	Real Terms / Efficiency Variations	2023/2024 Budget	2024/2025 Indicative	Real Terms / Efficiency Variations	2024/2025 Budget	Inflation	Real Terms / Efficiency Variations	2025/2026 Budget
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
<b>Employee Costs</b>	2,216	125	2,341	2,282	96	2,378	45	4	2,427
<b>Premises Related Costs</b>	1,104	58	1,162	1,131	70	1,201	24	9	1,234
<b>Transport Related Costs</b>	59	- 13	46	59	- 12	47	-	-	47
<b>Supplies and Services</b>	625	208	833	685	22	707	1	- 118	590
<b>Third Party Payments</b>	584	54	638	591	69	660	13	1	674
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	4,588	432	5,020	4,748	245	4,993	83	- 104	4,972
<b>Income</b>	- 3,243	- 676	- 3,919	- 3,303	- 600	- 3,903	- 4	118	- 3,789
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	1,345	<b>- 244</b>	1,101	1,445	<b>- 355</b>	1,090	79	<b>14</b>	1,183

## Planning and Regeneration Portfolio

### Proposed Real Terms / Efficiency Variations

	<u>2023/24 Change</u>	<u>£'000</u>	<u>£'000</u>
<b><u>Real Term Variations</u></b>			
Pay award and Pension changes			152
Increased utility charges			104
Leased Car			4
Local Plan Expenditure & Rephasing			
Supplies	195		
Income	-195		-
Parking contract			38
Building Control Shared Service Adjustment			15
Reduced car allowances			-10
Markets income			62
Parking income			-494
Budget savings			
Reduce maintenance budgets	-8		
Reduce energy costs through LED lighting	-30		
Remove concessionary parking	-15		
Efficiencies in cleaning at Waterfront car park	-10		
Development support efficiencies	-13		
New planning fees	-26		
Reduction in underspending overhead budgets	-28		-130
Budget pressures			
Fireworks display Christmas lights switch on event	8		
Increase cost of Development team	4		12
Land Charges IT to enable part migration of service to Land Registry			
Expenditure	25		
Reserve funding	-25		-
minor variations			3
			<b><u>-244</u></b>

2024/25 Change

	£'000	£'000
<b><u>Real Term Variations</u></b>		
Pay award and Pension changes		135
Increased utility charges		115
Leased Car		5
Local Plan Expenditure & Rephasing		
Supplies	33	
Income	<u>-33</u>	-
Parking contract		56
Building Control Shared Service Adjustment		13
Reduced car allowances		-10
Markets income		62
Parking income		-494
Budget savings		
Reduce maintenance budgets	-8	
Reduce energy costs through LED lighting	-30	
Remove concessionary parking	-15	
Efficiencies in cleaning at Waterfront car park	-10	
Lease car park concessions	-80	
Development support efficiencies	-26	
New planning fees	-56	
Reduction in underspending overhead budgets	<u>-28</u>	-253
Budget pressures		
Fireworks display Christmas lights switch on event	8	
Increase cost of Development team	<u>4</u>	12
Land Charges IT to enable part migration of service to Land Registry		
Expenditure	25	
Reserve funding	<u>-25</u>	-
Minor variations		4
		<u><u>-355</u></u>

2025/26 Change

	£'000	£'000
<b><u>Real Term Variations</u></b>		
Increase in pension costs		5
Increased utility charges		10
Local Plan Expenditure & Rephasing		
Supplies	-118	
Income	118	-
Minor variations		-1
		<b>14</b>

Resources

	Outturn 2022-2023 £	Budget 2023-2024 £	Budget 2024-2025 £	Budget 2025-2026 £
<b>1 Public Buildings</b>				
Employee Expenses	82,380	85,740	87,650	88,990
Premises Related Expenditure	1,214,740	1,337,380	1,359,230	1,394,750
Transport Related Expenditure	30	30	30	30
Supplies & Services	149,050	122,440	127,630	129,860
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>1,446,200</b>	<b>1,545,590</b>	<b>1,574,540</b>	<b>1,613,630</b>
Income	(582,290)	(720,130)	(674,940)	(674,940)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(582,290)</b>	<b>(720,130)</b>	<b>(674,940)</b>	<b>(674,940)</b>
<b>Public Buildings Net Expenditure</b>	<b>863,910</b>	<b>825,460</b>	<b>899,600</b>	<b>938,690</b>
<b>2 Facilities Management</b>				
Employee Expenses	227,410	237,380	243,130	249,190
Transport Related Expenditure	7,380	7,380	7,380	7,380
Supplies & Services	3,840	3,840	3,840	3,840
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>238,630</b>	<b>248,600</b>	<b>254,350</b>	<b>260,410</b>
<b>Facilities Management Net Expenditure</b>	<b>238,630</b>	<b>248,600</b>	<b>254,350</b>	<b>260,410</b>
<b>3 Executive Management</b>				
Employee Expenses	154,250	194,490	198,520	202,550
Transport Related Expenditure	2,600	2,600	2,600	2,600
Supplies & Services	30,870	30,870	30,870	30,870
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>187,720</b>	<b>227,960</b>	<b>231,990</b>	<b>236,020</b>
<b>Executive Management Net Expenditure</b>	<b>187,720</b>	<b>227,960</b>	<b>231,990</b>	<b>236,020</b>
<b>4 Corporate Business and Partnerships</b>				
Employee Expenses	319,090	334,970	342,660	349,950
Transport Related Expenditure	2,280	2,280	2,280	2,280
Supplies & Services	34,860	34,860	34,860	34,860
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>356,230</b>	<b>372,110</b>	<b>379,800</b>	<b>387,090</b>
<b>Corporate Business and Partnerships Net Expenditure</b>	<b>356,230</b>	<b>372,110</b>	<b>379,800</b>	<b>387,090</b>
<b>5 Communications</b>				
Employee Expenses	142,750	149,260	152,400	156,570
Transport Related Expenditure	80	80	80	80
Supplies & Services	17,710	25,140	25,140	25,170
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>160,540</b>	<b>174,480</b>	<b>177,620</b>	<b>181,820</b>
<b>Communications Net Expenditure</b>	<b>160,540</b>	<b>174,480</b>	<b>177,620</b>	<b>181,820</b>
<b>6 Customer Services</b>				
Employee Expenses	331,520	351,540	359,320	365,000
Supplies & Services	19,610	11,800	11,800	11,800
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>351,130</b>	<b>363,340</b>	<b>371,120</b>	<b>376,800</b>
<b>Customer Services Net Expenditure</b>	<b>351,130</b>	<b>363,340</b>	<b>371,120</b>	<b>376,800</b>

Resources

	<b>Outturn 2022-2023</b>	<b>Budget 2023-2024</b>	<b>Budget 2024-2025</b>	<b>Budget 2025-2026</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>7 Out of Hours Service</b>				
Supplies & Services	6,980	6,980	6,980	6,980
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>6,980</b>	<b>6,980</b>	<b>6,980</b>	<b>6,980</b>
<b>Out of Hours Service Net Expenditure</b>	<b>6,980</b>	<b>6,980</b>	<b>6,980</b>	<b>6,980</b>
<b>8 Law and Administration</b>				
Employee Expenses	1,325,470	1,384,290	1,414,800	1,436,400
Premises Related Expenditure	2,430	2,360	2,360	2,410
Transport Related Expenditure	7,260	7,260	7,260	7,310
Supplies & Services	132,620	129,020	129,020	129,340
Third Party Payments	38,970	39,830	40,570	41,330
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>1,506,750</b>	<b>1,562,760</b>	<b>1,594,010</b>	<b>1,616,790</b>
Income	(415,190)	(435,660)	(441,720)	(451,270)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(415,190)</b>	<b>(435,660)</b>	<b>(441,720)</b>	<b>(451,270)</b>
<b>Law and Administration Net Expenditure</b>	<b>1,091,560</b>	<b>1,127,100</b>	<b>1,152,290</b>	<b>1,165,520</b>
<b>9 Finance</b>				
Supplies & Services	1,560	1,560	1,560	1,560
Third Party Payments	653,070	724,270	739,560	755,790
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>654,630</b>	<b>725,830</b>	<b>741,120</b>	<b>757,350</b>
<b>Finance Net Expenditure</b>	<b>654,630</b>	<b>725,830</b>	<b>741,120</b>	<b>757,350</b>
<b>10 Human Resources Services</b>				
Employee Expenses	623,270	649,510	663,140	677,240
Transport Related Expenditure	11,950	4,510	4,510	4,510
Supplies & Services	122,110	122,110	122,110	122,110
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>757,330</b>	<b>776,130</b>	<b>789,760</b>	<b>803,860</b>
Income	(288,650)	(292,460)	(298,490)	(304,730)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(288,650)</b>	<b>(292,460)</b>	<b>(298,490)</b>	<b>(304,730)</b>
<b>Human Resources Services Net Expenditure</b>	<b>468,680</b>	<b>483,670</b>	<b>491,270</b>	<b>499,130</b>
<b>11 Technology</b>				
Employee Expenses	1,140,090	1,189,020	1,215,850	1,242,960
Transport Related Expenditure	17,660	17,660	17,660	17,660
Supplies & Services	662,560	643,490	636,860	637,310
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>1,820,310</b>	<b>1,850,170</b>	<b>1,870,370</b>	<b>1,897,930</b>
Income	(874,800)	(902,970)	(918,620)	(934,830)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(874,800)</b>	<b>(902,970)</b>	<b>(918,620)</b>	<b>(934,830)</b>
<b>Technology Net Expenditure</b>	<b>945,510</b>	<b>947,200</b>	<b>951,750</b>	<b>963,100</b>

Resources

	Outturn 2022-2023 £	Budget 2023-2024 £	Budget 2024-2025 £	Budget 2025-2026 £
<b>12 Members Services</b>				
Employee Expenses	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
Transport Related Expenditure	5,700	5,700	5,700	5,700
Supplies & Services	290,620	301,100	301,100	306,690
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>300,320</b>	<b>310,800</b>	<b>310,800</b>	<b>316,390</b>
<b>Members Services Net Expenditure</b>	<b>300,320</b>	<b>310,800</b>	<b>310,800</b>	<b>316,390</b>
<b>13 Revenues &amp; Benefits</b>				
Supplies & Services	76,230	94,820	94,820	94,820
Third Party Payments	1,495,920	1,560,200	1,594,410	1,628,710
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>1,572,150</b>	<b>1,655,020</b>	<b>1,689,230</b>	<b>1,723,530</b>
Income	(752,110)	(802,150)	(802,150)	(802,150)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(752,110)</b>	<b>(802,150)</b>	<b>(802,150)</b>	<b>(802,150)</b>
<b>Revenues &amp; Benefits Net Expenditure</b>	<b>820,040</b>	<b>852,870</b>	<b>887,080</b>	<b>921,380</b>
<b>14 Housing Benefit Payments</b>				
Supplies & Services	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Transfer Payments	16,129,590	15,087,700	13,838,210	12,691,180
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>16,139,590</b>	<b>15,097,700</b>	<b>13,848,210</b>	<b>12,701,180</b>
Income	(16,339,590)	(15,297,700)	(14,048,210)	(12,901,180)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(16,339,590)</b>	<b>(15,297,700)</b>	<b>(14,048,210)</b>	<b>(12,901,180)</b>
<b>Housing Benefit Payments Net Expenditure</b>	<b>(200,000)</b>	<b>(200,000)</b>	<b>(200,000)</b>	<b>(200,000)</b>
<b>15 Parish Councils</b>				
Supplies & Services	51,000	51,000	51,000	51,000
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>51,000</b>	<b>51,000</b>	<b>51,000</b>	<b>51,000</b>
<b>Parish Councils Net Expenditure</b>	<b>51,000</b>	<b>51,000</b>	<b>51,000</b>	<b>51,000</b>
<b>16 Corporate and Democratic Core</b>				
Supplies & Services	178,120	287,070	287,070	287,070
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>178,120</b>	<b>287,070</b>	<b>287,070</b>	<b>287,070</b>
<b>Corporate and Democratic Core Net Expenditure</b>	<b>178,120</b>	<b>287,070</b>	<b>287,070</b>	<b>287,070</b>
<b>17 Non-Distributed Costs</b>				
Employee Expenses	230,000	235,260	235,260	239,970
Third Party Payments	41,620	42,450	43,300	44,170
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>271,620</b>	<b>277,710</b>	<b>278,560</b>	<b>284,140</b>
<b>Non-Distributed Costs Net Expenditure</b>	<b>271,620</b>	<b>277,710</b>	<b>278,560</b>	<b>284,140</b>
<b>18 Asset Management/Energy Conservation</b>				
Supplies & Services	41,940	41,940	41,940	41,940
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>41,940</b>	<b>41,940</b>	<b>41,940</b>	<b>41,940</b>
<b>Asset Management/Energy Conservation Net Expenditure</b>	<b>41,940</b>	<b>41,940</b>	<b>41,940</b>	<b>41,940</b>

Resources

	Outturn 2022-2023	Budget 2023-2024	Budget 2024-2025	Budget 2025-2026
	£	£	£	£
<b>19 Electoral Registration</b>				
Employee Expenses	2,150	2,150	2,150	2,150
Supplies & Services	41,050	41,050	41,050	41,050
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>43,200</b>	<b>43,200</b>	<b>43,200</b>	<b>43,200</b>
<b>Electoral Registration Net Expenditure</b>	<b>43,200</b>	<b>43,200</b>	<b>43,200</b>	<b>43,200</b>
<b>20 Elections</b>				
Employee Expenses	-	118,350	-	-
Premises Related Expenditure	-	49,470	-	-
Supplies & Services	39,500	78,100	39,500	39,500
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>39,500</b>	<b>245,920</b>	<b>39,500</b>	<b>39,500</b>
Income	-	(206,420)	-	-
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(206,420)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Elections Net Expenditure</b>	<b>39,500</b>	<b>39,500</b>	<b>39,500</b>	<b>39,500</b>
<b>21 Items to be Allocated</b>				
Employee Expenses	(45,990)	(110,000)	(110,000)	(110,000)
Supplies & Services	100,000	(47,880)	(347,880)	(342,350)
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>54,010</b>	<b>(157,880)</b>	<b>(457,880)</b>	<b>(452,350)</b>
<b>Items to be Allocated Net Expenditure</b>	<b>54,010</b>	<b>(157,880)</b>	<b>(457,880)</b>	<b>(452,350)</b>
<b>22 Audit, Risk, Resilience and Procurement</b>				
Supplies & Services	150	150	150	150
Third Party Payments	253,250	259,300	263,620	268,060
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>253,400</b>	<b>259,450</b>	<b>263,770</b>	<b>268,210</b>
<b>Audit, Risk, Resilience and Procurement Net Expenditure</b>	<b>253,400</b>	<b>259,450</b>	<b>263,770</b>	<b>268,210</b>
<b>23 Insurance Premiums</b>				
Third Party Payments	183,010	186,670	190,400	194,210
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>183,010</b>	<b>186,670</b>	<b>190,400</b>	<b>194,210</b>
<b>Insurance Premiums Net Expenditure</b>	<b>183,010</b>	<b>186,670</b>	<b>190,400</b>	<b>194,210</b>
<b>Resources Net Expenditure</b>	<b>7,361,680</b>	<b>7,495,060</b>	<b>7,393,330</b>	<b>7,567,600</b>

**Resources Portfolio****Variation Statement 2022/2023 to 2024/2025**

	2023/2024 Indicative	Real Terms / Efficiency Variations	2023/2024 Budget	2024/2025 Indicative	Real Terms / Efficiency Variations	2024/2025 Budget	Inflation	Real Terms / Efficiency Variations	2025/2026 Budget
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>Employee Costs</b>	4,698	128	4,826	4,719	90	4,809	79	17	4,905
<b>Premises Related Costs</b>	1,321	68	1,389	1,288	74	1,362	27	8	1,397
<b>Transport Related Costs</b>	59	- 11	48	59	- 12	47	-	1	48
<b>Supplies and Services</b>	2,103	- 114	1,989	2,064	- 415	1,649	8	7	1,664
<b>Third Party Payments</b>	2,696	117	2,813	2,776	96	2,872	58	2	2,932
<b>Transfer Payments</b>	14,535	553	15,088	13,331	507	13,838	-	- 1,147	12,691
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	25,412	741	26,153	24,237	340	24,577	172	- 1,112	23,637
<b>Income</b>	- 17,938	- 720	- 18,658	- 16,566	- 618	- 17,184	- 33	1,148	- 16,069
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	7,474	<b>21</b>	7,495	7,671	<b>- 278</b>	7,393	139	<b>36</b>	7,568

**Resources Portfolio****Proposed Inflation/ Real Terms Efficiency Variations****2023/24 Change**

	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
<b><u>Real Term Variations</u></b>		
Pay award and Pension changes		192
Increased utility charges		127
Reduced Civic Centre rental income		151
Reduced rates		-46
Leased cars		-7
Contract cleaning		22
Audit fees		130
Items to be allocated - contract provision		-100
Shared Service Cost Rate Increase	116	
Shared Service Rate Increase on Income	-55	61
Housing benefits review of spend		
Expenditure	556	
Income	-556	-
Reduced pension act increases		-33
Bank charges		30
Budget savings		
Efficiencies in telephone operating system	-8	
Reduction in printers / colour printing	-12	
Reduced corporate support administration	-27	
Leasing vacant areas of the Civic Centre	-233	
Shared Service savings	-144	
Reduce maintenance budgets	-6	
Reduce energy costs through LED lighting	-8	
Efficiencies in cleaning at Civic Centre	-40	
Reduction in underspending overhead budgets	-28	-506
minor variations		-
		<b><u>21</u></b>

**2024/25 Change**

	£'000	£'000
<b><u>Real Term Variations</u></b>		
Pay award and Pension changes		154
Increased utility charges		142
Reduced Civic Centre rental income		196
Reduced rates		-47
Leased cars		-7
Contract cleaning		28
Audit fees		130
Shared Service Cost Rate Increase	96	
Shared Service Rate Increase on Income	-45	51
Housing benefits review of spend		
Expenditure	511	
Income	-511	-
Reduced pension act increases		-33
Bank charges		30
Budget savings		
Efficiencies in telephone operating system	-8	
Reduction in printers / colour printing	-19	
Reduced corporate support administration	-27	
Leasing vacant areas of the Civic Centre	-233	
Shared Service savings	-544	
Reduce maintenance budgets	-6	
Reduce energy costs through LED lighting	-15	
Efficiencies in cleaning at Civic Centre	-40	
Reduction in underspending overhead budgets	-28	-920
Minor variations		-2
		<b><u>- 278</u></b>

**2025/26 Change**

	£'000	£'000
<b><u>Real Term Variations</u></b>		
Increase in pension changes and increments		20
Increased utility charges		11
Housing benefits review of spend following implementation of Universal Credit		
Expenditure	- 1,147	
Income	1,147	-
Shared services additional cost	7	
Shared Service additional income	- 3	4
Minor variations		1
		<b><u>36</u></b>

<b>DRAFT GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2022/23 TO 2025/26</b>					<b>Appendix 2</b>
	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2025/26</b>	<b>Programmed but not allocated</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
<b>ENVIRONMENT</b>					
Streetscene equipment	-	66	-	-	101
Streetscene Fleet replacement	-	105	-	-	-
Waste Contract - replacement green containers	80	88	35	35	-
Waste Contract - replacement blue bins	40	38	11	11	-
Waste Contract - replacement waste containers	10	88	4	4	-
Riverway Site Improved Depot Facilities	101	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>101</b>
<b>COMMUNITY</b>					
Disabled Facilities Grants	1,000	3,560	1,522	1,522	2,075
Private Sector Housing Assistance	25	105	-	-	-
Improvements at Glover St caravan site	5	-	-	-	-
Empty Homes	10	70	-	-	-
Rough Sleeper Accommodation	140	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,180</b>	<b>3,735</b>	<b>1,522</b>	<b>1,522</b>	<b>2,075</b>
<b>LEISURE</b>					
Stone Leisure Strategy (part s106)	-	-	-	-	-
Stone Leisure Strategy Phase 2 (part s106)	535	1,826	-	-	-
Stafford Castle - H&S Works	-	-	-	-	16
Victoria Park Refurbishment	-	-	-	-	-
Victoria Park Pedestrian Bridge	-	91	-	-	-
Charnley Road Destination Park (s106)	-	-	-	-	-
Gatehouse - MET rigging	5	-	-	-	-
Jubilee Playing Field Leisure Facilities (s106)	104	-	-	-	-
Gnosall Leisure Facilities	-	-	-	-	-
Yarnfield Recreational Facilities	17	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>661</b>	<b>1,917</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>PLANNING AND REGENERATION</b>					
Growth Point capital	50	-	-	-	-
Stafford Town Centre Enhancement	19	-	-	-	-
Pearl Brook Path Improvements	-	-	-	-	-
Stafford Western Access Route	-	-	-	-	-
Victoria Street Car Park Improvements	-	-	-	-	48
New Gypsy & Traveller Site	150	-	-	-	-
Station Gateway	-	-	-	-	3,500
Eccleshall Road Cemetery Biodiversity	28	-	-	-	-
Future High Streets Fund - Public Realm	2,180	-	-	-	-
Future High Streets Fund - Mixed Use	-	13,801	5,500	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,427</b>	<b>13,801</b>	<b>5,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,548</b>
<b>RESOURCES</b>					
Corporate IT equipment	142	50	50	50	-
Contact Centre Phone system	-	-	-	-	30
Civic Centre Generator	-	-	-	-	50
Financial Management System	-	-	-	-	-
Accommodation transformation & rationalisation	11	-	-	-	670
<b>Total</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>750</b>
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL PROGRAMME</b>	<b>4,652</b>	<b>19,888</b>	<b>7,122</b>	<b>1,622</b>	<b>6,490</b>

							Appendix 3
<b>Business Rates Retention</b>							
		2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26		
			Estimate	Estimate	Estimate		
		Revised	50% Scheme	50% Scheme	50% Scheme		
<b>A. Business Rates Collection Fund</b>		£	£	£	£		
<b>Gross Rates</b>		<b>-61,120,636</b>	<b>-67,416,003</b>	<b>-68,764,320</b>	<b>-70,139,610</b>		
<b>Less Reliefs etc.</b>							
Mandatory Relief		7,428,898	8,075,623	8,237,140	8,401,880		
Discretionary relief		227,662	254,440	259,530	264,720		
Exemptions		1,993,631	2,188,477	2,232,250	2,276,900		
Cost Of Collection		171,196	171,713	171,760	171,810		
Losses on collection		2,400,702	2,901,419	2,959,450	3,018,640		
<b>Non Domestic Rates Income</b>		<b>-48,898,549</b>	<b>-53,824,331</b>	<b>-54,904,190</b>	<b>-56,005,660</b>		
<b>Less amount due to</b>							
Government		24,449,270	26,912,170	27,452,100	28,002,830		
County		4,400,870	4,844,190	4,941,380	5,040,510		
Fire		488,990	538,240	549,040	560,060		
<b>Net Business attributable to SBC</b>		<b>-19,559,419</b>	<b>-21,529,731</b>	<b>-21,961,670</b>	<b>-22,402,260</b>		
<b>B. General Fund determination of retained Business Rates</b>							
Net Business Rates attributable to SBC		-19,559,419	-21,529,731	-21,961,670	-22,402,260		
less	Tariff	14,735,030	15,891,440	16,209,270	16,533,460		
	Reset		0	0	1,156,147		
Core Funding		2,824,420	2,930,119	2,988,720	3,048,490		
	Growth	<b>-1,999,969</b>	<b>-2,708,173</b>	<b>-2,763,680</b>	<b>-1,664,163</b>		
Plus	New Burdens funding subject to Levy						
Business Rates S.31 Grants		-1,579,442	-1,735,518	-1,770,230	-1,805,630		
<b>Amount subject to Pool levy</b>		<b>-3,579,411</b>	<b>-4,443,691</b>	<b>-4,533,910</b>	<b>-3,469,793</b>		
	Pool Levy	1,789,705	2,221,845	2,266,955	1,734,896		
<b>Business Rates Growth</b>		<b>-1,789,705</b>	<b>-2,221,845</b>	<b>-2,266,955</b>	<b>-1,734,896</b>		
<b>Retained Business Rates</b>							
	Core Funding	-2,824,420	-2,930,119	-2,988,720	-3,048,490		
	Growth	-1,789,705	-2,221,845	-2,266,955	-1,734,896		
	S&SOT Redistribution	-715,882	-888,738	-906,782	-693,959		
	Pooling agreement	-215,000	-215,000	-215,000	-215,000		
<b>TOTAL Retained Income</b>		<b>-5,545,007</b>	<b>-6,255,702</b>	<b>-6,377,457</b>	<b>-5,692,345</b>		

APPENDIX 4				
GENERAL FUND RESERVES & BALANCES AND CAPITAL RESOURCES 2022 - 2026				
	01/04/2023	01/04/2024	01/04/2025	01/04/2026
	£	£	£	£
<b>Contingency</b>				
Working Balances	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Revenue Surplus	1,004,796	1,004,796	1,004,796	1,004,796
Insurance Reserve	595,492	595,492	595,492	595,492
VAT - Partial Exemption	195,300	195,300	195,300	195,300
Leisure Equalization Reserve	-904,160	-771,700	-553,860	-297,720
Business Rates Pool Equalisation	4,566,085	4,566,085	4,566,085	4,566,085
B rates Contingency	685,000	685,000	685,000	685,000
	<b>7,142,513</b>	<b>7,274,973</b>	<b>7,492,813</b>	<b>7,748,953</b>
<b>Grants</b>				
Strategic Health Delivery	30,782	30,782	30,782	30,782
Stepping Stones Unspent S&S	4,559	4,559	4,559	4,559
Homelessness Prevention	129,641	129,641	129,641	129,641
Neighbourhood Planning Grant	34,257	34,257	34,257	34,257
Stafford & Surrounds	5,723	5,723	5,723	5,723
Elector Grant	113,568	113,568	113,568	113,568
Inspire Grant	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000
Rough Sleeping Grant	59,824	59,824	59,824	59,824
Planning Registers New Burdens	36,241	36,241	36,241	36,241
Northern Gateway Project	40,705	40,705	40,705	40,705
Housing Benefit Admin Grant	51,516	51,516	51,516	51,516
Flexible Homelessness Support Grant	169,309	169,309	169,309	169,309
Homelessness Reduction Act Grant	75,744	75,744	75,744	75,744
PCC Locality Deal Funding	29,670	29,670	29,670	29,670
EU Exit Preparation	24,968	24,968	24,968	24,968
Garden Community Grant	639,244	639,244	639,244	639,244
Eastgate Masterplan	5,309	5,309	5,309	5,309
Parks Improvement	21,153	21,153	21,153	21,153
Football Foundation Riverway ATP	8,849	8,849	8,849	8,849
DCLG Cyber Security Grant	86,450	86,450	86,450	86,450
Domestic Abuse Accom Duty New Burdens	18,555	18,555	18,555	18,555
Test and Trace	406,697	406,697	406,697	406,697
Revs and Bens Grants	5,820	5,820	5,820	5,820
Council Tax Hardship Fund	106,784	106,784	106,784	106,784
Temporary Accommodation Grant	0	0	0	0
Covid Grants	234,789	234,789	234,789	234,789
Support for Vulnerable Renters	0	0	0	0
Residential Electric Charging Point	0	0	0	0
Safety of women at night	0	0	0	0
Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund	0	0	0	0
	<b>2,347,157</b>	<b>2,347,157</b>	<b>2,347,157</b>	<b>2,347,157</b>
<b>Donations</b>				
Loans to Sports Clubs	22,088	22,088	22,088	22,088
Grants Sports Clubs	4,489	4,489	4,489	4,489
Castle Donations	9,628	9,628	9,628	9,628
High House Donations	23,072	23,072	23,072	23,072
	<b>59,277</b>	<b>59,277</b>	<b>59,277</b>	<b>59,277</b>
<b>Shared Services</b>				
HR Shared Service	30,375	30,375	30,375	30,375
IT Shared Service	175,819	175,819	175,819	175,819
Legal Shared Service	79,425	80,925	82,425	83,925
Shared Services Transformation	365,398	365,398	365,398	365,398
	<b>651,017</b>	<b>652,517</b>	<b>654,017</b>	<b>655,517</b>

	01/04/2023	01/04/2024	01/04/2025	01/04/2026
	£	£	£	£
<b>Rolling Programme</b>				
Housing Needs Survey	52,770	52,770	52,770	52,770
Elections	215,709	60,299	99,799	139,299
	<b>268,479</b>	<b>113,069</b>	<b>152,569</b>	<b>192,069</b>
<b>Community</b>				
Home Energy Conservation	31,700	31,700	31,700	31,700
Private Sector Housing	12,596	12,596	12,596	12,596
Earned Autonomy Community safety	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Empty Homes Officer	102,680	102,680	102,680	102,680
DFG Balance of South Staffs Contributions	864	864	864	864
	<b>172,840</b>	<b>172,840</b>	<b>172,840</b>	<b>172,840</b>
<b>Corporate</b>				
Training	95,920	95,920	95,920	95,920
Climate Change	24,228	24,228	24,228	24,228
Provision for Future Maintenance	43,130	43,130	43,130	43,130
Pensions Reserve	342,040	527,040	341,040	249,040
Rollovers 18-19	89,094	89,094	89,094	89,094
Budget support	1,678,100	779,690	779,690	779,690
Covid 19 Reallocation	1,258,486	1,258,486	1,258,486	1,258,486
Corporate Pot	433,458	433,458	432,146	432,146
Anchor Org for Clinically Vulnerable	91,920	91,920	91,920	91,920
Building Maintenance	114,000	114,000	114,000	114,000
Rollovers 20-21	31,427	31,427	31,427	31,427
Unpresented cheques pre 2021-22	259,979	259,979	259,979	259,979
Contracts reserve	600,000	0	0	0
	<b>5,061,782</b>	<b>3,748,372</b>	<b>3,561,060</b>	<b>3,469,060</b>
<b>Environment</b>				
Streetscene Transformation	82,050	109,400	136,750	164,100
CAMEO - emissions trading scheme	57,768	57,768	57,768	57,768
Stewardship Rural Payments Agency	25,774	25,774	25,774	25,774
Cremator Maintenance Plan	80,453	80,453	80,453	80,453
Environmental Fines	9,179	9,179	9,179	9,179
Streetscene Trading	136,109	136,109	136,109	136,109
Taxi Licences	63,912	63,912	63,912	63,912
Operations Project Management	1,531	1,531	1,531	1,531
Maintenance of SBC Trees	71,243	71,243	71,243	71,243
Strategic Health Delivery Ctrb to Reserve	4,292	4,292	4,292	4,292
	<b>532,310</b>	<b>559,660</b>	<b>587,010</b>	<b>614,360</b>
<b>Leisure</b>				
Football development fund	13,373	21,373	29,373	37,373
HLF Vict Park - equalisation reserve	22,590	-1,310	0	0
Leisure Management Contract Reserve	198,296	198,296	198,296	198,296
Alleyes Dryside Provision	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000
Vic Park Cafe and Area Hire	23,102	23,102	23,102	23,102
	<b>337,360</b>	<b>321,460</b>	<b>330,770</b>	<b>338,770</b>

	01/04/2023	01/04/2024	01/04/2025	01/04/2026
	£	£	£	£
<b>Planning</b>				
LDF	226,339	34,379	0	27,500
CIL Reserve	-20,250	-20,250	-20,250	-20,250
Dev Mgmt. Equalisation	215,751	192,701	169,651	146,601
20% Planning Increase	544,617	670,847	740,537	866,767
Stafford TC Strategic Review	71,763	71,763	71,763	71,763
Station Gateway	47,985	47,985	47,985	47,985
Economic Growth Strategy	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000
Future High Street Fund Revenue Funding	0	0	0	0
Stone Leisure Revenue Funding	0	0	0	0
	<b>1,166,204</b>	<b>1,077,424</b>	<b>1,089,686</b>	<b>1,220,366</b>
<b>Resources</b>				
Health & Safety	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
HR future shared service development	48,278	42,668	37,058	31,448
Localisation of Council Tax Support	248,613	221,433	194,253	167,073
R12 Employee Survey Outcomes	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
R13 Organisation Development Plan	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000
Entrust Supporting Schools	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Mayoral Afternoon Tea	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
	<b>399,890</b>	<b>367,100</b>	<b>334,310</b>	<b>301,520</b>
<b>Section 106</b>				
Section 106 commuted sums	1,266,391	1,234,831	1,203,271	1,171,711
Cannock SAC contributions	316,730	316,730	316,730	316,730
S106 swimming pool	43,276	43,276	43,276	43,276
S106 Sports cts/hall	326,763	326,763	326,763	326,763
S106 Artificial Turf	10,489	10,489	10,489	10,489
Cannock SAC Partnership	669,816	654,226	654,226	654,226
HLF Victoria Park	34	34	34	34
	<b>2,633,498</b>	<b>2,586,348</b>	<b>2,554,788</b>	<b>2,523,228</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>20,772,328</b>	<b>19,280,198</b>	<b>19,336,298</b>	<b>19,643,118</b>
<b>Capital Programme Funding</b>				
Revenue Surplus	14,380	14,380	14,380	14,380
RCCO GF	865,340	745,270	73,270	162,270
Invest to Save	8,414	8,414	8,414	8,414
Budget support	99,961	-39	0	0
De Minimis Capital Spending	166	166	127	127
New Homes Bonus	805,700	723,700	723,700	723,700
VAT Shelter	176,562	126,562	126,562	126,562
	<b>1,970,522</b>	<b>1,618,452</b>	<b>946,452</b>	<b>1,035,452</b>
<b>Rollovers</b>				
Rollovers 19-20	95,031	95,031	95,031	95,031
	<b>95,031</b>	<b>95,031</b>	<b>95,031</b>	<b>95,031</b>
<b>Capital Contingency</b>				
RCCO HSF/SG	3,772,781	3,772,781	3,483,781	3,483,781
Working Balance Transfer	1,549,000	1,549,000	569,000	569,000
Economic Development	912,000	912,000	912,000	912,000
New Homes Bonus	431	431	431	431
	<b>6,234,212</b>	<b>6,234,212</b>	<b>4,965,212</b>	<b>4,965,212</b>

	01/04/2023	01/04/2024	01/04/2025	01/04/2026
	£	£	£	£
<b>Capital Sinking Fund</b>				
Cremator Sinking Fund	750,000	800,000	850,000	900,000
Pest Control Vehicles	147,200	163,600	180,000	196,400
Sweepers Sinking Fund	789,999	859,999	929,999	999,999
Rowley Park 3G Pitch Sinking Fund	150,000	165,000	180,000	195,000
Riverway	125,000	150,000	175,000	200,000
Victoria Park Safety	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000
Tenterbanks CP Bud B	60,300	60,300	60,300	60,300
CRM replacement reserve	132,000	132,000	132,000	132,000
	<b>2,234,499</b>	<b>2,410,899</b>	<b>2,587,299</b>	<b>2,763,699</b>
<b>Capital</b>	<b>10,534,264</b>	<b>10,358,594</b>	<b>8,593,994</b>	<b>8,859,394</b>
<b>Earmarked</b>	<b>31,306,592</b>	<b>29,638,792</b>	<b>27,930,292</b>	<b>28,502,512</b>

**Band Equivalents**

<b>Parish</b>	<b>Tax Base Post LCTS 2023-24</b>
Adbaston	224.27
Barlaston	1,044.25
Berkswich	795.09
Bradley	226.09
Brocton	557.44
Chebsey	250.25
Church Eaton	293.38
Colwich	1,907.33
Creswell	748.58
Doxey	1,162.67
Eccleshall	2,177.27
Ellenhall	63.01
Forton	144.49
Fradswell	84.85
Fulford	2,310.41
Gayton	77.16
Gnosall	2,026.41
Haughton	458.85
High Offley	393.86
Hilderstone	274.60
Hixon	745.04
Hopton & Coton	851.31
Hyde Lea	185.86
Ingestre	83.38
Marston	91.74
Milwich	197.57
Norbury	201.68
Ranton	184.60
Salt & Enson	190.82
Sandon & Burston	166.76
Seighford	775.15
Stafford	18,995.54
Standon	338.88
Stone	6,348.46
Stone Rural	729.29
Stowe-By-Chartley	200.39
Swynnerton	1,368.07
Tixall	130.25
Weston	480.46

<b>Parish</b>	<b>Tax Base Post LCTS 2023-24</b>
Whitgreave	91.34
Yarnfield and Cold Meece	831.50
Subtotal	<b>48,408.35</b>
MOD Class O	455.20
<b>Total</b>	<b>48,863.55</b>

### Report of the Chief Finance Officer on the Robustness of the Budget Estimates and the Adequacy of the Council's Reserves

#### Introduction

Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 places a duty on the Chief Financial Officer (or Section 151 Officer, the Head of Finance) to make a report to the Council on the robustness of budget estimates and the adequacy of the Council's reserves. The Council must have regard to this report when making its decisions about budgets and council tax for the forthcoming year. This is because the Council is setting the council tax before the commencement of the year and cannot increase it during the year. An understanding of the risks of increased expenditure during the year in terms of likelihood and impact is therefore important.

#### Robustness of Budget Estimates

The Council's budget estimates for 2023-24, including the forecast outturn for 2022-23, have been prepared by appropriately qualified and experienced staff in consultation with service managers. Budgets have been discussed and fully managed by the Leadership Team.

The budget for 2023-24 has been constructed based upon the maintenance of existing level of service, adjusted for known changes in 2023-24. It is considered to accurately reflect likely expenditure in 2023-24, being based on historic information, experience of expenditure in previous years and latest projections where appropriate.

The indicative budgets for 2024-25 and 2025-26 are similarly based upon the best information available at this moment in time.

The full risk assessment of the Council's Budget 2023-24 has been carried out and is included in **APPENDIX 7**.

The impact of the National Living Wage has been incorporated into the budget. Allowance has also been made for staff incremental progression. Sufficient provision has been built in for current employer pension contributions, in line with the 2023 actuarial valuation. Different vacancy rates have been assumed for Council services based on past experience.

Inflation on contractor costs has been allowed based on the projected retail/consumer prices index increases and on energy budgets based on anticipated tariff increases as well as specific reviews of particularly high value contracts such as the Freedom Leisure contract. Any differential inflationary uplift as required by contracts has been reflected. No other inflation has been provided for other expenditure budgets.

Some fees and charges have increased from January 2023. Given the demand-led nature of some of the more significant income budgets, such as for parking, development control and land charges, prudent but realistic assumptions have been made about estimated income. Major sources of income will continue to be closely monitored throughout the year with a view to protecting overall income to the Council as far as possible.

Investment income of £400,000 has been included within 2023-24 budgets. This has been based on current projections of bank rate which are anticipated to continue to increase through 2022-23 and are forecast to remain at those levels throughout 2023-24 as the Bank of England tries to reduce inflation. Prudent assumptions about cash flow have been made and the advice of the Council's treasury management consultants has been taken into account in determining the average rate of return.

No specific contingency budget is provided in 2023-24 as it is considered that the Council's overall revenue balances are sufficient to act as an overall contingency (see below). However, robust budget monitoring arrangements, including Business Rates monitoring, are in place and will continue throughout the year. In addition to budget monitoring by officers, all Cabinet members will receive a monthly update and there will be quarterly reports to the Cabinet and Scrutiny Committees via "Performance Reports".

Significant expenditure and income budgets will be monitored closely during the year. Any projected variances will be addressed in a timely manner.

The Council has a Risk Management Strategy and has identified its key corporate risks. Significant financial risks will be managed appropriately. In addition, some financial risks will be mitigated by the Council's insurance arrangements.

**I can therefore confirm that the budget estimates as presented are robust.**

#### Adequacy of the Council's Reserves

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) has issued guidance on local authority reserves and balances. It sets out three main purposes for which reserves are held: -

- A working balance to help cushion the impact of uneven cash flows and avoid unnecessary temporary borrowing.
- A contingency to cushion the impact of unexpected events or emergencies.
- A means of building up funds to meet known or predicted liabilities, known as earmarked reserves.

The Council is projected to hold total General Fund reserves of £20.772 million at 31 March 2023 and £19.280 million at 31 March 2024.

The Council also has a planned four-year capital programme which is financially sustainable based on current capital resources and a prudent assessment of future capital resources. The financial strategy includes the use of unallocated reserves and a Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay to supplement capital resources and mitigate any borrowing requirement; nevertheless, Prudential Borrowing to finance the Council's capital programme will be used where there is a robust business case.

The successful Future High Streets Fund bid has enabled the inclusion of the project in the capital programme. At an overall cost of £21.5 million, this project presents a substantial challenge to deliver; but it also presents financial risks. It is essential that costs are controlled and milestones are met, to avoid the prospect of defaulting on Government requirements, additional borrowing and/or additional revenue contributions.

The quantum of the Future High Streets Fund bid, its financial risks and the future debt repayments on borrowing, coupled with the ongoing additional costs of (in particular) inflation and waste management, represent burdens on the Financial Plan. When combined with the uncertainty of a fundamental Government review of local government finance, the medium term outlook is very challenging. There is no scope over the Financial Plan period for further discretionary projects or expenditure that could have a negative effect on reserves.

The Council has set a policy of a minimum level of general reserves of £1 million. The Budget for 2023-24 has been constructed on the basis that there will be a level of general reserves in excess of £1 million.

I can therefore confirm that the Council's reserves are adequate.

Chris Forrester Deputy Chief Executive and S151 Officer

## Working Balance - Financial Risks facing the Authority

Risk	Level of risk	Explanation of risk / justification for cover
Inflation	High	Inflation has been included in the Financial Plan in accordance with Government policy.
Investment interest	Medium	The amount earned depends on the prevailing interest rates and the level of cash balances held. Prudent assumptions have been made.
<b>Major income sources:</b>		
• Planning fees	Medium	Dependent on economic conditions.
• Land charges fees	Low	Dependent on the housing market / basis of determining recoverable expenses/ proposed transfer to Land Registry.
• Car parking	Medium	Certain amount of volatility based on demand.
• Markets	High	Dependent on occupancy levels.
• Environmental services	Low	Licensing income dependent on renewals.
• Bereavement services	Medium	Some risk as it is a major source of income.
<b>Spending pressures:</b>		
• Waste and recycling targets	Medium	The Council will need to reach recycling targets in order to maximise income from recycling credits and avoid penalties. Recycling Credit regime operated by County Council.  Estimated costs for dual streaming and the contract extension increase uncertainty.
• Leisure management	High	Difficulties for the service provider, grounded in Covid 19 but continuing into the near future due to increased energy costs, will require financial support from the Council.

Risk	Level of risk	Explanation of risk / justification for cover
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Levelling Up</li> </ul>	High	<p>The Future High Streets Fund is a major investment programme over a number of years with substantial Council contributions. It includes obligations to Government, requires engagement of partners and carries high expectations locally. It therefore represents a major financial risk.</p>
<b>Funding Sources:</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New Homes Bonus</li> </ul>	High	<p>Although allocations for 2023-24 can be predicted accurately, the future level of funding is now not only dependent upon completions of new properties but what incentive scheme will exist instead of New Homes Bonus.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Business Rates Scheme and Resets</li> </ul>	High	<p>A reset of growth achieved under the current system is likely to take place around the end of the current medium term financial plan. How the reset is implemented could have material implications.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volatility in Business Rates</li> </ul>	High	<p>The Council will be exposed to volatility or reduction in its business rates due to the failure or temporary closure of a key businesses and successful backdated appeals against Rateable Values. Greater control of Business Rates gives councils greater freedoms and removes dependency on central funding, but it passes on a greater risk to core funding if Business Rates income falls.</p>

**General Fund Revenue Budget and Capital Programme 2023-26**

**Resources Scrutiny Committee - 3 January 2023**

**RSC22 General Fund Revenue Budget and Capital Programme 2023-26**

This matter had been considered by Cabinet at its meeting held on 1 December 2022 and was submitted to this Committee for consultation.

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Finance (V1 14/12/22) that proposed to the Council the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2023-24, the updated Capital Programme 2023-26 and indicative budgets for 2024-25 to 2025-26.

The Committee discussed the following aspects of the report with the Cabinet Member (Resources Portfolio), the Head of Finance and the Chief Accountant:-

- The 2022/23 Pay Award
- Reduced Corporate Support Administration
- Lease of Vacant areas of the Civic Centre
- Removal of Concessionary Parking
- Streetscene Efficiencies
- Increase in Garden Waste Charges from 2024
- Lease Car Park Concessions
- Business Rates Income
- Riverway Site Improved Depot Facilities
- Disabled Facilities Grants
- New Gypsy and Traveller Site
- Unpresented Cheques Pre 2021-22

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the decision of the Cabinet as set out in Minute No CAB43/22, regarding the General Fund Revenue Budget and Capital Programme 2023 - 26, be noted.

**RSC24 Resources Portfolio - General Fund Revenue Budget 2022/2023 - 2025/2026 and Capital Programme 2022/2023 - 2025/2026**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Finance (V1 05/12/22) in relation to the draft detailed Resources Portfolio revenue budget for 2022/2023 - 2025/2026 and the draft Resources Portfolio Capital Programme for 2022/2023 - 2025/2026.

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the report be noted.

## **Economic Development and Planning Scrutiny Committee - 5 January 2023**

### **EDP29 Economic Development and Planning Portfolio - General Fund Revenue Budget 2022/2023 - 2025/2026 and Capital Programme 2022/2023 - 2025/2026**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Finance (V1 05/12/22) in relation to the draft detailed Economic Development and Planning Portfolio revenue budget for 2022/2023 - 2025/2026 and the draft Economic Development and Planning Portfolio Capital Programme for 2022/2023 - 2025/2026.

The Committee discussed the following aspects of the report with the Chief Accountant:-

- Remove Concessionary Parking
- Christmas Lights Switch on - Fireworks Display
- Development Management Net Expenditure
- Off Street Parking Services - Third Party Payments
- Borough Markets Net Expenditure
- Capital Programme - New Gypsy and Traveller Site

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the report be noted.

## **Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee - 10 January 2023**

### **CWB28 Community Portfolio - General Fund Revenue Budget 2022/2023 - 2025/2026 and Capital Programme 2022/2023 - 2025/2026**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Finance (V1 05/12/22) in relation to the draft detailed Community Portfolio revenue budget for 2022/2023 - 2025/2026 and the draft Community Portfolio Capital Programme for 2022/2023 - 2025/2026.

The Committee discussed the following aspects of the report with the Cabinet Member (Community Portfolio) and the Chief Accountant:-

- Reduction in underspending overhead budgets
- The Disabled Facilities Grants allocation

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the report be noted.

**CWB29 Environment Portfolio - General Fund Revenue Budget 2022/2023 - 2025/2026 and Capital Programme 2022/2023 - 2025/2026**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Finance (V1 05/12/22) in relation to the draft detailed Environment Portfolio revenue budget for 2022/2023 - 2025/2026 and the draft Environment Portfolio Capital Programme for 2022/2023 - 2025/2026.

The Committee discussed the following aspects of the report with the Cabinet Member (Community Portfolio), the Cabinet Member (Leisure Portfolio), the Interim Head of Operations and the Chief Accountant:-

- The budget savings exercise taken as part of the 2023/23 budget process in relation to the Environment Portfolio
- Streetscene efficiencies
- Efficiencies in bedding flowers/cauldrons
- Increase in garden waste charges from 2024
- Streetscene Net Expenditure
- CCTV Third Party Payments
- Waste Contract - replacement green containers
- Waste Contract - replacement blue bins

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the report be noted.

**CWB30 Leisure Portfolio - General Fund Revenue Budget 2022/2023 - 2025/2026 and Capital Programme 2022/2023 - 2025/2026**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Finance (V1 05/12/22) in relation to the draft detailed Leisure Portfolio revenue budget for 2022/2023 - 2025/2026 and the draft Leisure Portfolio Capital Programme for 2022/2023 - 2025/2026.

The Committee discussed the following aspect of the report with the Chief Accountant:-

- Allotments Net Expenditure

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the report be noted.

## Agenda Item 9

<b>Committee:</b>	Council
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	24 January 2023
<b>Report of:</b>	Interim Head of Development
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Michelle Smith
<b>Telephone Number:</b>	01785 619335
<b>Ward Interest:</b>	Doxey and Castletown and Rowley
<b>Report Track:</b>	Council 24/01/2023 Cabinet 19/01/2023

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The following matter was considered by Cabinet at its meeting held on 19 January 2023 and is submitted to Council for approval.

## Stafford Station Gateway - Updated Strategic Regeneration Framework

### 1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To update members on the consultation feedback received in respect of the draft Strategic Regeneration Framework (SRF) for the Stafford Station Gateway and the subsequent revisions made to the document.
- 1.2 To present the Consultation Statement and a revised version of the SRF to members for consideration.
- 1.3 To agree a process to enable minor amendments to the text and images within the final document to accurately reflect updated information.

### 2 Recommendation

- 2.1 That members note the analysis of and commentary on the consultation process and the views presented on the draft SRF;
- 2.2 That members resolve to endorse and refer the Consultation Statement (**APPENDIX 1: [www.staffordbc.gov.uk/Stafford-Station-Gateway-SRF-Appendix-1](http://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/Stafford-Station-Gateway-SRF-Appendix-1)**) and updated SRF (**APPENDIX 2: [www.staffordbc.gov.uk/Stafford-Station-Gateway-SRF-Appendix-2](http://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/Stafford-Station-Gateway-SRF-Appendix-2)** ) to full Council for adoption;

- 2.3 That Cabinet delegate authority to the Head of Development (in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Planning) to update the adopted SRF to make minor amendments to the text and images within the final document to accurately reflect updated information.

### **3 Key Issues and Reasons for Recommendations**

- 3.1 The Stafford Station Gateway mixed use redevelopment proposals represent a significant investment opportunity, maximising the potential economic benefits of HS2. As such it is important to ensure that the highest quality of development is brought forward.
- 3.2 Over 200 representations were received during the consultation period which raised concerns around the existing biodiversity within the site, the scale and density of housing, the impact on the town centre and limited focus on employment opportunities. There was also support for the scheme, recognising the need for regeneration in this area, creating jobs and attracting highly skilled people to the town which will help to support new and existing businesses within the town centre. Positive responses also anticipated a reduction in antisocial behaviour and littering within the site.
- 3.3 The Consultation Statement (**APPENDIX 1: [www.staffordbc.gov.uk/Stafford-Station-Gateway-SRF-Appendix-1](http://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/Stafford-Station-Gateway-SRF-Appendix-1)** ) discusses the detail of the responses received and indicates where the SRF has been amended as a result.
- 3.4 Recommending the SRF (**APPENDIX 2: [www.staffordbc.gov.uk/Stafford-Station-Gateway-SRF-Appendix-2](http://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/Stafford-Station-Gateway-SRF-Appendix-2)**) for adoption by full Council will provide a clear vision for the site and guiding principles that will shape future development.

### **4 Relationship to Corporate Business Objectives**

- 4.1 The Station Gateway scheme supports the delivery of sustainable economic and housing growth and is therefore actively supporting Objectives 1, 2 and 3 of the Corporate Business Plan as follows:

Objective 1: Delivering sustainable economic and housing growth to provide income and jobs

Objective 2: Developing strong communities that promote health and wellbeing

Objective 3: to continue work towards our Climate Change and Recovery objectives, integrating them into our activities and strategic plans.

## **5 Report Detail**

### **Purpose of the SRF**

- 5.1 The purpose of the SRF is to formalise the development proposals for the Stafford Station Gateway and to guide development within the area in line with the emerging new Local Plan. It aims to encourage high quality mixed-use development which will support the economic growth of Stafford and the wider borough providing new employment and leisure opportunities, alongside aspirational housing to retain and attract new talent. It seeks to secure long lasting economic, social and environmental benefits for the area.
- 5.2 The SRF presents a vision, illustrative masterplan and set of design and development principles to guide the future development of the Gateway. The SRF responds to existing and emerging planning policies and seeks to nurture the assets and opportunities that are unique to this part of Stafford - including its green and blue infrastructure, major development site opportunities and exceptional connectivity.
- 5.3 The Gateway has the potential to deliver, up to 33,000ft<sup>2</sup> new Grade A office space, up to 15,000ft<sup>2</sup> of new retail and leisure space, up to 106,000ft<sup>2</sup> of workspaces and an Innovation Hub, up to around 900 new residential dwellings which would be a mix of townhouses and apartments, an 80 bed hotel, a 350 space new multi-storey car park and high quality public realm and open spaces. This is an updated mix of uses for the site that has been designed taking into account the changes to the way in which we live and work that have occurred as a result of the pandemic. The SRF sets clear expectations on future developers to bring forward planning applications that appeal to new business start-ups, families and young professionals whilst respecting and responding to the local area and maximising opportunities for sustainable economic growth.

### **Updates Since Publication of the Draft SRF**

- 5.4 At the time of publication of this report the outcome of the Council's Round Two Levelling Up Fund bid is still awaited. It is understood decisions will be issued during January 2023.
- 5.5 Since publication of the draft SRF a planning application has been submitted in respect of the proposed Newcastle and Stafford Colleges Group Institute of Technology within the Palmbourne Industrial Estate area of the site. Whilst the planning application is under consideration the proposals are not reflected in any detail within the SRF. For this reason Cabinet are asked to consider a delegation to officers to enable an update of the relevant sections of the SRF once the planning application has been decided.

## **Developing the SRF**

- 5.6 In August 2021 Cabinet approved a budget to enable officers to progress the necessary technical work, in partnership with Staffordshire County Council and LCR, to develop a draft SRF. CBRE, Hawkins\Brown and WSP were commissioned to progress this work on behalf of the three organisations.
- 5.7 The preparation of the draft SRF involved workshops with Borough and County Council officers and Members and also with landowners. This process started to shape the draft vision and objectives for the Framework.
- 5.8 The draft SRF was reported to Cabinet on 4 August 2022 who resolved to commence public consultation which was subsequently launched on 18 August 2022.

## **Public Consultation Process**

- 5.9 The ambition of the Station Gateway scheme is to create high value employment opportunities within a vibrant new community that will also benefit the existing community. As such it's very important that we engage with our nearby residents and employers to understand what the proposals mean to them. The engagement strategy for the consultation process therefore concentrated on a number of communication channels to ensure the plans were widely seen. Section 3 of the Consultation Statement sets out the methods used which include the press and social media coverage alongside the pop-up consultation events and exhibition materials.
- 5.10 The consultation closed on 29 September 2022 and over 200 written responses were received. The majority of these were via the online survey that was available on the Borough Council website.

Responses provided in the free text sections: [www.staffordbc.gov.uk/Stafford-Station-Gateway-SRF-Comments](http://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/Stafford-Station-Gateway-SRF-Comments) of the survey

Individual responses: [www.staffordbc.gov.uk/Stafford-Station-Gateway-SRF-Responses](http://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/Stafford-Station-Gateway-SRF-Responses)..

Detail of the number of people who engaged with the consultation process is set out in section 4.1 of **APPENDIX 1**: [www.staffordbc.gov.uk/Stafford-Station-Gateway-SRF-Appendix-1](http://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/Stafford-Station-Gateway-SRF-Appendix-1).

## **Reviewing and Updating the SRF**

- 5.11 The consultation responses received have been included in full within the Consultation Statement which also sets out the issues that have been raised grouped into themes. As the charts within the Consultation Statement demonstrate issues relating to ecology and biodiversity, climate change and the scale of development were of particular concern. From the content of some of the responses and also from discussions at the event held on 6

September it was also evident that some of the intentions of the scheme, particularly in relation to employment and investment opportunities and the relationship between the Gateway and the town centre needed much more clarity within the SRF.

- 5.12 The online survey began by canvassing opinion on the Vision for the Gateway and as the pie charts on page 14 onwards of the Consultation Statement demonstrate, the majority of respondents were not in favour. Looking first at the Vision, the most frequently raised issues related to community facilities and the impact on existing social infrastructure, impact on existing biodiversity, impact on the town centre, overprovision of housing and highways concerns. Some of these issues relate to detail that will be considered at the planning application stage, others (as set out below) have been addressed by amendments and clarifications to the SRF. A number of concerns should be alleviated by greater clarity in the way in which the Framework presents particular aspirations or considerations. In terms of the Vision itself this has been redrafted to better reflect the intentions of the scheme.
- 5.13 Similarly the majority of respondents were not in favour of Strategic Objective 1 of the Framework, 'A New Western Gateway for Stafford'. Whilst it wasn't clear from the detail of the responses which aspects of the Objective were problematic, based on the overall feedback received (see 5.17 below) the Objective has been updated to 'Transformational Regeneration that Supports the Town Centre'.
- 5.14 In response to the significant concerns raised in respect of the impacts on existing ecology and biodiversity within the site ecology experts Tyler Grange were commissioned to review the draft SRF document and existing/emerging local and national policies relating to biodiversity. This included consideration of Biodiversity Net Gain and how this could be achieved within the site. Detail of the changes made to the SRF as a result are set out on pages 68 and 69 of the Consultation Statement.
- 5.15 Similarly a number of responses raised concerns around the impact on trees within the site which were understood by many to be covered by Tree Preservation Orders (TPO). There are no TPOs in place within the site and the Council's Tree Officer was asked to comment on the concerns around loss of trees that had been raised through the consultation. Page 69 of the Consultation Statement confirms that where trees are to be retained (irrespective of the presence of a TPO) this will be demonstrated more clearly within the updated SRF.
- 5.16 In terms of climate change whilst the draft SRF set out a commitment to deliver an exemplar low carbon development respondents felt that there was no firm requirement within the document to ensure that this requirement was met. The Consultation Statement explains at page 66 the relationship

between the SRF and the emerging new Local Plan which will set the policy requirements for development that future planning applications will have to address. The SRF has been updated to communicate this policy context and the weight that will be attributed to climate change considerations as part of the assessment of future planning applications.

- 5.17 It is clear from the number of responses that raised concern around the impact the Gateway site could have on the town centre that the SRF didn't adequately explain the relationship between the two areas and that the Gateway is very much intended to support rather than compete with the town centre. The SRF has been updated to reflect this position, adding reassurances that the existing Stafford Town Centre Transformation programme is not superseded by the proposals for the Gateway.
- 5.18 Finally in terms of the drawings, plans and precedents images (the pictures that offer suggested design themes) a number of changes and clarifications have been made in response to feedback. For example, within the Station West Character Zone (renamed from Station Gateway to avoid confusion with the wider scheme), figure 43 in the updated SRF has been amended in response to concerns that the Castlefields road would effectively be a rat run which was never the intention but this wasn't clear from the original plan. Similarly the images on page 73 of the SRF have been changed to reflect more appropriate examples of the kind of design this area of the Gateway would be looking to achieve.
- 5.19 This report has focussed on the main themes raised during the consultation process however the Consultation Statement provides the full detail and analysis that informed the updated SRF.
- 5.20 On the basis of the changes and clarifications made to the SRF as a result of the consultation exercise Cabinet are asked to endorse and refer the updated document to full Council with the intention of adopting the document and set out clear expectations for future development.

## **6 Implications**

### **6.1 Financial**

None.

### **6.2 Legal**

None.

### **6.3 Human Resources**

None.

#### **6.4 Human Rights Act**

None.

#### **6.5 Data Protection**

The full set of written representations on the consultation can be viewed here. Any personal details that were provided have been removed.

#### **6.6 Risk Management**

None.

#### **6.7 Community Impact Assessment Recommendations**

##### **Impact on Public Sector Equality Duty:**

See Cabinet report - 4 August 2022 - Item No 4(c)(ii)

##### **Wider Community Impact:**

See Cabinet report - 4 August 2022 - Item No 4(c)(ii)

#### **7 Previous Consideration**

Cabinet - 4 August 2022 - Minute No CAB14/22

Cabinet – 19 January 2023 – Minute No TBC

#### **8 Background Papers**

File with Development.

## Agenda Item 10

<b>Committee:</b>	Council
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	24 January 2023
<b>Report of:</b>	Head of Law and Administration
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Ian Curran
<b>Telephone Number:</b>	01785 619 220
<b>Ward Interest:</b>	Nil
<b>Report Track:</b>	Council 24/01/2023 (Only)

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## Joint Appointments Committee

### 1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To agree the terms and composition of the Joint Appointments Committee to consider appointments to the shared senior management team.

### 2 Recommendation

- 2.1 That a Joint Appointments Committee be set up in accordance with the terms of reference set out in the **APPENDIX**;
- 2.2 That Council appoint three Members to the Committee in accordance with the agreed terms of reference;
- 2.3 That Council agree that it will allow any Members of the senior management team employed by it to be placed at the disposal of Cannock Chase District Council for the purpose of carrying out any functions agreed under shared service arrangements;
- 2.4 That “a person employed as a Head of Service” be added to the list of persons identified as Chief Officers in paragraph 3.1 of the Councils Officer Employment Procedure Rules in Section 10 of the Constitution.

### 3 Key Issues and Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 At its 6 December 2022 meeting, the Council agreed to the sharing of a Senior Management Team and the creation of a joint appointments committee to make appointments to vacant posts on the shared management team.

- 3.2 As the Joint Appointments Committee will be a decision making committee, terms of reference, and membership, will need to be agreed by Council and published within the Constitution.

## **4 Relationship to Corporate Business Objectives**

- 4.1 The appointment of senior management is critical to ensuring the Council is a well-run authority in accordance with CBO 4.

## **5 Report Detail**

- 5.1 The Council considered the Business Case for a Shared Senior Leadership Team, and the wider sharing of services, at its meeting on 6 December 2022. It agreed to proceed with the proposals, and a similar decision was made by Cannock Chase District Council on 7 December.
- 5.2 Both Councils currently have separate processes for the appointment of Chief Officers which are defined within the Constitution. In both cases a separate Appointments Panel is convened and is responsible for making the appointment. As the senior management team will now be shared, both Councils agreed that a Joint Appointments Committee should be established for appointments to roles on the senior management team.
- 5.3 It is intended that the employment of Chief Officers will be split across the two Councils. It is therefore considered logical for the employing authority to take the lead in the recruitment and selection process.
- 5.4 The Business Case suggested that the Committee should include a maximum of 3 members from each Council (equating to a maximum overall committee size of 6 members). This would enable the committee to form a sensibly sized interview and selection panel for each candidate. It is proposed that the Leader of the employing authority (or their substitute Cabinet Member) chairs the committee.
- 5.5 The Council has already agreed to commence the recruitment process for the new Deputy Chief Executive (Place) role, and agreed a possible target date for the new senior management structure of 1 April 2023. Therefore it is necessary to establish the joint appointments committee as soon as possible.
- 5.6 The Councils Officer Employment Procedure Rules contains rules on the appointment, or dismissal, of certain officers. In order to clarify the fact that not all of the Councils "Chief Officers" will report directly to the Chief Executive under the new shared senior management structure, paragraph 3.1 of the rules should be amended with the addition of the following:
- 3.1(5) a person employed as a Head of Service

- 5.7 The Business Case set out the legal basis for sharing officer resources, including the use of Section 113 of the Local Government Act 1972 to place officers at the disposal of other authorities. Each Council delegates certain functions to its Chief Officers under its own scheme of delegation. For the purpose of sharing, it is therefore important for the employing authority to place its Chief Officers at the disposal of the other authority for the purpose of carrying out decision making functions under its scheme of delegation.

## **6 Implications**

### **6.1 Financial**

Nil

### **6.2 Legal**

As set out in the report

### **6.3 Human Resources**

Nil

### **6.4 Human Rights Act**

Nil

### **6.5 Data Protection**

Nil

### **6.6 Risk Management**

Nil

### **6.7 Community Impact Assessment Recommendations**

#### **Impact on Public Sector Equality Duty:**

Nil

#### **Wider Community Impact:**

Nil

## **7 Previous Consideration**

Nil

## **8 Background Papers**

Nil

**Committee:** Council

**Date of Meeting:** 24 January 2023

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## Joint Appointments Committee

### Cannock Chase District Council and Stafford Borough Council Joint Appointments Committee

#### Constitution

The Joint Appointments Committee shall be a joint committee of Cannock Chase District Council and Stafford Borough Council, established in accordance with Section 102 (1) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972.

The Joint Appointments Committee shall comprise of Six Members, including the respective Leaders of both councils plus two members appointed by Cannock Chase District Council and two members appointed by Stafford Borough Council.

Appointments shall be made in accordance with the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

#### Terms of Reference

##### Appointment of Joint Chief Officers

- (i) Subject to (ii) below, to undertake and determine on behalf of the councils all aspects of the process for the recruitment and selection of Joint Chief Officers, including final approval of the terms and conditions of employment (based on current provisions) for that post.
- (ii) The final decision as to the appointment of the joint Chief Executive, Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer shall be reserved to full meetings of both councils, and subject to no material or well-founded objection to the making of an offer of appointment being received by either Leader on behalf of their respective executives.

#### Delegation

The Joint Appointments Committee shall have delegated power to act on any matter within its terms of reference which may be lawfully delegated to it.

**Quorum:** 3 (subject to each council being represented at a meeting by at least 1 member).

**Host Chair:** The Joint Appointments Committee shall be chaired by the Leader of the council (or substitute Executive member) who will act as the employer of the relevant Chief Officer.

**Substitutes:** Substitutes shall be allowed as notified in advance by the relevant Group Leader, provided that there must be at least one member of the Executive of each Council present.

**Voting:** Any matter will be decided by a simple majority of those members of the Joint Appointments Committee present and voting at the time the question was put. A vote shall be taken either by show of hands or, if there is no dissent, by the affirmation of the meeting. In the event of a tie in voting, the Host Chair will have a second and casting vote.

**Frequency of Meetings:** Meetings of the Joint Appointments Committee will be convened by the Chief Executive, or the Monitoring Officer, as required.