

2023/24 Budget options - updated position

Appendix 2

Description	2023/24 £
Annual Budget Shortfall - 1 November 2022 Cabinet	2,111,450

Service Specific Options to reduce Budget Shortfall

Description	PDG committee	2023/24 £	Notes
a Member Services - not filling vacant post	Cabinet	(20,000)	Reduced Capacity to support Members
b ICT - Not filling current vacancy	Cabinet	(48,000)	Reduced support to organisation, Security risks / Less efficiency
c Financial Services - reduced audit days	Cabinet	(15,000)	Reduced legal oversight of council's work with potential for increase in exposure to fraud and inefficient procedures
d Revenues and Benefits - increased recovery of costs through Penalties and Court Fees	Cabinet	(20,000)	Working assumption - fees recovered are reliant upon Court agreement
e Human Resources - reduced investment in systems	Cabinet	(75,000)	Option to upgrade and improve current system
Service Budget Options Sub-total		(178,000)	

Generic Budget Options to reduce Budget Shortfall

Description	PDG committee	2023/24 £	Notes
f Business Rates and Council Tax Growth and Collection Surplus / Deficit	Cabinet	??	Prudent assumption to include limited growth and not include any collection surplus in 2023/24 and 2024/25
g Reduce Corporate Subscriptions / Fees	Cabinet	??	Can any subscriptions be dropped or reduced?
h Commercialise Services	Cabinet	??	How can we commercialise more services?
i Review of Interest receivable	Cabinet	??	Post approval of 3Rivers Business Plan
j Review of reserves	Cabinet	??	Review minimum balances and earmarked reserves still appropriate
k Partnership Working	Cabinet	??	Should services proactively seek the formation of partnerships??
Generic Budget Options Sub-total		0	
Potential Cumulative MTFP Position		1,933,450	

2023/24 Budget options - PDG Recommendations

Environment PDG

Ref	Description	PDG committee	Recommended option £	Explanation
l	Reduced service delivery / seek contributions from Town/Parish Councils for services such as: Play Areas, Public Conveniences, Grass Cutting, Street Cleaning etc.	Environment	(210,000)	The PDG supported the planned approach to seek addition contributions from the Town and Parish Councils. The Council has engaged with the Towns and Parishes seeking their support prior to considering reducing service provision. This remains the working assumption
m	Energy Savings arising from Salix Funding	Environment	??	Energy savings to be calculated once new heating systems are installed
n	Revised Bereavement Services Fees and Charges	Environment	(30,000)	See Annex 3a for details of specific fees and charges
o	Review Parks & Open Spaces + Venue Hire Fees and Charges	Environment	(12,000)	See Annex 3b for details of specific fees and charges
p	Review Public Transport Fees and Charges	Environment	(10,000)	See Annex 3c for details of specific fees and charges
q	Review Waste Charges (Green and Bulky Waste)	Environment	(48,000)	See Annex 3d for details of specific fees and charges
			(310,000)	

Economy PDG

Ref	Description	PDG committee	Recommended option £	Explanation
r	Review of commercial rents (Industrial Units, Fore St & Market Walk)	Economy	47,500	Reflecting assumed increased voids due to economic conditions
s	Revised Car Parking - Fees and Charges	Economy	(285,000)	See Annex 3e (i & ii) for details of specific fees and charges
t	Revised Pannier Market Fees and Charges	Economy	(11,000)	See Annex 3f for details of specific fees and charges
			(248,500)	

Community PDG - The meeting is being held after the publication date for these papers. An update will be provided at the meeting

Ref	Description	PDG committee	Recommended option £	Explanation
u1	Leisure Services - review modus operandi, alternative sporting options, options to increase membership	Community	(100,000)	Original Assumption
u4	Leisure Services - review modus operandi, alternative sporting options, options to increase membership	Community	100,000	Removal of the original assumption - to be replaced by the outcome of the discussion on the proposal from the Operations Manager - Leisure Services
u2	Assumed 3% uplift on Fees and Charges	Community	130,000	Removal of the original assumption - to be replaced by the outcome of the discussion on the proposal from the Operations Manager - Leisure Services
u3	Assumed further recovery from Covid-19	Community	100,000	Removal of the original assumption - to be replaced by the outcome of the discussion on the proposal from the Operations Manager - Leisure Services
u5	Review of Fees and Charges	Community	(120,000)	The community will discuss a report from the Operations Manager – Leisure Services. A outcome of the discussion will form the proposal for approval via a delegated decision
			110,000	

Homes PDG

Ref	Description	PDG committee	Recommended option £	Explanation
v	Revised Private Sector Housing - Fees and Charges	Homes	0	See Annex 3g for details of specific fees and charges - Note no budget is assumed as these charges act more as a deterrent, and action incidents are very rare. Any charges levied are treated as an in-year benefit
w	Revised Housing Revenue Account - Fees and Charges	Homes	0	See Annex 3h for details of specific fees and charges - Note no budget is assumed as the number of incidents is minimal. Any charges levied are treated as an in-year benefit
			0	
Potential Cumulative MTFP Position			1,484,950	

2023/24 Budget Assumptions - Update

Ref	Description	PDG committee	Updated Projection £	Explanation
x	Phoenix House – sublet office space;	Environment	9,500	Reflecting planned date of subletting Phoenix House
w	Removal of assumed recovery of income within Car Parking Services and assumed inflationary increased to fees and charges	Economy	125,000	To be replace by revised income projection - see PDG Recommendation
y	Refresh of the Local Council Tax Reduction Policy	Cabinet	54,720	Reflected the updated Taxbase and the revision to the existing Local Council Tax Reduction Policy
a1	Increase Pension Costs	Cabinet	50,000	Updated following initial outcomes of the Tri-annual Pension Valuation. Increased ongoing contributions offset by a reduction in the deficit recovery
a2	Legal Services - reduce spend on external advice	Cabinet	0	Initial saving assumption no longer valid
a3	Adjustment to the assumed increased income from Development Management	Environment	(85,000)	Updated following delegated approval of increase fees and changes and volume assumptions
a4	Update assumption of increase income from Waste (Trade Waste and recycling income)	Environment	(220,000)	Based upon latest projections - to be monitored Trade Waste - Increases restricted to contractual position - no options are possible, so the views of the PDG's were not sought Recycling Income - Working assumption - no options are possible, so the views of the PDG's were not sought
a5	Adjustment to the assumed increased income from Piper Lifeline Service	Homes	(8,500)	Revised income projection
a6	Update assumption of increase income from Building Control	Environment	(15,000)	Revised income projection
a7	Update assumption of increase income from Licensing	Community	(11,000)	
a8	Review Asset Maintenance Plan	Environment	(124,000)	A review of asset maintenance has indicated it is safe to defer some planned maintenance, but is offset by increased voids in our commercial properties
a9	Update the assumed Pay Award for 2023/24	Cabinet	(253,716)	Reducing assumption from 5% to 3%, in line with peer authorities and reflecting the Government's desire for a 2% Public Sector Pay restraint
a10	Update working assumption for the increase to the Band D Council Tax to the revised Referendum Limit on £10 or 4.99%	Cabinet	(149,170)	As announced in the Autumn Budget
			(627,166)	
Potential Cumulative MTFP Position			857,784	