



Report to:	Cabinet	06 December 2021
Lead Cabinet Member:	John Williams - Lead Cabinet Member for Finance	
Lead Officer:	Peter Maddock - Head of Finance	

General Fund Revenue Bids & Savings

Executive Summary

1. To consider the new Revenue bids and savings for 2022/2023.

Key Decision

2. No

Recommendations

3. It is recommended that Cabinet consider the report and:
 - (a) **Note the growth bids put forward (both one off and ongoing), detailed at Appendix A and B, and consider whether those for 2022/2023 should be included in the Budget to be proposed in February 2022.**
 - (b) **Note the proposed range of service efficiency savings/policy options detailed in Appendix C and that these will undergo further refinement and consultation with stakeholders, and consider whether those for 2022/2023 should be included in the Budget to be proposed in February 2022.**

Reasons for Recommendations

4. To enable the Cabinet to consider the new revenue bids and savings for 2022/2023.

Details

New Scheme Bids

6. It is appropriate for Cabinet to consider, all new bids and savings for the General Fund before making recommendations to Council. If Cabinet is satisfied and supports the bids put forward these can be included in the draft budget.
7. Spending pressures are, inevitable as the Council responds effectively to the needs of the service and customer expectations and, in this regard, Service Areas have been tasked to identify the existing budget pressures that need to be managed, and to prepare growth bids where existing resources and budgets need to be strengthened. The proposed schedule of these bids is attached at Appendix A and B and these will be subject to further refinement as part of the 2022/2023 budget setting process. Service Areas are also continuing to identify efficiency/savings opportunities across the Council's services that are realistic, achievable, and sustainable (including possible 'invest to save' initiatives and income generation opportunities). These are attached at Appendix C.
8. The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) adopted by Council in September identified a budget gap of £4.489m over the forecast period to 2026/27. This figure did not include the savings expected from the service transformation programme. This has now commenced and includes a programme of targeted service reviews to ensure that value for money is obtained in the delivery of services. The expected savings from this are £2m and these have now been included on the savings/efficiencies list.
9. The budget gap is the difference between General Fund income and expenditure and based on the current strategy the gap for 2022/2023 is a surplus of £354,000. Some of the items on the lists are already accounted for in the MTFS but If all the bids and savings listed are included in the budget, based on current information there is unlikely to be a budget gap in 2022/2023. Having said that we are still waiting for the Local Government Settlement due later this month and until those figures are available and the 2022/2023 budget process complete, we cannot be sure of what the gap will actually be.

Options

10. The option exists of not approving new revenue funding bids and savings.

Implications

11. In the writing of this report, taking into account financial, legal, staffing, risk, equality and diversity, climate change, and any other key issues, the following implications have been considered: -

Financial

12. The lists represent additions to or reductions from the current 2021/22 budget. These have been reviewed by Leadership Team, budget holders and finance and are felt appropriate and affordable in terms of the overall financial strategy as it currently stands.

Risks / Opportunities

13. The main risk is that the financial settlement will be worse than expected and will mean an unexpected budget gap emerges in 2022/2023. This risk is present during every budget cycle and having a robust MTFS adopted in advance of the budget process helps mitigate against this risk materialising.

Consultation responses

14. Leadership Team, Budget Holders and Lead Cabinet Members.

Background Papers

- General Fund Medium Term Financial Strategy – Council: 23 September 2021
- Budget Reports – Report to Cabinet: 3 February 2021
- Budget Reports – Report to Council: 23 February 2021

Appendices

Appendix A: Revenue Bids Ongoing 2022/23

Appendix B: Revenue Bids One Off 2022/23

Appendix C: Revenue Savings and Income 2022/23

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