

<b>Report to:</b>	Scrutiny & Overview Committee	16 November 2023
<b>Lead Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor John Williams - Lead Cabinet Member for Resources	
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	Peter Maddock - Head of Finance	

## General Fund Revenue Bids & Savings

### Executive Summary

1. This report presents Scrutiny & Overview Committee with the Councils new Revenue bids and savings for 2024/2025 enabling the Committee to review, comment and approve onward submission to Cabinet.

### Recommendations

2. It is recommended that Scrutiny & Overview Committee consider the report and:
  - a. Review the growth bids put forward (both one off and ongoing), detailed at Appendix A and B and consider whether those for 2024/2025 should be included in the Budget to be proposed in February 2024.
  - b. Review the proposed range of service efficiency savings/additional income detailed in Appendix C and consider whether those for 2024/2025 should be included in the Budget to be proposed in February 2024.

### Details

#### New Scheme Bids

3. It is appropriate for Scrutiny & Overview Committee to consider and review, all new bids and savings for the General Fund before making recommendations and onward submission to Cabinet for inclusion in the draft budget.

4. Included within the appendices are the climate impact assessment results and associated comments. The traffic light system is explained as below:

Positive impact	Green
Neutral i.e., no negative and no positive	Amber
Possible mitigation measures required, and more thought needed to lessen an impact	Red

5. 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 2024/2025 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.

6. The Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) projects a budget gap of around £5.5m over the forecast period to 2028/29. This figure does include the savings expected from the service transformation programme.

**Reasons for Recommendations**

7. The Scrutiny & Overview Committee is asked to review the report and has the option to provide additional feedback to officers and Cabinet to further refine the Councils new Revenue bids and savings for 2024/2025 prior to inclusion in the Budget to be proposed in February 2024.

**Options**

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

**Implications**

9. 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 and Fraud Risk**

10. The lists represent additions to or reductions from the current 2023/24 budget.

11. The main risk is that the financial settlement will be worse than expected and will increase the budget gap in 2026/2027. 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.

12. There are no fraud risks identified as a result of this report.

### **Consultation responses**

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

### **Background Papers**

- General Fund Medium Term Financial Strategy – Cabinet: 12 December 2022
- Budget Reports – Report to Cabinet: 06 February 2023
- Budget Reports – Report to Council: 21 February 2023

### **Appendices**

Appendix A: Revenue Bids Ongoing 2024/25

Appendix B: Revenue Bids One Off 2024/25

Appendix C: Revenue Savings and Income Ongoing 2024/25

### **Report Author:**

Farzana Ahmed – Deputy Head of Finance

E-mail: [farzana.ahmed@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:farzana.ahmed@scambs.gov.uk)