

EXECUTIVE – BUDGET PROPOSALS MEETING

11 OCTOBER 2021

PRESENT

Leader of the Council (Councillor A. Western) (in the Chair),
Executive Member for Adult Social Care (Councillor J. Harding),
Executive Member for Communities and Partnerships (Councillor G. Whitham),
Executive Member for Covid-19 Recovery and Reform (Councillor M. Freeman),
Executive Member for Culture and Leisure (Councillor E. Patel),
Executive Member for Environmental and Regulatory Services (Councillor S. Adshead),
Executive Member for Finance and Governance (Councillor T. Ross),
Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing and Equalities (Councillor J. Slater)
Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration (Councillor J. Wright).

Also present: Councillors Acton, Blackburn, Boyes, Butt, K. Carter, Evans, Holden, Jerrome, Lloyd, Mirza, Morgan, Myers and Newgrosh.

Officers in attendance:

Deputy Chief Executive and Corporate Director, Strategy and Resources (Ms. S. Saleh),
Corporate Director, Place (Mr. R. Roe),
Corporate Director, Governance and Community Strategy (Ms. J. Le Fevre),
Corporate Director, Adult Services (Ms. D. Eaton),
Corporate Director, Children's Services (Ms. J. McGregor),
Director of Finance (Mr. G. Bentley),
Interim Director of Strategy and Policy (Ms. D. Geary),
Governance Officer (Mr. J.M.J. Maloney).

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C. Hynes; and from the Chief Executive.

36. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made by Executive Members.

37. EXECUTIVE'S DRAFT REVENUE BUDGET PROPOSALS 2022/23 & MTFS 2023/27

The Executive Member for Finance and Governance and the Director of Finance and Systems submitted a report which set out the Executive's updated 5 year budget strategy proposals including the draft revenue budget proposals for 2022/23 and the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for the period 2023/27. In introducing the report the Executive Member drew attention to key features of the current draft budget and assumptions made in preparing it; noting that the October Spending Review and Local Government finance settlement towards the end of the year were expected to inform the development of the current proposals.

In discussion, queries were raised regarding a range of issues, including: the potential impact of the shortfall of income from the Investment Strategy, and measures to mitigate it; capacity issues in relation to the delivery of the Capital Programme; the potential impact of price increases on the Council's finances; plans for the efficient and effective use of the Council's built estate; the nature of comparator Local Authorities used in the report; demographic assumptions used, with particular reference to the demand on school places; and the potential financial impact of measures to redesign services.

It was noted that final decisions would be taken by the Executive after taking into consideration further proposals to address the gap, all relevant matters and feedback, at which time a proposed budget would be put to Council for approval in February 2022.

RESOLVED -

- (1) That the 2022/27 proposed budget strategy, including the 2022/23 draft revenue budget and the 2023/27 MTFS, be approved. The income and savings proposals are included for the purposes of consultation only (where necessary) and these proposals will also be referred to the Scrutiny Committee for their consideration.
- (2) That the proposal be noted to increase Council Tax by 3.99% in 2022/23 (comprising 2.0% adult social care precept and 1.99% general increase) and by similar levels for the remaining years of the MTFS 2023/27.
- (3) That the remaining budget gap for the years 2022/23 to 2026/27 be noted.
- (4) That it be noted that the draft proposals are subject to various consultation exercises, further analysis of reserves, savings and income including impact assessments, potential future movements in core funding and specific grants, revised costings and robustness assessments.

The meeting commenced at 6.43 p.m. and finished at 7.03 p.m.