

ALTERNATIVE BUDGET PROPOSALS 2022/23

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 Council is requested to accept the following amendments to the administration's proposed budget for 2022/23;
 - 1.1.1 Hospital Transport Initiatives; £200,000
 - 1.1.2 Crime Prevention; £100,000
 - 1.1.3 Child Poverty Resource; £50,000
 - 1.1.4 Increased Apprenticeships and Training Opportunities within the Council; £50,000

to be funded by a lower revenue budget contribution towards Capital Programme Financing.

The proposals still fall within the administration's proposed Council Tax level and proposed General Fund budget of £20,674,420.

2. ALTERNATIVE BUDGET PROPOSALS

- 2.1 The Leader of the Liberal Democrat party would like to propose adjustments to the Medium Term Financial Plan and Annual Budget 2022/23 that is being presented to the Council within the Cabinet papers from the meeting dated 16 Feb 2022.
- 2.2 Within the presented Medium Term Financial Plan and Annual Budget 2022/23, the administration have proposed additional budgetary provision of £250,000 per annum over the period to 2025/26, with a supplementary additional £200,000 in 2022/23. These funds are currently held within the Finance, Investment and Corporate Services Portfolio.
- 2.3 Whilst the Liberal Democrat party welcome the initiatives as outlined in the administration's budget, we do not believe these sums (para 2.2) will go far enough to cover the list of priorities being outlined.
- 2.4 It is also our collective view that the proposed budget is missing commitments to deliver enhancements in areas that we believe would be of significant benefit to residents across the District. The alternative budget proposes the following;
 - a) **Hospital Transport Initiatives;** an additional funding commitment of £200,000 per annum towards public transport initiatives. This funding would look to improve on access to Lymington and the General Hospitals for New Forest residents, who have limited means to get to these vital public services. With the District Council showing a commitment to invest, it would open the door to engagement with Hampshire County Council and local Parish councils and other organisations over longer term funding arrangements.

- b) **Crime Prevention;** an additional funding commitment of £100,000 per annum to be included within the General Fund budget to fund a new focused crime prevention officer at a cost of c£50,000 per annum, with the remaining £50,000 being available to fund outreach and a new focused crime prevention programme.
 - c) **Child Poverty Resource;** an additional funding commitment of £50,000 per annum to provide a dedicated resource to work with other agencies to address this serious problem in the New Forest district.
 - d) **Increased Apprenticeships and Training Opportunities within the Council;** an additional funding commitment of £50,000 towards providing apprenticeships across the Council. This commitment would support employment and training opportunities within the Council.
- 2.5 The administration's budget retains a £1.25m budget within the General Fund, aligned to the value of an annual pension fund deficit payment in previous years. In 2022/23, this budget is being used to provide finance to the Council's Capital Programme. We do not believe the schemes within the Capital Programme would be impacted if this financing support were to be reduced by £400,000, and support a retained pension fund deficit budget of £850,000, instead of £1.25m.
- 2.6 The summary as follows demonstrates the changes in a format easily comparable with the administration's presentation of the proposed budget;

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2021-2025

GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2022/23

PORTFOLIO REQUIREMENTS

Business , Tourism and High Streets
 Environment and Coastal Services
 Finance, Investment and Corporate Services
 Housing and Homelessness Services
 Leader
 Partnering and Wellbeing
 People and Places
 Planning, Regeneration and Infrastructure

Reversal of Depreciation
 Contribution to/(from) Earmarked Revenue Reserves
 Contribution to Reserves

NET PORTFOLIO REQUIREMENTS

Minimum Revenue Provision
 Contribution to Capital Programme Financing (RCCO)
 Interest Earnings (Net)
 New Homes Bonus

GENERAL FUND NET BUDGET REQUIREMENTS

COUNCIL TAX CALCULATION

Budget Requirement
 Less:
 Settlement Funding Assessment
 Lower Tier Services Grant
 Services Grant
 Council Tax Reduction Support Grant
 Business Rates Baseline
 Locally Retained Business Rates
 Budget Equalisation Reserve
 Estimated Collection Fund (Surplus)/Deficit Business Rates
 Estimated Collection Fund (Surplus)/Deficit Council Tax
 Irrecoverable Tax Loss Grant

COUNCIL TAX

TAX BASE NUMBER OF PROPERTIES

COUNCIL TAX PER BAND D PROPERTY

GENERAL FUND BALANCE 31 MARCH

Administration	Report	Proposed	Alternative
2022/23	ref.	Changes	2022/23
£'000's		£'000's	£'000's
Budget			Budget
297			297
4,100			4,100
3,778			3,778
2,025			2,025
496	d	50	546
3,013	b / c	150	3,163
3,713			3,713
2,696	a	200	2,896
20,118		400	20,518
-1,589			-1,589
-38			-38
0			0
18,491		400	18,891
1,571			1,571
1,750	a/b/c/d	-400	1,350
-772			-772
-366			-366
20,674		0	20,674
20,674			20,674
-179			-179
-276			-276
0			0
-3,997			-3,997
-4,452			-4,452
-2,185			-2,185
0			0
-199			-199
-253			-253
0			0
13,585		0	13,585
72,122.10			72,122.10
188.36			188.36
3,000			3,000