

Appendix A

Recommendations to Council from Corporate Policy Committee: February 2024

That Council notes:

- 1 The Report of the Council's Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer), contained within the MTFS Report, regarding the robustness of estimates and level of reserves held by the Council based on these budget proposals (**Appendix C, Report from the Section 151 Officer**).

That Council, having given due regard to the report of the Chief Finance Officer, approves:

- 2 The Revenue estimates for the 2024/25 budget and the medium-term Capital Programme estimates 2024-2028, as detailed in the Medium-Term Financial Strategy Report (MTFS) 2024-2028 (**Appendix C**).
- 3 Band D Council Tax of £1,792.59 representing an increase of 4.99%. This is below the referendum limit (including 2% ringfenced for Adult Social Care) and arises from the provisional finance settlement (**Appendix C, Section 2**).
- 4 The 2023/24 planned use of Flexible Capital Receipts is increased to £3.414m, an increase of £2.414m from the £1m approved in the 2023-27 Medium-Term Financial Strategy Report to fund transformational projects within the Council (**Appendix C, Section 2**).
- 5 The 2024/25 planned use of Flexible Capital Receipts is £1.0m (**Appendix C, Section 10**).
- 6 The allocation of Revenue Grant Funding for 2024/25 of £359.868m (**Appendix C, Annex 7**), and delegates authority to the Chief Finance Officer, to approve supplementary estimates if the value of any named grant changes from the figures contained within Appendix C, Annex 7 (noting that all such variations will subsequently be reported to the appropriate Committee, and that any new, previously unnamed, grants are subject to approval in-line with the Constitution)
- 7 The allocation of Capital Grant Funding for 2024/25 of £95.831m (**Appendix C, Annex 8**), and delegates authority to the Chief Finance Officer, to approve supplementary estimates if the value of any named grant changes from the figures contained within Appendix C, Annex 8 (noting that all such variations will subsequently be reported to the appropriate Committee, and that any new, previously unnamed, grants are subject to approval in-line with the Constitution)
- 8 The Fees and Charges schedule for 2024/25 (**Appendix C, Annex 9**).

- 9 The Capital Strategy, this shows total proposed capital expenditure of £592.3m including £9.3m for Managing & Maintaining Highways (**Appendix C, Annex 10**).
- 10 The Prudential Indicators for Capital Financing (**Appendix C, Annex 10**).
- 11 The Treasury Management Strategy (**Appendix C, Annex 11**).
- 12 The Investment Strategy; including the financial limits for various classifications of investment, and the investment decision making process set out in the Strategy (**Appendix C, Annex 12**).
- 13 The Reserves Strategy (**Appendix C, Annex 13**), which includes proposed movements to and from reserves.
- 14 The amendment to Key Decisions as defined in the Constitution and the financial limits to be included within the Council's Finance Procedure Rules (**Appendix C, Annex 14**).
- 15 Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) – to implement emergency closures of sites at Bollington, Middlewich and Poynton from 1 April 2024 until the outcomes of the review of the long-term provision of HWRCs for Cheshire East has been presented to and approved by the Environment and Communities Committee.
- 16 Garden Waste Subscription Scheme - to approve the increase in the annual subscription charge to £59, payable from October 2024 onwards for collections commencing in January 2025.
- 17 That the Council's Carbon Neutral ambition target is amended to 2027 and the capital projects that have been designed to achieve that target have also been deferred and should be delivered by 2027. The capital programme is currently under a review as shown in the Capital Strategy (**Appendix C, Annex 10**).
- 18 To approve a Supplementary Capital Estimate (SCE) for Northwest Crewe Package for £9.015m. The request is fully funded by external contributions, however there will be a need to forward fund the income whilst the Council awaits payment. This could cost the Council an additional £243,000 in interest costs per annum which would need to be funded by the Strategic Highways Service.

That Council recognises that Corporate Policy Committee noted:

- 19 The year-end outturn forecast position for 2023/24 (**Appendix C, Section 2**).
- 20 The Budget Engagement exercise undertaken by the Council, as set out in the attached (**Appendix C, Annex 2a**).
- 21 The results of the Budget Consultation (**Appendix C, Annex 2b**).

- 22 The Adult Social Care Charging consultation results (**Appendix C, Section 1 – Adults and Health Committee: Narrative and proposal number 1**).