

NON-CONFIDENTIAL

Meeting	Community Services Committee
Date	16 September 2020
Report by	Daniel Williams - Finance Manager
Report title	Budget 2021/22
Business Plan theme	Run an effective, efficient, low-cost Council administration.

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1. This report presents at a high level the main influences and pressures which are expected to impact on the 2021/22 budget.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. The Committee is asked to:

2.1.1. Note the budget timetable in paragraph 3.5

2.1.2. Note the proposed growth items as detailed in paragraph 3.7.

3. Background

- 3.1. The requirement to set a balanced budget demands a stringent process to deliver efficiencies, preserve quality of services, and retain the ability to generate income and to recognise the increasing demand on services.
- 3.2. The budget reflects the estimated cost in delivering our Business Plan, considering any changes in service levels or costs. It will also include any planned new/growth items or service developments as well as any reductions in service levels or service economies.
- 3.3. The budget will also need to take into account current economic pressures, including the Covid-19 impact on current and future commercial income.

- 3.4. The budget for 2021/22 is currently being formulated for submission to the Standing Committees to consider their expected levels of expenditure and income.
- 3.5. The budget timetable has been agreed at the latest Corporate Policy and Finance Committee as shown below:

Meeting	Date	Actions
Community Services	16 September 2020	CSC budget review; consider growth items in principle
Community Services	4 November 2020	Growth items detailed costs
Corporate Policy and Finance	11 November 2020	CPF budget reviewed.
Corporate Policy and Finance	6 January 2021	Final CPF sign off
Council	25 January 2021	Approve the budget, level of reserves and medium-term financial plan Approve and set the precept for 2021/22

Budgetary and Inflationary Pressures

- 3.6. As part of the budget process all areas of the budget will be reviewed, considering actual expenditure over the past few years, inflation rates and any known changes in demand. Where it is appropriate, budgets will be kept at least at current levels.
- 3.7. In addition to taking into account any potential salary pay award and inflationary pressures, the Committee will be considering a number of growth items. The headlines for these are set out below and will be discussed in more detail in November:
- Management of Commons & Greens
 - Event Management
 - Delivery of Key Projects
 - Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour

4. Resource implications

- 4.1. As set out in the report.

5. Other implications

Other Implications	Comment
Legal	The Council is required by the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to make estimates of gross revenue expenditure and anticipated income, leading to a calculation of a budget requirement and the setting of an overall budget. The amount of the budget requirement must be sufficient to meet the Council's legal and financial obligations, ensure the proper discharge of its statutory duties, and lead to a balanced budget. The Council should be satisfied that the proposals put forward are a reasonably prudent use of resources in both the short and long term, and that the interests of both Council Tax payers and the users of Council services taken into account.
Environment and biodiversity	The budget provides the resources that are needed to deliver the environmental and biodiversity objectives.
Crime and Disorder	The budget provides the resources that are needed to deliver the crime and disorder objectives
Risk/Health & Safety	The budget is an important part of the Council's risk management process. There are always considerable risks to the Council's short and medium-term budget strategies including inflation, changes in the national economy, expenditure exceeding budgets, operational pressures on existing budgets, reductions in grant and legislative changes that require new spend. The budget setting process includes the recognition of these risks in determining the 2021/22 budget and relevant risk provisions are set out in the body of the report.