

Green & Independent Alliance Group Amendment to the Cabinet’s proposed 2023/24 Budget for Consideration at Full Council 16 February 2023

Purpose of Report

1. To propose to Full Council one proposed amendment from the Green & Independent Alliance Group to the budget recommended by Cabinet on 2nd February 2023, with officer’s technical comments on the impact to the budget.

Background

2. The proposals are set out below:

Revenue Amendment: Revenue Budget for Environmental/Sustainability Feasibility

Green & Independent Alliance Revenue Budget Amendment Proposals 2023/24	£m	£m
Establish a dedicated revenue budget for feasibility study/business case development into environment and sustainability schemes.		0.150
Funding – further drawdown on usable reserves	(0.150)	
Net Total Impact 2023/24	(0.150)	0.150
Balance / Gap		0

3. The Local Authority has recently commissioned surveys of the Council’s buildings to identify a work bank of possible sustainability projects. The process in place is to undertake a feasibility study to determine the scope, risks, cost, benefits and payback and this is then used to produce a Business Case to request capital funding. The typical cost of a feasibility study is £20k, as confirmed by Council Officers.
4. This recommendation would create a dedicated revenue budget to undertake these studies and develop Business Cases. The level of capital funding required would then follow from those Business Cases which show a positive return to reduce revenue costs on an ongoing basis.
5. The proposal is to fund the full amount by drawing down from usable reserves.

Finance Technical Comments

6. It is assumed that the funding will come from the Business Rates Reserve which is forecast to be slightly higher than expected in 2022/23.

Monitoring Officer Technical Comments

7. The proposal can be considered as part of the budget.

Head of Paid Service Technical Comments

8. This does not appear to have any impact on the Council’s organisational structure or staffing.

Conclusion

9. The Council is able to consider the amendment