

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:

Capital Amendment: Capital Budget Business Energy Efficiency

Green & Independent Alliance Capital Budget Amendment Proposals 2023/24	£m	£m
Increase Capital Programme Allocation - Business Energy Efficiency Programme		2.000
Decrease Capital Programme Allocation – Structural Carriageway/Bridgeworks Programme	(2.000)	
Net Total Impact 2023/24	(2.000)	2.000
Balance / Gap		0

3. The Capital Programme presented as Appendix 2 to the budget includes an allocation of £0.450m for Business (SME) Energy Efficiency support. This is the tail end of a £2.0m spend programme across the last 4 years. Council Officers estimate that the £0.450m remaining in the Capital Programme will be spent by June 2023.
4. The programme has proved incredibly popular with Worcestershire Businesses and demand for support from the current programmes has been very high, especially during the current period of high energy prices.
5. The proposal is to increase the amount in the Capital Programme by £2.0m, to allow for support to Worcestershire businesses to continue for a further 4 years.
6. This can be funded by reducing the amount in the Capital Programme for structural carriageway/bridgeworks, from the current £105.9m to £103.9m.
7. Whilst a large proportion of the current £105.9m is funded externally or by grants, it includes £33.9m of local authority borrowing. Therefore, there is scope to reallocate some of this expenditure without reducing external income.

Finance Technical Comments

8. The Capital Programme remains funded with no other impact on the revenue account as this is a swap of projects.

Monitoring Officer Technical Comments

9. The decision to amend the Council's capital programme is reserved to Full Council as part of the budget and policy framework.

Head of Paid Service Technical Comments

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

Conclusion

11. The Council is able to consider the amendment