



Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Forward timetable of consultation and decision making

Hinckley Area Committee 19 March 2024

Wards affected: All Hinckley Area Wards

HINCKLEY AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET 2024/25

Report of Section 151 Officer

1. Purpose of report

1.1 To present the proposed draft revenue budget and council tax for 2024/25 for the Special Expenses Area of Hinckley

2. Recommendation

2.1 That the Committee endorse the revenue and capital budgets and council tax for 2024/25

2.2 That the Committee endorse the Fees and Charges for 2024/25.

3. Background to the report

3.1 This report presents the budget relating to the Special Expenses Area of Hinckley for the Committee to consider and make recommendations to Council for approval. The 2024/25 General Fund revenue budget (including the Special Expenses) was presented to Council for approval in February 2024

3.2 The budget for 2024/25 together with the latest estimate for 2023/24 is shown in Appendix 1. The key assumptions approved in the budget include:

- Reversal of one off growths from previous years
- 5 % for the 2024/25 pay award has been included
- Application of no growth on non contract supplies and services
- No increase in Council Tax for the Special Expenses element

Revised budget 2023/24

- 3.3 The net budget has been revised and the additional cost is £7,000 compared to the original Budget.

Proposed budget 2024/25

- 3.4 The proposed expenditure budget for 2024/25 has been detailed in **Appendix 1** and has been prepared using the assumptions identified in 3.2. Compared to the Original estimate for 2023/24, service expenditure for the Special Expense Area has increased by £44,561. The main variances are summarised below:

	£000
Pay Award	13
Ground contract increase	29
Utility inflation	(13)
Proms in the Park	6
Other minor variations	9
Total	44

Council Tax

- 3.5 The Tax Base (number of chargeable properties) in the Special Expenses Area has increased by 0.93% in 2024/25 when compared to 2023/24..
- 3.6 Although the financial settlement allows for a potential £5 increase on Council Tax the current recommendation is for no increase in the special Expenses element of Council Tax **It is therefore recommended that the Council Tax for the Special Expenses Area remain at £19.37 for 2024/25 for an average Band D property, on a Borough wide calculation, which equates to a £68.80 charge to Council Tax payers in the Special Expenses Area**

Fees and Charges

- 3.7 Fees and Charges that relate to this committee are attached in Appendix 2. Members are requested to review the charges and endorse the officer recommendations in the Appendix.

Balances and Reserves

- 3.8 Based on the proposed budget, balances in the Special Expense Area at 31st March 2024 and 2025 are estimated as follows:

	£
Estimated Balance at 31 st March 2024	(224,240)
Transfer (to)/from Balances 2024/25	22,986
Estimated Balance at 31 st March 2025	(201,254)

- 3.9 Earmarked reserves have been set aside for the Special Expense Area to meet the cost of Green Space projects within Hinckley. This reserve at 31 March 2025 is projected to be £248,302 based on the following movements:

	£
Balance at 1 st April 2023	(309,426)
Transfer to Reserves	(110,000)
Transfer from Reserves (Revenue)	31,500
Transfer from Reserves (Capital)	115,464
Estimated Balance at 31 st March 2024	(272,462)
Transfer to Reserves	(45,000)
Transfer from Reserves (Revenue)	32,450
Transfer from Reserves (Capital)	36,710
Estimated Balance at 31 st March 2025	(248,302)

Capital Programme

- 3.10 The capital programme for the HAC is summarised below.

Hinckley Community Initiatives Fund	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Total Annual Expenditure	19,108	10,000	10,000	10,000
HAC Element	19,108	10,000	10,000	10,000

Memorial Safety Programme	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
HAC Element	6,270	6,460	6,610	6,740

Existing Green Spaces Delivery Plan	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Total Cost	271,080	0	0	0
Less: Section 106 contributions	(271,080)	0	0	0
HAC Element	0	0	0	0

New Green Spaces Delivery Plan	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Total Cost	27,250	130,712	214,527	0
Less: HBBC Element	(3,000)	(5,000)	(3,760)	0
Less: Section 106 contributions	(14,970)	(105,462)	(147,847)	0
HAC Element	9,280	20,250	62,920	0

Heritage Action Zone	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Total Cost	1,076,313	0	0	0
Less: HBBC Element	(318,507)	0	0	0
Less: External Contributions	(677,000)	0	0	0
HAC Element	80,806	0	0	0

- 3.11 Any further potential schemes will be bought back to the committee before they are approved.

Members are requested to endorse the programme contained in Appendix 3

4. Exemptions in accordance with the Access to Information procedure rules

- 4.1 Report taken in open session.

5. Financial implications [IB]

- 5.1 Balances and reserves in this report have not been adjusted for other reports that will be presented to the Committee on the day.

Other implications are contained within the body of the report.

6. Legal implications [MR]

- 6.1 None

7. Corporate Plan implications

- 7.1 Expenditure incurred to achieve an attractive 'green' borough that minimises its impact on the environment.

8. Consultation

- 8.1 None

9. Risk implications

- 9.1 It is the Council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.

- 9.2 It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision / project have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.

- 9.3 The following significant risks associated with this report / decisions were identified from this assessment:

Management of significant (Net Red) Risks		
Risk Description	Mitigating actions	Owner
None	None	None

10. Knowing your community – equality and rural implications

10.1 All expenditure and income relate to the urban area of Hinckley.

11. Climate implications

11.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report. However financial planning is a key tool for delivering the corporate priorities of the Council. Included in those priorities are the Climate change considerations for services. The budget decisions made by members in relation to issues such as Council tax, fees, and charges, and in the longer-term asset investment directly affect the council's abilities to invest in climate change priorities. The financial pressure on the council will mean it becomes increasingly difficult to meet its carbon emergency targets by 2030.

11.2 The council currently wish to reduce the carbon emissions by a range of key initiatives as set out in the adopted Climate Change Strategy, including the program of installing electric charging points to car parks and increase biodiversity through management of our green spaces. The Council also has funds ring fenced to support voluntary and community sector organisations and consider environmental impact as key criteria of where these funds are used.

12. Corporate implications

12.1 By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:

- Community Safety implications
- Environmental implications
- ICT implications
- Asset Management implications
- Human Resources implications

Background papers: Budget working papers and Civica files

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