

BUDGET AND PERFORMANCE PANEL

Budget & Policy Framework Update 01 February 2023

Report of Cabinet

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide Budget and Performance Panel with an update on the Council's budget strategy for 2023/24 and financial outlook up to 2027/28. This will enable the panel to consider and comment on the proposals ahead of formal presentation to Council in accordance with the Council's constitution.

This report is public.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) **That the panel considers the Budget & Policy Framework Update presented to Cabinet 17 January 2023, making any comments considered necessary for Cabinet to consider in line with the Council's constitution.**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Under the Constitution, Cabinet has responsibility for developing corporate planning proposals and a balanced budget for Council's consideration.
- 1.2 As part of the Council's Outcomes Based Resourcing (OBR) programme all Heads of Service have been working with the Chief Executive and Finance Team to identify Assets, savings, efficiencies, and income generation opportunities to ensure we achieve a balanced budget aligned with our priorities.

2.0 PROPOSAL DETAILS

- 2.1 The 17 January 2022 Cabinet report (Appendix A) considers savings and additional resource proposals for a balanced revenue budget for 2023/24 and reflects in-year changes and ongoing changes to accounting, forecasting, and funding formula for support and grant activity have caused a change in the budgetary position for this budget from that stated 06 December 2022.
- 2.2 As part of the provisional finance settlement, the Government published its referendum criteria for Council Tax. District councils will be permitted to raise their Council Tax by 3% or £5, whichever is higher, without reference to a referendum. The report contains Cabinets recommendation to Council regarding the Lancaster City Council element of the Council Tax which is a 2.99% increase to the Band D Council Tax (from £241.95 to £249.18).

3.0 CONSULTATION

- 3.1 The Council's Constitution requires that when a new, or existing strategy is being considered, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, or Budget and Performance Panel have an opportunity to comment. If it considers it appropriate, Cabinet may then amend its proposals before submitting them to Council for consideration.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Health & Safety, Equality & Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing):

The budget incorporates measures to make progress in addressing the climate emergency and digital improvements as well as activities to address wellbeing, health, and community safety. The budget framework in general sets out a financial plan for achieving the Council's corporate priorities which incorporate the above cross cutting themes. Equalities impact assessments are undertaken for the relevant activities which are reflected in the budget.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Legal Services has been consulted on this report and has no further comments.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

As set out in appendix A of this report.

OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS, such as Human Resources, Information Services, Property, Open Spaces

No other implications directly arising from this report.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The s151 Officer has written this report in his capacity as Chief Finance Officer

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no comments on this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Cabinet 17 January 2023

[Browse meetings - Cabinet - Lancaster City Council](#)

Council 25 January 2023

[Agenda for Council on Wednesday, 25th January 2023, 6.00 p.m. - Lancaster City Council](#)

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