

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Cabinet
Date:	13 December 2022
Title:	Financial Update and Budget Setting and Provisional Cash Limits 2023/24
Report From:	Chief Finance Officer and Director of Corporate Operations

Contact name: Rob Carr – Chief Finance Officer and Director of Corporate Operations

Tel: 0370 779 2467 **Email:** rob.carr@hants.gov.uk

1. The decision:

- 1.1 Notes the latest financial position for the current year as at the end of September.
- 1.2 Notes the increasing cost pressures building across both Adults, Health and Care and Children's Services Departments.
- 1.3 Approves the principle of adding any corporate contingency underspend in 2022/23 to the Budget Bridging Reserve (BBR) to enable a balanced budget to be set for 2023/24.
- 1.4 Notes the announcement by Government of an Autumn Statement and the impact on the County Council's financial planning, set out in Section E.
- 1.5 Notes the current spend on the Government funded Homes for Ukraine scheme, approves the latest initiatives to support guests and hosts as outlined in paras 41 and 42 and delegates authority to the Director of Corporate Operations in consultation with the Leader and Chief Executive to approve other spend to be met from the current or any future grant funding allocated by the Government.
- 1.6 Approves the provisional revenue cash limits for 2023/24 set out in Appendix 2, including the specific additions highlighted in paragraph 51.
- 1.7 Delegates to the Director of Corporate Operations the decision for early payment of employer and employee pension contributions if considered financially advantageous.
- 1.8 Delegates authority to the Director of Corporate Operations to allocate additional permanent revenue funding for inflationary pressures in 2023/24 up to a value of £10m, to be funded from contingencies as required.
- 1.9 Approves the capital guideline amounts for the next three years set out in paragraph 106.
- 1.10 Approves the transfer of the remaining balance from the previously approved capital inflation funding to a new Capital Inflation Risk Reserve.
- 1.11 Approves, subject to the relevant Executive Member decisions, the addition to the capital programme for 2022/23 of Phase 1 of the Titchfield Haven National Nature Reserve scheme at a cost of £0.775m to be funded from capital receipts from the disposal of assets at the site, subject to the receipt by the County Council of the open market value at the site.

2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1 For Cabinet and County Council to receive an update on the in-year financial position as at the end of September, including the transformation programmes (Transformation to 2019 and to 2021) and Savings Programme to 2023.
- 2.2 To set out the process and framework for setting the 2023/24 budget.
- 2.3 To consider the financial impact of the Autumn Statement, announced by the Government on 17 November, and to consider the Council's overall financial prospects.
- 2.4 To recognise the inflationary and other unavoidable pressures that have been identified to date as part of the preparatory work for the 2023/24 budget.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

3.1 None

4. Conflicts of interest:

- 4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: None
- 4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: None

5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: None.

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: Not applicable.

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

Approved by:

Date:

**Chairman of Cabinet
Councillor Rob Humby**

13 December 2022