

Supplemental Item for Council

Thursday, 3rd March, 2022 at 5.30pm
in the Second Floor Meeting Area, Council
Offices, Market Street, Newbury

Part I

8. **PROPOSED AMENDMENTS (Pages 3 - 12)**



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If you require this information in a different format or translation, please contact
Vicki Yull on telephone 07824 824867.



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Amendments Council 3 March 2022

Item 7 Revenue Budget 2022/23 - Appendix F ii - Page 169

To note an error in the table under Private Sector Housing:

Description	Fees and Charges 2021/22	Proposed Fees and Charges 2022/23
HMO Licence RENEWAL	£805	£797

ITEM 6 – CAPITAL STRATEGY, FINANCIAL YEARS 2022/23 TO 2026/27

Liberal Democrat Proposed Amendments

Proposer: Cllr Jeff Brooks

Seconder: Cllr Lee Dillon

Summary: The financial requirement of these capital measures is £1,690,000 and would lead to a revenue requirement in servicing the increased borrowing requirement (estimate £141,300) and which can be contained within existing budgets/reserves.

Amendment C1 - Page 55

Original text

n/a – new investment proposal

Amendment

Funds to develop a West Berks Culture Education Partnership (LCEP) and create a Delivery Plan for Phase 1. Cost of £50,000.

Section 151 Officer opinion on the implications for the budget

The cost of capital for financing this scheme would be £5,600 per annum of the next 10 years (dependent on future schemes coming forward). The Council has sufficient reserves above the minimum General Fund balance to enable this for the 2022-23 budget if this investment were to be approved. As with any use of reserves, these are one-off funds, and so cannot be used continually, so long term funding / reducing other capital schemes / savings in existing capital schemes would need to be identified in future budgets if this was to be funded beyond 12 months.

Amendment C2 - Page 55

Original text

n/a – new investment proposal

Amendment

West Berkshire Council developing its own Power company (invest to save). By becoming a supplier, we can take advantage of the higher revenue and so more environmental projects become affordable whilst also contributing to the council's revenue stream and also gives us options to encourage businesses with West Berkshire. This funding would provide for consultancy expertise to assist in the development of a plan including the feasibility of the scheme. Cost of £100,000.

Section 151 Officer opinion on the implications for the budget:

The cost of capital for financing this feasibility scheme would be £11,200 per annum of the next 10 years (dependent on future schemes coming forward). The Council has sufficient reserves above the minimum General Fund balance to enable this for the 2022-23 budget if this investment were to be approved. As with any use of reserves, these are one-off funds, and so cannot be used continually, so long term funding / reducing other capital schemes / savings in existing capital schemes would need to be identified in future budgets if this was to be funded beyond 12 months.

Future funding for these schemes would need to be assessed

Amendment C3 - Page 55

Original text

n/a – new investment proposal

Amendment

Set up a fund to commission innovative energy projects from organisations with charitable aims through a West Berkshire Community Energy Fund (WBCEF) Cost of £500,000.

Section 151 Officer opinion on the implications for the budget

The cost of capital for financing this scheme would be £56,000 per annum of the next 10 years (dependent on future schemes coming forward). The Council has sufficient reserves above the minimum General Fund balance to enable this for the 2022-23 budget if this investment were to be approved. As with any use of reserves, these are one-off funds, and so cannot be used continually, so long term funding / reducing other capital schemes / savings in existing capital schemes would need to be identified in future budgets if this was to be funded beyond 12 months. There could be potential for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding of some schemes to be determined through this proposal.

There would need to be a process put in place in order to administer this scheme with an appropriate governance framework as well, for the approval of funds.

Amendment C4 - Page 55

Original text

n/a – new investment proposal

Amendment

Set aside £1M over four years to support the implementation of Town plans that are in development in Thatcham and Hungerford. Cost of £250,000 in next financial year.

Section 151 Officer opinion on the implications for the budget

The financing of these plans could come from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) depending upon their focus and fit with the Infrastructure Delivery Plan. If they were funded by CIL then there would be a reduction in the CIL available for other schemes of £1m, but no additional immediate cost to the Capital Strategy. If the schemes were to cost £250k per annum of Council funding then the new cost each year would be £16,000 per annum per £250,000 with a total cost of £64,000 per annum over the next 20 years to pay for the £1m.

The Council has sufficient reserves above the minimum General Fund balance to enable this for the 2022-23 budget if this investment were to be approved. As with any use of reserves, these are one-off funds, and so cannot be used continually, so long term funding (e.g CIL) / reducing other capital schemes / savings in existing capital schemes would need to be identified in future budgets if this was to be funded beyond 12 months.

Amendment C5 - Page 55

Original text

n/a – new investment proposal

Amendment

Provide additional Defibrillators across the District. Cost of £40,000.

Section 151 Officer opinion on the implications for the budget

The cost of capital for financing this scheme would be £4,500 per annum of the next 10 years (dependent on future schemes coming forward). The Council has sufficient reserves above the minimum General Fund balance to enable this for the 2022-23 budget if this investment were to be approved. As with any use of reserves, these are one-off funds, and so cannot be used continually, so long term funding / reducing other capital schemes / savings in existing capital schemes would need to be identified in future budgets if this was to be funded beyond 12 months.

Section 151 Officer opinion on the implications for the budget of all the Liberal Democrat capital amendments

The cost of capital financing of all capital amendments of £141,300 would need to be funded by the use of the general fund reserve; this would reduce the General Fund reserve for any future use. For future years, this would need to be funded on an ongoing basis from external capital financing sources to remove the revenue cost or from further revenue budget savings / additional income over and above the requirement as highlighted in the MTFs for 2023-24.

ITEM 6 – CAPITAL STRATEGY, FINANCIAL YEARS 2022/23 TO 2026/27

Green Party Proposed Amendments

Proposer: Cllr David Marsh

Seconder: Cllr Carolyne Culver

Amendment 1 - Page 83

Original text

Planning and consultancy to help deliver LRIE projects (£850,000 in 2022-23)

Amendment

Add at end of the line after “Planning and consultancy to help deliver LRIE projects” ... “including the restoration of Faraday Road as a football ground and community sports facility”.

Section 151 Officer opinion on the implications for the budget

This would change the scope of the LRIE project, but if the £850,000 could contain the cost of the amendment above then there would be no change to the capital strategy for 2022-23. Additional costs that were to arise from the delivery of the amendment would need to be factored into future capital strategies.

ITEM 7 – REVENUE BUDGET 2022/23

Liberal Democrat Proposed Amendments

Proposer: Cllr Jeff Brooks

Seconder: Cllr Lee Dillon

People Directorate amendments

Amendment R1 - Page 91

Original text:

n/a – new investment proposal

Amendment:

Supporting the expansion of canoeing and climbing opportunities for young people across West Berkshire and supporting local communities to set up and maintain youth clubs across West Berkshire. Cost of £35,000 annually.

Section 151 Officer opinion on the implications for the budget:

The Council has sufficient reserves above the minimum General Fund balance to enable this for the 2022-23 budget if this investment were to be approved. As with any use of reserves, these are one-off funds, and so cannot be used continually, so long term funding / further savings would need to be identified in future budgets if this was to be funded beyond 12 months.

Amendment R2 - Page 91

Original text:

n/a – new investment proposal

Amendment:

Increasing the Council reach and support to disadvantaged families, including around school readiness, and to extend provision to older age ranges. Cost of £50,000 annually.

Section 151 Officer opinion on the implications for the budget:

The Council has sufficient reserves above the minimum General Fund balance to enable this for the 2022-23 budget if this investment were to be approved. As with any use of reserves, these are one-off funds, and so cannot be used continually, so long term funding / further savings would need to be identified in future budgets if this was to be funded beyond 12 months.

Amendment R3 - Page 91

Original text:

n/a – new investment proposal

Amendment:

Creating a fund to support small, local arts and culture venues across West Berkshire. Cost of £20,000 annually.

Section 151 Officer opinion on the implications for the budget:

The Council has sufficient reserves above the minimum General Fund balance to enable this for the 2022-23 budget if this investment were to be approved. As with any use of reserves, these are one-off funds, and so cannot be used continually, so long term funding / further savings would need to be identified in future budgets if this was to be funded beyond 12 months.

Amendment R4 - Page 91

Original text

n/a – new investment proposal

Amendment

Viable Villages - implement a consultation program with West Berkshire villages (through the parish council network) to understand their priorities and to ensure they are viable long term. To work with every village within West Berkshire to establish what is needed to make their village viable in the longer term - in areas such as community mix, energy supplies, and housing. Cost of £40,000.

Section 151 Officer opinion on the implications for the budget

The Council has sufficient reserves above the minimum General Fund balance to enable this for the 2022-23 budget if this investment were to be approved. As with any use of reserves, these are one-off funds, and so cannot be used continually, so long term funding / further savings would need to be identified in future budgets if this was to be funded beyond 12 months.

Amendment R5 - Page 91

Original text:

n/a – new investment proposal

Amendment:

Council Tax exemption for 100 care leavers. Cost of £35,000 annually.

Section 151 Officer opinion on the implications for the budget:

The Council has sufficient reserves above the minimum General Fund balance to enable this for the 2022-23 budget if this investment were to be approved. As with any use of reserves, these are one-off funds, and so cannot be used continually, so long term funding / further savings would need to be identified in future budgets if this was to be funded beyond 12 months. This could be put into place for 2022-23 as a “locally defined discount” from July 2022 and backdated to the 1st April; no information on this would be included in the Council Tax leaflet due to timescales for printing for billing.

Place Directorate amendments

Amendment R6 - Page 91

Original text:

n/a – new investment proposal

Amendment:

Re-instate the contribution to the Readibus service and pay Readibus the £5K withheld by the council for services already provided. Cost of £45,000 in 2022/23 and then £40,000 annually.

Section 151 Officer opinion on the implications for the budget:

The Council has sufficient reserves above the minimum General Fund balance to enable this for the 2022-23 budget if this investment were to be approved. As with any use of reserves, these are one-off funds, and so cannot be used continually, so long term funding / further savings would need to be identified in future budgets if this was to be funded beyond 12 months.

Amendment R7 - Page 91

Original text:

n/a – new investment proposal

Amendment:

West Berkshire Council establishing its own Power company (invest to save). By becoming a supplier, we can take advantage of the higher revenue and more environmental projects become affordable whilst also contributing to the council's revenue stream. This funding would provide for a dedicated Officer to undertake the planning and feasibility studies to establish the business plan for major investment and return on that investment in future years and help manage the resultant new company if deemed feasible. Cost of £80,000 annually.

Section 151 Officer opinion on the implications for the budget:

The Council has sufficient reserves above the minimum General Fund balance to enable this for the 2022-23 budget if this investment were to be approved. As with any use of reserves, these are one-off funds, and so cannot be used continually, so long term funding / further savings would need to be identified in future budgets if this was to be funded beyond 12 months.

Amendment R8 - Page 91

Original text:

n/a – new investment proposal

Amendment:

Develop a Green Hub - as the expertise grows within the Council this amendment aims to embed the sharing of that expertise with consumers and business and all interested parties in West Berkshire. Cost of £100,000 annually.

Section 151 Officer opinion on the implications for the budget:

The Council has sufficient reserves above the minimum General Fund balance to enable this for the 2022-23 budget if this investment were to be approved. As with

any use of reserves, these are one-off funds, and so cannot be used continually, so long term funding / further savings would need to be identified in future budgets if this was to be funded beyond 12 months.

Amendment R9 - Page 91

Original text:

n/a – new investment proposal

Amendment:

Remove the green bin charge for those in receipt of Council Tax benefits. Cost £100,000. Roughly 5,500 homes. We assume an uptake of around one third of these households at a cost of £50 each, meaning a total cost of £92,000 but we allow more than this within this cost allocation (on-going). Cost of £100,000 annually

Section 151 Officer opinion on the implications for the budget:

The Council has sufficient reserves above the minimum General Fund balance to enable this for the 2022-23 budget if this investment were to be approved. As with any use of reserves, these are one-off funds, and so cannot be used continually, so long term funding / further savings would need to be identified in future budgets if this was to be funded beyond 12 months.

Amendment R10 - Page 91

Original text:

n/a – new investment proposal

Amendment:

Reduce green bin charge to provide a £2 discount (becomes £48) for the lack of collection in January 2022 (one off). This would reduce the green bin charge to £48 per year for the financial year. Cost of approximately £60,000.

Section 151 Officer opinion on the implications for the budget:

The Council has sufficient reserves above the minimum General Fund balance to enable this for the 2022-23 budget if this investment were to be approved. As with any use of reserves, these are one-off funds, and so cannot be used continually, so long term funding / further savings would need to be identified in future budgets if this was to be funded beyond 12 months.

Section 151 Officer opinion on the implications for the budget of all amendments R1 to R10 above:

The cost of all revenue budget amendments of £565,000 and the revenue budget impact of the capital financing costs of capital amendments (if approved) of £141,300 would need to be funded by the use of the general fund reserve; this would reduce the General Fund reserve for any future use by £706,300. For future years, the ongoing elements of the revenue budget amendments above of £460,000 would need to be funded on an ongoing basis from further revenue budget savings / additional income over and above the forecast significant savings requirement as highlighted in the MTFS for 2023-24.

ITEM 7 – REVENUE BUDGET 2022/23

Green Party Proposed Amendments

Proposer: Cllr Steve Masters

Seconded: Cllr Carolyne Culver

Amendment 2 - Page 91

Original text:

n/a – new investment proposal

Amendment:

A grant of £40,000 to West Berkshire Foodbank, to fund staffing and other additional costs, to help them cope with increased demand from those hardest hit by the fuel and cost-of-living crisis. This would be for one year initially, to be reviewed in 12 months' time.

Section 151 Officer opinion on the implications for the budget:

The Council has sufficient reserves above the minimum General Fund balance to enable this for the 2022-23 budget if this investment were to be approved. As with any use of reserves, these are one-off funds, and so cannot be used continually, so long term funding / further savings would need to be identified in future budgets if this was to be funded beyond 12 months.

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