



Decisions taken by the Executive on Wednesday 26 June 2024

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
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Part A – Items considered in public

A3	Corporate Performance: Quarter Four 2023/2024 - Year End	<p>ORDERED that Executive approve the proposed action to the finalise reporting of the Strategic Plan 2022-24 at Quarter Four and Year End 2023/24, as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report.</p> <p>AGREED that Executive Note:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The delivery status of the Strategic Plan workplan (2022-24) at Quarter Four and 2023/24 Year End, as detailed in Appendix 1 and; 2. The Strategic Risk Register, at Appendix 3.
A4	Auto-enrolment of Free School Meals and Maximising Pupil Premium Funding Across Middlesbrough	<p>ORDERED that Executive approve progression of a pilot initiative with schools, between officers across Revenues and Benefits Service and Public Health, to support the implementation of auto-enrolment of Free School Meals, with the aim of increasing the number of children registered for Free School Meals and Pupil Premium, subject to the agreement of Middlesbrough schools.</p>
A5	2023/24 Revenue and Capital Outturn and Development of MTFP	<p>ORDERED that, in respect of the Capital Programme, Executive approve the inclusion of additional expenditure budgets to the Capital Programme for 2023/24 totalling £5.012m (summarised in Table 8) which were externally funded. These adjustments had increased the approved 2023/24 Capital Programme budget to £72.643m.</p>

Decisions taken by the Executive on Wednesday 26 June 2024

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
		<p>AGREED that:</p> <p>In respect of the General Fund Revenue Budget, Executive:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the 2023/24 net revenue budget year-end outturn as of £129.948m against an approved budget of £126.354m, a final overspend of £3.594m (2.8%) as analysed in Table 1 in paragraph 4.12 of the report. 2. Note that an analysis of one-off vs ongoing variances, in 2023/24 had been undertaken as set out in paragraph 4.15 and Appendix 1, and this would be used to review and assess the 2024/25 budget allocation of growth and any revisions will be reported in Quarter One 2024/25 monitoring. 3. Note that £2.399m of qualifying revenue expenditure had been funded from Flexible Use of Capital Receipts (FUOCR) in accordance with the FUOCR strategy approved by Council on 17 January 2024 (Table 9 and Appendix 5 of the report). 4. Note a bid of £0.199m had been made by the Director of Children’s Services to DfE for an additional improvement grant for 2024/25. If successful, this would be incorporated into the relevant budget in order to support the funding of transformation and savings delivery for 2025/26 onwards as well as support practise improvements in progressing young people to permanence (paragraph 4.13). <p>In respect of the Council’s Reserves and Provisions, Executive:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the General Fund Balance of £10.986m and unrestricted usable earmarked reserves of £1.069m at 31 March 2024 2. Note the cumulative usable Collection Fund surplus of £8.325m at 31 March 2024 and the s151 Officer’s action to apply this sum at budget setting 2024/25 in order to replenish the General Fund Balance to the recommended minimum level of £11.1m and unrestricted usable earmarked reserves at £9.280m at 1 April 2024 in accordance with Council approvals on 8 March 2024.

Decisions taken by the Executive on Wednesday 26 June 2024

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
		<p>3. Note that the combined total of unrestricted usable reserves at 1 April 2024 stand at £20.380m (14.2% of the 2024/25 Net Revenue Budget of £143.190m) and that this level remained very low compared nationally to all unitary councils as illustrated in comparisons set out in the Reserves Policy approved by Council on 8 March 2024.</p> <p>In respect of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), Executive:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the total in-year deficit of £7.729m for 2023/24 mainly due to an overspend of £8.058m relating to the High Needs Block, which was an increase of £1.085m from the total £6.644m deficit reported at Quarter Three. The increase was mainly due to higher demand for specialist provision as inclusion of pupils within mainstream settings had remained a challenge. 2. Note that a range of management actions were being taken to address the increase in expenditure alongside the DfE Delivering Better Value (DBV) programme (paragraph 4.27 of the report) which aimed to support the financial recovery of the DSG position. This included service plans on reviewing exceptional support funding, increasing pupil exclusion recharges and recoupment of assessment places as part of reducing this over-spending in 2024/25 onwards. 3. Note the total cumulative deficit of £14.293m at 31 March 2024, including £15.079m relating to the High Needs Block. 4. Note that under current government regulations implementing a ‘statutory override’ in place to the end of 2025/26, this deficit could not be funded from the General Fund, and the Council was required to deliver a recovery plan to the Department for Education (DfE). 5. Note that this position presented a potential significant risk in medium to long-term relating to the Council’s financial sustainability if no government solution

Decisions taken by the Executive on Wednesday 26 June 2024

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		<p>was reached before the statutory override was removed and this was a national issue that required resolution.</p> <p>In respect of the Capital Programme, Executive:</p> <p>Note the 2023/24 Capital Programme final outturn of £47.714m, which was a favourable variance of £24.929m (34%) from the revised £72.643m budget for 2023/24 comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An underspend on projects of £2.218m • Slippage on projects of £22.711m into 2024/25. <p>In respect of the level of Collection Fund and General Fund Debtors at 31 March 2024, Executive Noted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Tax £36.773m • Business Rates £8.391m • Sundry Debt £15.516m • Housing Benefit Overpayments £6.741m <p>In relation to the Council’s financial recovery and resilience, Executive:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the approach to strengthening financial discipline during 2024/25 as set out in paragraphs 4.61 to 4.68 of the report. 2. Note the actions being taken to improve budget management and forecasting in preparation for the development of the 2025/26 MTFP. 3. Note the critical role that the development of a further pipeline of transformation projects and initiatives would have in relation to achieving financial recovery and rebuilding the Council’s financial resilience.
A6	2023/24 Treasury Management	AGREED that Executive:

Decisions taken by the Executive on Wednesday 26 June 2024

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
	Outturn	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the Prudential Indicators for 2023/24 as the Council's year-end position in relation to capital finance activities and overall indebtedness as detailed in Tables 1- 5 of the report). 2. Note the performance of the treasury management function against the Council's approved strategy for the last financial year as detailed in Paragraphs 4.32 – 4.37 of the report.
A1		
A2		