

<b>Report of:</b>	Director of Finance (s151 Officer)
<b>Relevant Executive Member:</b>	The Mayor and Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health
<b>Submitted to:</b>	Executive
<b>Date:</b>	28 February 2024
<b>Title:</b>	2024/25 Revenue Budget, Medium Term Financial Plan, and Council Tax setting
<b>Report for:</b>	Decision
<b>Status:</b>	Public
<b>Strategic priority:</b>	All
<b>Key decision:</b>	Yes
<b>Why:</b>	Decision(s) will incur expenditure or savings above £250,000 and have a significant impact in two or more wards
<b>Subject to call in?:</b>	No
<b>Why:</b>	The approval of the budget and MTFP will be taken by Council on 8 March 2024

**Proposed decision(s)**

The annual budget report and MTFP is by its nature a detailed and complex report which forms the basis of the Budget and Policy Framework. Members need to have regard to all information presented in the main report which highlights the key issues for consideration and provides substantial detail in the supporting appendices.

This report contains the following documents for noting and endorsement by the Executive before referring for consideration and approval by Council at its budget setting meeting. Recommendations are detailed in section 2.

The report incorporates the following sections following the conclusion of the recent budget consultation and the Final Local Government Finance Settlement for 2024/25:

- Report of the Director of Finance (s151 Officer's) in relation to the robustness of budget estimates and the adequacy of financial reserves under s25 of the Local Government Finance Act 2003.
- Proposed 2024/25 Net Revenue Budget of £143.190m
- Council Tax increase of 4.99% for 2024/25
- Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2024/25 to 2026/27
- Budget Consultation feedback
- Reserves Policy
- Fees and Charges Policy
- Proposed Capital Programme and Capital Strategy Report for 2024/25 to 2026/27 totalling £174.980m and the associated financing
- Schools Budgets

## Executive summary

The Council's financial position is critical, given that it is unable to set a robust and balanced revenue budget for 2024/25 and due to its critically low level of revenue reserves, without recourse to Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) approved by Government.

Following confirmation of the Local Government Finance Settlement announced on 5 February 2024, the Council is dependent upon the approval and receipt of EFS by the Department of Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) of up to £13.4m to set a lawful and balanced budget for 2024/25.

The decision from DLUHC regarding EFS is expected to be made for all local authorities at the same time by 1 March 2024, although this is not guaranteed. If the requested amount is not approved by DLUHC, the Council will be unable to set a lawful and balanced budget at its meeting on 8 March and the s151 Officer would be required by statute to issue a s114 Notice under s114(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.

This report is presented to the Executive on the fundamental assumption that the amount of £13.4m is approved by DLUHC and the terms are subsequently agreed as acceptable to the Council. If the recommendations in this report are agreed by the Executive, this report as presented will be referred to Council for consideration and approval on 8 March 2024.

On 8 March 2024 the Council will be required to consider and accept the sum and terms imposed by DLUHC to enable it then to progress to consider the Mayor's proposed budget as set out in this report. It is the responsibility of each Council member to agree a balanced budget and set the level of Council Tax by the statutory deadline each financial year.

Council approval of the 2024/25 budget and proposed Council Tax will therefore be required at the Council meeting on 8 March 2024 in order to comply with the statutory deadline of 11 March 2024 and to enable the billing of Council Tax to Middlesbrough households to be undertaken.

In the event that the Council does not:

- accept the amount and terms of the EFS offered by DLUHC; or
- reach agreement on the Mayor's proposed budget and level of Council Tax

at its meeting on 8 March, it will be unable to set a lawful and balanced budget by 11 March 2024 which has the following profound adverse implications:

- the s151 Officer will be required by law to issue a s114 Notice under s114(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988. This will result in a significant adverse impact upon the provision of non-statutory services whilst the Council develops and approves an alternative plan to balance the budget. Statutory services would be required to be delivered at the minimum standard.
- It would not be possible for the Council to set the Council Tax and bill households for the Council Tax Requirement of £71.438m, which would have

catastrophic cashflow implications for the organisation, putting its ability to deliver all services to the community and to pay suppliers and its staff in jeopardy.

This report provides information and advice to the Executive in terms of the proposed budget for 2024/25 and MTFP to 2026/27. It makes recommendations in relation to the matters in the following sections:

- **Report of the Director of Finance (s151 Officer's) s25 of the Local Government Finance Act 2003. (Appendix 1)**
  - An assessment of the robustness of budget estimates and the adequacy of financial reserves in relation to the Council's operating environment for 2024/25.
  - Members are required by law to have due regard to this report when making decisions on agreeing the budget and setting Council Tax for the financial year 2024/25.
  - A summary of the risks and issues that need to be addressed as a priority in order to strengthen the Council's grip on its financial management arrangements to deliver financial recovery and achieve financial resilience over the period of the MTFP.
  - Sets out the accountabilities and responsibilities of all members and officers in relation to delivering in accordance with the 2024/25 Budget and MTFP in order to secure the financial future of the organisation.
  
- **Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2024/25 to 2026/27 (Appendix 2)**
  - An update on the changes in financial planning assumptions since the report to Executive on 20 December 2023 following the Final Local Government Finance Settlement announcement.
  - Confirmation of the financial impact of proposed savings following the budget consultation exercise, which total £13.910m in 2024/25 rising to £21.028m by 2026/27
  - Movement in the budget gap from £6.3 to £4.7m as a result of finalised financial planning assumptions, confirmation of income sources, planned expenditure and savings and an increase in funding via the final settlement.
  - The consequent reduction in the EFS required from £15m to £13.4m.
  - Proposes the 2024/25 Net Revenue Budget of £143.190m
  - Proposes a Council Tax increase of 4.99% for 2024/25 comprising 2% ASC Precept and 2.99% Core Council Tax.
  
- **Budget Consultation feedback (Appendix 3)**
  - Provides a summary of consultation activity and responses.
  - Provides an update on the proposed revisions to some savings in light of the consultation responses.
  - Provides an explanation of the consideration of reasons for not revising some proposed savings plans in light of consultation responses.
  
- **Reserves Policy (Appendix 4)**
  - Provides an overview of the Council's reserves and the planned replenishment of the usable revenue reserves over the term of the MTFP in order to achieve financial resilience.
  - Sets out the governance arrangements for use of reserves.

- **Fees and Charges Policy (Appendix 5)**
  - Proposes a new fees and charges policy to be adopted by the Council with effect from 2024/25 to provide a framework within which to review and set discretionary charges for services for the future.
  - Provides a new centralised schedule of fees and charges that will be maintained and published annually on the Council's website.
  
- **Capital Programme and Capital Strategy Report for 2024/25 to 2026/27 (Appendix 6)**
  - Sets out the proposed capital programme for the period of the MTFP together with the financing statement showing use of external funding and Council resources in the form of capital receipts and borrowing.
  - Includes EFS budget of £13.4m and funding from borrowing.
  - Includes a cash limited budget allocation within which the transformation programme will need to be developed and delivered and funded within planned capital receipts subject to further approval of the Transformation Programme and Flexible Use of Receipts Strategy by Executive and Council on 28 March.
  - Capital strategy sets out the Council's approach to capital investment, the revenue consequences of borrowing and affordability of borrowing in the context of the net revenue budget.
  - Sets out the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) policy in accordance with statutory capital financing regulations which govern how the Council will plan and account for the repayment of the principal element of its borrowing over the long term.
  
- **Council Tax Setting (Appendix 7)**
  - Sets out the Council Tax base, Council Tax increase, and detailed calculations required by statute to determine the Council tax applicable to each Council Tax band.
  
- **Schools Budgets (Appendix 8)**
  - Summarises the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding allocations for schools and the local authority budget as determined by the National Funding Formula as submitted and considered and approved by the Schools Management Forum on 17 January 2024.
  - Provides an analysis of DSG in relation to the funding blocks
  - Provides a summary of funding allocation on the High Needs Block and the forecast deficit together with a summary of work being undertaken as part of the Delivering Better Value (DBV) Programme with the Department for Education (DfE).
  -

The report should be read in conjunction with the Prudential Indicators and Treasury Management Strategy (TM) 2024/25 report elsewhere on this agenda. The TM Strategy report translates the Council's revenue income and expenditure plans and capital investment plans for the purpose of the council's cash flow management together with setting the framework within which the Council's investment and borrowing activity is governed.

## 1. Purpose

- 1.1 This report proposes a 2024/25 net revenue budget of £143.190m, and Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for the period 2024/25 to 2026/27 following the confirmation of the Local Government Finance Settlement and sets out the financial planning assumptions applicable to the budget based upon the best information available at this time.
- 1.2 A Council tax increase for 2024/25 of 4.99% is proposed, comprising 2% Adult Social Care Precept and 2.99% Core Council tax which is within the referendum limits set by Government.
- 1.3 The report proposes a Capital Programme of £88.549m for 2024/25 and totalling £174.980m over the period from 2024/25 to 2026/27 together with a financing statement comprising a combination of external funding and council resources. In addition, the proposed capital strategy sets out the Council's approach to capital investment and financing, including the forecast levels of borrowing and the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy which governs how the Council accounts for debt repayment in accordance with statutory regulations. The Capital programme provides for EFS of £13.4m to be financed from borrowing over a period of up to 20 years whilst the actual amount and terms will be determined by the s151 Officer, based upon the actual requirements, borrowing rates and an assessment of revenue affordability at the appropriate time during the 2024/25 financial year.
- 1.4 A summary of the Schools' Budget and allocation of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) as determined under the Department for Education's (DfE's) National Funding Formula, together with an overview of the financial pressures on the DSG High Needs Block and forecast deficit which is being addressed under the Delivering Better Value (DBV) Programme.
- 1.5 The s151 Officer's recommended Reserves Policy for 2024/25 sets out the plan for replenishing and maintaining usable revenue reserves over the period of the MTFP in order to achieve financial recovery and re-establish the Council's financial resilience.
- 1.6 The s151 Officer's recommended Fees and Charges Policy sets out the proposed framework within which discretionary charged for services will be reviewed and fees and charges set in the future in order to ensure financial viability of discretionary services.
- 1.7 The report is underpinned by the Section 151 Officer's report in accordance with s25 of the Local Government Act 2003 which assesses the robustness of budget estimates and the adequacy of financial reserves in the context of the known financial risks that exist in the Council's operating environment. The report sets out the responsibilities of all officers and members to work collaboratively together in order to enable the Council to successfully navigate the complex and challenging path to recover its financial position and achieve financial sustainability over the medium term. Under s31A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the Council is required to have regard to this report when making decisions on agreeing the budget and setting the Council Tax.

## 2 Recommendations

That Executive makes the following decisions:

### 2.1 Robustness of the Medium-Term Financial Plan (Appendix 1)

- a) Note the statutory s25 report of the Council's Section 151 Officer in respect of the robustness of the estimates within the budget and the adequacy of reserves.

### 2.2 Revenue Medium Term Financial Plan 2024/25 to 2026/27 (Appendix 2)

- a) Note the updated financial planning assumptions following the Final Local Government Finance Settlement, together with confirmed government income sources, expenditure plans and local income budgets.
- b) Recommend to Council budget proposals for savings and income generation of £13.910m in 2024/25 rising to £21.028m in 2026/27, which incorporates the revisions to savings in light of the consultation response as set out in Appendix 3.
- c) Recommend to Council an increase in Council Tax of 4.99% resulting in a Council Tax level (Band D) of £1,975.76 excluding parish, Fire, and Police precepts (detailed in Appendix 7).
- d) Note that after all available measures have been taken in relation to budget proposals, a budget gap of £4.7m exists representing a shortfall of annual income compared to net expenditure plans. Therefore, the Council is dependent upon approval by DLUHC to capitalise this expenditure and finance it from Council borrowing under the provisions of Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) in order to set a balanced budget for 2024/25.
- e) Recommend to Council the approval of the proposed General Fund revenue budget for 2024/25 with a net budget requirement of £143.190m after adjusting for the capitalisation of £4.7m of revenue expenditure relating to EFS;
- f) Note whilst the budget gap for 2024/25 has been addressed by the EFS, there will still be a budget gap of £7.474m in 2025/26 and £0.491m in 2026/27 resulting in a cumulative budget gap over the MTFP period of £7.965m. Further savings proposals arising from the Transformation Programme will be required as a minimum to meet these budget gaps.
- g) Note that in assessing the adequacy of reserves in the context of financial risks within the Council's operating environment, the s151 Officer has determined that financial provision for:
  - the sum of £3.5m in relation to savings delivery risk
  - the sum of £4.6m in relation to the timing of realisation of capital receipts to fund Transformation expenditure

are required in the form of capitalisation of expenditure to be funded from

Council borrowing under the provisions of EFS to provide assurance on the adequacy of reserves, should those risks crystallise.

- h) Note that the recommended budget is dependent upon DLUHC approval of EFS in the sum of £13.4m in order for it to be considered and approved by Council as a robust and deliverable balanced budget.
- i) Note that in the event of DLUHC not approving EFS totaling £13.4m, the s151 Officer will have no option but to issue a s114 Notice under s14(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 with the implications as set out in paragraph 4.11 of Appendix 2.

### **2.3 Budget Consultation (Appendix 3)**

- a) Note the feedback of the budget consultation exercise, and submissions from Overview and Scrutiny Board.
- b) Approve the recommended response to the consultation as set out in Appendix 3

### **2.4 Financial Reserves Policy (Appendix 4)**

- a) Recommend to Council the approval of the Financial Reserves Policy for 2024/25 which proposes:
  - o A minimum General Fund Balance of 7.5% of the Net Revenue Budget (£147.890m before EFS temporary adjustment), equivalent to £11.1m for 2024/25
  - o That the Council builds a Financial Resilience Reserve Balance of between £8m and £10m over the term of the MTFP to 2026/27 to strengthen its financial resilience
- b) Note that the reserves policy will be subject to an annual review and Council approval at annual budget setting and will be revised to reflect changes in risk and/or external factors that the Council needs to address in order to secure its financial resilience over the medium to long term.
- c) Note the estimated balances on usable revenue reserves as at 1 April 2024 of:
  - o General Fund balance - £11.1m
  - o Earmarked reserves – unrestricted £6.3m
  - o Earmarked reserves – restricted £4.7m

### **2.5 Fees & Charges (Appendix 5)**

- a) Recommend to Council the approval of the proposed Fees & Charges Policy for 2024/25
- b) Recommend to Council the approval of the schedule of fees and charges arising from the application of the approved policy for 2024/25



## 2.6 **Capital Programme 2024/25 to 2026/27 and Capital Strategy 2024/25 (Appendix 6)**

- a) Recommend to Council the approval of the proposed 2024/25 – 2026/27 Capital Programme totalling £174.980m and the associated financing statement as shown in Appendix 6.
- b) Recommend to Council the approval of the Capital Strategy and endorse the recommendations included in it as shown in para. 4.20 of this report and detailed in Appendix 6.
- c) Note the Council's revenue cost of borrowing for 2024/25 is £11.154m which is equivalent to 7.8% of the Net Revenue Budget and is approaching the maximum affordable level, therefore future capital investment will need to rely more heavily on external funding and capital receipts in order to maintain borrowing at affordable levels.
- d) Note that the high level estimate of Transformation and Redundancy Expenditure totalling up to £13.7m in 2024/25, £7.7m 2025/26 and £5.2m in 2026/27 is required to be approved within this report to set the capital expenditure and financing limits, together with prudential indicators for borrowing within the Treasury Management Report elsewhere on this agenda.
- e) Note that the detailed development of the Transformation Programme governance, investment plans and funding through the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy, will be the subject of further reports to the Executive and Council in March 2024 to incorporate into the Budget and Policy framework for 2024/25.

## 2.7 **Schools Budget (Appendix 8)**

- a) Note details of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Grant for 2024/25 and the allocation to schools as detailed in Appendix 8.
- b) Note the forecast pressures upon the High Needs block of £6.644m in 2024/25 and the resulting cumulative deficit on the DSG account of £13.208m at 31 March 2025.
- c) Note that the Council is part of the Delivering Better Value (DBV) scheme operated by the Department for Education (DfE) to support local authorities to manage and control the deficit.
- d) Note that a statutory override is in place which prevents the DSG deficit from being met from General Fund resources and the Government's plan to deliver a funding solution is awaited. This presents a potential significant medium term financial risk to the Council in the event that the statutory override is removed without a suitable funding solution.

### **3 Rationale for the recommended decision(s)**

- 3.1 All Council members have a legal obligation to agree a balanced budget and set the Council Tax by 11 March 2024. In addition, the Council has a Best Value duty to demonstrate financial sustainability through the delivery of a balanced Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) over a period of at least 3 years. The setting of the budget is part of the budget and policy framework and therefore requires Full Council approval.
- 3.2 The recommendations enable the Council to progress towards meeting its statutory responsibility to set a balanced revenue budget in 2024/25 and the requirement to secure financial sustainability of the period of the MTFP.
- 3.3 The Council is required to take a systematic, coherent, and controlled approach to addressing its ongoing financial challenges over the medium-term, while enabling the delivery of the Mayor's vision and priorities for Middlesbrough through delivery of the wider Council Plan.

### **4 Background and relevant information**

#### **s151 Officer s25 Report (Appendix 1)**

- 4.1. Section 25 of The Local Government Act 2003 requires the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) to report to the Council on:
  - the robustness of the estimates made for the purpose of the budget calculations;
  - the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves.
- 4.2. The Council is required to take this report into account when making its decisions in relation to setting the annual budget and setting the Council Tax.
- 4.3. Section 26 of the Local Government Act 2002 places an onus on the CFO (The Corporate Director of Finance and Resources and s151 Officer) to ensure the Council has established a minimum level of reserves to be retained to cover any unforeseen demands that could not be reasonably defined within finalising the proposed budget.
- 4.4. The s151 Officer's report is extremely important and sets the context within which the 2024/25 budget and MTFP report and the Treasury Management Strategy reports should be considered. The s25 report is detailed in Appendix 1 and includes the following sections:
  - Legal Framework
  - Chief Finance Officer Overall Opinion
  - Current context and financial standing of the Council
  - Best Value Notice and External Auditor's Statutory Recommendations in relation to financial recovery and resilience
  - Robustness of Estimates
  - Governance
  - Accounting Practice

- Budget Savings Delivery
- Key Risks impacting Budget Delivery
- Adequacy of Reserves

### **Revenue Medium Term Financial Plan 2024/25 to 2026/27 (Appendix 2)**

4.5. This section of the report includes:

- The finalisation of financial planning assumptions following the final local government finance settlement
- Special Interest Group of Municipal Treasurers (SIGOMA) undertook a piece of work to understand the 'real terms' effect of Core Spending Power, to note the research shows that whilst Middlesbrough has had a cash increase from 2010/11 to 2024/25, there is a cumulative 'real terms' cut, £62.1m (25.6%) based on 2023/24 prices, equating to a 'real term cut' of £958.5 per dwelling. This is both more than the national average and the SIGOMA average.
- Confirmation of the financial impact of proposed savings following the budget consultation exercise
- Summarises the profiled savings of £13.910m in 2024/25 rising to £21.028m in 26/27
- Movement in the budget gap from £6.3m to £4.7m as a result of finalised financial planning assumptions, confirmation of income sources, planned expenditure and savings
- Summarises the Council's reliance on EFS totalling £13.4m
- Proposes the 2024/25 Net Revenue Budget of £143.190m after adjusting for the capitalisation of £4.7m of revenue expenditure relating to EFS on a one-off basis;
- Proposes a Council Tax increase of 4.99% for 2024/25 comprising 2% ASC Precept and 2.99% Core Council Tax.

### **Budget Consultation Feedback 2024/25 (Appendix 3)**

4.6. The Mayor has considered the feedback from the recent Residents' Survey, and prioritised service areas to protect them from further cuts. As a result, a number of services were not included in the new budget proposals for 2024/25 and therefore were part of the wider consultation. A 'growth' adjustment for savings from 2023/24 for delivery in 2024/25 is proposed to ensure these services are retained at their current level.

- Area Care e.g., grass cutting, street cleaning and general maintenance
- Community Safety e.g. Street wardens and Neighbourhood safety officers and their running costs
- Street Lighting, noting a required £0.081m of capital investment will be saved as a result. This was to install the technology to enable selective reduction of street lighting overnight, the maintenance of lighting levels at night supports the strategy to increase the perception of safety of residents of Middlesbrough and the reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour.

- Welfare Rights Service - previously activity was supported through central government grant, and this funding is no longer available so in order to continue services Council resource is required.
- Although, there are no specific financial proposals relating to School Crossing Patrols and Youth Clubs, these services also form part of Mayor's Priorities.

4.7. A 4 week public consultation on the 2024/25 MTFP proposals opened on 21 December and concluded on 18 January 2024 with consultation taking place via on-line survey and a range of targeted and general engagement events in person and on line. Following this consultation period, the recommendations are set in detail on how to proceed in light of the consultation and are set out in Appendix 3.

Consultation received the views of range of people through diverse channels of engagement, below is a summary of consultation activity:

- 1,171 people responded to the questionnaire, The highest response rate the Council has had to a consultation in the last 5 years.
- 50 people sent emails or completed a webform in order to comment on the consultation.
- 4 consultation in person events were attended by approximately 90 people
- 10 social media posts with estimated total reach of 36,525 people
- Councillors were provided with details of the budget consultation to enable them to share with residents in their ward
- An email newsletter was sent to 44,390 people and 12,792 opened.
- Member briefings on budget proposals
- Attendance of Mayor and Executive Member for Finance at Overview and Scrutiny Board, and individual scrutiny panels considering budget proposals with relevant Executive Members invited to attend.
- Formal consultation with the North East Chamber of Commerce

4.8. The on-line survey invited respondents to tell us about their views on the 20 budget proposals that were deemed to be subject to public consultation. While councillors are not obliged to change their budget proposals in light of the outcome of the consultation, they are required to have due regard to it in making their decisions around the Council's Council Tax levels and the Medium-Term Financial Plan.

4.9. Following consultation, the recommendation is to proceed with savings and income assumptions presented in the December Executive Board MTFP report, apart from a number of the proposals which have been amended and one withdrawn, as set out in Appendix 3.

4.9.1. Outline of the Mayor's changes on proposals are listed below:

- **ECS09** – Having listened to feedback from People across the town the proposal 'ECS09 – Car Parking Charge at Stewart Park, £0.060m to be delivered in 2025/26' has been removed.

- **REG03** Captain Cook Birthplace Museum - In recognition of the wealth of feeling in the community and the suggestions forthcoming from the consultation, together with the helpful attitudes of both ward councillors and the Captain Cook Birthplace Trust, the Mayor has been assured that there are more and better options than closure. Therefore, the decision on the future of the Captain Cook Birthplace Museum will be deferred until 30 September 2024 to provide time for other alternative options which avoid closure to be explored more fully. A decision will be taken by the Executive and will be subject to further consultation as required. As a result, the proposed budget savings have been reprofiled resulting in a reduction in 2024/25 by £0.100m and an equivalent increase in 2025/26.
- **FIN08** Reduction in the allocation of resource for voluntary and community sector grants from the local authority. Following consultation feedback from the Overview and Scrutiny Board (OSB) the savings proposal 'FIN08 Reduction in Voluntary and Community Sector grants' has been amended. The proposed savings will still include ceasing the small grants programme saving £0.127m in 24/25, but following the OSB proposal, a provision for one-off grants for residents and small community groups will be incorporated in a merged Community Chest and Development Grants budget for which criteria will be reviewed and revised. These two merged budgets will, as previously proposed, see a 20% reduction in 24/25 a saving of £0.011m, leaving £0.042m. Support will be offered to enable organisations to access external grant funding opportunities, and a business case to access some Better Care Fund monies to support grants for vulnerable people in the communities will be developed. As the core grants are under a contractual service level agreement the 20%, or £0.028m saving, on this part of the budget will be deferred to 25/26 to allow for revised negotiations and service level agreements to be developed following the final year of a 3-year agreement.

4.9.2 While there was engagement and concern on other savings proposals, they are recommended for implementation given the Council's inability to balance the budget which has resulted in the submission of an application for Exceptional Financial Support, as reflected in the s151 Officer's statutory report at Appendix 1 and detailed in Appendix 3.

Below is a summary of the considerations and rationale for those proposals where there was a higher negative response than positive response from the public, excluding those amended or withdrawn and the proposals on Council Tax increase are listed below:

- **ECS08: Resident Parking Scheme** – These schemes relate to a small part of the town that requires additional Council action to support resident parking and enforce compliance with it in order to ensure residents are able to park near their home and other car users are diverted to more appropriate locations. That activity and enforcement comes at a cost. The proposed charge contributes towards the cost of administration and enforcement,

many other councils already have such a charge, and many have a higher charge. By also attaching a charge we aim to limit the number of passes that are misused by non-residents to utilise parking closest to the town centre. An element of the proposal is that the current £10 for care professionals visiting the area, payable by their employer, is not amended.

- **ECS01 Fortnightly Residual Waste Collections** -The proposal will bring Middlesbrough Council practice into line with most other councils and will support efforts to also improve recycling rates. The Waste Service has experienced significant budget pressures in 2023/24, (£1.0m Quarter 3 forecast Outturn), this is primarily due to a combination of household behaviour with regards to recycling and the cost of disposal. It is important to note that there is a significant cost to disposing of waste incorrectly The cost of disposing of recycled waste (average disposal rate is £53.01 per tonne) is much lower than the cost of residual waste (disposal rate is £72.56 per tonne). Residual waste that is put in the recycling bin causes contamination to the recycled waste stream and is rejected by waste operators and diverted to the residual waste stream for which the Council has to pay to process twice, (average residual waste disposal rate of £173.78 per tonne). This additional cost is avoidable if the residents work with the Council and comply with guidance on segregating their household waste.

The implementation of this proposal will go alongside significant communication and education plan to ensure residents are supported in their move to the new system. Based on the experiences of other authorities, it is not expected that this proposal will result in a significant increase on fly-tipping.

Following consultation, the proposed implementation plan has been amended to include adjustments for those households who require a larger waste bin:

- families of 3 or more rather than 4 or more, will be able to request a 240 Ltr wheel bin,
- Following a proposal from back-bench councillors, families of 2 will be able to purchase an additional 140 Ltr wheel bin, the cost will be a one-off fee of £40.

The Council will continue to provide assisted bin collections for those who meet the thresholds for that support, and areas with communal bins or residents who are only served by black sack collection as they are not accessible for wheelie bins, will continue on weekly collections. When comparing to neighbouring authorities this proposal brings us in line with residual waste collection proposals.

- **ECS02 Green Waste Charges** - This is a discretionary service which many councils already charge for and only benefits households in those parts of the town who have gardens. It will be optional, with an opt in process, and the new green bins will only be supplied and charged for as when requested. Free disposal will continue to be available to those who wish to use the Household Waste and Recycling Centre. This proposal is an enhanced service than current, and collections will run from first week of April until end of November on a fortnightly basis. The proposal is in line with green waste services compared to neighbouring authorities. See comparative table for Tees Area in Appendix 3.
- **ECS04 Charges for Bins** - This charge is planned to be introduced in 2025/26, enabling the Council to put other measures in place first in response to concerns about potential bin theft and to allow the roll out of the new bins associated for some households with green waste and/or fortnightly refuse collections. The Council will continue to replace bins at no cost where they have been damaged by Council operatives.

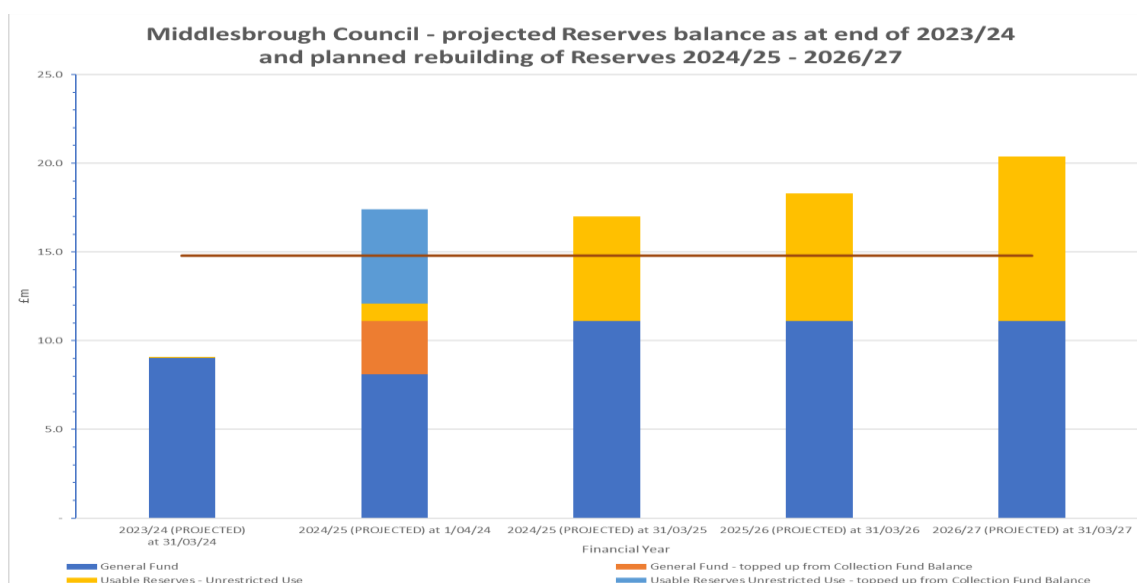
4.10. Responses to the budget consultation survey were analysed to assess whether there were any concerns about impacts from proposals that varied by protected characteristic, which could give an indication of an unintended impact or a concern that there would be a disproportionate adverse impact on individuals or groups because they held one or more protected characteristics. This analysis is set out in the Human Rights, Equality and Data Protection section (section 6.4) of this report. Impact assessments for the budget proposals that were subject to public consultation and an overall impact assessment are set out in Appendix 3 and Appendix 3 – Annex 1 and Annex 2.

#### **Financial Reserves Policy (Appendix 4)**

- 4.11. The Financial Reserves policy at Appendix 4 provides an overview of the Council's Reserves and set out the principles governing their use. The Policy will be reviewed and updated annually as part of the annual budget setting cycle going forward.
- 4.12. The recommended minimum balance on the General Fund Reserve is recommended to be 7.5% of the Net Revenue budget, (excluding EFS adjustment) equivalent to £11.1m in 2024/25. In addition, the s151 Officer recommends the replenishment of the Financial Resilience Reserve to between £8m to £10m by the end of 2026/27.
- 4.13. The summary forecast of all usable reserves and the General Fund balance is set out in the table below:

Earmarked Reserves Projections over MTFP period 2024/25 to 2026/27										
	2024/25			2025/26			2026/27			
	Opening Balance	Projected Additions	Projected Drawdowns	Closing Balance	Projected Additions	Projected Drawdowns	Closing Balance	Projected Additions	Projected Drawdowns	Closing Balance
	01/04/24			31/03/25			31/03/26			31/03/27
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
<b>Usable</b>										
General Fund Reserve	11.1	-	-	11.1	-	-	11.1			11.1
Unrestricted Use	6.3	1.3	(1.7)	5.9	2.1	(0.7)	7.2	2.8	(0.7)	9.3
<b>Total Unrestricted Use</b>	<b>17.4</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>(1.7)</b>	<b>17.0</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>(0.7)</b>	<b>18.3</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>(0.7)</b>	<b>20.4</b>
<b>Total Restricted Use</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>(0.1)</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>0.5</b>		<b>6.2</b>
<b>Usable total</b>	<b>22.2</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>(1.8)</b>	<b>22.2</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>(0.7)</b>	<b>24.0</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>(0.7)</b>	<b>26.6</b>

4.14. The planned replenishment of usable revenue reserves is illustrated in the graph below.



### Fees and Charges Policy (Appendix 5)

- 4.15. The Council has undertaken an organisation wide review to develop a consistent approach to the levying of fees and charges across the organisation that will be reviewed and updated as part of the annual budget cycle going forward for 2024/25 and future years. Appendix 5 Section A provides an overview of the scope, approach, learning and key outcomes from the review. The review has recognised a range of different factors in setting a price including legislative requirements and constraints, the full cost of delivering services, benchmarking with other organisations and the impact upon other policy objectives.
- 4.16. Appendix 5 Section B details the proposed Fees and Charges policy developed as part of the review, which applies sector wide good practice on the levying of fees and charges into Middlesbrough's context.



4.17. Appendix 5 Annex 1 provides a Schedule of proposed Fees and Charges for 2024/25 for services provided by the Council, arising from the application of the proposed policy for 2024/25.

### Capital Programme 2024/25 to 2026/27 & Capital Strategy 2024/25 (Appendix 6)

4.18. The summary proposed General Fund capital programme totalling £174.980m for the period 2024/25 to 2026/27 is set out in **Table 1** below. Further detail is included in Appendix 6.

**Table 1: Summary of Capital Programme 2024/25 to 2026/27**

Summary of Capital Programme 2024/25 to 2026/27							
	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	TOTAL		Council Funding £m	External Funding £m
Directorates	61.449	65.518	7.913	134.880		70.959	63.921
Transformation Programme	5.500	4.800	3.300	13.600		13.600	-
Redundancies	6.500	-	-	6.500		6.500	-
Contingencies	1.700	2.900	2.000	6.600		6.600	-
Exceptional Financial Support (EFS)	13.400	-	-	13.400		13.400	-
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>88.549</b>	<b>73.218</b>	<b>13.213</b>	<b>174.980</b>		<b>111.059</b>	<b>63.921</b>
	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	TOTAL		Council Funding £m	External Funding £m
<b>FUNDED BY</b>							
Prudential Borrowing	23.037	28.009	1.913	52.959		52.959	-
EFS Borrowing	13.400	-	-	13.400		13.400	-
Capital Receipts	6.000	6.000	6.000	18.000		18.000	-
Flexible Receipts	13.700	7.700	5.300	26.700		26.700	-
Grants	29.897	27.931	-	57.828		-	57.828
Contributions	2.515	3.578	-	6.093		-	6.093
<b>TOTAL FUNDING</b>	<b>88.549</b>	<b>73.218</b>	<b>13.213</b>	<b>174.980</b>		<b>111.059</b>	<b>63.921</b>

4.19. The Council operates a strict approach to considering and prioritising schemes for inclusion in the capital programme set against available resources including a technical review process, as set out in the Capital Strategy in Appendix 6.

4.20. It is recommended that the Executive endorse the following recommendations to Council arising from the Capital Strategy:

- Notes the review of the capital programme undertaken in January 2024 and prior to setting the budget.
- Approves the total capital expenditure over the MTFP period from 2024/25 to 2026/27 of £174.980m, with a programme of £88.549m for 2024/25.
- Notes the inclusion of transformation and redundancy expenditure which can be capitalised under the flexible use of capital receipts strategy (FUoCR) of £13.7m in 2024/25 and then this will be determined in detail through development of transformation programme business cases increasing to up to £26.7m, plus an

expected amount of £13.400m for Exceptional Financial Support which will be funded by additional borrowing.

- Approves the funding of the capital programme, by a combination of external borrowing, grants and contributions, capital receipts and flexible capital receipts for transformation purposes, as shown in **Table 1** and Appendix 6
- Notes that any further capital receipts produced by the asset review will be carried forward for future year's transformation costs.
- Notes that the capital financing requirement (need to borrow) will need to increase to £334.188m and external debt will increase to £310.535m to support these plans.
- Notes that a capital financing cost expected to be £11.194m or 7.8% of the revenue budget being proposed of £143.290m. This £0.200m less than the revenue budget allocated for the financial year.

4.21. Although the proportion of the net revenue budget being spent is increasing as shown in **Table 2** below, this has been fully funded by additional budget allocations. The level is now very close to the 10% threshold which was indicated by CIPFA as an upper limit for debt financing costs when the prudential code was introduced in 2007. The Council needs to rationalise its spending plans over the medium to long term and seek to fund expenditure via external fundings sources or capital receipts from asset sales rather than borrowing which needs to be rationed going forward in order to maintain affordability. The overall capital financing position makes it more important that the Council controls its revenue expenditure within budget, delivering its savings plans in full and realises the planned capital receipts to fund transformation and future capital investment.

**Table 2: Prudential Indicators**

<b><u>Prudential Indicator</u></b>	<b>2023/24 (£m)</b>	<b>2024/25 (£m)</b>	<b>2025/26 (£m)</b>	<b>2026/27 (£m)</b>
<b>Capital Financing Requirement (underlying need to borrow)</b>	<b>299.928</b>	<b>331.863</b>	<b>355.426</b>	<b>352.332</b>
External Borrowing	259.498	310.535	333.294	329.910
Internal Borrowing	40.430	21.328	22.132	22.422
<b>Authorised limit for External Debt</b>	<b>328.000</b>	<b>372.000</b>	<b>396.000</b>	<b>393.000</b>
Annual Capital Financing Cost	9.376	11.154	12.814	14.496
% of Net Revenue Budget on debt costs	7.4%	7.8%	8.6%	9.8%

### **Council Tax Setting 2024/25 (Appendix 7)**

4.22 Appendix 7 sets out the Council tax base, proposed Council tax increase and detailed calculations required by statute to determine the Council Tax applicable to each Council tax band.

4.23 It shows that if the final budget proposed in this report is approved by Council the Net Revenue Budget requirement for 2024/25 will be £143.190m (after adjusting for the £4.7m EFS) with a Council Tax Requirement of £71.438m, equating to a Council Tax (Band D) for non-parish areas (Middlesbrough Council only element) of £1,975.76 and Band A of £1,317.17. This represents a total increase in Council Tax of 4.99% for 2024/25 comprising of a general increase of 2.99% and an adult social care precept of 2.00%.

### Schools Budget 2024/25 (Appendix 8)

4.24 Appendix 8 provides details of the Dedicated Schools Grant for 2024/25 totalling £189.360m after deductions for national non domestic rates and direct funding of high needs by Education & Skills Funding Agency (EFSA).

4.25 This budget has 4 elements - budgets delegated to individual schools, support to high needs pupils, provision for early years expenditure and support for central services.

4.26 The key points relating to the Schools budgets are:

- Total indicative grant funding for Middlesbrough is **£189.360m** for 2024/25;
- This is made up of the following four blocks of funding:

DSG Block	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m	Increase £m	Increase %
Schools Block	131.071	139.332	8.261	6.3
Central School Services Block	1.043	1.046	0.003	0.3
High Needs Block	29.978	31.045	1.067	3.6
Early Years Block	12.121	17.937	5.816	48.0
<b>TOTAL DSG AFTER DEDUCTIONS</b>	<b>174.213</b>	<b>189.360</b>	<b>15.147</b>	<b>8.7</b>

- This is an increase of **£15.147m (8.7%)** from the 2023/24 indicative budget after deductions
- The figures currently are indicative and the grant will be amended throughout the year as the Schools Block includes amounts which are passported straight to academies
- The DSG deficit is predicted to increase by £6.644m during 2023/24 and it is currently forecast that there will be a total cumulative DSG deficit of £13.208m at 31 March 2024, including £13.665m relating to the High Needs Block which is partly offset by £0.457m of surplus forecast across the other blocks. The pressure has been driven up by Education and Health Care Plans (EHCPs) increasing from 2022 to 2023 by over 27% (up from 1370 to 1743) and the service has faced the full year effect of this increase along with continued increasing numbers in the past 12 months, and increasing exclusions. The position will be closely monitored during 2024/25 and reported through the quarterly budget monitoring.

- Middlesbrough are signed up to the Delivering Better Value (DBV) programme that invests £1m over an approximate 18-month period ending 31 March 2025 which aims to deliver cost efficiencies.
- A range of management actions are being taken alongside the DBV programme and the initiatives are detailed in paragraph 1.6 of Appendix 8.

## 5. Other potential alternative(s) and why these have not been recommended

Not applicable.

## 6. Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)

### 6.1 *Financial (including procurement and Social Value)*

6.1.1 The detailed financial implications are set out throughout the report.

6.1.2 The Council is required by law to set a legally balanced budget by 11 March 2024. Failure to do so will result in the statutory requirement for the s151 Officer to issue a s114 Notice under s114(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.

The Council is dependent upon the approval of its EFS application to DLUHC to set a lawful and balanced budget at its meeting on 8 March 2024. The EFS application has been revised from £15m to £13.4m as a result of the increased funding received in the final local government finance settlement. The result of the application is expected to be received by 1 March 2024 and an update will be provided as part of the budget report to Council on 8 March 2024.

6.1.3 Council approval of the 2024/25 budget and proposed Council Tax will therefore be required at the Council meeting on 8 March 2024 in order to comply with the statutory deadline of 11 March 2024 and to enable the billing of Council Tax to Middlesbrough households to be undertaken.

6.1.4 In the event that the Council does not:

- accept the amount and terms of the EFS offered by DLUHC; or
- reach agreement on the Mayor's proposed budget and level of Council Tax at its meeting on 8 March

it will be unable to set a lawful and balanced budget by 11 March 2024 which has the following profound adverse implications:

- the s151 Officer will be required by law to issue a s114 Notice under s114(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988. This will result in a significant adverse impact upon the provision of non-statutory services whilst the Council develops and approves an alternative plan to balance the budget. Statutory services would be required to be delivered at the minimum standard.

- It will not be possible for the Council to set a the Council Tax and bill households for the Council Tax Requirement of £71.438m, which would have catastrophic cashflow implications for the organisation, putting its ability to deliver all services to the community and to pay suppliers and its staff in jeopardy.

## **6.2 Legal**

- 6.2.1 The Council is required under legislation to set a balanced budget for each year. The Medium Term Financial Plan and revenue and capital budgets form part of the Council's policy framework, as set out in its constitution. The approach outlined within the document will enable the Council to operate within the resources available and continue to meet its many statutory duties.
- 6.2.2 Elected members (individually and collectively) have a fiduciary duty to local taxpayers and so duty to facilitate, rather than frustrate, the setting of a lawful budget, and not to do so would bring damaging legal, financial, operational, and reputational consequences for the Council, and precepting authorities such as the police, fire service and local parish councils. It may also give rise to personal liability for individual members for misfeasance in public office, negligence, or breach of statutory duty, should they be found to be purposely failing to set a lawful budget.

## **6.3 Risk**

- 6.3.1 The revision of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan for 2024/25 to 2026/27 plays a fundamental role in ensuring that the Strategic Plan is delivered effectively.
- 6.3.2 The proposed approach will ensure a positive impact on the strategic risk that the Council fails to achieve a balanced budget. The proposed approach also aligns with legal requirements around consultation and assessing the impact of proposals. It therefore impacts positively on the risks that the Council could fail to achieve good governance or comply with the law.
- 6.3.3 There is a risk that the financial position of the Council will be adversely affected by any non-achievement of the proposed budget savings and other proposals for 2024/25 outlined in the report.

## **6.4 Human Rights, Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion**

- 6.4.1 Budget savings proposals for 2024/25 and beyond were initially assessed and categorised in Appendices 1 and 2 of the report to Executive on 20 December 2023 and then were subject to public consultation starting on 21 December 2023 and ending on 18 January 2024.
- 6.4.2 The Council must ensure that, in line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, that any budget saving proposals, other budget proposals, or proposed Council Tax increases thought to impact on those with protected characteristics are assessed, mitigated where possible and/or justified. As such impact assessments for those proposals and the overall budget are included within Annex 1 and Annex 2 of

Appendix 3 of this report. The completed impact assessments are appended to this report, along with an overall impact assessment at Appendix 3.

6.4.3 The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) (as set out in the Equality Act 2010) places a statutory duty on the Council in exercising its functions, to have regard to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

6.4.4 Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:

- remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it; and
- encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

6.4.5 The protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. Where proposed decisions may be relevant to one or more of these protected characteristics, the Council is obliged to assess the impact. If there is judged to be an adverse impact on these characteristics that is relevant to the duty above steps are taken to consider whether it can be avoided or mitigated. Where it cannot be avoided or mitigated, a decision can only be taken if it can be justified.

6.4.6 As a result of the above, the 20 proposals set out at Appendix 2 of the December report have been subject to a screening impact assessment. Following the consultation process, one proposal was withdrawn and two of the proposals have moved to an 'in year decision' in order to allow for further consultation to be undertaken and / or to further develop proposed implementation plans. Should those proposals no longer be viable following that process, alternative savings proposals will be identified. In year decisions will be taken on the proposals and they will follow an appropriate governance route to ensure ongoing compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Of the 17 remaining 16 of those proposals were found to have no concerns that they could have a disproportionate adverse impact on individuals or groups because they hold one or more of the protected characteristics or there were no concerns the proposals could have an adverse impact on human rights or community cohesion.

6.4.7 Two of the proposals proceeded to a level 2 impact assessment to assess, in line with the Public Sector Equality Duty whether they could be avoided or mitigated.

6.4.8 It was determined that these two proposals had impacts that could not be fully mitigated but that they were justified in terms of impact. The impact assessment findings for the two proposals are summarised in the table below:

Proposal	Impact Assessment
FIN08: Reduction in grants to the Voluntary and Community Sector.	The impact assessment found that the proposed reduction would have an adverse impact on all equality characteristics, concerns about impacts on the vulnerable and community spirit which in turn could have an adverse impact on community cohesion. The completed impact assessment found that while the impact could be partially mitigated by the continuing of some funding, it could not be fully mitigated. It found there was a justified adverse impact on all protected characteristics and community cohesion in order to ensure the Council is able to maintain a balanced budget and continue to meet its statutory obligations
ECS 03 Junk Job Chargeable Collections	The impact assessment found that the proposal would have a disproportionate adverse impact on disability and age protected characteristics. Although there are some mitigations possible by signposting to charities who could assist, however it could not be fully mitigated. The completed impact assessment found that there was a justified adverse impact on the Disability and age protected characteristics in order to ensure the Council is able to maintain a balanced budget and continue to meet its statutory obligations.

6.4.9 As a result of the above, the overall impact assessment has found that the impact of these two proposals on the protected characteristics cannot be fully mitigated. The complete overall impact assessment included in Appendix 3, along with all the individual impact assessments found that there was a justified adverse impact from these proposals in order to ensure the Council is able to maintain a balanced budget and continue to meet its statutory obligations.

## 6.5 *Climate Change / Environmental*

6.5.1 A number of the proposals within the proposed budget are relevant to this theme. The proposals to make changes to waste and recycling services and

cessation of financial support for Environment City in particular. The impact of this has been assessed with the results and the supporting Impact Assessment included in this report.

## **6.6 Children and Young People Cared for by the Authority and Care Leavers**

6.6.1 A number of the proposals within the 2024/25 proposed budget are relevant to these groups. The proposals will ensure that service provision is reviewed to ensure it is fit for purpose. The proposal in relation to the Special Guardianship Order Payment review will be particularly relevant, the proposal is to review policy and practice to bring it into line with regulations, the impact of this has been assessed during the consultation period and this is set out within this report and the report to Council in March 2024 along with the supporting Impact Assessment.

## **6.7 Data Protection / GDPR**

6.7.1 There are no concerns that the proposals within the report will impact negatively on data protection or GDPR.

### **Actions to be taken to implement the recommended decision(s)**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
That this report is presented to Full Council on 8 March 2024 for approval of the Revenue Budget and Council Tax for 2024/25, the updated Capital Programme for the period to 2026/27, and the Capital Strategy 2024/25. Council will also be requested to approve the MTFP for 2024/25 to 2026/27.	Head of Financial Planning & Support	8/3/24
If approved by Council on 8 March 2024, the proposals set out in this report will form the basis of the 2024/25 revenue budget of the Council	Head of Financial Planning & Support	8/3/24

### **Appendices**

1	s151 Officer Statement on Robustness of the budget and adequacy of reserves, required under s25 of The Local Government Act 2003 (Pt I)
2	Revenue Medium Term Financial Plan 2024/25 to 2026/27
3	Budget Consultation feedback 2024/25
4	Financial Reserves Policy
5	Fees and Charges Policy
6	Capital Programme 2024/25 to 2026/27 and Capital Strategy 2024/25
7	Council Tax Setting 2024/25
8	Schools Budget 2024/25



## Background papers

Body	Report title	Date
Executive	Children's Service Financial Improvement Plan	14/2/23
Council	Budget 2023/24 -S25 Report of the Chief Finance Officer	27/2/23
Council	Revenue Budget, Council Tax, Medium Term Financial Plan and Capital Strategy 2023/24	27/2/23
Executive	Revenue and Capital Budget – Forecast Outturn position at Quarter One 2023/24	23/8/23
Executive	MTFP Update	23/8/23
Executive	Revenue and Capital Budget – Forecast Outturn position at Quarter Two 2023/24	21/11/23
Executive	Asset Review	21/11/23
Executive	Fees and Charges Review 2023/24	21/11/23
Government (Chancellor)	Autumn Spending Review 2023	22/11/23
Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC)	Local Government Finance Policy Statement 2024/25	5/12/23
Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC)	Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement	18/12/23
Executive	The Council Plan, 2024-27	20/12/23
Executive	Draft 2024/25 Budget and MTFP Refresh	20/12/23
Executive	2024/25 Budget and MTFP – Application for Exceptional Financial Support	17/1/24
Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC)	Final Local Government Finance Settlement	5/2/24
Executive	Revenue and Capital Budget – Forecast Outturn position at Quarter Three 2023/24	14/2/24
Executive	Prudential Indicators and Treasury Management Strategy Report – 2024/25	28/2/24

**Contact:**     **Andrew Humble, Head of Financial Planning & Support  
(Deputy S151 Officer)**

**Email:**        [andrew\\_humble@middlesbrough.gov.uk](mailto:andrew_humble@middlesbrough.gov.uk)