

**Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee
Report on Proposed Amendments for the 2024/25 Budget**

Purpose of report

1. To report to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee the proposed amendments from Cllr Gavin Grant and Cllr Ian Thorn to the budget recommended to Cabinet on 6 February 2024 for the committee to appraise and raise any comments to Full Council.

Background

2. This meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee provides an opportunity for non-executive councillors to question Cllr Gavin Grant and Cllr Ian Thorn, on the proposed amendments before the budget is considered by Full Council on 20 February 2024.
3. The Member proposal is amendment to the proposed Cabinet budget, as set out as follows:
 - To remove the income budget introduced in 2022/23 as a result of the saving included in the budget to introduce parking charges for Blue Badge holders of £0.040m.
4. The above proposal has the following impact on the 2024/25 base budget:

Proposal	Impact £m
Remove the income budget introduced in 2022/23 as a result of the saving included in the budget to introduce parking charges for Blue Badge holders	0.040
Total annual pressure of proposal	0.040
Total pressure across MTFS	0.120
Funding Proposal of Pressure	
Reduce the Business Plan Priority reserve allocation of £0.821m for Council wide enforcement activity by the total of £0.120m	0.120

5. The proposal has the effect of reducing the income budget for car parking in the 2024/25 financial year which results in a revenue pressure in every year of the MTFS, with proposals for funding this pressure set out in the table above.
6. The impact of the funding of the proposal has the effect of reducing the Business Priority Plan Fund commitment of £0.821m to Council wide enforcement activity by £0.040m in 2024/25, and by a total of £0.120m over the MTFS period.

S.151 Officer Comments

7. The proposal has been costed and this has been included in the figures above. This identifies that the amendment balances and therefore does not impact on the 2023/24 base budget proposed in the original paper to Cabinet and in doing so meets the financial test for an amendment to the budget to be considered by Full Council.
8. The amendment looks to reverse the decision that was made in the 2022/23 budget. It reduces the income in the base budget and reduces the funding held in the Business Plan Priority reserve that was allocated to fund Council wide enforcement activity.
9. From a purely financial perspective the proposal reduces the risk to the Council over the period of the MTFS. Income sources are subject to potential fluctuations in demand, although these had been factored into the budget, the replacement of this income source with guaranteed funding from the reserve reduces risk. Equally though any upside from an increase in demand for parking that will outstrip the budget estimate will not be made. The amendment however introduces a gap in the year following the MTFS period as there is also no plan set out for the year following the MTFS period to address the budget gap that, in effect, is slipped to that year by this temporary funding from the reserve.

Monitoring Officer Comments

10. Subject to the views of the Chairman of the Council and subject to this proposal being moved in accordance with the Rules of Procedure in Part 4 of the Constitution, this is an appropriate amendment within the meaning of Rule 20.6. There are no other legal implications.

Head of Paid Service Comments

11. As Head of Paid Service, I can confirm that officers have provided independent advice. We are aware of the full details of the amendments, and they are policy amendments in nature.

Conclusion

12. Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee are asked to consider the proposed amendments to the financial plan 2024/25 and inform Full Council on 20 February 2024.