



**Author/Lead Officer of Report:** Ryan Keyworth,  
Director of finance and Commercial Services

**Tel:** 0114 20 57303

**Report of:** *Eugene Walker*

**Report to:** *Co-Operative Executive*

**Date of Decision:** *20<sup>th</sup> October 2021*

**Subject:** *Medium Term Financial Analysis, 2022/23 to 2025/26*

Is this a Key Decision? If Yes, reason Key Decision:-	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
- Expenditure and/or savings over £500,000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
- Affects 2 or more Wards	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Which Executive Member Portfolio does this relate to? <i>Finance and Resources</i>		
Which Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee does this relate to? <i>Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee</i>		
Has an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) been undertaken?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If YES, what EIA reference number has it been given? <i>(Insert reference number)</i>		
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If YES, give details as to whether the exemption applies to the full report / part of the report and/or appendices and complete below:-		
<i>"The (report/appendix) is not for publication because it contains exempt information under Paragraph (insert relevant paragraph number) of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)."</i>		

**Purpose of Report:**

- Provide Members with details of the forecast financial position of the Council for the next 4 years (2022/23 to 2025/26) and to set the financial constraints within which the budgeting and business planning process will need to work to achieve a balanced budget position over the medium term.

**Recommendations:**

1. Note the forecast position;
2. Note, as a planning assumption, core Council Tax increases of 2% each year;
3. Note the additional pressures caused by the COVID crisis, and in response consider what further transformation savings are required, and lobby Central Government for additional financial support;
4. Note that the Council's current level of reserves provides a limited amount of time for action to be taken strategically in response to the COVID crisis and the more general financial position, but that firm actions will be needed, on current projections, to maintain financial stability in the short to medium term. These actions will include further co-operation with other key stakeholders, in particular the NHS; and
5. Note that unless firm action is taken to contain pressures, deliver agreed savings, and focus any new spending on a small number of key priorities, the Council's financial position will soon spiral out of control

**Background Papers: N/A**

<b>Lead Officer to complete:-</b>		
1	I have consulted the relevant departments in respect of any relevant implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist, and comments have been incorporated / additional forms completed / EIA completed, where required.	Finance: <i>Dave Phillips</i>
		Legal: <i>Sarah Bennett</i>
		Equalities: <i>None</i>
<i>Legal, financial/commercial and equalities implications must be included within the report and the name of the officer consulted must be included above.</i>		
2	<b>EMT member who approved submission:</b>	<i>Eugene Walker</i>
3	<b>Executive Member consulted:</b>	<i>Councillor Cate McDonald Executive Member for Finance and Resources</i>
4	I confirm that all necessary approval has been obtained in respect of the implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist and that the report has been approved for submission to the Decision Maker by the EMT member indicated at 2. In addition, any additional forms have been completed and signed off as required at 1.	
<b>Lead Officer Name:</b> <i>Ryan Keyworth</i>		<b>Job Title:</b> <i>Director of Finance and Commercial Services</i>

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2021

## **1. PROPOSAL**

1.1 The purpose of the Report is to:

Provide Members with details of the forecast financial position of the Council for the next 4 years (2022/23 to 2025/26) and to set the financial constraints within which the budgeting and business planning process will need to work to achieve a balanced budget position over the medium term.

## **2. HOW DOES THIS DECISION CONTRIBUTE ?**

2.1 To recommend the approach to budgeting and business planning that will be necessary to achieve a balanced budget position over the medium term.

## **3. HAS THERE BEEN ANY CONSULTATION?**

3.1 *No*

## **4. RISK ANALYSIS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION**

### 4.1 Equality of Opportunity Implications

4.1.1 There are no specific equal opportunity implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

### 4.2 Financial and Commercial Implications

4.2.1 This is a financial report, as such all financial and commercial implications are detailed in the main body of the report.

### 4.3 Legal Implications

4.3.1 There are no specific legal implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

### 4.4 Other Implications

4.4.1 *N/A*

## **5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

5.1 A number of alternative courses of action are considered as part of the process undertaken by Officers before decisions are recommended to Members. The recommendations made to Members represent what Officers believe to be the best options available to the Council, in line with Council priorities, given the constraints on funding and the use to which funding is put within the Revenue Budget and the Capital Programme.

## **6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 To inform Cabinet Members of the latest changes to the Council's medium term forecasts, and to provide a strategic framework for the development of budget proposals and the business planning process beyond 2022/23.

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