

Report sponsor: Alison Parkin, Director of  
Financial Services  
Report author: Toni Nash, Head of Corporate  
Finance

## **Medium Term Financial Plan - Amendments**

### **Purpose**

- 1.1 At their meeting of the 27<sup>th</sup> February Council considered the minute extract 178-22 of the Council Cabinet held on 15 February 2023 in relation to the Medium-Term Financial Plan - MTFP 2023/24 – 2025/26. A link to the original report can be found here:  
  
[Medium Term Financial Plan 2023/24 to 2025/26](#)
- 1.2 Council did not support the minute extract and as a result the Medium-Term Financial Plan has been revised with amendments contained within this report.
- 1.3 The MTFP for 2023/24 to 2025/26 is being managed within extremely challenging circumstances. It has been necessary to plan for unprecedented reductions in the Council's spend in a short period of time due to these emerging challenges.

### **Recommendations**

- 2.1 To approve the amendment to the MTFP of an additional £0.105m in 2023/24 and 2024/25 for additional investment into the SEND Team to provide an additional 2 FTE SEND officers. This will be funded from the Priority Families Reserve as outlined in section 4.2.1.

### **Reasons**

- 3.1 The Council is required to set a balanced budget for 2023/24 by 11 March. The incorporated amendments will still set balanced budget for the financial year 2023/24.
- 3.2 The Council, under the Prudential Code, established by the Local Government Act 2003, must demonstrate the affordability of our revenue budget for the next financial year and two subsequent years, including considering our plans for capital expenditure.
- 3.3 At their meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> February Council did not support the minute extract 178-22 of the Council Cabinet held on 15 February 2023 in relation to the MTFP and therefore amendments have been considered with further recommendations included in this report.

## **Supporting information**

4.1 The Local Government Act 1992 requires the Council to set a balanced budget, with regard to the advice of its Chief Finance Officer (S151) by the 11 March 2023. The power to set the budget is reserved to Full Council and cannot be delegated or exercised by any of the Council's Officers.

4.2 The following amendment to the Medium-Term Financial Plan approved by Council Cabinet is:

### **4.2.1 Send – Priority Families amendment**

Nationally and locally the SEND system is experiencing increasing demand and is under significant pressure. In Derby, there were 459 new Education Health and Care (EHC) plans made during 2021. This is an increase of 41.7% when compared against the number of children with EHC plans made during 2020. Current performance at the end of December 2022 of plans being issued within 20 weeks is 21%.

4.2.2 The budget amendment will invest an additional £0.105m into the SEND Assessment Team to provide an additional 2 FTE SEND officers. This will be funded from the Priority Families Reserve for 2 years until the benefits from the programme transformation is realised.

## **Public/stakeholder engagement**

5.1 The MTFP has been through officer, Councillor and Cabinet engagement.

## **Other options**

6.1 The Council is required to set a balanced revenue and capital budget for 2023/24 by 11 March 2023.

## **Financial and value for money issues**

7.1 The Financial implications and value for money issues regarding the amendments have been considered and incorporated into the MTFP.

## **Legal implications**

8.1 The Local Government Finance Act 1992 requires the Council to set a balanced budget with regard to the advice of its Chief Finance Officer (S151). Section 30(6) provides that the Council has to set its budget before 11 March any delay would result in significant financial, administrative and legal implications.

8.2 Whether a budget is set or not, the Council retains its legal duty to provide statutory services and pay monies due to precepting authorities.

## **Climate implications**

9.1 All climate implications within the schemes outlined in the budget report will be considered as appropriate.

## Socio-Economic implications

10.1 As outlined in the main body of the budget report:

[Medium Term Financial Plan 2023/24 to 2025/26](#)

## Other significant implications

11.1 N/A

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
<b>Legal</b>	Olu Idowu, Head of Legal	
<b>Finance</b>	Toni Nash Head of Corporate Finance	02/03/2023
<b>Service Director(s)</b>	Emily Feenan, Director of Legal, Procurement and Democratic Services	
<b>Report sponsor</b>	Alison Parkin, Director of Financial Services	02/03/2023
<b>Other(s)</b>		
<b>Background papers:</b>	Link to budget report contained within the document	
<b>List of appendices:</b>	N/A	