

ABINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

Report to	ENVIRONMENT & AMENITIES COMMITTEE
Meeting date	10 January 2023
Report author	RFO
Agenda item	8(ii)

2023-24 BUDGET ESTIMATES

1. **Purpose of the Report**

To inform members of the suggested 2023-24 budget for services within the responsibility of this committee.

2. **Summary**

It is recommended that, based on existing services and any additional projects contained in the Forward Plan, a **net expenditure budget of £181,730** is put forward for Council's approval.

3. **Action required**

The committee is required to:

- (i) Consider the draft budget produced by the RFO and make any suggestions for amendments / further information required¹
- (ii) agree a 2023-24 budget recommendation for consideration by the Finance, Governance and Asset Management Advisory Committee.

4. **Link to strategic plan and objectives**

Key Objective 3: To manage the Council's assets efficiently and effectively to meet for the needs of the community now and in the future.

¹ It is requested that any such requests are made ahead of the meeting to allow the information to be collated in time

5. **Key information and options**

Appendix A provides a breakdown of the proposed budget. The key assumptions made are:

- Existing services to continue
- Projects contained in the Forward Plan are included
- Where applicable inflation of 9.3% (as per November 2022 CPI²)

The budgets for each area have in the main remained as per 2022-23, apart from the addition of inflation, and the savings identified in moving any unspent budgets to EMR's releasing these areas to absorb the increases in other budget lines.

Staffing costs have not been included into the attached Appendix, as these included in the Finance, Governance and Asset Management Committee budgets. These costs will then be recharged out to the relevant cost centre (and committee). Prior to the start of the financial year, work shall be completed to allocate a share of the pay costs across the services of the council. This work is not required for the purposes of budget and precept setting and due to time constraints has not been completed yet.

Any increases in staffing budgets are the responsibility Finance, Governance and Asset Management Committee.

7. **Climate change/green implications**

None.

8. **Financial/budget implications**

The recommendation from this committee shall have an impact on the precept agreed by Council.

9. **HR implications**

None.

10. **Supporting papers and appendices**

APPENDIX A

Cherie Carruthers RFO
4 January 2023

² Using the CPI value as of November 2022 is standard practice but it is acknowledged that inflation is currently higher than this. It is suggested that any shortfall which may occur across the Council's costs should be covered by use of the general fund rather than added pressure to the precept and resulting council tax