

The Proposal in the Budget Report under Agenda item 8 be amended as below:

Cllr Berman Liberal Democrat Group

Revenue

Line	Directorate	Description	(Savings)/ Costs £000	Cumulative £000
New Savings / Reduced Commitments				
	Council Wide	Reduction to General Contingency Budget.	(1,500)	(1,500)
	Council Wide	Drawdown from Strategic Budget Reserve	(1,400)	(2,900)
	Planning, Transport & Environment	Additional income from increase to Licence for Digital Advertising sites on the Highway per Advertising Panel	(10)	(2,910)
	Council Wide	Drawdown from Resources Reserve	(400)	(3,310)
Additional Expenditure/Financial Pressures				
	Recycling & Neighbourhood Services	Street Scene Local Action Team (formerly known as Blitz Teams) <i>(increase to 5 teams rather than 3)</i>	500	(2,810)
	Housing & Communities	Building Fire Safety Support Hub (New) This would allow for drop-in advice sessions and support online on such issues as: completing funding applications for the different Government funding pots; advice on the EWS1 process and advising leaseholders of their rights. This could be achieved through tendering specialist organisations and charities to deliver this work, including the Leasehold Advisory Service which is funded by Welsh Government.	160	(2,650)
	Planning, Transport & Environment	Socially valuable bus routes (New) To support the provision of demand-responsive bus services, as deemed appropriate to ensure continuity of bus services for affected communities.	600	(2,050)
	Performance & Partnerships	Situational Response to Community Safety Issues	300	(1,750)
	Recycling & Neighbourhood Services	Removal of Bulky Waste Collection Charge	137	(1,613)

Capital

The proposal amends the following lines:

	Annual Sums	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
3	Alleygating	50					50
9	Footway Investment	755	(755)				0
14	Road Safety Schemes	50					50
26	Contingency	(50)	(50)				(100)

	Ongoing Schemes	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
49	International Sports Village (Phase 1)	(7,400)	7,400	0	0	0	0
89	International Sports Village (Phase 2)	(1,750)	(4,250)	1,500	4,500	0	0

Proposed by: Councillor Rodney Berman

Seconded by: Councillor Rhys Taylor

Statutory Officer Commentary on the Liberal Democrat Budget Proposals 2022/23

The proposal from the Liberal Democrat Group includes one new savings proposal, four new expenditure commitments, amendments to two fees & charges and a drawdown on reserves. The net effect of these proposals is to reduce the level of resources required by £1.613 million. This would facilitate a reduction in the proposed increase to the rate of Council Tax, with the amendment proposing an increase of 0.9%.

The proposals have not been subject to detailed discussions with directorates, nor have equality impact assessments been undertaken in respect of these. However, within this constraint, they have been reviewed as to their financial achievability and risk.

The proposed drawdown on reserves would see £1.4m from the Strategic Budget Reserve utilised to fund the Budget in 2022/23. This would leave a balance on the reserve of £5 million (assuming no further contribution to the reserve in the current year). As this funding would be one-off in nature, there is the question of how this would be addressed in 2023/24 so as not to leave a significant budget gap.

The new savings proposal is to further reduce the level of general contingency budget by £1.5 million, resulting in an overall decrease of £2.5 million from its existing £3 million level. This proposal would reduce the budget to £0.5 million, which would present a level of risk to the financial resilience of the Council going forward. The stated mitigation to this would be a further drawdown on reserves in order to fund any one-off Covid costs in 2022/23 thereby potentially freeing up some of the £10 million held as a Covid contingency figure, which could, in effect, top-up the general contingency in-year. However, this proposal further increases the risk that overspends could occur during 2022/23 and weaken the Council's financial resilience.

Furthermore, the increased use of one-off reserves and reduction in general contingency increases the risk in the face of significant uncertainty regarding the financial position over the medium term. Whilst financial planning assumptions have been refreshed across all Council services, there remains significant uncertainty regarding the financial position over the short / medium term including the exposure to additional cost in relation to demand-

led services, inflationary pressures, and the difficulty in judging what the long tail effects of COVID19 may be on the economy, public finances, and future demand on services. Should this proposal be taken forward, the risk that the Council may need to make unplanned use of reserves in the event of an overspend, would increase. As reserves can only be utilised once, there is a risk that this could result in a weakening of the Council's balance sheet and overall financial resilience.

The proposed reduction in the contingency budget would facilitate additional expenditure commitments along with the removal of the charge for bulky item collections. The planned income budget for this service in 2022/23 is £137,000, which would be lost by removing the charge. Further work will be required on the financial impact a free service will have on service demand levels. The second amendment to fees & charges would be an increase of 10% on the cost of Licences for Digital Advertising sites on the Highway, which would be expected to generate around £10,000.

The proposal includes an increase on the Empty Homes Council Tax Premium to 100%. However, progressing this proposal is not possible for 2022/23 due to statutory deadlines having been passed for any amendments to Council Tax Base. In order to increase the Council Tax premium to 100% for 2023/24 a timetable needs to be put in place which ensures appropriate consultation and consideration is undertaken prior to 2023/24 Council Tax Base calculation deadlines in December 2022. It is anticipated that the increase in Council Tax Premium will generate a net income of £400,000. In order to reflect the year delay of achieving this level of income, a drawdown of £400,000 from the Resources Reserve will be taken in 2022/23. The Resources Reserve is earmarked for matters related to Council Tax.

The first new expenditure commitment proposes an additional two Street Scene Local Action Teams. This would come at a cost of £500,000, supplementing the policy growth already contained with the Cabinet's budget proposal, taking the total number of new teams to five, rather than three, and the total funding to £750,000, with this being available on a recurring basis. The second new commitment relates to the introduction of a new Building Fire Safety Support Hub at a cost of £160,000 in 2022/23 falling to £40,000 in 2023/24. The third new expenditure commitment is a one-off amount of £300,000 to supplement the policy growth already contained with the Cabinet's budget proposal in respect of the Situational Response to Community Safety Issues, taking the total funding to £400,000. In addition, a proposed allocation of £600,000 (recurring) for socially valuable bus routes has been proposed.

In addition to the revenue proposals outlined above, proposals have also been put forward in relation to the Capital Programme. In the main these proposals seek to re-profile Capital expenditure, rather than enhance commitments or add to the programme, though a small reduction to the Capital Contingency does provide an offset to two additional amounts of £50,000 each on Alleygating and Road Safety Schemes.

The total net effect on the Capital Programme is zero, albeit there is some significant movement between years, with Footway Investment being brought forward into 2022/23 and both phases of the planned expenditure on the International Sports Village (Velodrome) proposed to be delayed by a year to provide further time to explore alternative options for delivering the expansion of Cathays High School without the need to relocate the existing velodrome.

Legal Implications

The legal context and implications set out in the main budget report also apply to these Proposals and regard should be had to the same.

As regards the proposals in respect of; reduction of General Contingency Budget, Drawdown from Strategic Budget Reserve and Drawdown from Resources Reserve, attention is drawn to the requirement, when the Council is considering its budget, to have regard to the S151 Officer's advice as to the robustness of the estimates and the adequacy of the proposed reserves in the budget proposals. The body of the report and this addendum setting out such advice, including advice on financial resilience, reserves and contingencies.

Any specific plans which are developed in relation to the proposals put forward will require evaluation in relation to the Council's wellbeing objectives.

As regards the proposals put forward consideration should be given to whether consultation is appropriate and or an equality impact assessment required . Where consultation and or an equality impact assessment is required, any decision taken to incorporate the proposals into the Council's budget will be an in principle decision and the details of the implementation proposals will have to be subject to consultation and equality impact assessments, which must be taken into account in a final decision on whether to implement the proposals or not.

As regards the proposed additional recommendation (2023/24 Council Tax base calculation be made assuming an increase in the Empty Homes Council Tax Premium to 100%), it is noted that the proposal is subject to considering the outcome of any required consultation, equalities assessment and due regard to all other material considerations including Welsh Government guidance, which are relevant considerations to ensure sound decision making .

As regards Capital and reprofiling of expenditure for International Sports Village, consideration would need to be given to the updating of any business case to reflect the new timelines and implications thereof, if any .

Budget Summary – Liberal Democrat Group 2022/23

Resources Available:-	£000	£000
Welsh Government	544,715	
Use of Reserves	1,800	
Council Tax at 0.9% increase	<u>197,067</u>	
		743,582
 Resources Needed:-		
2021/22 Base Budget B/f	686,734	
Commitments, Inflation, and Realignment	44,583	
New Financial Pressures & Covid Recovery	14,413	
Policy Growth	7,060	
 Less:		
Savings & Reductions in Contingency	<u>(9,208)</u>	
		743,582

RECOMMENDATIONS - LIBERAL DEMOCRATS GROUP

(a) Recommendations to Council

The Liberal Democrat Group, having taken account of the comments of the Section 151 Officer in respect of the robustness of the budget and the adequacy of the reserves as required under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003, and having considered the responses to the Budget Consultation recommend that Council:

1.0 Approve the Revenue, Capital and Housing Revenue Account budgets including all proposals and increasing the Council Tax by 0.9% as set out in this report and that the Council resolve the following terms.

2.0 Note that at its meeting on 16 December 2021 Cabinet calculated the following amounts for the year 2022/23 in accordance with the regulations made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:-

a) 149,107 being the amount calculated in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Wales) Regulations 1995, as amended, as its Council Tax base for the year.

b)	Lisvane	2,697
	Pentyrch	3,517
	Radyr	3,983
	St. Fagans	1,854
	Old St. Mellons	2,321
	Tongwynlais	822

being the amounts calculated in accordance with Regulation 6 of the Regulations as the amounts of its Council Tax base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which special items relate.

2.1 Agree that the following amounts be now calculated by the County Council of the City and County of Cardiff for the year 2022/23 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:-

a) Aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2)(a) to (d) (including Community Council precepts totalling £495,086). £1,168,910,086

b) Aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for items set out in Section 32(3)(a) and (c). £427,033,000

c) Amount by which the aggregate at 2.1(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 2.1(b) above calculated in accordance with Section 32(4) as the budget requirement for the year. £741,877,086

d) Aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its Council Fund in respect of Revenue Support Grant, its council tax reduction scheme, redistributed Non-Domestic Rates. £544,715,091

- e) The amount at 2.1(c) above less the amount at 2.1(d) (net of the amount for discretionary relief of £400,000), all divided by the amount at 2.0(a) above, calculated in accordance with Section 33(1) as the basic amount of Council Tax for the year.

£1,324.97

- f) Aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1).

£495,086

- g) Amount at 2.1(e) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 2.1(f) above by the amount at 2.0(a) above, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of the area to which no special items relate.

£1,321.65

- h) The amounts given by adding to the amount at 2.1(g) above the amounts of special items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned below, divided in each case by the amount at 2.0(b) above, calculated in accordance with Section 34(3) as the basic amounts of Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of the area to which special items relate.

	£
Lisvane	1,344.27
Pentyrch	1,374.25
Radyr	1,354.52
St. Fagans	1,344.30
Old St. Mellons	1,343.91
Tongwynlais	1,351.46

- i) The amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 2.1(g) and 2.1(h) above by the number which in the proportion set out in the Council Tax (Valuation Bands) (Wales) Order 2003 is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D calculated in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

Area	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Lisvane	896.18	1,045.54	1,194.91	1,344.27	1,643.00	1,941.72	2,240.45	2,688.54	3,136.63
Pentyrch	916.17	1,068.86	1,221.56	1,374.25	1,679.64	1,985.03	2,290.42	2,748.50	3,206.58
Radyr	903.01	1,053.52	1,204.02	1,354.52	1,655.52	1,956.53	2,257.53	2,709.04	3,160.55
St. Fagans	896.20	1,045.57	1,194.93	1,344.30	1,643.03	1,941.77	2,240.50	2,688.60	3,136.70
Old St. Mellons	895.94	1,045.26	1,194.59	1,343.91	1,642.56	1,941.20	2,239.85	2,687.82	3,135.79
Tongwynlais	900.97	1,051.14	1,201.30	1,351.46	1,651.78	1,952.11	2,252.43	2,702.92	3,153.41
All other parts of the Council's Area	881.10	1,027.95	1,174.80	1,321.65	1,615.35	1,909.05	2,202.75	2,643.30	3,083.85

2.2 Note that for the year 2022/23, the Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales has stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in

accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each of the categories of dwelling shown below:-

VALUATION BANDS

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
201.41	234.97	268.54	302.11	369.25	436.38	503.52	604.22	704.92

- 2.3 Having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 2.1(i) and 2.2 above, the County Council of the City and County of Cardiff in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2022/23 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

Part of Council's Area VALUATION BANDS

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Area									
Lisvane	1,097.59	1,280.51	1,463.45	1,646.38	2,012.24	2,378.10	2,743.96	3,292.76	3,841.55
Pentyrch	1,117.58	1,303.83	1,490.10	1,676.36	2,048.88	2,421.41	2,793.93	3,352.72	3,911.50
Radyr	1,104.42	1,288.49	1,472.56	1,656.63	2,024.76	2,392.91	2,761.04	3,313.26	3,865.47
St. Fagans	1,097.61	1,280.54	1,463.47	1,646.41	2,012.27	2,378.15	2,744.01	3,292.82	3,841.62
Old St. Mellons	1,097.35	1,280.23	1,463.13	1,646.02	2,011.80	2,377.58	2,743.36	3,292.04	3,840.71
Tongwynlais	1,102.38	1,286.11	1,469.84	1,653.57	2,021.02	2,388.49	2,755.94	3,307.14	3,858.33
All other parts of the Council's Area	1,082.51	1,262.92	1,443.34	1,623.76	1,984.59	2,345.43	2,706.26	3,247.52	3,788.77

- 2.4 Authorise the Corporate Director Resources to make payments under Section 38 of the Local Government (Wales) Act 1994 from the Council Fund by equal instalments on the last working day of each month from April 2022 to March 2023 in respect of the precept levied by the Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales in the sum of £45,046,716.

- 2.5 Agree that the Common Seal be affixed to the said Council Tax.

- 2.6 Agree that the Common Seal be affixed to precepts for Port Health Expenses for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 namely

	£
County Council of the City and County of Cardiff	117,749
Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council	13,125

- 2.7 Agree that notices of the making of the said Council Taxes signed by the Chief Executive be given by advertisement in the local press under Section 38(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

- 3.0 In accordance with the Local Government Act 2003, the Local Authority (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Wales) Regulations 2003 and subsequent amendments and the CIPFA Prudential Code and Treasury Management Codes of Practice:
- (a) Approve the Capital Strategy 2022/23.
 - (b) Approve the Treasury Management Strategy 2022/23 and authorise the Section 151 Officer to raise such funds as may be required to finance capital expenditure by temporary or long-term borrowing.
 - (c) Approve the Prudential Indicators for 2022/23 – 2026/27 including the affordable borrowing limit.
 - (d) Delegate to the Section 151 Officer the ability to effect movement between the limits for borrowing and long-term liabilities, within the limit for any year, and to bring forward or delay schemes in the Capital Programme.
 - (e) Approve the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy for 2022/23.
- 4.0 To approve the Budgetary Framework outlined in this report.
- 5.0 To maintain the current Council Tax Reduction Scheme as set out in this report.
- 6.0 That the 2023/24 Council Tax base calculation be made assuming an increase in the Empty Homes Council Tax Premium to 100% subject to considering the outcome of any required consultation, Equalities assessment and due regard to all other material considerations including Welsh Government guidance.

Cllr Rodney Berman - The Liberal Democrat Group
2 March 2022