

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

Cllr Taylor Liberal Democrat Group

Revenue

Line	Directorate	Description	(Savings)/ Costs £000	Cumulative £000
Directorate Costs / (Savings)				
ECDS C2	Economic Development	St David's Hall	500	500
	Planning, Transport & Environment	Additional Income from Parking	(100)	400
	Planning, Transport & Environment	Additional income from On Street Parking	(300)	100
	Council Wide	Drawdown from Resources Reserve	(125)	(25)
	Council Wide	Reduce the Budget General Contingency	(1,000)	(1,025)
	Council Wide	Increase the Empty Homes Premium to 300%	(500)	(1,525)
	Council Wide	Reduction in Treasury Management Reserve	(1,152)	(2,677)
Additional Expenditure/Financial Pressures				
	Education	Consider reducing eligibility for free school transport from 3 miles to 2.5 miles	800	(1,877)
	Education	Line 512 (income) school bus pass increase of 12.5% is removed.	6	(1,871)
	Planning, Transport & Environment	Socially valuable bus routes Additional To support the provision of demand-responsive bus services, as deemed appropriate to ensure continuity of bus services for affected communities.	500	(1,371)
	Performance & Partnerships	Set up a Homelessness Task Force	100	(1,271)
	Education	Line 272 School means increase of 5% is removed	500	(771)
	Planning, Transport & Environment	Deliver a Pedestrian Strategy	25	(746)

Capital

The proposal amends the following lines:

	Annual Sums	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Total
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
3	Alleygating	150	50	50	50	50	350
8	Footway Investment	750	750	750	750	750	3,750
12	Bus Corridor Improvements	500	500	500	500	500	2,500

	Ongoing Schemes	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Total
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
46	Line 46 New Recycling, Repair and Re-use Facilities exploration of options in the North of the city and any required land acquisition for new Household Waste Recycling,	200	1,275	175	(1,650)	0	0
49	Indoor Arena Enabling works	(9,807)	(14,243)	0	0	0	0

	New Schemes	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Total
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
58	Carriageway and Footway Resurfacing	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	5,000

	Invest to Save Schemes	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Total
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
91	Indoor Arena - Land Assembly and Multi Storey Car Park		(26,750)	(18,250)		0	(45,000)
92	Indoor Arena - Direct Funding (Replacement for Income Strip Third Party Funding)	(8,000)	(50,000)	(60,000)	(20,100)	0	(138,100)
94	Pentwyn Leisure Centre Redevelopment	1,046					1,046
100	Invest to Save Annual Bid Allocation (including Solar Panels)	400	311				711

Changes in Capital Funding		2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Total
	Additional Borrowing - Invest to save/earn schemes to be repaid from revenue savings/incidental income or directorate budget	6,554	76,439	78,250	20,100	0	181,343

Proposed by: Councillor Rhys Taylor

Seconded by: Councillor Joseph Carter

Statutory Officer Commentary on the Liberal Democrat Budget Proposals 2023/24

Financial Implications

The proposal from the Liberal Democrat Group includes the removal of one savings proposal (St David's Hall), one new savings proposal, amendment to five fees and charges, four new expenditure commitments, a drawdown on Reserves, a use of contingency and an increase to 300% of the Empty Homes Premium. This would facilitate a reduction in the proposed increase to the rate of Council Tax, with the amendment proposing an increase of 3.5%.

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

There are two proposals for drawdown on Reserves, the most significant of which is the use of £1.152 million from the Treasury Management Reserve. This reduces the Reserve to £15.290 million and provides a weakening of the financial resilience of the Council as one off funding has been primarily used to fund recurring budgets. The Treasury Management Reserve is set aside to manage risk in relation to major projects and to offer some protection and flexibility to the wider capital programme, particularly in the current context of inflationary pressures.

The other proposed drawdown on reserves would see £0.125 million from the Resources Reserve to fund for twelve months the costs of setting up a Homelessness Task Force and the delivery of a Pedestrian Strategy. This would leave a balance on the reserve of £2.454 million. As this funding would be one-off in nature, consideration of the continuation of the Homelessness Task Force would need to be addressed in 2024/25. The Resources reserve provides support across the Directorate particularly where transition to new methods of operation are required.

The proposal to deliver an alternative operating model for St David's Hall has been removed. The new savings proposal is to further reduce the level of general contingency budget by £1.0 million, reducing the contingency budget to zero. This proposal results in

no contingency being available in the event of savings not being achieved and may result in in-year interventions.

The additional resources allocated into the budget by the Cabinet proposal reflected the significant uncertainty regarding the financial position over the short and medium term. This proposed Amendment through the use of one off Reserves and reducing the budget contingency to zero does weaken that level of financial resilience. However, this in part, is offset by decisions made in respect to the Capital Programme that will release revenue savings through the medium term.

There are five fees and income proposals. The first proposal is to not increase school meals prices for 2023/24 which is envisaged to require £500,000 to cover anticipated lost income. The second proposal is to not increase the cost of bus passes for those children who live outside 3 miles and this is envisaged to cost £6,000. The third proposal is to increase the cost of Car Parks to an average of £5 per hour and this is envisaged to generate an additional £100,000. The fourth proposal is to increase On Street Car Parking to £2 per hour and this is expected to generate an additional £300,000. Both Car parking charges have a higher degree of risk (Red / Amber) as they have not been tested in respect to achievability and the customer demand for these services needs to be regularly monitored to ensure that the financial levels anticipated are met. The final proposal is to not proceed with the booking fee of £5 for Bulky Waste collection. There is no loss of income as a result of the removal of this proposal but the opportunity to reduce the number of abandoned pick-ups has been lost.

The proposal includes an increase on the Empty Homes Council Tax Premium to 300%. It is anticipated that the increase in Council Tax Premium will generate a net income of £500,000.

A new expenditure commitment proposes an extension of the eligibility to free school transport to children who live within 2.5 miles. The current eligibility criteria is 3 miles. The anticipated cost of this is £800,000 but is dependent on supplier and route availability for the costs to be contained within this figure. The second expenditure commitment is to add an additional £500,000 for socially valuable bus routes in order to ensure that there is financial capacity to support priority routes.

In addition to the revenue proposals outlined above, proposals have also been put forward in relation to the Capital Programme. In the main, this proposal seeks to cease the Indoor Arena Project, use freed up capital resources for other projects, seek to re-profile Capital expenditure and provide some level of capital financing resilience going forward.

The total net effect on the Capital Programme is a reduction with the removal of the Indoor Arena. The ceasing of the Indoor Arena Project will potentially trigger a penalty clause which will need to be found from Revenue due to the capital costs incurred being abortive. The decision to cease the project will need to be subject to a detailed evaluation being undertaken in order to be fully informed of the financial consequences, including any aborted enabling costs, prior to final decision. Available Revenue Resources are available in the short term that could support some or all of the immediate costs (depending on scale required post detailed evaluation) with an opportunity for further revenue savings in the medium term.

The Indoor Arena Project relied upon £14.357 million capital receipts. This proposal has reallocated the use of £13.357 million capital receipts across several lines of capital expenditure, Carriageway investment £5 million, Footway investment £3.750 million, Bus Corridor improvements £2.5 million, Pentwyn Leisure Centre additional £1.046 million, alleygating £350,000 and increase in invest to save green projects (£711,000). In addition,

there has been reprofiling of Household Waste Recycling Centre so it can start earlier. The remaining £1 million capital receipts not used will be used to provide further financial resilience to the Capital Programme and potentially reduced capital financing costs of £85,000 per annum going forward from 2024/25.

The additional resources allocated into the budget by the Cabinet proposal reflected the significant uncertainty regarding the financial position over the short and medium term. This proposed Amendment through the use of one off Reserves and the budget contingency to zero does weaken that level of financial resilience. However, this in part, is offset by decisions made in respect to the Capital Programme that will release revenue savings through the medium term.

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 them.

As regards the proposals in respect of the reduction of General Contingency Budget, and drawdown from reserves, 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 sets out this 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 and may require statutory processes to be followed as well as consultation and Equality Impact Assessments. Decisions taken in advance of this detailed work, can only be "in principle" decisions subject to the necessary statutory processes, consultation, equality impact assessments and wellbeing evaluations, and the results of these must be taken into account by the decision makers when considering any decision whether or not to implement. The time necessarily taken to follow these decision making processes, is likely to result in these proposals not having full year effect in 2023/24.

The proposed recommendation that the increase in the Empty Homes Council Tax Premium to 300% 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 .

Detailed proposals to support the provision of demand-responsive bus services, as deemed appropriate to ensure the continuity of bus services for affected communities, would need to comply with all legislative requirements including those relating to service subsidies.

Cancellation of the indoor arena project requires detailed legal advice to be obtained on any proposals to amend existing contracts or development agreements, to ensure all implications are assessed and made known to the decision maker. For this reason any decision made would need to be an in principle decision subject to detailed evaluation.

In relation to the proposal to increase parking charges, Councillors are referred to paragraph 126 of the legal implications in the main report, which notes that parking charges must be based on legitimate considerations that can be taken into account in

accordance with the provision of the relevant legislation. Decisions to raise charges based purely on a wish to increase revenue may be open to legal challenge.

Budget Summary – Liberal Democrat Group 2023/24

Resources Available:-	£000	£000
Welsh Government	593,605	
Use of Reserves	2,777	
Council Tax at 3.5% increase	<u>207,886</u>	
		804,268

Resources Needed:-	
2022/23 Base Budget B/f	743,746
Commitments, Inflation, and Realignments	79,588

Less:		
Savings & Reductions in Contingency	<u>(19,066)</u>	
		804,268

RECOMMENDATIONS - LIBERAL DEMOCRATS GROUP

(a) Recommendations to Council

The Liberal Democrats 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 3.5% as set out in this report and that the Council resolve the following terms.
- 2.0 Note that at its meeting on 15 December 2022 Cabinet calculated the following amounts for the year 2023/24 in accordance with the regulations made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:
 - a) 150,482 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	2,866
Pentyrch	3,605
Radyr	4,057
St. Fagans	1,941
Old St. Mellons	2,485
Tongwynlais	826

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 2023/24 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 £541,709). £1,277,562,709
- b) Aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for items set out in Section 32(3)(a) and (c). £475,930,000
- 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. £801,632,709
- 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. £593,605,016
- 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. £1,385.07
- f) Aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1). £541,709
- 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. £1,381.47
- 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 | 1,404.85 |
| Pentyrch | 1,434.07 |
| Radyr & Morganstown | 1,420.64 |
| St Fagans | 1,405.68 |
| St Mellons | 1,403.47 |
| Tongwynlais | 1,411.13 |
- 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.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Area									
Lisvane	936.57	1,092.66	1,248.75	1,404.85	1,717.04	2,029.23	2,341.42	2,809.70	3,277.98
Pentyrch	956.05	1,115.39	1,274.73	1,434.07	1,752.75	2,071.44	2,390.12	2,868.14	3,346.16
Radyr	947.09	1,104.95	1,262.79	1,420.64	1,736.33	2,052.04	2,367.73	2,841.28	3,314.83
St. Fagans	937.12	1,093.31	1,249.49	1,405.68	1,718.05	2,030.43	2,342.80	2,811.36	3,279.92
Old St. Mellons	935.65	1,091.59	1,247.53	1,403.47	1,715.35	2,027.24	2,339.12	2,806.94	3,274.76
Tongwynlais	940.75	1,097.55	1,254.33	1,411.13	1,724.71	2,038.30	2,351.88	2,822.26	3,292.64
All other parts of the Council's Area	920.98	1,074.48	1,227.97	1,381.47	1,688.46	1,995.46	2,302.45	2,762.94	3,223.43

- 2.2 Note that for the year 2023/24, 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
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
216.31	252.37	288.42	324.47	396.57	468.68	540.78	648.94	757.10

- 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 2023/24 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	1,152.88	1,345.03	1,537.17	1,729.32	2,113.61	2,497.91	2,882.20	3,458.64	4,035.08
Pentyrch	1,172.36	1,367.76	1,563.15	1,758.54	2,149.32	2,540.12	2,930.90	3,517.08	4,103.26
Radyr	1,163.40	1,357.32	1,551.21	1,745.11	2,132.90	2,520.72	2,908.51	3,490.22	4,071.93
St. Fagans	1,153.43	1,345.68	1,537.91	1,730.15	2,114.62	2,499.11	2,883.58	3,460.30	4,037.02
Old St. Mellons	1,151.96	1,343.96	1,535.95	1,727.94	2,111.92	2,495.92	2,879.90	3,455.88	4,031.86
Tongwynlais	1,157.06	1,349.92	1,542.75	1,735.60	2,121.28	2,506.98	2,892.66	3,471.20	4,049.74
All other parts of the Council's Area	1,137.29	1,326.85	1,516.39	1,705.94	2,085.03	2,464.14	2,843.23	3,411.88	3,980.53

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 2023 to March 2024 in respect of the precept levied by the Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales in the sum of £48,826,895.

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 2023 to 31 March 2024 namely

	£
County Council of the City and County of Cardiff	152,438
Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council	17,053

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 2023/24.

(b) Approve the Treasury Management Strategy 2023/24 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 2023/24 – 2027/28 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 2023/24.

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.

Cllr Rhys Taylor - The Liberal Democrat Group
8 March 2023