

INDEPENDENT GROUP BUDGET AMENDMENTS 2021/22

The City Council is asked to consider the following amendments to the Executive's budget proposal contained in Minute EX06/21, Executive Response to the Budget Consultation and Recommendations for the 2021/22 Budget (Key Decision).

Independent Group Proposed Amendment No. 1

Removal of Rats in domestic properties charge:

It is proposed to remove the charge for treatment of rats in domestic properties. We believe that now is not the time for the introduction of this new charge with the financial difficulties' households are currently encountering with COVID. We therefore ask the Executive to reconsider the implementation of this charge for 2021/22 and fund the income shortfall from Revenue Reserves.

Proposed by: Cllr Betton
Seconded by: Cllr Tinnion

Corporate Director of Finance and Resources Comments and Impact on the Executive's budget proposals:

The pest control service has a history of not achieving its income targets. The implementation of this charge is seen as a way to ensure the income target can be met. If the charge had not been implemented there would continue to be a shortfall of income and a pressure on the Council's Revenue budget.

The proposed charge is expected to bring in additional income of between £19,000 and £28,000, therefore an estimate of £25,000 is used as the basis for this amendment.

The consequences of accepting this amendment is that there will be an increase in the Council's non-recurring revenue budget for 2021/22 of £25,000 to support the proposal. There will be an equivalent reduction in the level of overall Council reserves.

The proposal has no impact on the level of Council Tax increase proposed by the Executive.

The proposal has no impact on the Capital Programme proposed by the Executive.

The amendment will result in the following main changes to the Executive's Revenue Budget proposals for 2021/22 as set out in Minute EX06/21:

Schedule 4 – Non-Recurring Budget Increases

- There would be an increase in the overall level of Non-Recurring Budget increases of £25,000 for 2021/22, increasing from £777,000 to £802,000 in 2021/22.

Schedule 5 – Summary Net Budget Requirement

- Total Revenue Expenditure would increase by £25,000 in 2021/22.
- Contributions from Reserves for non-recurring commitments would increase by £25,000 from £72,000 to £97,000 in 2021/22.

Schedule 10 – Useable Reserve Projections

- There would be a decrease in the level of General Fund/Projects Reserve projections of £25,000 in 2021/22 leaving total reserves at £3.115 million by 2025/26.

Procedure Note:

The financial effect of each **individual** amendment is as set out in the amendment presented. However, if Council proposed any **combination** of amendments to the Executive budget proposals, then there would be a cumulative effect on the budget and reserves.

Before any amendment is voted on, the Council will give the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources an opportunity to address the meeting to explain, if necessary, the effect of the proposed amendment under consideration and the cumulative impact of any previous amendments before the vote is taken. They may also agree to an adjournment to enable Members to consider the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources advice prior to the vote on any amendment.

The procedure, should any amendment be carried, is set out in full at Agenda Item 6 (4) paragraph 3.8 to 3.10.