

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE

Date of Meeting: 27 June 2023

REPORT TO COUNCIL

Date of Meeting: 18 July 2023

Report of: Director Finance

Title: Overview of General Fund Revenue Budget 2022/23

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Is this an Executive or Council Function?

Council

1. What is the report about?

To advise Members of the overall financial position of the General Fund Revenue Budgets for the 2022/23 financial year and to seek approval for the General Fund working balance, a number of supplementary budgets and the creation of new earmarked reserves.

2. Recommendations:

It is recommended that Members of the Executive note the report and Council notes and approves (where applicable):

1. That the net transfer of £12,346,956 from Earmarked Reserves as detailed in paragraph 8.11 is approved;
2. That the supplementary budgets of £6,447,320 and budget transfers as detailed in paragraph 8.13 are approved;
3. That the Earmarked Reserves at 31 March 2023 be noted
4. That the Council Tax account and collection rate be noted
5. That the outstanding sundry debt, aged debt analysis and debt write-off figures be noted
6. The creditors payments performance be noted
7. By taking into account the overall financial position of the Council, the General Fund working balance at 31 March 2023 be approved at £6,151,289.
8. The One Exeter programme update

3. Reasons for the recommendation:

To formally note the Council's end of year financial position and carry forward any budgets that were not spent but where the funding is still required.

4. What are the resource implications including non financial resources?

The impact on the General Fund working balance is set out in section 8.12.

5. Section 151 Officer comments:

2022-23 was undoubtedly a challenging year financially across the Country. Significant inflation fuelled by high energy prices, a higher than anticipated national pay settlement and income streams still struggling to reach the budget meant that the Council had to take action to address significant issues.

Whilst the headline figures set out that, some £629,000 is being added to the General Fund Reserve, this is offset by supplementary budget requests totalling £1.807m to be funded from the Reserve. In addition to this, the Council used £2 million from the earmarked reserve set aside to address budget volatility. Owing to the challenging economic circumstances that the Country faced, the Council spent £3.2 million more than it received in income in 2022-23. Whilst the Council was protected by its decision to set aside funds, this is an untenable position that the Council cannot afford to reoccur. This was a good example of a situation, outside the control of the Council, which causes significant financial pressure. It also gives a strong endorsement to the reason for holding a General Fund Reserve level at £3 million.

Some of the issues faced have been addressed in the 2023-24 budget (energy and Leisure), but there are areas of concern around income targets. Business Rates, Parking, Trade Waste, Home Call Alarm and Civic Centre rental were all under target and this will require close monitoring during the year to ensure that a financial shortfall requiring action does not arise.

The Council's medium term financial plan anticipates reserves being reduced to the minimum required by 2024-25. Any further reduction in the balance required during this financial year will bring forward further reductions being required to balance the 2024-25 budget.

6. What are the legal aspects?

Section 28 of the Local Government Act 2003 imposes a statutory duty on the Council to monitor during the financial year its expenditure and income against the budget calculations. If the monitoring establishes that the budgetary situation has deteriorated, the Council must take such action as it considers necessary to deal with the situation. This might include, for example, action to reduce spending in the rest of the year, or to increase income, or to finance the shortfall from reserves.

The Local Government Finance Act 1992 places a legal requirement on Council to approve not only the budget but also any changes to the budget proposed during the year. Council has a legal duty to ensure that the budget is balanced and that any changes to the budget are fully funded.

7. Monitoring Officer's comments:

The Monitoring should remind members that they are under an obligation to exercise their fiduciary duty carefully. The meaning of fiduciary duty can be summarised as a duty to conduct administration in a business-like manner with reasonable care, skill and caution and with due regards to the council's rate payers. When discharging their fiduciary duties councillors will need to consider the following:

- a. Prudent use of the council's resources, including the raising of income and the control of expenditure;
- b. Financial prudence both long and short term;
- c. Striking a fair balance between the interest of the council tax payers on the one hand and the community interest and adequate and efficient services on the other hand;

8. Report details:

Overview of General Fund Revenue Budget 2022/23

8.1 Financial Summary

FUND	Planned Transfer To / (From) Working Balance £	Budget Variance Over / (under) £	Outturn Transfer 2022/23 £
General Fund	(1,815,600)	2,444,316	628,716

8.2 General Fund (Appendix 1 & Appendix 2)

The Services show an overall underspend of £4,665,598 against a revised budget of £20,870,960. Variances of more than +/- £30,000 are detailed below 8.3

8.3 Chief Executive

Budget Heading	Over / (Underspend)
IT Services	(£156,767)
Responsible Officer: Chief Executive The year-end underspend is predominantly due to ECC's share of the overall Strata savings. £135,500 of this has been requested back as a supplementary budget in 2023/24.	
Affordable Housing Development	(£190,000)
Responsible Officer: Chief Executive The remaining business cases were not started in 2022/23 and will not be commissioned in 2023/24. Therefore, the entire budget is given up as a saving.	

8.4 Housing and Supporting People

Budget Heading	Over / (Underspend)
Housing Needs and Homelessness	(£343,466)

Responsible Officer: Service Lead, Housing Needs & Homelessness

It is proposed that unspent grant income is transferred to earmarked reserves, corresponding supplementary budgets have been requested for 2023/24.

GF Housing – Property

£59,632

Responsible Officer: Tenancy Services Lead

The cumulative effect of a number of factors has led to an overspend. In addition to the high costs of physical and material resources, a shortage of labour has increased turnaround times, leading to longer periods with rental loss. Landlords are paid at an incremental rate of CPI+1% every year, however LHA remains static, so rental income remains the same but the rent

Revenues, Benefits & Customer Access

(£430,883)

Responsible Officer: Service Revenues, Benefits & Customer Access

The generation of new overpayments has been on the decline over the last 3 years. This is due to:

- caseloads dropping as working age Housing Benefit (HB) cases migrate over to Universal Credit (UC),
- being more up to date with our work on a regular basis, and
- the introduction of data feeds such as VEP (Earnings & pensions data) which means our caseload overall is kept more accurate, so reducing the number of overpayments and the size of them, as changes are picked up sooner.

The cases that have migrated to UC so far are also those most likely to generate overpayments i.e. working age with frequent changes, in and out of work etc. so the opportunity to create an overpayment is declining. The shift away from HB to UC also shifts the recovery of overpayments away from deductions from ongoing HB towards UC deductions which we have no control over and unfortunately our deductions are not classified as high priority meaning it will take longer to collect our debt.

Business as usual within the service has been put on hold for the last 3 years in order to administer government support schemes during the Covid-19 pandemic and latterly for the cost of living crisis. Each scheme attracts new burdens funding to cover the cost of administration however most of the new burdens funding is paid in arrears, substantially so in the case of the Household Support fund schemes, so normal service budgets and resources cover the cost meantime. The service still has the Household Support Fund scheme 4 and Economic Vulnerability Fund schemes to deliver as well as catching up on business as usual work, such as discount reviews, that have been put on hold over this period. The grant income now received needs to be utilised to resource and administer those schemes and the catching up of business as usual. It is proposed that unspent grant income is transferred to earmarked reserves, corresponding supplementary budgets have been requested for 2023/24.

Organisational Change Programme

(£228,887)

Responsible Officer: Organisational Transformation Programme Lead

The budget is funded from an earmarked reserve and has been re-profiled to reflect the on-going future programme, the underspend has been included as a supplementary budget request for 2023/24.

8.5 **City Development**

Budget Heading	Over / (Underspend)
Planning	(£564,108)
<p>Responsible Officer: Service Lead, City Development</p> <p>There an underspend of £377k on the local plan budget. This is as a result of a re-profiling exercise of planned expenditure. This took account of an additional consultation added to the plan preparation process and a review of evidence requirements and how the evidence would be put together.</p> <p>The budget required for CIL charging schedule consultancy work has not yet been spent and a supplementary budget requested for 2023/24.</p> <p>Income collected in respect of habitats mitigation contributions from developers will be transferred to an earmarked reserve.</p>	
Liveable Exeter Garden City	(£1,272,917)
<p>Responsible Officer: Director</p> <p>Grant funding has been provided from DLUCH to progress Liveable Exeter, the money can be spent in any given financial year so the flexibility remains to apportion the money as projects are developed. Therefore the unspent grant money will be transferred into an earmarked reserve and a supplementary budget requested in 2023/24.</p>	

8.6 **Communications, Culture and Leisure Facilities**

Budget Heading	Over / (Underspend)
Culture	(£121,159)
<p>Responsible Officer: Service Lead – Communications, Tourism & Culture</p> <p>This underspend is predominantly due to the supplementary budget of £100k not being utilised for special events; this will be requested again in 23/24. The remainder is small underspends in pay and supplies & services.</p>	
Markets & Halls	(£251,785)

Responsible Officer: Facilities & Markets Manager

There are several contributing factors to this underspend, the majority of which is in the Matford Centre. Underspends in staffing has led to saving of £42k, with vacancies not being filled until a restructure was finalised. It has proven another successful year for Kivells, the Livestock Auctioneers and ECCs portion of the profit share has led to a surplus to budgeted income of £77.4k. Solar panel energy has provided additional income of £96k above budget and there has also been an additional £20k in car-parking. The remainder is savings elsewhere, including the Corn Exchange (£21.7k), which has shown a return to pre-pandemic levels of business. However, with the continuing cost of living crisis, it is hard to predict if this level of activity is sustainable over the coming year.

Museum Services

(£111,810)

Responsible Officer: Museums Manager & Cultural Lead

This year's underspend can be mainly attributed to three one-off situations. Firstly, the positive outcome of the rates Tribunal case has led to a rebate of £80k for rates and Exeter bid levy. Secondly, income has exceeded budget by £47.6k predominantly due to the successful Lego exhibition. There have also been material savings against staffing due to vacancies. These savings has offset the £53.k loss against income in RAMM's shop. Redundancy costs of £26k will be covered by the redundancy reserve. It should be noted that this year's underspend has been created by circumstances that are not likely to be repeated – vacancies will be filled, the rates rebate will not be repeated and there are no large exhibits planned to bring in revenue.

Leisure & Sport

£1,046,331

Responsible Officer: Director - Communications, Culture & Leisure

Leisure's final out-turn position is an overspend of £1,046,331; however, £66,639 of redundancy costs will be covered by reserves giving an adjusted out-turn of £979,692.

As previously reported, this overspend is due to higher business rates and electricity costs. Membership income has exceeded expectations, helping to mitigate the impact of these.

A restructure has now taken place reducing the operating budget significantly: the loss making crèche has been replaced, opening hours have been adjusted to reflect the new reduced staffing levels and prices have increased where appropriate. All these mitigation measures are designed to allow leisure to operate in its new budget parameters and keep facilities open to the public.

St Sidwells Point

(£59,850)

Responsible Officer: Director - Communications, Culture & Leisure	
The £59,850 will be requested as a supplementary budget in 2023/24 as the final pieces of work are completed at St Sidwells Point	
Active & Healthy People	(£569,587)
Responsible Officer: Active & Healthy People Programme Lead	
As previously reported the CIL funded contract with Exeter Community Initiatives to deliver the VCSE infrastructure support for 'Exeter Connect' completed in November 2022 although the programme was able to continue to 31 March 2023 due to an accrued operational underspend.	
There was an underspend of £485k against the budgeted £750k to formally progress the Wonford Community Wellbeing Hub programme. This was a proposed 15 month programme of work from July 2022 so the remainder of the budget will be spent in 2023/24 to develop and finalise the detailed final designs and business case for planning.	
Exeter Community Grants Programme	(£37,575)
Responsible Officer: Active & Healthy People Programme Lead	
There is an underspend of £37,575 on the discretionary community grants programme due to the non-allocation of the full budget of ward and small grants. The grants budget for 2023/24 is currently paused and will be confirmed following the accrual of further neighbourhood CIL receipts to be received based on the planning forecasts.	

8.7

Net Zero Exeter and City Management

Budget Heading	Over / (Underspend)
Environmental Protection	(£110,685)
Responsible Officer: Service Lead – Environmental Health & Community Safety	
Vacancies within the Neighbourhood Team in particular, coupled with funding received associated with the reallocation of existing staff to support the Homes4Ukraine initiative, have more than compensated for extra costs of the pay award across the service unit.	
Licensing, Food, Health & Safety	£210,816
Responsible Officer: Service Lead – Environmental Health & Community Safety	
Home Call income continued to fall short of the income target due to a loss of customers in recent years. The marketing strategy which sought to raise the profile of this service area has generated an increase in enquiries about the service and which should result in growth of the customer base over 2023.	
Parking Services	£601,865

Responsible Officer: Service Lead – Net Zero and Business

Car Park charges have fallen back from the 98% achievement of the budget profile to the end of September. Quarter 4 revenues were in line with the year to date average at quarter 3 with an achievement rate of 95.8% for the year (-0.4%).

Season ticket income remained affected by changes in demand from commuters and was only 56% of the budgeted level.

RingGo and other card payment fees were significantly over budget, this reflects customers switching payment for parking from cash to credit card and by RingGo.

Waterways**£379,054****Responsible Officer: Service Lead – Harbour Master**

The sinking of a vessel badly affected this management unit – clean-up costs and dismantling / disposal of the wreck exceeded £133k. At 2021/22 year-end £44k of income was incorrectly accrued in that year whilst a further £85k resulted from targets being too high £70k (canal licences and laying alongside) or rent re-negotiations beyond the unit's control £15k. The service has also been impacted by the pay offer, there are no compensating vacancies, and agency cover has been required for staff absence increasing costs £60k over budget. Boat, fuel and other transport costs overspent (£28k) whilst buoy costs, electricity and preparatory work for dredging, thereafter postponed, added a further £52k.

Engineering Services**(£223,413)****Responsible Officer: Service Lead – Public and Green Space**

The service has struggled to recruit staff which has had a knock on effect for project starts in year. Vacancies have now been recruited to and the one-off funds issued in-year have been requested to be rolled forward to help tackle the backlog that now exists.

Parks & Green Spaces**(£106,748)****Responsible Officer: Service Lead – Public and Green Space**

The additional allocation to Children's Play Area maintenance has remained unspent with only a limited choice of companies in the market for such provision. Significantly higher capital expenditure during the year has been seen as a greater priority, but with a reduction in the recurrent budget agreed for 23/24 in the budget reduction process, more reliance will be put on ad hoc funds and the service has requested the £99,700 balance be rolled forward to cover the transition to a lower base level of activity.

Street Cleaning**(£123,780)****Responsible Officer: Service Lead – Public and Green Space**

Vacancies within Street Sweeping team, through both the inability to recruit and the difficulty in sourcing agency staff, more than compensated for the pay award.

Domestic Waste Collection**(£358,899)****Responsible Officer: Service Lead – Waste, Recycling & Fleet**

The service has struggled to recruit and this caused operational difficulties, partially offset by a temporary closure of the green waste service for 6 weeks. The delayed roll out of the food waste programme released savings in the year due to vacancies and vehicles not yet being leased for those areas where the service still has to be activated.

<p>These savings more the income that wasn't able to be recovered from Devon County Council without a full service being in operation.</p>	
Waste Chargeable Services	£564,472
<p>Responsible Officer: Service Lead – Waste, Recycling & Fleet</p> <p>As reported in previous years there is a shortfall in the trade waste income budgets, which it was hoped would be addressed by securing new agreements. The service made a surplus having recovered well since the pandemic and has secured both new and extended existing high profile contracts. However there is an ongoing shortfall against the income targets of £425,000. The higher cost of bins and skips (£53k), fuel (£27k) and the extra cost of the pay award and use of agency (£51k) added to this overspend</p> <p>Difficulties with staff recruitment and retention had an impact on the surplus from green waste. Collections were discontinued over the summer due to a shortage of drivers, so there was an income reduction as renewals were delayed to reflect the break in service.</p>	
Waste and Fleet Overheads	£104,503
<p>Responsible Officer: Service Lead – Waste, Recycling & Fleet</p> <p>Costs of PPE (gloves) have risen significantly (£34k) as have Electricity (£25k), Trade Effluent (£11k) and Property Insurance (£9k) charges whilst pay and agency costs have also exceeded budgets.</p>	
Recycling and MRF	(£38,868)
<p>Responsible Officer: Service Lead – Waste, Recycling & Fleet</p> <p>Significant increases in the values receivable for recyclates boosted income. This more than compensated for the pay award's financial impact.</p>	
Net Zero and Business	(£161,913)
<p>Responsible Officer: Service Lead – Net Zero and Business</p> <p>Achieving external funding and significant underspends, against budgets issued from the Net Zero Exeter £1m reserve, have been reflected in supplementary budget requests for project continuations during 23/24, at £127,920.</p>	

8.8 Finance

Budget Heading	Over / (Underspend)
Major Projects	(£1,079,031)

Responsible Officer: City Surveyor	
This underspend is due to two projects not been fully utilised – ECL Property Support (£187,810 underspent) and Bus Station Demolition (£897,000 underspent). Both these underspends have been requested as supplementary budgets in 23/24, as well as £100,000 for Bus Station Wider Site options.	
Corporate Property – Estates	(£1,529,711)
Responsible Officer: City Surveyor	
This surplus to budget is almost exclusively due to the Guildhall Shopping Centre (£1.4m surplus). 2022/23 is the first year that this has been included and has been challenging in managing this new revenue stream. Others savings are due to staff vacancies in the Estates team and the budget for Asset Challenge not being used.	
Corporate Property – Assets	(£108,473)
Responsible Officer: City Surveyor	
There have been savings caused by staff vacancies in the Assets teams, totalling £77.8k. There is also a saving of almost £40k in Property Maintenance, a reduction in forecast saving from quarter 3 due to more resources being available to carry out essential maintenance in the winter months.	
Corporate	£31,415
Responsible Officer: Chief Financial Officer	
An audit fee overspend of £23.6k has been offset by a Redmond Review grant of the same amount. Bank charges, subscriptions and other expenses have all contributed to this overspend.	
Unapportionable Overheads	£185,127
Responsible Officer: Chief Financial Officer	
Since quarter three, several pension strain payments have been included into the accounts, including the out-going Chief Executive. These additional costs of £258k have been offset by an underspend in pension charges to Devon County Council of £61k and an additional £12k in contributions to pension backfunding by the HRA.	

8.9 Corporate Services

Budget Heading	Over / (Underspend)
Human Resources	(£31,254)
Responsible Officer: Service Lead – Human Resources	
The staff training budget was under-utilised in 22/23 and there were savings against staffing and supplies & services – both these gave a total saving against budget of	

almost £61,000. However, this has been offset by an overspend in apprenticeship levies and a slight drop in support services recharge income, leaving an overall saving of £31,254.	
Elections & Electoral Registration	£51,013
<p>Responsible Officer: Service Lead – Democratic Support</p> <p>This overspend is predominantly due to the two years’ of polling card postage falling into 22/23. This should have been accounted for in 21/22 but was missed due to a miscoding error; subsequently, the 21/22 out-turn showed a saving.</p>	
Civic Ceremonials	£60,687
<p>Responsible Officer: Service Lead – Democratic Support</p> <p>Just over half this overspend is due to the activities around the death of Her Late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. The remaining overspend is due to several factors affecting the Guildhall – increases in utilities and property insurance premiums (£12,000), a reduction in lettings income (£6,000 below budget) and unbudgeted staff costs (£7,000 overspend</p>	
Corporate Support	£291,949
<p>Responsible Officer: Service Lead – Democratic Support</p> <p>The majority of this overspend is due to vacant office space at the Civic Centre and although this loss of rental income has been mitigated with savings elsewhere (in staffing and supplies & services), the loss is still almost £214,000. This situation is unlikely to change in the near future, so it is probable that there will be a similar loss of income in 23/24. The remaining overspend is in the Mail Room, with an overspend on postage of £20,000 and the addition of a redundancy payment of £58,756.</p>	

8.10 **Other Financial Variations**

Budget Heading	Over / (Underspend)
Net interest	£423,192)
<p>The budgeted interest payable for 2022/23 anticipated that the Council would take out additional borrowings in the year, to finance a further loan to the wholly owned property development company; ECL, but these were not required. However, this also means that the expected interest from ECL will not be receivable.</p> <p>The slippage within the capital programme lead to a reduced borrowing requirement resulting in less interest needing to be paid. Increased rates of interest were earned on investments.</p>	
Minimum Revenue Provision & Voluntary Revenue Provision	(£529,162)

The budgeted voluntary revenue provision in respect of the Guildhall was not required in 2022/23 but will be required in future years.

8.11 Earmarked Reserves

During 2022/23 there has been an overall net transfer from Earmarked Reserves of £12.347 million. The details of all Earmarked Reserve movements are shown in Appendix 3.

Movement	2022/23
Opening Balance, as at 01/04/22	£25,743,137
Net transfer	£12,346,956
Balance, as at 31/03/23	£13,396,181

8.12 General Fund Balance

During 2022/23 there has been an overall surplus of £628,716. The minimum requirement for the General Fund working balance was approved by Council in February 2023 at £3 million.

Movement	2022/23
Opening Balance, as at 01/04/22	£5,522,573
Net	£628,716
Projected Balance at Year End	£6,151,289

8.13 Supplementary Budgets & Budget Transfers

There is a requirement for some supplementary budgets in 2023/24 as the Council has identified at the end of the year a number of revenue budgets that have not been spent but where a commitment is required in the following financial year.

It is therefore proposed that supplementary budgets totalling £6,447,320 identified in Appendix 4 are approved and added to the 2023/24 budget. The supplementary budgets will be financed from Earmarked Reserves (£4,582,200), CIL (£56,830), S106 (£1,250) and the General Fund working balance (£1,807,040).

Appendix 4 also lists proposed budget transfers which have been identified where budgets need to be transferred from one service area to another.

8.14 Outstanding Sundry Debt

An aged debt analysis of the Council's sundry debts is shown in the table below

Age of Debt	March 2021	March 2022	March 2023
Up to 29 days (current)	£2,399,454	£1,154,547	£1,436,904
30 days – 1 Year	£1,530,103	£2,129,058	£1,697,735
1 – 2 years	£451,358	£387,330	£1,645,793
2 – 3 years	£550,482	£623,164	£199,426
3 – 4 years	£276,837	£280,899	£539,002
4 – 5 years	£417,580	£180,759	£254,721
5 + years	£752,772	£1,136,701	£1,186,130
Total	£6,378,586	£5,892,458	£6,959,711

8.15 Council Tax

As at 1 April 2023, arrears amounted to £7.768m, the movements during 2022/23 were as follows:

	£m	£m
Arrears as at 1 April 2022		6.533
Add:		
2022/23 debits raised net of discounts	£79.949	
Less:		
Payments received	(£79.870)	
Refunds and change in pre-payments	£1.316	
Write-offs	(£0.160)	
Arrears as at 31 March 2023		7.768

Against the arrears of £7.768m, a bad and doubtful debt provision of £3.150m has been provided, calculated in accordance with the appropriate accounting guidelines.

The 'in-year' council tax collection rate for 2022/23 was 95.89% compared with 96.5% in 2021/22.

8.16 Debt Write-Offs

The following amounts have been written-off during 2022/23:

	2021/22 Total	2022/23
• Council Tax	£251,786	£160,603
• Business Rates	(£4,273)	£487,464
• Sundry Debt	£36,402	£2,320
• Housing Rents	£86,948	£70,467
• Non-HRA Rents	£111,991	£76,325
• HB Overpayments	£150,304	£54,507

8.17 Creditor Payments Performance

Creditors' payments continue to be monitored in spite of the withdrawal of statutory performance indicator BVPI8. The percentage paid within 30 days was 96.74% for the 2022/23 compared with 93.04% for 2021/22.

9. One Exeter Update

As Members will be aware, One Exeter is the Council's transformation programme and is a critical priority for the council.

The One Exeter Team are continuing to work with the Members, the Union, the Strategic Management Board (SMB) and the Operational Management Board (OMB) to deliver the work programme which was agreed by Council.

A report was presented to Executive in February 2022 which set out how the council would reduce the budget for 2022/23 by £1.3 million. Appendix 5 sets out how the Council has performed against the 2022/23 approved cost reductions. At year end, it is reported that £162k of the £1.3m prediction has not been realised.

The report also identified a funding gap between 2023/24 – 2026/27 of £6.6m. However, over the last year, this position has changed due to inflationary pressures causing higher wages and energy costs, together with higher interest rates. As a result of this, the funding gap identified over the remaining life of the MTFP has increased and is now showing at £9.675m. The MTFP has been re-profiled to reflect the increased funding gap. Appendix 6 sets out progress against the seven work streams identified to reduce costs and assessed risk status.

A further report was taken to Executive in February 2023, reflecting the additional financial challenges facing the council and the subsequent additional cost reductions required. The cost reductions required for 2023/24 are £2.236m and proposals have been agreed to deliver this target. Work has now started on identifying cost reduction proposals for 2024/25.

Since the last update, a new Chief Executive has been appointed who has signalled a shift in focus to deliver on the strategic priority of 'Leading a Well-Run Council'. It is

recognised that the One Exeter Programme will be integral to the delivery of this priority and going forward the programme will be structured around the six pillars of Leading a Well- Run Council, as set out below:

- A balanced budget
- Good governance
- Value-for-money services
- Customer-focussed services
- Supported and developed staff and members
- Well-managed assets

Future update reports will be structured around the six pillars set out above.

10. How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan?

This is a statement of the 2022/23 financial position.

11. What risks are there and how can they be reduced?

The risks relate to overspending the Council budget and are mitigated by regular reporting to the Strategic Management Board and Members. Members have a legal responsibility to take action where balances are projected to reach an unsustainable level and the Strategic Management Board are working to address the current projected shortfall in reserves.

12. Equality Act 2010 (The Act)

11.1 Under the Act's Public Sector Equalities Duty, decision makers are required to consider the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other prohibited conduct;
- advance equality by encouraging participation, removing disadvantage, taking account of disabilities and meeting people's needs; and
- foster good relations between people by tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

11.2 In order to comply with the general duty authorities must assess the impact on equality of decisions, policies and practices. These duties do not prevent the authority from reducing services where necessary, but they offer a way of developing proposals that consider the impacts on all members of the community.

11.3 In making decisions the authority must take into account the potential impact of that decision in relation to age, disability, race/ethnicity (includes Gypsies and Travellers), sex and gender, gender identity, religion and belief, sexual orientation, pregnant women and new and breastfeeding mothers, marriage and civil partnership status in coming to a decision.

11.4 In recommending this proposal no potential impact has been identified on people with protected characteristics as determined by the Act because there are no significant equality and diversity impacts associated with this decision.

13. Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

There are no direct carbon/environmental impacts arising from the recommendations.

14. Are there any other options?

Not applicable.

Director Finance & S151 Officer, Dave Hodgson

Authors: Nicola Morley, Bridget Kendrick and Mark Neville Smith

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972 (as amended)

Background papers used in compiling this report:

None

Contact for enquires:

Democratic Services (Committees)

Room 4.36

01392 265275