

Manchester City Council Report for Resolution

Report to: Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee – 8 February 2022
Executive – 16 February 2022

Subject: Corporate Core Budget Report 2022/23

Report of: Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer and City Solicitor

Summary

Following the Spending Review announcements and provisional local government finance settlement 2022/23 the Council is forecasting a balanced budget for 2022/23, a gap of £37m in 2023/24 and £58m by 2024/25. This report sets out the high-level position.

The finance settlement was towards the positive end of forecasts and no actions beyond those outlined in November are required to balance next year's budget. As reported to November Scrutiny meeting officers identified savings and mitigations totalling c£7.7m which are subject to approval.

The settlement was for one year only and considerable uncertainty remains from 2023/24. A longer-term strategy to close the budget gap is being prepared with an estimated requirement to find budget cuts and savings in the region of £60m over the next three years. In addition, £30m of risk-based reserves have been identified as available to manage risk and timing differences

Appended are the priorities for the services in the remit of this committee, details on the initial revenue budget changes proposed by officers and the planned capital programme.

This report provides a further updated 2022/23 budget for the Corporate Core, this includes proposed changes to the budget and reflects any feedback from the November Scrutiny committees.

Recommendations

1. The Committee and Executive are each invited to review and comment on the directorate budget report.
2. The Executive is recommended to approve these budget proposals.
3. Executive are recommended to: -
 - Note the development of the funding agreement set out in Appendix 1.
 - Support the initial underwriting of the Factory Trust fundraising costs by way of a grant agreement, to be met from the Council's existing MIF

reserve and reimbursed when fund raising is received, and delegate to the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer and City Solicitor to finalise the grant agreement, including any conditions for drawdown and repayment.

- Approve lease arrangements with delegation to finalise the details to Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer and City Solicitor.
- Continue the support to families to provide free school meals for the 2022 Easter Holiday at £15 per pupil per week. Vouchers will be distributed to households on a pupil basis via schools. This will be funded in line with the arrangements set out in Appendix 1 of this report.
- To note the Chancellors announcement on the proposal for a £150 council tax rebate for all band A-D properties as set out in paragraph x of this report.
- To delegate to the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer in conjunction with the Leader of the Council the finalising the detail of the administration of the council tax 'rebate' £150 payment.
- To delegate to the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer in conjunction with the Leader of the Council responsibility for designing and implement the discretionary support scheme. The scheme will be reported back to March Executive.

Wards Affected: All

Environmental Impact Assessment - the impact of the issues addressed in this report on achieving the zero-carbon target for the city

The budget reflects the fact that the Council has declared a climate emergency by making carbon reduction a key consideration in the Council's planning and budget proposals.

Manchester Strategy Outcomes	Summary of the Contribution to the Strategy
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	Providing the leadership and focus for the sustainable growth and transformation of the City Centre and our neighbourhoods and highways
A highly skilled city: world class and home-grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	Ensuring residents are connected to education and employment opportunities across the city.
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	Creating places where residents actively demonstrate the principles of Our Manchester unlocking the potential of our communities through participation and take responsibility for themselves and their community whilst

	encouraging others to do the same, supported by strong and active community groups.
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	Creating places where people want to live with good quality housing of different tenures and effective use of the highways network; clean, green, safe, healthy, and inclusive neighbourhoods; a good social, economic, cultural offer and environmental infrastructure.
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	Ensuring residents, neighbourhoods, businesses, and goods connect to local, national, and international markets. Through working with partners both internally and externally maximise the impact of the provision of new and enhanced physical and digital infrastructure.

Full details are in the body of the report, along with implications for:

- Equal Opportunities
- Risk Management
- Legal Considerations

Financial Consequences Revenue

The changes included within this report will be considered as part of the City Council 2022/23 budget proposals which will be considered by the Executive on 16 February 2022.

Financial Consequences – Capital

There is already an approved capital investment programme for the Directorate, and any further capital investment required to support the Directorate priorities will be subject to the usual Council capital approvals process.

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Background documents (available for public inspection):

The following documents disclose important facts on which the report is based and have been relied upon in preparing the report. Copies of the background documents are available up to 4 years after the date of the meeting. If you would like a copy, please contact one of the contact officers above.

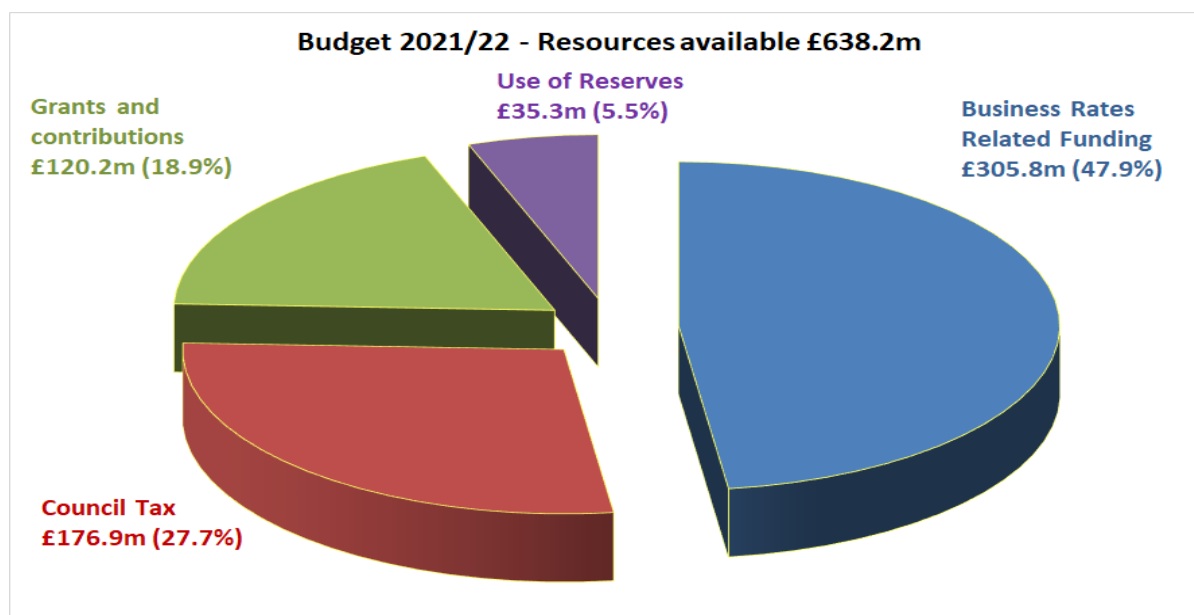
Corporate Core Budget Report 2021/22 – Executive 17th February 2021.

Spending Review and Budget update report – 9th November 2021

[Executive – 17 January 2022 Subject: Provisional local government finance settlement 2022/23 and budget assumptions](#)

1. Introduction and Context

- 1.1. On 27 October 2021, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rishi Sunak MP, delivered the Spending Review and Autumn budget 2021 to the House of Commons. The Spending Review sets the quantum of funding available for local government whilst the Finance Settlement, which followed on 16 December 2021, sets out the distribution to individual local authorities.
- 1.2. The finance settlement has been front loaded and includes several one-off distributions of funding. It is also a one-year settlement. Therefore, considerable uncertainty remains in relation to the position after 2022/23.
- 1.3. The Local Government funding reform work will be restarted in the Spring. This means that the Fair Funding Review and baseline reset are both going to be under consideration again, for possible implementation in 2023/24. This will impact on how funding between different local authorities is distributed.
- 1.4. The final budget position for 2022/23 and beyond will be confirmed at February Executive and recommended for approval to Council. This will be after the key decisions confirming the Collection Fund position, Council Tax and Business Rates base have been made and the Final Finance Settlement is received. It is unlikely that there will be any significant changes to the Provisional Settlement.
- 1.5. The Council's 2021/22 net revenue budget is currently funded from four main sources which are Council Tax, Business Rates, government grants and contributions and use of reserves. In recent years as central government funding has reduced and business rates retention has been introduced the ability to grow and maintain the resources raised locally has become even more important for financial sustainability and is integral to the Council's financial planning.
- 1.6. The following chart shows the current breakdown of resources available.



2. Current budget position

2.1. The indicative medium-term position is shown in the table below, full details are provided in the settlement and budget report to 17 January Executive meeting.

	Revised 2021 / 22 £'000	2022 / 23 £'000	2023 / 24 £'000	2024 / 25 £'000
Resources Available				
Business Rates Related Funding	156,416	338,092	322,337	340,330
Council Tax	176,857	208,965	206,620	217,197
Grants and other External Funding	120,243	104,533	87,374	85,374
Use of Reserves	184,667	36,781	30,592	15,573
Total Resources Available	638,183	688,371	646,923	658,474
Resources Required				
Corporate Costs	120,232	133,058	110,211	114,849
Directorate Costs	517,951	555,313	573,494	601,172
Total Resources Required	638,183	688,371	683,705	716,021
Shortfall / (surplus)	0	0	36,782	57,547

2.2. The budget assumptions that underpin 2022/23 to 2024/25 include the commitments made as part of the 2021/22 budget process to fund ongoing demand pressures as well as provision to meet other known pressures such as inflation and any pay awards (estimated at 3% from 2022/23). Whilst this

contributes to the scale of the budget gap it is important that a realistic budget is budget set which reflects ongoing cost and demand pressures.

- 2.3. Officers have identified options to balance the budget in 2022/23 which are subject to approval. The detail relevant to this scrutiny remit is included at Appendix 2. If these proposals are supported a balanced budget will be achieved. In addition, £30m of risk-based reserves have been identified as available to manage risk and timing differences.

3. Scrutiny of the draft budget proposals and budget reports

- 3.1. The reports have been tailored to the remit of each scrutiny committee as shown in the table below. This Committee is invited to consider the proposed changes which are within its remit and to make recommendations to the Executive before it agrees to the final budget proposals in February 2022.

Date	Meeting	Services Included
8 February 2022	Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee	Chief Executives Corporate Services Revenue and Benefits / Customer and Welfare Support Business Units
8 February 2022	Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee	Sport, Leisure, Events Libraries Galleries and Culture Compliance and Community Safety Housing Operations including Homelessness Neighbourhood working
9 February 2022	Health Scrutiny Committee	Adult Social Care and Population Health
9 February 2022	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee	Children and Education Services Youth and Play
10 February 2022	Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee	Waste and Recycling Parks Grounds maintenance
10 February 2022	Economy Scrutiny Committee	City Centre Regeneration Strategic Development Housing and residential growth Planning, Building Control, and licensing Investment Estate Work and skills Highways

4. Next Steps

4.1. The proposed next steps are as follows:

- February Scrutiny Committees (8-10 February) and Executive (16 February) receive proposed budget
- Resources and Governance Budget Scrutiny – 28 February
- March Council - approval of 2022/23 budget - 4 March
- New Municipal Year – early options around 2023/24 & 2024/25 discussed with members

5. Conclusion

- 5.1. Overall, the settlement announcements were towards the positive end of expectations. It is expected that mitigations in the region of £7.7m, as previously identified, will be sufficient to balance the 2022/23 budget.
- 5.2. Officers have estimated the future resources available based on the information available. This results in forecast gap of £37m in 2023/24 increasing to £58m in 2024/25.
- 5.3. The focus will now be on identifying savings and mitigations to keep the Council on a sustainable financial footing. It is proposed that budget cuts and savings of £60m over three years are developed for member consideration. £60m equates to just under 12% of 2022/23 directorate budgets. In addition, £30m of risk-based reserves have been identified as available to manage risk and timing differences.