

Open

Cabinet

Agenda

**6pm
Tuesday, 8th February 2022
Council Chamber
Wyre Forest House
Finepoint Way
Kidderminster**



Wyre Forest District Council



Cabinet

The Cabinet Members and their responsibilities:-

Councillor H Dyke	Leader of the Council & Economic Regeneration, Planning & Localism
Councillor G Ballinger	Deputy Leader & Culture, Leisure & Community Safety
Councillor N Martin	Housing, Health, Well-being & Democratic Services
Councillor M Rayner	Finance & Capital Portfolio
Councillor J Thomas	Operational Services

Scrutiny of Decisions of the Cabinet

The Council has one Scrutiny Committee that has power to investigate policy issues and question members of the Cabinet who have special responsibility for a particular area of the Council's activities. The Cabinet also considers recommendations from this Committee.

In accordance with Section 10 of the Council's Constitution, Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, and Standing Order 2.4 of Section 7, any item on this agenda may be scrutinised by the Scrutiny Committee if it is "called in" by the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and any other three non-Cabinet members.

The deadline for "calling in" Cabinet decisions is 5pm on Friday 18 February 2022.

Councillors wishing to "call in" a decision on this agenda should contact Louisa Bright, Principal Committee and Member Services Officer, Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster. Telephone: 01562 732763 or email louisa.bright@wyreforestdc.gov.uk

Urgent Key Decisions

If the Cabinet needs to take an urgent key decision, the consent of the Scrutiny Committee Chairman must be obtained. If the Scrutiny Committee Chairman is unable to act the Chairman of the Council or in his/her absence the Vice-Chairman of the Council, must give consent. Such decisions will not be the subject to the call in procedure.

Declaration of Interests by Members – interests of members in contracts and other matters

Declarations of Interest are a standard item on every Council and Committee agenda and each Member must provide a full record of their interests in the Public Register.

In addition, alongside the Register of Interest, the Members Code of Conduct ("the Code") requires the Declaration of Interests at meetings. Members have to decide first whether or not they have a disclosable interest in the matter under discussion.

Please see the Members' Code of Conduct as set out in Section 14 of the Council's constitution for full details.

Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) / Other Disclosable Interest (ODI)

DPI's and ODI's are interests defined in the Code of Conduct that has been adopted by the District.

If you have a DPI (as defined in the Code) in a matter being considered at a meeting of the Council (as defined in the Code), the Council's Standing Orders require you to leave the room where the meeting is held, for the duration of any discussion or voting on that matter.

If you have an ODI (as defined in the Code) you will need to consider whether you need to leave the room during the consideration of the matter.

For further information

If you have any queries about this Agenda or require any details of background papers, further documents or information you should contact Louisa Bright, Principal Committee and Member Services Officer, Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster, DY11 7WF. Telephone: 01562 732763 or email louisa.bright@wyreforestdc.gov.uk

Documents referred to in this agenda may be viewed on the Council's website - www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/council/meetings/main.htm

Wyre Forest District Council

Cabinet

Tuesday, 8th February 2022

Council Chamber, Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster

Part 1

Open to the press and public

Agenda item	Subject	Page Number
1.	Apologies for Absence	
2.	Declarations of Interests by Members In accordance with the Code of Conduct, to invite Members to declare the existence and nature of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI's) and / or Other Disclosable Interests (ODI's) in the following agenda items and indicate the action that they will be taking when the item is considered. Please see the Members' Code of Conduct as set out in Section 14 of the Council's Constitution for full details.	
3.	Minutes To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on the 9 November 2021.	6
4.	CALL INS a verbal update will be given on any decisions which have been "called in" since the last meeting of the Cabinet.	
5.	Items Requiring Urgent Attention To consider any item which, in the opinion of the Chairman requires consideration at the meeting as a matter of urgency.	
6.	Public Participation In accordance with the Council's Scheme for Public Speaking at Meetings of Full Council/Cabinet, to allow members of the public to present petitions, ask questions, or make statements, details of which have been received by 12 noon on 31 January 2022. (See front cover for contact details).	

7.		
7.1	<p style="text-align: right;">Councillor M Rayner</p> <p>Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022-2025 & Capital Strategy 2022-2032</p> <p>To consider a report from the Head of Resources updating Cabinet on the Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2022-2025 and make recommendations to Council on the proposed budget decision. This report also seeks approval of the Capital Strategy for 2022-2032.</p> <p><i>The appendices to this report have been circulated electronically and a public inspection copy is available on request. (See front cover for details.)</i></p>	12

8.	To consider any other business, details of which have been communicated to the Solicitor to the Council before the commencement of the meeting, which the Chairman by reason of special circumstances considers to be of so urgent a nature that it cannot wait until the next meeting.	
9.	<p>Exclusion of the Press and Public</p> <p>To consider passing the following resolution:</p> <p>“That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of “exempt information” as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act”.</p>	

Part 2

Not open to the Press and Public

10.	To consider any other business, details of which have been communicated to the Solicitor to the Council before the commencement of the meeting, which the Chairman by reason of special circumstances considers to be of so urgent a nature that it cannot wait until the next meeting.	
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WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER

9 NOVEMBER 2021 (6PM)

Present:

Councillors: H E Dyke (Chairman), G W Ballinger (Vice-Chairman), N Martin, M Rayner and J W R Thomas.

Observers:

Councillors: N J Desmond, C Edginton-White, I Hardiman, M J Hart and F M Oborski MBE.

CAB.46 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

CAB.47 Declarations of Interests by Members

No declarations of interest were made.

CAB.48 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 13 October 2021 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

CAB.49 Call Ins

No decisions had been called in since the last Cabinet meeting.

CAB.50 Items Requiring Urgent Attention

There were no items requiring urgent attention.

CAB.51 Public Participation

There was no public participation.

CAB.52 Business case for the use of Electric Vehicle Chargepoints (EVC) on Council owned car parks

A report was considered from the Corporate Director: Economic Prosperity and Place to agree the final business case for Electric Vehicle Chargepoints (EVC) on Council owned car parks including detailed financial modelling undertaken by the Financial Services Manager and to proceed to implementation.

The Cabinet Member for Housing, Health, Well-being and Democratic

Services gave a detailed presentation of the report. She thanked the Chairman and members of the Overview and Scrutiny for their robust scrutiny of the proposals. The Cabinet Member for Housing, Health, Well-being and Democratic Services confirmed that the cross party Green Advisory Panel had considered all of the delivery models as part of their work programme, and were unanimous in their support for the operator model.

She also thanked the members of the Green Advisory Panel and the Head of Strategic Growth and her team for their hard work, and for the time and effort they had put in to get to this point.

The Cabinet Member for Housing, Health, Well-being and Democratic Services formally moved the recommendations for approval, which were seconded by the Cabinet Member for Operational Services.

Decision: Having had regard to the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee from its meeting on 4 November 2021, Cabinet:

- 1.1 Approved the business case at Appendix One;**
- 1.2 supported the need for procurement exercises (a) to select a suitable contractor for the installation of the electric vehicle chargepoints and the contestable elements of the grid connection work (b) to select a suitable contractor for operating the installed electric vehicle charge points, including in both cases soft market testing to help inform likely costs and the specification if required;**
- 1.3 delegated authority to the Head of Community and Environment Services:**
 - 1.3.1 to advertise the amendment to the Wyre Forest District Council's Parking Places (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2020 ("Parking Places Order") to reflect the introduction of charging points in suitable parking spaces within car parks already included in the Parking Places Order; to incorporate its car parks at Green Street and Wyre Forest House in the Order (including use of suitable spaces for electric vehicle charging points); and, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Operational Services, to consider operational requirements for the usage of the electric vehicle charging spaces, including duration of stay and car parking charges which will form part of the proposed amendments to the Parking Places Order;**
 - 1.3.2 in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Operational Services to consider any objections made as a result of the advertisement and, following such consideration, to decide whether the Parking Places Order should be amended; and**
- 1.4 delegated to the Solicitor to the Council authority to make all of the agreed changes to the Parking Places Order.**

Cabinet RECOMMEND to Council that:

- 1.5 The Capital Programme is amended accordingly to accommodate the purchase and installation of Electric Vehicle Charging points together with the requisite revisions to the revenue budget as set out in Appendix 3 of the report.**

CAB.53 Revenues, Benefits and Customer Services Review

A report was considered from the Revenues, Benefits & Customer Services Manager which updated Cabinet on the service review of the Revenues, Benefits and Customer Services teams including the proposed estimated reduction in ongoing expenditure.

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Capital Portfolio presented the report and formally moved the recommendations for approval. She thanked the Revenues, Benefits & Customer Services Manager and her team for all the hard work that had gone into the review which proposed an estimated reduction in ongoing expenditure of circa £260,000 in a full year starting from April 2022.

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Capital Portfolio explained that, as there were no timely holistic shared service opportunities, a consultation paper was issued on 23 September setting out proposals for an internal savings option for the whole service. She added that the proposals suggested deletion of 4 posts across the service. Sufficient expressions of interest in voluntary redundancy were received to allow the proposals to proceed with no compulsory redundancies.

She further explained that the Chief Executive as Head of Paid Service can agree restructures. However Council approval is required for approval of severance costs in two cases, that exceed £100,000.

In conclusion she said that the proposals made a significant and very welcome contribution towards closing the Council's Funding Gap whilst retaining the service provision in-house and using ICT and service redesign to minimise the impact on service delivery.

The Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Community Safety seconded the recommendations. The Leader echoed the thanks given to the Revenues, Benefits & Customer Services Manager and her team for all their hard work and said that the proposal was very much appreciated.

Decision: Cabinet NOTED AND ENDORSED:

- 1.1 The service review proposals for the Revenues, Benefits and Customer Services teams, including the welcome resultant annual savings that will be reflected in the MTFs report in December.**

Cabinet RECOMMEND to Council:

1.2 Approval of the severance costs in two cases that exceed £100,000.

CAB.54 Financial and Strategic Policy Context for the Medium Term Financial Strategy

A report was considered from the Chief Executive on the financial and policy context that will shape the medium term financial strategy (MTFS) for 2022-2025.

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Capital Portfolio presented the report and formally moved the recommendations for approval. She was pleased to report that the proposals included a recommendation to Council to amend the capital programme to reflect the excellent news of the grant from the levelling up fund. She paid tribute to the Head of Economic Development & Regeneration - North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration, and his team for all the hard work involved in submitting the successful bid. She added that the funding was in addition to the £20m secured last December from the Future High Streets Fund. She said it was very promising and positive to see such levels of investment, which would address the district's infrastructure needs and future vitality in the principal town centre.

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Capital Portfolio explained that the report provided a summary of the main strategic and financial issues that provide the context for the MTFS which will be considered by Cabinet on 21 December. However, there were a number of aspects that were still unknown such as; what the provisional local government settlement for 2022/23 will be; will the settlement be enough to cover known pressures such as the 1.25% increase in National Insurance; will it provide any contribution at all to close with funding gap; the need to know what is happening to the new homes bonus; and when there might be a business rates reset, and when a new funding formula might be introduced.

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Capital Portfolio added that even in advance of the provisional statement the council's financial position was better than a year ago in respects of 2022/23 and the level of reserves that the council might have by 2025. However, unfortunately the council's £2m financial gap remained and the authority still had to make significant reductions in costs which will mean further changes to how services are secured for the future.

She added that the council will become a smaller organisation; doing less itself by transferring assets and services to other organisations; introducing shared services where possible and undertaking internal reviews where not possible. She said it was unavoidable that there will be fewer Wyre Forest District Council staff, and therefore it was important for residents and members to be aware and reflect on the fact that their expectations of services will be changed. She said that the authority had reached the point where it had to reduce discretionary areas of activity, and the Cabinet would continue to remove some of the minor discretionary services that the council can no longer afford to support.

In conclusion the Cabinet Member for Finance and Capital Portfolio said the financial situation of the council was as a result of over 10 years of austerity for local government from the Westminster government. Whilst the council choose what changes are made locally, change is unavoidable. The council has to continue on a trajectory of becoming smaller and doing less. However the ultimate responsibility for why we have to do things, that members will no doubt say are unpalatable, rests squarely with central government. She added that the choices the authority are left with may be uncomfortable, but to do nothing would not be appropriate.

The Leader seconded the proposals.

Decision: Cabinet AGREED:

- 1.1 The suggested approach to the medium term financial strategy set out in section 4 of the report, and that this should now be the subject of consultation prior to the Cabinet taking final decisions on its proposals for the strategy at its meeting in December.**

Cabinet RECOMMEND to Council that:

- 1.2 It amends the capital programme to include the Levelling Up Fund projects, funded by Government grant of £17.9m.**

CAB.55 Write off of Amounts Outstanding

A report was considered from the Corporate Director: Resources to enable the Cabinet to give consideration to writing off the sum of £20,824.21 in respect of debts that cannot be collected.

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Capital Portfolio presented the report and formally moved the recommendation for approval.

She explained that as billing authority the Council was responsible for the collection of Business Rates (National Non-Domestic Rates or NNDR) c£30m pa and for the recovery of any related debt in the event of non-payment. She said every effort had been made to pursue the debt proposed for write-off following the policies and procedures of the Council. She added that debt recovery can be a prolonged exercise and before proposals for write-off are brought to members every avenue available to aid recovery is explored.

The Leader seconded the recommendation.

Decision: Cabinet DECIDED that the total of £20,824.21 as detailed in the Appendix to the report, be written off, for National Non-Domestic Rates.

CAB.56 Exclusion of Press and Public

Decision: "Under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of "exempt information" as defined in paragraphs

of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

CAB.57 Agenda Item 7.1 - Electric Vehicle Charging Points

The Cabinet Member for Housing, Health, Well-being and Democratic Services presented the confidential appendices to the report.

Having considered the appendices, the Cabinet re-affirmed their decision made in the open session of the meeting.

CAB.58 Agenda Item 8.1 - Proposals for Revenues, Benefits, Customer Services and Business Support Review

The Cabinet Member for Housing, Health, Well-being and Democratic Services presented the confidential appendix to the report.

Having considered the appendix, the Cabinet re-affirmed their decision made in the open session of the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.38pm.

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET
8th FEBRUARY 2022

Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022-2025
Capital Strategy 2022-2032

OPEN	
CABINET MEMBER:	Councillor M Rayner
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Head of Resources
CONTACT OFFICER:	Helen Ogram, Ext 2907 Helen.ogram@wyreforestdc.gov.uk
Appendix 1 Appendix 2 Appendix 3 Appendix 4 Appendix 5	Base Budget Projections 2022-2025 Capital Strategy Fees and Charges – Council Report of the Head of Resources/Chief Financial Officer in respect of Sections 25-28 Local Government Act 2003 Alternative Budget Proposals <i>The appendices to this report have been circulated electronically and a public inspection copy is available on request. (See front cover for details.)</i>

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update Cabinet on the Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2022-2025 and make recommendations to Council on the proposed budget decision. This report also seeks approval of the Capital Strategy for 2022-2032 including prudential indicators which set limits for non-financial investments and to fulfil the key requirements of the MHCLG Investment Guidance. As part of the overall approval sought the report of the Head of Resources in respect of statutory duties placed on Local Authority Chief Financial Officers in relation to budget setting and monitoring is considered.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The **CABINET** having re-considered the Financial Strategy 2022-2025, the results of the Budget consultation exercise, alternative budget proposal and recommendations of the Strategic Review Panel **RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL** that it:

2.1 THREE YEAR BUDGET, CAPITAL STRATEGY AND POLICY FRAMEWORK 2022-2025

2.1.1 **APPROVES** the updated Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2022-2025.

2.1.2 **APPROVES** the Cabinet Proposals – taking into account the impact on the Council's Capital and Revenue Budgets for 2022-2025 as shown in the tables in paragraphs 6.1 and 6.3 and as set out below:

a.) Approval to close the small business grants scheme currently administered by North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration after March 2022. This would save £35k each year from 2022-23 onwards which will be utilised to fund additional resource in the NWEDR team to assist with delivery of the externally funded projects for the Future High Streets Fund (FHSF) and the Levelling up Fund (LUF).

b.) Approval to end discretionary support of sport and leisure facilities from April 2023 namely, phasing out involvement in Bewdley Leisure Centre and Stourport Sports Club. This would save £38k each year from 2023-24 onwards.

2.1.3 **APPROVES** the fees and charges in line with this Strategy and in line with the recommendations of the Licensing and Environmental Committee of 6th December 2021, and the impact on the Council's Revenue Budget for 2022-2025, as shown in Appendix 3.

2.1.4 **APPROVES** the Council's updated Capital Strategy:

a) **Approval** of the Capital Strategy 2022-2032 set out in Appendix 2 of this report including the associated Quantitative Indicators in Appendix 2 of the December Cabinet report.

b) **Approval** of the Capital Programme and Vehicle, Equipment and Systems Renewals Schedule as set out in Appendices 1A and 1B, of the Capital Strategy report to December 2021 Cabinet.

c) **Approval** of the limits for gross debt for non-treasury investments compared to net service expenditure and for commercial income as a percentage of net service expenditure as set out in Appendix 2 of the December report.

2.1.5 **APPROVES** that any Final Accounts savings arising from 2021-2022, together with surplus Earmarked Reserves, be allocated by the Head of Resources in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Capital Portfolio.

2.1.6 The General Fund Revenue Budget be **APPROVED** including all updates from the position in December 2021 as set out in this report.

2.2 COUNCIL TAX AND BUSINESS RATES

- 2.2.1 That Council Tax is increased by the higher limit specified by the Government which based on the Provisional Settlement is currently 2% or £5 whichever is higher; this is set out in 2.2.2. However, if the Final Settlement increases flexibility then the proposed increase recommended to Council will be revised up to the maximum level allowed.
- 2.2.2 That if the higher limit for the Council Tax increase is confirmed as 2% or £5 whichever is the higher then:
- a. **SETS** the Council Tax for Wyre Forest District Council on a Band D Property at £229.34 for 2022-2023 (£224.34 2021-2022) which represents an increase of 2.23% on Council Tax from 2021-2022.
 - b. **ENDORSES** the provisional Council Tax on a Band D Property in 2023-2024 of £234.34 and £239.34 in 2024-2025, being increases of 2.18% and 2.13% respectively.
- 2.2.3 **NOTES** the Head of Resources (as Chief Financial Officer) opinion on the budget proposals, recommended by the Cabinet in this report, as detailed in Appendix 4 of this report.

2.3 The Cabinet is asked to **APPROVE:**

- 2.3.1 Delegated authority is given to the Head of Resources, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Capital portfolio, to make any appropriate adjustments to the General Fund Revenue Budget recommended under paragraph 2.1.7 above, as a result of any further notifications from Central Government.

2.4 The Cabinet is asked to **NOTE in line with the recommendations of the Strategic Review Panel:**

- 2.4.1 The Alternative budget proposals as detailed within Appendix 5 of this report, further noting that updated versions as appropriate will be provided for Full Council on the 23rd February 2022.

2.5 The Cabinet is asked to **NOTE that £5,000 has been allocated from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) for Jubilee events organised by community groups for activities that meet the purposes of the COMF grant.**

3. KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 On 21st December 2021, Cabinet considered reports on proposals for the Budget Strategy for the period 2022-2025 including the intrinsically linked Capital Strategy 2022-2032. The Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement was announced on the 16th December. The Final Settlement is still awaited; this report has been prepared on the basis of no major changes from the Provisional Settlement that formed the basis of the funding assumptions within the December

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report. This report provides an updated position and a proposed budget decision for Council to consider on the 23rd February 2022 that will be further updated if there are significant changes once the Final Settlement is published.

- 3.2 The following assumptions included in the Medium Term Financial Strategy are now updated or confirmed:
- Provisional Finance Settlement, further updates will be provided once the Final Settlement is issued
 - Council Tax Base
 - The position in relation to New Homes Bonus
 - Collection Fund position
 - Cabinet Proposals
 - Capital Strategy and Capital Programme
 - Business Rates Pool levy gain and retained growth projections
 - Allocations of £344,305 for Homelessness Prevention Grant that is in addition to the Core Spending Assessment
 - An update of the Wyre Forest Forward generic targets and overall Funding Gap
- 3.3 The increase in the District Council's tax from 2011-12 to 2022-23 taking into account the latest proposal is only 16.05% compared to a CPI increase of 26.22% between 2010 and 2021 demonstrating that households within Wyre Forest have enjoyed sub inflation increases for many years.
- 3.4 The Budget Consultation survey was launched on the 30th November and ran until the 9th December 2021. The results of this consultation were reported as part of the December 2021 MTFS report to Cabinet and have informed the proposals in this report. The Strategic Review Panel meetings on the 13th and the 24th January received Alternative Budget Proposals for consideration by Cabinet in formulation of their final proposals and updated versions of these proposals (based on revised funding etc) are included in this report at Appendix 5. Further updated versions will be provided for Full Council on the 23rd February 2022.
- 3.5 A revised **Capital Strategy** with minor updates to the version considered by December Cabinet to incorporate the December 2021 revision to the Treasury Management and Prudential Codes is in Appendix 2 for Council approval. The Capital Programme considered by December Cabinet remains unchanged for Council approval.
- 3.6 The approach to be taken to **fees and charges** within the financial strategy recommended by Cabinet this year will continue to have regard to demand and other market conditions. As a result, some fees and charges may be frozen or increased by less than the average of 5%. The proposals for 2022-23 show that 63% of Fees and Charges are to be frozen whilst a further 11% are proposed to be increased but below the general 5%. In line with previous MTFS assumptions car park fees and charges will increase this year following the freeze for 2021-22. In order to retain the new simpler charging structure introduced from 2020-21 fees will increase by 10%. Car parking income has been adversely impacted by the ongoing pandemic, but it is anticipated that with this increase revenues on average will recover next year and this is reflected in the proposed MTFS.

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- 3.7 Fees and Charges requiring Council approval are detailed in Appendix 3.

Spending Proposals

- 3.8 The Cabinet Proposals are revised following careful consideration of Alternative Budget proposals considered by the Strategic Review Panel on the 13th and 24th January 2022 and further dialogue with the opposition groups.
- 3.9 There are two Cabinet Proposals this year as set out below, one for a cost neutral revenue proposal and one for modest savings from phasing out discretionary leisure support from 2023-24.
- 3.9.1 To close the small business grants scheme currently administered by North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration after March 2022. This would save £35k each year from 2022-23 onwards which will be utilised to fund additional resource in the NWEDR team to assist with delivery of the externally funded projects for the Future High Streets Fund (FHSF) and the Levelling up Fund (LUF).
- 3.9.2 To end discretionary support of sport and leisure facilities from April 2023 namely, phasing out involvement in Bewdley Leisure Centre and Stourport Sports Club. This would save £38k each year from 2023-24 onwards.
- 3.10 In addition, having considered the proposal from the Liberal Democrat group the Cabinet is sympathetic to providing funding for community groups to mark the unique Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen and £5,000 has been allocated from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) for Jubilee events organised by community groups for activities that meet the purposes of the COMF grant.
- 3.11 Business Rate projections based on the continuation of the current 50% Worcestershire pooling agreement for 2022-23 are shown in table 6.3 below. These do not differ overall from the December report. Accurate forecasting is extremely difficult at this time, but it should be possible to manage any significant variations at final accounts by drawing on the Business Rates Equalisation earmarked Reserves if necessary. These take into account the Council's share of forecast growth from major redevelopments, appeals, reliefs, economic regeneration work, forecast increases in the multiplier for inflation and other Business Rates market intelligence. The collective Worcestershire Business Rates Pool approach to provisions for appeals depending on prevailing circumstances nearer the time, may result in outturn variances to these forecasts which will be reported as part of the Final Accounts process.
- 3.12 The most significant factor in the decision regarding Pool membership from 1st April 2022 was our view on the probability of further significant business rate losses in Wyre Forest, exacerbated by the impact of COVID-19 and the uncertainty around the continuation of the significant reliefs provided by Central Government in 2020-21 and 2021-22.
- 3.13 LG Futures were commissioned to undertake detailed financial modelling of the potential Pooling proposals for 2022-23. Extensive sensitivity and risk analysis has

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been undertaken as part of the work. This showed that it is unlikely that continuation of the current Pool would not be beneficial.

- 3.14 The position in relation to the detail of the economic uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the delayed Funding Reform, further appeals and resultant significant uncertainty this year remains a concern this is being managed by the Head of Resources in conjunction with the other treasurers within the Pool. It is unknown if Business Rate Pools will cease when the new funding system is eventually introduced.
- 3.15 Taking these measures into account the projected Base Budget net expenditure for 2022-2023 is estimated to be £12,027k (see paragraph 6.3). This is £129,530 more than currently estimated to be raised from Council Tax, Business Rates Income retained, Collection Fund Surplus New Homes Bonus and all other grants based on a £5 pa Council Tax increase. This total is net of savings targets from Wyre Forest Forward and Localism work streams.

4. LOCAL AUTHORITY REVENUE FINANCE SETTLEMENT FOR 2021-2022

- 4.1 The Provisional Local Government Settlement was announced on the 16th December 2021, at the time of writing the Final Settlement is yet to be issued. Whilst there was some welcome additional one-off funding including in the Provisional Settlement this has not significantly changed the longer-term financial forecast. It does though provide some additional time for the necessary transformation work to close the funding gap to be undertaken.
- 4.2 The 2022-23 local government finance settlement is for one year only and is based on the Autumn Budget and Spending Review 2021. Within Spending Round 2021, information regarding 2022-23 funding allocations was provided. The provisional settlement confirms these previous announcements; the main points, yet to be confirmed in the Final Settlement are set out below followed by further analysis:
- **Council Tax** – As previously announced at SR21, the council tax referendum limit has been maintained at 2% for local authorities and the social care precept for authorities with social care responsibilities has been extended by 1%, authorities can also ‘catch-up’ any unused social care precept from 2021/22. The provisional settlement confirmed that districts will be allowed to apply the higher of the referendum limit or £5.
 - **Business Rates Retention** – As announced at SR21, the business rates multiplier has again been frozen for 2022-23. Therefore. the three elements of the Business Rates Retention system (Baseline Need, NNDR Baseline and Tariff/Top Up amounts) remain at 2021-22 levels. However, the under-indexing multiplier grant has been increased, in order that local authorities do not lose what would have been the increase to the multiplier (as per previous years).
 - **2022/23 Services Grant** – This is a new grant, the funding allocation in 2022-23 is based on 2013-14 Settlement Funding Assessment (SFA) shares. The Government has confirmed that there will be no transition arrangements for changes to this aspect of Core Spending Power in future years.

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- **Revenue Support Grant** – For those authorities still receiving RSG, this has been increased by 3.1%. Confirmation was received that negative RSG was again being removed.
- **New Homes Bonus** - The 2022-23 allocations have been announced. These will be paid with the final legacy payment due from 2019-20. There have been no changes to the scheme for 2022/23 and no legacy payments for the new 2022-23 in-year allocations. No legacy payments were paid for 2020-21 or 2021-22 as previously indicated.
- **Top Up/Tariff Adjustments (Negative RSG)** – As in previous years, the government has decided to eliminate the negative RSG amounts. This was assumed in the December report.
- **Lower Tier Services Grant** – A further year of lower tier services grant has been given. Whilst the distribution methodology is the same as 2021/22 (mostly using 2013/14 SFA amounts, but partly providing a minimum funding guarantee so no authority has a reduction in core spending power), individual authorities' allocations have changed, due to the minimum funding guarantee element.
- **Rural Services Delivery Grant** – There has been no change to this grant in either the national allocation (£85m) or the distribution methodology. Therefore, 2022/23 amounts will be the same as 2021/22. Wyre Forest does not receive this grant.
- **Local Government Funding Reform** – No papers were published relating to the Fair Funding Review or the Business Rates Reset and it is expected that further announcements will be made early in 2022, followed by consultation on any potential changes.

a. Core Spending Power – Overall

“Core Spending power” is a headline figure used by MHCLG to represent the key revenue resources available to local authorities, including an estimate of actual and potential council tax

The National Core Spending Power figures for the period 2015/16 to 2022/23 are shown in Table 4.2.1 below. It shows an increase of 6.9% for 2022/23 and an overall change for the period 2015/16 to 2022/23 of 20.6%. It should be remembered that the increase for individual authorities will be different to the national figures and the government figures also contain assumptions around council tax base change that may not be reflected in local projections. However, this Council's core spending power will increase by 6.6% in 2022-23 compared to 2021-22 as shown in Table 4.2.2. This compares favourably with the majority of shire districts as shown in Table 4.2.3.

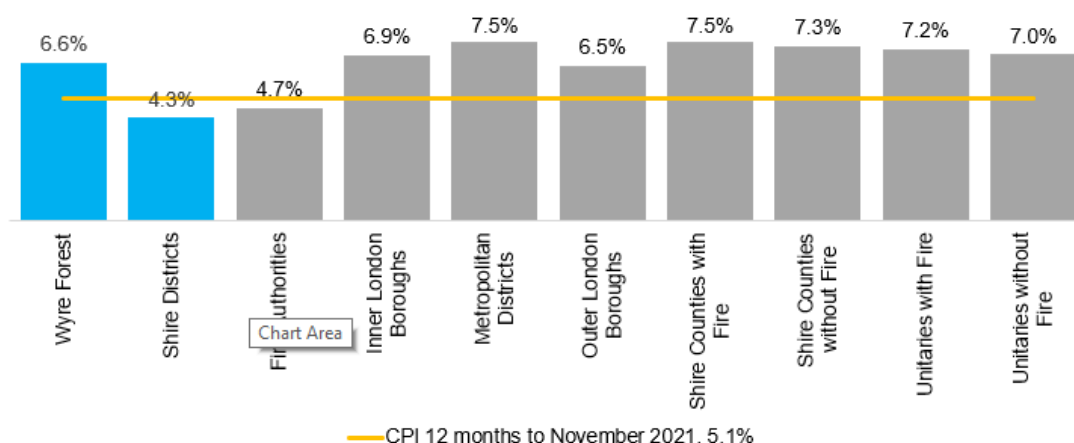
Table 4.2.1 Core Spending Power figures for England 2015-16 to 2022-23

England										
Core Spending Power	2015-16 £m	2016-17 £m	2017-18 £m	2018-19 £m	2019-20 £m	2020-21 £m	2021-22 £m	2022-23 £m	Change £m %	
Settlement Funding Assessment	21,250	18,602	16,633	15,574	14,560	14,797	14,810	14,882	72	0.5%
Compensation for under-indexing the business rates	165	165	175	275	400	500	650	1,025	375	57.7%
Council Tax Requirement excluding parish precepts	22,036	23,247	24,666	26,332	27,768	29,227	30,327	31,728	1,402	4.6%
New Homes Bonus	1,200	1,485	1,252	947	918	907	622	554	(68)	(10.9%)
Rural Services Delivery Grant	16	81	65	81	81	81	85	85		
Transition Grant		150	150							
Improved Better Care Fund (incl. former Winter Press)			1,115	1,739	2,077	2,077	2,077	2,140	63	3.0%
Social Care Grant (incl. former Adult / Social Care S)			241	150	410	1,410	1,710	2,346	636	37.2%
Lower Tier Services Grant							111	111	0	0.0%
2022/23 Services Grant								822	822	
Core Spending Power Total (comp with 21/22)	44,666	43,730	44,296	45,098	46,213	48,999	50,392	53,694	3,302	6.6%
Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Care Fund								162	162	
Core Spending Power Total (incl. new burdens)	44,666	43,730	44,296	45,098	46,213	48,999	50,392	53,856	3,464	6.9%

Table 4.2.2 Core Spending Power figures for Wyre Forest District Council

Wyre Forest									
Table 1: Core Spending Power (CSP)									
Core Spending Power	2015-16 £ millions	2016-17 £ millions	2017-18 £ millions	2018-19 £ millions	2019-20 £ millions	2020-21 £ millions	2021-22 £ millions	2022-23 £ millions	
Settlement Funding Assessment	4.6	3.8	3.2	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	
Compensation for under-indexing the business rates multiplier	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	
Council Tax Requirement excluding parish precepts	6.5	6.7	6.8	7.0	7.2	7.4	7.6	7.8	
New Homes Bonus	1.7	2.4	1.9	1.3	0.9	0.3	0.2	0.5	
New Homes Bonus returned funding	0.0	0.0	0.0						
Rural Services Delivery Grant									
Transition Grant		0.0	0.0						
Improved Better Care Fund (incl. former Winter Pressures Grant)									
Social Care Grant (incl. former Adult / Social Care Support Grant)									
Lower Tier Services Grant							0.1	0.1	
2022/23 Services Grant								0.2	
Core Spending Power Total (comparable with 2021/22)	12.9	12.9	11.9	11.2	11.0	10.7	10.9	11.7	
Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Care Fund									
National Insurance Health & Social Care Levy (included above and not separately identified)									
Core Spending Power Total (incl. new burdens)	12.9	12.9	11.9	11.2	11.0	10.7	10.9	11.7	

Table 4.2.3 - Change in CSP by authority type (2021-22 to 2022-23) – WFDC 6.6% increase



- b. **Council Tax** – For 2022-2023, there will continue to be differential limits that will trigger the need for a council tax referendum.

A referendum limit of 2% will represent the trigger for all authorities, except Shire Districts and Fire & Rescue Authorities (higher of £5 or 2%) Parishes (no limit), Police and Crime Commissioners (£10) and Mayoral Combined Authorities (no limit). As previously announced, an adult social care precept of up to 1% will also be available in 2022-23.

Business Rates - The application for continuation of the current 50% Worcestershire Business Rates Pool, including the Fire Authority has been confirmed.

- c. **New Homes Bonus** - the **allocations have been announced**, for 2022-23. The Core Spending Power figures for 2022-23 include these allocations. There are no changes to New Homes Bonus this year, however there are a number of points to note:

- The allocations are provisional and subject to final confirmation and checks;
- The overall allocation for each authority is based on the legacy payments for 2019-20, plus the 2022-23 allocation.
- The 2020-21 and 2021-22 “in year” allocations did not have future years’ legacy payments.
- The consultation response from the government following the consultation launched in February 2021 is outstanding.

- 4.3 Councils are facing a significant period of financial uncertainty and resultant risk exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Clarity and certainty about how all local services will be funded over the next few years and beyond is needed. The 2022-23 settlement was a one-year settlement despite the multi year spending review. A multi-year settlement is needed for forward planning and long term stability.

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- 4.4 The forecast position in relation to total Government grant taking into account the one-year Spending Round for 2022-2023 and subsequent Finance Settlement is shown in the Tables at 6.3.

5. **COUNCIL TAX BASE**

- 5.1 The Council Tax Base previously reported for 2022-23 has now been confirmed; this has increased from the 2021-22 level of 33,780 to 34,220 being an increase of 440 or 1.3%. This has been due to growth in the housing stock, reduction in long term empty properties and an unwinding of the increase in Council Tax Reduction Scheme awards seen last year because of the pandemic. It is forecast to rise over the term of the Strategy, informed by data from planning applications resulting in increases of circa 0.9% or 300 additional properties in 2023-24 and 2024-25.

6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The Cabinet Proposals previously considered have now been confirmed. These are, summarised below and included in the table in paragraph 6.3.

<u>CABINET PROPOSALS 2022-23 ONWARDS</u>					
ACTIVITY AND DESCRIPTION OF CABINET PROPOSALS	KEY	2022-23 £	2023-24 £	2024-25 £	After 2024-25 £
		£	£	£	£
<u>Closure of the small business grants scheme to fund additional delivery resource</u>					
To close the small business grants scheme and use the saving (£35k) to fund additional resource in the NWEDR team to assist with delivery of the Future High Street (FHSF) and Leveling Up Fund (LUF) funded projects.	C R S	- 1	- 1	- 1	- 1
<u>Discretionary sport and leisure facilities</u>					
To phase out involvement in Bewdley Leisure Centre and Stourport Sports Club.	C R S	-	38,000 CR	38,000 CR	38,000 CR
	C R S	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	R S	- 1.0	38,000 CR 1.0	38,000 CR 1.0	38,000 CR 1.0

- 6.2 The Council Tax Collection Fund position together with the Tax Income Guarantee Funding has now been reviewed, based on the latest council tax collection information. The table below shows the variations.

Table 6.2 - Updated Position due to amendments since December Cabinet

Collection Fund Deficit (Surplus)	Revised 2021-22 £	2022-23 £	2023-24 £	2024-25 £
Draft MTFS (Dec Cabinet)	146,000	95,100	0	0
Draft MTFS (Feb Cabinet)	146,000	(10,000)	105,100	0
In year change from December MTFS	0	105,100	(105,100)	0
Cummulative cahange - all years				0

- 6.3 The following tables demonstrate the updated position for the Council when the revisions are incorporated into the Base Budget. The Council is forecast to hold a balance of £2,416k at the end of 2024-25 (see reserves table in 6.4) based on a Council Tax increase of £5 pa.

Table 6.3 - Updated Position Assuming a Council Tax Increase of £5 pa

	Revised 2021-22 £	2022-23 £	2023-24 £	2024-25 £
Net Expenditure on Services	13,102,940	12,026,680	11,487,830	11,363,500
COVID Support grants	(797,800)	0	0	0
Total Net Expenditure on Services (per Appendix 2)	12,305,140	12,026,680	11,487,830	11,363,500
Less:				
Cabinet Proposals	0	0	(38,000)	(38,000)
Net Expenditure	12,305,140	12,026,680	11,449,830	11,325,500
Contribution (from)/to Reserves	(1,081,770)	(129,530)	(601,120)	(172,070)
Net Budget Requirement	11,223,370	11,897,150	10,848,710	11,153,430
Less:				
Revenue Support Grant	0	0	(356,790)	(356,790)
Business Rates	3,243,210	3,356,940	3,016,080	3,076,400
New Homes Bonus	242,510	463,760	0	0
Lower Tier Services Grant	121,190	127,540	100,000	100,000
Collection Fund Deficit	(146,000)	(95,100)	0	0
Local Council Tax Support Grant	184,250	0	0	0
Council Tax Income	7,578,210	7,848,010	8,089,420	8,333,820
One off Services Grant	0	196,000	0	0
WFDC Council Tax: £5 increase per annum	224.34	229.34	234.34	239.34
Percentage increase in Council Tax	2.39%	2.23%	2.18%	2.13%

- 6.4 Reserves available as part of the three-year financial strategy are as shown in the following table. There is no change to the reserves position at the end of 2024-25 compared to the December forecast.

Table 6.4. - Reserves Statement Assuming a Council Tax Increase of £5 pa

Reserves Statement	Revised 2021-22 £	2022-23 £	2023-24 £	2024-25 £
Reserves as at 1st April	4,400	3,318	3,294	2,588
December MTFS transfer to (from) Reserves	(1,082)	(130)	(601)	(172)
Collection Fund Deficit adjustment		105	(105)	
Transfer to (from) Reserves	(1,082)	(25)	(706)	(172)
	0	0	0	0
Updated Reserves as at 31st March	3,318	3,294	2,588	2,416

- 6.5 The table below shows a funding gap of £1.677m in 2024-25, no change from the previously reported £1.677m in December 2021 as a result of the updates in this report based on a £5 Council Tax increase.

Table 6.5 – Funding Gap Assuming a Council Tax Increase of £5 pa

Financial Gap	2021-22 £	2022-23 £	2023-24 £	2024-25 £
Wyre Forest Forward Savings not yet achieved	153,310	794,150	1,043,500	1,016,190
Generic Localism Savings	5,440	125,000	353,460	526,280
New Cabinet Proposal for further Savings	0	0	(38,000)	(38,000)
SUB- Total	158,750	919,150	1,358,960	1,504,470
Use of reserves from proposed 2022-25 Strategy	1,081,770	129,530	601,120	172,070
TOTAL	1,240,520	1,048,680	1,960,080	1,676,540

7. EQUALITY IMPACT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 EIAs will be undertaken as appropriate as part of reviews of service delivery arrangements and implementation of new models. There are no proposals in this report that require an assessment, because of their generic nature.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 8.1 Achieving financial sustainability is the most significant challenge facing the Council particularly in the light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and resultant uncertainty. The Strategic Review Panel provided some options for the Cabinet to consider in making its recommendations on the medium-term financial strategy. The principal risks were outlined in Appendix 5 of the report to Cabinet on 21st December 2021 and are summarised and refreshed where appropriate in Appendix 4 of this report.
- 8.2 The increased Council Tax Base from 2022-23, the development and regeneration of Kidderminster and the wider district following the successful award of grant under both the Future High Streets fund and the Levelling Up Fund, Cabinet Proposals and continuing progress with the Wyre Forest Forward Transformation

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savings contribute as far as possible to the mitigation of the financial risk within this budget strategy.

- 8.3 The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require Local Authorities to fully consider and manage Risk as part of the Budget process. Appendix 5 of the December 2021 report showed an analysis of the significant financial risks which are affecting the Council. This has been reviewed and remains current subject to the comments and updates provided in Appendix 4 of this report.
- 8.4 Local authorities are required to formalise their approach to risk management and evidence it more directly as part of the budgetary process. Further statutory safeguards designed to prevent an authority from over-committing itself financially are as follows:
- Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 which requires the authority to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and that the Chief Finance Officer has personal responsibility for such administration.
 - Section 32 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 which requires the authority to set a balanced budget.
 - The prudential framework, introduced as part of the Local Government Act 2003, covers the way an authority must manage its investments including affordability considerations. The of affordability of financial plans requires a judgement about risk. Prudential Indicators are the monitoring tool to assess performance and risk.
 - The external auditor's duty to satisfy itself that the authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.
 - CIPFA Guidance on Reserves and Balances highlights the need to consider risks facing the authority; the risks posed by the continuing economic uncertainty caused by the pandemic, supply chain issues exacerbated by departure from the EU and continued uncertainty about funding reform place pressure on the Council to hold higher levels of reserves to ensure ongoing sustainability.
 - To reinforce these obligations section 114 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 requires the Chief Finance Officer to report to all councillors, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer, if there is or is likely to be unlawful expenditure or an unbalanced budget.
- 8.5 CIPFA issued a Financial Management Code (FM Code) in October 2019 which provides guidance for good and sustainable financial management in local authorities and will provide assurance that authorities are managing resources effectively. The first full year of compliance is 2021-22.
- 8.6 CIPFA issued new editions of the Treasury Management Code and Prudential Code on 21st December 2021. The codes provide guidance to support the

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management of risks associated with Treasury and Capital Financing strategies. The 2021 Prudential Code applies with immediate effect.

- 8.7 The on-going principle of the Prudential Code is that capital plans must be affordable and proportionate, and an authority must not borrow to invest primarily for financial return.
- 8.8 The financial projections suggest deficits in funding across all three years under consideration, leading to an overall projected net deficit over the three years of some £1.68m. In broad terms this can be explained by the combination of ongoing forecast COVID cost pressures and reduced income not met by government grant, and historic reductions in Revenue Support Grant and New Homes Bonus receipts.

9. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Local Government Act 2003

- 9.1.1 The Local Government Act 2003 (Sections 25-28) places duties on Local Authorities on how they set and monitor budgets.
- 9.1.2 Sections 25-27 require the Section 151 Officer to report on the robustness of the estimates and the adequacy of its proposed financial reserves. This is reported to Council as Appendix 4 of this report.
- 9.1.3 Section 28 places a statutory duty on an Authority to review its budget from time to time during the year. If the Budget Monitoring Report shows that there has been deterioration in the Authority's financial position, the Authority must take such action as it concludes necessary. The Council currently reviews the Budget on a quarterly basis, with CLT/Cabinet receiving monthly budget monitoring reports, and this practice will continue.

10. CONSULTEES

Corporate Leadership Team
Cabinet

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 11.1 Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.
- 11.2 Cabinet Report on the Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2022–2025 21st December 2021.
- 11.3 Cabinet Report on updated Capital Strategy 2022-2032 21st December 2021.
- 11.4 Agendas and Minutes of the Strategic Review Panel.
- 11.5 Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 2022-2023.
- 11.6 Prudential and Treasury Management Codes December 2017 and December 2021

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- 11.7 Strong Leader Cabinet Report – September 2021 – Business Rates Retention — Pan Worcestershire Bid Business Rate Pool bid. Delegated Decision Notice 11th January 2022.
- 11.8 CIPFA publications Financial Management Code, Financial Resilience Index- and Guidance on Prudential Property Investment - October/November 2019

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

REVENUE BUDGET TOTAL REQUIREMENTS - DISTRICT COUNCIL PURPOSES

SERVICE	2021/22		2022/23			2023/24			2024/25		
	Original Estimate £	Revised Estimate £	At Nov.21 Prices £	Inflation £	TOTAL £	At Nov.21 Prices £	Inflation £	TOTAL £	At Nov.21 Prices £	Inflation £	TOTAL £
CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND SOLICITOR TO THE COUNCIL	634,470	1,746,620	886,150	34,430	920,580	491,700	69,050	560,750	246,700	104,560	351,260
COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	4,625,710	5,083,650	4,677,190	138,560	4,815,750	4,589,760	280,490	4,870,250	4,538,730	425,870	4,964,600
ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND PLACE	2,851,180	2,795,540	2,805,360	68,570	2,873,930	2,768,410	135,530	2,903,940	2,734,540	203,800	2,938,340
RESOURCES	4,640,280	3,822,180	3,879,190	38,360	3,917,550	3,674,760	78,940	3,753,700	3,522,350	121,170	3,643,520
LESS: CAPITAL ACCOUNT	12,751,640	13,447,990	12,247,890	279,920	12,527,810	11,524,630	564,010	12,088,640	11,042,320	855,400	11,897,720
REVERSAL OF CAPITAL CHARGES	1,547,170	1,427,210	1,680,920	1,550	1,682,470	1,854,180	3,080	1,857,260	1,899,110	4,800	1,903,910
INTEREST RECEIVED	(1,935,030)	(1,813,310)	(1,881,900)	0	(1,881,900)	(1,884,640)	0	(1,884,640)	(1,731,300)	0	(1,731,300)
CAPITAL PORTFOLIO FUND AND DEVELOPMENT	(20,000)	(28,000)	(55,000)	0	(55,000)	(100,000)	0	(100,000)	(90,000)	0	(90,000)
LOANS FUND	(43,180)	69,050	(92,670)	8,570	(84,100)	(190,720)	17,240	(173,480)	(197,300)	26,070	(171,230)
INCREASES IN FEES AND CHARGES-OTHER	0	0	(162,600)	0	(162,600)	(299,950)	0	(299,950)	(445,600)	0	(445,600)
TOTAL NET EXPENDITURE ON SERVICES	12,300,600	13,102,940	11,736,640	290,040	12,026,680	10,903,500	584,330	11,487,830	10,477,230	886,270	11,363,500
LESS: CONTRIBUTION FROM RESERVES	(503,110)	(1,081,770)			(24,280)			(744,370)			(210,070)
NET BUDGET REQUIREMENT	11,797,490	12,021,170			12,002,400			10,743,460			11,153,430
LESS: REVENUE SUPPORT GRANT	0	0			0			356,790			356,790
BUSINESS RATES INCOME	(2,869,590)	(3,243,210)			(3,356,940)			(3,016,080)			(3,076,400)
EXPENDITURE RELATED COVID SUPPORT GRANT	(563,800)	(563,800)			0			0			0
CO-FUNDING COVID SUPPORT GRANT	(383,940)	(234,000)			0			0			0
COLLECTION FUND DEFICIT	146,000	146,000			(10,150)			105,250			0
NEW HOMES BONUS	(242,510)	(242,510)			(463,760)			0			0
LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT GRANT	(184,250)	(184,250)			0			0			0
LOWER TIER SERVICES GRANT	(121,190)	(121,190)			(127,540)			(100,000)			(100,000)
ONE OFF SERVICES GRANT	0	0			(196,000)			0			0
GENERAL EXPENSES -											
COUNCIL TAX INCOME	7,578,210	7,578,210			7,848,010			8,089,420			8,333,820
COUNCIL TAX LEVY		224.34			229.34			234.34			239.34
COUNCIL TAX BASE		33,780			34,220			34,520			34,820

CAPITAL STRATEGY 2022-2032

The Council will undertake **capital expenditure** in support of the priorities in the Corporate Plan for the following purposes:

- To discharge statutory duties (examples include homelessness, disabled facilities grants and environmental requirements, including the Environment Act 2021).
- To support discretionary functions including economic regeneration and development.
- To facilitate the operational delivery of the Council's duties and functions, including the buildings, vehicles and ICT infrastructure on which they rely.

Capital expenditure includes contributions made by the Council towards capital expenditure by third parties.

The Council will **finance capital expenditure** by a mixture of grants provided by Government and third parties, capital receipts, borrowing and contributions from revenue.

The Council's **financial contributions to the Capital Strategy are expected to be delivered primarily by means of borrowing**, which can include internal borrowing, borrowing from the Public Works Loan Board and borrowing from other third parties.

The Council's borrowing will be undertaken in accordance with the Local Government Act 2003 and current statutory guidance.

In order to maintain access to borrowing from the PWLB, the Council will not purchase any investment assets primarily for yield.

The Council sets limits for borrowing at least annually in accordance with the 2003 Act. The Council plans to keep **its total borrowing in broad terms to no more than five times its net revenue expenditure**.

The **Capital Programme** is the delivery plan for the Corporate Strategy and sets out the proposed capital expenditure for a ten-year period. It is approved by Council annually. Amendments between the annual approval by Council are approved either by Council or (under delegated powers) by Cabinet.

The Capital Strategy and Programme are under-pinned by the borrowing strategy contained in the Treasury Management Strategy Statement, the Property Disposal Strategy and the Capital Portfolio Strategy.

The Council will comply with the **disclosure and reporting required by the Statutory Guidance on Local Government Investments**.

Core Principles of the Capital Strategy Including Non-Financial Investments:

Core principles of this Council's Capital Strategy can be summarised as follows:

Table 1 – Core Principles

Principle 1 – Managing the impact of capital investment decisions on our revenue budgets
We will do this by:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring capital investment decisions do not place unnecessary additional pressure on Council Tax or our MTFS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taking property-related that generate an appropriate rate of return to cover costs of funding within an acceptable risk range as set out in the Capital Portfolio Strategy, whilst also meeting Corporate Priorities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purchase rather than leasing vehicles such as the refuse fleet with programmes for replacement that maximise efficiency and minimise revenue budget costs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote capital investment which allows invest to save outcomes and which contribute to the Council's Corporate priorities and complement the Wyre Forest Forward Transformation programme.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on resources and spending programmes the Council will use to maximise the use and financial return on assets within an acceptable risk
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have a defined framework for the management of risk for investments that applies the Security, Liquidity, Yield principles and considers longer term risks and opportunities.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have appropriate exit strategies and contingency plans in place to protect the Council's long-term position including maintaining appropriate risk reserves
Principle 2 – Optimise the availability of capital funding where that funding supports the priorities of WFDC
We will do this by:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disposal of surplus assets and use receipts generated to reinvest via the Evergreen Investment Fund, using them to supplement prudential borrowing to expedite delivery of capital schemes in line with corporate priorities.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective working relationships with potential funders including the Worcestershire and GBS LEPs and through our Limited Liability Partnership with Public Sector Plc (PSP)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listening to and support effective partnering arrangements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generating capacity within the services' revenue budgets to deliver ongoing contributions towards necessary capital investment.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have clear policies for the consumption of our reserves

Principle 3 – Ensure we have effective pre and post project appraisal
We will do this by:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing projects that fully support the council's Corporate Priorities and Wyre Forest Forward Programme
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring a system of competition exists for project approval
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build into project appraisal recognition of environmental sustainability
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fully consider project risk
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carefully consider Value for Money and Efficiency of every project
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only adding schemes once an affordable business plan is in place

Principle 4 – Performance manage our capital programme
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrating the capital programme into our performance management framework
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure our capital schemes use appropriate project management tools
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expect responsibility for the delivery of the capital programme to be clearly defined
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure our assets perform at an optimal level through effective ongoing asset management, consistent with levels of investment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting regularly on the performance of our property and non-treasury portfolios including updates on risk and recommendations for appropriate mitigation measures.

Key Objectives for non-treasury capital portfolio property acquisitions

- Acquire properties or fund developments that drive delivery of the Council's corporate priorities
 - A safe, clean and green living environment
 - Supporting a successful local economy

And are within the Council's functional economic geography,

- Maximise return whilst minimising risk through the management processes as outlined in this strategy,
- Prioritise properties that yield stable income whilst meeting Corporate priorities,
- Protect capital invested in acquired properties
- Work within the developed governance framework that enables the Council to move at a timely pace in line with the market
- Build a balanced property portfolio that is proportionate to the overall financial position of the Council

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**FEES AND CHARGES 2022-2023****COUNCIL**

Cost Centre	ACTIVITY AND DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE OPTION	KEY	CHANGES IN RESOURCES		
			2022-23 £	2023-24 £	2024-25 £
	<u>ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND PLACE</u>				
R605	<u>Development Management - Planning Advice</u> Increase charges by 5% in line with Council Policy.	C R S	- 60 CR -	- 60 CR -	- 60 CR -
R605	<u>Development Management - High Hedges</u> Increase charges by 5% in line with Council Policy.	C R S	- - -	- - -	- - -
R605	<u>Development Management - Pre-application Advice</u> Fees and charges reviewed and commercial judgement used.	C R S	- 1,050 CR -	- 1,050 CR -	- 1,050 CR -
R625	<u>Building Control - Decision Notices</u> To increase charges by 5% for copies of decision notices held by the Council prior to the formation of the North Worcestershire Building Control Shared Service.	C R S	- 10 CR -	- 10 CR -	- 10 CR -
R605	<u>Development Management - Sale of Documents</u> Increase charges by 5% in line with Council Policy.	C R S	- 190 CR -	- 190 CR -	- 190 CR -
R637	<u>Environmental Health - Water Sampling</u> Water sampling and analysis charges are set by Worcs Regulatory Services. No increase is being proposed in 2022/23	C R S	- - -	- - -	- - -
R637	<u>Environmental Health - Control of Dogs</u> The charges levied for the Control of stray dogs are set by Worcs Regulatory Services on a cost recovery basis. Charges are consistent across all authorities within the Shared Service. No increase is being imposed in 2022/23	C R S	- - -	- - -	- - -
R638	<u>Licensing Activities - Hackney Carriages</u> No increase are being proposed in 2022/23 to Hackney Carriage licences.	C R S	- - -	- - -	- - -
R638	<u>Licensing Activities - Animal Activity Licensing</u> The Animal Activity licensing charges were introduced in October 2018, covering animal boarding, dog breeding, pet shops, riding establishments and performing animals. WRS are not proposing an increase in 2022/23	C R S	- - -	- - -	- - -
R638	<u>Licensing Activities - Other General Licensing</u> No increase is being proposed in 2022/23	C R S	- - -	- - -	- - -
R638	<u>Licensing Activities - Gambling Act 2005 (Premises)</u> No increase is being proposed in 2022/23	C R S	- - -	- - -	- - -

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

FEES AND CHARGES 2022-2023

COUNCIL

Cost Centre	ACTIVITY AND DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE OPTION	KEY	CHANGES IN RESOURCES		
			2022-23 £	2023-24 £	2024-25 £
R638	<u>Licensing Activities - Scrap Metal Dealers Licence</u> Scrap metal dealers licence is a 3 year licence which was introduced in 2014. Level of charges are recommended by Worc's Regulatory Services. No increase is being proposed in 2022/23 across all Districts	C R S	- - -	- - -	- - -
R310	<u>RESOURCES</u> <u>Council Tax and NNDR</u> Summons Costs £50 Liability Order Costs <u>£30</u> <u>£80</u> Bi-annual review of summons costs and liability orders to reflect inflation and additional Magistrates Court costs.	C R S	- - -	- - -	- - -
	TOTALS	C R S	- 1,310 CR -	- 1,310 CR -	- 1,310 CR -



Wyre Forest District Council



Service	Planning	Service Manager	Development Manager
Directorate	Economic Prosperity & Place	Cabinet Member	Economic Regeneration, Planning and Capital Investments

PROPOSAL OF SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES

INCOME DESCRIPTION	Current Charge TO 31-03-2022 £ Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)	Proposed Charge FROM 01-04-2022 £ Charges before VAT	Proposed Charge FROM 01-04-2022 £ Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)
High Hedge Applications			
Householder	420.00	450.00	No VAT currently charged
Other	420.00	450.00	No VAT currently charged
Concession (for those in receipt of housing or council tax benefits)	184.00	200.00	No VAT currently charged

NOTES:

Customers may be able to order and pay for some services online – please refer to <http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk>



Wyre Forest District Council



Service	Planning & Building Control	Service Manager	Development Manager
Directorate	Economic Prosperity & Place	Cabinet Member	Economic Regeneration, Planning and Capital Investments

PROPOSAL OF SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES

INCOME DESCRIPTION	Current Charge TO 31-03-2022 £ Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)	Proposed Charge FROM 01-04-2022 £ Charges before VAT	Proposed Charge FROM 01-04-2022 £ Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)
Planning Advice			
Building Control Decision Notices (Pre 01-01-2012)			
Sale of Copy Documents			
Reply to general individual queries, Planning or Building Control for up to 6 questions (after that the full Local Land Charge Search fee will be charged)	29.00 per Question	30.00 per Question	No VAT currently charged
If any query requires a site visit to be made (e.g. compliance with conditions)	83.00	87.00	No VAT currently charged
Charges for Copy Documents			
See Note 2 below			
Monthly Decision List - Emailed	Free	Free	Free
Weekly Planning Application List - Emailed	Free	Free	Free
Decision Notices	24.00	20.83	25.00
Decision Notices Additional Copies	1.60	1.42	1.70
A4 - For each copy	1.60	1.42	1.70
A3 - For each copy	1.60	1.42	1.70
A2 - For each copy	4.20	3.67	4.40
A1 - For each copy	5.70	5.00	6.00
A0 - For each copy	7.00	6.17	7.40

NOTES:

Note 1 - Copies, where appropriate, are available free up to a cumulative single transaction value of £10 for individuals (the discretion of Head of Service to be applied in cases of multiple separate transactions) and charged at full cost to representatives of professional and/or commercial companies.
 Note 2 - Copies of all planning application plans and decision notices made from 2006 onwards are available online at zero cost at <http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings.aspx>
 Customers may be able to order and pay for some services online – please refer to <http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk>



Wyre Forest District Council



Service	Planning	Service Manager	Development Manager
Directorate	Economic Prosperity & Place	Cabinet Member	Economic Regeneration, Planning and Capital Investments

PROPOSAL OF SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES

INCOME DESCRIPTION	Current Charge TO 31-03-2022 £ Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)	Proposed Charge FROM 01-04-2022 £ Charges before VAT	Proposed Charge FROM 01-04-2022 £ Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)
Permitted Developments and Pre-application Advice			
Permitted Development enquiries			
Proposed development type			
Householder	Free	Free	Free
Other	Free	Free	Free
Pre-Application advice			
Householder	Free	Free	Free
Cost of each additional meeting	Free	Free	Free
Residential Development including Conversions (see note 1)			
1 dwelling	105.00	91.67	110.00
Cost of each additional meeting	47.00	40.83	49.00
2-3 dwellings	294.00	257.50	309.00
Cost of each additional meeting	126.00	110.00	132.00
4-5 dwellings	394.00	345.00	414.00
Cost of each additional meeting	184.00	160.83	193.00
6-7 dwellings	578.00	505.83	607.00
Cost of each additional meeting	263.00	230.00	276.00
8-9 dwellings	788.00	689.17	827.00
Cost of each additional meeting	368.00	321.67	386.00
10-24 dwellings	1,050.00	919.17	1,103.00
Cost of each additional meeting	578.00	505.83	607.00
25-49 dwellings	1,680.00	1,470.00	1,764.00
Cost of each additional meeting	735.00	643.33	772.00
50 - 74 dwellings	2,100.00	1,837.50	2,205.00
Cost of each additional meeting	945.00	826.67	992.00
75 - 99 dwellings	2,730.00	2,389.17	2,867.00
Cost of each additional meeting	1,260.00	1,102.50	1,323.00
100 - 149 dwellings	3,360.00	2,940.00	3,528.00
Cost of each additional meeting	1,365.00	1,194.17	1,433.00
150 - 199 dwellings	3,675.00	3,215.83	3,859.00
Cost of each additional meeting	1,575.00	1,378.33	1,654.00
200 - 299 dwellings	4,410.00	3,859.17	4,631.00
Cost of each additional meeting	1,890.00	1,654.17	1,985.00
300 - 499 dwellings	5,040.00	4,410.00	5,292.00
Cost of each additional meeting	2,100.00	1,837.50	2,205.00
500+ dwellings	5,460.00	4,777.50	5,733.00
Cost of each additional meeting	2,625.00	2,296.67	2,756.00
Non Residential/Commercial Development (see note 1)			
Gross floor area up to 75m2	Free	Free	Free
Cost of each additional meeting	Free	Free	Free
Gross floor area 76m2 - 249m2	158.00	138.33	166.00
Cost of each additional meeting	79.00	69.17	83.00
Gross floor area up to 250m2 - 499m2	315.00	275.83	331.00
Cost of each additional meeting	158.00	138.33	166.00
Gross floor area 500m2 - 999m2	683.00	597.50	717.00
Cost of each additional meeting	341.00	298.33	358.00
Gross floor area 1,000m2 - 2,499m2	1,680.00	1,470.00	1,764.00
Cost of each additional meeting	756.00	661.67	794.00
Gross floor area 2,500m2 - 4,999m2	2,625.00	2,296.67	2,756.00
Cost of each additional meeting	893.00	781.67	938.00
Gross floor area 2,500m2 - 9,999m2	3,570.00	3,124.17	3,749.00
Cost of each additional meeting	1,155.00	1,010.83	1,213.00
Gross floor area +10,000m2	5,040.00	4,410.00	5,292.00
Cost of each additional meeting	1,575.00	1,378.33	1,654.00



Service	Planning	Service Manager	Development Manager
Directorate	Economic Prosperity & Place	Cabinet Member	Economic Regeneration, Planning and Capital Investments

PROPOSAL OF SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES

INCOME DESCRIPTION	Current Charge TO 31-03-2022 £ Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)	Proposed Charge FROM 01-04-2022 £ Charges before VAT	Proposed Charge FROM 01-04-2022 £ Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)
Permitted Developments and Pre-application Advice			
Other Categories			
Advertisements	79.00	69.17	83.00
Cost of each additional meeting	26.00	22.50	27.00
Change of Use	158.00	138.33	166.00
Cost of each additional meeting	79.00	69.17	83.00
Telecommunications	236.00	206.67	248.00
Cost of each additional meeting	121.00	105.83	127.00
Glasshouses/Poly Tunnels	84.00	73.33	88.00
Cost of each additional meeting	21.00	18.33	22.00
Others (see note 2)	79.00	69.17	83.00
Cost of each additional meeting	26.00	22.50	27.00
Historic Environmental and Tree related enquiries			
Separate Listed Building and Conservation Area Advice (Up to 3 Separate Matters - see note 3)	63.00	55.00	66.00
Cost per additional matter to be considered	16.00	14.17	17.00
Cost of each additional meeting	26.00	22.50	27.00
Separate Tree related Advice - number of trees not exceeding 10	63.00	55.00	66.00
Cost of each additional meeting	26.00	22.50	27.00
Separate Tree related Advice - number of trees over 10 but not exceeding 30	126.00	110.00	132.00
Cost of each additional meeting (see Note 4)	26.00	22.50	27.00
Exemptions			
As set out in Guidance Note (e.g. Parish Councils, etc)			

NOTES:

Note 1 - If only principle to be discussed developer to provide indicative capacity

Note 2 - Includes other development proposals such as variation or removal of conditions-proposed changes of use, car parks and certificates of lawfulness.
Customers may be able to order and pay for some services online – please refer to <http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk>



Service	Worcestershire Regulatory Services	Service Manager	Worcestershire Regulatory Services Officer
Directorate	Economic Prosperity & Place	Cabinet Member	Culture, Leisure and Community Protection

PROPOSAL OF SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES

INCOME DESCRIPTION	Current Charge TO 31-03-2022 £ Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)	Proposed Charge FROM 01-04-2022 £ Charges before VAT	Proposed Charge FROM 01-04-2022 £ Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)
Water Sampling and Analysis Charges - Fees Recommended By Worcestershire Regulatory Services			
POLLUTION CONTROL			
Water Sampling Charges			
The Regulations allow local authorities to charge a fee, to enable reasonable costs of services (lab fees etc) to be recovered			
Proposed Fees and Charges			
Risk Assessment	55.00 per hour	56.00 per hour	No VAT currently charged
Sampling (each visit)	55.00 per hour	56.00 per hour	No VAT currently charged
Investigation	55.00 per hour	56.00 per hour	No VAT currently charged
Analysing a sample taken under regulation 10 (small supplies) (Plus extra lab costs for additional parameters where required)	lab analysis cost	lab analysis cost	No VAT currently charged
taken during monitoring for Group A parameters	lab analysis cost	lab analysis cost	No VAT currently charged
taken during audit monitoring	lab analysis cost	lab analysis cost	No VAT currently charged

NOTES:

Where the request is made by the Owner/Occupier and the Authority is not the only service provider - VAT will be added.
Where the authority instigates the testing under regulations i.e. Periodic tests, assessments - VAT is not applicable in this instance.
Customers may be able to order and pay for some services online – please refer to <http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk>



Service	Worcestershire Regulatory Services	Service Manager	Worcestershire Regulatory Services Officer
Directorate	Economic Prosperity & Place	Cabinet Member	Culture, Leisure and Community Protection

PROPOSAL OF SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES

INCOME DESCRIPTION	Current Charge TO 31-03-2022 £ Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)	Proposed Charge FROM 01-04-2022 £ Charges before VAT	Proposed Charge FROM 01-04-2022 £ Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)
Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Fees			
Hackney Carriage Vehicle (includes renewal plates and twice yearly vehicle inspections)	430.00	430.00	No VAT currently charged
Private Hire Vehicle (includes renewal plates and twice yearly vehicle inspections)	430.00	430.00	No VAT currently charged
Change of Business (Sell Car and Transfer Plate)	108.00	108.00	No VAT currently charged
Temporary Replacement HC & PH vehicle (excluding plates & decals)	107.00	107.00	No VAT currently charged
Initial or Replacement Licences/Plates (if lost or damaged)			
External Car Plate	50.00	50.00	No VAT currently charged
Internal (Executive Vehicles) Car Plate	22.00	22.00	No VAT currently charged
Vehicle Decals - Replacements	20.00	20.00	No VAT currently charged
Exemption Notice (Executive Vehicles)	30.00	30.00	No VAT currently charged
Vehicle Testing			
Vehicle Retest Fee (if re-tested within 48 hours of failure)	32.00	32.00	32.00
Vehicle Retest Fee (if re-tested after 48 hours of failure)	61.00	61.00	61.00
Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Drivers Licence (valid for 3 years)	426.00	426.00	No VAT currently charged
Disclosure and Barring Service check	64.00	64.00	No VAT currently charged
Drivers Badge	26.00	26.00	No VAT currently charged
Drivers' Knowledge Test	56.00	56.00	No VAT currently charged
Private Hire Operators (valid for 1 year)	477.00	477.00	No VAT currently charged
Private Hire Operators (valid for 5 years)	1,810.00	1,810.00	No VAT currently charged

NOTES:

Customers may be able to order and pay for some services online – please refer to <http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk>



Wyre Forest District Council



Service	Worcestershire Regulatory Services	Service Manager	Worcestershire Regulatory Services Officer
Directorate	Economic Prosperity & Place	Cabinet Member	Culture, Leisure and Community Protection

PROPOSAL OF SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES

INCOME DESCRIPTION	Current Charge TO 31-03-2022 £ Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)	Proposed Charge FROM 01-04-2022 £ Charges before VAT	Proposed Charge FROM 01-04-2022 £ Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)
Licensing and Registration - Animal Activity Licence			
<u>Animal Activity Licence</u>			
Animal Boarding, Dog Breeding, Pet Shops, Riding Establishments			
Application Fee	329.00	329.00	No VAT currently charged
1 Year Licence Fee	184.00	184.00	No VAT currently charged
2 Year Licence Fee	364.00	364.00	No VAT currently charged
3 Year Licence Fee	546.00	546.00	No VAT currently charged
Variation Fee	240.00	240.00	No VAT currently charged
Inspection Fee	163.00	163.00	No VAT currently charged
Vet Fees	Charged at Cost recovery	Charged at Cost recovery	
<u>Animal Activity Licence</u>			
Performing Animals (No Risk Assessment)			
Application Fee	219.00	219.00	No VAT currently charged
1 Year Licence Fee	N/A	N/A	No VAT currently charged
2 Year Licence Fee	N/A	N/A	No VAT currently charged
3 Year Licence Fee	300.00	300.00	No VAT currently charged
Variation Fee	158.00	158.00	No VAT currently charged
Inspection Fee	163.00	163.00	No VAT currently charged
Vet Fees	Charged at cost recovery	Charged at Cost recovery	

NOTES:

Customers may be able to order and pay for some services online – please refer to <http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk>



Service	Worcestershire Regulatory Services	Service Manager	Worcestershire Regulatory Services Officer
Directorate	Economic Prosperity & Place	Cabinet Member	Culture, Leisure and Community Protection

PROPOSAL OF SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES

INCOME DESCRIPTION	Current Charge TO 31-03-2022 £ Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)	Proposed Charge FROM 01-04-2022 £ Charges before VAT	Proposed Charge FROM 01-04-2022 £ Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)
Licensing and Registration			
Dangerous Wild Animals Initial	432.00	432.00	No VAT currently charged
Renewal	285.00	285.00	No VAT currently charged
Vet fees/Animal welfare visit (if applicable)			
Zoo Licences Initial	2,075.00 (plus Inspector's expenses)	2,075.00 (plus Inspector's expenses)	No VAT currently charged
Renewal	1,866.00 (plus Inspector's expenses)	1,866.00 (plus Inspector's expenses)	No VAT currently charged
Vet fees/Animal welfare visit (if applicable)	Charged at Cost	Charged at Cost	
Acupuncture, Tattooing, Electrolysis, Ear Piercing, Skin Piercing & Semi-Permanent Skin			
Colouring -			
Certificate of Registration: (a) Person	210.00	210.00	No VAT currently charged
(b) Premise	302.00	302.00	No VAT currently charged
(c) Persons & Premises	No Longer Available	No Longer Available	
Sex Establishments Initial	5,487.00	5,487.00	No VAT currently charged
Renewal	2,107.00	2,107.00	No VAT currently charged
Transfer	421.00	421.00	No VAT currently charged

NOTES:

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Wyre Forest District Council



Service	Worcestershire Regulatory Services	Service Manager	Worcestershire Regulatory Services Officer
Directorate	Economic Prosperity & Place	Cabinet Member	Culture, Leisure and Community Protection

PROPOSAL OF SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES

INCOME DESCRIPTION	Current Charge TO 31-03-2022 £ Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)	Proposed Charge FROM 01-04-2022 £ Charges before VAT	Proposed Charge FROM 01-04-2022 £ Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)
Gambling Premises Licence Fees			
Gambling Premises Licence - New Application			
Adult Gaming Centre	1,765.00	1,765.00	No VAT currently charged
Betting Premises (excluding Tracks)	2,648.00	2,648.00	No VAT currently charged
Betting Premises (Tracks)	2,205.00	2,205.00	No VAT currently charged
Bingo Club	3,085.00	3,085.00	No VAT currently charged
Family Entertainment Centre	1,765.00	1,765.00	No VAT currently charged
Temporary Use Notices	449.00	449.00	No VAT currently charged
Gambling Premises Licence - Annual Fee			
Adult Gaming Centre	883.00	883.00	No VAT currently charged
Betting Premises (excluding Tracks)	530.00	530.00	No VAT currently charged
Betting Premises (Tracks)	883.00	883.00	No VAT currently charged
Bingo Club	883.00	883.00	No VAT currently charged
Family Entertainment Centre	660.00	660.00	No VAT currently charged
Provisional Statement Application			
Adult Gaming Centre	1,765.00	1,765.00	No VAT currently charged
Betting Premises (excluding Tracks)	2,648.00	2,648.00	No VAT currently charged
Betting Premises (Tracks)	2,205.00	2,205.00	No VAT currently charged
Bingo Club	3,085.00	3,085.00	No VAT currently charged
Family Entertainment Centre	1,765.00	1,765.00	No VAT currently charged
Licence Application (Provisional Statement Holders)			
Adult Gaming Centre	837.00	837.00	No VAT currently charged
Betting Premises (excluding Tracks)	1,061.00	1,061.00	No VAT currently charged
Betting Premises (Tracks)	837.00	837.00	No VAT currently charged
Bingo Club	1,061.00	1,061.00	No VAT currently charged
Family Entertainment Centre	837.00	837.00	No VAT currently charged
Application to Transfer			
Adult Gaming Centre	837.00	837.00	No VAT currently charged
Betting Premises (excluding Tracks)	1,061.00	1,061.00	No VAT currently charged
Betting Premises (Tracks)	837.00	837.00	No VAT currently charged
Bingo Club	1,061.00	1,061.00	No VAT currently charged
Family Entertainment Centre	837.00	837.00	No VAT currently charged
Application to Vary			
Adult Gaming Centre	883.00	883.00	No VAT currently charged
Betting Premises (excluding Tracks)	1,322.00	1,322.00	No VAT currently charged
Betting Premises (Tracks)	1,101.00	1,101.00	No VAT currently charged
Bingo Club	1,546.00	1,546.00	No VAT currently charged
Family Entertainment Centre	883.00	883.00	No VAT currently charged
Reinstatement of Licence			
Adult Gaming Centre	837.00	837.00	No VAT currently charged
Betting Premises (excluding Tracks)	1,061.00	1,061.00	No VAT currently charged
Betting Premises (Tracks)	837.00	837.00	No VAT currently charged
Bingo Club	1,061.00	1,061.00	No VAT currently charged
Family Entertainment Centre	837.00	837.00	No VAT currently charged

NOTES:

Customers may be able to order and pay for some services online – please refer to <http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk>



Wyre Forest District Council



Service	Worcestershire Regulatory Services	Service Manager	Worcestershire Regulatory Services Officer
Directorate	Economic Prosperity & Place	Cabinet Member	Culture, Leisure and Community Protection

PROPOSAL OF SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES

INCOME DESCRIPTION	Current Charge TO 31-03-2022 £ Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)	Proposed Charge FROM 01-04-2022 £ Charges before VAT	Proposed Charge FROM 01-04-2022 £ Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)
Street Trading			
Single Unit up to 12 x 12 (max 5m length) Food - Initial	2,575.00	2,575.00	No VAT currently charged
- Renewal	2,450.00	2,450.00	No VAT currently charged
Single Unit up to 12 x 12 (max 5m length) Non-Food - Initial	2,145.00	2,145.00	No VAT currently charged
- Renewal	1,935.00	1,935.00	No VAT currently charged
For every additional 12 x 12 or part thereof or length more than 5m	1,060.00	1,060.00	No VAT currently charged
Mobile Traders - Initial	1,010.00	1,010.00	No VAT currently charged
Mobile Traders - Renewal	1,010.00	1,010.00	No VAT currently charged
Street Amenities (Control of Street Furniture)	405.00	405.00	No VAT currently charged

NOTES:

Customers may be able to order and pay for some services online – please refer to <http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk>



Wyre Forest District Council



Service	Worcestershire Regulatory Services	Service Manager	Worcestershire Regulatory Services Officer
Directorate	Economic Prosperity & Place	Cabinet Member	Culture, Leisure and Community Protection

PROPOSAL OF SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES

INCOME DESCRIPTION	Current Charge TO 31-03-2022 £ Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)	Proposed Charge FROM 01-04-2022 £ Charges before VAT	Proposed Charge FROM 01-04-2022 £ Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)
Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 - Fees Recommended By Worcestershire Regulatory Services			
Site Licence - Initial (3 year licence)	296.00	296.00	No VAT currently charged
Site Licence - Renewal (3 year licence)	245.00	245.00	No VAT currently charged
Collectors Licence - Initial (3 year licence)	148.00	148.00	No VAT currently charged
Collectors Licence - Renewal (3 year licence)	97.00	97.00	No VAT currently charged
Variation of Licence	67.00	67.00	No VAT currently charged
Copy of licence (if lost or stolen)	26.00	26.00	No VAT currently charged

NOTES:

Customers may be able to order and pay for some services online – please refer to <http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk>



Service	Worcestershire Regulatory Services	Service Manager	Worcestershire Regulatory Services Officer
Directorate	Economic Prosperity & Place	Cabinet Member	Culture, Leisure and Community Protection

PROPOSAL OF SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES

INCOME DESCRIPTION	Current Charge TO 31-03-2022 £ Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)	Proposed Charge FROM 01-04-2022 £ Charges before VAT	Proposed Charge FROM 01-04-2022 £ Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)
Control of Dogs - Fees Recommended By Worcestershire Regulatory Services			
Stray Dogs			
Statutory Fine per dog seized	25.00	25.00	No VAT currently charged
Kennelling charge per dog per day	15.00	17.00	No VAT currently charged
Kennelling of Dangerous Dogs charge per dog per day	25.00	25.00	No VAT currently charged
Administration Fee per stray dog seized	15.00	15.00	No VAT currently charged
Out of Hours Charge	40.00	45.00	No VAT currently charged
Repeat stray charge	30.00	40.00	No VAT currently charged
Treatment Costs (wormer, flea treatment)	10.00	10.00	No VAT currently charged
Vet fees/treatment charges (if applicable)	Charged at Cost	Charged at Cost	VAT Charged at Current Rate
Commercial Animal Services			
Dog Training Facility Welfare Assessment Check (upon request)	n/a	140.00	168.00
Dog Kennelling per dog per day (excluding any hospitalisation)	n/a	19.00	22.80
Dog Kennelling of dangerous dogs per dog per day (excluding any hospitalisation)	n/a	22.00	26.40
Boarding of non-canine animals charges quoted at time	n/a	Upon Request	VAT Charged at Current Rate
Administration Charge	n/a	15.00	18.00
Veterinary Fees including Hospitalisation	n/a	Charged at Cost	VAT Charged at Current Rate
Transportation charge to include Collection, transport to vets if required and return of Dog/Animal to include travel time per hour	n/a	40.00	48.00
Transportation charge to include Collection, transport to vets if required and return of Dangerous Dog to include travel time per hour	n/a	50.00	60.00
Rehoming of animal	n/a	45.00	54.00

NOTES:

Customers may be able to order and pay for some services online – please refer to <http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk>



Wyre Forest District Council



Service	Revenues	Service Manager	Revenues, Benefits and Customer Services Manager
Directorate	Resources	Cabinet Member	Finance and Capital Portfolio

PROPOSAL OF SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES

INCOME DESCRIPTION	Current Charge TO 31-03-2022 £ Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)	Proposed Charge FROM 01-04-2022 £ Charges before VAT	Proposed Charge FROM 01-04-2022 £ Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)
Council Tax and NNDR			
Council Tax and NNDR			
Summons costs	50.00	50.00	No VAT currently charged
Liability Orders	30.00	30.00	No VAT currently charged

NOTES:

Customers may be able to order and pay for some services online – please refer to <http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk>

**Report of the Chief Financial Officer in respect of
Sections 25-28 Local Government Act 2003**

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To consider the report of the Head of Resources in respect of statutory duties placed on Local Authority Chief Financial Officers in relation to budget setting and monitoring. The report provides councillors with assurance that the budgets have been compiled appropriately and that the levels of reserves held is adequate.

2. RECOMMENDATION (see 2.2.3 of main report)

THAT COUNCIL NOTE:

- 2.1 The Chief Financial Officer's opinion on the budget proposals, recommended by the Cabinet on 8th February 2022, as detailed in this report.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Sections 25 to 28 of the Local Government Act 2003 (The Act) place statutory duties on Local Authorities on how they set and monitor budgets. The Act requires local authorities to ensure that the Budget estimates are robust, Reserves are adequate and the Budget is monitored on a regular basis.
- 3.2 Section 25 requires the Chief Financial Officer to report to the Council on the robustness of the estimates it makes when calculating its budget requirement under Section 32 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and on the adequacy of its proposed financial reserves.
- 3.3 Section 26 requires authorities to adhere to their approved policies in relation to Reserves when setting budgets to ensure that the minimum Reserve levels are maintained.
- 3.4 Section 27 requires the Chief Financial Officer, at the time of the budget setting, to report if it appears that a reserve in relation to the previous financial year is likely to be inadequate. The reasons for the inadequacy and a recommended course of action must be considered by Council.
- 3.5 Section 28 places a statutory duty on the Council to review its budget and all calculations related to it from time to time. If the review shows a deterioration in the financial position, the Council must take such action as it considers necessary (if any) to address the situation.
- 3.6 Whilst Sections 25-27 relate specifically to budget and council tax setting for the following financial year, these Sections are being more widely interpreted by External Auditors to include the period of the Council's Financial Strategy; as a consequence it is necessary to report not only on next year's Budget but on the period covered by the Three Year Budget Strategy (2022-25).

4. KEY ISSUES – CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER’S OPINION ON 2022-25 BUDGET & THREE YEAR BUDGET STRATEGY

- 4.1 In respect of the Budget Proposals recommended by the Cabinet, in my opinion the estimates made for the purposes of Section 32 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 calculations are robust.
- 4.2 The Reserves outlined in the Three Year Budget and Policy Framework Report to the Cabinet on this agenda are adequate in relation to the 2022-25 Budget.
- 4.3 The ongoing transformation work stream, the Future High Street and Levelling Up Fund programmes that will regenerate Kidderminster and surrounding areas and promote economic growth, and work done by the Strategic Review Panel this year are moving the Council towards a sustainable balanced budget in the future, that is less reliant on the use of reserves. However the ongoing pandemic continues to be a huge drain on both central and local resources. The refreshed Transformation Programme required to deliver the savings required with the localism and Wyre Forest Forward work streams continues to be a key lever. The overall funding gap has decreased from circa £2.7m to circa £1.7m in 2024-25 but continues to represent a key risk to ongoing financial sustainability. This will need to be directly addressed at pace as the Progressive Alliance move into their fourth year of Administration and continue to be carefully managed and mitigated by the member and officer Leadership team.
- 4.4 The programme of change outlined in the 2021-24 MTFS continues to be progressed. The vast majority of services currently provided solely for the district by WFDC staff are being reviewed and options for shared services with another council or councils in Worcestershire or other organisations are being explored and progressed where financially advantageous. This will include the possibility of joint venture vehicles with the private sector and the option of a joint waste collection and disposal authority. This process could involve the transfer of relevant assets to other organisations or their placing in joint venture vehicles. If all other options have been explored and exhausted and it remains necessary to secure cost savings then outsourcing to the private sector as an option for some services will be considered. The table in paragraph 6.12 of the December Cabinet MTFS report provided details of further work planned, with the indicative timetable of reviews to examine potential alternative delivery options.
- 4.5 Work is planned to continue to reduce costs through internal efficiency, grow income by selling services and generate income from the Council’s assets although it is recognised that post-COVID this will be a smaller part of the overall funding gap solution. The significant localism work stream will continue to be progressed in earnest to build on the excellent progress so far.
- 4.6 The Council have adopted the general principles of the CIPFA Guidance on Local Authority Reserves and Balances, which outline a minimum Reserve (Working Balance) for this Council which has been adhered to in the Financial Strategy 2022-25.
- 4.7 Following an external review by Link Asset Services (our retained Treasury Management advisors) in 2017 this year’s MTFS maintains the increased working balance of £1.2m. The external report advised that we considered increasing the working balance up to £1.5m. £1.2m is considered to be adequate pending a further

increase from Final Accounts savings, to provide additional risk mitigation for this MTFS and the position will continue to be kept under review. The Link Report confirmed that the levels of reserves currently held were fair and reasonable. Since this review, overall levels of reserves held have increased to reflect ongoing risk as reflected in our Statement of Accounts 2020-21 and acknowledged by our external auditors.

- 4.8 The Council currently holds earmarked reserves of £18.2m (as at mid-January 2022). It should be noted that the Council has commitments against such earmarked reserves and the forecast balance after commitments is £7.8m. A General Risk Reserve is also held of circa £874k as at mid-January 2022; the forecast balance after commitments is £789k. The level of this reserve and the depleted innovation fund will be reconsidered as part of the Final Accounts process. A Planned Property Maintenance reserve is held, taking 20% of the net proceeds from Capital Portfolio purchases to help mitigate future unknown risk.
- 4.9 The assessment of affordability of financial plans requires a judgement about risk and is covered in the Prudential Framework and associated codes and guidance. A revision to the Prudential Code and the Treasury Management Code was issued in December 2021. These codes include a requirement for a detailed capital strategy that sets out the long term context in which capital expenditure and investment decisions are made, giving due regard to both risk and reward and the achievement of priority outcomes. The code updates reporting requirements for long term financial and risk implications in relation to non-treasury investments and require that investments are not primarily made to generate a financial return. The revised Treasury Management Code enhances and strengthens the skills and training requirements for staff and members involved with the Treasury function. The Capital Strategy proposed for this budget cycle provides high-level projections over a 10 year timeframe. This extended timeframe provides extra information for additional transparency, particularly in relation to movements in the Balance Sheet, Capital Financing Requirements and Minimum Revenue Provision which all impact on the revenue budget and reserves requirement.
- 4.10 A report approved by Cabinet on the 10th November 2020 temporarily revised the geography in relation to the acquisitions for the Council's Capital Portfolio Fund policy. The Capital Strategy presented to Cabinet on 21st December 2021 proposes that this is updated to once again align the footprint with Wyre Forest's functional economic geography. The revision proposed to the footprint is not identical to that previously adopted; the local authority areas of Wolverhampton and Dudley are added and Cannock Chase, Tamworth, Lichfield and East Staffordshire are removed. Business cases will need to evidence how acquisitions within the functional economic geography deliver against corporate objectives to evidence that acquisitions are not primarily for yield.
- 4.11 Prudential Indicators are the monitoring tool to assess performance and risk for treasury management and non-treasury capital expenditure and are reported to members in accordance with the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Capital Strategy prepared under the CIPFA Treasury Management and Prudential Codes.
- 4.12 It is important that the level of reserves is carefully monitored and reviewed as the pandemic has introduced added uncertainty as has the delayed Local Government Finance Reforms as future funding levels are unknown. These factors mean that the

Council is facing the most uncertainty in its history and feeds through to greater financial risk. Consequently, the levels of reserves may need to be reviewed as the position post-COVID becomes clearer and funding reforms are implemented and their impacts are known.

- 4.13 The Cabinet formally monitors Budgets on a quarterly basis in accordance with Section 28 of the 2003 Act, including 'Budget Risk Management' and takes appropriate action to ensure financial accountability. In addition, Cabinet/CLT receive monthly monitoring updates. Reporting is regularly reviewed and refined including in relation to Depot external income generation to provide relevant management information to improve the pace of decision making around demand-led income. Government departments have used local Councils extensively to passport funding to businesses, individuals and the community to buffer the financial impact of the virus and this has meant more work, diversion of resources and delays in savings plans which have all increased financial risk. Whilst the Government has provided significant funding to help Local Authorities this has fallen short of the overall forecast impact. The impact will be felt for several years to come.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 These are contained within the main MTFS report.

6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 These are contained in Paragraph 3 of this report.

7. EQUALITY IMPACT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 This is a financial report and there is no requirement to undertake an Equality Impact Assessment screening.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 8.1 Contained within the Financial Strategy 2022-25 and subsequent Cabinet reports are the significant risks and mitigating actions which have been identified, allied to the budget process.
- 8.2 There are four significant financial risks affecting the Council over the next three years:
- The Covid-19 pandemic remains a challenging context within which to manage resources and set budgets.
 - Funding uncertainty as a result of the again delayed Local Government Finance Reforms changing key funding streams and allocation methodologies.
 - The continued reliance on local income sources including the Capital Portfolio Fund and other demand led income streams and risk this may not be realised in line with projected expectations, particularly in light of the impact of the pandemic and;

- Further savings required from the Transformation Programme, including Localism, are significant and will prove challenging to deliver in the timeframe required.

8.3 It is for the reasons such as the above that the Council proposes to keep the current £1,200,000 level of the working balance reserve under review. This fund is available to provide cover for urgent unforeseen expenditure e.g. in respect of a civil emergency. The Innovation Fund is held to fund one-off costs of implementation of Transformation; significant allocations have been made in 2021-22 to fund the one-off severance costs following the management review.. The General Risk Reserve also mitigates more generic risks. Consideration of levels will be given as part of the Final Accounts process, in accordance with the delegations in the main budget report on this agenda. In addition to these generic reserves, earmarked reserves are held to cover specific commitments and therefore limit financial risk. The Planned Property Maintenance reserve takes 20% of the net proceeds from Capital Portfolio purchases to mitigate future unknown risk; this is a fundamental element of the methodology used for the assessment of risk using the latest CIPFA guidance.

9. CONCLUSION/FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1 The Council continues to be reliant on contributions from reserves to balance its budget over the term of the Financial Strategy. Nevertheless, the significant Transformation Programme should deliver ongoing savings to address this. The one year Provisional Finance Settlement, whilst providing some welcome additional one-year funding, does not provide the financial certainty needed to support staffing and investment decisions that would contribute to future financial sustainability.
- 9.2 To reduce the financial risks now faced, it is essential that net expenditure and funding be better aligned by the progression of efficiency plans for reductions in spending and increased income generation. This realignment work has continued despite being hampered by the pandemic. It is important that pace is increased in 2022-23.
- 9.3 The continued delays to Local Government Finance Reforms creates further uncertainty and resultant risk and it is recognised that planning is particularly difficult given these delays exacerbated by the impact of the ongoing pandemic. The level of reserves will need to be kept under consideration as more information emerges.
- 9.4 The recommendation in relation to the review of the level of the Working Balance from the Link Asset Services independent report on reserves held by this council, has been partially achieved and will be further reviewed as part of the 2021-22 Final Accounts Closedown process.
- 9.5 The assessment of affordability of financial plans requires a judgement about risk. This has been updated in the latest Capital Strategy and continues to be kept under review taking into account the changes to CIPFA Codes and access to PWLB Funding. This places relevant focus on reporting and planning for long term financial liabilities and risk implications in relation to non-treasury investments. The 10 year Capital Programme helps achieve this. The current approval for the Capital Portfolio Fund is considered to be proportionate to the size of this Council and the composition of the Balance Sheet as reported in the statutory accounts. The recommended change to the geography for capital portfolio purchases set out in paragraph 4.2 of the Capital Strategy reported to Cabinet on 21st December is noted. The December

2021 revisions to the Prudential Code make it clear that CIPFA is taking a more risk averse outlook in respect of investment matters. The updated Code requires that local authorities must not borrow to invest for the primary purpose of financial return. Business cases for any future acquisitions will need to provide evidence that investment outside the District boundary contributes to the achievement of corporate priorities. Current guidance on Prudential Property Investment is met by existing policies and procedures. The new reporting requirements of the Treasury Management Code will be introduced during the year ahead of the April 2023-24 deadline.

- 9.6 Development of commercialism and income generation is now acknowledged as being a smaller part of the solution to close the funding gap, however the generic Capital budget allocation will be slipped to support new financially viable initiatives. All business cases will continue to include an appropriate assessment of risks gauged against potential rewards; review of risk and performance will be conducted at least annually for each area of commercial activity. This regular review includes the option to cease more commercial activity if appropriate.
- 9.7 Financial Resilience remains a key risk for this and most other Councils, exacerbated by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. It is essential that the Council progresses the Transformation Plan outlined in the December MTFS to expedite its trajectory to becoming a smaller organisation that enables expenditure to be better aligned with income to alleviate the reliance on reserves.

10. CONSULTEES

- 10.1 Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Capital Portfolio
- 10.2 CLT
- 10.3 Link Asset Services

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 11.1 Local Government Act 2003 Sections 25-28
- 11.2 Local Government Finance Act 1992 Section 32
- 11.3 CIPFA revised Prudential Code and Treasury Management Code December 2021
- 11.4 Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022-25 Cabinet December 2021
- 11.5 CIPFA Financial Resilience Index December 2019
- 11.6 CIPFA Financial Management Code – October 2019
- 11.7 CIPFA Code Guidance on prudential property investment

CABINET PROPOSALS AS PER DECEMBER MTFs REPORT				
	Revised 2021/22 £	2022/23 £	2023/24 £	2024/25 £
Net Expenditure on Services (per Appendix 2)	13,102,940	12,026,680	11,487,830	11,363,500
COVID Support Grants	(797,800)	0	0	0
Total Net Expenditure on Services (per Appendix 2)	12,305,140	12,026,680	11,487,830	11,363,500
Less Cabinet Proposals		0	(38,000)	(38,000)
Net Expenditure	12,305,140	12,026,680	11,449,830	11,325,500
Contribution (from)/to Reserves	(1,081,770)	(129,530)	(601,120)	(172,070)
	11,223,370	11,897,150	10,848,710	11,153,430
Net Budget Requirement				
<u>Less</u>				
Revenue Support Grant	0	0	(356,790)	(356,790)
Business Rates	3,243,210	3,356,940	3,016,080	3,076,400
New Homes Bonus	242,510	463,760	0	0
Business Rates Returned Levy		463,760	463,760	463,760
Lower Tier Services Grant	121,190	127,540	100,000	100,000
Local Council Tax Support Grant	184,250	0	0	0
One off Services Grant		196,000	0	0
Council Tax Income	7,578,210	7,848,010	8,089,420	8,333,820
Collection Fund Deficit	(146,000)	(95,100)	0	0
COUNCIL TAX LEVY increase by £5 pa from 2022-23 onwards	224.34	229.34	234.34	239.34
COUNCIL TAX BASE	33,780	34,220	34,520	34,820
Reserves Statement	Revised 2021/22 £	2022/23 £	2023/24 £	2024/25 £
Reserves as at 1st April	4,400	3,318	3,189	2,588
Increase to Working Balance				
Contribution (from)/to Reserves	(1,082)	(130)	(601)	(172)
Reserves as at 31st March	3,318	3,189	2,588	2,416
CONSERVATIVE PROPOSALS	Revised 2021/22 £	2022/23 £	2023/24 £	2024/25 £
Net Expenditure on Services (per Appendix 2)	13,102,940	12,026,680	11,487,830	11,363,500
COVID Support Grants	(797,800)	0	0	0
Total Net Expenditure on Services (per Appendix 2)	12,305,140	12,026,680	11,487,830	11,363,500
Less Conservative Proposals	0	75,000	(38,000)	(113,000)
Net Expenditure	12,305,140	12,101,680	11,449,830	11,250,500
Contribution (from)/to Reserves	(1,081,770)	(204,530)	(601,120)	(97,070)
	11,223,370	11,897,150	10,848,710	11,153,430
Net Budget Requirement				
<u>Less</u>				
Revenue Support Grant	0	0	(356,790)	(356,790)
Business Rates	3,243,210	3,356,940	3,016,080	3,076,400
New Homes Bonus	242,510	463,760	0	0
Lower Tier Services Grant	121,190	127,540	100,000	100,000
Local Council Tax Support Grant	184,250	0	0	0
One off Services Grant	0	196,000	0	0
Council Tax Income	7,578,210	7,848,010	8,089,420	8,333,820
Collection Fund Deficit	(146,000)	(95,100)	0	0
COUNCIL TAX LEVY increase by £5 pa from 2022-23 onwards	224.34	229.34	234.34	239.34
COUNCIL TAX BASE	33,780	34,220	34,520	34,820
Reserves Statement - CONSERVATIVE PROPOSALS	Revised 2021/22 £	2022/23 £	2023/24 £	2024/25 £
Reserves as at 1st April	4,400	3,318	3,114	2,513
Increase to Working Balance				
Contribution (from)/to Reserves	(1,082)	(205)	(601)	(97)
Reserves as at 31st March	3,318	3,114	2,513	2,416

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CONSERVATIVE GROUP PROPOSALS 2022-23 ONWARDS

ACTIVITY AND DESCRIPTION OF CONSERVATIVE PROPOSALS	KEY	2022-23 £	2023-24 £	2024-25 £	After 2024-25 £
		£	£	£	£
Highways Verge Maintenance To increase the Highways Verge Maintenance budget to 2019-20 levels to support our corporate priority.	C R S	7,670	7,940	8,090	8,400
Localism To continue to fund Parish Councils for bin emptying and litter picking localism services as per current arrangements to support our corporate priority and ensure our statutory obligations are fulfilled.	C R S	6,260	13,460	13,460	13,460
Web casting of meetings To web-cast all meetings of Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Committee to allow maximum access for the public and in order to be fully open and transparent.	C R S	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Seasonal Litter Picking Resource To provide a flexible resource of 2 additional operatives to bolster and enhance litter picking in our two tourist towns of Bewdley and Stourport for the 5 months from Easter to the end of August in particular at weekends, bank holidays and for the full 6 week school summer holidays to support our tourist economy and in line with our corporate priority and to work with Bewdley and Stourport Town Council to seek to secure contributions to further enhance this scheme. To undertake this scheme for 2 years and review.	C R S	16,100 0.65	17,120 0.65	- -	- -
Community Leadership Fund To increase this funding stream of £1,000 per Member for 2022-23.	C R S	16,500	-	-	-
Electric Vehicle Charging Points To fund an additional 10 electric vehicle rapid charging points within the district funded by borrowing. Costs and income subject to procurement/full validation to ensure that the scheme is affordable (viable) over the life of the equipment	C R S	241,740 46,000	- 46,000	- 46,000	- 46,000
Environment Protection Post To enhance this team from 2 posts to 3 to create additional capacity for a further 2 years and then review in order to support our corporate priority and to be part funded from additional enforcement income.	C R S	26,340 1.1	28,230 1.1	- -	- -
Civil Enforcement Post To enhance this team to create additional capacity in particular to support enforcement on our urban estates and rural areas and allow for greater flexibility of enforcement at weekends and outside normal working hours to be part funded from additional enforcement income.	C R S	23,430 1	25,110 1	- -	- -
Future High Street and Leveling Up Fund delivery capacity To retain the £36k small business start-up grant and make separate provision to create capacity to deliver these significant grant funded schemes.	C R S	36,000 1	36,000 1	36,000 1	36,000 1
Bewdley Leisure Centre and Stourport on Severn Sports Centre To undertake a review to identify alternative ways of funding in future years.	C R S	-	38,000 CR	38,000 CR	38,000 CR
Income growth and efficiencies Generic target to be allocated to Wyre Forest Forward (WFF) savings, greater efficiencies, income generation and Wyre Forest House lettings/income.	C R S	104,800 CR	175,360 CR	180,050 CR	180,360 CR
TOTALS	C R S	241,740 75,000 3.8	- 38,000 CR 3.8	- 113,000 CR 1.0	- 113,000 CR 1.0
Also: £5pa Council Tax increase					

CABINET PROPOSALS AS PER REVISED DECEMBER MTFS REPORT				
	Revised 2021/22 £	2022/23 £	2023/24 £	2024/25 £
Net Expenditure on Services (per Appendix 2)	13,102,940	12,026,680	11,487,830	11,363,500
COVID Support Grants	(797,800)	0	0	0
Total Net Expenditure on Services (per Appendix 2)	12,305,140	12,026,680	11,487,830	11,363,500
Less Cabinet Proposals		0	(38,000)	(38,000)
Net Expenditure	12,305,140	12,026,680	11,449,830	11,325,500
Contribution (from)/to Reserves	(1,081,770)	(129,530)	(601,120)	(172,070)
	11,223,370	11,897,150	10,848,710	11,153,430
Net Budget Requirement				
<u>Less</u>				
Revenue Support Grant	0	0	(356,790)	(356,790)
Business Rates	3,243,210	3,356,940	3,016,080	3,076,400
New Homes Bonus	242,510	463,760	0	0
Business Rates Returned Levy				
Local Council Tax Support Grant	184,250	0	0	0
Lower Tier Services Grant	121,190	127,540	100,000	100,000
One-Off Services Grant		196,000		
Council Tax Income	7,578,210	7,848,010	8,089,420	8,333,820
Collection Fund Deficit	(146,000)	(95,100)	0	0
COUNCIL TAX LEVY increase by £5 pa from 2022-23 onwards	224.34	229.34	234.34	239.34
COUNCIL TAX BASE	33,780	34,220	34,520	34,820
Reserves Statement	Revised 2021/22 £	2022/23 £	2023/24 £	2024/25 £
Reserves as at 1st April	4,400	3,318	3,189	2,588
Increase to Working Balance				
Contribution (from)/to Reserves	(1,082)	(130)	(601)	(172)
Reserves as at 31st March	3,318	3,189	2,588	2,416
LIB DEM PROPOSALS	Revised 2021/22 £	2022/23 £	2023/24 £	2024/25 £
Net Expenditure on Services (per Appendix 2)	13,102,940	12,026,680	11,487,830	11,363,500
COVID Support Grants	(797,800)	0	0	0
Total Net Expenditure on Services (per Appendix 2)	12,305,140	12,026,680	11,487,830	11,363,500
Less Lib Dem Proposals	0	0	(38,000)	(38,000)
Net Expenditure	12,305,140	12,026,680	11,449,830	11,325,500
Contribution (from)/to Reserves	(1,081,770)	(129,530)	(601,120)	(172,070)
	11,223,370	11,897,150	10,848,710	11,153,430
Net Budget Requirement				
<u>Less</u>				
Revenue Support Grant	0	0	(356,790)	(356,790)
Business Rates	3,243,210	3,356,940	3,016,080	3,076,400
New Homes Bonus	242,510	463,760	0	0
Lower Tier Services Grant	0	0	0	0
Local Council Tax Support Grant	184,250	0	0	0
Share of £1.6bn Govt Grant	121,190	127,540	100,000	100,000
One-Off Services Grant		196,000		
Council Tax Income	7,578,210	7,848,010	8,089,420	8,333,820
Collection Fund Deficit	(146,000)	(95,100)	0	0
COUNCIL TAX LEVY increase by £5 pa from 2022-23 onwards	224.34	229.34	234.34	239.34
COUNCIL TAX BASE	33,780	34,220	34,520	34,820
Reserves Statement - LIB DEM PROPOSALS	Revised 2021/22 £	2022/23 £	2023/24 £	2024/25 £
Reserves as at 1st April	4,400	3,318	3,189	2,588
Increase to Working Balance				
Contribution (from)/to Reserves	(1,082)	(130)	(601)	(172)
Reserves as at 31st March	3,318	3,189	2,588	2,416

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

LIB DEM GROUP PROPOSALS 2022-23 ONWARDS

ACTIVITY AND DESCRIPTION OF LIB DEM PROPOSALS	KEY	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	After 2024-25
		£	£	£	£
<u>Localism</u> To approve a reduced programme of phased gross savings from Localism partnership working with our Town and Parish Council colleagues.	C R S	- - -	25,000 - -	100,000 - -	100,000 - -
<u>Car Parking</u>	C R S				
<u>Increase net income from Sales fees and charges</u> To carry out a complete review of all commercial activities to ensure that we are maximising income potential.	C R S	- 71,270 CR -	- 78,340 CR -	- 100,000 CR -	- 100,000 CR -
<u>Community Leadership Fund</u> To increase this funding stream of £1,000 per Member for 2022-23.	C R S	- 16,500 -	- - -	- - -	- - -
<u>Community Fund</u> A pot to fund small community events and activities that support the corporate priorities of the Council and well-being of residents and support diversity and inclusion to support additional community events, for example to support the Platinum Jubilee	C R S	- 5,000 -	- - -	- - -	- - -
<u>Environment Protection Post</u> Additional Environmental Protection resource for 2 years. Costs are net of estimated income generated.	C R S	- 26,340 1	- 28,230 1	- - -	- - -
<u>Civil Enforcement Post</u> Additional Civil Enforcement resource for 2 years. Costs are net of estimated income generated.	C R S	- 23,430 1	- 25,110 1	- - -	- - -
<u>Closure of the small business grants scheme and provide additional resource to support the FHSF and LUF</u> To close the small business grants scheme currently administered by NWEDR and to utilise the saving generated to fund additional resource to assist with delivery of externally funded projects.	C R S	- - -	- - 1	- - 1	- - 1
<u>Bewdley Leisure Centre and Stourport on Severn Sports Centre</u> To phase out discretionary support to sport and leisure facilities from April 2023.	C R S	- - -	38,000 CR - -	38,000 CR - -	38,000 CR - -
<u>Fund the development of the Solar Farm business case to Planning Application stage</u> To amend the capital programme to include expenditure on the Solar Farm business case in line with the Climate Emergency declaration. The expenditure to be funded from the Evergreen Investment Fund.	C R S	200,000 - 1	- - 1	- - -	- - -
TOTALS	C R S	200,000 - 3	- 38,000 CR 4	- 38,000 CR 1	- 38,000 CR 1
Also: £5pa Council Tax increase					