

Open

Council

Agenda

6pm
Wednesday, 23 February 2022
Council Chamber
Wyre Forest House
Finepoint Way
Kidderminster



Council

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COUNCIL MEETING

15 February 2022

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL AND HONORARY ALDERMEN

PRESS AND PUBLIC

Dear Member

YOU ARE INVITED to attend a meeting of the Wyre Forest District Council to be held **at 6.00p.m. on Wednesday 23 February 2022**, in the Council Chamber, Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster.

The Agenda for the meeting is enclosed.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "I R Miller".

Ian Miller
Chief Executive

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.

(A) TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COUNCIL

The Council

1. Is the ultimate decision making Body.
2. Determines the Budget (but reserves powers to itself in relation to requirements).
3. Is responsible for appointing (and dismissing) the Leader of the Council.
4. Appoints at its Annual Meeting, the Regulatory Committees, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and any other Committees/Forums necessary to conduct the Council’s business.
5. Decides on matters where the Cabinet is not minded to determine a matter in accordance with Council policy.

(B) MATTERS RESERVED TO THE COUNCIL

1. Those reserved by Law e.g. levying a rate, borrowing money, promotion of or opposition to a Bill in Parliament.
2. Matters reserved to the Council by financial regulations.
3. The adoption and amendment of Standing Orders, including the powers and duties of Committees and other forums.
4. Power to make, amend, revoke or enact or enforce any byelaws.
5. The determination of the objectives of the Council.
6. Matters of new policy or variation of existing policy as contained within the budget and policy framework.
7. Local Development Framework adoption.
8. Any function where a decision would be contrary to a plan, policy, budget or strategy previously adopted by the Council, which would be contrary to the Council’s Standing Orders, Financial Regulations or Executive arrangements.
9. The Scheme of Delegations to Officers.

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At the start of the meeting the Chairman will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being filmed.

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By entering the meeting room and using the public seating area, you are consenting to be filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting and or training purposes.

If members of the public do not wish to have their image captured they should sit in the Stourport and Bewdley Room where they can still view the meeting.

If any attendee is under the age of 18 the written consent of his or her parent or guardian is required before access to the meeting room is permitted. Persons under 18 are welcome to view the meeting from the Stourport and Bewdley Room.

If you have any queries regarding this, please speak with the Council's Legal Officer at the meeting.

* Unless there are no reports in the open session.

Wyre Forest District Council

Council

Wednesday, 23 February 2022

Council Chamber, Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster

Part 1

Open to the press and public

Agenda item	Subject	Page Number
1.	Prayers To be read by Rev. Sue Levitt, Stourport Wesley Methodist Church.	
2.	Apologies for Absence	
3.	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.	
4.	Minutes To approve as a correct record and sign the Minutes of the last meeting held 8 December 2021.	10
5.	Public Participation In accordance with the Council's Scheme for Public Speaking at Meetings of Full Council, to allow members of the public to present petitions, ask questions, or make statements, details of which have been received by 12 noon on Monday 14 February 2022. <i>If you wish to speak on an urgent matter that has arisen since the deadline and you could not reasonably have known about it at the time, you should register your interest in speaking no later than 9am on the day of the meeting of Council. In the case of a request to speak on an urgent matter, the Solicitor to the Council will rule on whether or not the matter is urgent and that ruling will be final.</i>	
6.	Chairman's Communications To note the engagements of the Chairman of the Council since the Council's last meeting.	24
7.	Leader of the Council Announcements To receive announcements from the Leader of the Council.	

8.	<p>Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022-2025</p> <p>To approve the Council's budget for 2022-2025 having considered the proposed decision and budget reports recommended to Council by Cabinet on 8 February 2022.</p> <p>The 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.</p> <p><i>The appendices to this report have been circulated electronically</i></p>	25
9.	<p>Council Tax Setting 2022-2023</p> <p>To consider and approve the formal resolution for setting the Council Tax for 2022-2023. This includes the 2.23% increase in the District Council's element of Council Tax, as recommended by Cabinet on 8 February 2022, and the precepts and council tax increases in the elements of Council Tax set by the following bodies:</p> <p>Worcestershire County Council – to be confirmed after the meeting of the County Council on 17 February. The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia (+3.94%) Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Authority (+1.96%)</p>	37
10.	<p>Policy and Budget Framework</p> <p>Matters which require a Decision by Council.</p> <p>Recommendations from O&S 03-02-2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treasury Management Strategy 2022-23 <p>Please note that the reports and associated documents, referred to above, have been circulated electronically to Members. Public inspection copies are available on request. Please refer to the front cover for contact details.</p>	48
11.	<p>Ethics regime in local government</p> <p>Council is invited to consider the response and further information provided by the Government following the Council's resolution of 8 December 2021 and the actions taken by Mark Garnier MP; and to determine what further steps (if any) that it wishes to take.</p>	50
12.	<p>Questions</p> <p>Eleven questions have been submitted by Members of the Council in accordance with Standing Order 1.8, details of which have been received by 12 noon on Monday 14 February 2022.</p> <p><i>In the case of an urgent matter that has arisen since the deadline</i></p>	55

above, and could not have been reasonably known at that time, it must be delivered in writing to the Solicitor to the Council no later than 9am on the day of Council.

13.

Motions Submitted under Standing Orders

Three motions have been received in accordance with standing orders.

1. Notice of motion from Councillor H Dyke to be seconded by Councillor G Ballinger

On the occasion of Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee on 6 February 2022 – a unique achievement in the history of the UK Monarchy - Council resolves that the Chairman should send a Humble Address to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Second to convey the congratulations of the Council and the residents of Wyre Forest and to express their grateful thanks to Her Majesty for Her dedicated service to the United Kingdom.

2. Notice of motion from Councillor G Ballinger to be seconded by Councillor H Dyke

Council resolves to congratulate Kidderminster Harriers Football Club on their run in the FA Cup and welcomes that this has fostered pride in the Club and the town and has brought positive publicity for the town and Wyre Forest. Council further resolves that the Chairman should send a letter to the Club to convey the Council's congratulations and to extend best wishes to the team for the remainder of the 2021/22 season.

3. Notice of Motion by the WFDC Conservative Group to be moved by Councillor M Hart and seconded by either Councillor I Hardiman or N Desmond

This Council **acknowledges** the fact that there has been a reduction in senior leadership capacity as a result of the deletion of three corporate director posts in the last 2 years plus a number of other officer posts.

This Council further **acknowledges** that there are positives that can come out of the Covid-19 pandemic in respect of virtual and remote ways of working.

This Council does not wish to undermine and indeed acknowledges and supports a hybrid model of working.

This Council further **acknowledges** that it needs to be an attractive, good and responsible employer and that work life balance has a part to play in the recruitment and retention of staff.

However, this Council **regrets** the decision made by the Head of Paid Service and supported by the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council and his announcement to group leaders on 8th February 2022 that he will be permitting officers of this Council to attend and participate remotely at formal meetings of the Council.

	<p>This Council welcomes the role that Officers play in advising and supporting members of this Council in discharging their functions as democratically elected representatives.</p> <p>This Council is deeply concerned about the message this sends to our workforce, residents and taxpayers and the effect it will have on the cohesion of the council and decision making.</p> <p>This Council calls upon the Leader of the Council to respect and positively respond to the views of members of the Council that deplore and object to this decision and find that as a result of this decision we believe that there will be a discourtesy to all members at meetings and therefore commit to personally ensuring that this decision is reversed with immediate effect.</p>	
14.	<p>Emergency Motions submitted under Standing Orders</p> <p>To consider Emergency Motions submitted in accordance with Standing Order 4.1 (i).</p>	
15.	<p>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.</p>	
16.	<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 the paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act”.</p>	

Part 2

Not open to the Press and Public

17.	<p>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.</p>	
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WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL

COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY,
KIDDERMINSTER

8 DECEMBER 2021 (6PM)

Present:

Councillors: J Aston (Chairman), P Dyke (Vice-Chairman), G W Ballinger, C J Barnett, J F Byng, V Caulfield, S J Chambers, A Coleman, R H Coleman, B S Dawes, N J Desmond, H E Dyke, C Edginton-White, P Harrison, M J Hart, K Henderson, L J Jones, A L L'Huillier, N Martin, S Miah, F M Oborski MBE, M Rayner, C Rogers, S E N Rook, D Ross, J W R Thomas, L Whitehouse and P W M Young.

C.55 Prayers

Prayers were said by Rev. Jason Borlase, Kidderminster Baptist Church.

On behalf of the Chairman the Solicitor to the Council read out the following statement:

As members are aware, there is a statutory duty on this Authority to promote and maintain the highest standards of conduct for all our councillors.

The Chairman also has a duty to ensure that the Constitution is upheld and the reputation of this Council is maintained.

The Chairman was sorry to read of the member behaviour that led to the censure issued by the Ethics and Standards Committee and noted that it was not the first time that the member concerned had breached the code of conduct.

The chairman would like to remind members this evening of the 7 principles of public life and looks forward to a high standard of debate from all members here this evening.

Councillor C Barnett joined the meeting at 6.03pm.

C.56 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: N Gale, I Hardiman, T L Onslow, D R Sheppard and A Totty.

C.57 Declarations of Interests by Members

No declarations of interest were made.

C.58 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the last meeting held on 22 September 2021, and the special meeting held on 2 November 2021 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C.59 Public Participation

There was no public participation.

C.60 Chairman's Communications

The Council received a list of functions attended by the Chairman or Vice-Chairman since the Council's last meeting.

C.61 Leader of the Council Announcements

The Leader of the Council referred members to her tabled report.

C.62 Political Balance

Council considered a report from the Solicitor to the Council to approve the revised table of political balance.

The Leader presented the report and formally moved the recommendation for approval. The proposal was seconded by the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Community Safety.

Decision: Council approved the revised table of political balance in Appendix 1.

C.63 Appointment of Chief Finance Officer under Section 151, Local Government Act 1972

Council received a report from the Chief Executive to appoint a chief finance officer as required by legislation, following the retirement of the Corporate Director: Resources.

The Leader presented the report and formally moved the recommendation for approval. She explained that the postholder Helen Ogram had served with the Council since 2017 and had acted as deputy section 151 officer throughout. She added that prior to joining the authority, Helen had served as section 151 officer in another district council for three years. Therefore, she had the requisite experience and professional qualification in order to undertake the role. The proposal was seconded by the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Community Safety.

The Chief Executive confirmed that it was a matter for the section 151 officer to appoint a deputy.

Upon a show of hands, the vote was unanimously carried.

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Decision: In accordance with section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council RECOMMENDED to appoint Helen Ogram as its chief finance officer, with effect from 1 January 2022.

C.64

Tributes

Group Leaders were invited to pay tributes to the Corporate Director: Resources, Tracey Southall, and the Corporate Director: Economic Prosperity and Place, Mike Parker, on their retirement.

The Leader said that Tracey had been fantastic in explaining finance in its simplest terms so that she could understand it. She said at times she would have been lost without her explanations. She spoke about the time when a member had asked, with regard to the financial situation of the Council, if Tracey was able to sleep at night; she said she had been reassured when Tracey said 'yes'. She thanked Tracey for all her hard work and dedication, which was very much appreciated by everybody.

The Leader said that Mike had made an outstanding contribution to the economic regeneration of the district. She said he had a great calmness about him and an ability not to lose his temper or get irate when dealing with members that were 'overstepping the mark'. She thanked him for all his help and advice over the years and wished him well for the future.

Councillor M Hart said that Mike's enthusiasm for economic regeneration had contributed towards the initiation of the ReWyre initiative, and the wider economic regeneration programme which had seen a lot of positive change for the district. He added that Mike had played a huge part in securing monies from central government from the Future High Streets and Levelling Up Funds. He said that Mike had been a mainstay for him and his group over the years.

Councillor Hart said that Tracey had always given very sound, honest and fair advice, for which his group were very grateful for. He said that she had been a mainstay at Scrutiny and thanked her for the advice she had given him in his role of Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

On behalf of the Conservative Group, he thanked Mike and Tracey for the service they had given to the authority over the years and wished them well for the future.

On behalf of herself and her fellow Liberal Democrat councillors, Councillor F Oborski MBE extended gratitude and best wishes to both Directors.

She said that Councillor H Dyke was right; Mike was completely unflappable. She had never seen him begin to look slightly disturbed by anything and he always remained calm. She said that Mike had started out in the Development Control section of Planning and, despite his promotions to greater heights within the authority, he was back taking the leading role at the last Planning Committee meeting. She said it demonstrated his ability to do the diversity of those roles very well. She wished him a very long and happy retirement and hoped that by 2024 he

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would be able to see the outcomes in Kidderminster of all the hard work he had put into the Future High Streets Fund projects.

Councillor Oborski MBE spoke about a memory she had of Tracey some years ago. Heavy snow had fallen and Tracey had walked into work as she had budget setting meetings booked with political group members; she said this showed the fantastic degree of commitment Tracey had to the council. She said she was very grateful for the advice and guidance Tracey had given regarding Treasury Management, and for her ability to keep conversations between different groups confidential during the budget setting process. She said that Tracey would be sorely missed and wished her well for the future and hoped she had a long and happy retirement.

Councillor L Whitehouse said that both Mike and Tracey had made huge contributions to the council over the years and would be missed. He said that Mike had always been very responsive and helpful when he needed advice. He said nothing was ever too much trouble for Tracey. She was very patient and had an ability to talk things through in a simple way to make it easier for people to understand.

On behalf of himself and Councillor S Rook, he thanked Mike and Tracey for their contribution to the council and wished them all the very best for the future.

Councillor G Ballinger thanked Mike and Tracey for their service to the authority. He said members appreciated what they had done and hoped that they would enjoy their deserved retirement. He also paid tribute to other members of staff that had already left or were due to leave the authority.

C.65 Policy and Budget Framework – Matters which require a decision by Council

a) Recommendations from O&S Committee – 07-10-2021

- Annual Report on Treasury Management Service and Actual Prudential Indicators 2020-21

The Chairman of the Committee, Councillor M Hart presented the recommendations and formally moved them for approval. The Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Councillor S Rook, seconded the proposal.

Decision: Council:

- 1.1 Approved the actual 2020-21 prudential and treasury indicators in the report;**
- 1.2 Approved the actual 2020-21 non-treasury prudential indicators for Capital Portfolio Fund properties;**
- 1.3 Noted the annual treasury management report for 2020-21, including information on the non-treasury prudential**

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indicators for Capital Portfolio Fund properties.

b) Recommendations from O&S Committee – 04-11-2021

- Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy Mid-year Review Report 2021-22

Councillor Hart presented the recommendations and formally moved them for approval. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Rook.

Decision: Council approved this Treasury Management Mid-year Review and updated Prudential Indicators and Ratios.

c) Recommendations from Audit Committee – 24-11-2021

- Amendments to the Contract Procedure Rules and Financial Regulations

The Chairman of the Committee, Councillor R Coleman presented the recommendations and formally moved them for approval. The Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Councillor P Young, seconded the proposal.

Decision: Council AGREED that:

1.1 The Contract Procedure Rules are amended as proposed in Appendix A to the report.

1.2 The Financial Regulations are amended as proposed in Appendix B to the report.

d) Recommendations from Audit Committee – 24-11-2021

- Appointment of External Auditors

Councillor R Coleman presented the recommendation and formally moved it for approval. The proposal was seconded by Councillor P Young.

Decision: Council AGREED that Wyre Forest District Council opts into the appointing person arrangements made by Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) for the appointment of external auditors for 5 years commencing from 2023/24.

e) Recommendations from Licensing & Environmental Committee – 06-12-2021

- Review of Fees and Charges for the Council's Licensing and Regulatory Services Function 2022/23

The Chairman of the Committee, Councillor P Dyke presented the recommendations and formally moved them for approval. The Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Councillor A Coleman, seconded the proposal.

Decision: Council AGREED that the proposals for fees and charges within the Council's Licensing, Food, Health, Safety and Pollution

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Control functions for 2022/23, as detailed in the report, be included in the Council's 2022/23 budget strategy.

f) Recommendations from Licensing & Environmental Committee – 06-12-2021

- Review of the Gambling Act 2005 Revised Statement of Principles Consultation Results

Councillor P Dyke presented the recommendation and formally moved it for approval. The proposal was seconded by Councillor A Coleman.

Decision: The revised Statement of Principles 2022–25 attached at Appendix 3 of the report be approved and published.

Amendments to Capital Programme

g) Recommendations from Cabinet – 09-11-2021

- Financial and Strategic Policy Context for the Medium Term Financial Strategy

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Capital Portfolio presented the recommendation and formally moved it for approval. The Leader seconded the proposal.

Decision: Council AGREED to amend the capital programme to include the Levelling Up Fund projects, funded by Government grant of £17.9m.

h) Recommendations from Cabinet – 13-10-2021

- Redevelopment of land, Market Street, Kidderminster

The Cabinet Member for Operational Services presented the recommendations and formally moved them for approval. The Leader seconded the proposals.

Decision: Council APPROVED an amendment to the Capital Programme to include the acquisition of the land as set out in 2.3 of the confidential report and, in the event that the cost exceeds available resources in the Evergreen Investment Fund, delegates to the Section 151 Officer the decision on the allocation of appropriate other funding sources available to the Council within its existing budgets in order to allow the acquisition to proceed.

i) Recommendations from Cabinet – 09-11-2021

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

The Cabinet Member for Housing, Health, Well-being and Democratic Services presented the recommendations and formally moved them for approval. She explained that on 22 May 2019, Council had agreed to support a motion on developing EVC on its car parks. She added that the project had been incorporated into the work of the cross-party Green

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Agenda Cabinet Advisory Panel. She said that the Panel had spent a considerable amount of time deliberating the issue.

For the benefit of a question that had been submitted on a latter part of the agenda, the Cabinet Member provided members with a timeline of the dates that the Panel had received reports, business cases and briefings from the professional advisors, Cenex.

On behalf of the Conservative Group, Councillor N Desmond moved an amendment to motion. The amendment sought to defer the decision to further investigate additional rapid charging points and also the means of delivery of the points. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Hart.

A robust discussion ensued. Several members spoke in favour of the amendment which they believed would ensure value for money for the taxpayers across the district.

A number of members said that they would be unable to support the amendment and agreed with the Cabinet Member that the Council should be part of the solution to lowering carbon emissions within Wyre Forest and was confident that full due diligence had been undertaken.

A vote on the amendment to the motion was taken. Upon a show of hands, the amendment was defeated.

A vote on the substantive motion was carried and agreed.

Decision: Council AGREED that 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.

j) Recommendations from Cabinet – 09-11-2021 Localism Act 2011

- Revenues, Benefits and Customer Services Review

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Capital Portfolio presented the recommendations and formally moved them for approval. The Leader seconded the proposal.

Upon a show of hands, the vote was unanimously carried.

Decision: Council APPROVED the severance costs in two cases that exceed £100,000.

The meeting was adjourned at 7.38pm and resumed at 7.48pm.

C.66

Questions

Eleven questions have been submitted by members of the Council in accordance with Standing Orders.

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Councillor Hart advised that in the absence of Councillors T Onslow and I Hardiman, questions number three and five would be withdrawn.

1. Question from Councillor Nathan Desmond to the Cabinet Member for Housing, Health, Well-being and Democratic Services

Regarding the recent cabinet report on Electric Charging Points, could the Cabinet Member for Housing, Health, Well-being and Democratic Services please can you confirm that a full business case was produced for the lease option of equipment on par, with the detailed business case for full ownership of electric vehicle chargepoints (EVC) equipment. If so was this then shared with the wider cabinet and debated in Cabinet/CLT (Corporate Leadership Team) on the most advantageous and financial beneficial model to WFDC on providing EVC points?

Answer from the Cabinet Member for Housing, Health, Well-being and Democratic Services

My answers are yes and yes

Supplementary question

Could the Cabinet Member please give me, and other members who want it, a full copy of that business case on the lease option?

Answer

Yes

2. Question from Councillor Marcus Hart to the Cabinet Member for Operational Services

Could the Cabinet Member for Operational Services please confirm that should Parish Councils not wish to enter into fresh litter picking and bin emptying arrangements when their agreements come to an end that this Council will ensure that it fulfils its statutory duty and provide the same service as it does to our 3 towns?

Answer from the Cabinet Member for Operational Services

The negotiations with Parish Councils are still ongoing with the Leader of this Council, who is responsible for the localism agenda. It would be premature of me to speculate the outcome of these negotiations and commit this Council to something that may be resolved in these negotiations.

Supplementary question

Would you agree if Parish Councils do not continue with litter picking, which is a statutory duty under section 89 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, which this council has a statutory duty to clear and keep the land free from litter, that if the same service continues in the three town districts it would not be reasonable for the Council to defend that policy?

Answer

This Council will continue to discharge its statutory duties, but that depends on government funding. If we have not got the funding to continue the way

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in which we continue our statutory duties at the moment, then we will have to look at other ways to find the money or hence cut the services.

3. Question withdrawn

4. Question from Councillor Chris Rogers to the Cabinet Member for Operational Services

Would the Cabinet Member for Operational Services please tell this Council, and most importantly the public by what date the Frenco units on the Hoobrook Link Road will be completed, given work started in the summer of 2019?

Answer from the Cabinet Member for Operational Services

Following a Council decision on 2 November the contract has been finalised. The contractor has been on site since Monday and we expect completion early 2022.

Supplementary question

Would the Cabinet Member assure me that should there be any further problems with this project it will not impact on our capital programme?

Answer

Hopefully, there should be no further increases to our capital programme, and hopefully, we should come under budget.

5. Question withdrawn

6. Question from Councillor Sally Chambers to the Cabinet Member for Operational Services

Would the Cabinet Member for Operational Services tell this Council and most importantly the public it serves when will Wyre Forest House be open as it previously was for the public given that the Covid-19 situation could be with us for months or even years?

Answer from the Cabinet Member for Operational Services

Wyre Forest House is open for business. If a member of the public turns up with a query, staff will do their utmost to help. Given the fact that staff are not always available, if there is a specific request it is better that the public use the online services or the customer services hub to access council services. The building continues to be open for public meetings.

Supplementary question

I am a little concerned that the door is locked all day long and you need an access pass to get in. Would the Cabinet Member not agree we serve the public and therefore we are failing by not being properly open?

Answer

The reception is manned all the time and, if they notice that someone is waiting to come in, the reception team will let them in as soon as is humanly possible. There is somebody on reception from 9am to 5pm.

7. Question from Councillor Marcus Hart to the Leader of the Council

Would the Leader of the Council advise this Council whether or not she respects and welcomes the role that back benchers play in the work of this Council?

Answer from the Leader

As a back bencher on this Council for most of the years I have served on it, I respect, value and welcome the role back benchers play on this Council.

Supplementary question

Would the Leader agree with me that saying one thing is indeed one thing, but the doing is another? If the Overview & Scrutiny Committee which is cross-party for example makes genuine recommendations to her and the Executive that she leads, will she give a commitment that they will be genuinely considered and taken on board rather than simply ignored?

Answer

Any recommendations that come forward from Overview & Scrutiny (O&S) and other panels, are duly considered and given full attention by myself and Cabinet, and I can assure you as a past Chairman of O&S for many years, I make sure that every recommendation from Scrutiny is given the full attention it deserves. Sometimes as legislation allows, we take a different view for Council from those recommendations made by these committees. Just because we don't agree does not mean to say we show disrespect, we look at the picture for Council. I will also remind members that there is a call-in procedure, that can be activated if members feel strongly. It was activated in my time as Chairman and received quite a lot of opposition from the Cabinet at that time. As a past chair of O&S I am sure that past administrations have not accepted recommendations from O&S. As I have said this does not show disrespect it shows looking at an issue differently.

8. Question from Councillor Nathan Desmond to the Leader of the Council

Would the Leader of the Council say when her Progressive Alliance will put their ideology to one side and invest in out of district projects if it is deemed the best thing to do for the residents of this District?

Answer from the Leader

You will have noticed that in the Cabinet Agenda of 9 November, paragraph 4.2.3 and 4.2.4, it discusses the idea of moving into different areas. It also forms part of this year's budget consultation document, so we are asking residents at the moment what their views are.

Supplementary question

Do you personally favour changing the policy so we can invest in out of district projects? And do you agree with the recent presentation at Scrutiny, where Jones Valerio, in relation to Stratford Court in Solihull, said the current policy is restricting this Council from maximising income at that

Agenda Item No. 4

particular place, due to the current policy of not being able to invest in out of district?

Answer

I always take notice of people that we have to advise us and will continue to do so. Secondly, I do not make personal decisions for this Council. I make decisions on behalf of the Council and the residents. I do not think that my personal view has any relevance: it is the view of Council and the way forward.

9. Question from Councillor Sally Chambers to the Leader of the Council

Would the Leader of the Council confirm to this Council that she and the Progressive Alliance have no plans to sell or transfer Habberley Valley to a third party?

Answer from the Leader

The rumour that the Council is selling or going to sell Habberley Valley seems to circulate quite often and is totally untrue. I have no plans to sell it and the selling of Habberley Valley has not been discussed in any forum I have attended. Members may also remember during localism discussions transfer of our services was discussed, including nature reserves, but there was no mention of anything ever being sold. This has not been progressed to this date, and there have not been any conversations with any third party or within Cabinet.

Supplementary question

If that is so, would you agree that we need to reassure the incumbent tenant within Habberley Valley who looks after the café and put forward plans to maximise the asset?

Answer

I am aware that tenants have asked this question before of a Councillor that is no longer serving on this Council and other Councillors within the ward. As far as I am aware, they have always received the same reply.

10. Question from Councillor F Oborski MBE to the Cabinet Member for Operational Services

Can the Cabinet Member tell me what steps if any have been taken to convert our diesel fuelled refuse freighters to "green" biodiesel?

Answer from the Cabinet Member for Operational Services

This was discussed at the Green Advisory Panel and is one of a number of options for de-carbonising our fleet that is under active consideration.

Supplementary question

Would the Cabinet member be willing to contact the City of Portsmouth council who have very successfully already converted their diesel freighters to using biodiesel and are already noticing the carbon impact that it is having in reducing their carbon footprint?

Answer

Yes, certainly if you would forward the contact details of the person in that Council, I will get in touch with them and see what they have to say.

11. Question from Councillor F Oborski MBE to the Cabinet Member for Housing, Health, Well-being and Democratic Services

Can the Cabinet Member tell me what steps are being taken to house Afghan Refugees in Wyre Forest, how many families we expect to house and when we expect them to arrive?

Answer from the Cabinet Member for Housing, Health, Well-being and Democratic Services

Our Head of Strategic Growth has regular meetings with the County Council and the Community Housing Group to identify two properties. With regards to when we are expecting those families, that is something that we are not aware of yet. There was a meeting this afternoon, so I am hoping to get an update from the Head of Strategic Growth in the next few days.

Supplementary question

I am aware that families who have been housed in Worcester have been welcomed to the City by the Worcester Welcoming Group. I hope she will agree that, if and when Afghan families are housed in Wyre Forest, the local Refugee Group will be given the opportunity to welcome them and assist them in settling?

Answer

Yes

C.67

Motions Submitted under Standing Orders

Two motions have been received in accordance with Standing Orders.

1. Notice of Motion from the Liberal Democrat Group

Councillor F Oborski MBE presented a motion on behalf of the Liberal Democrat Group. The motion was seconded by Councillor S Miah.

Councillor Oborski MBE outlined the reasons for the motion. A discussion ensued and upon a show of hands, the motion was unanimously agreed.

Decision: The motion received in accordance with Standing Orders be agreed:

Council recognises that Her Majesty's Government has announced its intention to cease the installation of gas powered central heating into new developments from 2025 and from that date to also stop connection of new developments to the Gas Grid.

Council recognises that applicants receiving Planning Permission for developments have 3 years to implement those permissions which

means that Permissions granted in 2022 May well not be implemented until 2025.

Council is therefore invited to endorse its support for the proposed policy in the emerging Local Plan which will require the maximisation of natural heat and light along with the maximising the potential of renewable energy and to support the continued efforts of our planning officers to negotiate suitable outcomes with developers through submitted planning applications.

Council will also encourage all landlords who install Solar photovoltaic (PV) panels on tenanted residential properties to ensure that the majority of the financial benefits accrued should go to tenants.

2. Notice of Motion from Councillor A L'Huillier

Councillor L'Huillier presented her motion which was seconded by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Capital Portfolio.

Councillor L'Huillier outlined the reasons for the motion. A discussion ensued and upon a show of hands, the motion was unanimously agreed.

Decision: The motion received in accordance with Standing Orders be agreed:

Council notes the frustration caused within local government about the lack of meaningful sanctions available to councils when endeavouring to uphold and maintain high standards of conduct of members.

It believes that the option of censure is not sufficient, particularly for members who may have repeatedly breached the code of conduct, and notes that the House of Commons retains the ability to suspend Members of Parliament and that MPs can face recall petitions in certain circumstances.

It notes with regret that the Government has still not responded to the recommendations of the Committee on Standards in Public Life in its Twentieth Report: Local Government Ethical Standards (30 January 2019), which included a recommendation that councils should have the power to suspend councillors without allowances for up to six months.

Council therefore RESOLVES

- (1) to send a letter to our MP Mark Garnier, asking him to take to Westminster our concerns and frustrations, and ask questions of the relevant Ministers as to what changes it may be possible to put in place that will address the lack of effective sanctions, to give Ethics and Standards Committees throughout the country the tools required to hold members to the highest**

- standards;
- (2) to send a letter to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to ask for a response to this motion;**
 - (3) to consider the responses received at the next available meeting of Council.**

C.68 Emergency Motions submitted under Standing Orders

There were no urgent motions.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 8.42pm.

The full meeting is available for viewing on the Council's website
<https://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/your-council/councillors-committees-and-meetings/council-meetings/council-meetings-archive/>

Chairman's List of Functions – 2021/22

December 2021- February 2022

3rd December - Official Opening of Kidderminster Station

4th December - St Mary's Church Coffee Morning

10th December - Chairman's Festive Dinner

12th December - Music for Sanctuary Concert

21st December - Worcester Evening News Carol Service

30th January – Holocaust Memorial Service

11th February - Mayor of Evesham's Valentine's Dinner

* Denotes attendance by Vice Chairman

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL
23RD FEBRUARY 2022

Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022-2025

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 Programme 2021-22 onwards 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 Council 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 DLUHC 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 6.2 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 the February 2022 Cabinet report including the associated Quantitative Indicators in Appendix 2 of the December 2021 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 the Council Tax increase is confirmed as £5 p.a. and that Council
- 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.

3. **KEY ISSUES**

- 3.1 On 8th February 2022, Cabinet considered reports on proposals for the Budget Strategy for the period 2022-2025 including the intrinsically linked Capital Strategy 2022-2032. The Final Settlement has now been issued, there are no major changes from the Provisional Settlement issued on the 16th December 2021. This report provides an updated position following receipt of the Final Settlement, subsequent checks and due diligence checks, and a proposed budget decision for Council to consider on the 23rd February 2022.
- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 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. Updated versions reflecting the final settlement are provided at Appendix 5.
- 3.4 A revised **Capital Strategy** as set out in Appendix 2 of the February 2022 Cabinet report, including the associated Quantitative Indicators in Appendix 2 of the December 2021 Cabinet report is presented for Council approval. The Capital Programme considered by December Cabinet remains unchanged for Council approval and is provided at Appendix 2.
- 3.5 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%. 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.
- 3.6 Fees and Charges requiring Council approval are detailed in Appendix 3.

3.7 The financial impact of the Cabinet Proposals is shown in the table below:

CABINET PROPOSALS 2022-23 ONWARDS					
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 38,000 CR -	38,000 CR 38,000 CR -
TOTALS	C R S	- - 1.0	- 38,000 CR 1.0	- 38,000 CR 1.0	- 38,000 CR 1.0

- 3.8 Business Rate projections based on the continuation of the current 50% Worcestershire pooling agreement for 2022-23 are shown in table 6.2 below. These do not differ from the December and February report. Accurate forecasting is extremely difficult, but it should be possible to manage any significant variations at final accounts by drawing on the Business Rates Equalisation Earmarked Reserve if necessary. The projections take into account the Council’s share of forecast growth and reductions from major redevelopments, appeals, reliefs, economic regeneration work, forecast future 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.
- 3.9 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.
- 3.10 LG Futures were commissioned to undertake detailed financial modelling of the potential Pooling proposals for 2022-23. Extensive sensitivity and risk analysis has been undertaken as part of the work. This showed that it is unlikely that continuation of the current Pool would not be beneficial.
- 3.11 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.

3.12 Taking these measures into account the projected Base Budget net expenditure for 2022-2023 is estimated to be £12,027k (see paragraph 6.2). This is £21,750 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 Final Local Government Settlement was announced on the 7th February 2022 and confirmed on the 9th February. There were no significant changes compared to the Provisional Settlement. Whilst some welcome additional one-off funding was confirmed in the Final 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, now 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 final 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.
- **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.

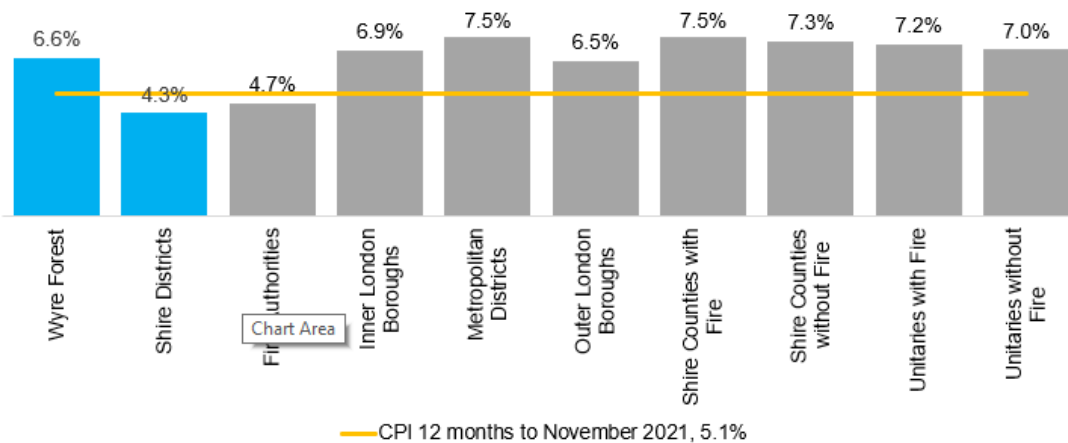
Table 4.2.1 Core Spending Power figures for England 2015-16 to 2022-23

England										
Core Spending Power	2015-	2016-	2017-	2018-	2019-	2020-	2021-	2022-	Change	
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	£m	%
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£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 Su)			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	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
	£ millions	£ millions	£ millions	£ millions	£ millions	£ millions	£ millions	£ 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 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.
- 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 Table at 6.2.

5. COUNCIL TAX BASE

- 5.1 The Council Tax Base for 2022-23 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 on 8th February 2022 have now been confirmed. These are set out in the table at 3.7 and included in the table in paragraph 6.2.
- 6.2 The Council Tax Collection Fund position together with the Tax Income Guarantee Funding were reviewed for the February Cabinet report, based on the latest council tax collection information. The table below shows the variations.

Table 6.2 - Updated MTFS Position

	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)	(21,750)	(706,370)	(172,070)
Net Budget Requirement	11,223,370	12,004,930	10,743,460	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	130,070	100,000	100,000
Collection Fund Deficit	(146,000)	10,150	(105,250)	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	2.28%	2.23%	2.18%	2.13%

6.3 Reserves available as part of the three-year financial strategy are as shown in the following table.

Table 6.3. - Reserves Statement

Reserves Statement	Revised 2021-22 £	2022-23 £	2023-24 £	2024-25 £
Reserves as at 1st April	4,400	3,318	3,297	2,590
December MTFS transfer to (from) Reserves	(1,082)	(130)	(601)	(172)
Collection Fund deficit adjustment	0	105	(105)	0
Transfer to (from) Reserves	(1,082)	(25)	(706)	(172)
Updated Reserves as at 31st March	3,318	3,294	2,591	2,418

6.4 The table below shows a refreshed funding gap of £1.677m in 2024-25 as a result of the updates in this report.

Table 6.4 – Funding Gap Assuming a Council Tax Increase of £5 pa

	2021-22 £	2022-23 £	2023-24 £	2024-25 £
Financial Gap				
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 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 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
- 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 (February 2022)- 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	886,040	34,430	920,470	491,480	69,050	560,530	246,370	104,560	350,930
COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	4,625,710	5,083,650	4,521,410	138,560	4,659,970	4,265,010	279,780	4,544,790	4,074,370	424,790	4,499,160
ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND PLACE	2,322,300	2,375,790	2,231,890	76,380	2,308,270	2,089,840	151,150	2,240,990	2,043,050	227,690	2,270,740
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
	12,222,760	13,028,240	11,518,530	287,730	11,806,260	10,521,090	578,920	11,100,010	9,886,140	878,210	10,764,350
LESS: CAPITAL ACCOUNT	99,920	102,700	273,870	1,550	275,420	457,020	3,080	460,100	656,630	4,800	661,430
INTEREST RECEIVED	(20,000)	(28,000)	(55,000)	0	(55,000)	(100,000)	0	(100,000)	(90,000)	0	(90,000)
TOTAL NET EXPENDITURE ON SERVICES	12,300,600	13,102,940	11,736,640	290,040	12,026,680	10,866,210	583,620	11,449,830	10,440,310	885,190	11,325,500
LESS: CONTRIBUTION (FROM) TO RESERVES	(503,110)	(1,081,770)			(21,750)			(706,370)			(172,070)
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 (SURPLUS)/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)			(130,070)			(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 PROGRAMME 2022 TO 2032

APPENDIX 2/A

Detail	2021-22		2022-23 Estimate £	2023-24 Estimate £	2024-25 Estimate £	2025-26 Estimate £	2026-27 Estimate £	2027-28 Estimate £	2028-29 Estimate £	2029-30 Estimate £	2030-31 Estimate £	2031-32 Estimate £	Prior to 01/04/2021 £	Total £
	Original £	Revised £												
1. COMMITTED EXPENDITURE														
1. CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND SOLICITOR TO THE COUNCIL														
New Headquarters - Office Accommodation	413,610	-	413,610	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,586,390	10,000,000
SUB TOTAL	413,610	0	413,610	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9,586,390	10,000,000
2. COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES														
Parking Facilities: Improvement to Car Parks	54,530	-	54,530	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	419,970	474,500
Green Street Depot Investment	70,000	153,410	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,746,590	3,900,000
Stourport Riverside	78,500	119,770	20,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,230	150,000
Community Safety CCTV Upgrade (Grant Funded)	-	24,860	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24,860
Brinton Park HLF Scheme (subject to successful HLF bid)	1,086,520	1,116,870	887,520	582,240	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13,370	2,600,000
Commercial Activity Capital Funding*	385,000	-	395,390	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	54,610	450,000
* Subject to Business Cases & approval by the Commercial Activity Board														
SUB TOTAL	1,674,550	1,414,910	1,357,440	582,240	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,244,770	7,599,360
3. ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND PLACE														
Housing Strategy:														
Disabled Facilities Grants (subject to confirmation 22-23 onwards)	1,000,000	1,200,000	2,055,460	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	14,697,760	26,953,220
BCF Energy Efficiency	-	50,000	150,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	200,000
BCF Disabled Adapted Units	-	150,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	150,000
Property Flood Grants	450,000	602,340	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	47,660	650,000
Property Conversion, Stourport	-	19,110	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40,890	60,000
Castle Road Development	-	100,000	3,353,360	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,453,360
Housing Assistance - Private Sector Measures (including Decent Homes Grant)	33,950	100,200	100,200	106,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,934,110	2,246,310
Flood Relief	-	28,410	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	170,590	199,000
Flood Recovery Support (expenditure is conditional upon receipt of grant)	-	190,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	190,000
Green Homes Grants Phase 1	-	300,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	300,000
Green Homes Grants Phase 2	-	525,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	525,000
Carbon Management Plan	-	-	20,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	83,150	103,150
Future Investment Evergreen Fund (unallocated balance)*	639,660	466,250	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	466,250
Acquisition of Land at Horsefair, Kidderminster	-	50,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50,000
Crown House Car Park	-	3,180	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24,220	27,400
Industrial Units Development - Silverwoods	1,930,040	1,960,020	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	190,020	2,150,040
Industrial Units Frencro Development - Silverwoods	-	409,930	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	636,260	1,046,190
Churchfields Development (Grant Funded)	-	166,520	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,533,480	2,700,000
Electric Vehicle Chargepoints	-	271,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	271,000
Levelling Up Fund	-	3,000,000	14,900,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17,900,000
Capital Portfolio Fund*	3,175,620	6,050,830	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16,754,620	22,805,450
Development Loans Fund*	8,000,000	2,000,000	8,000,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,000,000
Future High Streets Fund**	21,760,600	4,571,420	7,201,110	9,751,920	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	236,150	21,760,600
* Subject to Business Cases & Due Diligence														
** Co-funding subject to full Business Case following the principles of the Capital Portfolio Fund														
SUB TOTAL	36,989,870	22,214,210	35,785,930	10,857,920	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	37,348,910	114,206,970
4. RESOURCES														
ICT Strategy	488,000	556,290	325,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,053,490	4,934,780
SUB TOTAL	488,000	556,290	325,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,053,490	4,934,780
5. VEHICLE, EQUIPMENT & SYSTEMS RENEWAL SCHEDULE														
Vehicles & Equipment & Systems Renewal Schedule	1,004,000	1,002,130	482,720	606,720	506,720	1,158,720	1,494,720	266,720	842,220	136,720	295,720	111,720	7,708,940	14,613,770
SUB TOTAL	1,004,000	1,002,130	482,720	606,720	506,720	1,158,720	1,494,720	266,720	842,220	136,720	295,720	111,720	7,708,940	14,613,770
TOTAL COMMITTED EXPENDITURE	40,570,030	25,187,540	38,364,700	12,046,880	1,506,720	2,158,720	2,494,720	1,266,720	1,842,220	1,136,720	1,295,720	1,111,720	62,942,500	151,354,860

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2022 TO 2032

APPENDIX 2/A

Detail	2021-22		2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	Prior to 01/04/2021	Total
	Original £	Revised £	Estimate £	Estimate £	Estimate £	Estimate £	Estimate £	Estimate £	Estimate £	Estimate £	Estimate £	Estimate £	Estimate £	£
2. FINANCING														
Capital Receipts: Funding Approved	1,609,080	1,240,670	1,075,520	106,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,422,190
Prudential Borrowing for Carbon Management Scheme	-	-	20,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20,000
Prudential Borrowing for Industrial Units Development	1,430,040	1,460,020	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,460,020
Prudential Borrowing for Development Loans Fund	8,000,000	2,000,000	8,000,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,000,000
Prudential Borrowing for Capital Portfolio Fund	3,175,620	6,050,830	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,050,830
Prudential Borrowing for additional Capital Portfolio Fund allocation (Future High Streets Fund Scheme)	1,250,000	-	-	1,250,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,250,000
Prudential Borrowing for Castle Road Development	-	100,000	2,738,360	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,838,360
Prudential Borrowing for Green Street Depot Investment	-	24,460	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24,460
Prudential Borrowing for Brinton Park HLF Scheme	-	-	-	186,630	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	186,630
Prudential Borrowing for ICT Strategy	488,000	556,290	325,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	881,290
Prudential Borrowing for Commercial Activity Capital Funding	385,000	-	395,390	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	395,390
Prudential Borrowing for Stourport Riverside	-	26,420	20,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	46,420
Prudential Borrowing for Frenco Site	-	328,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	328,000
Prudential Borrowing for Electric Vehicle Chargepoints (scheme subject to Council approval)	-	271,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	271,000
Better Care Fund Grant (from Worcestershire County Council - subject to confirmation 20/21 onwards)	1,000,000	1,400,000	2,081,160	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	-	12,481,160
HLF Partner External Funding	1,086,520	1,116,870	887,520	395,610	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,400,000
Future High Street Property Acquisition External Funding	20,510,600	4,571,420	7,201,110	8,501,920	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20,274,450
Levelling Up Fund	-	3,000,000	14,900,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17,900,000
DEFRA Flood Grant Funding	450,000	602,340	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	602,340
S.106 Funding (Parking - Contractual Agreement)	52,670	-	52,670	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	52,670
S.106 Funding (Castle Road Development)	-	-	185,250	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	185,250
Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) Funding	-	300,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	300,000
Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) Fundingm(Phase 2)	-	525,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	525,000
S.106 Funding for Stourport Riverside Scheme	78,500	93,350	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	93,350
Flood Relief Grant (from DCLG)	-	28,410	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28,410
Flood Support Grant	-	190,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	190,000
CCTV Grant (PCC)	-	24,860	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24,860
Churchfields Development Grant (from Housing Infrastructure Fund)	-	166,520	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	166,520
Vehicles, Equipment & Systems (Prudential Borrowing)	1,004,000	1,002,130	482,720	606,720	506,720	1,158,720	1,494,720	266,720	842,220	136,720	295,720	111,720	-	6,904,830
<u>Direct Revenue Funding:</u>														
Green Street Depot Investment	50,000	108,950	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	108,950
	40,570,030	25,187,540	38,364,700	12,046,880	1,506,720	2,158,720	2,494,720	1,266,720	1,842,220	1,136,720	1,295,720	1,111,720		88,412,380

**VEHICLE, EQUIPMENT AND SYSTEMS
RENEWALS SCHEDULE 2022 TO 2032**

APPENDIX 2/B

DETAIL	Fleet Number	2021-22		2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32
		Original £	Revised £	Estimate £	Estimate £	Estimate £	Estimate £	Estimate £	Estimate £	Estimate £	Estimate £	Estimate £	Estimate £
1. VEHICLES													
EMS & BIN LIFTS		13,500	13,500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
GARAGE EQUIPMENT		-	17,680	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
REFURBISHMENT FUND		-	30,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BIN STOCK RENEWALS		-	-	111,720	111,720	111,720	111,720	111,720	111,720	111,720	111,720	111,720	111,720
TIPPER 3500kg	AV063	-	-	-	-	-	-	30,000	-	-	-	-	-
TIPPER 3500kg	AV223	-	30,000	-	-	-	-	30,000	-	-	-	-	-
TRACTOR	AV070	40,000	-	-	40,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
LIGHT VAN	AV218	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25,000	-
LIGHT VAN	AV230	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25,000	-
LIGHT VAN	AV229	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25,000	-
MIDI TRACTOR	AV189	30,000	-	-	30,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MOWING MACHINE	AV240	35,000	23,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TIPPER 3500kg	AV255	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	35,000	-	-	-	-
TIPPER 3500kg	AV256	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	35,000	-	-	-	-
JCB DIGGER	AV183	60,000	-	-	60,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PAVEMENT SWEEPER	AV258	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	80,000	-
SMALL REFUSE FREIGHTER 7500kg RCV	AV261	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	85,000	-	-	-	-
ROAD SWEEPER 15000kg	AV184	-	140,000	-	-	-	-	130,000	-	-	-	-	-
REFUSE FREIGHTER 26000kg	NEW	-	-	-	-	-	-	175,000	-	-	-	-	-
CAR	AV279	10,000	-	-	12,000	-	-	-	-	10,000	-	-	-
CAR	AV272	15,000	-	-	15,000	-	-	-	-	15,000	-	-	-
FORK LIFT	FORKLIFT	15,000	17,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PAVEMENT SWEEPER	AV275	67,000	75,000	-	-	-	-	67,000	-	-	-	-	-
PAVEMENT SWEEPER	AV276	67,000	75,000	-	-	-	-	67,000	-	-	-	-	-
REFUSE FREIGHTER 26000kg	AV186	180,500	180,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	170,500	-	-	-
REFUSE FREIGHTER 26000kg	AV187	180,500	180,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	170,500	-	-	-
REFUSE FREIGHTER 18000kg	AV185	180,500	165,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	170,500	-	-	-
LIGHT VAN	AV285	-	-	-	26,000	-	-	-	-	20,000	-	-	-
3500KG VAN	AV281	-	-	-	30,000	-	-	-	-	23,000	-	-	-
LIGHT VAN	AV282	-	-	-	30,000	-	-	-	-	23,000	-	-	-
LIGHT VAN	AV283	-	-	30,000	-	-	-	-	-	23,000	-	-	-
RIDE ON MOWER AND FLAIL	AV273	-	-	28,000	-	-	-	-	-	17,500	-	-	-
RIDE ON MOWER AND FLAIL	AV274	-	-	28,000	-	-	-	-	-	17,500	-	-	-
PAVEMENT SWEEPER	AV289	-	-	85,000	-	-	-	-	-	70,000	-	-	-
TRAILER	AV278	-	-	-	4,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,000	-
RIDE ON MOWER	AV287	-	-	-	28,000	-	-	-	-	-	25,000	-	-
CHIPPER	AV277	-	-	-	30,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	26,000	-
TRACTOR	AV225	-	-	-	60,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ROAD SWEEPER 15000kg 4x4	AV280	-	-	-	130,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TIPPER 3500kg	AV288	-	-	-	-	30,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TIPPER 3500kg	AV292	-	-	-	-	35,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TIPPER 3500kg	AV286	-	-	-	-	35,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TIPPER 7500kg	AV284	-	-	-	-	55,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
REFUSE FREIGHTER 26000kg	AV290	-	-	-	-	110,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
REFUSE FREIGHTER 26000kg	AV291	-	-	-	-	110,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
REFUSE FREIGHTER 26000kg	AV241	-	-	-	-	-	110,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
REFUSE FREIGHTER 26000kg	AV237	-	-	-	-	-	110,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
REFUSE FREIGHTER 26000kg	AV238	-	-	-	-	-	110,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
REFUSE FREIGHTER 24000kg	AV234	-	-	-	-	-	110,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
REFUSE FREIGHTER 26000kg	AV268	-	-	-	-	-	110,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
REFUSE FREIGHTER 26000kg	AV239	-	-	-	-	-	110,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
TIPPER 3500kg	AV177	-	-	-	-	-	35,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
TIPPER 3500kg	AV193	-	-	-	-	-	35,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
TIPPER 3500kg	AV200	-	-	-	-	-	35,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
TIPPER 3500kg	AV201	-	-	-	-	-	35,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
TIPPER 3500kg	AV202	-	-	-	-	-	35,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
TIPPER 3500kg	AV214	-	-	-	-	-	35,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
TIPPER 3500kg	AV216	-	-	-	-	-	35,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
MEDIUM REFUSE FREIGHTER 12000kg RCV	AV211	-	-	-	-	-	110,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
RIDE ON MOWER	AV212	-	-	-	-	-	32,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
TIPPER 7000kg	AV181	-	-	-	-	-	-	48,000	-	-	-	-	-
REFUSE FREIGHTER 24000kg	AV245	-	-	-	-	-	-	170,500	-	-	-	-	-
REFUSE FREIGHTER 26000kg	AV246	-	-	-	-	-	-	170,500	-	-	-	-	-
REFUSE FREIGHTER 26000kg	AV083	-	-	-	-	-	-	175,000	-	-	-	-	-
REFUSE FREIGHTER 26000kg	AV084	-	-	-	-	-	-	175,000	-	-	-	-	-
RIDE ON MOWER	AV226	-	-	-	-	-	-	25,000	-	-	-	-	-
4x4	AV252	-	-	-	-	-	-	30,000	-	-	-	-	-
TIPPER 3500kg	AV220	-	-	-	-	-	-	30,000	-	-	-	-	-
TIPPER 3500kg	AV221	-	-	-	-	-	-	30,000	-	-	-	-	-
TIPPER 3500kg	AV222	-	-	-	-	-	-	30,000	-	-	-	-	-
2. OTHER													
Financial Management System Replacement	FMS001	-	45,950	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Flail Equipment replacement	R476	-	-	-	-	20,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Zip Boilers replacement (Wyre Forest House)		10,000	10,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lighting system upgrade (Wyre Forest House)		100,000	-	200,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		1,004,000	1,002,130	482,720	606,720	506,720	1,158,720	1,494,720	266,720	842,220	136,720	295,720	111,720

NB. A fundamental review of all fossil fuel powered vehicles & equipment will be undertaken during the next year.

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

Cost Centre	ACTIVITY AND DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE OPTION	KEY	CHANGES IN RESOURCES		
			2022-23 £	2023-24 £	2024-25 £
R605	<u>ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND PLACE</u> <u>Development Management - Planning Advice</u> Increase charges by 5% in line with Council Policy.	C	-	-	-
		R	60 CR	60 CR	60 CR
		S	-	-	-
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	1,050 CR	1,050 CR	1,050 CR
		S	-	-	-
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	10 CR	10 CR	10 CR
		S	-	-	-
R605	<u>Development Management - Sale of Documents</u> Increase charges by 5% in line with Council Policy.	C	-	-	-
		R	190 CR	190 CR	190 CR
		S	-	-	-
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 -



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	Proposed Charge	Proposed Charge
	TO 31-03-2022	FROM 01-04-2022	FROM 01-04-2022
	£	£	£
	Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)	Charges before VAT	Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)
High Hedge Applications			
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>



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	Proposed Charge	Proposed Charge
	TO 31-03-2022	FROM 01-04-2022	FROM 01-04-2022
	£	£	£
	Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)	Charges before VAT	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			
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>



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	Proposed Charge	Proposed Charge
	TO 31-03-2022	FROM 01-04-2022	FROM 01-04-2022
	£	£	£
	Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)	Charges before VAT	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	Proposed Charge	Proposed Charge
	TO 31-03-2022	FROM 01-04-2022	FROM 01-04-2022
	£	£	£
	Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)	Charges before VAT	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)	lab analysis cost	lab analysis cost	No VAT currently charged
(Plus extra lab costs for additional parameters where required)			
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	Proposed Charge	Proposed Charge
	TO 31-03-2022 £ Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)	FROM 01-04-2022 £ Charges before VAT	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:

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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:

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	Proposed Charge	Proposed Charge
	TO 31-03-2022 £ Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)	FROM 01-04-2022 £ Charges before VAT	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>



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:

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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	Proposed Charge	Proposed Charge
Control of Dogs - Fees Recommended By Worcestershire Regulatory Services	TO 31-03-2022 £ Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)	FROM 01-04-2022 £ Charges before VAT	FROM 01-04-2022 £ Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)
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>



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 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 Financial Resilience Index information was published on 2nd February with an updated web tool that can be used to review local authority financial data sets. The index shows the council's position on a range of measures associated with financial risk. The tool is backwards looking but is a useful tool to monitor trends. As reported last year there were no areas of significant concerns.
- 4.12 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.

- 4.13 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.
- 4.14 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 COUNCIL MTF5 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	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)	(21,750)	(706,370)	(172,070)
	11,223,370	12,004,930	10,743,460	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	130,070	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 Surplus/(Deficit)	(146,000)	10,150	(105,250)	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	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
	£	£	£	£
Reserves as at 1st April	4,400	3,318	3,297	2,590
Increase to Working Balance				
Contribution (from)/to Reserves	(1,082)	(22)	(706)	(172)
Reserves as at 31st March	3,318	3,297	2,590	2,418
CONSERVATIVE PROPOSALS	Revised	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)	(96,750)	(706,370)	(97,070)
	11,223,370	12,004,930	10,743,460	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	130,070	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)	10,150	(105,250)	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	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
	£	£	£	£
Reserves as at 1st April	4,400	3,318	3,222	2,515
Increase to Working Balance				
Contribution (from)/to Reserves	(1,082)	(97)	(706)	(97)
Reserves as at 31st March	3,318	3,222	2,515	2,418

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					

C - Capital
R - Revenue
S - Staffing - Stated in FTEs

CABINET PROPOSALS AS PER COUNCIL MTF'S 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)	(21,750)	(601,120)	(172,070)
	11,223,370	12,004,930	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
Local Council Tax Support Grant	184,250	0	0	0
Lower Tier Services Grant	121,190	130,070	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 Surplus/(Deficit)	(146,000)	10,150	0	0
COUNCIL TAX LEVY increase by £5 pa from 2021-22	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	3,297	2,696
Increase to Working Balance				
Contribution (from)/to Reserves	(1,082)	(22)	(601)	(172)
Reserves as at 31st March	3,318	3,297	2,696	2,523
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)	(21,750)	(601,120)	(172,070)
	11,223,370	12,004,930	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	130,070	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)	10,150	0	0
COUNCIL TAX LEVY increase by £5 pa from 2021-22	224.34	229.34	234.34	239.34
onwards				
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	3,297	2,696
Increase to Working Balance				
Contribution (from)/to Reserves	(1,082)	(22)	(601)	(172)
Reserves as at 31st March	3,318	3,297	2,696	2,523

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
		£	£	£	£
Localism 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 - -
Increase net income from Sales fees and charges 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 -
Community Leadership Fund To increase this funding stream of £1,000 per Member for 2022-23.	C R S	- 16,500 -	- - -	- - -	- - -
Community Fund 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 -	- - -	- - -	- - -
Environment Protection Post Additional Environmental Protection resource for 2 years. Costs are net of estimated income generated.	C R S	- 26,340 1	- 28,230 1	- - -	- - -
Civil Enforcement Post Additional Civil Enforcement resource for 2 years. Costs are net of estimated income generated.	C R S	- 23,430 1	- 25,110 1	- - -	- - -
Closure of the small business grants scheme and provide additional resource to support the FHSF and LUF 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
Bewdley Leisure Centre and Stourport on Severn Sports Centre 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 - -
Fund the development of the Solar Farm business case to Planning Application stage 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					

C - Capital
R - Revenue
S - Staffing - Stated in FTEs

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**COUNCIL 23rd FEBRUARY 2022****COUNCIL TAX 2022-23**

OPEN	
CABINET MEMBER:	Councillor Mary Rayner
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Head of Resources
CONTACT OFFICERS:	Helen Ogram – Ext. 2907 Helen.ogram@wyreforestdc.gov.uk Kathryn Pearsall – Ext. 2165 Kathryn.pearsall@wyreforestdc.gov.uk Lisa Hutchinson - Ext. 2120 lisa.hutchinson@wyreforestdc.gov.uk
APPENDICES:	Appendix 1 - Council Tax Resolution 2022-23 Appendix 2 - Council Tax Schedule 2022-23 Appendix 3 - Parish and Town Council Precepts 2022-23 Appendix 4 – District Council Tax, including Parish/Town Council Precepts, 2022-23 Appendix 5 – Total Council Tax, including Major Precepting Authorities and Parish/Town Council Precepts, 2022-23

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to enable the Council to calculate and set the Council Tax for 2022-23.

2. RECOMMENDATION

Council is asked to approve:

- 2.1 **The formal Council Tax Resolution 2022-23 at Appendix 1, taking into account information contained in Appendices 2 to 5.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended by The Localism Act 2011, requires the billing authority to calculate a Council Tax requirement for the year.

The Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended by The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, includes specific guidance in relation to Council Tax referendums. The House of Commons' approved the regime of referenda for "excessive" Council Tax increases for 2022-23 on 9th February 2022. This confirmed the Government's proposal for district councils of 2% or £5, whichever is the greater. The proposal for Wyre Forest District Council, contained within this report, to set a

council tax (Band D equivalent) of £229.34 is an increase of £5 or 2.23%; this is the maximum level permitted and a referendum in respect of this Council's element of council tax is not required.

- 3.2 Different criteria are specified for the County Council, Police and Crime Commissioner and the Fire Authority. However, the Council has not been notified by a major precepting authority that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2022-23 is excessive and therefore the billing authority is not required to hold a referendum.

4. WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL'S COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENT

- 4.1 Cabinet, on 8th February 2022, approved and recommended to Council the 2022-23 revenue budget requirement.
- 4.2 Cabinet recommended that Wyre Forest District Council's element of the Council Tax 2022-23 be agreed at £229.34 for Band D properties. This represents an increase of 2.23% on the current rate for 2021-22.
- 4.3 In approving the District Council's element of the Council Tax, account has to be taken of:
- Government Support Grants
 - Other non ring-fenced Government Grants
 - Business Rates
 - Any surplus or deficit arising from the Collection Fund

The District Council's Council Tax requirement also has to reflect Parish and Town Council spending. The following table sets out the position:

Council Tax Requirement 2022-23	£'000	£'000
Wyre Forest District Council Budget Requirement 2022-23	12,027	
Less: Contribution from Balances	(22)	
	12,005	
Parish & Town Councils' Requirement (Appendix 3)	1,586	
		13,591
Less:		
Business Rates	(3,357)	
New Homes Bonus	(464)	
Lower Tier Services Grant	(130)	
One Off Services Grants	(196)	
		(4,147)
Less: Estimated surplus on Collection Fund		(10)
Council Tax Requirement 2022-23		9,434

- 4.4 Wyre Forest District Council's Council Tax at Band D for 2022-23 is £229.34, determined as follows:

Council Tax Requirement (as detailed in paragraph 4.3 above)	£9,434,410
Divided by Council Tax Base	34,220
Council Tax at Band D (including Parishes/Town Councils)	£275.70
Deduct Parish/Town Council Element	(£46.36)
Council Tax at Band D for Wyre Forest District Council	£229.34

5. PRECEPT LEVELS

- 5.1 The precept levels of other precepting bodies have been received, and are detailed below, with the exception of the County Council precept that will be confirmed after the meeting of the County Council on 17th February:

5.1.1 **Parish and Town Councils**

The Parish and Town Council Precepts for 2022-23 are detailed in Appendix 3 and total £1,586,400.47. This results in an average Band D Council Tax figure of £46.36 for 2022-23. This represents an average increase of 7.41% in the parish and town council element of council tax, ranging from -49% to +11.8%.

5.1.2 **Worcestershire County Council**

Worcestershire County Council has stated its precept for 2022-23 is expected to be £47,797,812, with a Collection Fund surplus adjustment for this year of £45,766. It will be necessary to update the figures in this report if the final figures differ following consideration of their precept at the meeting of the County Council on 17th February. The increase in the Band D Council Tax is 3.94% of which 3% relates to the Precept ring-fenced support for Adult Social Care, resulting in a total Band D Council Tax of £1,396.78. Further details can be found in Appendix 1.

5.1.3 **The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia**

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia has stated its precept for 2022-23 to be £8,543,365.20, with a Collection Fund surplus adjustment for this year of £11,545. The increase in the Band D Council Tax is 3.94%, resulting in a Band D Council Tax of £249.66. Further details can be found in Appendix 1.

5.1.4 **Hereford and Worcester Fire Authority**

Hereford and Worcester Fire Authority has stated its precept for 2022-23 to be £3,059,271.33 with a Collection Fund surplus adjustment for this year of £2,819. The increase in the Band D Council Tax is 1.96%, resulting in a Band D Council Tax of £89.40. Further details can be found in Appendix 1.

5.1.5 The resulting average Council Tax at Band D is summarised as follows:

	£
Worcestershire County Council	1,396.78
The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia	249.66
Wyre Forest District Council	229.34
Hereford and Worcester Fire Authority	89.40
Average Town/Parish Council	<u>43.36</u>
Total Average Band D Council Tax 2022-23	<u>2,011.54</u>

6. SPECIAL EXPENSES

- 6.1 Special Expenses are defined as those expenses incurred by the Council in performing, in part of the District, a function performed elsewhere by a Parish or Town Council. The Local Government Act 1992 allows the Council to treat any special expenses as general expenses, i.e. as part of its own budget requirement for Council Tax purposes, provided the Council resolved accordingly.
- 6.2 It is reasonable for the Council to continue to treat special expenses as general expenses, and for clarity it is considered sensible to reaffirm this position on an annual basis. For clarification this Council does not currently have any Special Expenses.

7. COUNCIL TAX LEVELS

- 7.1 The formal resolution for setting the Council Tax is set out in Appendix 1.
- 7.2 The Council Tax Schedule 2022-23 is set out in Appendix 2.
- 7.3 The Parish & Town Council precepts 2022-23 are set out in Appendix 3.
- 7.4 The District Council Tax, including Parish/Town Council precepts, 2022-23 is set out in Appendix 4.
- 7.5 The Total Council Tax, including Major Precepting Authorities and Parish/Town Council precepts, 2022-23 is set out in Appendix 5.

8. KEY ISSUES

- 8.1 That the formal Council Tax resolution presented in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended by the Localism Act, be approved.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The Financial Implications of this Council Tax report are included in the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy and Three Year Budget and Policy Framework, as updated by the Proposed Decision, also on this Council agenda.

10. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The Council must set its Council Tax for 2022-23 in accordance with all statutory requirements.
- 10.2 The Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended by The Localism Act 2011, requires the billing authority to calculate a Council Tax requirement for the year.

11. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 11.1 The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, require Local Authorities to fully consider and manage Risk as part of the Budget process. This was fully set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy report to December 2021 Cabinet.

12. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 12.1 This is a financial report and there is no requirement to consider an Equality Impact Assessment.

13. CONCLUSION

See Recommendations.

14. CONSULTEES

Cabinet
CLT

15. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 15.1 Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended by Localism Act 2011 and Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.
- 15.2 The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.
- 15.3 The Referendums Relating to Council Tax Increases (Principles) (England) Report 2022-23

COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION 2022-23**The Council is recommended to resolve as follows:**

1. It be noted that the Council has calculated the Council Tax Base 2022-23:-
 - (a) for the whole Council area as **34,220** [Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (“the Act”)]; and
 - (b) for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish/Town Council precept relates as in column 5 of the attached Appendix 3.

2. To calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council’s own purposes for 2022-23 (excluding Parish/Town Council precepts) is **£7,848,010**.

3. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2022-23 in accordance with Sections 30 to 36 of the Act:
 - (a) **£45,549,530.47** being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish/Town Councils.
 - (b) **£36,115,120.00** being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
 - (c) **£9,434,410.47** being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year. [Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act]
 - (d) **£275.70** being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), divided by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish/Town Council precepts).
 - (e) **£1,586,400.47** being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish/Town Council precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as per the attached Appendix 3).
 - (f) **£229.34** being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish/Town Council precept relates.

4. To note that for the year 2022-23 Worcestershire County Council, The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia and Hereford and Worcester Fire Authority have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as shown below.

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL							
Valuation Bands							
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£931.19	£1,086.38	£1,241.58	£1,396.78	£1,707.18	£2,017.57	£2,327.97	£2,793.56

THE OFFICE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR WEST MERCIA							
Valuation Bands							
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£166.44	£194.18	£221.92	£249.66	£305.14	£360.62	£416.10	£499.32

HEREFORD AND WORCESTER FIRE AUTHORITY							
Valuation Bands							
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£59.60	£69.53	£79.47	£89.40	£109.27	£129.13	£149.00	£178.80

5. That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in Appendix 5 as the amounts of Council Tax for 2022-23 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.
6. To determine that the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2022-23 is not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992.
7. To note that, as the billing authority, the Council has not been notified by a major precepting authority that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2022-23 is excessive and that the billing authority is not required to hold a referendum in accordance with Section 52ZK of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended by the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

COUNCIL TAX SCHEDULE 2022-23**APPENDIX 2**

<u>District Council and Major Precepting Authorities</u>	Band A £	Band B £	Band C £	Band D £	Band E £	Band F £	Band G £	Band H £
Wyre Forest District Council	152.89	178.38	203.86	229.34	280.30	331.27	382.23	458.68
Worcestershire County Council	818.22	954.58	1,090.95	1,227.32	1,500.06	1,772.79	2,045.54	2,454.64
Worcestershire County Council - Adult Social Care Precept	112.97	131.80	150.63	169.46	207.12	244.78	282.43	338.92
The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia	166.44	194.18	221.92	249.66	305.14	360.62	416.10	499.32
Hereford and Worcester Fire Authority	59.60	69.53	79.47	89.40	109.27	129.13	149.00	178.80

<u>Parish & Town Councils</u>	Band A £	Band B £	Band C £	Band D £	Band E £	Band F £	Band G £	Band H £
Kidderminster Town Council	31.67	36.94	42.22	47.50	58.06	68.61	79.17	95.00
Upper Arley Parish Council	30.00	35.00	40.00	45.00	55.00	65.00	75.00	90.00
Bewdley Town Council	37.78	44.08	50.37	56.67	69.26	81.86	94.45	113.34
Broome Parish Council	19.05	22.22	25.40	28.57	34.92	41.27	47.62	57.14
Chaddesley Corbett Parish Council	30.23	35.27	40.31	45.35	55.43	65.51	75.58	90.70
Churchill & Blakedown Parish Council	23.98	27.98	31.97	35.97	43.96	51.96	59.95	71.94
Kidderminster Foreign Parish Council	7.46	8.70	9.95	11.19	13.68	16.16	18.65	22.38
Ribbesford Parish	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rock Parish Council	29.04	33.88	38.72	43.56	53.24	62.92	72.60	87.12
Rushock Parish Council	29.19	34.06	38.92	43.79	53.52	63.25	72.98	87.58
Stone Parish Council	34.87	40.68	46.49	52.30	63.92	75.54	87.17	104.60
Stourport on Severn Town Council	29.13	33.99	38.84	43.70	53.41	63.12	72.83	87.40
Wolverley & Cookley Parish Council	29.65	34.60	39.54	44.48	54.36	64.25	74.13	88.96

PARISH AND TOWN COUNCIL PRECEPTS 2022-23

APPENDIX 3

<u>Parish & Town Councils</u>	2021-22			2022-23			Council Tax Increase/ (Decrease) (£)	Council Tax Increase/ (Decrease) (%)
	Tax Base	Precept £	Council Tax Band D (£)	Tax Base	Precept £	Council Tax Band D (£)		
Kidderminster Town Council	17,281	734,442.50	42.50	17,498	831,160.00	47.50	5.00	11.8
Upper Arley Parish Council	358	16,110.00	45.00	358	16,110.00	45.00	0.00	0.0
Bewdley Town Council	3,610	200,585.00	55.56	3,627	205,542.00	56.67	1.11	2.0
Broome Parish Council	202	5,500.00	27.23	210	6,000.00	28.57	1.34	4.9
Chaddesley Corbett Parish Council	751	34,060.95	45.35	766	34,738.10	45.35	0.00	0.0
Churchill & Blakedown Parish Council	809	28,080.39	34.71	804	28,922.04	35.97	1.26	3.6
Kidderminster Foreign Parish Council	433	9,492.72	21.92	424	4,745.00	11.19	(10.73)	(49.0)
Ribbesford Parish	119	0.00	0.00	111	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0
Rock Parish Council	1,245	55,100.00	44.26	1,265	55,100.00	43.56	(0.70)	(1.6)
Rushock Parish Council	80	3,502.40	43.78	77	3,372.00	43.79	0.01	0.0
Stone Parish Council	290	14,220.00	49.03	291	15,220.00	52.30	3.27	6.7
Stourport on Severn Town Council	6,886	287,146.00	41.70	6,985	305,245.00	43.70	2.00	4.8
Wolverley & Cookley Parish Council	1,716	69,779.42	40.66	1,804	80,246.33	44.48	3.82	9.4
TOTAL/AVERAGE	33,780	1,458,019.38	43.16	34,220	1,586,400.47	46.36		

<u>Part of the Council's Area</u>	VALUATION BANDS 2022-23							
	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
The Parish/Town Council of:								
Kidderminster	184.56	215.32	246.08	276.84	338.36	399.88	461.40	553.68
Upper Arley	182.89	213.38	243.86	274.34	335.30	396.27	457.23	548.68
Bewdley	190.67	222.46	254.23	286.01	349.56	413.13	476.68	572.02
Broome	171.94	200.60	229.26	257.91	315.22	372.54	429.85	515.82
Chaddesley Corbett	183.12	213.65	244.17	274.69	335.73	396.78	457.81	549.38
Churchill & Blakedown	176.87	206.36	235.83	265.31	324.26	383.23	442.18	530.62
Kidderminster Foreign	160.35	187.08	213.81	240.53	293.98	347.43	400.88	481.06
Ribbesford	152.89	178.38	203.86	229.34	280.30	331.27	382.23	458.68
Rock	181.93	212.26	242.58	272.90	333.54	394.19	454.83	545.80
Rushock	182.08	212.44	242.78	273.13	333.82	394.52	455.21	546.26
Stone	187.76	219.06	250.35	281.64	344.22	406.81	469.40	563.28
Stourport on Severn	182.02	212.37	242.70	273.04	333.71	394.39	455.06	546.08
Wolverley & Cookley	182.54	212.98	243.40	273.82	334.66	395.52	456.36	547.64

TOTAL COUNCIL TAX 2022-23

APPENDIX 5

<u>Parts of the Council's Area</u>	VALUATION BANDS 2022-23								% CHANGE
	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £	
The Parish/Town Council of:									
Kidderminster	1,341.79	1,565.41	1,789.05	2,012.68	2,459.95	2,907.20	3,354.47	4,025.36	3.82%
Upper Arley	1,340.12	1,563.47	1,786.83	2,010.18	2,456.89	2,903.59	3,350.30	4,020.36	3.56%
Bewdley	1,347.90	1,572.55	1,797.20	2,021.85	2,471.15	2,920.45	3,369.75	4,043.70	3.60%
Broome	1,329.17	1,550.69	1,772.23	1,993.75	2,436.81	2,879.86	3,322.92	3,987.50	3.66%
Chaddesley Corbett	1,340.35	1,563.74	1,787.14	2,010.53	2,457.32	2,904.10	3,350.88	4,021.06	3.56%
Churchill & Blakedown	1,334.10	1,556.45	1,778.80	2,001.15	2,445.85	2,890.55	3,335.25	4,002.30	3.65%
Kidderminster Foreign	1,317.58	1,537.17	1,756.78	1,976.37	2,415.57	2,854.75	3,293.95	3,952.74	3.05%
Ribbesford	1,310.12	1,528.47	1,746.83	1,965.18	2,401.89	2,838.59	3,275.30	3,930.36	3.65%
Rock	1,339.16	1,562.35	1,785.55	2,008.74	2,455.13	2,901.51	3,347.90	4,017.48	3.53%
Rushock	1,339.31	1,562.53	1,785.75	2,008.97	2,455.41	2,901.84	3,348.28	4,017.94	3.56%
Stone	1,344.99	1,569.15	1,793.32	2,017.48	2,465.81	2,914.13	3,362.47	4,034.96	3.72%
Stourport on Severn	1,339.25	1,562.46	1,785.67	2,008.88	2,455.30	2,901.71	3,348.13	4,017.76	3.67%
Wolverley & Cookley	1,339.77	1,563.07	1,786.37	2,009.66	2,456.25	2,902.84	3,349.43	4,019.32	3.77%

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL
23 FEBRUARY 2022

POLICY AND BUDGET FRAMEWORK
MATTERS WHICH REQUIRE A DECISION BY COUNCIL

RECOMMENDATIONS OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
3 FEBRUARY 2022

Purpose of Report

To consider recommendations from the Overview & Scrutiny Committee on matters outside the policy framework or approved budget of the Council.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Would Councillors please note that the related reports and documents have not been included in the Council book, as they have already been sent to Members via the committee agenda pack. A public inspection copy is available on request. The policy documents, referred to below, have been posted on the Council's website. See the report on page 43 of the pdf at this link:

http://www.wyreforest.gov.uk/council/docs/doc57336_20220203_o_and_s_agenda.pdf

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL	CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE
<p>Treasury Management Strategy 2022-23</p> <p>The Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommends to Council to:</p> <p>1.1 Approve the restated Prudential Indicators and Limits for the financial years 2022-23 to 2031-32 included in Appendix 3. These will be revised for the February 2022 Council meeting, as per paragraph 7.2 of the report, following any changes to the Capital Programme brought about as part of the budget process.</p> <p>1.2 Approve the updated Treasury Management and Investment Policy and Strategy Statements for the period 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023 (the associated Prudential Indicators are included in Appendix 3 and the detailed criteria is included in Section 10 and Appendix 5).</p> <p>1.3 Approve the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement that sets out the Council's policy on MRP included in Appendix 1.</p> <p>1.4 Approve the Authorised Limit Prudential Indicator included in Appendix 3.</p>	<p>Councillor M Hart</p>

<p>1.5 Notes that the separate, but intrinsically linked, Capital Strategy 2022-32 to be approved separately by Council, sets out the policy statement covering non-treasury investments including the related suite of prudential indicators.</p>	
<p>1.6 Notes the implications of the revised Codes as detailed in section 3.1. the new Codes apply with immediate effect, in particular that an authority must not borrow to invest primarily for financial return. Implementation of the new reporting requirements is deferred until the 2023-24 financial year.</p>	

Notice of Motion from Councillor A L'Huillier, agreed by Council 8 December 2021

Council notes the frustration caused within local government about the lack of meaningful sanctions available to councils when endeavouring to uphold and maintain high standards of conduct of members.

It believes that the option of censure is not sufficient, particularly for members who may have repeatedly breached the code of conduct, and notes that the House of Commons retains the ability to suspend Members of Parliament and that MPs can face recall petitions in certain circumstances.

It notes with regret that the Government has still not responded to the recommendations of the Committee on Standards in Public Life in its Twentieth Report: Local Government Ethical Standards (30 January 2019), which included a recommendation that councils should have the power to suspend councillors without allowances for up to six months.

Council therefore RESOLVES

- (1) to send a letter to our MP Mark Garnier, asking him to take to Westminster our concerns and frustrations, and ask questions of the relevant Ministers as to what changes it may be possible to put in place that will address the lack of effective sanctions, to give Ethics and Standards Committees throughout the country the tools required to hold members to the highest standards;
- (2) to send a letter to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to ask for a response to this motion;
- (3) to consider the responses received at the next available meeting of Council.



Mark Garnier Esq MP
House of Commons
LONDON
SW1A 0AA

Ref: IM/FC2
Date: 9 December 2021

Dear Mark,

ETHICS REGIME IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

On 8 December, full Council unanimously passed the attached resolution. I am writing to draw it to your attention in accordance with the motion and to ask you that you kindly take the steps set out therein.

I would be grateful for a response that I could share with members of Council. This would be put before them alongside the response received from the Department.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "I R Miller".

Ian Miller
Chief Executive
ian.miller@wyreforestdc.gov.uk
01562 732700

Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster DY11 7WF

Motion passed by Wyre Forest District Council, 8 December 2021

Council notes the frustration caused within local government about the lack of meaningful sanctions available to councils when endeavouring to uphold and maintain high standards of conduct of members.

It believes that the option of censure is not sufficient, particularly for members who may have repeatedly breached the code of conduct, and notes that the House of Commons retains the ability to suspend Members of Parliament and that MPs can face recall petitions in certain circumstances.

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- (3) to consider the responses received at the next available meeting of Council.



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

Kemi Badenoch MP

*Minister of State for Equalities and Levelling Up
Communities*

***Department for Levelling up, Housing and
Communities***

Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
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SW1P 4DF

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www.gov.uk/dluhc

Our Ref:14291585

Mark Garnier MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

26 January 2022

Dear Mark,

Thank you for your letter dated 6 January, to the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, to share the recent resolution from Wyre Forest District Council regarding local government codes of conduct.

I am sorry to hear about the Council's experience with vexatious conduct from a Councillor. It is crucial that elected members in local government inspire confidence and have the trust of the electorate.

It is for each local authority to determine the contents of their code of conduct, although the code must conform to the seven 'Nolan' principles of standards in public life - selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership. Local authorities are required to put in place arrangements to investigate and decide on allegations of breaching the code.

In addition to other criteria, anyone who has received a custodial sentence of three months or more is disqualified from standing or serving as a member of a local authority. Furthermore, the Government is currently supporting the Local Government (Disqualification) Bill which will update the disqualification criteria to further disqualify individuals from local office who are placed on the sex offenders register or are subject to a sexual risk order.

I note Wyre Forest Council's motion in support of proposals in the Committee on Standards in Public Life's Review of Local Government Ethical Standards. It is of the utmost importance that local authorities have the right tools to make the system work. We are carefully considering the recommendations set out in the Committee on Standards in Public Life's report and I can assure you that the Government will be issuing its response shortly.

Yours sincerely,

KEMI BADENOCH MP

Standards in Public Life: Local Authorities

Mark Garnier (Wyre Forest) (Con)

2. What steps he is taking to ensure standards in public life are upheld at local authority level.

The Minister for Levelling Up Communities (Kemi Badenoch)

The Government champion high ethical standards in local government. On 14 January, I supported the important Bill of my hon. Friend the Member for Mole Valley (Sir Paul Beresford) to disqualify sex offenders from local office and, before Christmas, I met the Chair of the Committee on Standards in Public Life to reaffirm that we will shortly be responding to the Committee's report on this important issue and will set out further steps to improve the system.

Mark Garnier

I am sure that you of all people, Mr Speaker, would agree that standards of politicians at every level are not always observed. On Wyre Forest District Council, a local councillor has been sanctioned for not the first, but the fourth time, for standards breaches. In this case, it was the leader of the Liberal Democrat group, but I think that we would all agree that frequent offenders who see sanctions as an occupational hazard of being a controversial councillor come from every political party. It is three years since the recommendations of the Committee on Standards in Public Life on local government ethical standards were published. Can the Minister confirm if and when the Government will legislate to implement their recommendations and that any legislation will equip councils with more robust sanctions for serious or repeated breaches of the code of conduct, an example of which could be a ban for six months?

Kemi Badenoch

I thank my hon. Friend for raising this important issue and for his recent letter on the matter, which I shall respond to shortly. I am actively considering the recommendations set out in the report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, and will respond shortly. It is of the utmost importance that local authorities have the right tools to make the system work.

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

**COUNCIL
23 FEBRUARY 2022**

QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL

1. Question from Councillor F Oborski MBE to the Leader of the Council

Climate Emergency U.K. has assessed the Council Climate Action Plans of Councils in the top two tiers of Local Government according to 28 questions across 9 Sections based on the expert approved Checklist for Council Action Plans.

Is the Leader content with the performance of Wyre Forest D.C. on the resultant scorecard?

2. Question from Councillor Marcus Hart to the Leader of the Council

Could the Leader of the Council please confirm that she values the process used in respect of the appraisal of the Chief Executive?

3. Question from Councillor Nathan Desmond to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Capital Portfolio

Could the Cabinet Member for Finance and Capital Portfolio comment on how she feels the budget process and Strategic Review Panel has worked this year?

4. Question from Councillor Tracey Onslow to the Cabinet Member for Operational Services

When will work commence at Brinton Park in respect of our Heritage Lottery Fund Project further to the grant of £2.4m of funding in 2020?

5. Question from Councillor Ian Hardiman to the Cabinet Member for Operational Services

When can we expect all WFDC units on the Frenco site to be let by?

6. Question from Councillor Chris Rogers to the Cabinet Member for Operational Services

Could the Cabinet Member please tell me the latest position of how much of Wyre Forest House is now rented out to external tenants.

7. Question from Councillor F Oborski MBE to the Cabinet Member for Operational Services

Worcestershire County Council is to be congratulated on passing a motion recognising that we face a Biodiversity Emergency. That Motion stated:

“Council welcomes the focus of the new Environment Act 2021 (the 2021 Act) which updates and strengthens the existing Biodiversity Duty on Public Bodies (including

local authorities) contained in the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC Act)”

Will the Cabinet Member agree with me that, although the primary responsibility will lie with the County Council, it would be appropriate to request the Green Panel in compliance with, and subject to, the requirements of the Act, work with partners including WCC towards producing a Local Nature Recovery Strategy which would build on the emerging Local Plan and set out the priorities for protection and enhancement of biodiversity within the district, to include key habitats and geographical locations of focus?

8. Question from Councillor Marcus Hart to the Leader of the Council

Could the Leader of the Council comment on how she feels she has taken on board the views of all members as part of this year’s budget?

9. Question from Councillor Ian Hardiman to the Cabinet Member for Operational Services

Since the work from home guidance has been relaxed and we move to our hybrid model of working could the Cabinet Member advise on how many staff have been physically working from Wyre Forest House each day since 1st February?

10. Question from Councillor F Oborski MBE to the Cabinet Member for Housing, Health, Well-being and Democratic Services

Can the Cabinet Member tell me how many homeless families have we housed at the Travel Lodge at Hartlebury?

11. Question from Councillor F Oborski MBE to the Cabinet Member for Housing, Health, Well-being and Democratic Services

Given that rooms in the Travel Lodge at Hartlebury have no cooking facilities and there are no shops nearby how can this possibly be a suitable accommodation with people with no cars?