

## **Budget Monitoring Report No.2, 2022/23**

<b>Council</b>	9 February 2023
<b>Report Author</b>	Chris Blundell, Acting Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer
<b>Portfolio Holder</b>	Councillor David Saunders, Cabinet Member for Finance
<b>Status</b>	For Decision
<b>Classification</b>	Unrestricted
<b>Previously Considered by</b>	Cabinet 15 December 2022
<b>Ward</b>	Thanet Wide

### **Executive Summary:**

This report sets out a budget adjustment that Cabinet recommended to Council for approval when considering the Budget Monitoring Report No.2 report at its meeting on 15 December 2022

### **Recommendation(s):**

1. That Council approves a supplementary General Fund Revenue Budget of £48,000 for the appointment of two interim property surveyors, to be wholly funded from an associated increase in property income streams.

### **Corporate Implications**

#### **Financial and Value for Money**

The financial implications have been reflected within the body of the report.

#### **Legal**

Section 151 of the 1972 Local Government Act requires a suitably qualified named officer to monitor and control the Council's finances in order to provide a balanced budget.

#### **Risk Management**

The budget adjustments are presented in order to address specific service budgetary pressures or allow for additional activity to be undertaken. Should the recommendation not be approved, there may be a risk to the delivery of existing service objectives or to the one-off outcomes that the additional budget allocation is intended to achieve.

## **Corporate**

Corporate priorities can only be delivered with robust finances and this report gives Members the opportunity to review the Council's current position.

## **Equality Act 2010 & Public Sector Equality Duty**

Members are reminded of the requirement, under the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) to have due regard to the aims of the Duty at the time the decision is taken. The aims of the Duty are: (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it, and (iii) foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

Protected characteristics: age, sex, disability, race, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief and pregnancy & maternity. Only aim (i) of the Duty applies to Marriage & civil partnership.

There are no direct equality implications arising from this report, however the delivery and implementation of and budgetary changes will consider this as part of the budget setting process and be reported to members in due course.

It is important to be aware of the Council's responsibility under the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) and show evidence that due consideration has been given to the equalities impact that may be brought upon communities by the decisions made by Council.

## **Corporate Priorities**

This report relates to the following corporate priorities: -

- *Growth*
- *Environment*
- *Communities*

### **1. Introduction and Background**

- 1.1. This report sets out a staffing and income budget adjustment that Cabinet recommended to Council for approval, when considering the Budget Monitoring Report No.2 report at its meeting on 15 December 2022.

### **2. Additional Resources for the Property Team**

- 2.1. There is a requirement for two interim surveyors to be appointed within the Property Directorate to focus on the delivery of rent reviews and lease renewals, in order to generate income and capital receipts from the rent review and letting backlog. The cost of these two interim posts will be broadly £48,000 for the remainder of the

2022/23 financial year and can be met wholly from the anticipated increased revenue from the associated activities.

- 2.2. This is in addition to the £100k requested to be allocated to the service from the repairs reserve within the Budget Monitoring No.1 report (referred to elsewhere on this Council agenda), that is also needed to address long-standing income budget shortfalls.
- 2.3. The longer-term funding of this service is considered within the 2023/24 budget report included elsewhere on the agenda.

### **3. Options**

1. Council may determine to approve the budget adjustments presented in the report and the related activity associated with the budgets can be undertaken
2. Council may decide to reject the budget adjustments presented in the report and as such alternative action would need to be taken to address any corresponding budgetary pressures that relate to the specific recommendations.

Contact Officer: *Chris Blundell (Acting Deputy Chief Executive)*

Reporting to: *Colin Carmichael (Interim Chief Executive)*

#### **Corporate Consultation**

**Finance:** *N/A*

**Legal:** *Sameera Khan (Interim Head of Legal & Monitoring Officer)*