

Budget Monitoring Report No.1, 2023-24

Council	12 October 2023
Report Author	Chris Blundell, Director of Corporate Services - Section 151
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Rob Yates, Portfolio Holder for Finance
Status	For Decision
Classification:	Unrestricted
Key Decision	No
Ward:	All Wards

Executive Summary:

This report presents budget additions and amendments for Council approval, which have been recommended by Cabinet following the receipt of the 2023-24 budget monitoring report for Quarter One by Cabinet on 21 September 2023.

Recommendation(s):

1. That Council approve the supplementary budgets for:
 - i. The £10k requirement for the Legal system upgrade to be funded from reserves as set out in section 2.1.
 - ii. The £154k identified at section 2.2 from the Business Rates Growth Reserve to fund the Legal and Procurement fees associated with Port projects.
2. That Council approves the supplementary capital budgets, numbered i to vii inclusive, as set out in section 3 to this report.

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.

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 had 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

- 1.1. The Council's constitution requires that supplementary budgets must be approved by Council. In other words, only Council can agree to the overall size of the budget for the year to be increased.
- 1.2. The Quarter 1 Budget Monitoring report was received by Cabinet on 21 September 2023, within which Cabinet agreed for a number of additions to the budgets to be recommended to Council for approval. The link to this budget monitoring report is included for reference under annex to this report.
- 1.3. The following sections set out the details of these budget amendments for Council approval.

2. General Fund Revenue Supplementary Budget Requests

- 2.1. A supplementary revenue budget of £10,000 has been requested and will be covered by the use of the Legal reserve, this is required to fund IKEN upgrade as this falls outside of the base budget allocated.
- 2.2. Legal and Procurement Fees at the Port are expected to cost £154k but will be offset by a contribution from the Business Rates Growth Reserve which again falls outside of the base budget allocated.

3. General Fund Capital Programme Additions 2021-22

It is proposed that the following changes to the capital programme (already reflected within the opening balances of the Annex previously provided to Cabinet) be approved.

- (i) **Replace Crematorium Chapel Roof:** Increase the budget by £2,150, funded from revenue and reserves, for additional spend on this project.
- (ii) **Homelessness Accommodation:** Increase the budget by £60,000, funded from housing capital receipts, for additional spend on this project.
- (iii) **Community Parks:** Increase the budget by £29,110 funded from revenue and reserves, to replace fire damaged playground equipment at Warre Recreation Ground.
- (iv) **Viking Bay Boardwalk:** Add a budget of £41,000, which is externally funded, to replace the Viking Bay Boardwalk.
- (v) **Thanet District LED Lighting:** Increase the budget by £70,000 from external funding, for additional spend on this project.
- (vi) **IT Infrastructure:** Once funding has been identified, increase the budget by £178,000 to replace the virement of this amount to Device Refresh.
- (vii) **Smart Metering Upgrade:** Increase the budget by £5,000, funded from revenue, for additional spend on this project.

Contact Officer: *Matthew Sanham*

Reporting to: *Chris Blundell, Director of Finance and acting Section 151 Officer*

Annex List

[Budget Monitoring Report No.1. 2023/24](#)
[Annex 1 General Fund Capital Programme](#)

Background Papers

Budget monitoring papers held in Financial Services

Corporate Consultation

Finance: *N/A*

Legal: Sameera Khan, Interim Monitoring Officer