

## **CORPORATE PLAN AND BUDGET FOR 2023/24**

REPORT OF: Director of Resources and Organisational Development  
Contact Officer: Rachel Jarvis, Assistant Director Corporate Resources (and S151 Officer)  
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Wards Affected: All  
Key Decision: Yes  
Report to: Council  
1 March 2023

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### **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To present the Corporate Plan and Budget for 2023/24 for approval by Council.

### **2. Background**

- 2.1 The Council is required annually to approve a Corporate Plan and Budget which sets out how it will deliver its services and spend its financial resources in the following financial year. The Corporate Plan outlines activities, projects, and levels of performance for the coming year (set out at section 2 of the report). These are supported by a Financial Strategy (section 1) and the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) (section 5) that present the financial assumptions and the proposals that achieve a balanced budget position. These plans include a recommendation for the level of council tax to be set for the year. The sections of the Corporate Plan and Budget are set out as follows: -

Section 1 – Introduction and Financial Context/Strategy  
Section 2 – Service Plans and Revenue Budget  
Section 3 – Capital Strategy and Programme  
Section 4 – Usable Reserves and other Balances  
Section 5 – Medium Term Financial Plan  
Section 6 – Collection Fund  
Section 7 – Council Tax Resolution and Council Tax Levels

- 2.2 The draft Corporate Plan and Budget has been produced against a backdrop of significant financial and economic challenges both nationally and locally. And with uncertainty regarding local government finance, particularly in relation to proposed funding reform. Over the medium term an imbalance persists that will need attention over the coming period.
- 2.3 The proposals in the report result in a modest increase in council tax for 2023/24 of 2.75%, £4.95 per year. This means that the Mid Sussex element of the council tax at Band D would increase to £185.31 per annum.
- 2.4 Combined with the precepts of other authorities, the Band D council tax level for the Mid Sussex area in 2023/24 will be:

Band D Council Tax 2023/24		
	£	Change from 2022/23
Mid Sussex District Council	185.31	+2.75%
Parish and Town Council	80.18	+3.79%
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	265.49	+3.06%
West Sussex County Council	1,633.41	+4.99%
Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner	239.91	+6.67%
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	2,138.81	+4.93%

2.5 The Corporate Plan and Budget 2023/24 were formally considered by Scrutiny at its meeting on 11 January 2023. It was then considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 6 February 2023 who approved it for recommendation to Council.

### 3.0 Recommendations

#### 3.1 Council is recommended to approve:

- i) The Corporate Plan and Budget for 2023/24 as set out in this report;
- ii) The Revenue Budget of £19,819,586 as detailed in Section 1, 2, and 5;
- (iii) The Mid Sussex District Council element of the Council Tax be increased by 2.75% to £185.31, with no requirement to hold a local referendum in accordance with the Act.
- (iv) The Capital programme of £5,735,000 for 2023/24, as set out in section 3;
- (v) Having considered Cabinet's budget proposals from their meeting of 6 February, the Council Tax Resolutions as set out in section 7.

#### 3.2 Council is asked to note:

- (vi) The estimates for reserves and balances (see Section 4 for details) and the priority, as part of the sustainability of the financial robustness of the council, to increase reserves where possible.
- (vii) The summary Medium Term Financial Plan to 2026/27 (see Section 5 for details).
- (viii) That the estimated surplus on the Collection Fund for Council Tax totalling £1,515,000 for the year ended 31 March 2023, of which the Mid Sussex District Council share is £191,480 (see Section 6 for details) is noted.
- (ix) That the estimated deficit on the Collection Fund for Business Rates totalling £1,287,400 for the year ended 31 March 2023, of which the Mid Sussex District Council share is £514,960 (see Section 6 for details) is noted.

**4. Policy Context**

The Corporate Plan and Budget has been developed in line with the Council's priorities:

**5. Risk Management Implications**

As in previous years, the Corporate Plan and Budget for 2023/24 has been risk assessed.

**6. Legal Implications**

The Local Government Finance Act 1992 provides that for each financial year a local authority should set the amount of Council Tax before 11<sup>th</sup> March in the financial year preceding that for which it is set. The Act makes provisions regarding the calculations necessary in setting the Council Tax. The Localism Act 2011 made significant changes to the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and requires the billing authority to calculate a Council Tax requirement for the year, not its budget requirement as previously. This report is instrumental in achieving this requirement.

**7. Financial Implications**

The Financial implications of this report are as set out in the recommendations and the appended Corporate Plan and Budget 2023/24.

**8. Equalities implications**

Proposals for new or changed services will be subject to Equality Impact Assessments at the appropriate time.

**9. Sustainability implications**

None.

**10. Background Papers**

None.