



TO COUNCILLOR:

R H Adams (Mayor)
N Alam
S S Athwal
L A Bentley
G A Boulter
L M Broadley
F S Broadley
M H Charlesworth
J K Chohan

H E Darling
M L Darr
J K Ford
D A Gamble
F S Ghattoraya
C S Gore
S Z Haq
G G Hunt
P Joshi

R V Joshi
J Kaufman
C D Kozlowski (Deputy Mayor)
K J Loydall
C J R Martin
R E R Morris
I K Ridley
C A M Walter

I summon you to attend the following meeting for the transaction of the business in the agenda below.

Meeting: Full Council
Date & Time: Thursday, 22 February 2024, 7.00 pm
Venue: Civic Suite, Brocks Hill Council Offices, Washbrook Lane, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 5JJ
Special Title: Council Tax & Budget Setting (2024/25)
Contact: Democratic Services
t: (0116) 257 2775
e: democratic.services@oadby-wigston.gov.uk

Yours faithfully

Council Offices
Oadby
14 February 2024

Anne E Court
Chief Executive



Meeting ID: 2597

ITEM NO.

AGENDA

PAGE NO'S

Meeting Live Broadcast | Information and Link

This meeting will be broadcast live.

Press & Public Access:

A direct link to the live broadcast of the meeting's proceedings on the Council's Civico platform is below.

<https://civico.net/oadby-wigston/18539-Full-Council>



Postal Address: Brocks Hill Council Offices, Washbrook Lane, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 5JJ

Refuse & Recycling Centre: The Depot, Wigston Road, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 5JE

Telephone: (0116) 288 8961 **Email:** customer.services@oadby-wigston.gov.uk



oadby-wigston.gov.uk



OadbyWigstonBC



@Oadby_Wigston

1. Calling to Order of the Meeting

The meeting of the Council will be called to order to receive Her Worship The Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

2. Apologies for Absence

To receive apologies for absence from Members to determine the quorum of the meeting in accordance with Rule 7 of Part 4 of the Constitution.

3. Declarations of Interest

Members are reminded that any declaration of interest should be made having regard to the Members' Code of Conduct. In particular, Members must make clear the nature of the interest and whether it is 'pecuniary' or 'non-pecuniary'.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting(s)

To read, confirm and approve the minutes of the previous meeting(s) in accordance with Rule 19 of Part 4 of the Constitution.

a. Tuesday, 12 December 2023

4 - 8

b. Wednesday, 10 January 2024 (Extraordinary)

9 - 10

5. Action List Arising from the Previous Meeting(s)

There was no Action List arising from the previous meeting(s).

6. Motions on Notice

To consider any Motions on Notice in accordance with Rule 14 of Part 4 of the Constitution.

7. Petitions, Deputations and Questions

To receive any Petitions, Deputations and, or, to answer any Questions by Members or the Public in accordance with Rule(s) 11, 12, 13 and 10 of Part 4 of the Constitution and the Petitions Procedure Rules respectively.

a. Jenno's Coffee House Expansion

11

Question by Councillor Michael H Charlesworth

8. Mayor's Announcements

To receive any announcements from the Mayor in accordance with Rule 2 of Part 4 of the Constitution.

a. Official Mayoral / Deputy Mayoral Engagements

9. Leader's Statement

To receive any statement from the Leader of the Council in accordance with Article 2.9.2(ii) of Part 2 of the Constitution.

10. Council Tax Setting (2024/25)

12 - 17

Report of the Head of Finance / Acting CFO and S151 Officer
Report of the Interim Finance Manager

In accordance with Rule 18.3.2 of Part 4 of the Constitution, as required by Regulation 4 and Part 3 of Schedule 2 of the Local Authorities (Standing Orders)

Full Council

Thursday, 22 February 2024, 7.00 pm

*Printed and published by Democratic Services, Oadby
and Wigston Borough Council, Brocks Hill Council
Offices, Washbrook Lane, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 5JJ*

(England) Regulations 2001 (as amended), the names of the Members who cast a vote for the motion or against the motion or who abstain from voting will be recorded for this item of business and will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting's proceedings.

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| 11. 2024/25 Revenue Budgets, Medium Term Financial Plan and 2024/25 - 2028/29 Capital Programmes | 18 - 108 |
| Report of the Head of Finance / Acting CFO and S151 Officer | |
| 12. Treasury Management Policy and Strategies and Prudential Indicators (2024/25) | 109 - 158 |
| Report of the Senior Finance Business Partner | |
| 13. Pay Policy Statement (2024/25) | 159 - 167 |
| Report of the Chief Executive / Head of Paid Service | |
| 14. Interim Annual Report for 2022/23 and Key Recommendation 2023/24 | 168 - 211 |
| Report of the Interim Strategic Director | |
| 15. Review of Designation of Polling Place for Polling District G2 (Oadby Brocks Hill) | 212 - 215 |
| Legal & Democratic Services Manager / Deputy Monitoring Officer | |

Access all available public meeting information, documents and live broadcasts on:



Our **website** at oadby-wigston.gov.uk/meetings



Our **Civico** platform at civico.net/oadby-wigston



Your **smart device** using the **Modern.Gov** app

Agenda Item 4a.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL HELD AT CIVIC SUITE, BROCKS HILL COUNCIL OFFICES, WASHBROOK LANE, OADBY, LEICESTER, LE2 5JJ ON TUESDAY, 12 DECEMBER 2023 COMMENCING AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT

R H Adams Mayor
C D Kozlowski Deputy Mayor



Meeting ID: 2574

COUNCILLORS

N Alam
L A Bentley Deputy Leader of the Council
G A Boulter
F S Broadley
M H Charlesworth
J K Chohan
H E Darling Deputy Leader of the Opposition
M L Darr
J K Ford
D A Gamble
F S Ghattoraya
C S Gore Leader of the Council
S Z Haq
G G Hunt
J Kaufman
K J Loydall
C J R Martin
I K Ridley
C A M Walter

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

S J Ball Legal & Democratic Services Manager / Deputy Monitoring Officer
B Bull Head of Finance / Section 151 Officer
A E Court Chief Executive / Head of Paid Service
D M Gill Head of Law & Democracy / Monitoring Officer
T Hatton Head of Customer Service & Transformation
S Khan Interim Strategic Director
A Thorpe Head of Built Environment

39. CALLING TO ORDER OF THE MEETING

The meeting of the Council was called to order to receive Her Worship The Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

40. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillors L M Broadley, N V Joshi, P Joshi and R E R Morris.

41. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor C S Gore declared a non-pecuniary interest with regard to agenda item 10 of

the agenda, insofar as renting a plot in the Aylestone Lane allotments.

Upon the Monitoring Officer's advice, all Members who subscribed to the Garden Waste Service indicated a non-pecuniary interest in relation to agenda item 10.

42. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

42a. TUESDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2023

By affirmation of the meeting, it was

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 26 September 2023 be taken as read, confirmed and approved.

42b. TUESDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2023 (EXTRAORDINARY)

By affirmation of the meeting, it was

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

The minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 28 November 2023 be taken as read, confirmed and approved.

43. ACTION LIST ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

There was no action list arising from the previous meeting(s).

44. MOTIONS ON NOTICE

None.

45. PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS

None.

46. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reminded those in attendance of the sing-a-long Christmas Carol event at Brocks Hill Country Park on Wednesday 13 December, to whom all were invited.

46a. LIST OF OFFICIAL MAYORAL / DEPUTY MAYORAL ENGAGEMENTS

By affirmation of the meeting, it was:

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

The list of Official Engagements attended by The Mayor and/or Deputy Mayor be noted.

47. LEADER'S STATEMENT

The Leader of the Council presented a Statement outlining her recent work, the administration's plans and an overview of recent decisions taken since the previous meeting of the Council, together with fielding questions in relation to her Statement.

The Leader spoke upon unprecedented financial challenges the Council was facing due to continuing long-term cuts to funding in addition to more recent pressures around inflation, homelessness and national pay awards for staff, resulting in difficult decisions needing to be made as featured elsewhere on the meeting's agenda.

48. 2024/25 DRAFT REVENUE BUDGET, MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN AND 2024/25 – 2026/27 DRAFT CAPITAL PROGRAMMES

The Council gave consideration to the report and appendices (as set out at pages 13 - 52 of the agenda reports pack) which presented the revised General Fund Annual Budget for 2024/25 and an updated MTFP for 2024/25 to 2026/27, an update on the capital programme for 2024/25 and the HRA Annual Budget for 2024/25.

It was moved by Councillor C S Gore, seconded by Councillor J K Ford and

DEFEATED THAT:

A separate vote by taken on each item contained 'Service Delivery Changes – Financial Sustainability Plan' at Appendix 4 of the report.

Votes For	5
Votes Against	15
Abstentions	1

It was moved by the Deputy Leader of the Council, seconded by Councillor G A Boulter and

RESOLVED THAT:

- (i) The content of the report and appendices be noted;**
- (ii) The general fund balance reserve no longer used to balance the budget;**
- (iii) The Service Delivery Changes – Financial Sustainability Plan be approved, save for a 50% reduction in the funding to Helping Hands and the Community and Wellbeing partnership as opposed to 100%; and**
- (iv) An increase in housing rents, service charges and garage rents by the maximum social rent level of 7.7% (subject to any changes being announced on the rent setting formula) be approved.**

Votes For	15
Votes Against	6
Abstentions	0

49. MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION POLICY UPDATE (2023)

The Council gave consideration to the report and appendices (as set out at pages 53 – 58 of the agenda reports pack) which presented a revised MRP policy for approval to allow for a change in methodology to be implemented.

It was moved by the Deputy Leader of the Council, seconded by Councillor G A Boulter and

RESOLVED THAT:

- (i) The change in MRP methodology be approved; and**
- (ii) The revised MRP Policy to enable the change in methodology to be implemented be approved.**

Votes For	16
Votes Against	5
Abstentions	0

50. PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS FOR CARE LEAVERS

The Council gave consideration to the report (as set out at pages 59 – 62) of the agenda reports pack) which proposed that individuals with care experience be treated as if it were a Protected Characteristic under the Equality Act 2010.

It was moved by Councillor M H Charlesworth, seconded by Councillor K J Loydall and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

Care leavers/care experience being treated by the Council as a Protected Characteristic under the Equality Act 2010.

51. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER REPRESENTATIVE TO OUTSIDE BODY

The Council gave consideration to the report (as set out at pages 63 - 64) of the agenda reports pack) asked it to appoint a single Member representative to the Plastic Free Oadby Steering Group.

It was moved by Councillor G A Boulter, seconded by the Leader of the Council and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

Councillor C J R Martin be appointed to the Plastic Free Oadby Steering Group.

52. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

By general affirmation of the meeting, it was

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

The press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (Exempt Information) during consideration of the item(s) below on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in the respective paragraphs 1 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act and, in all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exempt item(s) outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

53. INSURANCE AND LEISURE OPERATOR CONTRACT (EXEMPT)

The Council gave consideration to the exempt report and appendix (as set out at pages 65 – 72 of the private agenda reports pack) which asked it to note the information provided and approve of recommendation B.

It was moved by the Deputy Leader of the Council, seconded by Councillor K J Loydall

RESOLVED THAT:

- (iii) Recommendation A be noted.**
- (iv) Recommendation B to approved; and**
- (v) Recommendation C be noted.**

Votes For	16
Votes Against	5
Abstentions	0

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.25 pm

Agenda Item 4b.

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL HELD AT CIVIC SUITE, BROCKS HILL COUNCIL OFFICES, WASHBROOK LANE, OADBY, LEICESTER, LE2 5JJ ON WEDNESDAY, 10 JANUARY 2024 COMMENCING AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT

C D Kozlowski Deputy Mayor



Meeting ID: 2683

COUNCILLORS

N Alam
S S Athwal
L A Bentley Deputy Leader of the Council
G A Boulter
M H Charlesworth
J K Chohan
H E Darling Deputy Leader of the Opposition
D A Gamble
F S Ghattoraya
S Z Haq Leader of the Council
G G Hunt
P Joshi Leader of the Opposition
R V Joshi
J Kaufman
K J Loydall
C J R Martin
I K Ridley

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

S J Ball Legal & Democratic Services Manager / Deputy Monitoring Officer
D M Gill Head of Law & Democracy / Monitoring Officer

54. **CALLING TO ORDER OF THE MEETING**

The meeting of the Council was called to order to receive the Deputy Mayor.

55. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from the Mayor and Councillors F S Broadley, L M Broadley, L Darr, J K Ford, and C S Gore.

56. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

57. **REVIEW OF MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL BODIES ETC. (JANUARY 2024)**

The Council gave consideration to the report and appendices (as set out at pages 3 - 7 of the agenda reports pack) which asked it to resolve the necessary removals and appointments to those affected Council Bodies to reflect the Council's new political composition etc.

It was moved by the Leader of the Council, seconded by the Deputy Leader of the Council and

RESOLVED THAT:

- (i) The new political composition of the Council, and the proportionality arrangements in relation to minimum eligible Member representation and allocation of seats on Council bodies by political group be noted;**
- (ii) Councillor L M Broadley be removed from the Services Delivery Committee for the remainder of the municipal year 2023/24;**
- (iii) Councillor J Kaufman be appointed to the Policy, Finance & Development Committee for the remainder of the municipal year 2023/24; and**
- (iv) Councillor I K Ridley be appointed as Chair of the Policy, Finance & Development Committee for the remainder of the municipal year 2023/24.**

Votes For	13
Votes Against	0
Abstentions	5

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 7.06 pm

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Full Council | Thursday, 22 February 2024

Jenno's Coffee House Expansion

Question

The news that Jenno's is to expand is welcomed and in the long-term can only be good for the profit-sharing agreement between the Council and Jenno's. How much are the expansion works costing and who is paying?

Councillor M H Charlesworth

Questioner

The above question was duly received by the Head of Law & Democracy on 14 February 2024 in accordance with Rule 13, Section 1 of Part 4 of the Council's Constitution.

In accordance with Rule 13, Section 1 of Part 4 of the Council's Constitution, the questioner may ask one supplementary question without notice which must arise directly out of the original question or reply.

Agenda Item 10



Full Council	Thursday, 22 February 2024	Matter for Information and Decision
---------------------	---------------------------------------	--

Report Title: **Council Tax Setting (2024/25)**

Report Author(s): **Bev Bull (Head of Finance/Acting CFO and S151 Officer)
Deborah Proctor (Interim Finance Manager)**

Purpose of Report:	The purpose of this report is for Oadby and Wigston Borough Council to set and approve the amount of Council Tax for its area in accordance with section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended by the Localism Act 2011.
Report Summary:	Approval is sought for Oadby and Wigston Borough Council's associated Band D Council Tax for 2024/25 of £254.04 Members should note that the wording of this report and the recommendations are largely prescribed by statute.
Recommendation(s):	<p>A. It be noted that under powers delegated to the Chief Financial Officer, the Council has calculated the amount of 18,367.98 as its Council Tax base for the financial year 2024/25 in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012.</p> <p>B. It be noted that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2024/25 is £4,666,276.</p> <p>C. The following amounts be calculated by the Council for the year 2024/25 in accordance with sections 30 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended):</p> <p>(i) £40,841,345 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in section 31A(2) of the Act.</p> <p>(ii) £36,175,069 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in section 31A(3) of the Act.</p> <p>(iii) £4,666,276 being the amount by which the aggregate at C(i) above exceeds the aggregate at C(ii) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 31 A (4) of the Act, as its Council Tax Requirement for the year.</p> <p>(iv) £254.04 being the amount at C(iii) divided by the amount at A above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 3 B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.</p>

(v) Valuation Bands 2024/25

Being the amounts given by multiplying the amount at C(iv) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation Band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 36(1) of the Act, as the amount to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

Oadby & Wigston Borough Council			
A	B	C	D
£ 169.36	£ 197.59	£ 225.82	£254.04
E	F	G	H
£ 310.50	£ 366.95	£ 423.41	£508.09

D. It is noted that for the year 2024/25, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicester/shire, and the Leicester/shire and Rutland Combined Fire Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories shown below and that Leicestershire County Council have indicated that their provisional precept will be confirmed on 21 February 2024.

Precepting Authorities - Valuation Bands 2024/25

Leicestershire County Council			
A	B	C	D
£ 1,067.72	£ 1,245.67	£ 1,423.63	£ 1,601.58
E	F	G	H
£ 1,957.49	£ 2,313.39	£ 2,669.30	£ 3,203.16

Police & Crime Commissioner for Leicester & Leicestershire			
A	B	C	D
£ 190.82	£ 222.62	£ 254.43	£ 286.23
E	F	G	H
£ 349.84	£ 413.44	£ 477.05	£ 572.46

Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Combined Fire Authority			
A	B	C	D
£54.44	£ 63.51	£ 72.58	£ 81.65
E	F	G	H

	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>£99.80</td> <td>£117.94</td> <td>£136.09</td> <td>£163.31</td> </tr> </table> <p>E. That having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at C(v) and D above, the Council, in accordance with section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, set the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2024/25 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below.</p> <p>Valuation Bands</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="4">Total Amount Payable Oadby & Wigston Borough Council Residents</th> </tr> <tr> <th>A</th> <th>B</th> <th>C</th> <th>D</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>£1,482.34</td> <td>£ 1,729.39</td> <td>£1,976.46</td> <td>£2,223.50</td> </tr> <tr> <th>E</th> <th>F</th> <th>G</th> <th>H</th> </tr> <tr> <td>£2,717.63</td> <td>£ 3,211.72</td> <td>£3,705.85</td> <td>£4,447.02</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	£99.80	£117.94	£136.09	£163.31	Total Amount Payable Oadby & Wigston Borough Council Residents				A	B	C	D	£1,482.34	£ 1,729.39	£1,976.46	£2,223.50	E	F	G	H	£2,717.63	£ 3,211.72	£3,705.85	£4,447.02
£99.80	£117.94	£136.09	£163.31																						
Total Amount Payable Oadby & Wigston Borough Council Residents																									
A	B	C	D																						
£1,482.34	£ 1,729.39	£1,976.46	£2,223.50																						
E	F	G	H																						
£2,717.63	£ 3,211.72	£3,705.85	£4,447.02																						
Responsible Strategic Director, Head of Service and Officer Contact(s):	<p>Sal Khan (Interim Strategic Director) (0116) 257 2690 sal.khan@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</p> <p>Bev Bull (Head of Finance /Acting Chief Finance Officer - Section 151 Officer) (0116) 257 2649 bev.bull@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</p> <p>Deborah Proctor (Interim Finance Manager) (0116) 257 2823 deborah.proctor@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</p>																								
Corporate Priorities:	<p>Building, Protecting and Empowering Communities Growing the Borough Economically Providing Excellent Services</p>																								
Vision and Values:	<p>"A Strong Borough Together" (Vision) Innovation (V4)</p>																								
Report Implications:-																									
Legal:	There are no implications arising from this report.																								
Financial:	The implications are set out in the report.																								
Corporate Risk Management:	<p>Decreasing Financial Resources (CR1) Effective Utilisation of Assets/Buildings (CR5) Regulatory Governance (CR6) Organisational/Transformational Change (CR8) Economy/Regeneration (CR9)</p>																								
Equalities and Equalities Assessment (EA):	There are no implications arising from this report. EA not applicable.																								

Human Rights:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Health and Safety:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Statutory Officers' Comments:-	
Head of Paid Service:	The report is satisfactory.
Chief Finance Officer:	As the author, the report is satisfactory.
Monitoring Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Consultees:	None.
Background Papers:	Local Government Finance Act 1992
Appendices:	None.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Section 30 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 requires the Council to set amounts of Council tax at taxpayer level for each category of dwelling (i.e. Council Tax Band) before 11 March in the preceding financial year. At the time of writing, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicestershire and Leicester had already set their Council Tax increases for 2024/25. Leicester and Leicestershire and Rutland Combined Fire Authority is due to agree its increase on 14th February 2024 and Leicestershire County Council is due to agree its increase on 21st February 2024.
- 1.2 The increases (including the indicative increases for the Combined Fire Authority and Leicestershire County Council) are as follows:

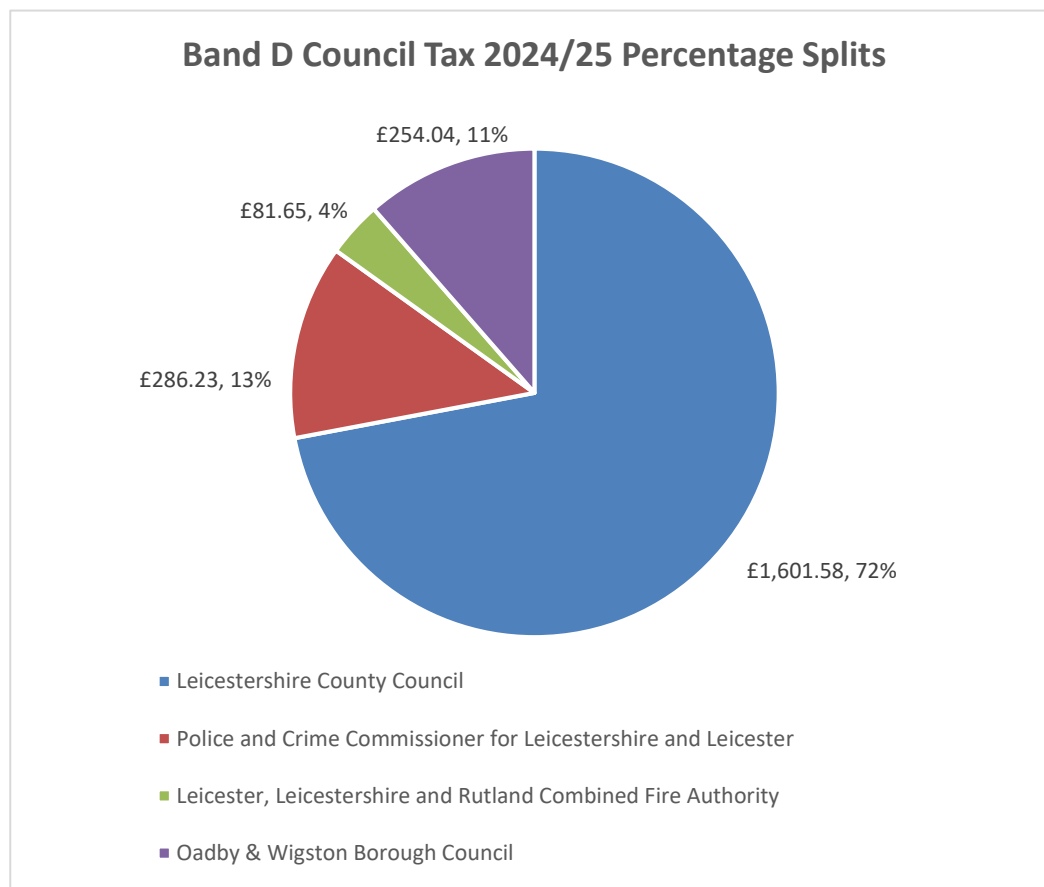
Preceptor	% - Increase
Leicestershire County Council (Provisional)	4.99%
Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicestershire and Leicester	4.76%
Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Combined Fire Authority	2.98%

- 1.3 The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government has made an offer to "Adult Social Care Authorities" which are local authorities that have functions under Part 1 of the Care Act 2014, namely County Councils in England, District Councils for an area in England for which there is no County Council, London Borough Councils, the Common Council of the City of London and the Council of the Isles of Scilly.
- 1.4 The offer is the option of an adult social care authority being able to charge an additional "precept" on its Council tax for financial years from the financial year beginning in 2016 without holding a referendum, to assist the authority in meeting expenditure on adult social care. Subject to the annual approval of the Commons, the Secretary of State intends to offer the option of charging this "precept" at an appropriate level in each financial year up to and including the financial year 2024/25.
- 1.5 Leicestershire County Council has provisionally set a 2% adult social care levy in 2024/25. Their final decision will be reported to Council verbally by the Chief Financial Officer before Members are asked to vote on the recommendations above, noting that their council tax

setting meeting will be held on 21st February 2024 and therefore after the publication of this report.

- 1.6 The Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Police and Crime Panel meeting on 1 February 2024 approved the 2024/25 Council Tax precept for the Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicestershire and Leicester.
- 1.7 The Combined Fire Authority will be meeting on the 14th February 2024 to approve the 2024/25 Council Tax precept for the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Combined Fire Authority. Their final decision will be reported to Council verbally by the Chief Financial Officer before Members are asked to vote on the recommendations above, noting that their council tax setting meeting will be held on 14th February 2024 and therefore at the same time as the publication of this report.
- 1.8 In total, the average Council Tax (Band D) for 2024/25 (assuming that both the Leicestershire County Council and the Combined Fire Authority confirm their proposed precepts) will be **£2,223.50**, comprising:

Preceptor	Band D Council Tax	% - Increase
Leicestershire County Council	£1,601.58	4.99%
Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicestershire and Leicester	£286.23	4.76%
Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Combined Fire Authority	£81.65	2.98%
Oadby & Wigston Borough Council	£254.04	2.99%
Total	£2,223.50	4.65%



- 1.9 Although the information contained in this report is accurate at the time of writing, not all the major precept bodies had formally approved their Council Tax. Should there be any changes to the figures in this report, Members will be informed verbally at the meeting.
- 1.10 A Council Tax Guide will be placed on the Council's website following this meeting. The guide will detail the 24/25 precepts. Information regarding how to access the Council Tax Guide will be included in the latest version of 'Our Borough'.

Agenda Item 11



Full Council	Thursday, 22 February 2024	Matter for Information and Decision
---------------------	---------------------------------------	--

Report Title: **2024/25 Revenue Budget, Medium Term Financial Plan and 2024/25 – 2028/29 Capital Programmes**

Report Author(s): **Bev Bull (Head of Finance / Acting CFO and S151 Officer)**

Purpose of Report:	For Full Council to receive and approve the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2024/25, the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) revenue budget for 2024/25, the Capital Programmes and the MTFP 2024/25 to 2028/29.
Report Summary:	<p>The report outlines the final proposed General Fund Revenue Budget for 2024/25, which is a balanced budget with no use of the general fund reserve.</p> <p>The five-year Medium Term Financial Plan 2024/25 to 2028/29 shows a forecast cumulative surplus.</p> <p>The General Fund Revenue Budget for 2024/25 and the Medium-Term Financial Plan 2024/25 to 2028/29 include the delivery of the Service Delivery Changes – Financial Sustainability Plan.</p> <p>The report also presents the draft Housing Revenue Account which sets out the high-level five-year position.</p> <p>The report sets out an indicative ranking for potential futures schemes to be added to the capital programme as funding is secured.</p> <p>Finally, the report sets out the Section 151 Officer’s statement on robustness of estimates and adequacy of reserves, as required by Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003.</p>
Recommendation(s):	<p>That Full Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Approve the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2024/25 as set out in Appendix 1. Noting the budget position is based on no use of the general fund reserve and delivering the Service Delivery Changes – Financial Sustainability Plan as set out in Appendix 3, incorporating a change to the plan to achieve 100% of the Health and Wellbeing saving and reduce the Service Transformation saving by the equivalent amount. B. Approve the HRA budget for 2024/25, as detailed in Table 6. This is based on the rent increase of 7.7% for Housing rents, garages and service charges approved at the Full Council meeting on the 12 December 2023; C. Approve the Scale of Fees and Charges as set out in Appendix 4; D. Approve the Capital Schemes of the General Fund and HRA, noting the indicative ranking for potential futures schemes to be added to the programme as funding is secured, as detailed in Table 9;

	<p>E. Notes the MTFP for 2024/25 to 2028/29 as set out in Appendix 8; and</p> <p>F. Notes the S151 Officer’s statement on the robustness of the budget and the adequacy of reserves as set out in Section 14 of the report.</p>
Senior Leadership, Head of Service, Manager, Officer and Other Contact(s):	<p>Sal Khan (Interim Strategic Director) (0116) 257 2690 sal.khan@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</p> <p>Bev Bull (Head of Finance / Acting CFO and S151 Officer) (0116) 257 2649 bev.bull@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</p>
Strategic Objectives:	Our Council (SO1)
Vision and Values:	"Our Borough - The Place To Be" (Vision) Resourceful & Resilient (V4)
Report Implications:-	
Legal:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Financial:	The implications are as set out in the report.
Corporate Risk Management:	Decreasing Financial Resources / Increasing Financial Pressures (CR1) Reputation Damage (CR4) Regulatory Governance (CR6) Organisational / Transformational Change (CR8)
Equalities and Equalities Assessment (EA):	There are no implications directly arising from this report. EA not applicable
Human Rights:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Health and Safety:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Statutory Officers’ Comments:-	
Head of Paid Service:	The report is satisfactory.
Chief Finance Officer:	As the author, the report is satisfactory.
Monitoring Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Consultees:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SLT 29/01/2024 • PFD 6/2/2024
Background Papers:	Report entitled 'Draft 2024/25 Revenue Budgets, Medium Term Financial Plan and 2024/25 - 2028/29 Capital Programmes' to Policy, Finance & Development Committee on 6 February 2024
Appendices:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. General Fund Summary Budget 2024/25 2. Analysis of Movement in 2024/25 Budget Gap December 2023 to February 2024 3. Service Delivery Changes – Financial Sustainability Plan 4. Scale of Fees and Charges 2024/25

	<p>5. Analysis of HRA Budget Movements and Budget Assumptions 2024/25</p> <p>6. Capital Programme for 2024/25 to 2026/27</p> <p>7. Budget Consultation Responses</p> <p>8. MTFP Summary 2024/25 to 2028/29</p> <p>9. MTFP Assumptions</p> <p>10. MTFP Scenario Analysis</p> <p>11. HRA Medium Term Financial Plan 2024/25 to 2028/29 and Assumptions</p>
--	---

1. Introduction

1.1 The draft General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) proposals, Scale of Fees and Charges, Capital Programmes and updated MTFP (Medium Term Financial Plan) were considered Policy Finance and Development Committee on the 5 December 2023 and by Full Council on 12 December 2023. Following those meetings two recommendations were approved by Full Council, these were:

- the general fund balance reserve is no longer used to balance the budget;
- the Service Delivery Changes – Financial Sustainability Plan;

1.2 This report summarises the changes from incorporating those recommendations and other changes proposed since the last Council report, including small changes to funding announced at the Provisional Local Government Settlement. This position has been reported and discussed at Policy Finance and Development Committee on the 6 February 2024.

1.3 The aim of the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budgets and the associated MTFP is to achieve:

- Financial resilience;
- Financial self-sustainability.

The achievement of both will provide opportunities for members to invest in their priorities.

2. 2023/24 Local Government Finance Settlement

2.1 The government published its Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement on 18 December 2023. The settlement forms the annual determination of funding to local government. It announced a 6.5% increase in national Core Spending Power (the measure of the resources available to local authorities to fund service delivery) there was a significant reduction in the Services Grant and the Funding Guarantee has been maintained to ensure that every council sees at least a 3% increase in Core Spending Power next year before any local decisions on council tax rates. In comparison to other tiers of local government, Shire Districts achieved just under 5% in the increase in core spending power.

2.2 A further announcement has been made stating additional resources will be allocated to Local Government in the Final Settlement. This will see a 7.5% increase in national Core Spending Power and see that Funding Guarantee is maintained to ensure that every council sees at least a 4% increase in Core Spending Power.

2.3 The Final Local Government Finance Settlement, including individual local authority allocations was received on the 5th February 2024. This also included introducing compensation to be paid to local authorities to reimburse them for lost NNDR income, as a result of the introduction of the green plant and machinery exemption to be backdated for 2022/23 and 2023/24.

2.4 The impact of Final Local Government Finance on the funding assumptions for the 2024/25 budget are shown in Table 1.

Table 1 - Impact of the Final Local Government Settlement

	Forecast as at December 2023	Actual as at Final Settlement	Change in funding
	£'000	£'000	£'000
New Homes Bonus	-258	-287	-29
Services Grant	-62	-11	52
Funding Guarantee	0	-130	-130
Green plant and machinery compensation	0	-22	-22
Increase in Funding as result of the Finance Settlement			-129

3. Council Tax 2024/25

3.1 The position presented in the December meetings was based on the assumption of a 2.99% increase in Council Tax and an increase in the Council Tax base of 0.60% for 2024/25. The Council Tax base has now been set for 2024/25 based on actual Council Tax Base as at 30 November plus forecasts increases in the base based on properties waiting to be banded and planning trajectory for the year, this is then adjusted by the forecast collection rate. The increase in base is 2.12%. This has increased the funding from Council Tax in 2024/25 by £69k from £4.597m to £4.666m. Due to the complexities of the Collection Fund the variance in budgeted Council Tax and actual Council Tax for 2023/24 impacts in 2024/25. The forecast surplus for the previous year is £54k.

4. Business Rates (NNDR) 2024/25

- 4.1 The Business Rates position has been updated for the Final NNDR 1 since the PFD Committee.
- 4.2 Like Council Tax, due to the complexities of the Collection Fund the variance in budgeted Business Rates and actual Business Rates for 2023/24 that will impact on the budget in 2024/25, this is £638k. An element of this deficit is the result of additional reliefs given and funded by central government. There is Section 31 grant being held as an earmarked reserve of £306k to off-set this element of this deficit. This results in a requirement to fund the remaining £332k deficit. As part of the quarter 3 monitoring report a NNDR equalisation reserve is being established and the reserve will be used to fund the deficit.
- 4.3 The deficit has occurred due to a number of factors including removal of some hereditaments from the rating list, successful appeals and increase in reliefs. Following the completion of the NNDR 1, the impact of these changes is forecast to be on-going, and this has reduced the forecast Business Rates income for 2024/25 by £122k from £2.593m to £2.471m.

5. Funding Position 2024/25

5.1 The overall funding position for 2024/25 is set out in Table 2

Table 2 – 2024/25 Draft Budget Funding Position

Funding	2024/25 (Dec 23 Report)	2024/25 (Provisional Settlement)	Change
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Contribution from reserves (Earmarked Reserves)	-35	-673	-638
Council Tax	-4,597	-4,666	-69
Collection Fund (Surplus)/Deficit – Ctax	0	-54	-54
Retained Business Rates	-2,593	-2,471	122
Collect Fund (Surplus)/Deficit – Business rates	0	638	638
New Homes Bonus	-258	-287	-29
Services Grant	-62	-11	51
Funding Guarantee	0	-130	-130
Plant and Machinery Compensation Grant	0	-22	-22
Total Funding	-7,545	-7,676	-131

5.2 Since the report to PFD on the 6th February 2024 the funding position has increased by £28k.

6. 2024/25 Annual Budget

6.1 The draft budget position for 2024/25 shows a balanced budget for 2024/25 with no use of the general fund reserve. The draft budget position incorporates the Service Delivery Changes – Financial Sustainability Plan and other changes proposed since the last Council report, including the funding changes explained earlier in the report. Table 3 summarises the draft balanced budget position for 2024/25. The General Fund Summary Budget 2024/25 is included at Appendix 1. The 2024/25 budget includes a £6k budget provision for Residents Forums within the Community & Wellbeing, Corporate Assets, Depot line in Appendix 1.

Table 3 – Budget Gap 2024/25

	2024/25 (Dec 23 Report)	2024/25 Annual Budget	Movement in Gap
Net Expenditure 24/25	8,812,000	7,676,000	-1,136,000
Funding 24/25	-7,545,000	-7,676,000	-131,000
GAP	1,267,000	0	-1,267,000

6.2 The movements in the budget since the December report are summarised in Table 4 below and detailed in Appendix 2

Table 4 – Movement in 2024/25 Budget Gap December 2023 to February 2024

Identified costs increases and savings 2024/25	£
Further growth and pressures identified	326,000
Increased service income	-396,000
Removal of post	-45,000
Service Delivery Changes	-795,000
Updated budget assumptions	-226,000
Funding Changes	-131,000
	-1,267,000

- 6.3 The increase in funding received through the Local Government Finance settlement is needed in the proposed budget to fund additional pressures identified whilst finalising the proposed budget for 2024/25.
- 6.4 Is it important to note that the balanced draft budget position for 2024/25 incorporates the Service Delivery Changes – Financial Sustainability Plan as approved in the December Full Council meeting. Delivering on these savings is imperative, if the plan is not delivered budget pressures will occur and use of reserves will be required in year. The Service Delivery Changes – Financial Sustainability Plan is included at Appendix 3. Monitoring progress against the plan will be incorporated into the quarterly budget monitoring reports for 2024/25. The Senior Leadership Team are already taking actions to deliver the savings.
- 6.5 A significant change since the December report is a reduction in the Housing Benefit pressure associated with homelessness. The forecast reduction is due to alternative accommodation being identified reducing the placements to more expensive Bed and Breakfast accommodation. It is important to note this budget remains volatile and will be monitored closely in year.
- 6.6 In the main this reduction in the Housing Benefit budget has been used to create a new contingency budget of £130k. The purpose of a contingency budget is to help manage unexpected in year pressures, which may include future pressures on homelessness. Use of the Contingency budget will be approved by the Section 151 Officer and Chief Executive up to £25k, above £25k but less than £50k will be approved in consultation with the Chair of PFD and above £50k will be approved by PFD Committee.
- 6.7 Since the report to PFD on the 6th February 2024 an additional pressure of £28k has been identified in relation to the Lightbulb service, there are costs that cannot be capitalised and charged to the capital Disabled Facilities Grant, this includes the admin, monitoring and support work, these costs have only recently been confirmed by the partnership. This pressure has off set the additional funding received as identified in paragraph 5.2.

7. General Fund Reserve 2024/25

- 7.1 The forecast position for the General Fund Reserve is shown in Table 5. This position is based on £300k of the total £525k forecast return from the business rates pool for 2022/23 being transferred to the reserve, (the remainder will go into the NNDR equalisation reserve) and a prudent forecast for the return from the business rates pool for 2023/24 and 2024/25, based on levels received in earlier years. The amount actually received will be impacted on by the Business Rates performance of all Leicestershire authorities, it is very volatile and hard to predict.
- 7.2 There will be one-off redundancy costs associated with Service Transformation, these will be met from capital receipts where appropriate under the flexible use of capital receipts policy but otherwise will be met from the General Fund Reserve. It is not possible to accurately forecast the impact of this on the reserve at this time. All Service Transformation will be evaluated to deliver an overall invest to save position.
- 7.3 Please note the Opening balance as at 1 April 2023 has been amended by £206k verbally reported to PFD on the 6th February. This is to account for a repayment of duplicated income received by the Council.

Table 5 – General Fund Reserve 2024/25

General Fund Reserve	£
Opening Balance 1 April 2023	-1,206,772
Use of reserve in setting the budget for 23/24	430,187

Supplementary Budget	156,000
Forecast overspend Q3	563,259
Sales Fees and Charges clawback as per Q1 report	198,670
Return from the Business Rates Pool 20/21 and 21/22 as per Q1 report	-732,194
Re-purposing of earmarked reserves	-72,912
Estimate of return from the Business Rates Pool 22/23 and 23/24.	-600,000
Estimated Closing Balance 31 March 2024	-1,263,762
Estimate of return from the Business Rates Pool 24/25.	-300,000
Estimated Closing Balance 31 March 2025	-1,563,762

8. Scale of Fees and Charges 2024/25

8.1 The Council charges for a number of its services that are provided to the public. All fees and charges are reviewed on an annual basis as part of the budget process. Charges set by the Council are increased in line with inflation or other factors taken into consideration, in line with the Corporate Charging Policy:

- Statutory obligations
- Policies objectives of the Council;
- Local market research and competition (where relevant);
- The impact of price changes on activity level of demand;
- Changes in taxation
- Budget position and any associated gap;
- The cost of providing the service.

8.2 A draft proposed charge position was included in the December report, this has now been updated to reflect the new charges agreed as part of the Service Delivery Changes – Financial Sustainability Plan. Included at Appendix 4 is the final proposed charge position of individual charges.

9. Housing Revenue Account 2024/25

9.1 Table 6 shows the 2023/24 revised budget and the final 2024/25 proposed budget for the HRA.

Table 6 - Housing Revenue Account Final Proposed Budget 2024/25

Description	2023/24 Revised Budget	Final 2024/25 Proposed Budget	Movement
Income			
Rents, Charges and Contributions	(5,677,146)	(6,067,320)	(390,174)
Interest and investment income	(10,000)	(50,000)	(40,000)
Misc Income	(17,300)	(11,600)	5,700
Total Income	(5,704,446)	(6,128,920)	(424,474)
Expenditure			
Repairs and Maintenance	1,025,100	1,080,100	55,000
Supervision and Management	731,718	670,750	(60,968)
Interest payable and similar charges	757,397	785,760	28,363
Depreciation and impairments of fixed assets	1,580,000	1,580,000	0
Debt Management Costs	10,000	10,000	0

Contribution to the Bad Debt Provision	75,000	35,000	(40,000)
Recharge from General Fund	1,433,803	1,468,803	35,000
Rents, Rates, Taxes and other charges	10,000	10,000	0
Computer Software	110,400	124,800	14,400
Sheltered Schemes & Communal Services	309,240	212,240	(97,000)
Estate Management costs	53,200	50,400	(2,800)
Total Expenditure	6,095,858	6,027,853	(68,004)
Net Cost of HRA Services	391,412	(101,067)	(492,478)

- 9.2 There had been no significant changes since the draft proposed 2024/25 budget was presented in the December report. The total net movement since the December position is a £7k saving. This was the reduction in the pay award assumption to 3% and a revision to interest payable.
- 9.3 The assumption for the rents, garage rents and service charges increase remains at 7.7%, in line with the national rent increase formula of CPI at September + 1%. This was approved by Full Council on the 12th December 2023, subject to any national change to the rent setting policy being announced, there have been no changes announced.
- 9.4 There is no change in Heating Charges proposed for 2024/25, they will remain as set for 2023/24. The heating charges will be reviewed in October 2024, when new energy rates will be received.
- 9.5 In summary the changes from the revised budget for 2023/24 and the final proposed budget for 2024/25 are:
- Funding - (£414k)
 - Cost pressures - £163k
 - Savings – (241k)
- 9.6 Further analysis of the budget movements and the assumptions are set out in Appendix 5.

10. Capital Programme 2024/25

- 10.1 As reported in the December report due to the challenging financial pressures the Council is currently facing it is not recommended to approve any additional capital schemes to be added to the general fund capital programme funded by 'prudential borrowing'. It is recommended a list of priority schemes should be approved with a view to them only progressing if capital receipts are received and/or other capital funding is identified. If capital receipts are received, the Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Chief Executive, Chair of PFDC, the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition will need to consider the use of the receipts in terms of the need to repay existing debt to reduce revenue costs or to commence priority capital schemes.
- 10.2 The ranking of the schemes is based on our existing methodology which scores these against criteria that covers: whether there is statutory and legislative support, compliance with the Council's corporate objectives, there is an ability to reduce costs, whether there is a health and safety need or the scheme fulfils a need for refurbishment or a replacement. Table 7 shows the scoring of the submitted schemes.

Table 7 Scoring and ranking of potential capital schemes 2024/25

Scheme	Amount (£)	Initial Scheme Score	Initial Ranking
Brocks Hill Roof - replacement of tiles and solar panel installation	465,000	36	1
Play Areas refurbishment programme	150,000	36	1
Aylestone Lane Allotments New Road/cart track road plannings	200,000	29	3
Fludes Lane	150,000	27	4
Wigston Road Allotment Improvements	45,000	27	4
Cemetery Improvements	30,000	23	6
Brocks Hill barn - Create staff/volunteer refreshment/dry/refuge area	17,000	22	7
Willow Park Fencing Improvements	95,000	19	8
Uplands Pavilion Refurbishment	15,000	17	9

- 10.3 It is important to recognise that a number of these schemes are still subject to full business cases being developed so these will be prepared for consideration when capital receipts are received, and the detailed appraisals are being considered.
- 10.4 The capital programme for 2024/25 to 2026/27 is included at Appendix 6. This is as reported in the December 2023 budget update report and is per the indicative capital programme approved at February 2023. The 2024/25 capital programme budgets have been updated to reflect the slippage on the 2023/24 programme.
- 10.5 Transitional capital funding is due to be paid prior to the end of the financial year 2023/24 for the introduction food waste collections required from 1 April 2026. Representations have been made by OWBC and across the sector that the funding received is not adequate to cover the costs that will be incurred. Therefore, at this time a capital scheme for the introduction of food waste cannot be included in the capital programme.

11. Budget Consultation 2024/25

- 11.1 The public consultation on the budget for 2024/25 was undertaken between 19 December 2023 and 16 January 2024.
- 11.2 The public consultation was undertaken via an online consultation. The survey shared a number of high-level features of the budget for 2024/25 and asked respondents whether they were in support and any further views. A total of 359 responses were received which are set out in Appendix 7.

12. Medium Term Financial Plan 2024/25 to 2028/29

- 12.1 The MTFP has been updated to reflect the on-going impact of the changes made to the 2024/25 budget and to include the latest funding forecasts following the provisional settlement and further announcement. The position includes the following assumptions:
- the full year forecast saving of £250k for moving to alternative waste occurs from 2025/26
 - the removal of £39k costs from 2025/26 for the current procurement contract as notice has been given for this contract to end of 1 April 2025.

- 12.2 The updated MTFP summary 2024/25 to 2028/29 is shown in Appendix 8 and the MTFP assumptions are shown in Appendix 9. Table 8 summarises the updated MTFP position. This shows that based on the current assumptions the Council move into small cumulative surplus position over the MTFP period. It is important to note this is based on funding assumption received from our Advisors, this includes that the Funding Guarantee remain in 2025/26 and increases to maintain Core Spending Power on removal of the New Homes Bonus.

Table 8 – MTFP Forecast 2024/25 to 2028/29

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
In-Year Budget Gap / (Surplus)	-	- 97,000	62,000	26,000	- 131,000
Cumulative Budget Gap / (Surplus)	-	- 97,000	- 35,000	- 9,000	- 140,000

- 12.3 The impact of MTFP on the General Fund Reserve is shown in Table 9.

Table 9 – MTFP Forecast impact on the General Fund Reserve 2024/25 to 2028/29

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Opening General Fund Balance	- 1,264,000	-1,564,000	-1,961,000	-1,899,000	-1,873,000
(Surplus)/Deficit contributed (to)/from reserves	-	-97,000	62,000	26,000	-131,000
Contribution from the Business Rates Pool to reserves	-300,000	-300,000			
Closing General Fund Balance	-1,564,000	-1,961,000	-1,899,000	-1,873,000	-2,004,000

- 12.4 As stated in paragraph 7.1 the contribution from the Business Rates Pool is impacted on by the Business Rates performance of all Leicestershire authorities, it is very volatile and hard to predict, the value included is based on a prudent return from the pool. There is no return from the pool forecast beyond 2025/26 as the MTFP assumption is that the Business Rates Reset will happen in 2026/27 and the pool arrangement would cease.
- 12.5 As stated in paragraph 7.2 there will be one-off redundancy costs associated with Service Transformation that will be met from the General Fund Reserve. This is not included in the forecast above as the costs are not known.
- 12.6 Appendix 10 shows the impact of different scenarios on the MTFP.

13. HRA Medium Term Financial Plan

- 13.1 Appendix 11 shows the HRA Medium Term Financial Plan 2024/25 to 2028/29. This shows it is forecasting to be in surplus for each year of the MTFP. The HRA reserve balance is forecast to increase from the forecast opening balance at the 1 April 2024 of £1.071m to £2.321m as at 31 March 2029.

14. Robustness of Estimates and Adequacy of Reserves (Section 25 Statement)

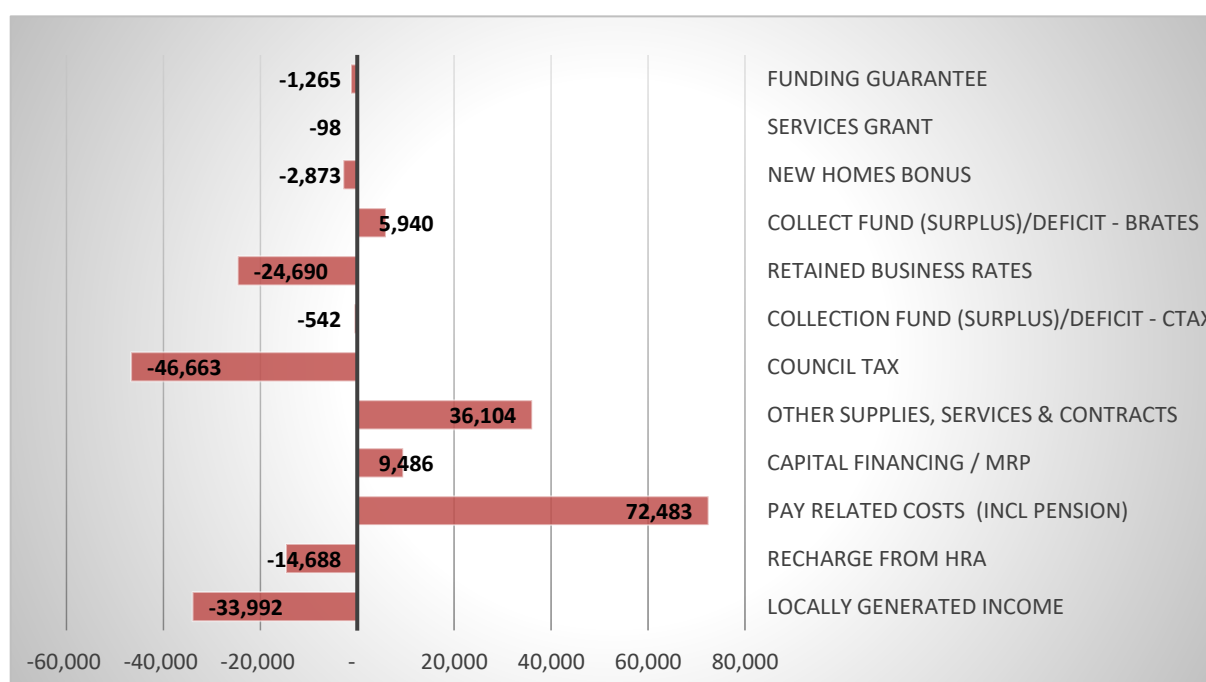
It has been well established that balancing budgets and closing budget gaps through the utilisation of reserves is not ideal and the Council needs to manage its expenditure within its funding and income means. This issue has been highlighted by the council's external auditors, Grant Thornton UK LLP.

- 14.1 At the Audit Committee meeting on 24 January 2023, Grant Thornton delivered their "Interim Annual Report for 2022/23" and an "Immediate Annual Report for 2023/24 Key Recommendation".
- 14.2 The 2023/24 Key Recommendations Report stated that in line with the requirements of the NAO's Code of Audit practice and due to the increasing financial challenges that the Council is facing within 2023-24 and the deterioration in its financial position and the reported risk that it could run out of money in 2025/26 unless further significant and challenging savings are achieved the auditors have issued an immediate report highlighting a significant weakness in financial sustainability arrangements and have made a key recommendation as set out in the report.
- 14.3 It was acknowledged that the Sustainability Programme savings that were identified in the previous MTFP did not meet the projected budget gap. Given the severity of the forecasted financial position, it was stated that it "was imperative that SLT and Councillors focus urgently on steps to address the financial challenge and organise activities in a way that focuses efforts on this single biggest risk". It is reassuring to acknowledge that those initial immediate steps have been taken and in December 2023 the Council approved the Financial Sustainability Plan in the main, and also committed to no longer using reserves to balance the budget now and in the future.
- 14.4 It is of fundamental importance that Members remain focused on the pledge not to use reserves to balance the budget and for Officers and Members to work collectively to identify those sustainable cost savings.
- 14.5 The Local Government Act 2003 requires the Council's Chief Financial Officer (Section 151 Officer) to comment on the robustness of the estimates and also on the adequacy of the proposed reserves. Members must have regard to these comments when deciding on the budget proposals for the forthcoming year.
- 14.6 The Section 151 Officer considers that the estimates which form the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account are robust and prudent, and the proposals are deliverable for 2024/25. Noting it is imperative that the Service Delivery Changes – Financial Sustainability Plan is delivered. The Council's Senior Leadership Team is taking the steps to make the necessary savings identified in the budget proposals as 'Service Transformation'.
- 14.7 It is noted that Council considered as part of the draft budget, to increase its council tax by the maximum level available, representing 2.99%. This is a prudent decision given the government funding position.
- 14.8 Based on current estimates for 2023/24 outturn which requires the use of the general fund reserve to balance the budget, the Council has an adequate level of general fund reserve to balance the budget. The budget for 2024/25 shows no use of general fund reserve to balance the budget as per the recommendation approved by Full Council at the meeting on the 12 December 2023.
- 14.9 There is no set formula for deciding what level of reserves is appropriate and councils are free to determine the level of reserves they hold. Where councils hold very low reserves there is little resilience to financial shocks and sustained financial challenges. Recent analysis carried out by

advisor LG improve stated that when compared to other Borough and District Councils, Oadby and Wigston had the 6th lowest level of usable revenue reserves as a proportion of net revenue expenditure based on 2022/23 data.

- 14.10 The forecast general fund reserve position is set out at paragraph 13.3 in the report, this forecasts the closing reserves to be £1.564m at March 2025. The previous MTFP stated that 12% of the net revenue expenditure position was considered too low. A more reasonable level of reserves is considered to be around 20% of net revenue expenditure. This amounts to a figure of £1.530m for 2045/25, therefore, we are forecasting reserves to be at an acceptable level.
- 14.11 As previously highlighted in the report the balanced annual budget for 2024/25 is achieved on the assumption the Service Delivery Changes – Financial Sustainability Plan as presented in Appendix 3 is fully achieved, any reduction in these savings or delays in them being achieved will result in utilisation of the general fund reserve and reduce the forecast balance for the reserve. As also previously highlighted the reserve position assumes a contribution from the business rates pool which is subject to variation and the reserve will be utilised to fund be one-off redundancy costs associated with Service Transformation which is not included in the forecast.
- 14.12 Added to the general reserves position, there is also a need to bolster more specific and earmarked reserves which are only used for their identified purposes, from a Risk Management perspective. These include a specific reserve for NNDR/Business Rates equalisation reserve, due to the uncertainties around calculations with the Business Rates Retention Scheme and for areas such as Invest to Save schemes whereby formally approved income generating schemes can be initiated in order to create savings in the future.
- 14.13 Additionally, the Council is susceptible to volatility in budgetary estimates and a relatively small change in the underlying assumptions can produce significant results for the Council. The below chart set out the impact of a 1% change in assumptions within the 2024/25 budget.

Chart 1 – Impact of 1% change in budget assumptions



- 14.14 If outturn forecasts for the current (2023/24) or the 2024/25 year are even less favourable than projected, the Council could be in a position where more reserves will be called on.

- 14.15 Changes in grant funding continue to present a further significant risk to the Council and the Section 151 Officer continues to work with key sector representatives to raise the profile of the unique issues faced by the Council and lobby for more financial freedoms around council tax precept levels and currently heavily regulated income streams.
- 14.16 The Housing Revenue Account position remains in a sustainable position. However, financial risks exist around: rising interest rates and the fact that the service needs to refinance debt on a regular basis and is therefore exposed to further increases in this regard; the need to decarbonise the stock and the associated financial burden this presents; ongoing volatility in respect of energy costs which are highly susceptible to economic conditions; and the level of properties sold through right to buy.

GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2024/25

Service	Original Budget 2023/24	Adjustments to Budget	Revised Budget 2023/24	2024/25 Savings Plan	2024/25 Permanent Growth	2024/25 One-Off Growth & Savings	2024/25 Virement	2024/25 Proposed Budgets
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Senior Leadership Team	482,350	0	482,350	(3,950)	14,420	10,000	(3,600)	499,220
Finance & Resources	3,221,202	123,000	3,344,202	(906,070)	968,035	71,200	(22,900)	3,331,467
The Built Environment	1,258,986	56,261	1,315,247	(754,490)	700,662	(41,100)	48,390	1,230,448
Law & Democracy	757,652	(27,490)	730,162	(149,200)	313,158	23,000	(101,670)	842,940
Community & Wellbeing, Corporate Assets, Depot	1,088,928	0	1,088,928	(962,336)	894,373	0	28,000	1,048,965
Customer Services & Transformation	1,140,020	24,418	1,164,438	(62,542)	105,310	9,400	51,780	1,243,968
HRA Recharge	(1,433,803)	0	(1,433,803)	(35,000)	0	0	0	(1,468,803)
Capital Financing	1,017,100	0	1,017,100	(68,500)	0	0	0	948,600
NET COST OF SERVICES	7,532,435	176,189	7,708,624	(2,942,088)	2,995,958	72,500	0	7,676,805

FUNDING								
Earmarked Reserves	(143,200)	(20,189)	(163,389)			(509,393)		(672,782)
Retained Business Rates	(2,301,254)		(2,301,254)	(170,186)				(2,471,440)
Collection Fund (Surplus)/Deficit – BR	113,885		113,885			523,897		637,782
Services Grant - One-off	(62,376)		(62,376)	51,608				(10,768)
New Homes Bonus	(257,600)		(257,600)	(29,650)				(287,250)
Council Tax – OWBC	(4,436,703)		(4,436,703)	(229,573)				(4,666,276)
Collection Fund Bal – CTax	(15,000)		(15,000)			(39,244)		(54,244)
Funding Guarantee	0		0	(129,501)				(129,501)
Green Plant & Machinery Grant				(22,326)				(22,326)
TOTAL FUNDING	(7,102,248)	(20,189)	(7,122,437)	(529,628)	0	(24,740)	0	(7,676,805)

BUDGET GAP	430,187	156,000	586,187	(3,471,716)	2,995,958	47,760	0	0
-------------------	----------------	----------------	----------------	--------------------	------------------	---------------	----------	----------

Appendix 2

Analysis of movement in 2024/25 Budget Gap December 2023 to February 2024

Growth/pressure	£ Amount	Service Area
Recruitment Support	10,000	SLT
Community Lottery funds moved to earmarked reserve - to be allocated to good causes	20,000	Community and Wellbeing
Increased External Audit Fees	55,000	Finance
Additional debt charges (due to annual review of Treasury Management Strategy and assumptions)	45,000	Finance
Homelessness Hired Staff increase	15,000	Housing
Taxi Licences Renewals	23,000	Regulatory Services
Contingency Budget	130,000	All
DFG administration - revenue element not allowable expenditure against DFG	28,000	Housing
Total Growth /Pressures	326,000	

Savings identified	£ Amount	Service Area
Increased Service Income		
Car Park Permit Charge Increase - Financial Sustainability Plan	-80,000	Corporate Assets
Car Park Hourly Rate Increases - Financial Sustainability Plan	-165,000	Corporate Assets
Car Park Hourly Rate Increases - Financial Sustainability Plan	-14,000	Corporate Assets
Bin Swaps - Commence Charge - Financial Sustainability Plan	-12,000	Refuse and Recycling
Bulky Waste Charge Increase - Financial Sustainability Plan	-15,000	Refuse and Recycling
Green Waste Increase - Financial Sustainability Plan	-110,000	Refuse and Recycling
Removal of posts		
Removal of Economic Development Officer - vacant post	-45,000	Economic Development
Service Delivery Changes		
Alternative Weekly Collections Waste Financial Sustainability Plan	-120,000	Refuse and Recycling
Reduce 'Our Borough' publication Financial Sustainability Plan	-15,000	Customer Services
Helping Hands - Financial Sustainability Plan	-29,000	Community and Wellbeing
Community & Wellbeing Partnership - Financial Sustainability Plan	-97,000	Community and Wellbeing
Service Transformation - Financial Sustainability Plan	-534,000	All
Other Savings		
Reduce pay increase assumption to 3% - Financial Sustainability Plan	-76,000	All
Reduce Housing Benefit costs - Forecast reduction in B&B exp due to identifying alternative Accom	-150,000	Finance
Total Savings	-1,462,000	

Changes to funding	£ Amount	Service Area
As detailed in main report - Table 2	-131,000	All
Total Funding Changes	-131,000.00	

Net movement	-1,267,000.00	
---------------------	----------------------	--

Identified costs increases and savings 2024/25	£
Growth and pressures identified	326,000
Increased service income	-396,000
Removal of post	-45,000
Service Delivery Changes	-795,000
Updated budget assumptions	-226,000
Funding Changes	-131,000
	-1,267,000.00

Service Delivery Changes – Financial Sustainability Plan

Description	Saving (£)	Service Area	Notes
Bin Swaps - Commence Charge	-12,000	Refuse and Recycling	£30 per bin
Bulky Waste Charge Increase	-15,000	Refuse and Recycling	Increase to £40 per bulky collection of 3 items.
Green Waste Increase	-110,000	Refuse and Recycling	Increase in charge from £50 to £60
Alternative Weekly Collections Waste	-120,000	Refuse and Recycling	Half year saving
Car Park Permit Charge Increase	-80,000	Corporate Assets	Increase in permits by 100% to £150 for residents and £300 to non-residents
Car Park Hourly Rate Increases	-165,000	Corporate Assets	Increase in up to 2 hourly rate to £1.50, up to 4 hour to £4 and over 4 hours to £6.
Car Park Hourly Rate Increases - Leisure Centre	-14,000	Corporate Assets	Introduce 2 hours charge for £1 and up to 4 hour charge to £2 and all day £6
Reduce 'Our Borough' publication	-15,000	Customer Service and Transformation	Once a year to all with ctax notification - other publication will be digital and hard copies to public sites
Helping Hands	-29,000	Community and Wellbeing	Reduce Contract - contract to be retendered to include more targeted support.
Community and Wellbeing Partnership	-97,000	Community and Wellbeing	Cancel Contract - deliver a limited service in house with existing resources
Service Transformation	-534,000	All	Service delivery reviews to be concluded early 2024/25
Reduce pay award assumption	-76,000	All	
Total Savings to balance the Gap	-1,267,000		

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE											
	DESCRIPTION OF CHARGE	VAT	GL ACCOUNT CODE	UNIT	2023-24 £	2024-25 £	%age increase	£ increase	Externally Set	Notes	Explanation regarding the recommended level of charge
1	BUILDING CONTROL & PLANNING - COMMON CHARGES										
	1.1 PLANNING AND BUILDING CONTROL FEES										
	(a) Statutory Charge set by Central Government and Local Authorities								X		
	1.2 BUILDING AND PLANNING RECORDS SEARCH										
	(a) Domestic development enquiries	N	40001 9356	Each enquiry	50.00	60.00	20.00%	10.00		Relating to all chargeable enquiries; for example, Permitted Development right check, lawful use check, and planning permission check.	£10 increase in an attempt to recover more of the costs associated in providing this service.
	(b) Commercial development enquiries	N	40001 9356	Each enquiry	85.00	95.00	11.76%	10.00		Relating to all chargeable enquiries; for example, Permitted Development right check, lawful use check, and checks relating to planning permission.	£10 increase in an attempt to recover more of the costs associated in providing this service.
	Section 106 and / or Tree Preservation Order document request and / or document enquiry.	N	40001 9356	Per hour		60.00				Relating to S106 and / or TPO documentation requests or checks associated to S106 documentation; for example checking whether S106 obligations have been complied with.	New fee. Directly relating to S106 and / or TPO requests and enquiries. Set out at an hourly rate.
	Tree Preservation Order or Conservation Area Enquiry (i.e. is my property is a Conservation Area or do I have trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order).	N	40001 9356	Each enquiry		20.00				Only charged if information can ordinarily be obtained by customer without LA assistance.	Fee consistent with last years fee.
	1.3 COPY OF PLANS, DOCUMENTS & DECISIONS**										
	If the total charge (at the rates below) does not exceed £3.00 then no charge will made to provide the requested copies.										
	(a) A4 size (black and white) per sheet*	N	40001 9206	Each	0.10	3.00	2900.00%	2.90			£1 per sheet will be charged, however a minimum of £3 will be charged if number of sheets does not exceed 3 sheets.
	(b) A4 size (colour) per sheet*	N	40001 9206	Each	1.00	3.00	200.00%	2.00			£1 per sheet will be charged, however a minimum of £3 will be charged if number of sheets does not exceed 3 sheets.
	(c) A3 size (black and white) per sheet*	N	40001 9206	Each	0.15	3.00	1900.00%	2.85			£1 per sheet will be charged, however a minimum of £3 will be charged if number of sheets does not exceed 3 sheets.
	(d) A3 size (colour) per sheet*	N	40001 9206	Each	2.00	3.00	50.00%	1.00			£1 per sheet will be charged, however a minimum of £3 will be charged if number of sheets does not exceed 3 sheets.
	(e) A2 size per sheet	N	40001 9206	Each	8.50	10.00	17.65%	1.50			Cost increased in attempt to cover as much Officer and stationary costs as possible.
	(f) A1 per sheet	N	40001 9206	Each	8.50	10.00	17.65%	1.50			Cost increased in attempt to cover as much Officer and stationary costs as possible.
	(g) A0 per sheet	N	40001 9206	Each	8.50	10.00	17.65%	1.50			Cost increased in attempt to cover as much Officer and stationary costs as possible.

1.4 PRE APPLICATION CHARGES											
	Written Householder Advice – small scale extensions to one house or a single flat; small scale development within the curtilage of the property. Does not include a site visit or meeting.	N	40001 9395	Each enquiry	115.00	130.00	13.04%	15.00			£15 increase in an attempt to recover more of the costs associated in providing this service.
	Written Householder Advice (where heritage or arboricultural advice is required) – small scale extensions to one house or a single flat; small scale development within the curtilage of the property. Does not include a site visit or meeting.	N	40001 9395	Each enquiry	165.00	180.00	9.09%	15.00		Please note that if both heritage and arboricultural advice is required an additional £50 charge will apply. Does not include a site visit or meeting. Additional charges will apply if sites visits are required.	£20 increase in an attempt to recover more of the costs associated in providing this service.
	Small scale development advice (commercial) - Small scale extensions / alterations to commercial or similar premises, below 100 m2. Does not include a site visit or meeting.	N	40001 9395	Each enquiry	185.00	205.00	10.81%	20.00			£20 increase in an attempt to recover more of the costs associated in providing this service.
	Small scale development advice (commercial) (where heritage or arboricultural advice is required) - Small scale extensions / alterations to commercial or similar premises, below 100 m2. Does not include a site visit or meeting.	N	40001 9395	Each enquiry		255.00				Please note that if both heritage and arboricultural advice is required an additional £50 charge will apply. Does not include a site visit or meeting. Additional charges will apply if sites visits are required.	New fee. Relates to additional officer advice.
	Small to Medium scale development advice (commercial) - small to medium scale extensions / alterations to commercial or similar premises, between 100 and 500 m2. Does not include a site visit or meeting.	N	40001 9395	Each enquiry	290.00	320.00	10.34%	30.00			£30 increase in an attempt to recover more of the costs associated in providing this service.
	Small to Medium scale development advice (commercial) (where heritage or arboricultural advice is required) - small to medium scale extensions / alterations to commercial or similar premises, between 100 and 500 m2. Does not include a site visit or meeting.	N	40001 9395	Each enquiry		370.00				Please note that if both heritage and arboricultural advice is required an additional £50 charge will apply. Does not include a site visit or meeting. Additional charges will apply if sites visits are required.	New fee. Relates to additional officer advice.
	Medium scale development advice (commercial) - medium scale extensions / alterations to commercial or similar premises, between 500 and 999 m2. Does not include a site visit or meeting.	N	40001 9395	Each enquiry	810.00	900.00	11.11%	90.00			£90 increase in an attempt to recover more of the costs associated in providing this service.
	Medium scale development advice (commercial) (where heritage or arboricultural advice is required) - medium scale extensions / alterations to commercial or similar premises, between 500 and 999 m2. Does not include a site visit or meeting.	N	40001 9395	Each enquiry		1,000.00				Please note that if both heritage and arboricultural advice is required an additional £100 charge will apply. Does not include a site visit or meeting. Additional charges will apply if sites visits are required.	New fee. Relates to additional officer advice.
	Larger scale development advice (commercial) - larger scale extensions / alterations to commercial or similar premises, over 1,000 m2. Does not include a site visit or meeting.	N	40001 9395	Each enquiry	1,625.00	2,000.00	23.08%	375.00			£375 increase in an attempt to recover more of the costs associated in providing this service.
	Larger scale development advice (commercial) (where heritage or arboricultural advice is required) - larger scale extensions / alterations to commercial or similar premises, over 1,000 m2. Does not include a site visit or meeting.	N	40001 9395	Each enquiry		2,100.00				Please note that if both heritage and arboricultural advice is required an additional £100 charge will apply. Does not include a site visit or meeting. Additional charges will apply if sites visits are required.	New fee. Relates to additional officer advice.
	Advertising related advice - relates to all advertising proposals. Does not include a site visit or meeting.	N	40001 9395	Each enquiry		300.00				Please note that if heritage and arboricultural advice is required an additional £50 charge will apply for each discipline involved. Does not include a site visit or meeting. Additional charges will apply if sites visits are required.	New fee. Seeks to recover as much of the associated costs as possible in providing this service.
	Changes of use not relating to residential development or commercial floorspace. Does not include a site visit or meeting.	N	40001 9395	Each enquiry		300.00				Please note that if heritage and arboricultural advice is required an additional £50 charge will apply for each discipline involved. Does not include a site visit or meeting. Additional charges will apply if sites visits are required.	New fee. Seeks to recover as much of the associated costs as possible in providing this service.

		Telecommunications equipment and apparatus advice. Does not include a site visit or meeting.	N	40001 9395	Each enquiry		300.00				Please note that if heritage and arboricultural advice is required an additional £50 charge will apply for each discipline involved. Does not include a site visit or meeting. Additional charges will apply if sites visits are required.	New fee. Seeks to recover as much of the associated costs as possible in providing this service.
(a) New Residential Unit Enquiries (including if permission is required)												
		1-3 new dwellings. Does not include a site visit or meeting.	N	40001 9395	Each enquiry	350.00	500.00	42.86%	150.00			£150 increase in an attempt to recover more of the costs associated in providing this service.
		1- 3 new dwellings (where heritage or arboricultural advice is required)	N	40001 9395	Each enquiry		600.00				Please note that if both heritage and arboricultural advice is required an additional £100 charge will apply. Does not include a site visit or meeting. Additional charges will apply if sites visits are required.	New fee. Seeks to recover as much of the associated costs as possible in providing this service.
		4-9 new dwellings. Does not include a site visit or meeting.	N	40001 9395	Each enquiry	810.00	1,000.00	23.46%	190.00			£190 increase in an attempt to recover more of the costs associated in providing this service.
		4-9 new dwellings (where heritage or arboricultural advice is required). Does not include a site visit or meeting.	N	40001 9395	Each enquiry		1,100.00				Please note that if both heritage and arboricultural advice is required an additional £100 charge will apply. Does not include a site visit or meeting. Additional charges will apply if sites visits are required.	New fee. Seeks to recover as much of the associated costs as possible in providing this service.
		10-49 new dwellings. Does not include a site visit or meeting.	N	40001 9395	Each enquiry	1740.00	2,000.00	14.94%	260.00			£240 increase in an attempt to recover more of the costs associated in providing this service.
		10-49 new dwellings (where heritage or arboricultural advice is required). Does not include a site visit or meeting.	N	40001 9395	Each enquiry		2,100.00				Please note that if both heritage and arboricultural advice is required an additional £100 charge will apply. Does not include a site visit or meeting. Additional charges will apply if sites visits are required.	New fee. Seeks to recover as much of the associated costs as possible in providing this service.
		50-199 new dwellings. Does not include a site visit or meeting.	N	40001 9395	Each enquiry	2895.00	3,200.00	10.54%	305.00			£315 increase in an attempt to recover more of the costs associated in providing this service.
		50-199 new dwellings (where heritage or arboricultural advice is required). Does not include a site visit or meeting.	N	40001 9395	Each enquiry		3,400.00				Please note that if both heritage and arboricultural advice is required an additional £200 charge will apply. Does not include a site visit or meeting. Additional charges will apply if sites visits are required.	New fee. Seeks to recover as much of the associated costs as possible in providing this service.
		200-399 new dwellings. Does not include a site visit or meeting.	N	40001 9395	Each enquiry	4055.00	4,500.00	10.97%	445.00			£445 increase in an attempt to recover more of the costs associated in providing this service.
		200-399 new dwellings (where heritage or arboricultural advice is required). Does not include a site visit or meeting.	N	40001 9395	Each enquiry		4,700.00				Please note that if both heritage and arboricultural advice is required an additional £200 charge will apply. Does not include a site visit or meeting. Additional charges will apply if sites visits are required.	New fee. Seeks to recover as much of the associated costs as possible in providing this service.
		400 or more new dwellings. Does not include a site visit or meeting.	N	40001 9395	Each enquiry	5000.00	5,500.00					£500 increase in an attempt to recover more of the costs associated in providing this service.

		400 or more new dwellings (where heritage or arboricultural advice is required). Does not include a site visit or meeting.	N	40001 9395	Each enquiry		5,700.00				Please note that if both heritage and arboricultural advice is required an additional £200 charge will apply. Does not include a site visit or meeting. Additional charges will apply if sites visits are required.	New fee. Seeks to recover as much of the associated costs as possible in providing this service.
		Site visit / applicant meeting (additional fee) relating to any pre-application enquiry.		40001 9395	Each site visit or meeting	200.00					The fee is charged for each site visit / meeting for any pre-application enquiry. Multiple site visits / meetings will incur multiple fees. Please note that if heritage and arboricultural advice is required an additional £50 charge will apply for each discipline involved per meeting.	
		1.5 HIGH HEDGE COMPLAINTS										
	(a)	Complaints via written means (electronic or hard copy)	N	40001 9369	Each enquiry	520.30	550.00	5.71%	29.70			Fee increase in an attempt to recover more of the costs associated in providing this service.
	(b)	Those on means tested benefits and war pensions will receive 33% discount	N	40001 9369	Each enquiry	347.22	368.50	6.13%	21.28			Fee increase in an attempt to recover more of the costs associated in providing this service.
		1.6 WEEKLY LIST OF ALL PLANNING APPLICATIONS	N	40001 9354	Per Year	147.91	150.00	1.41%	2.09			
		1.7 OADBY AND WIGSTON LOCAL PLAN										
	(a)	New Local Plan DPD (non resident or local group) **	N	40101 9206	Each	45.00	45.00	0.00%	0.00			
	(b)	New Local Plan DPD (resident or local group) **	N	40101 9206	Each	20.00	20.00	0.00%	0.00			
		1.8 OTHER DOCUMENTS										
	(a)	Annual Monitoring Documents (Published Annually) **	N	40101 9206	Each	20.00	20.00	0.00%	0.00			
	(b)	Supplementary Planning Document / Statements of Consultation **	N	40101 9206	Each	20.00	20.00	0.00%	0.00			
	(c)	Employment Land Availability Study (Published Annually) **	N	40101 9206	Each	20.00	20.00	0.00%	0.00			
	(d)	Landscape Character Assessment **	N	40101 9206	Each	35.00	35.00	0.00%	0.00			
	(e)	Oadby & Wigston Green Wedge Management Strategy	N	40101 9206	Each	35.00	35.00	0.00%	0.00			
	(f)	Oadby & Wigston Phase 1 Habitat Survey & Biodiversity Audit **	N	40101 9206	Each	35.00	35.00	0.00%	0.00			
	(g)	Oadby and Wigston Employment Land and Premises Study**	N	40101 9206	Each	35.00	35.00	0.00%	0.00			
	(h)	Statement of Community Involvement **	N	40101 9206	Each	15.00	35.00	133.33%	20.00			
	(i)	Nature Conservation Strategy	N	40101 9206	Each	35.00	35.00	0.00%	0.00			
	(j)	Local Development Scheme**	N	40101 9206	Each	10.00	10.00	0.00%	0.00			
	(k)	HEDNA **	N	40101 9206	Each	35.00	35.00	0.00%	0.00			
	(l)	Retail Study**	N	40101 9206	Each	35.00	35.00	0.00%	0.00			
	(m)	Faith Community Study & Places of Worship Needs Assessment**	N	40101 9206	Each	35.00	35.00	0.00%	0.00			
	(n)	Play & Recreational Facilities Study	N	40101 9206	Each	35.00	35.00	0.00%	0.00			
	(o)	Affordable Housing Viability Assessment **	N	40101 9206	Each	35.00	35.00	0.00%	0.00			
	(p)	Whole Plan Viability Assessment **	N	40101 9206	Each	35.00	35.00	0.00%	0.00			
	(q)	Assessment of Highways and Transportation Implications	N	40101 9206	Each	35.00	35.00	0.00%	0.00			
	(r)	Employment Sites & Brownfield Land Study	N	40101 9206	Each	35.00	35.00	0.00%	0.00			
	(s)	Adopted Policies Map	N	40101 9206	Each	20.00	20.00	0.00%	0.00			
		** Documents are available on the Councils Website free of charge www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk BUILDING CONTROL Oadby and Wigston Borough Council part of the Leicestershire Building Control Partnership. Please see the following link for fees charged by the Partnership: https://www.lbcpc.co.uk/online-services/fees-and-charges/										

VAT Key

- I Inclusive of VAT
- E Exempt from VAT
- N Non Business Activity
- Z Zero-rated VAT

	DESCRIPTION OF CHARGE	VAT	GL ACCOUNT CODE	UNIT	2023-24	2024-25	%age increase	£ increase	Externally Set	Explanation regarding the recommended level of charge
					£	£				
1	Advertising and sponsorship									
	ADVERTISING ON THE DIGITAL DISPLAY SCREENS									
	(a) Community Groups/Charity not-for-profit advert									
	i) First advert in quarter	I	30001 2920	First screen only	0.00	0.00	N/A	0.00		New charge
	ii) First advert in quarter on all three screens	I	30001 2920	Additional screens	0.00	50.00	N/A	50.00		New charge
	iii) Additional adverts in same quarter	I	30001 2920	Per screen	0.00	25.00	N/A	25.00		New charge
	(b) Business Within the Borough, community groups outside the borough or Community Groups/Charities from within the borough with a for-profit advert									
	i) Advert shown for up to one month	I	30001 2920	Per screen	0.00	50.00	N/A	50.00		New charge
	ii) Advert shown for between one and three months	I	30001 2920	Per screen	0.00	125.00	N/A	125.00		New charge
	iii) Advert shown for between three months and six months	I	30001 2920	Per screen	0.00	250.00	N/A	250.00		New charge
	iv) Advert shown for between six and 12 months	I	30001 2920	Per screen	0.00	450.00	N/A	450.00		New charge
	(c) Business Outside the Borough									
	i) Advert shown for up to one month	I	30001 2920	Per screen	0.00	100.00	N/A	100.00		New charge
	ii) Advert shown for between one and three months	I	30001 2920	Per screen	0.00	250.00	N/A	250.00		New charge
	iii) Advert shown for between three months and six months	I	30001 2920	Per screen	0.00	500.00	N/A	500.00		New charge
	iv) Advert shown for between six and 12 months	I	30001 2920	Per screen	0.00	900.00	N/A	900.00		New charge
	NB: A 20% discount will be offered to any advertiser that wishes to display their advert on all three town centre screens at once (Oadby, Wigston and South Wigston)									
	ADVERTISING ON THE COUNCIL'S INTERNAL INTRANET AND STAFF NEWSLETTER									
	(a) All advertisers	I	30001 9201	Per week	0.00	50.00	N/A	50.00		New charge
	NB: A 20% discount will be applied for subsequent weeks featuring the same advert									
	ADVERTISING ALONGSIDE THE COUNCIL'S OUR BOROUGH LEAFLET									
	(a) All advertisers									
	i) Single sided A5 leaflet	I	30001 9201	Per edition	0.00	1,750.00	N/A	1,750.00		New charge
	ii) Doubled sided A5 leaflet	I	30001 9201	Per edition	0.00	1,950.00	N/A	1,950.00		New charge
	ADVERTISING WITHIN EMAILS SENT THROUGH THE COUNCIL'S EMAIL SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE									
	(a) Promotion of a not-for-profit community event within the borough to 2,700+ what's on and events subscribers	I	30001 9201	per email	0.00	100.00	N/A	100.00		New charge
	(b) Promotion of a for-profit community event within the borough 2,700+ what's on and events subscribers	I	30001 9201	per email	0.00	400.00	N/A	400.00		New charge
	(c) Promotion of a not-for-profit community event outside of the borough 2,700+ what's on and events subscribers	I	30001 9201	per email	0.00	200.00	N/A	200.00		New charge
	(d) Promotion of a for-profit community event outside of the borough 2,700+ what's on and events subscribers	I	30001 9201	per email	0.00	800.00	N/A	800.00		New charge
	(e) Inclusion of square/rectangle advert in 5 emails to subscribers in a one-month period (guaranteed to be delivered to a minimum of 10,000 times*).	I	30001 9201	per month	0.00	250.00	N/A	250.00		New charge
	(f) Inclusion of banner advert in a 5 emails to subscribers in a one-month period (guaranteed to be delivered a minimum of 10,000 times*).	I	30001 9201	per month	0.00	400.00	N/A	400.00		New charge
	NB: Prices for adhoc request available									

VAT Key

- I Inclusive of VAT
- E Exempt from VAT
- N Non Business Activity
- Z Zero-rated VAT

	DESCRIPTION OF CHARGE	VAT	GL ACCOUNT CODE	UNIT	2023-24 £	2024-25 £	%age increase	£ increase	Externally Set	Explanation regarding the recommended level of charge
2	LICENCES									
	2.1 HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE CARS									<p><i>For licences in respect of hackney carriage and private hire drivers, vehicles and operators the fees must be set at a level which ensures that the council does not make a profit. OWBC taxi licence prices far exceed all surrounding authorities.</i></p>
(a)	Driver's Licence - Private Hire and Hackney Carriage* one Year - renewal only	N	42001 9333	Each	180.00	180.00	0.00%	0.00		
	two Year - renewal only	N	42001 9333	Each	280.00	280.00	0.00%	0.00		
i)	Three Year application and renewal	N	42001 9333	Each	350.00	350.00	0.00%	0.00		
(b)	Competence Test	N	42001 9389	Each	55.00	55.00	0.00%	0.00		
(c)	Drivers Badge - Replacement	N	42001 9333	Each	35.00	35.00	0.00%	0.00		
(d)	Private Hire Operator's Licence									
i)	Five Year 1-5 Vehicles	N	42001 9331	Each	1050.00	1050.00	0.00%	0.00		
i)	Five Year 6-10 Vehicles	N	42001 9331	Each	1550.00	1550.00	0.00%	0.00		
	Five Year 11 + vehicles	N	42001 9331	each	2060.00	2060.00	0.00%	0.00		
ii)	Operators Licence Competency Test*	N	42001 9389	Each	55.00	55.00	0.00%	0.00		
e	Private Hire Vehicle Licence	N	42001 9389	each	350.00	350.00	0.00%	0.00		
(e)	Private Hire Vehicle Licence renewal	N	42001 9332	Each	350.00	350.00	0.00%	0.00		
(f)	Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence	N	42001 9335	Each	350.00	350.00	0.00%	0.00		
	Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence renewal	N	42001 9335	Each	350.00	350.00	0.00%	0.00		
	Rear Bracket for Hackney and Private hire vehicle	N	42001 9332	Each	25.00	25.00	0.00%	0.00		
(g)	Replacement of Vehicle Licence Plate	N	42001 9332	Each	36.00	36.00	0.00%	0.00		
(h)	Transfer of Vehicle Licence to Another Licensee	N	42001 9332	Each	62.00	62.00	0.00%	0.00		
(i)										
(j)	Certificate of Compliance	N	42001 9201	Each	25.00	25.00	0.00%	0.00		
(k)	Replacement of Vehicle Licence (paper)	N	42001 9332	Each	25.00	25.00	0.00%	0.00		
(l)	Replacement docu-dash	N	42001 9201	Each	10.00	10.00	0.00%	0.00		
(m)	Replacement Front Windscreen pouch	N	42001 9332	Each	10.00	10.00	0.00%	0.00		
*	Excludes DBS fee £54.00 payable on application and £8.00 DVLA mandate fee									
(n)	HPI checks (new applicants)	N	42001 9383	Each	22.00	22.00	0.00%	0.00		
(o)	Vehicle checks for 6 month inspections paid to external MOT stations	N	42001 9384	Each						
(p)	Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Training (for new applicants & renewals)now paid to external company by applicant	N	42001 9385	Each						
	2.2 LICENCE FEES									<p><i>Reviewed and benchmarked against others</i></p>
(a)	Animal Boarding Establishment (new) application Fee plus vet fees	N	42002 9323	Each	320.00	320.00	0.00%	0.00		
	Animal Boarding Establishment (new) grant of licence	N	42002 9323	Each	150.00	150.00	0.00%	0.00		
(b)	Animal Boarding Establishment (renewal) Fee	N	42002 9323	Each	280.00	280.00	0.00%	0.00		
	Animal Boarding Establishment renewal grant of licence	N	42202 9323	Each	150.00	150.00	0.00%	0.00		
i)	One Year (Up to 6 animals) see matrix	N	42002 9396	Each				0.00		
ii)	Two Year (Up to 6 animals) see matrix	N	42002 9397	Each						
iii)	Three Year (Up to 6 animals) see matrix	N	42002 9398	Each						
iv)	One Year (7 or more animals) see matrix	N	42002 9396	Each						
v)	Two Year (7 or more animals) see matrix	N	42002 9397	Each						
vi)	Three Year (7 or more animals) see matrix	N	42002 9398	Each						
(c)	Breeding of Dogs (new) application 1 breeding bitch plus vet fees	N	42002 9326	Each	320.00	320.00	0.00%	0.00		
	Breeding of Dogs 1 breeding bitch grant of licence	N	42002 9326	Each	150.00	150.00	0.00%	0.00		
(d)	Breeding of Dogs (renewal) 1 breeding bitch application	N	42002 9326	Each	250.00	250.00	0.00%	0.00		
	Breeding of Dogs (renewal) 1 breeding bitch grant of licence	N	42002 9326	Each	150.00	150.00	0.00%	0.00		
	Breeding of Dogs 2 -3 breeding bitches application fee / renewal fee same as new	N	42002 9326	Each	350.00	350.00	0.00%	0.00		
	Breeding of Dogs 2 -3 breeding bitches grant of licence	N	42002 9326	Each	150.00	150.00	0.00%	0.00		
	Breeding of Dogs 4-5 breeding bitches application fee/renewal	N	42002 9326	Each	450.00	450.00	0.00%	0.00		

i)	1 day a week	N	42002 9440	Each	150.00	150.00	0.00%	0.00		
ii)	1 month licence	N	42002 9440	Each	200.00	200.00	0.00%	0.00		
iii)	3 month licence	N	42002 9440	Each	300.00	300.00	0.00%	0.00		
iv)	6 month licence	N	42002 9440	Each	580.00	580.00	0.00%	0.00		
v)	12 month licence	N	42002 9440	Each	770.00	770.00	0.00%	0.00		
vi)	Transfer of Consent (fixed or mobile)	N	42002 9440	Each	100.00	100.00	0.00%	0.00		
(u)	Street Trading (mobile) per outlet									
i)	1 day a week	N	42002 9440	Each	150.00	150.00	0.00%	0.00		
ii)	1 month licence	N	42002 9440	Each	200.00	200.00	0.00%	0.00		
iii)	3 month licence	N	42002 9440	Each	300.00	300.00	0.00%	0.00		
iv)	6 month licence	N	42002 9440	Each	580.00	580.00	0.00%	0.00		
v)	12 month licence	N	42002 9440	Each	770.00	770.00	0.00%	0.00		
vi)	One off Event Licence	N	42002 9440	Each	125.00	125.00	0.00%	0.00		
(v)	Sex Establishments	N	42002 9323	Each	4000.00	4000.00	0.00%	0.00		
2.3 LICENSING ACT 2003 all set externally as per fees and charges on system										
(a)	Personal Licence+C129:V149C36C129:U148C129:V150C129:V151C36C129:U14C129:U148 Grant or Renewal of a Personal Licence (valid for 10 years)	N	42003 9371	Each	37.00	37.00	0.00%	0.00	X	
(b)	Premises Licences / Club Premises Certificates Annual Fees Rateable Value Bands :- A (no rateable value to £4,300) B (£4,301 to £33,000) C (£33001 to £87,000) D (£87,001 to £125,000) E (£125,001 and above) A multiplier is applied to premises in band D and E where they are exclusively or primarily in the business of selling alcohol D (x2) E (x3)	N	42003 9364	Each	70.00	70.00	0.00%	0.00		
		N	42003 9364	Each	180.00	180.00	0.00%	0.00		
		N	42003 9364	Each	295.00	295.00	0.00%	0.00		
		N	42003 9364	Each	320.00	320.00	0.00%	0.00		
		N	42003 9364	Each	350.00	350.00	0.00%	0.00		
		N	42003 9364	Each	640.00	640.00	0.00%	0.00		
		N	42003 9364	Each	1050.00	1050.00	0.00%	0.00		
(c)	New or Variation of Premises Licences / Club Premises Certificates Application fees Rateable Value Bands :- A (no rateable value to £4,300) B (£4,301 to £33,000) C (£33001 to £87,000) D (£87,001 to £125,000) E (£125,001 and above) A multiplier is applied to premises in band D and E where they are exclusively or primarily in the business of selling alcohol D (x2) E (x3) Minor Variation of Premises Licences	N	42003 9364	Each	100.00	100.00	0.00%	0.00		
		N	42003 9364	Each	190.00	190.00	0.00%	0.00		
		N	42003 9364	Each	315.00	315.00	0.00%	0.00		
		N	42003 9364	Each	450.00	450.00	0.00%	0.00		
		N	42003 9364	Each	635.00	635.00	0.00%	0.00		
		N	42003 9364	Each	900.00	900.00	0.00%	0.00		
		N	42003 9364	Each	1905.00	1905.00	0.00%	0.00		
		N	42003 9393	Each	89.00	89.00	0.00%	0.00		
(d)	Application / Notice								X	
i)	Temporary Event notice	N	42003 9372	Each	21.00	21.00	0.00%	0.00		
ii)	Theft, loss, etc of premises licence or summary	N	42003 9373	Each	10.50	10.50	0.00%	0.00		
iii)	Application for a provisional statement where premises being built etc	N	42003 9374	Each	315.00	315.00	0.00%	0.00		
iv)	Notification of change of name or address	N	42003 9375	Each	10.50	10.50	0.00%	0.00		
v)	Application to vary licence to specify individual as premises supervisor	N	42003 9376	Each	23.00	23.00	0.00%	0.00		
vi)	Application for transfer of premises licence	N	42003 9377	Each	23.00	23.00	0.00%	0.00		
vii)	Interim authority notice following death etc of licence holder	N	42003 9378	Each	23.00	23.00	0.00%	0.00		
viii)	Theft, loss, etc of certificate or summary	N	42003 9379	Each	10.50	10.50	0.00%	0.00		

LA and GA fees are set externally and therefore there is nothing we can do - although the amounts are being revised by the relevant bodies.

ix)	Notification of change of name or alteration of rules of club	N	42003 9380	Each	10.50	10.50	0.00%	0.00		
x)	Change of relevant registered address of club	N	42003 9375	Each	10.50	10.50	0.00%	0.00		
xi)	Theft, loss, etc of temporary event notice	N	42003 9379	Each	10.50	10.50	0.00%	0.00		
xii)	Theft, loss, etc of personal licence	N	42003 9379	Each	10.50	10.50	0.00%	0.00		
xiii)	Notification of change of name or address of premises licence holder	N	42003 9375	Each	10.50	10.50	0.00%	0.00		
xiv)	Right to freeholder etc to be notified of licensing matters	N	49901 9356	Each	21.00	21.00	0.00%	0.00		
2.4 GAMBLING ACT 2005 all set by outside agencies										
(a)	Small Society Lotteries									
i)	Initial Application Fee	N	42004 9420	Each	40.00	40.00	0.00%	0.00		X
ii)	Renewal Fee	N	42004 9420	Each	20.00	20.00	0.00%	0.00		
(b)	Bingo Premises									
i)	Premises Licence	N	42004 9410	Each	1200.00	1200.00	0.00%	0.00		
ii)	Annual Fee	N	42004 9412	Each	554.00	554.00	0.00%	0.00		
iii)	Variation of Licence	N	42004 9410	Each	1317.00	1317.00	0.00%	0.00		
iv)	Change of Circumstances	N	42004 9410	Each	50.00	50.00	0.00%	0.00		
v)	Transfer of Licence	N	42004 9410	Each	554.00	554.00	0.00%	0.00		
vi)	Re-instatement Fee	N	42004 9410	Each	554.00	554.00	0.00%	0.00		
vii)	Provisional Statement	N	42004 9410	Each	1317.00	1317.00	0.00%	0.00		
viii)	Copy of Licence	N	42004 9411	Each	25.00	25.00	0.00%	0.00		
(c)	Betting Premises (Track)									
i)	Premises Licence	N	42004 9404	Each	1200.00	1200.00	0.00%	0.00		X
ii)	Annual Fee	N	42004 9406	Each	554.00	554.00	0.00%	0.00		
iii)	Variation of Licence	N	42004 9404	Each	1250.00	1250.00	0.00%	0.00		
iv)	Change of Circumstances	N	42004 9404	Each	50.00	50.00	0.00%	0.00		
v)	Transfer of Licence	N	42004 9404	Each	554.00	554.00	0.00%	0.00		
vi)	Re-instatement Fee	N	42004 9404	Each	554.00	554.00	0.00%	0.00		
vii)	Provisional Statement	N	42004 9404	Each	1317.00	1317.00	0.00%	0.00		
viii)	Copy of Licence	N	42004 9405	Each	25.00	25.00	0.00%	0.00		
(d)	Family Entertainment Centres									
i)	Premises Licence	N	42004 9323	Each	1000.00	1000.00	0.00%	0.00		X
ii)	Annual Fee	N	42004 9323	Each	554.00	554.00	0.00%	0.00		
iii)	Variation of Licence	N	42004 9323	Each	1250.00	1250.00	0.00%	0.00		
iv)	Change of Circumstances	N	42004 9323	Each	50.00	50.00	0.00%	0.00		
v)	Transfer of Licence	N	42004 9323	Each	554.00	554.00	0.00%	0.00		
vi)	Re-instatement Fee	N	42004 9323	Each	554.00	554.00	0.00%	0.00		
vii)	Provisional Statement	N	42004 9323	Each	1317.00	1317.00	0.00%	0.00		
viii)	Copy of Licence	N	42004 9323	Each	25.00	25.00	0.00%	0.00		
(e)	Adult Gaming Centre									
i)	Premises Licence	N	42004 9414	Each	1200.00	1200.00	0.00%	0.00		X
ii)	Annual Fee	N	42004 9416	Each	554.00	554.00	0.00%	0.00		
iii)	Variation of Licence	N	42004 9414	Each	1000.00	1000.00	0.00%	0.00		
iv)	Change of Circumstances	N	42004 9414	Each	50.00	50.00	0.00%	0.00		
v)	Transfer of Licence	N	42004 9414	Each	554.00	554.00	0.00%	0.00		
vi)	Re-instatement Fee	N	42004 9435	Each	554.00	554.00	0.00%	0.00		
vii)	Provisional Statement	N	42004 9436	Each	1317.00	1317.00	0.00%	0.00		
viii)	Copy of Licence	N	42004 9434	Each	25.00	25.00	0.00%	0.00		
(f)	Betting Premises (Other)									
i)	Temporary Use Notice	N	42004 9323	Each	500.00	500.00	0.00%	0.00		X
ii)	Replacement of Temporary Use Notice	N	42004 9323	Each	25.00	25.00	0.00%	0.00		
iii)	Premises Licence	N	42004 9400	Each	1317.00	1317.00	0.00%	0.00		
iv)	Annual Fee	N	42004 9402	Each	554.00	554.00	0.00%	0.00		
v)	Variation of Licence	N	42004 9400	Each	1317.00	1317.00	0.00%	0.00		
vi)	Change of Circumstances	N	42004 9400	Each	50.00	50.00	0.00%	0.00		
vii)	Transfer of Licence	N	42004 9400	Each	554.00	554.00	0.00%	0.00		
viii)	Re-instatement Fee	N	42004 9323	Each	554.00	554.00	0.00%	0.00		
ix)	Provisional Statement	N	42004 9323	Each	1317.00	1317.00	0.00%	0.00		
x)	Copy of Licence	N	42004 9401	Each	25.00	25.00	0.00%	0.00		
(g)	Club Gaming Machine Permits									
i)	Grant of Permit	N	42004 9422	Each	200.00	200.00	0.00%	0.00		X
ii)	Grant of Permit (Club Premises Certificate holder)	N	42004 9422	Each	100.00	100.00	0.00%	0.00		

LA and GA fees are set externally and therefore there is nothing we can do - although the amounts are being revised by the relevant bodies.

iii)	Variation of Permit	N	42004 9422	Each	100.00	100.00	0.00%	0.00		
iv)	Renewal of Permit	N	42004 9422	Each	200.00	200.00	0.00%	0.00		
v)	Renewal of Permit (Club Premises Certificate holder)	N	42004 9422	Each	100.00	100.00	0.00%	0.00		
vi)	Annual Fee	N	42004 9432	Each	50.00	50.00	0.00%	0.00		
vii)	Copy of Permit	N	42004 9422	Each	15.00	15.00	0.00%	0.00		
(h)	Club Gaming Permits								X	
i)	Grant of Permit	N	42004 9421	Each	200.00	200.00	0.00%	0.00		
ii)	Grant of Permit (Club Premises Certificate holder)	N	42001 9421	Each	100.00	100.00	0.00%	0.00		
iii)	Variation of Permit	N	42004 9421	Each	100.00	100.00	0.00%	0.00		
iv)	Renewal of Permit	N	42001 9421	Each	200.00	200.00	0.00%	0.00		
v)	Renewal of Permit (Club Premises Certificate holder)	N	42004 9421	Each	100.00	100.00	0.00%	0.00		
vi)	Annual Fee	N	42004 9431	Each	50.00	50.00	0.00%	0.00		
vii)	Copy of Permit	N	42004 9421	Each	15.00	15.00	0.00%	0.00		
(i)	Family Entertainment Centre Permits								X	
i)	Grant of Permit	N	42004 9323	Each	300.00	300.00	0.00%	0.00		
	Existing Operator Permit	N	42004 9424	Each	100.00	100.00	0.00%	0.00		
ii)	Renewal of Permit	N	42004 9323	Each	300.00	300.00	0.00%	0.00		
iii)	Change of Name on Permit	N	42004 9323	Each	25.00	25.00	0.00%	0.00		
iv)	Copy of Permit	N	42004 9323	Each	15.00	15.00	0.00%	0.00		
(j)	Prize Gaming Permits								X	
i)	Grant of Permit	N	42004 9424	Each	300.00	300.00	0.00%	0.00		
	Existing Operator Permit	N	42004 9424	Each	100.00	100.00	0.00%	0.00		
ii)	Renewal of Permit	N	42004 9424	Each	300.00	300.00	0.00%	0.00		
iii)	Change of Name on Permit	N	42004 9424	Each	25.00	25.00	0.00%	0.00		
iv)	Copy of Permit	N	42004 9424	Each	15.00	15.00	0.00%	0.00		
(k)	Licensed Premises Gaming Machine Permits								X	
i)	Grant of Permit	N	42004 9423	Each	150.00	150.00	0.00%	0.00		
ii)	Variation of Permit	N	42004 9423	Each	100.00	100.00	0.00%	0.00		
	First and Annual Fee	N	42004 9423	Each	50.00	50.00	0.00%	0.00		
iii)	Change of Name on Permit	N	42004 9423	Each	25.00	25.00	0.00%	0.00		
iv)	Copy of Permit	N	42004 9423	Each	15.00	15.00	0.00%	0.00		
v)	Transfer of Permit	N	42004 9423	Each	25.00	25.00	0.00%	0.00		
vi)	Automatic Entitlement Notification	N	42004 9423	Each	50.00	50.00	0.00%	0.00		

	DESCRIPTION OF CHARGE	VAT	GL ACCOUNT CODE	UNIT	2023-24 £	2024-25 £	%age increase	£ increase	Externally Set	Explanation regarding the recommended level of charge
3	ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH									
3.1	ENVIRONMENT & SAFETY INFORMATION ACT 1988 Copies of entries in register	I	14001 9356	Each	14.00	15.40	10%	1.40		
3.2	FOOD SAFETY ACT Copies of Register of Food Business	I	14001 9356	Each	597.00	657.00	10%	60.00		
3.3	ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT Copies of Register of Authorisations	I	14001 9356	Each	68.00	68.00	0%	0.00		
3.4	DOG CONTROL									
(a)	Stray dogs - Statutory Charge	N	14007 9200	Each	25.00	25.00	0%	0.00	X	
(b)	Collect and Return to Owner (If Known)	N	14007 9200	Each	87.50	87.50	0%	0.00	X	
(c)	Collect and Take to Kennels	N	14007 9200	Each	87.50	87.50	0%	0.00	X	
(d)	Collect and Return if Dog Strays More Than Once (in a 6 month period)	N	14007 9200	Each	129.00	129.00	0%	0.00	X	
(e)	Kennelling Fee	N	14007 9200	Per Day	14.50	14.50	0%	0.00	X	
(f)	Emergency Vets Fee (plus 10% Admin Fee)	N	14007 9200	Visit	Actual	Actual				
3.5	FOOD EXPORT CERTIFICATE	N	14001 9200	Each	137.42	151.00	10%	13.58		
3.6	RE-INSPECTION FEE FOR THE FHRS INSPECTION (FOOD HYGIENE RATING SCHEME)	N	14001 9200	Each	170.00	187.00	10%	17.00		
3.7	PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING									
(a)	Accommodation Certificates	N	14001 9360	Each	170.00	180.00	6%	10.00		Increased by Sept CPI
(b)	Change of Details on Certificate	N	14001 9360	Each	28.32	30.00	6%	1.68		
(c)	Mandatory Five year Licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO)	N	14001 9392	Each	690.00	740.00	7%	50.00		
(d)	Additional Fee for Unlicensed Premises	N	14001 9392	Each	255.00	270.00	6%	15.00		
	Enforcement fee	N	14001 9392	Each	255.00	270.00	6%	15.00		
(e)	Renewal of Mandatory Five Year Licences for HMO	N	14001 9392	Each	660.00	700.00	6%	40.00		
	Enforcement Fee	N	14001 9392	Each	255.00	270.00	6%	15.00		
	Deductions for -									
i)	Second house to be licensed	N	14001 9392	Each	-30.00	-30.00	0%	0.00		
ii)	Membership of approved accreditation schemes	N	14001 9392	Each	-100.00	-110.00	10%	-10.00		
iii)	Membership of approved landlord scheme	N	14001 9392	Each	-100.00	-110.00	10%	-10.00		
(f)	Notices served under Housing Act 2004	N	14001 9356	Per Hour	50.00	50.00	0%	0.00		
(g)	Expenses incurred in determining Enforcement Action	N	14001 9356	Actual Cost	Actual	Actual				
3.8	ABANDONED VEHICLE									
(a)	Abandoned Vehicle Charge								X	
i)	Abandoned Vehicle in Good condition	N	14004 9383	Each	150.00+	150.00+				
ii)	Abandoned Vehicle in Bad condition	N	14004 9383	Each	150.00+	150.00+				
(b)	Daily charge for every day we store vehicle with a maximum of 15 days storage & only if vehicle is worth more than £1000 in value	N	14004 9383	Daily	10.00+	10.00+			X	
(c)	For Disposal of Vehicle	N	14004 9383	Each	50.00+	50.00+			X	
3.9	CONTAMINATED LAND ENQUIRIES									
(a)	Written Correspondence	N	14004 9200	Per Letter	70.28	80.00	14%	9.72		
(b)	Additional Hourly charge	N	14004 9200	Per Hour	62.94	70.00	11%	7.06		
3.10	CCTV									
(a)	Request for viewing	I	14001 9348	Each	17.00	20.00	18%	3.00		
3.11	SOLICITOR/BUSINESS REQUESTS including factual reports									
(a)	Written Correspondence	I	14001 9356	Per Letter	70.28	80.00	14%	9.72		
(b)	Additional Hourly charge	I	14001 9356	Per Hour	62.94	70.00	11%	7.06		

VAT Key

- I Inclusive of VAT
- E Exempt from VAT
- N Non Business Activity
- Z Zero-rated VAT

POLICY FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

	DESCRIPTION OF CHARGE	VAT	GL ACCOUNT CODE	UNIT	2023-24 £	2024-25 £	%age increase	£ increase	Externally Set	Explanation regarding the recommended level of charge
4	CORPORATE RESOURCES									
4.1	COPIES OF OFFICIAL / CERTIFIED COUNCIL DOCUMENTS									
(a)	Annual Report & Budget Book (Hard-Copy Only)	Z	30201 9206	Each set	50.00	54.00	8.00%	4.00		CPI + 1% (7.3%)
(b)	Agendas, Reports & Background Documents (Hard-Copy Only)	Z	30201 9206	Each set	21.00	23.00	9.52%	2.00		
(c)	Minutes (Hard-Copy Only)	Z	30201 9206	Each set	16.00	17.00	6.25%	1.00		
(d)	Miscellaneous Legal Contracts, Agreements, Deeds, Instruments etc.	I	39904 9206	Each doc	46.16	50.00	8.33%	3.84		
4.2	LEGAL / ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES									
(a)	Simple Transfers, Charges, Leases, Licences, Other Agreements etc.	I	39904 9105	Each set		POA				CPI + 1% (7.3%)
(b)	Complex Transfers, Charges, Leases, Licences, Other Agreements etc.	I	39904 9105	Each set		POA				
(c)	Commercial Transfers, Charges, Leases, Licences, Other Agreements etc.	I	39904 9105	Each set		POA				
(d)	Freehold / Leasehold Property Enquires	I	39904 9105	Each set	250.00	250.00		0.00		Average private-sector rate
(e)	Statutory Declarations, Statements, Affidavits, Certificates	I	39904 9105	Each doc		POA				
(f)	Certification of Original Documents	I	39904 9356	Each doc				0.00		
(g)	Miscellaneous Hourly Rates (Qualified over 8ys)	I	39904 9105	Per hour	200.00	200.00	0.00%	0.00	X	
(h)	Miscellaneous Hourly Rates (Non-Qualified)	I	39904 9105	Per hour	125.00	134.00	7.20%	9.00		
(i)	Miscellaneous Expenses and Disbursements	E	39904 9054	-				0.00	X	
(j)	Miscellaneous Courts, Tribunals, Quangos etc. Costs and Fees	E	39904 9100	-				0.00	X	
(k)	Miscellaneous Civil / Administrative Penalties etc.	E	39904/9103	-				0.00	X	
	POA = Price on Application									
4.3	LOCAL LAND CHARGES (LLC)									
(a)	Full Search (LLC and Con29R) (Residential / Commercial)	N	30101 9200	Per Search			0.00	0.00	X	Set by BDC
(b)	LLC1 Search	N	30101 9200	Each			0.00	0.00	X	
(c)	CON29R Search	N	30101 9200	Each			0.00	0.00	X	
(d)	CON29 Optional (Questions 4-22 each)	N	30101 9200	Each			0.00	0.00	X	
(e)	CON29 Building Regs (Q1.1j-l and 3.8 each)	N	30101 9200	Each			0.00	0.00	X	
(f)	LLC1 Additional parcel fee	N	30101 9200	Each			0.00	0.00	X	
(g)	CON29R Additional parcel fee (up to a maximum of 10)	N	30101 9200	Each			0.00	0.00	X	
(h)	Own written questions	N	30101 9200	Each			0.00	0.00	X	
4.4	COPIES OF BYLAWS (Statutory max 20p per 100 words)	I	39904 9206	Each			0.00	0.00	X	
4.5	ELECTORAL SERVICES									
(a)	Written proof of registration	N	30401 9203	Each			0.00	0.00	X	
(b)	Forwarding of documents	N	30401 9203	Each			0.00	0.00	X	
(c)	Written proof of historical registration	N	30401 9203	Each			0.00	0.00	X	
(d)	Sale of registers (open register, marked register etc.).	N	30401 9203	Each			0.00	0.00	X	
	POA = Price on Application									
4.6	ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION REGULATIONS (EIR) CHARGES									
(a)	Photocopy or printing, standard, black and white, normal paper - min A4	I	39904 9356	Per Page		0.10	0.00	0.10		
(b)	Photocopy or printing, standard, black and white, normal paper - A3	I	39904 9356	Per Page		0.15	0.00	0.15		
(c)	Photocopy or printing, standard, black and white, normal paper - A2	I	39904 9356	Per Page		0.20	0.00	0.20		
(d)	Photocopy or printing, standard, black and white, normal paper - A1	I	39904 9356	Per Page		0.25	0.00	0.25		
(e)	Photocopy or printing, standard, black and white, normal paper - A0	I	39904 9356	Per Page		0.50	0.00	0.50		
(f)	Reproduction of data onto CD, DVD, USB or other Portal / Cloud Device	I	39904 9356	Each		POA				
(g)	Staff costs for location, collation, redaction and checking of information etc.	I	39904 9356	Per Hour			0.00%	0.00	X	
(h)	Miscellaneous Expenses and Disbursements	E	39904 9054	-						
	POA = Price on Application									
	NB : If the total charge (at the rates above) does not exceed £3.00 then no charge will be made to provide the requested copies									
4.7	FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA) CHARGES UNDER SECTION 12									
(a)	Standard - Refusals of requests on cost grounds (Limit 18 hrs / £450.00 Max)	E	39904 9356	Per Hour			0.00%	0.00	X	
(b)	Extra - Requests exceeding cost limit at (a) [Necessary for Compliance]	E	39904 9356	-			0.00%	0.00	X	
	Price on Application (POA) for requests that exceed the cost limit of £450.00/ 18 hours		399049356	-						

VAT Key

- I Inclusive of VAT
- E Exempt from VAT
- N Non Business Activity
- Z Zero-rated vat

SERVICE DELIVERY COMMITTEE

	DESCRIPTION OF CHARGE	VAT	GL ACCOUNT CODE	UNIT	2023-24 £	2024-25 £	%age increase	£ increase	Externally Set	Explanation regarding the recommended level of charge
5	HOUSING									
	5.1 Use of Guest Rooms	E	1150* 9552	Night	25.00		-100.00%	-25.00		<i>Guest Rooms are in the sheltered schemes. Consider CPI+1% - we're currently reviewing whether we should convert these into properties for the general fund.</i>
	5.2 Hostel charge	E	14202 9600	Weekly	227.43	244.03	7.30%	16.60		<i>CPI + 1% (7.7%)</i>
	5.3 Personal contribution for hotel accommodation	E	14201 9104	Weekly	22.00	23.60	7.27%	1.60		<i>CPI + 1% (7.7%) Part of the Temporary Accom review. Currently below cap of £40/week.</i>
	5.4 Charge for Scooter Storage (VAT rate of 5%)	I	11503 9608	Weekly	10.00		-100.00%	-10.00		<i>Remove</i>
	5.5 Room Hire - Communal lounge (sheltered housing scheme)	E	1150* 9554	Hourly	22.00		-100.00%	-22.00		
	5.6 Communal lounge and kitchen facilities	E	1150* 9554	Hourly	27.00		-100.00%	-27.00		
NEW	5.7 Key Fob Deposits - Refundable	E	62023 9629	Each		10.00		10.00		<i>For each key above their allocation</i>

VAT Key

- I Inclusive of VAT
- E Exempt from VAT
- N Non Business Activity
- Z Zero-rated vat

SERVICE DELIVERY COMMITTEE

	DESCRIPTION OF CHARGE	VAT	GL ACCOUNT CODE	2023-24 £	2024-25 £	%age increase	£ increase	Externally Set	Explanation regarding the recommended level of charge
6	CEMETERIES The Cemeteries are open for interments from 9:30am to 3.45pm (2.30pm on Fridays); the latest time that an interment can be booked is 3.15pm (Monday to Thursday) and 2.00pm (Friday). For bookings outside of these hours the interment fee will be doubled.								
	6.1 PURCHASE OF GRAVE AND EXCLUSIVE RIGHT OF BURIAL								
	(a) Resident								
	i) Adult grave (a single grave for two coffin burials and up to six ash caskets; includes application fee for memorial not exceeding 2' 6" (750mm).	E	20102 9200	900.00	963.90	7.10%	63.90		August CPI 6.7%+1 Rounded up
	ii) Children's grave (a single grave for one coffin burial in the children's section of Oadby Cemetery or Wigston Cemetery for a child up to and including 12 years of age; includes application fee for memorial not exceeding 2' 6" (750mm).	E	20102 9200	250.00	267.75	7.10%	17.75		August CPI 6.7%+1 Rounded up
	iii) Cremated remains plot in the Garden of Remembrance at Oadby Cemetery or Wigston Cemetery (a single plot for two caskets; includes application fee for memorial not exceeding 2'6" (750mm).	E	20102 9200	460.00	492.66	7.10%	32.66		August CPI 6.7%+1 Rounded up
	(b) Non Resident The above charges are trebled in the case of a Non Resident of the Borough of Oadby and Wigston								
	(c) The fees above include the issue of the Deed of Grant of Burial which is given for a period of 100 years								
	i) To extend the exclusive right of burial in a grave previously purchased for a further 50 years.	E	20102 9200	180.00	192.78	7.10%	12.78		August CPI 6.7%+1 Rounded up
	NOTES: The allocation of grave spaces for interment and exclusive rights of burial at both the cemeteries will be made available only in rotation. Purchase of burial or cremation plots in advance is not permitted at Oadby Cemetery Purchase of burial plots or cremation plots in Wigston Cemetery is limited to a maximum of 2 per applicant								
	6.2 INTERMENT - IN A PRIVATE OR COMMON GRAVE								
	For Interment in a Grave :-								
	(a) Resident								
	i) A child whose age at the time of death did not exceed one month.			0.00			0.00		
	ii) A child whose age at the time of death exceeded one month but did not exceed 12 years.	E	20102 9200	150.00	160.65	7.10%	10.65		August CPI 6.7%+1 Rounded up
	iii) A person whose age at the time of death exceeded 12 years.	E	20102 9200	520.00	556.92	7.10%	36.92		August CPI 6.7%+1 Rounded up
	iv) For the interment of cremated remains in a grave or vault.	E	20102 9200	180.00	192.78	7.10%	12.78		August CPI 6.7%+1 Rounded up
	v) A scattering of Ashes	E	20102 9200	80.00	85.68	7.10%	5.68		August CPI 6.7%+1 Rounded up
	(b) Non Resident The above charges are double in the case of a non resident of the Borough of Oadby and Wigston.								
	(c) Additional charge for burial with less than 48 hours notice or cremated remains with less than 24 hours notice over and above charges at i) ii) iii) and iv) for residents and non residents.	E	20102 9200	240.00	257.04	7.10%	17.04		August CPI 6.7%+1 Rounded up
	NOTE: The above charges include the digging of a grave where appropriate								
	6.4 WALLED GRAVES AND VAULTS								
	(a) For the right to construct a walled grave or vault:-								
	i) 9ft x 9ft	E	20102 9200	1,200.00	1,285.20	7.10%	85.20		August CPI 6.7%+1 Rounded up
	ii) 9ft x 4ft	E	20102 9200	970.00	1,038.87	7.10%	68.87		August CPI 6.7%+1 Rounded up
	6.5 MONUMENTS, GRAVESTONES, TABLETS AND INSCRIPTIONS								
	(a) For the right to erect or place on a grave or vault subject to approval of the Council; A headstone or memorial tablet, vase and base								
	i) not exceeding 1ft in height (300mm)	I	20102 9200	80.00	85.68	7.10%	5.68		August CPI 6.7%+1 Rounded up
	ii) exceeding 1ft but not exceeding 2ft 6in. (300mm to 750mm)	I	20102 9200	110.00	117.81	7.10%	7.81		August CPI 6.7%+1 Rounded up
	iii) exceeding 2ft 6in (over 750mm) (but see NOTES below)	I	20102 9200	210.00	224.91	7.10%	14.91		August CPI 6.7%+1 Rounded up
	(b) Kerbstone, Borderstone or Flatstone enclosing or over a grave (but see NOTES below)	I	20102 9200	240.00	257.04	7.10%	17.04		August CPI 6.7%+1 Rounded up
	(c) For the right to place an inscribed plaque on the memorial at the Garden of Remembrance at Oadby Cemetery.								
	i) Not Exceeding 6ins x 4ins (150mm x 100mm)	I	20102 9200	70.00	74.97	7.10%	4.97		August CPI 6.7%+1 Rounded up
	ii) Exceeding 6ins x 4ins (150mm x 100mm)	I	20102 9200	100.00	107.10	7.10%	7.10		August CPI 6.7%+1 Rounded up
	(d) For each inscription after the first inscription	I	20102 9200	60.00	64.26	7.10%	4.26		August CPI 6.7%+1 Rounded up
	(e) Replacement of existing memorial - administration fee	I	20102 9200	60.00	64.26	7.10%	4.26		August CPI 6.7%+1 Rounded up

NOTES:

Kerb edgings, headstones and memorials exceeding 2'6" (750mm) are not allowed in the Gardens of Remembrance and if installed will be removed.

An additional inscription is defined as an action taken after the erection of the monument.

Fees are to be enclosed with all applications

6.6 MISCELLANEOUS

- (a) Transfer of Grave Ownership
- (b) for Searches of registers, copies and extracts therefrom:
 - (i) Search of registers by Council staff - per hour or part hour
 - Search of registers - in person - per hour or part hour
 - (ii) Certificated copies of entry
- (c) Notice of Interment Forms
- (d) Use of the Chapel at Wigston Cemetery - per funeral
- (e) Purchase and planting of memorial trees - Donation
- (f) Donation towards a memorial seat (provided and installed by Council)
- (g) Exhumation (where requested by Deed Holder - subject to the required statutory approvals) - burial plot
- (h) Exhumation (where requested by Deed Holder - subject to the required statutory approvals) - casket plot

N	20102 9200	60.00	64.26	7.10%	4.26	August CPI 6.7%+1 Rounded up
N	20102 9200	30.00	32.13	7.10%	2.13	August CPI 6.7%+1 Rounded up
N	20102 9200	30.00	32.13	7.10%	2.13	August CPI 6.7%+1 Rounded up
N	20102 9200	30.00	32.13	7.10%	2.13	August CPI 6.7%+1 Rounded up
I	20102 9200	165.00	176.72	7.10%	11.72	August CPI 6.7%+1 Rounded up
I	20102 9200	220.00	235.62	7.10%	15.62	August CPI 6.7%+1 Rounded up
I	20102 9200	770.00	824.67	7.10%	54.67	August CPI 6.7%+1 Rounded up
E	20102 9200	780.00	835.38	7.10%	55.38	August CPI 6.7%+1 Rounded up
E	20102 9200	270.00	289.17	7.10%	19.17	August CPI 6.7%+1 Rounded up

*** DEFINITION OF THE TERM RESIDENT ***

For Purchase of Grant of Right of Burial a **RESIDENT** is defined as:

A person who, at the time of applying, has a permanent home address within the Borough

For Interments a **RESIDENT** is defined as:

- i) A person who had resided at a private address within the Borough for 5 consecutive years immediately preceding the date of death **OR**
- ii) A person who had at the time of death, resided in a residential or nursing home (or similar establishment) outside of the Borough for 3 years or less but had resided at an address within the Borough for the 5 consecutive years (or more) immediately preceding moving to the residential or nursing home **OR**
- iii) A person who had resided within the Borough for 5 consecutive years (or more) but had within the 6 months immediately preceding the date of death moved from the Borough.

VAT Key

- I Inclusive of VAT
- E Exempt from VAT
- N Non Business Activity
- Z Zero-rated VAT

SERVICE DELIVERY COMMITTEE

	DESCRIPTION OF CHARGE	VAT	GL ACCOUNT CODE	UNIT	2023-24 £	2024-25 £	%age increase	£ increase	Externally Set	Explanation regarding the recommended level of charge
8	RECREATION GROUNDS AND PAVILION HIRE									
8.1	ROOM HIRE PER HOUR - VAT Exempt Pavilions Blaby Road Park Pavilion Freer Centre Sheila Mitchell Pavilion Uplands Park Pavilion Walter Charles Centre									
(a)	Non Commercial Use - first hour	E	20002 9539	First Hour	20	25.00	25.00%	5.00		Increased the hourly rate by £5
	Non Commercial Use - each subsequent hour or part hour	E	20002 9539	Per Hour	13	18.00	25.00%	5.00		Increased the hourly rate by £5
(b)	Commercial Use - first hour	E	20002 9538	First Hour	25	30.00	25.00%	5.00		Increased the hourly rate by £5
	Commercial Use - each subsequent hour or part hour	E	20002 9538	Per Hour	16	21.00	25.00%	5.00		Increased the hourly rate by £5
	Saturday evening hire - minimum charge of 4 hours booking from 5pm onwards									
(c)	Refundable deposit per booking (full or part)	E	62023 9627	Deposit						
(d)	Charge for lost keys (in addition to (e) below)	E	20002 9539	Each						
(e)	Late return of keys (charge per working day)	E	20002 9539	Each						
8.2	ROOM HIRE PER HOUR - Vatable Pavilions Coombe Park Pavilion Thythorn Hill Community Centre									
(a)	Non Commercial Use - first hour	I	20002 9539	Per Hour	24	28.5	21.28%	5.00		Increased the hourly rate by £5
	Non Commercial Use - each subsequent hour or part hour	I	20002 9539	Per Hour	16	21.00	31.25%	5.00		Increased the hourly rate by £5
(b)	Commercial Use - first hour	I	20002 9538	Per Hour	31	36	16.13%	5.00		Increased the hourly rate by £5
	Commercial use - each subsequent hour or part hour	I	20002 9538	Per Hour	19	24	26.32%	5.00		Increased the hourly rate by £5
(c)	Refundable deposit per booking (full or part)	E	62023 9627	Deposit						
(d)	Charge for lost keys (in addition to (e) below)	E	20002 9539	Each						
(e)	Late return of keys (charge per working day)	E	20002 9539	Each						
	Saturday evening hire - minimum charge of 4 hours booking from 5pm onwards									
	CANCELLATION OF ROOM HIRE Cancellation with more than 8 weeks notice - return 100% of hire fee Cancellation less than 8 weeks but more than 6 weeks - return 75% of hire fee Cancellations less than 6 weeks but more than 14 days- return 50% of hire fee Cancellations less than 14 days but more than 7 days - return 25% of hire fee Cancellations with less than 7 days notice - hire fee not returned									
8.3	RECREATION GROUNDS									
(a)	Bowls									
i)	Season Ticket - Adult	I	20002 9530	Each	104	111.33	7.10%	7.38		
ii)	Half Season Ticket - Adult	I	20002 9530	Each	52	55.37	7.10%	3.67		
iii)	Season Ticket - Junior (under 18)	I	20002 9530	Each	32	34.75	7.10%	2.30		
iv)	Hourly Ticket - per person	I	20002 9532	Per Person	4	4.71	7.10%	0.31		
v)	Visiting Team				0			0.00		
v)	Season Ticket - New member (one year introductory offer)	I	20002 9530	Each	35	37.11	7.10%	2.46		
(b)	Cricket									
i)	Per match VATable	I	20002 9533	Per Match	87	93.07	7.10%	6.17		

	ii) Per match Non VATable	E	20002 9534		0			0.00	
(c)	Football - Junior Clubs (Under 10's and below)				0			0.00	
	i) With shower facilities VATable	I	20002 9536	Per Booking	25	27.10	7.10%	1.80	
	With shower facilities non VATable	E	20002 9537		0			0.00	
	ii) Without shower facilities VATable	I	20002 9536	Per Booking	13	14.14	7.10%	0.94	
	Without shower facilities non VATable	E	20002 9537		0			0.00	
	iii) Academy (Coombe Park - subject to VAT at Standard Rate)	I	20002 9536	Per Booking	190	203.81	7.10%	13.51	
(d)	Football - Youths (10 - 18 years)				0			0.00	
	i) With shower facilities VATable	I	20002 9536	Per Booking	46	49.48	7.10%	3.28	
	ii) Without shower facilities Non VATable	E	20002 9537	Per Booking	23	24.74	7.10%	1.64	
(e)	Football - Senior Clubs (Over 18s)				0			0.00	
	i) With shower facilities VATable	I	20002 9536	Per Booking	69	74.22	7.10%	4.92	
	With shower facilities non VATable	E	20002 9537		0			0.00	
	ii) Without shower facilities VATable	I	20002 9536	Per Booking	35	37.11	7.10%	2.46	
	Without shower facilities non VATable	E	20002 9537		0			0.00	
	iii) Coombe Park - subject to VAT at Standard Rate	I	20002 9537	Per Booking					
	iv) Thythorn Hill (Horsewell Lane) - subject to VAT at Standard Rate	I	20002 9537	Per Booking	69	74.22	7.10%	4.92	
	v) Peace Memorial Park - 5 a side	I	20002 9536	Per Booking	0		7.10%	0.00	
	Bookings of 10 matches or more booked together, are exempt from VAT (except Coombe Park)				0			0.00	
(f)	Rounders - Senior Clubs (Over 18s)				0			0.00	
	(i) Willow Park VATable with changing rooms/showers	I	20002 9536	Per booking	69	74.22	7.10%	4.92	
	(ii) Willow Park Non VATable with changing rooms/showers	E	20002 9537		0			0.00	
	(iii) Willow Park VATable pitch only	I	20002 9536	Per booking	35	37.11	7.10%	2.46	
	(iv) Willow Park Non VATable pitch only	E	20002 9537		0			0.00	
(g)	Rounders - Junior / Youth teams (under 18s)				0			0.00	
	(i) Willow Park VATable with changing rooms/showers	I	20002 9536	Per booking	46	49.48	7.10%	3.28	
	(ii) Willow Park Non VATable with changing rooms/showers	E	20002 9537		0			0.00	
	(iii) Willow Park VATable pitch only	I	20002 9536	Per booking	23	24.74	7.10%	1.64	
	(iv) Willow Park Non VATable pitch only	E	20002 9537		0			0.00	
	Bookings of 10 matches or more booked together, are exempt from VAT (except Coombe Park and Thythorn Hill)				0			0.00	
(h)	Fetes and Galas - Activities for commercial gain				0			0.00	
	i) Use of Ground - per day	E	20002 9552	Per Day	660	706.86	7.10%	46.86	
	ii) Deposit - to be returned in part or whole dependent on condition of ground.	N	62023 9624	Deposit	1,100	1,178.10	7.10%	78.10	
(i)	Fetes and Galas - Community events supportive of Council priorities				0			0.00	
	i) Use of Ground - per day			Per Day	0			0.00	
	ii) Deposit - to be returned in part or whole dependent on condition of ground.	N	62023 9624	Deposit	220	235.62	7.10%	15.62	
	Personal trainers and instructors - licence for use of parks	E	20002 9552	12 months	165	176.72	7.10%	11.72	
	Personal trainers and instructors - licence for use of parks	E	20002 9552	1 month	22	23.56	7.10%	1.56	
	NOTES								
	Deposits may be withheld in part or full for any damage caused and / or where the hirer fails to leave the building clean and tidy for the next user and / or where a hirer fails to remove and dispose of waste arising from their hire. An additional charge (over and above the deposit) is levied for the late return / non return of keys.								

VAT Key

- I Inclusive of VAT
- E Exempt from VAT
- N Non Business Activity
- Z Zero-rated vat

SERVICE DELIVERY COMMITTEE

	DESCRIPTION OF CHARGE	VAT	GL ACCOUNT CODE	UNIT	2023-24 £ (a)	2024-25 £	%age increase	£ increase	Externally Set	Explanation regarding the recommended level of charge
10	ALLOTMENTS									
10.1	RESIDENTS Rent of plot to residents of the Borough - - per square yard from 23/24									
	1) Wigston Road	N	20001 9552	Each	0.24	0.26	7.10%	0.02000		Increase by above August CPI of 6.7%
	2) Aylestone Lane	N	20001 9552	Each	0.24	0.26	7.10%	0.02000		Increase by above August CPI of 6.7%
	3) Manchester Gardens - Rectangle	N	20001 9552	Each	0.22	0.24	7.10%	0.02000		Increase by above August CPI of 6.7%
	4) Manchester Gardens - Triangle	N	20001 9552	Each	0.19	0.21	7.10%	0.02000		Increase by above August CPI of 6.7%
	5) Brabazon Road	N	20001 9552	Each	0.22	0.24	7.10%	0.02000		Increase by above August CPI of 6.7%
	NB: Allotment rent year runs from 29 September to 28 September the following year									
10.2	SENIOR CITIZENS 25% reduction on the above charge									
10.3	DEPOSIT - REFUNDABLE	N	20001 9622	Each			#DIV/0!	0.00		
10.4	KEY - REPLACEMENT	I	20001 9362	Each			#DIV/0!	0.00		

	DESCRIPTION OF CHARGE	VAT	GL ACCOUNT CODE	UNIT	2023-24 £ (a)	2024-25 £	%age increase	£ increase	Externally Set	Explanation regarding the recommended level of charge
11	SPECIAL COLLECTION OF HOUSEHOLD REFUSE									
11.1	COLLECTION OF HOUSEHOLD REFUSE									
(a)	The following non electrical items can be collected :- All Domestic items - house improvement or building work related. Items such as building waste or replaced windows will not be collected. Broken glass must be supplied in a box. Bagged, boxed and tied waste will be classed as individual items. Sheds <u>must</u> be dismantled and each panel classed as an item. Items <u>must</u> be presented in a form that reasonably facilitates loading and satisfies manual handling requirements - failure to do so will result in non-collection and payment refunded for those items not collected. Note - Bags should be strong enough so items do not split when being taken to vehicle. Charges for Garden Tools and Equipment* are :-									
i)	3 Items	N	208019310	Each	25.00	40	60%	15.00		Low volume
ii)	Each Additional Item	N	208019310	Each	5.00	5	0%	0.00		
(b)	The following electrical items can be collected :- Vacuum Cleaners, Televisions, Fridge, Fridge/Freezer, Coolers, Washing Machines, Tumble Dryers, Dishwashers, Audio Visual Equipment. Charges for Electrical Items are :-									
i)	3 Items	N	208019310	Each	25.00	40	60%	15.00		Low volume
ii)	Each Additional Item	N	208019310	Each	5.00	5	0%	0.00		No changes
	The collection of electrical and non-electrical items are two separate services. Free collection for all items above, for those residents receiving :- Housing Benefit, Council Tax Benefit or Disability Benefit, Military Service - Maximum of four items - no more than two separate collections per annum * Garden Tools can be taken to Brocks Hill Environment Centre (for re-use by volunteers working in the Borough)									
ii)	Contaminated Bins	N		Each	54.00	54	0%	0.00		No changes
11.2	GARDEN WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE									
(a)	This charge applies to 1 x 240 litre bin or up to 2 x 140 litre bins (le still applies if there is only 1 x 140 litre bin) This provides a fortnightly collection all year round.	N	208059318	Each	50.00	60	20%	10.00		
(b) i)	Additional bins: 140Litres	N	208059217	Each	25.00	25	0%	0.00		No changes
ii)	Additional Bins: 240Litres * Please see separate terms & conditions for further details				35.00	35	0%	0.00		No changes
c.	Introduction of Bin Swaps	N	208059217	Each	-	30	N/A	N/A		
11.3	RECYCLING COLLECTION SERVICE - ADDITIONAL WHEELIE BIN	N	208029217	Each	19.00	19	0%	0.00		No changes
	Bulky Waste charge	N				40				

VAT Key

- I Inclusive of VAT
- E Exempt from VAT
- N Non Business Activity
- Z Zero-rated VAT

	DESCRIPTION OF CHARGE	VAT	GL ACCOUNT CODE	UNIT	2023-24 £ (a)	2024-25 £	%age increase	£ increase	Externally Set	Explanation regarding the recommended level of charge
12	COUNCIL CAR PARKS									
	12.1 COUNCIL CAR PARKS									
	(a) Off Street parking		20501 9500	Each						
	Parking charge for stays of over 3 hours (where applicable)	I	20501 9500	Each	FREE	FREE	0%	£0.00		
	Parking charge in 30 minute quick shop bays			Each						
	Pay and Display - Town Centre car parks for up to 2 hours	N		Each	1.00	1.50	50%	£0.50		
	Pay and Display - Town Centre car parks for up to 2 - 4 hours	N		Each	3.00	4.00	33%	£1.00		
	Pay and Display - Town Centre car parks for over 4 hours	N		Each	4.00	6.00	50%	£2.00		
	Pay and Display - Leisure Centre Car Parks 2 hours	N		Each	-	1.00	N/A	£1.00		
	Pay and Display - Leisure sites Car Parks for up to 4 hours	N		Each	1.00	2.00	100%	£1.00		
	Pay and Display - Leisure sites Car Parks over 4 hours	N		Each	2.00	6.00	200%	£4.00		
	Annual Parking Permit for all council car parks - Borough residents	N		Each	75.00	150.00	100%	£75.00		
	Annual Parking Permit for all council car parks - Non residents	N		Each	150.00	300.00	100%	£150.00		
	Annual permit for all town centre car parks only - Borough Residents	N		Each	50.00	100.00	100%	£50.00		
	Annual permit for all town centre car parks only - non residents	N		Each	100.00	200.00	100%	£100.00		
	Annual Parking permit for Oadby town centre car parks only - Borough residents	N		Each	25.00	50.00	100%	£25.00		
	Annual Parking permit for Oadby town centre car parks only - Non residents	N		Each	50.00	100.00	100%	£50.00		
	Annual Parking permit for Wigston & South Wigston town centre car parks only - Borough residents	N		Each	25.00	50.00	100%	£25.00		
	Annual Parking permit for Wigston & South Wigston town centre car parks only - Non residents	N		Each	50.00	100.00	100%	£50.00		
	Annual Parking permit for Leisure sites car parks only - Borough residents	N		Each	25.00	50.00	100%	£25.00		
	Annual Parking permit for Leisure sites car parks only - Non residents	N		Each	50.00	100.00	100%	£50.00		
	Annual Parking permit Countesthorpe Road Car park only - Monday to Friday before 9.30am and 2.30pm to 4.00pm term time only - Borough residents and non residents	N		Each	10.00	20.00	100%	£10.00		
	6 month parking permit for all council car parks - Borough residents	N		Each	37.50	75.00	100%	£37.50		
	6 month parking permit for all council car parks - Non residents	N		Each	75.00	150.00	100%	£75.00		
	6 month parking permit for Oadby town centre car parks only - Borough residents	N		Each	12.50	25.00	100%	£12.50		
	6 month parking permit for Oadby town centre car parks only - Non residents	N		Each	25.00	50.00	100%	£25.00		
	6 month parking permit for Wigston & South Wigston town centre car parks only - Borough residents	N		Each	12.50	25.00	100%	£12.50		
	6 month parking permit for Wigston & South Wigston town centre car parks only - Non residents	N		Each	25.00	50.00	100%	£25.00		
	6 month parking permit for Leisure sites car parks only - Borough residents	N		Each	12.50	25.00	100%	£12.50		
	6 month parking permit for Leisure sites car parks only - Non residents	N		Each	25.00	50.00	100%	£25.00		
	Second permit charge	N								

VAT Key

- I Inclusive of VAT
- E Exempt from VAT
- N Non Business Activity
- Z Zero-rated VAT

Appendix 5

Analysis of HRA budget movement 2023/24 to 2024/25

		£'000
Funding:		
Rental Income	This increase is based on the anticipation that the maximum increase of CPI + 1% (7.7%) will be applied for 2024-25 .	-414
		-414
Cost pressures:		
Staffing	Increase in costs following recent pay award and assumed 4% inflationary increase for next year.	15
Repairs & Maintenance	Inflationary increase to general repairs & maintenance and gas service repair contract due to increases in contractor costs.	55
Computer Software	This is due to inflationary linked increases to our annual licences and maintenance of our Housing IT system as per our contract.	14
Electricity	Inflationary linked increase.	4
Recharge from General Fund	For services carried out for Housing by the Council.	35
Estate Management	Reduction in income from our P.C.N. site following changes in legislation capping how much is paid.	12
Interest Paid on Loans	To reflect increases in interest rates.	28
		163
Savings:		
Provision for Bad Debts	Updated to reflect a reduction in our bad debts following recent write offs.	-40
Sheltered Heating Schemes	Net reduction in the cost of gas for our sheltered schemes following a reduction in our gas contract.	-79
HRA Salary Capitalisation	Capitalisation of salary for HRA capital work.	-70
Interest Received	Increase in interest received on balances.	-40
Other supplies and services	Reduction in overtime, travel expenses and subscriptions.	-12
		-241
Total		-492

Budget Consultation 2024

Responses

359 responses received

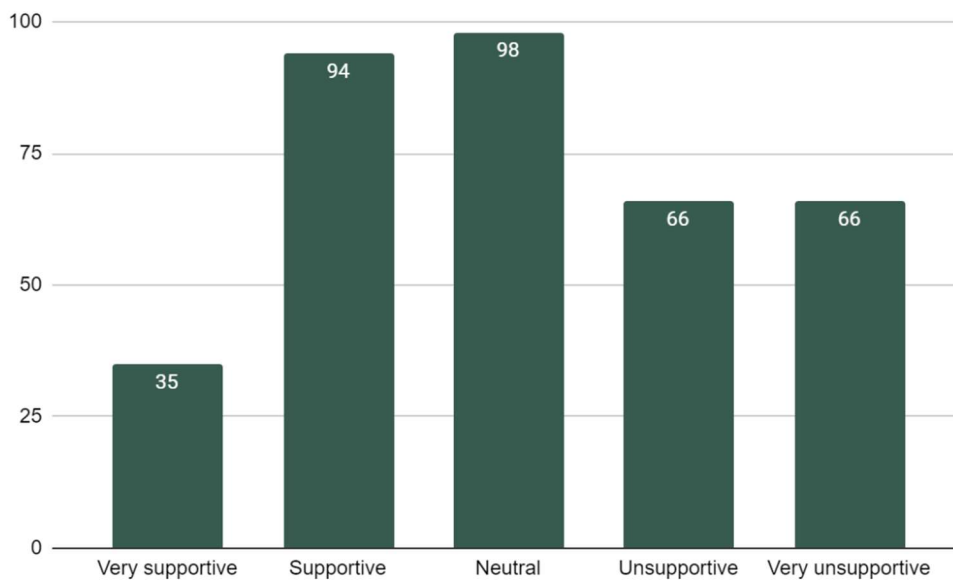
Residents: 354

Residents who are also Council tenants: 20

Organisations/Other: 5

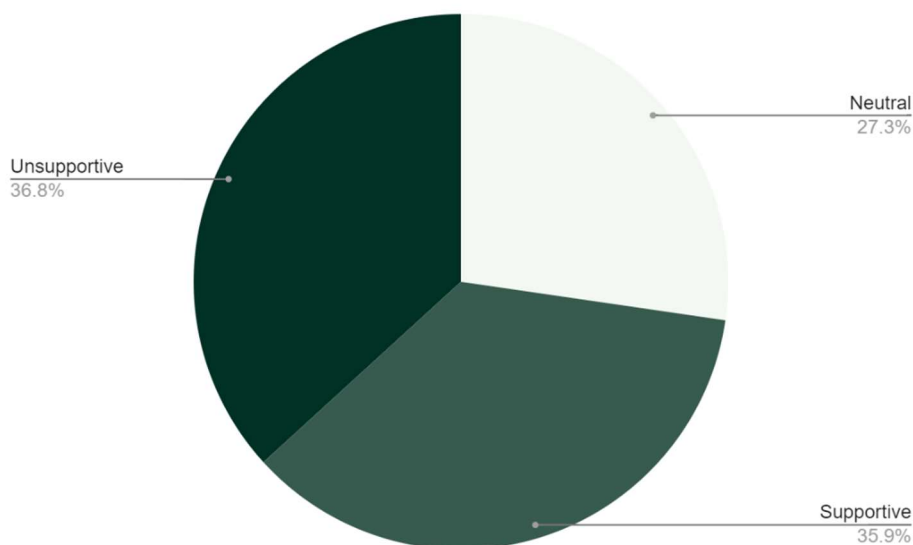
How supportive are you of this Council Tax rise? (proposed 2.99% for Band D as an example)

All responses



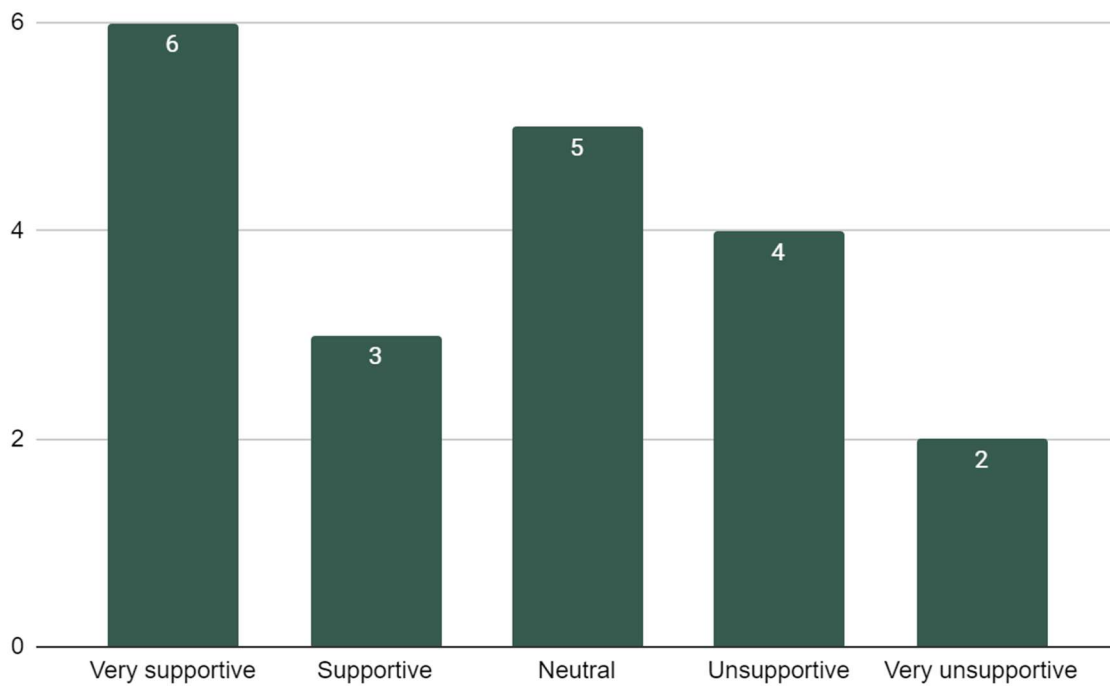
Support for a rise in Council Tax as a percentage

'Very supportive' and 'supportive' responses and 'very unsupportive' and 'unsupportive' responses have been combined to show overall sentiment:



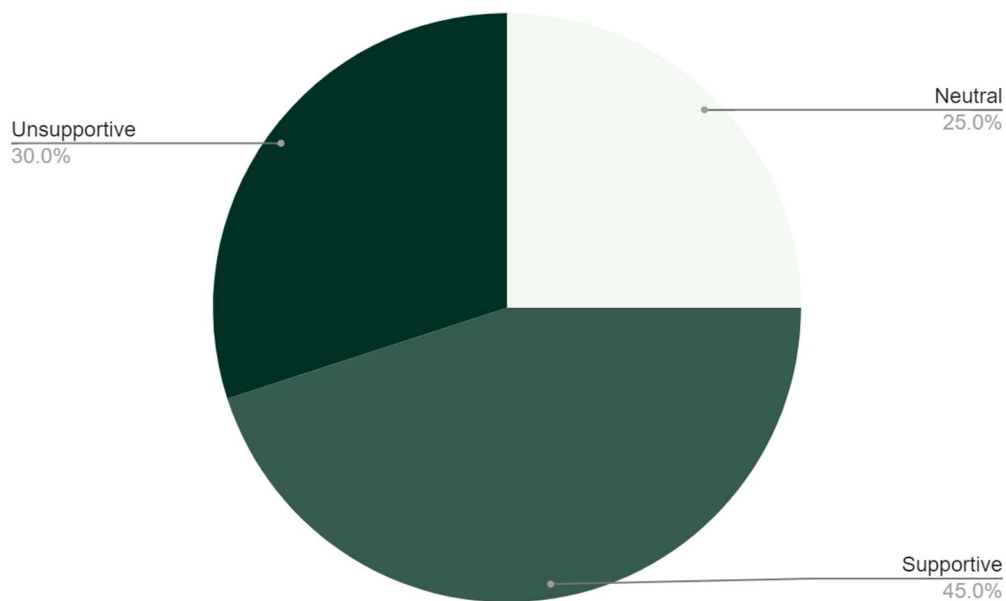
Responses from tenants

How supportive are you of a 7.7% rent increase for tenants?

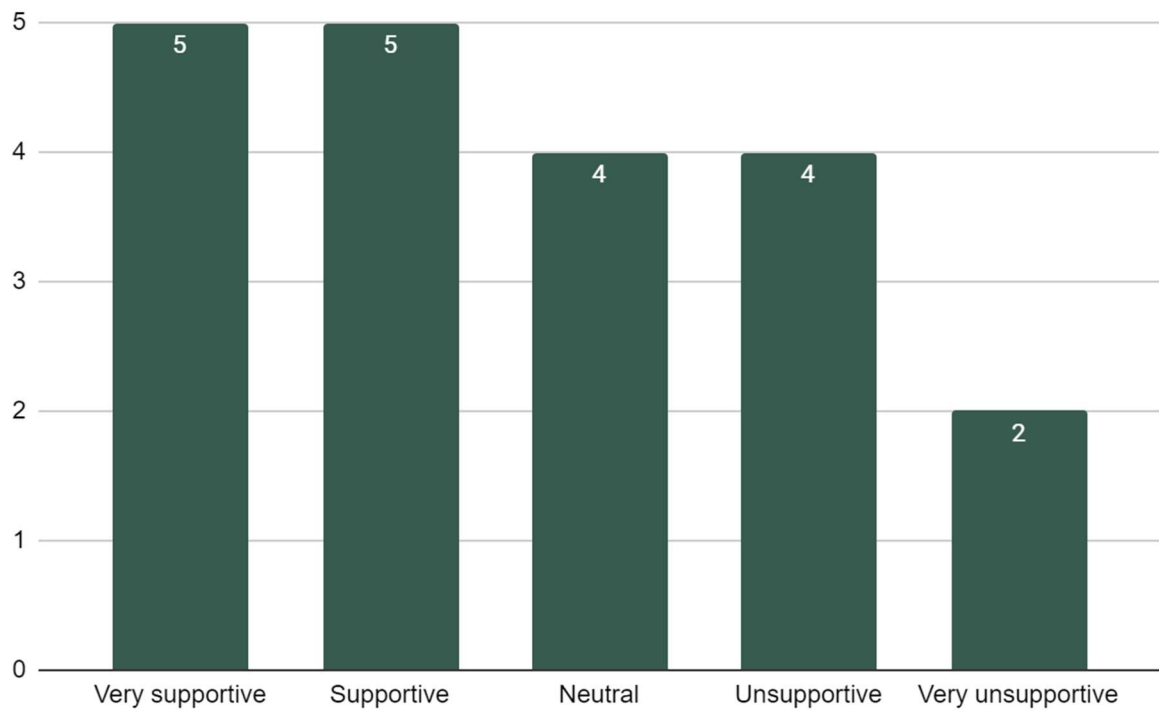


Support for rise in rent as a percentage

'Very supportive' and 'supportive' responses and 'very unsupportive' and 'unsupportive' responses have been combined to show overall sentiment:

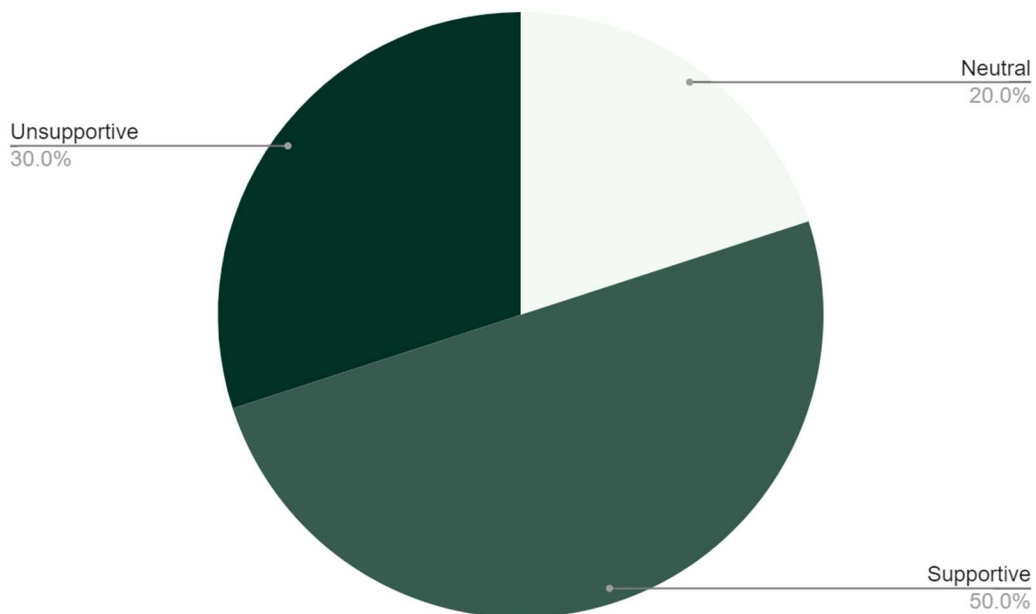


How supportive are you of a 7.7% service charge changes for tenants?



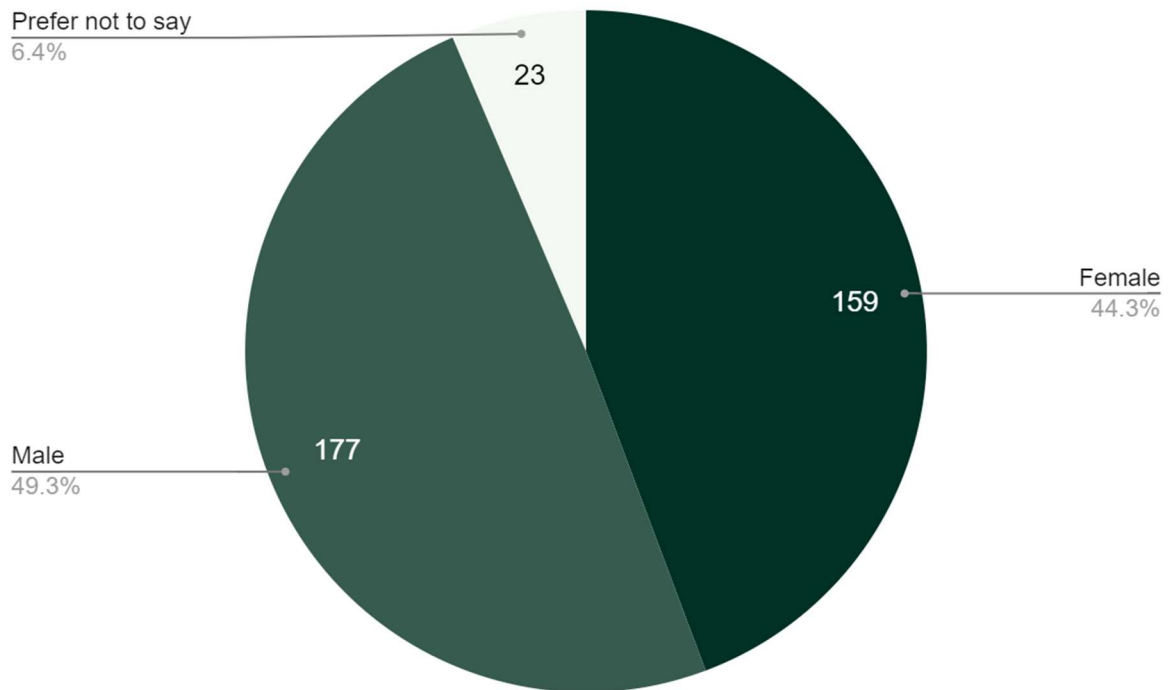
Support for changes to service charges as a percentage

'Very supportive' and 'supportive' responses and 'very unsupportive' and 'unsupportive' responses have been combined to show overall sentiment:

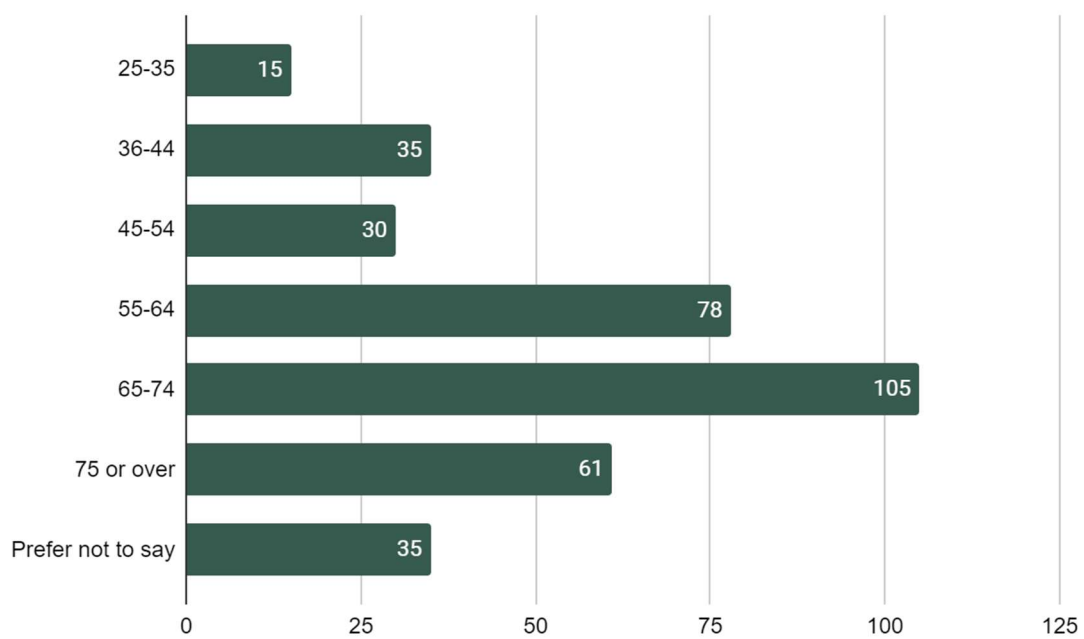


Equalities monitoring overview

What is your gender?

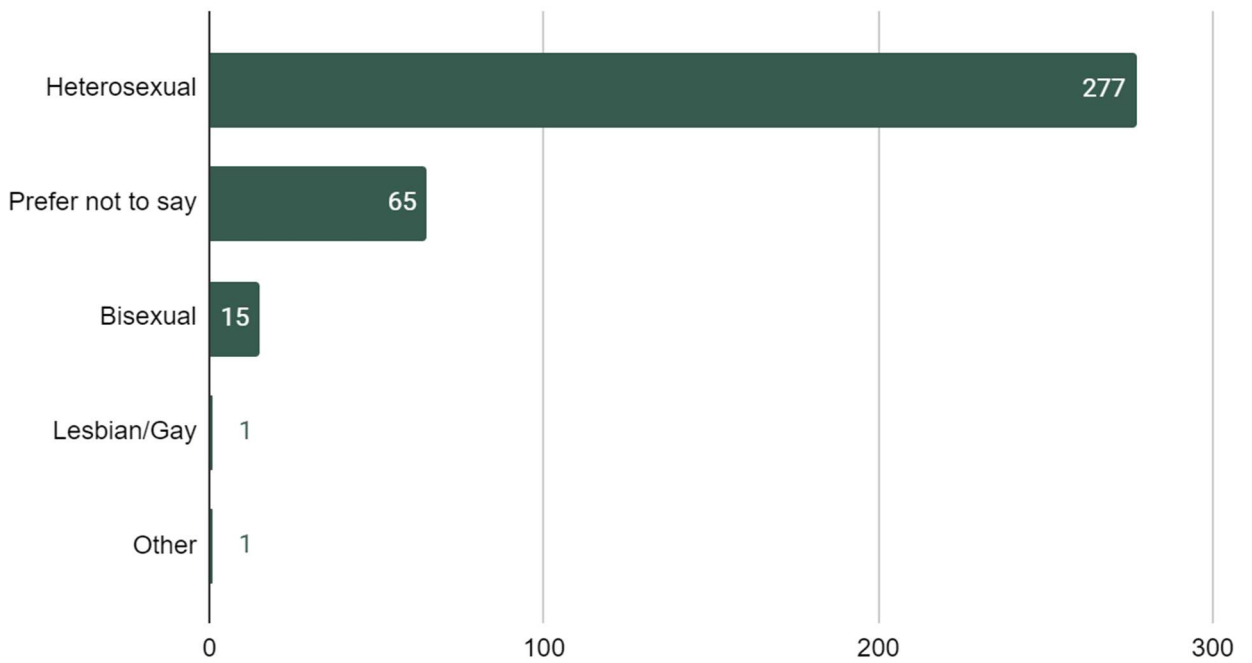


Which of the following age groups do you belong to?

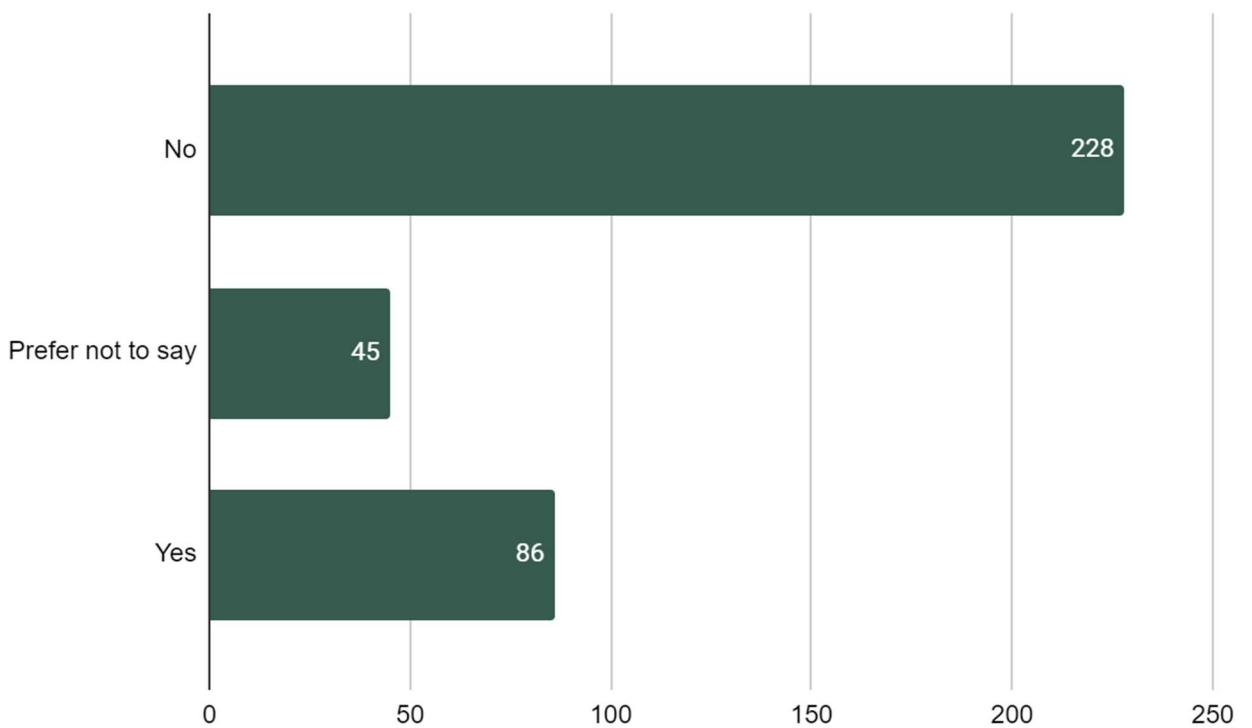


(No responses from Under 16, 16–18 or 19-24 groups)

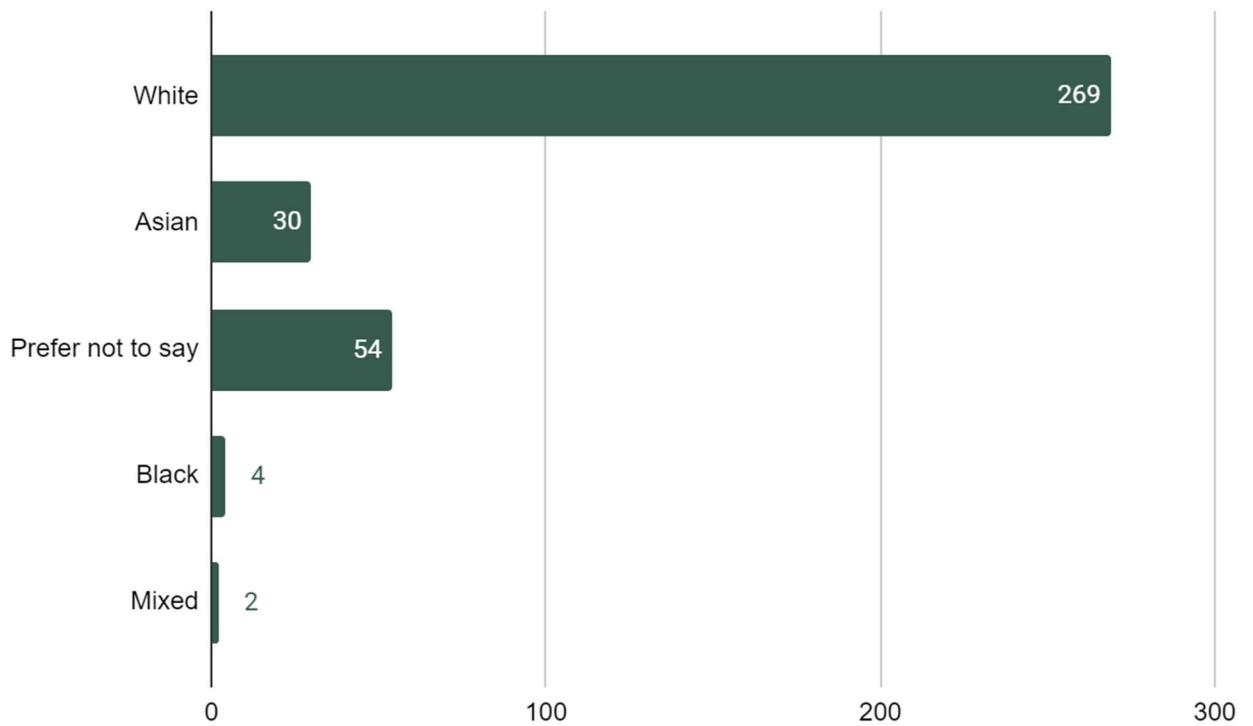
What is your sexual orientation?



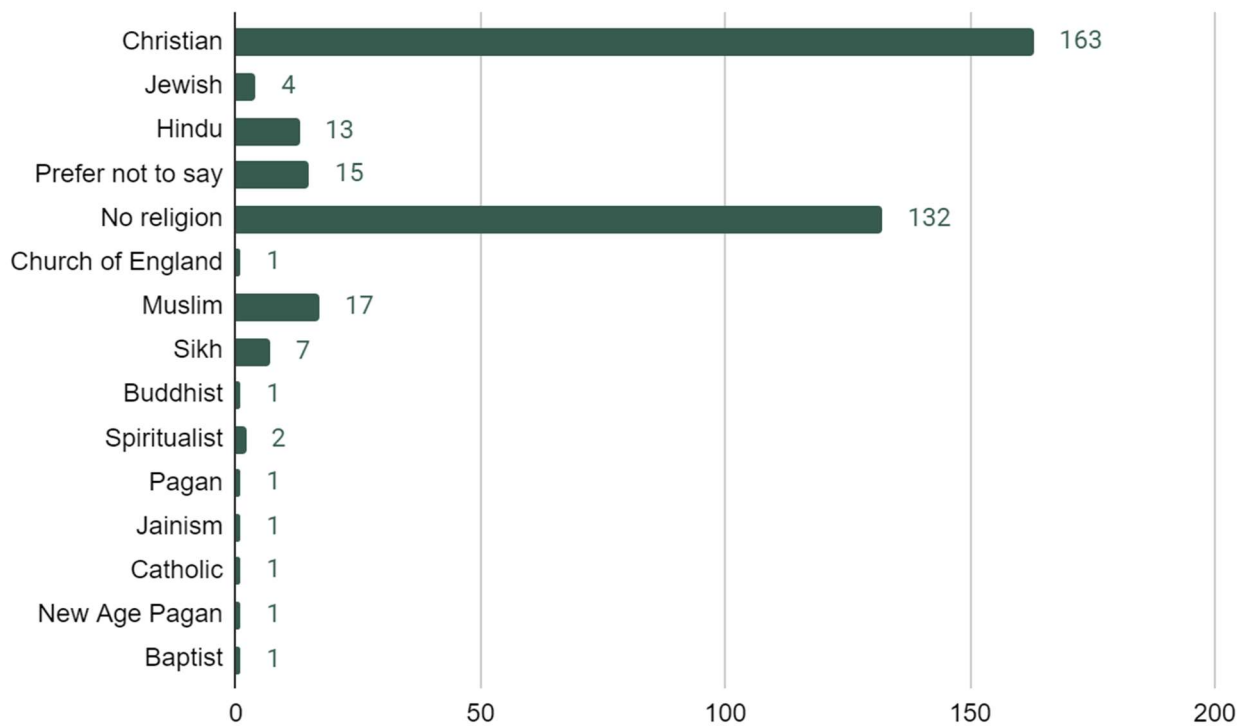
Do you consider yourself to have a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months?



What is your ethnicity?



My religious belief is...



Consultation response themes

As we received such a large volume of comments we have endeavoured to identify the most common themes in response to each question and compiled them below.

If you would like to view the full set of responses, this is also available.

What comments would you like to make about our revenue expenditure?

- More transparency on council spending
- Importance of spending to protect more vulnerable residents
- Reduce spending within the council – e.g. on staff and on councillors and comments about the cost of the Brocks Hill office move
- Keep weekly bin collections
- Spend more on public services such as street cleaning
- Acknowledgements the council is in a difficult position financially.

Do you have any comments you'd like to make about the Council Tax rise?

- Level of acceptance about how costs are increasing and Council Tax also needs to keep up
- Broad level of support for an increase as long as it leads to the protection/improvements of public services – many commenters would rather pay the increase than see cuts
- Too expensive/unaffordable
- Not enough services provided to justify increases – not good enough value for money
- Comments about how properties need to be re-banded and collection rates
- Comments about how much goes to the PCC and county instead of the borough.

Do you have any comments you wish to make about the changes to our fees and charges?

- Opposition to fortnightly bins – main concerns regarding size of bins leading to environmental health issues and fly-tipping
- Disagreement with bin swap charges
- Support/acceptance of move to fortnightly waste collections as a concept, but many with caveat about size of bins – especially for families and larger households
- Garden waste charges shouldn't increase
- Opposition to cutting Helping Hands funding
- Opposition to increase in car parking and its impact on town centres.

What comments would you like to make about the proposed rent increases?

- Overall a good level of support, recognising costs and how rent is below market level.

What comments would you like to make about the proposed changes to service charges for tenants?

- Supportive comments focused on services being a choice
- Unsupportive comments often referenced it being unfair on the vulnerable and quality of service not being good enough.

Budget Consultation Responses

January 2024

Oadby & Wigston | Our borough -
the place to be

What comments would you like to make about our revenue expenditure?

- Abolish the post of Police and Crime Commissioner. Pointless job and merely an expensive layer of bureaucracy.
- Agree- protect public services
- As costs have risen my costs have also risen - being on a pension - vanity projects should be kept to a minimum.
- As I live alone, I would be quite happy if refuse collections were fortnightly instead of weekly, especially if this meant that library and leisure facilities can continue to be maintained at the current level. However, for some (but not all) households, this would mean they require extra bins.
- Be careful what you increase, I feel we get less spent on roads bin collections garden waste and services in general, you can't keep putting prices up, and give us less
- Better roads as they are getting damaged and falling apart
- Buses every 10 minutes on the Little Hill. Single figures passengers most times of the day! Reconsider?? £100 increase on D rated properties. Why not a proportionate increase across bands? I could go on. Unhappy resident.
- By increasing parking charges, people will not come to oadby and Wigston to shop. Wigston already has a poor quality of shops, and speaking to people who live here, are increasingly dismayed with lack of choice. I think that a change of councillors, would be beneficial to us, as this council has lost touch with the needs of Wigston especially.
- Can you confirm that the weekly refuse collection will be retained for 2024? Thank you
- Car park permits
- Car parking charges must stop it does not encourage people to come to the area
- Car parking enforcement payment meter the cost of installing these was not necessary it has just made shoppers go somewhere they don't have to pay which is driving the quality of the shops in Wigston down you should be making shopping in Wigston more inviting
- Charge extra council tax on long term empty properties like some other councils do
- Clearing out drains and street cleaning easier parking for residents that live on the roads and disabled parking would help a lot
- Clearly you will need to make some decisions to reduce non statutory services and increase charges.
- Close council offices/building and work from home.
- Collecting rents and council tax from residents that do not pay and publish the figures for how much is outstanding.
- Consider capital expenditure to reduce revenue expenditure eg reduce energy costs / usage. Apply for any available from Govt, and agencies. Difficult to comment without knowing where the expenses are in the budget. Reduce travelling allowances, including those of councilors, by using online platforms for meetings. Not allow travelling expenses for say the first 20miles each trip. Issue Council Tax bills, invoices and others by email. Use cameras to identify number plates and facial recognition to reduce repeat offences and crimes, to eventually reduce cases and costs. Compare per served-population expenses per category of expenditure with other boroughs / districts in midlands to identify excessive costs. Agree to merge with other nearby districts to take advantage of economies of scale.
- Could funds be allocated to the pavements that are in a dangerous situation

- Council is financially insolvent Those in charge need to be held accountable if not dismissed from holding such position as they have bankrupted the council"
- Council tax should remain as it is with no increase, as we are retired with fixed income.
- Cut the extravagant social care and increase council tax by the maximum.
- Difficult though it will be, it seems there is little choice but to reduce expenditure on employment including the total salary bill.
- Do not increase the price of parking in Wigston as this will affect shops and businesses who are already struggling. If anything, increase Council Tax and business rates.
- Don't charge for parking, wigston town centre is dead. Also replace the goal posts in south wigston park, they are a disgrace. No doubt teams have to pay to use the pitch. Also sort out the halem open space, its not that you haven't got all the revenue from council tax from all the new builds over the years. Quite happy with fortnightly bin collection.
- Fewer Councillors (less expenses claims) reduce the number of meetings by having less of them and more by video link, cut out paper waste by sending all documents by email, reduce staffing costs to see which posts are not absolutely essential, scrap Parklands Leisure (there are plenty of commercial facilities available), consider merger with other small authorities.
- Free parking, and monitoring of businesses, we have more than 4 hairdressers and nail bars?? Why?
- General fund: assess effectiveness & efficiency of all office & operational staff & the facilities employed, throughout the Borough. Invite all to suggest/promote improvements; some services, eg clearance of debris from trees onto verges & roads has deteriorated, resulting in a messy/unattractive environment; the sweeping truck is clearly ineffective & the situation has been impacted by the loss of the Green Bin service for three months/per year, any cost saving is thus questionable. Check the possible use of AI to simplify/improve hardware & software application & efficiency.
- Getting our children into a local Primary School has been a really big problem for us. We live within a 30 mins walk from 5 schools but there's no spaces available for local children. Instead we are sending our children to a school over 3 miles away by taxi, which is paid for by the council. If we could walk to a local school, it would save on the cost of taxis there and back every day, and we would be healthier for it. There is a lot of traffic in Oadby because people are driving their kids to schools near us, and we're causing traffic sending our kids to Great Glen. It would be great if this issue could be looked into.
- Given the present pressure on ALL Local Authorities income streams and budgets, please provide, by percentage ,the amount needed to support your present and future(2024 onwards) programs that are NOT directly funded by Central Government ,in particular Social services directed towards supporting your pensioners who also pay local taxes.
- Good
- Grass cutting more frequently
- Hard to comment without more detail
- "Has the budget for the new council offices been over spent .and where will the money go when the old offices in wigston are finally sold. There seems to be room for much better housekeeping !!!!"
- How can anyone comment on figures you seem reluctant/unwilling to disclose?
- How much have you spent on staff matters?. If you want to increase revenue then you should look at things like single occupancy discounts
- I agree with your focus. If you find that you have any surplus funds please direct them towards improving the social environment of the borough.
- I am assuming your MPs are lobbying the Government to fund local authorities appropriately. I think it's terrible that local services are being cut due to inadequate central funding
- I am in favour of carefully planned increases in council tax/rates to ensure public services are provided.

- I appreciate that the budget gap is a considerable one.
- I believe that the most important areas concerning residents are bin collections and anything that directly affects them. I understand that the council must make cuts but please do it in a way that causes the least distress. If there is a need to move to 2 weekly bin collections then ensure residents have bins large enough for 2 weeks' worth of rubbish and recycling. Hopefully the government will look in the not too distant future at food collection which will drastically remove the amount of general rubbish that people have. Please look at staffing levels within the council and work smartly to reduce the number of unnecessary posts. If the council doesn't act wisely now then subsequent government take-over will cut every service and be devastating for the local community.
- I can't comment truthfully about your revenue expenditure because I honestly would need a lot more information on the subject. Being "open" about the subject is important, My main concern would be that the services that we all contribute to through the council tax are kept running, and if you do have to prioritise in any way, meetings would be crucial, there is a need to know exactly what and why.
- I cannot foresee the benefit of increasing taxes.
- I note the reduction in collection of bins to fortnightly to be frank we were amazed that you still collected weekly when we moved to the borough 5 years ago as we had been used to fortnightly collections for some 10 years before moving here... it will not create us a problem.
- I take it that the speeding restrictions promised for the A6 through Great Glen have been shelved. Surely some flashing 30mph signs can be found and suitably placed before there is a serious accident.
- I think it is and was a complete waste of money to spend on installing pay for parking meters as this has stopped many people visiting high streets, or attending events or even church. This has been detrimental to businesses. Also it is a complete waste of money installing bike lanes thus making car lanes more narrow. People have cars and it seems you are determined to stop as many car journeys as possible. This is not what people want.
- I think it is important to protect the most vulnerable and their services
- I think that budget spending should be directed towards the most vulnerable in the Borough.
- I understand it appears to be reassuring to the customers/residents of OWBC that the council has a customer excellence charter mark. However, would the money spent on staffing this department be better spent on providing services for the vulnerable within the Borough?
- I understand that the council is in a financial deficit as a direct result of employment tribunal expenditure and over spending. This is a management issue and residents of Oadby and Wigston should not pay for this mismanagement.
- I understand the pressure which the Council is under. If you want to keep on supporting the most vulnerable in the Borough, funding for such organisations as the Helping Hands Community Trust should continue since this service should be seen not so much as a cost as an investment which enables Helping Hands to bring in approx. £500,000 or more every year to the residents of the Borough. Without this income residents will not be able to pay their Council Tax which will impact upon the Council's finances. In addition, the help which the Trust provides builds up the self reliance of residents and prevents them from falling into a longer term need for new housing, debt, and anxiety which needs acute medical help.
- I would like a more open viewing on what is spent where I agree the most vulnerable should be looked after but needless and wasteful expenditure need to end .
- I would like to know how much funding is being given for 2 areas: 1. Cleaning of the streets 2. Funding for activities in youth centres.
- I would like to know what you propose to spend 7.5 million on.
- I would like to see a reduction in green waste, I live by myself it would help to have it reduced
- I would like to see the government restore proper levels of funding to ensure the council can provide appropriate services
- I'd like every quote received by the council to be challenged as contractors tend to bump up the price when quoting for councils.

- I wonder if you had an end to end view of costs of services and where they most impact the council? The proposed plans are clearly about savings to balance the reduced budget your receiving. This will impact the quality of the services you provide and as always passed onto the residents. The government will continue to stretch until you break. Hire your own in-house strategic services designers who can help you map out the Birds Eye view with costs/risks/usage of your services, systems and operations. utilities, staffing and supplies will go up with inflation. But what about the joined up savings and efficiencies to run the council? I'd like to see my council work in the open. You'll be surprised how many residents who have skills to support and provide ideas. Take a co-design approach? Involve your residents in community workshops? Here's what might help/what I'd like to see my local council leading in
1 be transparent about your end to end service view. Does the org structure compliment the service landscape you must provide to your residents?
2 which services who your most vulnerable need access to? How do they run? Are they effective and efficient? Can you automate?
3 Which services exist to support residents and highlight where the risks/costs sit. Way to cost this up is to review number of calls coming in through tagging and highlighting the services. Understand the root cause of it.
2 anything which can be automated, particularly the services which take the most time to free up staff time/effort must be the outcome. (Review your kpi's which define success. Are rewards based on output or service outcomes?) Services such as garden waste are important. We need to encourage more people to recycle and more. Not add barriers which may see a reduced rate of uptake into initiatives we need to see growth in. Our sewage system is a mess. Only recently we see more burst pipes. Which bin collection moving to every other week, imagine the increase in mice, rat's, foxes and other pests? There will be unintended consequences from the proposed ideas. You might find you'll dig into your emergency pot should you compromise on quality of services you must provide. Personally think you need to share the end to end view of costs of running the council, which each idea proposed show the desired outcome for residents, council, country.
- I'd like to question the purpose of the existence of the council. Why not move all services to Leicestershire County Council and gain some economies of scale. I see little value that is currently added by having this additional layer.
- If you had not introduced parking charges, footfall in the towns would not be low. Shops would not have closed and your receipts from rates would be much higher.
- Important to maintain services
- Improvement to Roads, Flooding, Security of Homes, regular tidy of street and road litter. POLICING
- Is it really necessary to have a refuse collection every week? I am having to pay for garden waste collections which is disappointing. Are car parking charges in Oadby and Wigston bringing in sufficient revenue compared to the losses to businesses due to shoppers going to free out of town shopping centres like Fosse Park?
- It is difficult to comment without details of the spending currently in operation. People can decide on their preferred elements if they can see how the money is spent. For example, I would do without Xmas lights etc to save time and money, but this would not suit everyone. Make full use of buildings in your portfolio. How long has the old swimming pool in Oadby been boarded up?
- it is reckless spending in the name of protecting vulnerable and public services you are asking me to pay for. Show me how money was spent for those purposes and what benefit accrued to those individuals and society.

- It is vital that the most vulnerable in our communities are protected where possible. This means that we must do what we can to protect local businesses and our high streets. We are a diverse Borough with an alarming difference in things such as life expectancy across the Borough. Those most at risk are already suffering through the decisions being made by Government, the rise in food costs and the poor provision of services. So reductions in support for the likes of Helping Hands appears to be targeting those who need the help the most. Increasingly charities and voluntary groups are having to 'plug the gaps' where the authorities have cut back on their services to reduce spending. This is only making things worse. These groups need supporting and councils need to recognise the work being done in their communities by those in the community. To take away funding is folly and will only make matters worse.
- It's all very well saying there are no new expenditure proposals but you have to invest in order to get a return or you will never cover the income gap.
- It's very difficult to comment on the revenue expenditure without some breakdown where the money goes. I understand there may be an increase in costs through inflation etc but you don't say as a percentage what that increase is. Whilst there is a gap in funding I would like to know what is the breakdown of number and category of houses in Oadby & Wigston - how many of these are contributing through council & how many are in arrears. I am fed up paying my way & other people not. Maybe spend some money making people pay & chasing up arrears would be money well spent.
- Keep the refuse collection at its present rate
- More investment into the town centre and better Christmas decorations.
- More lighting at night
- More needs to be done to secure funding for the council without costs being passed on to residents e.g. central government/levelling up fund
- More needs to be spent on sorting out potholes.
- "Much of your revenue goes to County in Oadby the bus service is appalling, but Wigston services are frequent, with more choice and regular. In fairness to Oadby residents who use public transport, please address this imbalance then many of us will willingly use buses rather than clogging up local roads during peak hours. Please stop funding taxis for children to attend school when they could go to a school in their own area. There are plenty of places for all children in Oadby to attend Oadby schools. Its County's decision that allows preference to be given to out of area children to attend Oadby schools, then the knock on effect is to spend taxpayers money to send Oadby children to other areas via taxi, resulting in damage to both the environment and council budgets. If you have this much money to throw away please spend on children with SEND needs instead and do some real community service. Thank you"
- Need more details of spending plans and a comparison with last year's details to comment.
- Nothing really. I think you are between a rock and a hard place. I have put my faith in you for the last 24 years I have lived here and believe you have done the best for us. Thank you.
- O&WBC should keep weekly bin collections, both general rubbish and recycling
- Open a Garden Center at Brox Hill --- selling, saplings, bark, compost and bedding plants.
- Parking
- please bear in mind pensioners are forecast to receive only 8.5% increase to their income and are struggling already between heating and eating and your bill do not increase anything above this we do not have bottomless pockets.
- Please do not make it any harder for residents.

- Possibly have fortnightly bin collections, e.g. black one week and green another week. This may save some money. Do NOT cut back on social services, i.e. for people in need of home care for elderly. I do not need this but other older people do need this facility and it would greatly help local hospitals if people could be discharged home earlier rather than languishing in hospital. Increase council tax minimally as lots of people could not afford an increase. Oadby is no longer a wealthy village as it was in years gone by. Get on and sell the old council building and do something with the old swimming pool instead of letting it simply deteriorate but do NOT build on the Ellis Recreation ground which was given to the people of Oadby by Miss Ellis in perpetuity. Stop cutting the grass verges so often and let the vegetation grow. Do NOT build any more houses in the area, i.e. Fludes Lane area as we need the green space and the infrastructure just is not there, e.g. GP surgeries and schools. Cut back on costly council bureaucracy to save money.
- Promotion of Tourism??? What on earth are you doing? Oadby, Wigston and South Wigston are not Tourist Destinations and never will be, the destruction of heritage by the council in the past has ensured that this cannot be reality. Car Parking charges - is this making money? It certainly isn't helping promote business or Tourism....
- protect residents that have work done by approved bodies involved in gov levelling up. no checks don on standard of work. I have to find 1000pound for damage done by these people who shrugged their shoulders when I approached them to correct their faults. j harratt
- Protecting statutory services is obviously required, but some other activities such as provision of libraries and sports facilities also contribute to society and health albeit indirectly.
- Reduce expenditure rather than raising income from residents
- reduce the council staff, increase sports charges for clubs
- Refuse collection. I myself have no problem with fortnightly collections but my neighbours especially with families are not happy about it. We have foxes and other vermin in the area now. This will make it twice as bad for us.
- Refuse disposal streamline as they could work all day and they appear to finish half days so you can be more effective with the resource Challenge productivity of your teams and how they can cover each other with no holiday coverage etc
- Retain street lighting levels and time periods as they are and do not reduce them as planned
- Services especially for the older resident seem to have reduced over the last few years, lighting, free parking, garden refuse collection etc, whilst no doubt expenditure on salaries and unnecessary appointments continue apace. Difficult I know when the quality of counsellor continues to decline so rapidly
- Services should continue as usual; for sure the council tax at its current level should cover this. Government should make up the difference.
- Should have made more effort in disposing the old swimming baths at Ellis park to both increase revenue & reduce any expenditure on maintenance. Reduce black in collection to every other week
- Social housing of a good quality, should be mandatory , private landlords in oadby is creating unaffordable housing
- Spending on new projects needs to be put on hold and the current services maintained. Especially weekly bin collections
- Spending should be more transparent & reported in full to residents via postal accounts statements and commentary
- Spent too much moving
- Stop final salary pensions. Bring the pension in line with the rest of the workers
- Stop the benefit, don't pay people who stay in council houses or housing don't on gas and electric. Encourage everyone to work,

- Street cleaning in our green and clean borough has become almost non-existent, roads and footpaths are filthy, curbsides are overgrown, bins are overflowing. I think there is a need for the borough to merge with another or several authorities to secure a viable and sustainable future. There are many savings to be made higher up by having joint roles such as Leader of the Council, Chief Exec, Director roles, S151 and Monitoring officers. These savings can be used to help fund gaps and increase key services.“
- street cleaning needs improvement esp Victoria street
- Street lighting is a concern to me why is it on all night surely reduced hours when most are sleeping they could be turned off. I have street light directly in front of my bedroom window that is on all night!
- Taxes have gone up perpetually as well to support extra expenditures. A council doesn't have to be run for profit. It exists for the service of its residents.
- The council introduced parking charges for upkeep of the car parks. This was a lie as the car park behind Marks and Spencer's had pot holes and faded paint on the parking bays and it still does. Where has the money gone? To increase revenue: Why don't you set up a weekly farmers market in Oadby town and make parking free. This will bring in shoppers and incentivize link sales to local businesses. Why don't you put double yellow lines on one side of Manor Road so gym users stick to their side of the road and create a revenue stream by issuing parking tickets? There needs to be a statement as to why Oadby Pool was left dormant for so many years. When the council does declare bankruptcy you should all resign as that would be the morally correct course of action. You should charge developers to help fund the gap in revenue. They've built new houses. Take a cut of their sales. They've illegally built on a green belt with your help on Gartree Road, so take your cut. It would be interesting for the council to self-reflect and issue their own statement as to why they are in such a defect besides the usual drivel of
- The council must review its directly employed workforce and reduce its cost base
- The council should dispose of properties it holds as investments
- The council waste too much money and don't fill the promises they make, the sort fall should be funded from reserves
- The grass verges and many streets are covered in litter and dog bins are often overflowing. The litter and grass verges are especially bad on Newton Lane.
- The Oadby High Street is starting to look like a ghost town - a lot of shops are closing down - appreciate the addition of another coffee house but think the High Street needs to be re-vamped - during after school hours need to have more patrol officers as it seems anti-social behaviour is also on the rise
- The pavements on the Fairfield Estate desperately need attention.
- The public toilets in Wigston should be reinstated
- The services provided by the Council to the public need to be protected. Public services, especially for the most vulnerable in our society, must have funding priority i.e. services must not be cut for the disabled, elderly, and special needs children services. If the council tax we pay needs to increase to support these specific services, then reluctantly I would support paying more. One other issue is waste collection; if bin collections are 2 weekly larger bins are needed to prevent vermin access to waste, and also transmission of disease by flies and insects. A 5% tax increase is not too unacceptable to maintain services. Maybe a Government change will assist the council next year with more realistic funding, so for this current year, try and maintain as much service as possible. Avoid redundancies of council staff as these are never effective long term as a cost-cutting strategy.

- The Woodland Trust is the UK's leading woodland conservation charity. We own over 1,000 woods throughout the UK and our head office is in Grantham. Our aims are to protect existing woodland, create new woodland, and enable people to enjoy and appreciate woodland. Trees and forests are crucial to life on our planet. They stabilise the soil, generate oxygen, store carbon, play host to a spectacular variety of wildlife, and provide us with raw materials and shelter. They offer us respite, inspire our imagination, creativity and culture, and refresh our souls. A world without trees and forests would be barren, impoverished and intolerable. We are interested in working with Oadby and Wigston Borough Council in developing policies beneficial to trees and woodland in its emerging Budget for 2024-5. We would also like to work with this authority to enable it to better protect woodland, particularly irreplaceable habitats such as ancient woodland and ancient and veteran trees, and to plant trees as part of a well-planned network of green infrastructure. The Borough's canopy cover is just three per cent, which contrasts to around 13 per cent for the UK and an average of 38 per cent across the EU. Therefore, we believe that woodland creation should be a major priority for the Budget. Specifically, we propose the establishment of a dedicated and well-funded Trees and Woodland Reserve. The primary purpose of this reserve would be to allocate council resources exclusively for the preservation, enhancement and expansion of the cherished woods and trees within your community. Such named reserves have proven effective in maintaining a focussed approach and a clear sense of mission, ensuring that taxpayers' money is safeguarded for the long term. This strategic allocation helps shield the natural assets of woods and trees from the unpredictability of annual fluctuations in funded support, providing sustained and stable assistance. In conclusion, the Woodland Trust is eager to collaborate with Oadby and Wigston Borough Council in fostering policies that champion woods and trees in the upcoming Budget for 2024-5. Recognising the vital role that trees and forests play in our ecosystem, we propose the establishment of a dedicated and well-funded Trees and Woodland Reserve. This initiative aims to not only protect and enhance existing woodland but also address the low canopy cover in the Borough, making woodland creation a major priority. By working together to safeguard, expand, and cherish, these natural assets we can contribute to a more resilient and vibrant community, fostering a sustainable legacy for future generations.
- The xmas light opening ceremony seemed like a very successful event which may have raised the profile and revenue for local businesses within the Borough. It may be useful to have more of these events in the summer and during school holidays to encourage further spending by local businesses.
- There's a need to manage your funds more efficiently. Every year council tax goes up and services are reduced and still you are on the verge of bankruptcy. OWBC needs to be put into special measures.
- To spend on green initiatives and future planning. For example installing car charging points, encouraging residents to create less waste and move to fortnightly collections for waste and recycling and to encourage the local high schools and businesses to reduce their energy consumption by turning things down and their lights off at night, eg Beauchamp College, Gartree and Manor High School.
- Too many staff, refurbished premises cost too high
- Too much spent on high salaries and management, not enough spent on basics like social care and services
- Too much spent on services which could be shared with Leicestershire county council
- Total in justified and waste of tax payers money
- Voluntary sector services are an invaluable asset to Oadby and Wigston Borough Council residents - although they may be viewed as a 'nice to have' service , they are essential to the residents and if these services are cut, the workload would fall onto the council to manage which is not feasible or realistic.
- Wasted money on speed camera on west ave. £12000 would have been better spent on repairing road surfaces.
- We have to consider how to increase revenue by first allocating funds to improve businesses so they can also pay taxes. Many more businesses are closing down in our borough

- Use Civillian Enforcement Officers to police illegal and dangerous parking, especially outside schools, and issue FPT to those breaking the law by parking on footpaths, idling and dangerous parking throughout the borough and not just in the towns where they are no more than car park attendants, issuing FPTs for time infringements rather than dangerous parking, idling etc as above. The revenue gained would self fund these officers. They should also police use of eScooters at speed on footpaths, and public roads, adult and youths cycling at speed on the footpaths also dog fouling and the use of extendable dog leads, plus litter. There are endless ways of gaining revenue by making Oadby and Wigston safer and a more pleasant places to live, utilising Civillian Enforcement Officers for such infringements, instead of as car park attendants. As an aside, it would cost no more if alternative street lights were left on during the hours of darkness, and not blocks of lights on then blocks of complete darkness which make it unsafe to be out beyond midnight, or see who is about causing public nuisance and worse burglaries, criminal damage etc.
- We pay £50 in addition to our council tax to have garden waste collected, which should be sufficient to make monthly collections over the Winter as well as fortnightly collections during the rest of the year.
- We pay a lot in council tax and would like the bins to be picked up on a weekly basis. The community it kept clean and maintains the area as this would drop of waste pick up was reduced and also there would be more of a concern for rats and rodents. Please take residence views into consideration. Thanks
- Weekly waste collections are very valued.
- When will the old council offices be sold. If garden waste collection prices are increased there will be more fly tipping at a cost to the council
- Where is our money actually going? Pathetic excuses to not cut grass and green areas general maintenance including tree and hedges of play areas none existent. Street bins and cleaning. Building control non existent allowing uncontrolled construction by certain people and construction materials substandard. Want to talk to a person sorry use our cheap chat box system where we will ignore you. You want to complain ha ha join the queue we will still ignore you, paid to work from home the only things that seem to be done quickly are your expenses claims.
- Whilst spend is going up, you are not doing enough to renegotiate contracts, that is where the most savings can be made.
- Why are empty double decker buses being run so frequently?
- Why are you so terrible at balancing a budget. Why do we suffer because you blew our money on new offices
- Why not ask for plant donations instead of buying for the borough beds
- Why was there a need for a new council building in Wigston. I understand that the older building would have cost more to run but it did not need to be on this scale. What happened to working from home and giving incentives for that instead? I appreciate that the focus is on protecting public services and helping vulnerable folks in the borough. It's a smart move to stick to essential services without adding new expenses given the budget constraints. Maybe we can think about ways to do things more efficiently within our existing services or come up with new ideas to make the most of our resources. Getting input from the community could also bring in some helpful ideas. I never was given an opportunity to attend any budget meetings. I think the council fail on communications. But, when it comes to voting time, we are bombarded with newsletters and junk on email. Another colleague of mine said that council tax band D is going up. I think this is so unfair. It paints the picture. If you do well then pay more! Those living in band E should also go up and incrementally, bands A, B, and C too.
- Will you be cancelling any expenditure on free handouts such as "free trees" which were given out in abundance this year despite your warnings of financial hardship
- without seeing the accounts its very difficult to comment on where the council is spending wasteful money .can you point me in the right direction as at one time we received accounts in with our" Rates bill "
- Would it save costs to collect recycling every 2nd week?

- would like to provide more help to sick single mothers with teenagers for a long time with the services of paying for home, rent and utilities, as teenage children grow up, they need to eat more and buy everything more expensive.
- Would like to see streets cleaned more often as the borough is looking very dirty and untidy
- You could save money by bringing in retirement at 66 like most people
- You need to make redundancies.
- You say that you support the vulnerable but you actually don't. The elderly and disabled are unable to keep up with the rise of living costs and the increase of energy costs. These individuals and families don't put there heating on because they cant afford it What has the council done to support these people? nothing instead these vulnerable people have to do without.
- You should consider whether refuse collection should be fortnightly. Is the rvenue from your car parks worth the lack of trade in local shops or are the maintenance of your machines costing more than they are really taking?"
- You should only be spending on statutory services. All other spending should be curtailed
- Your approach seems sensible under the circumstances
- Your lottery may help if you find a couple of outlets that would sell them for cash. There are so many people who don't buy without the cash option

Do you have any comments you'd like to make about the Council Tax rise?

- A council tax increase is inevitable so there is no point in not being supportive. A recent report suggests that most LA can avoid section 144 notices if they manage their finances better. There is a limit as to how much you can raise so the issue must boil down to how much you can shave off expenditure
- A council tax rise is unaffordable for many residents. The current cost is already unaffordable. Why is the cost of the police and crime commissioner increasing year on year? Paying over 72% to the county council looks unreasonable.
- Again how many households contributes & how many are in arrears. Please provide much more detail on amount collected and amount handed to county council for me to make useful comment, along with what the county council funds. Additionally a lot of houses have had significant extensions etc but are a lower Band than properties which were rated some years ago. Why aren't properties reviewed on a regular basis and re-rated - surely this would bring in additional revenue."
- And rise in tax yet a reduction in bin collections?
- Appreciate the cost living has gone up but don't see why everyday citizens have to pay the brunt of this. Council tax is already far too high, the services are not what they used to be and think is unfair to impose another increase.
- Are we getting our fair share of the 72% paid to the county council used within our borough? We seem to get overlooked. Perhaps they could publish what is spent in each council area each year so that we can compare.
- Are your figures correct for Band D households? Your website stated the current level of tax as £2,124.64 p.a. (https://www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk/pages/council_band_and_charges as of 19:58 on 04/01/2024). I assume the figures on the council website are the correct figures so the figures given in the survey are at best misleading and as such designed to encourage a 'supportive' vote.
- As long as i dont get less than before increase then its ok
- As long as other bands, especially the poorer ones, are not charged this increase.
- As long as the council continues to support the things they have to support
- As long as the Council tax rises are kept low and not wasted but used for the benefit of the residents - we are also funding a very not very visible police service.
- Back door taxation.
- Being someone who was wrongly banded back in the day, banded to C when neighbours were banded a B. I don't have much faith. I tried to challenge it, but it was a no go, because you would have owed me a lot of money. Why does it have to change anyway, we're not getting anything extra for the increase.
- Can't see where the money is being spent, dog bins falling to pieces and not replaced, often overflowing. Normal bins in the centre often overflowing. Leaves never picked up. No pride where once upon a time things were repaired and everywhere was clean
- Considering the large council tax services are poor.

- Costs are already high and families are really struggling to pay bills. If you keep pushing up more increases then you will find a lot of people homeless because they would default on their mortgage and other bills. What this would mean is that the council would have to cough out more money to deal with this as well. I will suggest that the council should look for alternative means to cover this gap without resulting to passing the cost over to the population who are already burdened by the humongous cost of living crisis.
- Could you get more sponsorship for things such as the upkeep of public spaces. Also try harder to fill empty shops with interesting businesses to encourage more visitors to spend in the borough.
- Council Tax goes up and services reduce and/or cost more ----- no value for money
- COUNCIL TAX INCREASE ++ GREAT just like the old days . Council tax raised to £254.04 per year . I'll vote for that! OOPS was it meant to say £254 .04 per month perhaps?????
- Council tax increases year on year but service depletes, value for money is not being provided
- Council tax is a joke, we pay over £200 per month, and what for? Services have been decreased, street cleaning? And crime in the area is at an all time high... Police are a joke
- Council tax rise is yet again far too much .are we subsidising people who don't pay ?
- Council Tax should be scrapped as it's non progressive. Tax should be raised centrally.
- Cut down on councillors. Save money. Spend less on nonsense
- Did not agree with car parking charges, a short sighted decision in my opinion
- Do you have to do it? I don't want to see any of the services supplied cut. How effective are you as a council? How lean are your systems and processes? Have you considered system engineering to look at your processes? How motivated are your staff? Have you benchmarked against other sectors? If your answer is positive to the above questions then you will have to make the increase I guess. If you are not doing the above, then you should do that before you look to make any increase.
- don't want to overpay for dirty neighbors who avoid paying city taxes and garbage collection for the stench near the house
- Ensure council tax is paid across the Borough both Council house tenants and private property owners. Introduce measures to ensure all Businesses/ Private respect the rules or issue fines and evictions. Too many create rubbish that becomes a health risk and eyesore.
- Every year the council tax rises, while we are left with hidden charges such as paying for garden waste to be collected and the threat of fortnightly collections, it is unfair to expect the residents to have increases every year.
- Everyone is expecting an increase but you need to be able to justify it and not cut services.
- Everyone is struggling financially, whilst I understand completely to need to generate more income, however by increasing the Council Tax you are forcing people like myself (who don't have an income and living on savings) to access foodbank because there our savings are decreasing at an alarming rate. Do you realise how demoralising and embarrassing it is to ask for food. You say you are supporting the vulnerable in our Borough, yet you are MAKING me vulnerable by increasing our outgoing to pay for services I would not need if you didn't increase the bill !!!!
- Families don't have enough money with all the increases
- gutter cleaning. which would help keep our drains from being blocked
- Happy for council tax to rise if it protects key services and weekly bin collections

- Households are already struggling to pay council tax and having an average increase of £250.00 per year will mean residents fall into further financial hardship.
- How much Council tax not received for previous years
- Hundreds of new houses have been built in both Oadby and Wigston boroughs over the past few years, creating big increases in your council tax revenues. Can't see the need to keep increasing council tax
- I am more in favour of the Council increasing income rather than reducing services.
- I am struggling keeping up with paying for utility, food cost rises to pay for higher council tax
- I appreciate that the Council Tax has to rise due to financial constraints. It does squeeze household budgets further though.
- I believe as a resident that the Council focus on the wrong things
- I believe Borough should try other ways of increasing its income rather than our council tax, for example if possible reducing the percentage of the Leics County
- I cannot understand why our Council Tax is higher than Market Harborough when the town centre is dire for shopping, also councillors are not seen until election time at voting booths, not one has knocked on my door in the 30 years I have lived here
- I don't think this increase is as high as some authorities and appreciate you will be trying to keep the increase to a minimum
- I don't see any change at present so how would a rise make any difference?
- I Feel we already have one of the highest council taxes in the area and a further increase would put too much strain on already stretched household budgets
- I live on my own and am a pensioner. The big rises are a worry
- I support a sensible increase with support increasing for those in hardship
- I support the council tax rise as long as there will be a clear visible use for the raised funding and that people will see an improvement of the services e.g. cleaning of the streets that comes from the tax raise and a good value for the money charged.
- I think staff cuts and effective efficiency are required, the general public are not to blame for your losses. Maybe seek an outside company to do this for you and find those automation and efficiencies within the council or merge with the Leicestershire council. Again, why are Band D being punished for this. Where is your logic and why are you incrementally pushing up Band A-C and E. Is it because councillors and mayors live in Band E? This decision is reckless.
- I think that we should have less councillors that don't live in the area, who don't have an interest in our area.
- "I think this question has been worded unclearly. I would support a 2.99% increase in council tax but the question is only actually consulting on a 2.99% increase to 11% of the council tax, so I expect your survey results will not represent the accurate views of residents on this question, and may lead them to expect only a 2.99% total rise. An increase in the 'share' by 2.99% would mean that the proportion of council tax for the borough increases at the detriment of the other recipients (police, fire etc). I take this then is only consulting on the borough council share and not the overall council tax rise."
- I would like to see proper government funding instead of expecting hard pressed resident to fill in the shortfall.
- I would only support this raise if no services are effected due to cut backs.
- I would question what residents see from the 72% of the council tax that goes to the County Council - certainly not a lot in Oadby and Wigston
- I'm concerned that money was spent on refurbishing Brocks Hill for Council for council offices but the old council office sale hasn't been completed and so that must have added to the deficit. The town centres are full of charity shops, which don't pay full business tax and with proposed car park fees rising can only mean declining footfall.
- I'm in favour of paying more taxes to cover service expenditure in these difficult times rather than see service cuts. I appreciate that the council held the rates at the same level for so long but that is no longer sustainable or viable.

- If the government won't give the council more you have little choice but to increase council tax.
- If the money is needed to improve the borough, I support the tax rise.
- If we want to continue with the level of services we all enjoy now we need to increase council tax accordingly to cover increasing costs.
- If you going to raise council tax, you need to give something back, it feels like it's take take all the time
- If you have any money in contingency funds this should be spent before council tax rises
- Improve the way the council collects council tax
- Increase by rate of inflation, currently 3.9%
- Increase it by the maximum!!
- Is this the maximum amount? If not why not increase the Council tax by the maximum amount in order to maintain current services and to avoid large increases in fees for bulky waste collection etc.
- It all depends on what you are going to spend the rise on. As in previous answer wasting money is not an option
- It is 'our money' - not 'yours', spend it wisely - not on vanity projects promoting the well being of individual councillors.
- It is clear from studying your budget that this is required
- It is difficult to support anything that means paying more money out at these difficult times.
- It looks online with inflation but do not remove services from ppl paying these taxes
- It sound like a high proportion goes to the Police & Crime commissioner - what do they actually do?
- It would be helpful if you gave the figures for all bands
- It's already too high and making people struggle is not the answer.
- It's inevitable and I think we should all be paying more
- It's not just the council who have seen costs rise. Residents can't just vote to pass on their additional costs to someone else. Why should the council be allowed to.
- It's time that empty properties no longer have a safeguard of not paying council tax. Introduce council tax on all empty properties. Property owners would then be forced to do something with the property ie: renovate, sell, rent out.....anything to raise funds in order to pay their new council tax obligation. Throughout that period the council will benefit from being in receipt of the tax.
- its a fact of life that everything goes up when poll tax was first introduced we paid £288.00 per year each, and people were up in arms how quick we forget.
- Its what you spend the rise on,that counts not the rise in itself
- Just squeezing more money out of its residents to try and make up their coffers because of miss management of their funds
- keep single person discount
- Keep the rise as low as possible, but not at the cost of cutting key services. We the residents understand the funding challenges Oadby and Wigston council has to manage. A 5% increase is what would be acceptable
- Less amenities provided year on year yet Council Tax continues to rise year on year
- Like to County Council take less of local rates
- Local authorities have been starved of cash and need to increase income in real terms, rather than reduce it. We all depend on good public services. So I have to support the rise in Council Tax.

- Lots of extended properties that might be in a much lower band than they should now be, lots of horrendous builds without correct planning permission could be large revenue if checked
- Making proactive and not reactive decisions, Good management of financial and Human Resources, Accountability, Responsibility, Good communication, Good leadership, Sensible, long-term planning. How many of the above does the council ensure on a day to day basis? I don't know because I'm not there. But if you work to get the above right, eventually everything will be right. You can send me all sorts of stuff like this but let's cut the bull shit. Everything you 'consult' on is already a done deal. Don't patronise me by telling me otherwise. Have you seen Shawshank Redemption? Why don't you "go on and stamp your form sonny and stop wasting my time". I oppose EVERYTHING you're suggesting.
- Many residents struggle to manage financially and any increase will have a detrimental impact on their physical and mental wellbeing.
- Minimal increase only.
- Necessary in view of the way in which Central Government has failed to support local government.
- Need to know by how much the CT for Band D will increase in your scenario above. Apart from CT the council have introduced parking fees, and increased green bin charges at the same time reduced frequency of collection days. . If these additional charges are also increased whilst reducing collection days then the CT should not increase as much. The contract for green collection should be renegotiated to reflect with the reduced collection frequency. Other recycling waste - ie brown top bins - could also be reduced to fortnightly to reduce costs. Increased housing developments in the borough should help with economies of scale on expenditures Vs mote CT households.
- Need to see value for money
- No because people who work hard and Manage the house and Mortgage why should they paid high tax. People who are in benefit, they pay last tax and get good car and rely on benefit, tax should be same no increase. Just stop the free stuff and benefits that has been given to people who don't need and lazy people who don't want to work.
- No more increases in council tax ,we are retired and on fix income,
- No value for money from the council for the services residents use
- Not everyone as an increase in there income every year and for what I see are streets are quite dirty with leaves and litter and used condom mud ect and never used to be like that what are we getting for our money
- Not getting any return in increase in Tax increase. Would be content if there was any improvement to services. In fact the services provided by the council are getting more poor.
- Not happy with the police element, they dont do anything.
- Only service we get is waste collection. Garden collection increased to £50 last year and reduced collections. No road sweepers so during summer weeds all growing in roads.
- pensioners like i are struggling to make ends meet, everything is going up in price and the state pension is insufficient to keep pace.
- People are already struggling and you want to take more food from their plates
- People just can't afford increasing prices
- Reduced services do not justify a rise in Council tax
- Residents are being asked to pay for inefficient management of council finances

- Residents don't have a choice but to agree. You'll increase anyway as you don't have many options. I support on that basis. Costs will keep increasing if we continue to run as we have. Something needs to change in how we run. Review your inside org structure. Does it complement the services you provide? Could you re-shuffle so focus on jobs to be done are clear? It's not about letting people go. More about are you utilising the skills effectively? Are there opportunities to better use someone's time? Where do your staff spend the most time? Which cases are knotty and time consuming? Why? Where are the dead ends?"
- Scrap the Police & Crime Commissioner role & pay the Bobbys on the beat more Just a role for a person in a suit (meal ticket)"
- See previous.
- Seems incongruous to put tax up and reduce services
- Shame it can't go up more
- Should be more in line with inflation.
- Since this amounts to less than £ 10 per year a larger rise would might not be unacceptable for many. Just keep letting people know how little the Borough's share of the Council tax amounts to.
- Supportive is subjective. Yes, if Council could retain a greater proportion, no if only going to support other councils/government. The police and Crime Commissioner must be very wealthy by now. The police force itself was a government funded department when I was a kid, so exactly what does this figure (greater than what you retain) cover? Does it fully cover the cost of policing Oadby Town's football matches?"
- Suppose with inflation it seems reasonable
- Surely you could also make the same increase for the larger houses above this Band too.
- Tax continues to increase services decrease
- The annual increases always contain a higher % increase for the police/crime commissioner than for other services; I question the justification for this & suggest it should be no greater than any other service. (There have been many press reports of the failings of police forces)
- The cost of living an insufficient jobs is really affecting every household and this is a very bad moment for raising any taxes. People are struggling to survive already.
- The cost of living is already too high
- The cost of living is getting out of control you cannot control your spending and manage your business so you just hit the public with your financial crisis stop wasting the money you have already have
- The costs of living are already at an all-time high. Increasing tax would render many homeless. This also means that our children may not be able to attend school as their families would move out of the area. Already, many home owners have put their houses up for sale. Again, the council needs to invest in areas that can generate income through small businesses. That way, the proposed increase in taxes won't be applied against households but small businesses which can expand and increase income to households.
- The council has failed to actualise previous rises into benefits into residents. So it seems unfair to pay more for less.
- The council tax rise would be easier to bear if we were getting a better service by paying more. Every year, the tax is increased, and the service decreases. Give less to the police as they are invisible, and do not attend incidents.
- The fire service seems expensive
- The funding model is broken, I can't see what the alternative would be. I note LCC are in a similar position.
- The lack of drain-cleaning has led to enormous amounts of flood-water coursing down streets - on both roads and pavements. This makes walking very hazardous for all pedestrians, particularly the elderly and infirm.
- The level of council tax should not increase. There is a cost of living crisis that affects us all and it's a struggle without CT increasing too

- The police and crime commissioner do not seem to do much these days I have not seen a police officer in O and W literally in months and break ins are on the increase
- The rise in fees should be represented in the betterment of services. Simply _maintaining_ services would make me unsupportive of the Rise. I'd like us to consider bettering the waste collection service for example.
- The tax should be increased by a larger % to ensure no cuts to public services
- There are many properties in Oadby, which have been extended in recent years. How do you determine if / when properties should be moved to a new band?
- There are more houses yet we still pay more?
- Things are very difficult as it is. These rises make it even harder for many. I pay this amount and have a small black bin and recycle bin. At least provide me larger bins. We are 4 living in the property and there are houses nearby with larger bins than us. Makes it difficult and costs us trips to get rid of our waste weekly because it doesn't fit in the bins. Rising costs of council tax and not improving this makes it even harder.
- This is going to effect a lot of householders who are already struggling to pay bills and having to make difficult decisions about what to forego in order to be able to pay the proposed increases. The services offered to the residents are being withdrawn, slimmed down or the cost increased but we are still expected to pay more for fewer services.
- Times are hard for all, more so pensioners and workers, any rise will hit us hardest. The welfare benefits are very generous, consider taking the full amount from them too.
- Too much
- Totally unnecessary should look at reducing costs and services instead
- Understandable
- Use it for what we pay for, if you give it to the county and they dont use it correctly don't pay sub it to LOCAL companies
- We all want a nice place to live and we all have to contribute more
- We already pay over what we should be as I think we are in the wrong band but no body is willing to listen. I pay band E for a smal 3bed house.
- We are being issued with increases and getting no better services. We understand that a significant reason for the councils poor finances is a result of Massive employment tribunal payouts as a result of the councils mis- management. Residents should not have to pay for this.
- We are getting less and less for our money and every year the council expect us to pay more for services. The majority of people in the borough find it hard to find this extra money.
- We are paying more for less services - garden waste - two weekly refuse collection - less grass cutting and tree maintenance - more potholes
- We just do not seem to see any benefit or improvement from any increase in payment.
- We moved to Oadby from London because of the cost of living crisis. The council tax we paid in Hillindgon was a lot less than what we are paying here so it's been difficult to make ends meet. We would support an increase a lot more if it went towards school expansions... I dont really know how the money is distributed etc.
- we pay for to much already and get nothing back in return
- We pay so much council tax in our area and the services we are getting for our area is not good at all.
- We seem to pay more every year for less! Our streets are full of weeds and rubbish!
- what does the O & W B.C. receive from the county council for 72% of our money
- What is the breakdown of the 11% that the council keeps . What happens to that money?
- Where are the police I do not see them around my estate

- Who is holding the Police and crime commissioner to give this borough a fair share of the money we pay and similarly does the county council give us value in this borough in proportion to the money they collect from us?
- "Why are we paying so much when my relatives in London are paying far less than us. Also council are not helpful and not providing required services. Total con"
- Why do we need a police and crime commissioner. What cost to council tax payers?
- Why does O&WBC pay the police so much? There have been considerable % increases in the last 5 years and yet rarely do we see police presence on The Fairfield estate. The police commissioner, Ruper Matthews, ignores all attempts to communicate with him. Why do we not see gulley cleaning lorries anymore? - once in the last 5 years, and only because i complained following the floods to the estate in the summer of 2023. Why do you waste money in painting bicycle symbols on the carriageway - they are completely pointless. Why does O&WBC spend so much on Christmas lights? - there's a saving for you.
- Why is the Police and Crime Commissioner so expensive?
- Why would you penalise people that are already struggling? You should be campaigning for extra funding from the government! They are currently wasting millions on the useless Rwanda scheme!
- will the current services i.e. weekly bin collections remain the same.?
- With the cost of living crisis how are you expecting low income families are going to be able to manage this increase especially with the huge fuel cost rise they are dealing with.
- Yes ,please explain exactly what you do for your money Over the past few years there have been 708 new houses generating £198 k per year and car park charges generated £600 k in 22/23 all extra revenue for very little extra from you
- Yes get a grip
- you are increasing my tax but turning lights off on my street. I feel unsafe, vulnerable to walk in my street after it is dark. I used to walk from train station to my home after work, now I do not.
- You are reducing the frequency of most services provided yet increasing taxes. E. G. Garden waste doesn't get collected for 3 months in a year now yet costs the same per year. Thats an immediate 25% rise in prices
- You cannot keep on increasing council tax and simultaneously reducing services. OWBC needs to live within its means and use funding more efficiently.
- You have scope for a further increase but not a good idea in a General election year.!
- you have to do that which must be done but with your car park charges at base and difficulty in gainig access gives the impression that you do not care.
- You need to advertise the whole figure not just the part that goes to the O&W - people do not understand the difference between council tax & district & what they receive.
- You plan to raise the tax yet cut the services no wonder people are not happy.
- You talk about council tax rise then at the same time putting up garden waste proposed bin changes and increased carpark charges in oadby and wigston .
- You waste a lot of money through inefficiencies- i would not be happy about paying more.

Do you have any comments you wish to make about the changes to our fees and charges?

- * Bin swap - I have had a bin swap recently due to bin men damaging the bin. How will you identify this, so the cost is not imposed on the resident when it is not their fault? * Car park increases - may result in more businesses closing locally due to customers going elsewhere like fosse park where there is free parking or using other parks like botanical gardens. * Green waste increases - as long as the increases year on year are not at this rate (%age) then a one off fee is manageable."
- £60.00 for green waste collection equates to a 20% increase - that seems extremely harsh, why not keep the same fee but collect every 3 weeks - surely that would be a saving on the budget?
- 2 weekly intervals bin collections will increase litter in the streets with more rats and foxes spreading rubbish all over the already filthy roads and paths we are going back to the old world (parking) parking should be free we should encourage people into our town and what better way to do that but to have free parking its too easy to hit the motorist, (garden rubbish) we already used to pay for garden waste to be removed included in our council tax we shouldn't even have to pay again let alone put up the price to have it taken away more fly tipping false economy
- 50% increase on savings for waste collection. 20% increase in green waste collections. reduction in helping hands budget. Reduction in community and well being grant . Fewer council buildings over the years. So where are the savings for these. Car Park charges introduced in previous years have meant extra income to borough. Where and how has this money benefited the Community Tax payer. Car Park charges have had a negative on Oadby & Wigston town centres are becoming ghost towns. Proposed waste collections should also mean 50% less vehicles and 50% less staff but no mention of savings here.
- A fortnightly bin collection will result in more ""fly tipping"" occurring, more rodents and for those elderly residents who struggle to leave their refuse on the edge of their property more stress and health issues as when the bins contain more waste as they will be heavier. I'm assuming all residents will be supplied with larger waste bins to meet the longer wait time for collections and therefore this will be an increased cost the council has to find in order to supply larger bins to the residents. If the plan is for the smaller black bins to be used then there will be a lot of rubbish on the streets due to animal attacks when residents have to store some of their waste in black bags as they don't fit in the bins. In the summer there will be health issues as the waste will start to smell. Bin Swaps - sometimes the bin lids are broken due to the bin collectors and not the owners - will the expectation be that they have to pay to replace a bin they have not broken. Green Waste charge - you have already reduced the number of collections from 12 months to 9 months and kept the charge at £50 and now plan to further increase to £60 - this is not going to encourage people to recycle instead they will have garden fires to remove their garden waste which will further pollute the plan. The council are obviously not concerned with protecting the planet. Car Park Permit and Car Park Charges - this will affect local businesses who have already seen the impact of imposing a parking charge of £1, footfall in shops is down, businesses are closing down. The council is not showing any support to these business orders or to residents who have voted for this council to be in place.

Do you have any comments you wish to make about the changes to our fees and charges?

- A fortnightly bin collection would have its problems and be unacceptable. Since the bin is marked as the property of OWBC there should be no charge to replace it. The charge for bulky waste items is already far too high. The green waste charge also at present is far too high and a further increase to £3.00 per collection is unacceptable. The car parking charges for a very short stay (ie a quick visit to the Post Office) make it not affordable at all.
- A further increase in the cost of green bin collections I think would be excessive, particularly as the service does not operate all year round. For £60 I would expect a 12 month service.
- Again I'm not happy about any increase. I feel you're shafting home owners in the borough!
- Again the council increasing all charges for residents to compensate for the money you have wasted. This will finally destroy Wigston
- Agree with waste collection increases. Disagree with parking increases
- All are disgusting. It was your mistake in the first place. Why should residents and visitors have to pay more because you can't balance the books. If you want Oadby and Wigston to be ghost towns you are going the right way about it!
- All difficult decisions but there are few alternatives
- All of these are wrong waste must stay weekly for both green waste is too dear now does not need an increase helping hands etc must be funded well rethink some of your staffing policies how did you cope when libraries were staff by paid staff not volunteers??
- Alternate week bin collection would cause build up of rubbish in households and may cause fly tipping. A weekly bin collection imo should remain. In addition, what is the cost of 2 garden waste bins going up to?
- Alternate week rubbish collections. Since the wheelie bins have been introduced we cannot fit three black bags in so this was a stealth reduction and resulted in us paying the same amount to collect rubbish but less rubbish allowance. If you go to alternate weeks you will have to buy new wheelie bins for storage so more cost. That's basic math. We need to know the initial cost outlay before commenting fully so to ask for a comment is very shortsighted. An indicator of your management in general perhaps. Then infestation may increase and come with more costs. Shortsighted again. Parking increases will mean more people go to fosse park. Simple. Then business will close and you will end up with less rates and empty buildings. Again shortsighted. Green waste collection just keeps increasing. Another stealth tax.
- Although I live alone, regularly the bins will become more than half full. It seems that a family of 4 would have no choice but to display an array of black bags along the street. A 50%+ rise in car park charges is presumably due to it being a convenient number. Next year, £2 (33.3%) may be insufficient, so £2.50 or £3 would be more convenient for this council that loves to overspend. Cutting green bin collections to once a year would save even more. A £5 entry fee to the recycling area would save that having to close due to lack of funding - but you could save money then by closing due to lack of customers.

- Although it is unpopular, it is important to encourage people out of their cars and so increasing the price of parking alongside the continuation of the £2 per fair for bus journeys would support this. Also fortnightly collections (which happens in many other authorities) alongside education about reducing waste, are far more efficient and make people think about ways to reduce their domestic waste.
- Am OK with this.
- Apart from the car parking increases, which seem excessive, the changes appear reasonable to me.
- Appalling rise in costs, alternate week bin collection unacceptable Rise in car parking charges will cripple businesses in Wigston
- are additional bags to be collected each 2 weeks
- Are you going to provide a bigger black bin? Waste doesn't magically disappear because you collect it less frequently. You already acknowledge this because you offer to collect additional black bags when collections are missed due to holidays. These additional charges and cuts only cover next year. What do you propose to do for the following years? This doesn't appear to be a long term sustainable plan. What have you done with all the additional revenue arising from all the new build houses in the area?
- As a pensioner so many increases come at a time of general inflation of cost of living all round. Of course I'm not happy.
- As long as waste collection allows for two weeks volume I can see why you make that choice.
- As mention before.
- At this moment in time the Community and well Being Partnership is at the top of my list. It's very much needed. I have a large garden and need to use my green garden bin all the time, I'm 80yrs old (and fit) and sometimes I need help with my garden, so have to pay for that so an increase to that charge would be hard for me. I live on a very low income and do get certain benefits, so every penny counts, literally. The leisure centre charges are reasonable. You would have to look at how often and how many people actually use the Helping Hands Service. Waste bins should always be every week ,could that be an environmental issue otherwise. Recycling every other week is fine because everything in the bin is clean.
- Bi weekly waste collection would add additional burden in terms of rodent infestation, need for much larger bins where space is already at a premium.
- Bin collection - black bins should remain weekly. Helping Hands should not be reduced.
- Bin collection - can understand why but will there be allowance for black bags to be collected as well as bins emptied as the black bins are rather small I do not see how reducing funding for helping hands and community and well-being partnerships actually squares with your headline statement of trying to ensure you support the most vulnerable people. surely these services are vital for vulnerable people who may have no where else to turn. People are more important than your vanity projects such as giving free tress to people and it would be interesting to know how much you spent on this
- Bin collection - can you collect rubbish weekly in the summer? It does seem incredibly sad to reduce funding to Helping Hands and Comunity and Wellbeing
- Bin collection 2 weekly unacceptable especially in the summer .{ POSSIBLE HEALTH RISK } Car parking charges are gradually driving people away to large supermarkets with FREE parking. Green waste collection charges are unacceptable as they have been reduced to 9 months only already no collection during pruning time in winter
- Bin collection changes will not be manageable - both waste bin and recycling are always full each week! Will size of bins change?
- Bin collection could be fortnightly, some houses were never given recycling bins so those properties do not recycle . Tip charges just lead to fly tipping. Car park charges are unifier if I pay at brockshill and have time left why should I pay again if I want to park in another local Carl park within time limit.
- Bin collection frequency - changing to alternate week collections of waste and recycling is likley to lead to increase in fly tipping. The cost of dealing with this may well be more than the savings obtained by reducing the frequency of bin collection.

- Bin collection frequency - to remain as current Green waste charge increase - to remain as current - would be cheaper to take own waste to recycle, therefore more costly to provide to less users
- Bin collection frequency is concern, green waste increase way above the rate incomes are rising. Parking fees at leisure centres should not be cheaper than other council car parks.
- Bin collection frequency reductions will create problems for many households including mine, but if essential then please could I make a suggestion that the Oadby waste site adds a recycling bay(s) that matches what is accepted in the current recycling bin, so that people are not sorting metal from card etc whilst at the waste site and are still encouraged to recycle. Ie all items recyclable in wheeled bins are all in one bay together for post-sorting. It's not practical to expect residents to sort and transport recycling to the waste site. I also expect this will create surplus waste during collection days and so the borough will take an immediate downward step in cleanliness and safety if contingencies are not made to tidy streets.
- Bin collection frequency, alternate weeks, my bin is small and meets my need for a weekly collection, yet you propose to charge £30.00 for a bin swap !!, make contingencies 2 extra black bags for over 75's or free exchange for a larger bin, it's disgracefully you introduced bins for waste food, that didn't last long, you stated they could be left out for collection, i complied three consecutive weeks, but i still have it, that scheme was a waste of money also. Scrap the well being and partnership contract, never heard of it, don't know what it does, hwo benefits from it, what use is it, £48.500 drop in the ocean.
- Bin collection frequency: Bin collections must be kept to once a week collections for hygienic purposes and as bin size only allows for 2 bin bags; it would not be possible to only fill 2 bags over a 2 week period.
- Bin collection frequency: this will be difficult for larger households unless larger bins are provided to accommodate the two week cycles OR 'overflow' black bags (number not restricted) are removed when the bin is emptied. Bulky waste charge increase: £40 for a collection of up to three items would I believe lead to these bulky items being left on the road. Green waste charge increase: this charge was stealthily increased when the collection period was reduced but the charge remained the same. This increase may see people drop out of the scheme leading to increased use of council sites with resultant increase in road traffic. Car park permit charge increase: not possible to comment unless the amount raised from the various permits is known. Car park hourly rate increases: again difficult to assess without knowing the amount raised at each level of charge. A higher charge will discourage shoppers from visiting hard pressed town centres thereby reducing shoppers in towns - not good for business. Reduce the size of our Community and Wellbeing Partnership contract: what is the benefit to the council of this contract? A person I know was referred to this by her GP and was expected to pay as if she had referred herself as member of the public i.e. full cost at restricted times. No benefit at all to her.
- Bin collection is very important on a weekly basis and to change to alternate weeks will reduce recycling and add to litter problems
- BIN COLLECTION MUST BE WEEKLY. WILL LOSE MY VOTE. STOP INCREASING COUNCILLORS ALLOWANCE
- Bin collection needs to be weekly. We will have pests, rodents etc and filthy streets. Please keep collections weekly. As it is we pay so much / month.
- Bin collection needs to remain weekly especially if you want to encourage recycling and reduce fly tipping!
- "Bin collection needs to remain weekly, lots of rats in the borough and will only get worse. Parking has his small businesses in the borough badly. People are using fosse park as parking is free. The first hour parking should be free. This would help out all our local shops. Community and wellbeing should not be reduced. Lots of people with mental health rely on this service."
- "Bin collection should be kept weekly, excessive car park fees will drive people way - look what happened at Blaby. Bulk waste costs = more fly tipping. Green waste bins increase price - do we get November to March as well? I have stopped using the leisure centers due to the car park charges."
- Bin collection should be weekly

- Bin collection should remain at weekly for both - this will only increase the infestation of rodents which Oadby council does not assist on - ridiculous behaviour to propose change in bin collection and increase council tax! Increasing the green waste is also a shame as it's not even a service which runs for a full 12 months - this used to be part of the council tax service
- Bin collection should remain weekly. Bulky waste should have options for one, two or more items. £40 for one item is excessive. Green waste charges should not be increased. Car park permits should not be increased. In some cases they should be removed, especially outside someone's own home. Car park charges should be removed not increased. Leisure centres should not have parking charges introduced. I have no idea about Helping Hands but if this reduction means they can help fewer people, then that is not a good idea. I have no idea about what the Community and Wellbeing Partnership does but I imagine it is less useful than the Helping Hands so maybe people can find help elsewhere via a charity or church etc and stop it altogether. What purpose does it serve that information cannot be found online?
- Bin collections should not change. There is no justification for this beyond wasteful use of funds by those managing the council. If these rises come in, I will stop using the green waste bin. Money should be brought in through increases to rent on council properties and charges for other services that are optional to use, so residents have the option to choose.
- Bin waste collection for infection prevention reasons (particularly during warmer months) does need to be weekly - or larger bins are provided, which will be costly short term. Car parking fees increase I am fine about. A Green waste collection increase of £10 is acceptable. But, the amount saved by halving the Helping Hands services is small in comparison to the value of the services.
- Bins should continue to be emptied weekly. Black bins are not big enough for 2 weeks waste. Bin collection is the only visible service you offer me. Other charges should not increase by more than inflation. You need to avoid encouraging fly tipping by increasing refuse charge.
- Bins should stay at weekly as there will be the same amount of rubbish but take more than twice as long to collect on a fortnightly scheme, as for other waste increases will lead to more flytipping. Carpark charges don't collect that much and extra charges will only put off people using the town centres so ending with shops etc disappearing
- Bulky item collection. I believe this increase will lead to even more street dumping than we already have in the borough.
- Bulky waste charge increase will be unfair, because most collections only cover 1 or 2 items. It may also increase in illegal dumping or fly tipping increasing. An increase from £25 per item would be better.
- Bulky waste charge increases will lead to more fly tipping. The halving of funding to Helping Hands and Community and Wellbeing Partnership seems to be hitting the most vulnerable of our community.
- By decreasing bin collections and charging more for a reduced green bin collection you encourage fly tipping, which is incredibly expensive to clean up, so this is counterintuitive. Parking charges are ridiculous. You have already killed the footfall to local shops with people now simply not going to them. Wigston is now an utter dump with nothing but charity shops and endless yobs wandering around. Charging to park at all for green spaces is outrageous. It just the people who can least afford it and affects people's mental and physical health. Again cause strain on other services. All very very short sighted.
- Car park charges have reduced the number of people visiting Oadby & Wigston and therefore making businesses struggle. They should be scrapped and an increase made elsewhere to cover the difference
- Car park fees are affecting local businesses so these need to be thought out.
- Car parking charge increases will put off even more people shopping/spending any time in Wigston. This will likely lead to shop closures and the further decline in Wigston.

- Car parking charges are too high already, it's killing our town centres. I'd go more often if it was cheaper. Happy to pay but £1.50 for 2 hours when there's hardly any decent shops is shocking.
- Car parking charges in Wigston appear to be destroying the town centre as a shopping destination.
- Car parking charges should not be increased due to impact on business. Bin collection frequency should not be changed.
- "Car parking charges should NOT be increased. Green waste charges should NOT be increased"
- Car parking fees for one hour need to be cut by 50% not increased then perhaps people that just need a quick shop or appointment will use them instead of finding other places to park
- Car parking fees increase will deter use of our retail facilities and sporting centres. Do we want to encourage healthy citizens in the borough?
- Car parking increase will reduce footfall in the village. As it has in Blaby.
- Car parking increases will reduce even more the people who shop in Oadby and Wigston - increasing waste charges and reducing collections will encourage more fly tipping
- Car parking permits. There are • after the permits but no explanation. I'm the minutes of the meeting it was stated that there would be one charge of £150. Is this true, or what are the suggested prices. Bins - our recycling bin is full most weeks and we are just a couple, what about families? Bin Swap - does this mean that if we need to change our black bin to a larger one, because of the 2 weekly collection, we'll be charged £30 for the privilege? Green Waste - a £10 rise for a service that is already reduced and not monthly seems excessive. No mention of the cost of having 2 bins. I feel that as a resident I am being punished for using any facilities in the borough by these rises. Reducing funding for Helping Hands - this seems to be a case of false economy, as someone in the council will have to give support to those who use this service.
- Car parking should not be increased neither should the garden waste collection. £60 is a lot for a 10 month collection. Fortnightly collections could be done, I live alone so that is ok for me but not sure about large families. I would agree with the cut in the last two items.
- Car parks - don't increase anymore - you will lose footfall, there are new businesses / cafes opening. The parking is already contentious. You need to look at raising funds elsewhere or cutting a service. (I'm not a fan of fortnightly collections, however people need to be encouraged to recycle more. There is not enough presence in the community by councillors or staff.
- CHANGE TO FORTNIGHTLY COLLECTION, BIN SWAPS INCREASE IN CHARGE, BULKY WASTE INCREASE IN CHARGE and GREEN WASTE CHARGE INCREASE. All of these changes are destined to lead to an increase in fly tipping which is already a big problem in Wigston, particularly on footpaths such as Meres Walk - a regular hot spot. What plans are OWBC proposing to deal with this inevitable increase in fly-tipping which makes life quite miserable for those residents blighted by it? Additionally, the increases - in particular the change to £60 from £50 for Green Waste collection - at 20% is way above inflation which in October 2023 was running at just above 4.5% and falling. How can a 20% increase be justified especially in the light of the still current cost of living crisis and still rising energy costs for instance?
- Changes necessary. Don't charge residents for initial change in bins if new or additional ones needed if moving to fortnightly collection. Expect a lot of reaction to this change so make it as easy as possible. Keep residents informed wherever possible, this survey is a good idea and helps to get people used to proposed changes.
- Charging for parking is killing the town's. If moving to fortnightly bin collections, I assume 6 black bins will be collected, instead of 3. Will we be provided with bigger bins to store the black bags?
- Completely disagree with bin collection changes and green waste. Unacceptable to keep increasing council tax and reducing services

- Cuts are inevitable at this time, but one area which needs spending is car park surfaces. There are some very dangerous potholes behind Boots and M&S.
- Depressing for everyone who needs help - Helping Hands/Community and Wellbeing. It depends on how many people are actually using these services and whether they could be helped in a more cost effective manner.
- Disagree with car parking charges, not just the increase. Would prefer to see rates increase.
- Disagree with increasing the green waste charge increasing to £60. Surely cutting the service to say 6 months a year April to end October might be a good idea and retain the present fee if £50.
- Disgusted at cutting helping hands funds during a financial crisis
- Do not agree with car parking charges as you only have to look at Oadby and Wigston to see what effect this has had on local businesses
- Do not increase car parking fees
- Do not support the reduction to Helping Hands & Community & Wellbeing Partnership
- Don't agree with raising car park charges. Car park use has drastically reduced since you introduced charges and this must affect the towns prosperity.
- Don't make changes to the waste collection. That makes no sense at all. With the green waste charge increase, I don't see why this would be sensible considering people are paying for an annual service but hardly getting this anyway!
- Don't reduce funding to external organizations
- Disagree recycling bin collection alternative week...should be weekly
- Everything else is understandable but bin collection frequency is not. This is not a sustainable way to move forward. You should look for solutions where you keep this already minimal service without any further cuts, what has this decision based on? Is this data driven or finger in the air type decision? I am more than happy to help you address this in a way that is sustainable.
- Extortionate why increase taxes if your increasing parking rates so you make even more money from local people
- Feel the parking charge will have a detrimental effect on the businesses in the town centres. It will discourage shoppers and lead to businesses closing. I no longer shop in the town centres. Choose to go to out of town where there is no parking charges and more choice of shops.
- fewer bin collections will just increase dumping and rats. Car park charges clearly do not apply to Oadby, they park on the pavements/ in Blue Badge bays / anywhere they wish and never are deterred because there are no wardens around. Car park machines are out of order most of the time. cars in Oadby parade park FULLY on the pavement .
- Fortnightly bin collections will increase fly tipping. Car parking charges should never have been introduced. This has already had a huge detrimental effect to local businesses. Our local towns and businesses need more support, NOT increased parking charges.
- Fortnightly bin collections will mean a more unsightly borough with chance of vermin.
- Fortnightly collections do not work especially without larger bins for general and recycling waste which some people will not be able to manage or store properly. This will increase fly tipping and make our Borough look messy and less attractive. Also, it will reduce recycling as excess recycling will be put into general waste and vice versa. This needs to be reconsidered and weekly collections maintained. When you introduced car parking charges (against public opinion) it was to cover the cost of running the car parks, now you are using the increase to cover other costs. This is inappropriate and your original views deceitful. Also the additional costs will further reduce footfall around the town centres.
- Fortnightly collections is not positive it could lead to fly tipping

- Four adults live in our household. Alternate weeks bin collections will be completely unsatisfactory. A larger refuse bin might help. Car park charges already affect footfall in Oadby Parade. Any increase already worsens this situation. Hourly rate increase of 50% unreasonable. The green waste increase from £50 to £60 is significant and may lead to me no longer taking advantage of the green bins service. We have to visit Oadby tip at least once a week currently with non recyclable waste. Anticipate more frequent visits if these charges go ahead. I feel that the increase in council tax and the additional proposed charges are leading to a poorer local service when it should be the reverse. There seems to be no recognition of the cost of living crisis for residents of the borough. The new charges proposed may seem quick wins to balance the books, but the long term affect of inadequate services needs to be considered.
- Garden waste going up again why
- Garden waste. You have reduced collection to 9 months and put up charges, not fair to residents as charges have increased by 100% in a few years. Agree with bin collection change. Car parks do not affect me as usually walk into the village or shop where there is free parking
- General waste bins are not big enough, you should provide a larger bin at no extra cost, everybody new it was always going to be the case that it would go to fortnightly collection , parking charges much to high, there is not enough shops in Oadby and Wigston, there are too many charity shops mens barbers
- Green bin waste does not cater for the changes in weather. My bins still need to be emptied in December. We are made to wait until March. I can drive to the tip but as I'm retired I find it hard to, take heavy loads. Car parking fees are making Oadby into a ghost town. The potholes in the car parks, some of them are so big it's like bumping up and down the kerb. And now you're going to put fees up. Shame on you
- Green waste charge
- Green waste charge already high enough. The increase in parking charges will further stop the footfall in Oadby. One pound is more than enough for two hours and why would leisure centre users get cheaper rates than residents.
- Green waste charge from £50 to £60 is too much and should be halved to £55. Car parking hourly rate increases should be the same for the Leisure centre as it is for the other car parks. Funding reduced for both Helping hands Service and Community and Wellbeing partnership by 50% is too severe and should be halved to 25%.
- Green waste charge increase: It would be a much fairer system if households were only charged for the bins they require (this was the case when I worked for the Blaby District Council). £60 is a lot for single pensioners to pay, many who only require 1 small bin. As result, some may share their bins with neighbours, or stop using the service. So I would suggest charging no more than £40 for a single garden bin, and maybe £60 for two garden bins.
- Green waste charges should not been increase bearing in mind the collection period has been reduced to 9 months Parking permits if increased should be extended to the complete Council area of car parks rather than each sub division.. Any increase would also not help the local shopping to survive."
- Green waste collection is more than enough now as this is another tax on households and as for increases in car parking when the town centre is dire is a cheek. How about Councillors taking a pay cut
- Green waste is far too much, the increase in courages people to fly tip or mix green to household rubbish
- Green waste need to demonstrate why a 20% increase if costs have not gone up by this amount. It's getting close to the boundary for householders to take all to the tip directly.
- Green waste to be £60 for 9 months? Nearly £7 a month sounds a lot. I realise I could take it to the tip free. I already avoid car park charges so will continue to do so. Seems unfair we have to pay to park at the council offices at Brock's hill -- or do we? However I can appreciate there's not much choice to save money.
- Green waste: An increase in the charge would be completely unacceptable in light of the already 3 months reduction in service.

- Happy with all proposed changes except for changes to bin collection
- Has any research been undertaken to assess the affect on trade following the intro of parking charges and whether it makes up for the cost of administering the car parks? As two pensioner household the bin collection change would not be much of an impact but could imagine for family households there could be an issue especially when bins are kept to the front of properties. Waste being dumped by side of country's roads is still a problem and wont be helped by the charge increases. The rapid increase in green waste collection allied to the moratorium seems excessive.
- Having chosen to have a smaller size bin when collections were weekly I trust you will not charge £30 for a larger size when you alter the goal posts!
- Health and safety are our concerns if the normal black bins and not calleted weekly. It has been easier to get a parking space for shopping, specially on East Street, since introduction of parking fees.
- Helping Hands funding should not be reduced. More people than ever are struggling and needing help. The charge for garden waste collection is already very high. Increasing the cost even more will encourage dumping. The cost of collectiong bulky waste should not be raised. Again, it will encourage dumping.
- Households already struggling cannot afford more increases.
- How can you increase rates and cut service delivery? You cannot increase tax and collect bins every two weeks. Spending should be cut at the source which is at local authority where redundancies and other streamlining is urgently required
- I agree with Bin collection frequency. I have no idea what bin swaps are. I agree with bulk waste increase. I disagree with green waste charge; we're supposed to be encouraging people to compost. I disagree with any increase in car parking charges. This will have an adverse effect on the shops in our town, too many of which are already boarded up. Shoppers. Will just continue to go to Foss Park in order that they don't have to pay for parking. I have no idea what the Helping hands services is. I have no idea what the community and well-being partnership is.
- I agree with the bin collection changes. I disagree with the green waste increase, as it went up by the equivalent of 25 per cent last year, if this increases I won't be renewing my subscription to this excellent service. Car parking charges are a rip off, putting people off visiting our towns. Helping hands is invaluable to a lot of locals. We have too many councillors being paid for not doing a lot.
- I am against car park charges increases. They are counter-productive and ultimately lose the Council money. To charge more will lead to businesses being closed and less income. It also reduces support for what the Council is trying to do. You could make car park charges more specific so the season ticket applies to a particular car park only which for most people is the only one they will use. Green waste charges are more tolerable - those with big gardens like mine are probably going to be annoyed once a year but accept it as necessary. Reducing waste Bin collection frequency is not going to help with everyone making increased visits to the tip - and hence more staff and maintenance costs - so the financial effect will I suspect be neutral but the ill-feeling generated, significant. Oadby and Wigston have always been proud of weekly bin collection and rightly so. It would be a retrograde move. The Council will still need the staff unless they are made redundant but if there is only a skeleton staff for waste the Council runs the risk of not enough staff to provide the function. The same scenario as the train drivers is possible - sacked drivers only to be re-hired at greater cost!
- I am firmly against a 2weekly bin collection this will cause vermin and families like ours need a weekly collection
- I am furious with these suggestions. You are increasing council tax and car parking charges and reducing our services. To reduce our bin collections to every other week is diabolical. It will increase vermin and fly tipping in the area and create a new problem for you to financially neglect. You are destroying Oadby town centre due to car parking charges and small businesses in the area will end. Well done Oadby council, you are a truly terrible council - how disappointing.
- I am happy with all the above.
- I am not happy that I have to pay for a larger bin when the council are reducing number of collections.

- I am not impressed that I would be charged to change my bin. When the council are going to charge more for an inferior service
- I am reluctant about the fortnightly collection of refuse. I am opposed to reductions in support of Helping Hands and the Community and Wellbeing Partnership, which are part of public service to keep vulnerable people in their own homes and to support safety from crime and anti-social behaviour.
- I am very unsupportive of the proposed change to the bin collection frequency, which is one of the reasons why I have moved to this borough. Bin collection ensures hygiene standards across the borough, as we regularly find waste in our garden either from littering or animals that bring it throughout the night. It would be nice to be provided with a free bin if it is the first time we are requesting a replacement, however I understand the £30 charge if it was put in place. Leisure centres are now not only privatised and clearly exploiting councils, but are also inaccessible if you put charges on staying and travelling to it by car. I would love to ditch the car and use public transport or walk to minimise the space needed for car parks at these centres, unfortunately I feel very unsafe in Wigston and I not comfortable to walk on my own after dawn. Public transport is also not frequent enough to motivate me to leave the car at home. To sum up, council tax is currently the highest monthly bill I pay, and I still have no idea what it is used for. The communication and online services provided by this borough are very poor compared to other councils I have lived in (e.g. e-newsletters, viewing my council tax account online), but I keep receiving emails about gambling as part of the community lottery to sustain the borough.
- I do not agree with the increase in parking charges. People will stop coming into the town centre to shop, or will park in the streets, causing congestion.
- I DO NOT AGREE, WHERE IS EXTRA MONEY COMING FROM FOR THOSE WHO ARE RETIRED AND ON FIX INCOME.
- I don't agree with the change to the bin collection frequency or the increase to the garden waste charge, nor the reduction in funding to the helping hands service, but I do understand the reasons why
- I don't support parking charges in o&w. Therefore don't support increases either. Don't understand the implications of halving support to helping hands or wellbeing partnership. Other proposals seem reasonable. To what extent will each proposal fill the funding gap?
- I don't think a charge should be made for bin swaps when the refuse collectors have damaged the bin. You might as well give the helping hands service and the well-being partnership nothing as that amount of money you are proposing will not pay for anything. It's also not fair that you charge £40 for bulky waste as Leicester city council charge nothing.
- I don't think the charge for a bin swap should be implemented, if it is just wear and tear it should be free. Icar parking shouldn't be more expensive for going shopping, people choose to visit leisure facilities and should pay the same. People should be encouraged to park and wander round the shops, if we don't encourage shoppers the shops will leave and the town will die.
- I have concern for the bin collection changes, oadby is tidy but when this swap is introduced, their would be litter everywhere and even fly tipping would increase. As you can see on the major ways where you have people dumping used sofas. This is a no brainer, kindly continue with the weekly collection of wastes and recycling. Unless there is evidence to state that not enough refuse is being collected weekly.
- I have no issue in bin collection being alternate weeks. Unhappy with increase in green waste.
- I have no problem with the increase in car parking and garden waste charges. However I really don't like having to give up weekly waste collection.
- I have no problem with the recycling waste to be collected every other week but i strongly disagree that the general waste is to be collected every other week. This proposed change presents a potentially harmful environment which gives me great cause for concern. A duration of 14 days for food waste to be in a bin is not acceptable. Do you intend to deliver larger waste bins to accommodate this change in delivery policy? If not, why not?
- I have reservations about increasing car parking charges because of the likely impact on our town centre businesses. I oppose the reduction in funding to the Helping Hands Service
- I know generally costs for everything are getting out of hand but people are going to struggle with these increases.

- I live in an over 60's complex and still have dustbins - currently these bins are FULL in a week - do you intend to provide us with adequate bins to accommodate the extra waste (i.e. going to fortnightly collections) and if so how much will this cost incur the Council and how many other households still have dustbins?
- I no longer visit Oadby or Wigston due to car parking charges. I can manage 2 weekly bin collections. However I have noticed many bins in the area overflowing with weekly collections so this would not be appropriate for many households. Therefore it's very important that weekly collections continue. If not there will be an increase in litter including plastics on our streets effecting our environment as these things inevitably end up in waterways and grass areas.
- I pay over £3500 in council tax before any upcoming increase. Waste and recycling collection including green waste at extra cost is the only direct service I receive for this money. The hitherto adequate level of collections is the sole reason I have supported the Council and overlooked other reported deficiencies. With these proposals there will be no incentive to continue to do so.
- "I recognise that changes to bin collection frequency are inevitable as most other areas have reduced the collection frequency already although I do appreciate a weekly collection. Does this mean job losses? I dislike the car park fee charges for using the local shops and leisure centres, I think the charges are detrimental for local business and impacts the 'shop local' message so I'm not in favour of charges rising."
- I strongly believe that cuts to Helping Hands funding will have a negative impact on the residents of Oadby and Wigston Borough Council. Helping Hands is an essential service and the council will not have the capacity to absorb this additional work. Therefore, more residents will go without the support, advice and guidance needed in order for them to manage effectively. This will in turn, put further strains on existing overstretched services such as GPs, council, housing, etc.
- I strongly disagree with all the proposals above, either council tax goes up to maintain services or services are cut but there is no council tax raise. NOT BOTH!!!
- "I strongly object to reducing the bin collection to every two weeks This will be very wrong and lead to increased rubbish in streets and fly tipping"
- I think and many more residents will not pay to have their garden waste renewed, especially for the older people, also people will be overflowing on recycling bins therefore they won't recycle
- I think reducing the frequency of bin collections will result in more fly-tipping. Already we have a growing hard core of irresponsible people who regularly dump domestic waste next to public benches, clothing and textile recycling and rubbish bins. I feel ashamed of Oadby now, although I collect rubbish every time I go out, and bring it back to put in my own rubbish or recycling bin.
- I think that as part of Oadby and Wigston Borough Council we have been fortunate to sustain weekly bin collections for so long. I am not surprised that this is a proposal for change.
- I think the parking fees are extreme, there should be a 50p charge for those who are only going to be 30mins or less! You do not provide enough free spaces so it is wrong to have to pay £1 or more when you are only going to be less than 30 mins!
- I think these sound fair
- I thought the council was going to abolish car parking fees for Paddock Street, Wigston? That was one of their pledges, and why I voted for them.
- "I will comment on this but think it's a waste of time as in the past you haven't taken any notice and just gone ahead e.g car parking fees which is just killing the town centres. If you move towards fortnightly bin collection this will inevitably lead to increase demand for the tip at a time when the decision has been taken to reduce the opening hours of the tips - just ridiculous. Additionally it will lead to more flying tipping and increased incidents of pest infestation which bring their own issues. I think this is very short sighted. Again I commented on green waste collection but you just went ahead and increased the cost from £35 to £50 and reduced the number of weeks it was collected. Increasing it by 20% is just robbery - I do not support this increase. Are you trying to kill the town centre off along with all of the businesses in Oadby & Wigston with people just being left with charity shops and hairdressers? You only need to observe the impact it has had on footfall in the town centres to see the impact introducing car parking charges has had."

- I would be happy with alternative week collection for recycling but prefer weekly for general waste. Don't agree with increasing garden waste as we no longer get a full years collection Would accept increase in car park charges as long as it is no higher than £1.50 for 2 hours
- I would support recycling collections every two weeks, but would prefer non-recycleable waste to be kept at a weekly cycle. I support all of the other proposed changes.
- I'd heard bin collection is going fortnightly, which I don't like but you have fought long and hard to keep it weekly, so I trust there is no other alternative now. I worry about the shops with the introduction and increase in parking charges, especially Brocks hill park and parklands as it does affect people's health.
- If a move to two weeks collection service goes through does that mean I will need to pay £30 to get a larger size bin
- If bin collection frequency is being reduced, then residents should be offered a 240l waste bin at no cost. Bin swaps should remain at no cost, bins are generally only broken by council crews
- If bin collections will be alternate weeks the size of the bin would need to increase to support this. In counties where bins are collected every 2 weeks the bins are bigger than our current recycling bins. I would only support this change if bins for household waste and recycling are big enough to support the change and the cost increased size and collection of extinct bins doesn't cost more than the current bin collection service. The disposal redundant bins will also have a huge cost on the environment, i would like to know full details of this change. Transparency of this new scheme is vital if you want the support of residents
- If bins are collected every two weeks bigger black bins are required not to use black bags . Car parks should not be increased this will be the end for a lot of shops who are struggling to get the public in there shops
- If green bins go up I personally will participate
- If the bin collections will be changed to alternate weeks, does that mean we'll get bins that are twice the size to accommodate the extra week of waste? It'll cause pest issues if we have to leave black bags outdoors...
- If the frequency of the bin collection is changing to alternate weeks then larger bins should be allocated free. This is not our choice. It appears that the council simply cannot manage their budget and fees for EVERYTHING provided are being increased. I don't have a choice about paying these increases, unlike using less energy or buying cheaper food.
- If waste to be collected every 2 weeks will we have separate weekly food waste collections in small green bins? Other councils do this and it means food waste continues to be picked up weekly. Also will we have bigger bins since a lot of bins are overflowing after one week? Can the council also attempt to enforce the rule that bins should not be left on the street. The City Wardens do enforce this by serving legal notices and this would improve the environment in some parts of South Wigston. An increase in the charge for bulky collections is beyond the reach of some residents unless you counter this with free collections for those on benefits, low income, OAPs. There is a huge risk that there will be an increase in fly tipping if it is too costly to have items removed by the Council. I believe that bulk waste collection is free in the city of Leicester council area.
- If we are moving to fortnightly collections I hope we can change to larger bins free of charge as a one off Permits should be for all three town centres, not specific town centres
- If you are hurting the public and public services, at least given larger bins for normal and recycling waste where possible if it a larger family household. People will start to leave their rubbish black bags in the council bins around the area. This will cost you more in cleaning eventually as rubbish spills. It happens already when it Christmas time and this will make the worse for the county. Again, no thinking to the madness.
- If you are increasing the green bin collection charge to £60.00 per year then you should collect all year round. Dec, Jan and Feb is when gardens are cut back etc generating a large amount to recycle.

- If you are reducing collections, then you shouldn't be increasing charges.
- If you're going to change the bin collection frequency it would be good to have better website search facilities to check on the week
- if your drivers damage the bins why should we pay for a replacement, yes to reducing funding to the Helping Hands Service and our Community and Wellbeing Partnership contract, increase parking charges and permits all the others no
- Im not supportive in the change to the frequency of bin collections.
- In the absence of any additional central funding, I don't know what else you can do. Sadly.
- Increase in car park charges will not encourage use of car parks. Too high not going to use it, lose revenue overall Give the option of bigger bins, or weekly collections in summer when bins smell
- Increase in garden waste again another £10 increase What profit do you make from our garden waste !!! Charging at leisure centre is a disgrace"
- Increase in garden waste is ludicrous. Most of my garden waste (80%) is from grass verges that are only cut by the authorities about 3 times a year!!!! And not to a desired standard. Come on!!!! You can forget me paying £60....and many others I expect! Please do not make yourselves look silly by suggesting that reduction in clipping verges is to support CO2 reduction by ""sparing"" a sparse growth of daffodils on some verges.as was stated ladt year...absolutely ridiculous Why not just close local businesses as parking charges are ridiculous. Just spend some more ludicrous amounts of the (our) budget on planting trees in an effort to convince us of your commitment to the environment...not! I have fed my views on 2023 spend on this and NEVER RECEIVED A POSITIVE REPLY In the general local opinion the council is becoming an absolute joke...you should take a serious look at your management structure and budget allocation and review frequency. Please contact me...I'm sure I can help! You as a council obviously do not have the answers but believe me....people like myself could help with genuine unbiased ideas...why are you in such a financial mess? Embarrassing isn't it? You can't please all of the people all of the time...but you can at least try to admit failures of current policies
- Increasing car park charges will affect businesses and should not be changed. Green bin charges went up last year as the collections were cut by 25%
- Increasing car parking fees will deter people from coming to oadby and Wigston. Shops will suffer and some may close. We already have too many empty shops. Green waste is too expensive at £60. I'm on a B pension/pension credit and cannot afford a car to take the waste myself so have to pay it but can ill afford it. People will want bigger bins if we go to two weeks waste/ recycling collections. I would have to keep the smaller ones, as I have steps to negotiate and larger bins would be too heavy.
- Increasing parking charges will deter even more people from visiting oadby and will affect businesses. Alternate weekly bin collections are ok provided we are given larger green recycling bins as mine is full most weeks.
- Increasing the charge in bulky collection and green waste is likely to lead to more fly tipping which would cost the council more to clear up. Alternate week collections would also be unpopular with a lot of people. Especially for larger families who already fill their bins each week.
- Increasing waste collection charges will only encourage more fly tipping, increasing car parking charges will effect every local business, Wigston is full of empty shops and the new ones only last a short time, Wigston needs investment and the council needs to encourage people to park and shop locally otherwise people will go elsewhere, parking in Blaby is 70p for 1 hour, fosse park is free.
- Is the C & W Partnership contract funded directly by the Council, and are the personnel employed for this contract employed by O & W Council, or are they a separate outsourced organisation ,who have to tender for key services ,such as the C & B Wellbeing Partnership..?
- It has been known for a very long time that OWBC were one of the only councils still offering weekly collections. Why was the decision made to have two different sized bins or household waste (unless you were a large household) and recycling. Had the same large sized bin been issued for both services, there would be no need for residents to pay £30 for a bin swap when this is clearly another example of poor planning on the councils behalf.

- Morally indefensible. Yet more reductions in service but still steep rises in council tax. None of this was in your last manifesto. This needs to be put before the voters.
- More people than ever need helping hands service so shocked at the 50% reduction as it need to stay at least as it is. Bin collection to fortnightly will lead to overflowing bins and more fly tipping I believe.
- Need to reconsider changing bin collection to alternate week.
- No any other further comments.
- No problem with the bin emptying frequency for waste and recycling. Unfortunately the Council were shortsighted when they issued small refuse bins, so larger bins would need to be issued to facilitate this change. Green waste increased charge would be more acceptable if it was for twelve months of collection. Car park charge increase has the same anomaly as at present, that is that its more expensive to park for four hours than it is for two ... 75p per hour to park for two hours, but £1 per hour to park for four hours under the increased charge.
- No thanks
- Not acceptable 2 weeks for bins being emptied! Disgusting. Garden waste yet again going up all this will do is encourage fly tipping
- Not acceptable. You blew the money on new offices. We shouldn't need to lose out because of it
- Not happy with any of the proposed changes, although a fortnightly general waste collection would be acceptable
- Not in favour of alternate week collection for waste & recycling, or increase in green waste & bulk collection charges, but understand reasons for them.
- Oppose changes to bin collections, existing bins are not big enough for 2 weeks waste. This is the most valuable service you offer me
- Our bins - and there are only two of us - are pretty full after a week. I don't see how we'd cope with alternate weeks. Bigger or more bins would be a capital cost and there's already little room for such bins. I think this would be very unpopular with residents.
- Over charging residents for a service that is not up to scratch anyway , parking charges are disgusting and unfair . Why not start by cutting staff that sit around all day sending ridiculous e mails !
- Parking fees will decimate shopping precincts.
- Please think about introducing some free parking say the first hour is free rather than increasing Car Park charges. Short term thinking that is having a negative impact on our High Street. Why would I pay to Park in Wigston / Oadby? when I can park at Fosse Park for free. You might even raise more business rates!!!!
- Pleased to see that the proposed ending of funding for Helping Hands and the Community & Wellbeing Partnership has changed. I think the issue the Council are facing is that things such as frequency of bin collections and car parking charges have been held back for so long that they have now become more contentious. I think the increases in car parking will create even more issues for our High Streets which are already suffering. If there was scope for more change I would look at doing something differently there. In terms of bin collections I'd suggest the Council is one of the last to make the change? However the measures collectively will I fear drive up fly tipping locally
- Morally indefensible. Yet more reductions in service but still steep rises in council tax. None of this was in your last manifesto. This needs to be put before the voters.
- More people than ever need helping hands service so shocked at the 50% reduction as it need to stay at least as it is. Bin collection to fortnightly will lead to overflowing bins and more fly tipping I believe.

- Need to reconsider changing bin collection to alternate week.
- No problem with the bin emptying frequency for waste and recycling. Unfortunately the Council were shortsighted when they issued small refuse bins, so larger bins would need to be issued to facilitate this change. Green waste increased charge would be more acceptable if it was for twelve months of collection. Car park charge increase has the same anomaly as at present, that is that its more expensive to park for four hours than it is for two ... 75p per hour to park for two hours, but £1 per hour to park for four hours under the increased charge.
- No thanks
- Not acceptable 2 weeks for bins being emptied! Disgusting. Garden waste yet again going up all this will do is encourage fly tipping
- Not acceptable. You blew the money on new offices. We shouldn't need to lose out because of it
- Not happy with any of the proposed changes, although a fortnightly general waste collection would be acceptable
- Not in favour of alternate week collection for waste & recycling, or increase in green waste & bulk collection charges, but understand reasons for them.
- Oppose changes to bin collections, existing bins are not big enough for 2 weeks waste. This is the most valuable service you offer me
- Our bins - and there are only two of us - are pretty full after a week. I don't see how we'd cope with alternate weeks. Bigger or more bins would be a capital cost and there's already little room for such bins. I think this would be very unpopular with residents.
- Over charging residents for a service that is not up to scratch anyway , parking charges are disgusting and unfair . Why not start by cutting staff that sit around all day sending ridiculous e mails !
- Parking fees will decimate shopping precincts.
- Please think about introducing some free parking say the first hour is free rather than increasing Car Park charges. Short term thinking that is having a negative impact on our High Street. Why would I pay to Park in Wigston / Oadby? when I can park at Fosse Park for free. You might even raise more business rates!!!!
- Pleased to see that the proposed ending of funding for Helping Hands and the Community & Wellbeing Partnership has changed. I think the issue the Council are facing is that things such as frequency of bin collections and car parking charges have been held back for so long that they have now become more contentious. I think the increases in car parking will create even more issues for our High Streets which are already suffering. If there was scope for more change I would look at doing something differently there. In terms of bin collections I'd suggest the Council is one of the last to make the change? However the measures collectively will I fear drive up fly tipping locally
- Proposed bulky waste charge will only increase fly tipping which in the long term will cost the council more to collect and clean up and encourage unlicensed rubbish collection.. Why not employ private licensed company to do this which no doubt be cheaper to use than the council Helping hands provides an invaluable service to the residents of the Borough if this service is lost due to funding cuts who will people go to for advice and support Car parking Increasing the charges will.lead to even fewer people coming to Wigston the footfall is already much reduced and when people do come they don't linger due to parking charges. How about looking at the number of staff you employ and really consider if they are really needed I'm sure there are savings to be made in many areas
- Putting car park costs up will threaten the local shops and discourage local people to use local services. Is it wise to reduce funding for Helping Hands when it appears there is more need for help and support?
- Really disappointed that you are considering waste and recycling on alternate weeks. I can understand the recycling but having waste collected every week is marvelous! Every fortnight will mean flies, rodents and mess on the roads as people will just leave the bins out so as not to contaminate their properties.
- Recycling needs to be increased. If it is only collected once a fortnight then anyone needing a larger bin should not have to pay for it. As before, if Helping Hands is not enabled to help residents with their finances then the Council Tax collections will suffer and homelessness will increase. Their grant is an investment for the Borough. Residents on the old ""legacy"" benefits such as Job Seekers Allowance, will have to switch to Universal Credit in the near future so the most vulnerable people in the Borough will need Helping Hands to steer them through the application processes.

- Reduce staffing in council offices by half. Reduce number of councillors by half. Turn off heating in your council chamber. On one hand the UK government is talking about dealers collecting bulky items for free on purchase of new, you are asking about more money for the same service.
- Reducing needed mental health support
- Reducing the frequency of bin collections is frankly speaking unhygienic. The same amount of people will continue to be employed to run these services yet the frequency is proposed to drop to half. Half the personnel need to be sacked then for "financial sustainability"
- Reduction in bin collection is a seriously retrograde step & should be cancelled
- Ridiculous fees and charges, what do we pay Council Tax for ----- eg:- Refuse generally; encouraging fly tipping ----- Car parking; soon become a ghost town
- Sad that it is Helping Hands funding is being reduced
- Seems your budget cuts are to two organisations that need it most (The vulnerable) also increase in car park charges, exactly what does Wigston in particular offer to justify the increase ?
- Shocking increase in charges. Why should we be made to pay to swap our bin?!!! As for a £10 increase in garden waste collection, you will end up still sending a crew a lorry to empty fewer and fewer bins. How can this be cost effective? We still need this service in December as leaves are still falling. Makes more sense to cease January, February and March. Doubt you will take note and ask people their thoughts though!
- Should not reduce bin collection. The rubbish tip site should only be open to the public on three days each week. Other tip sites should also only be open to the public for three days each week but on different days to the Oadby tip. In this way the labour cost could be reduced by 50 percent.
- So all the services people need you are going to increase costs for and all the budgets of services that can help people you're going to cut grants to. Perhaps you need to look where you spent your overspend one the amount spent on Brocks hill renovation two the massive amount spent on staff grievance cases not be cutting services to residents because of this.
- So basically reduced service for higher cost.
- So you want to up every charge in the borough when there are so many of us on the breadline already. As for bins you need to provide bigger ones to hold two weeks worth of rubbish to avoid vermin. Do you know how much money pensioners and low paid families have to live on. Get real please
- Strongly disagree with changes to bin collection and garden waste. This could cause a significant increase to fly tipping in the borough and neighbors putting rubbish in other peoples bins after collection. The car park charges have killed the areas they used to serve (this was proven with the free parking at Christmas lights on actually bringing in people) so might as well twist the knife more.
- Supportive re bin frequency & bin swaps. Opposed to increase in collection charges - these encourage fly tipping. Opposed to car park charges - these discourage business activity, moving trade away from the borough and we should be encouraging park use, not discouraging.
- The above is another short- term thinking example - you believe the only way to fix the budget gap is by putting up prices. My comments relate to every single element: Bin services - must remain weekly Bin Swaps should be £10 the more you increase the price the more people will steal them. Bulky waste - this is free in Leicester City - why do you have to charge anything? Green waste - this charge is a joke and should only ever be £30 a year. Car park permits - should be free for residents Car park charges- please do not put them up Helping hands and Wellbeing - go out ro local businesses and strike a partnership with them to cover this - all large companies have a budget for this so go and source it!
- The above proposals are the result of council overspending and are not public responsibility. The council tax is rising as per previous page and at the same time cost of 'other' services is rising way beyond the ROI. This is not fair on the consumer and will not be something the public simply agree to - turkeys do not vote for Christmas. I also fail to see how raising the cost of car parking in centres is going to attract more consumers. There are many other options the consumer has in and around the Oadby and Wigston area which do not involve car parking charges, Fosse park and larger supermarkets being examples. Bottom line is the council is asking if the public support these increases is how I'm reading the question. The answer will not be favourable however the council will do what it wants as it always does which makes this consultation a waste of time.

- The bin collection proposal makes total sense. Households may need to adjust to consume less. It would be unfair to further increase parking rates. We just did that recently. People won't go out anymore and this would further cripple small businesses. Instead, we should encourage patronage of stores by even a reduction, if possible.
- The black bins are already only half sized, you can't possibly make this decision without at least increasing the capacity of both the recycling and black bins. You'll increase the risk of vermin and other issues. Just keep it well funded and weekly.
- The businesses in Oadby and Wigston will suffer due to car park increases, the collection of recycling and household waste to every fortnight will increase if areas being left in a mess and not good for the environment. We pay enough council tax so it's not acceptable to put the prices up on everything like parking, garden waste.
- The car parking charge should stay at £1 for two hours and £2 for up to 4 hours.
- The council is run by knob heads
- The fortnightly alternative bin collection is utterly ridiculous. We are a large family, of 7 members. Our family and many others like ours require our bins to be emptied weekly and not a day over. Leaving them for 2 weeks is not only unsightly and unhygienic it will cause further stress and inconveniences to families in this Borough.
- The green bin increase is too much when not collected for three months a year. Good to collect waste and recycling on alternate weeks.
- The green waste charge was increased last year by £10. For it to increase again by the same amount this year is poor. Especially as the council have already reduced collections by stopping them altogether between December to February
- The increase in parking charges is not great but understandable. It would be helpful to provide more 20 minute parking spaces to support people who just need to collect prescriptions etc
- The only increases that affect me personally are the waste collections. At my previous address in Blaby District, we had an alternate week system and it seemed to work. My only concern would be large households where the waste may build up. This could lead to more instances of fly tipping which would be a concern. However, I think the Oadby & Wigston Recycling and waste site is very well run so hopefully people will utilise this more as an alternative.
- The weekly waste and recycling service is really valued by borough residents. A move to alternate weeks will hit households of 3 + residents really hard and bins will overflow. A larger waste bin will not solve this problem particularly where there are young children. This will result in an increase in vermin contamination and present a threat to public. Local councillors sit up. If you vote for this change you will lose your seats at the next election.
- There is clearly a desire to kill the Town Centres and Leisure centres, I hope councillors are paying to Park in Brocks Hill.
- There is NO explanation as to what a "bin Swap" is - or if it is mandatory. Green waste collection charge already increased, and you decreased to no collections during December January and February. I DO NOT WANT alternate weekly collections for waste and recycling
- There is no indication of what these savings would achieve. Bin Collection. How much would changing to fortnightly save?
- "These are negative outcomes for residents. Re-active. And not strategic enough. Some of these have negative consequences which means in the long term you may need to use your emergency funding. le pest increase. Our sewage system is already falling apart. Making cuts on essential services is a risk.
- These fees will only succeed in reducing footfall in Oadby and Wigston town centres, and drive people away from living in the borough, which is already on a downward spiral. Car parks and streets used to be full, now I could find a space anywhere without issue. You should be more inventive with how to bring in revenue without charging people in the middle of a cost of living crisis which is hitting everyone hard. My parents have just left the borough for Broughton Astley, and see their new area as a marked improvement on this one. I will also be leaving the borough given the first opportunity, a shadow of its former self and extra charges will only make it worse.

- They are sound like we will spending more on council tax and getting less for the increase. Not good for the residents of Oadby and Wigston. The reduction in helping hands will badly affect people already in poverty.
- Those in charge of council actually lied to be elected knowing very well the state of finance of the council. They now expect us tax payers to fund their mismanagement
- Totally disagree
- utterly disgusting to pay to go to the bank shopping is now hopeless lets go back to when wison and oadby were proud villages Not a village filled with repetitive shops council management officers should be ashamed of ruining these villages
- Very disappointed by the increase charges for green waste and parking but understand the reason
- Very unhappy that support for Helping Hands and community wellbeing is being reduced by 50%
- Very unsupportive on bin collection changes and increased parking costs, will ultimately lead to desolate local High streets
- Wanting to increase taxes and remove services that is not on . You ran a campaign for re election last year say how proud you were for keeping the weekly collection of both recycling and waste . So you sold lies . You increase the parking last year now again this year so you want to do less and asking the taxpayers for more .
- Wasre collecting and disposal should be weekly and free , you can have a single person household who has the same collection as a multiple occupent collection .
- Waste & recycling changes should only be made if you are providing larger waste bins to residents to compensate for a fortnightly collection
- WASTE COLLECTION At present we are allowed to leave out 3 black bags when collections are missed due to bank holidays? Will this apply if fortnightly collections are introduced? O&W residents are supplied with smaller bins than the rest of the country on fortnightly collections, will larger bins be supplied to accommodate the additional waste? P.S may I have a larger recycling bin, I have the smaller one that wont last a fortnight. GREEN GARDEN WASTE there was an equivalent of 25% increase in charges when collections ceased for 3 months, now you are suggesting a further increase of 20%. I suggest take-up of the scheme may well drop. PARKING CHARGES Car parks are rarely busy, no longer do we have to play the 'find a parking spot game' as we did when parking was ""free"". How are business' coping? is there a shortfall in customers? If so will business' go under resulting in less income for the council? BUT if car parks are under used they can always be developed on, as previously hinted at by the council.
- Waste collection every fortnight will be fine for us.
- Waste collection reduction to alternate weeks is not acceptable. The streets are already leck cleanliness and this will make the streets even dirtier. The general waste must be collected EVERY WEEK. In the light of rise in drug usage and police incidents in Oadby and Wigston, I would prefer not to reduce the funding to Helping Hands and Community and Wellbeing Partnership.
- Waste collection should stay weekly. Collections bi-weekly could increase fly tipping
- Waste must be collected every week! Unless you are planning to spend more money on newer bigger bins. If you want to see all businesses in Wigston close, don't increase car parking charges, as this will only drive shoppers away to where parking is free.
- Waste should be collected EVERY week (particularly in hot weather). Green/garden waste just seems to be going up and up and the service down.. Parking also going up. Stealth taxes.
- Waste should not be collected fortnightly, fly tipping will increase as a result. Further more under the currwnt scheme both our recycling and general waste bins are full every week. The bins do not have capacity for fortnightly collections.
- Waste to be collected every week due smell and maggots. Recycle collection can be every alternate week.

- Waste recycling. Have you assessed the impact? My bin is full most weeks!! Do we get bigger bins?? If not no thank you. Have you considered 10 days instead perhaps in conjunction with a text reminder service? What impact would that have on the most vulnerable? How effective is your current contracted service? Have you engaged with them to identify efficiencies? Parking - I shop outside of Oadby and Wigston because of the parking charges. How much revenue would you really make by increasing the charges offset against how Many people will skip the local shops and go elsewhere. If this forces local businesses to close (1) job losses (mainly local people) will increase the number of vulnerable people (2) vulnerable people are the ones who need the services most!! Aren't helping hands and community and wellbeing helping the vulnerable? Doesn't that go against your focus of "Our focus is on protecting public services and supporting those that are most vulnerable in the borough"? Good luck. You have a tough few months but you are spending my money and I want you to look at your organisation and systems and processes to ensure you are effective and efficient.
- Watch fly tipping go through the roof
- We are a family of 5 adults in a house we therefore fill both bins every week alternate collections would not work for us, household size should be taken into consideration. I have rarely paid the parking charges in Wigston I either walk or go elsewhere the shops have consequently lost a lot of my custom. It's easier to go to Fosse park where there are more shops & free parking. It's so sad to see the decline of Wigston shopping centre due to the poorly thought out introduction of parking charges. Surely with the huge number of new houses paying extortionate council tax fees there should be no need to increase the charges. Leisure centres should not have to charge for parking it is purely counterproductive as less people will attend reducing the revenue from swimming, classes, gym goers etc
- We need weekly bin collections alternate collections will be an issue for households unless you provide extra waste bins waste to collect. Green waste should be collected throughout the whole year
- We will suffer with rats and people with move because of parking
- Well that's me getting rid of my green waste bin. I'll take it to the tip. The parking charge is a bone of contention and will show in the next election results. Money is obviously still being wasted, let's not mention the Bell Street catastrophe... !!
- What difference is my comment going to make as council will raise the tax regardless how we feel
- Whichever way you do things it the Public that pays through the nose We are finding things tough as well Car parking charges are killing centres of Oadby & Wigston
- Why can you not work like blaby council and decent car park charge it will then bring people into our borough look around wigston at the empty shops
- Why not charge a licence fee for people parking large commercial vehicles on the pavement We want our bins emptying every week.
- Will shops in Wigston face reduced trade because of increased car parking fees? Wigston looks a poor relation in comparison to Oadby..why is this? Bin collections reduced..will this lead to waste dumping?
- Will we get a larger bin to cope with fortnightly collections? If not, we won't cope so will have to drive to the council tip much more regularly, increasing our carbon footprint. Will we have to buy a larger bin or will they be provided to us without cost?
- With regards to the bin collection frequency, with the black bins not an issue as it is very rare that we have more than 2 black bags (normally only 1), However with regards to the green bins there are a number of occasions when we have filled this and with it only being collected fortnightly what options will there be to put additional recycling out?
- With the exception of changing the frequency of bin collection all other proposals seem feasible

- would like to have staff who would monitor the order and removal of garbage on the streets, and if necessary, severely punish them for the dirt and stench they provide to neighbors
- Yes please manage our funds ,not yours!,a damn sight better,fat chance.
- Yes we shouldn't be paying for car parking. We need to keep weekly black bin collections.
- yes you have a check to increase garden waste after reducing the service to only 9 months but no corresponding reduction in the charge .
- Yet again you want to change the bin collection but you will be expecting the residents to pay for larger bins and those who won't pay will just dump the rubbish in the streets so you will still be adding costs to your finance in clearing up if you are going to change the collection day's provide the bins at the council cost
- "You already have small general bins for a family , there was also several rat infestation s this spring/summer , how do you ensure that : 1. You are not losing money by having to re supply all bins ? 2. That there is not an outbreak of a pest problem, that will end up costing more ?"
- you are distroying wigston shop centre
- You are driving people out of shopping local with raising car park charges
- You are putting up council tax but then putting extra in everything else plus reducing services which puts the actual increase equivalent huge
- You can't justify charging for a bigger bin if you are then going to cut the services of the bin collections. Cutting this service will increase fly tipping which the council can't afford to clear up.
- You do not always provide the detail needed to make a judgement eg what the current charge is for bulky waste. Green waste charges up by 20% on top of recent increases and reducing the level of service last year. Is this going to generate a surplus towards the overall deficit or is it reducing a service subsidy? Not sure of the legality of the Council making a profit from this scheme?
- You have killed off the town centres of Oadby and WIGSTON now anyway Plus changing the way are waste is taken is not acceptable and will cause you more problems I'm afraid
- You have reduced the black bin size then propose fortnight collection do you then plan to buy bigger bins ? Keep black bins weekly and thought the government wanted weekly ?
- You should keep the weekly collection for both general and recyclable rubbish or provide larger bins for each if considering alternate week collections
- you will inevitably kill the local town center's such as Wigston if you continue to milk the motorist with a combination of increasing parking fees and poorly maintained road full of speed calming humps which damage our vehicles. My daughter has recently moved out to the countryside and we may follow.
- Your parking wardens should also cover extensive parking on pavements (full vehicle). Several areas are used to park up all day, with the driver then catching the bus (also half on pavements A6 near Esso garage, B5403 near the sports lounge and the bottom of Rosemead Drive near to the Wigston Road. Can the wardens also report illegal number plates to the police to raise more cash?

How supportive are you of a 7.7% rent increase for tenants?

- Should be a fair rent for a fair property
- Difficult for me to comment. Because earnings are not increasing. Instead, it is decreasing due to the lack of jobs throughout the UK
- That is very reasonable rent at £94.49. The private sector is twice as much.
- Don't put a benefits cap on. Start charging the market rate.
- I know the cost of repairing and maintaining property but do you need to increase by the maximum allowance as if you do it's only going to be for other projects that are needed
- I would support a higher increase. And a charge for unused bedroom and space.

How supportive are you of a 7.7% service charge change for tenants?

- Most community blocks do their own communal cleaning as the level of care by hired services is abysmal
- I'm not really sure what this all means. It is not clear and seems unfair on people in this position particularly if they are in a vulnerable position.
- All my comments remain by the previous ones. This is justified in my eyes as it's a service being given by choice to the customers that won't the service and I would not expect the council to pay. I don't have an opinion.
- I don't pay charges. I would support higher increases n/a

Appendix 8

Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2024/25 to 2028/29

Item	2023/24 Budget	2023/24 Forecast Outturn	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Net Revenue Expenditure							
Locally generated income	- 3,100,000	- 3,000,000	- 3,399,000	- 3,471,000	- 3,541,000	- 3,611,000	- 3,684,000
Recharge from HRA	- 1,430,000	- 1,430,000	- 1,469,000	- 1,469,000	- 1,469,000	- 1,469,000	- 1,469,000
Pay related costs (incl pension)	8,160,000	8,360,000	7,918,000	7,965,000	8,131,000	8,300,000	8,473,000
Capital financing / MRP	1,020,000	600,000	949,000	859,000	869,000	879,000	889,000
Other Supplies, Services & Contracts	2,890,000	3,750,000	3,677,000	3,697,000	3,852,000	3,925,000	3,897,000
Total Net Revenue Expenditure	7,540,000	8,280,000	7,676,000	7,581,000	7,842,000	8,024,000	8,106,000
Funding							
Contribution from reserves (Earmarked Reserves)	- 140,000	- 160,000	- 673,000	- 35,000	- 35,000	- 35,000	- 35,000
Council Tax	- 4,440,000	- 4,440,000	- 4,666,000	- 4,830,000	- 5,040,000	- 5,238,000	- 5,455,000
Collection Fund (Surplus)/Deficit - Ctax	- 20,000	- 20,000	- 54,000	-	-	-	-
Retained Business Rates	- 2,300,000	- 2,300,000	- 2,471,000	- 2,509,000	- 2,367,000	- 2,407,000	- 2,450,000
Collect Fund (Surplus)/Deficit - Brates	110,000	110,000	638,000	-	-	-	-
New Homes Bonus	- 260,000	- 260,000	- 287,000	-	-	-	-
Revenue Support Grant	-	-	-	-	- 338,000	- 318,000	- 297,000
Lower Tier Services Grant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Services Grant	- 60,000	- 60,000	- 11,000	- 10,000	-	-	-
Funding Guarantee	-	-	- 130,000	- 287,000	-	-	-
Green Plant and Machinery Compensation Grant	-	-	- 22,000	- 7,000	-	-	-
Total Funding	- 7,110,000	- 7,130,000	- 7,676,000	- 7,678,000	- 7,780,000	- 7,998,000	- 8,237,000
In-Year Budget Gap / (Surplus)	430,000	1,150,000	-	97,000	62,000	26,000	131,000
Cumulative Budget Gap / (Surplus)			-	97,000	35,000	9,000	140,000

Budget Assumptions in the MTFP

	Budget Assumptions 2024/25	Budget Assumptions Future Years
Net Revenue Expenditure		
Pay costs	Aligned with 2024/25 budget (3% pay award).	3% 2025, 2% thereafter. NB percentages here to reflect total organisational percentage increase, not percentage pay award for staff.
Pension employer rates (attached)	As per Leicestershire LGPS Pension Fund.	As per Leicestershire LGPS Pension Fund for 2025/26. The assumed 3% increase year on year as per 2026/27 to 2028/29.
Members Allowances	Aligned with 2024/25 detailed budget setting	Remain static
Other Supplies, Services & Contracts	Aligned with 2024/25 detailed budget setting	Increased by CPI forecast
Recharge from HRA	Aligned with 2024/25 detailed budget setting. Based on previous year +2%	As per 2024/25 - no uplift due to this area needing a full review.
Other grant income	Aligned with 2024/25 detailed budget setting	Increased by CPI forecast
NDR	Aligned with 2024/25 detailed budget setting	Increased by CPI forecast
Locally generated income	Aligned with 2024/25 detailed budget setting	2% in line with BoE inflation target
Leisure contract	Aligned with renegotiated position with SLM	Aligned with renegotiated position with SLM
Insurance	As per newly tendered contracts	Increased by CPI forecast
HB Payments	Aligned with 2024/25 detailed budget setting	Maintaining at 2024/25 level
Fuel	Aligned with 2024/25 detailed budget setting	Maintaining at 2024/25 level - OBR forecasting slight reduction
Capital financing / MRP	As per detailed MRP and interest forecast workings.	As per detailed MRP and interest forecast workings.
Funding		
Services Grant	As per Final Local Government Finance Settlement	As per Funding Advisor Model. Assumed to be discontinued 2026/27 as business rates reset expected to take place.
Funding Guarantee	As per Final Local Government Finance Settlement	As per Funding Advisor Model. Assumed to be discontinued 2026/27 as business rates reset expected to take place.
Revenue Support Grant	As per Final Local Government Finance Settlement	As per Funding Advisor Model
Retained Business Rates	As per NNDR 1	As per Funding Advisor Model
New Homes Bonus	As per Final Local Government Finance Settlement	2024/25 assumed to be the last year as this funding stream is expected to be reviewed. Base growth of 1.1% p.a. Maximum increases (2.99%). - As per funding Advisor Model
Council Tax	As per Council Tax Base set for 2024/25 and maximum increase (2.99%)	
Contribution from reserves (Earmarked Reserves)	Contribution of EMRs budgeted for 2024/25	Use of Grounds Maintenance Reserve
Collect Fund (Surplus)/Deficit - Brates	As calculated deficit Jan 2024	Surplus/deficit only applies to current year
Collection Fund (Surplus)/Deficit - Ctax	As calculated surplus Jan 2024	Surplus/deficit only applies to current year

Inflation Forecasts							
	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	
CPI forecast	7.5	3.6	1.8	1.4	1.7	2	
Gas Pounds per therm forecast	1.02	1.22	1.16	1.01	1.03	1.05	
Increase		20%	-5%	-13%	2%	2%	
Oil Dollars per barrel forecast	67.43	67.62	63.78	61.16	61	62.16	
Increase		0%	-6%	-4%	0%	2%	

Appendix 10

Budget Scenarios – Impact on MTFP

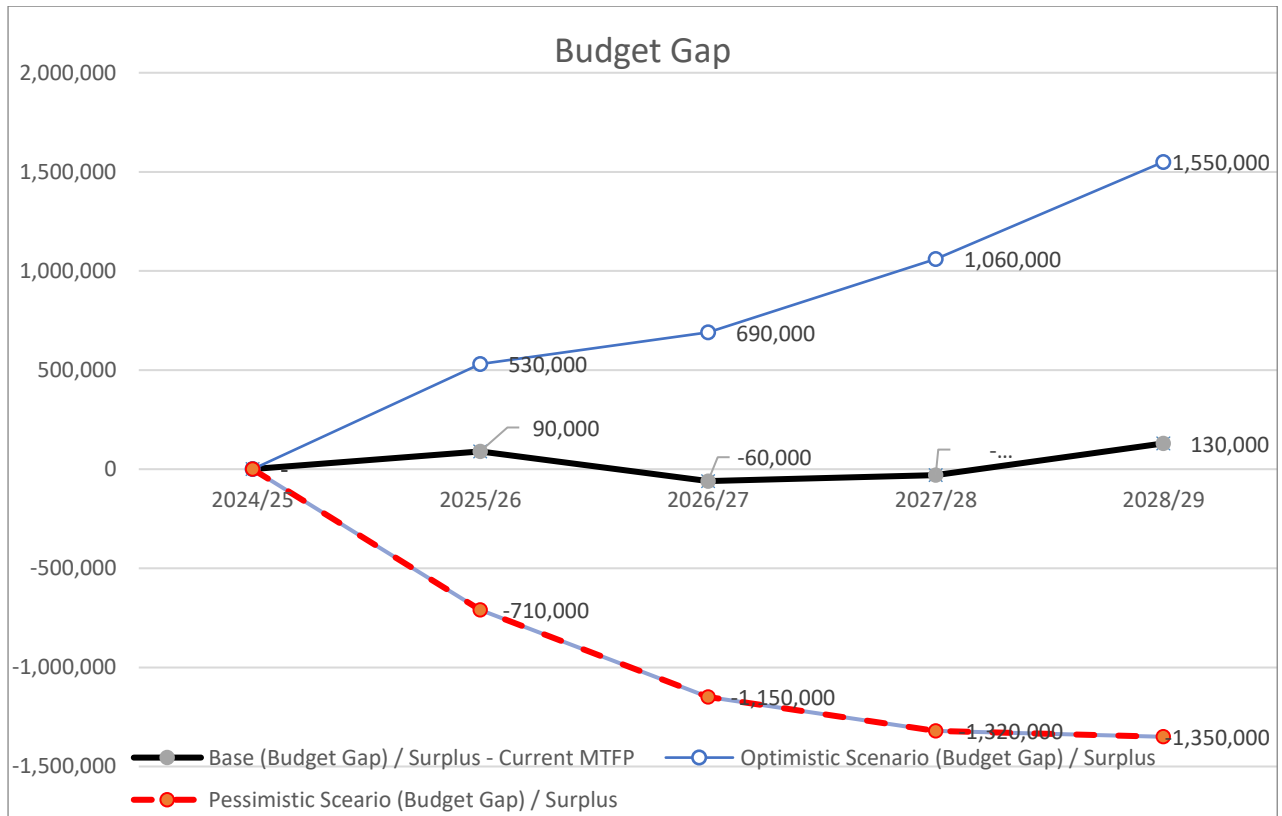
As detailed in the report there are assumptions made in the MTFP and changes to those assumptions result in a different outcome in terms of the forecast budget gaps and surpluses. Chart 1 shows how over the MTFP period the financial results of the organisation could be different.

It compares:

- the current MTFP forecast - the base position
- the pessimistic scenario – where the assumptions for each area of expenditure has increased and funding has reduced
- the optimistic scenario – where the assumptions for each area of expenditure has reduced and funding has increased

It is important to recognise however, that the base version of the plan (the MTFP presented in the main report, presents the most likely set of outcomes given known information).

Chart 1 – Comparison of Budget Gaps under different scenarios



Budget Scenarios – Impact on MTFP

Chart 2 shows the impact of changes to the pay assumption in isolation

Chart 2 - Impact on budget gap of change in pay assumption from 3% to 5.5%

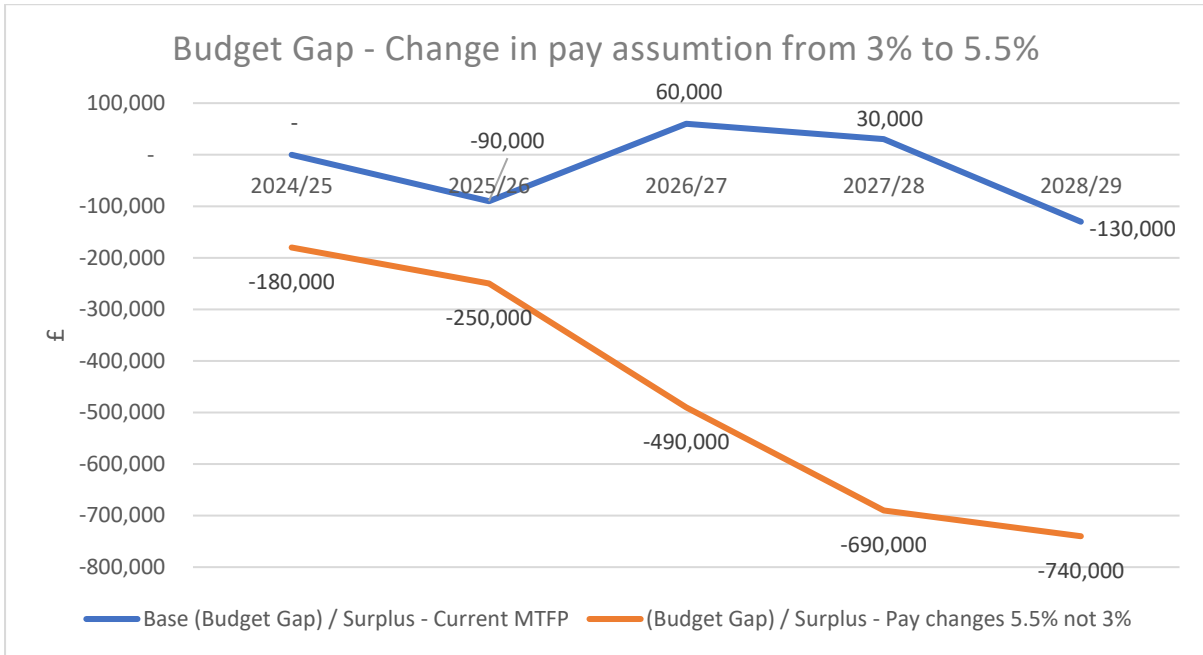
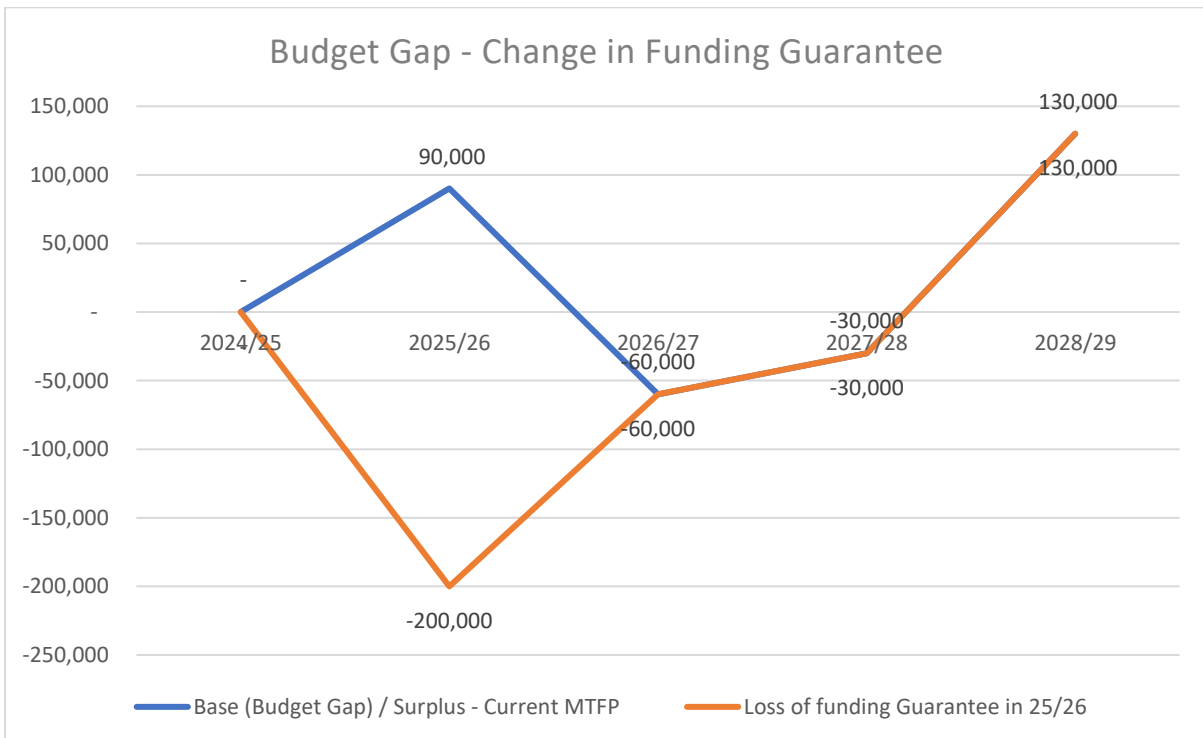


Chart 3 shows the impact of removing the funding guarantee in 2025/26

Chart 3 - Impact on no funding guarantee in 2025/26



Appendix 11

HRA – Business Plan 2024/25 to 2028/29

	Forecast					
	Outturn	1	2	3	4	5
	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Supervision and Management	2,524,233	2,347,410	2,450,701	2,541,837	2,611,050	2,682,302
Repairs and Maint	1,114,217	1,251,348	1,306,705	1,351,609	1,384,414	1,418,050
Council Tax	10,000	10,000	10,500	10,920	11,248	11,585
Debt Management	10,000	10,000	10,200	10,404	10,612	10,824
Depreciation (MRA cont.)	1,580,000	1,580,000	1,659,000	1,725,000	1,777,000	1,830,000
Provision for Bad Debts	75,000	35,000	35,700	36,414	37,142	37,885
	5,313,450	5,233,759	5,472,806	5,676,184	5,831,466	5,990,646
INCOME						
Rents - Dwelling	(5,351,922)	(5,736,765)	(6,055,126)	(6,330,948)	(6,556,201)	(6,789,312)
Rents - Non Dwellings	(79,951)	(79,600)	(84,280)	(88,414)	(91,887)	(95,498)
Charges for Services and Facilities	(249,953)	(254,221)	(267,647)	(279,230)	(288,635)	(298,375)
Gross Income	(5,681,826)	(6,070,585)	(6,407,053)	(6,698,592)	(6,936,723)	(7,183,185)
Interest payable	751,320	785,760	811,464	822,079	831,788	840,793
Interest Receivable	(36,000)	(50,000)	(50,000)	(50,000)	(50,000)	(50,000)
Revenue Contribution to Capital Transfers to/(from) Reserves						
Total Capital Charges and Appropriations	715,320	735,760	761,464	772,079	781,788	790,793
(Surplus)/Deficit for the Year	346,944	(101,067)	(172,784)	(250,329)	(323,469)	(401,746)
Opening Balance on HRA Reserve	(1,418,379)	(1,071,435)	(1,172,501)	(1,345,285)	(1,595,614)	(1,919,083)
NET (SURPLUS)/DEFICIT Above	346,944	(101,067)	(172,784)	(250,329)	(323,469)	(401,746)
Closing Balance on HRA Reserve	(1,071,435)	(1,172,501)	(1,345,285)	(1,595,614)	(1,919,083)	(2,320,829)

Assumptions	
Rate of Inflation (CPI) (year 2)	5.0%
Rate of Inflation (CPI) (year 3)	4.0%
Rate of Inflation (CPI) (year 4 onwards)	3.0%
Wage Inflation (year 2)	4.0%
Wage Inflation (year 3)	3.0%
Wage Inflation (year 4 onwards)	2.0%
Interest Rate for Borrowing	5.0%
Rent Increase (year 2)	6.0%
Rent Increase (year 3)	5.0%
Rent Increase (Year 4 onwards)	4.0%
Void Allowance	2.0%
Council House Sales (Annual)	7
New Properties introduced (Annual)	2
%age of Rent held in HRA Main Reserve	10.0%
Efficiency Saving on Repairs and Maintenance	0.5%



Full Council	Thursday, 22 February 2024	Matter for Information and Decision
---------------------	---------------------------------------	--

Report Title: **Treasury Management Policy and Strategies
and Prudential Indicators (2024/25)**

Report Author(s): **Simon Ball (Senior Finance Business Partner)**

Purpose of Report:	<p>This report contains the Capital Strategy and Prudential Indicators which ensure that the capital expenditure plans of local authorities are affordable, prudent, and sustainable.</p> <p>It also contains the Treasury Management Policy, Strategy and Plan including Treasury Management Indicators detailing the expected treasury management operations and impact on the prudential indicators for the forthcoming financial year.</p> <p>It fulfils the key requirements of the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Government Act 2003 • The CIPFA Prudential Code for Finance in Local Authorities • The CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management in Public Services • DLUHC Statutory Guidance on Local Government Investments • DLUHC Statutory Guidance on the Minimum Revenue Provision.
Report Summary:	<p>The report contains the Council's:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital Strategy including the Prudential Indicators, • Treasury Management Policy • Treasury Management Strategy and Plan including Treasury Management Indicators • Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement • Investment Strategy for 2024/25. • Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy for 2024/25
Recommendation(s):	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Capital Strategy 2024/25 including the Prudential Indicators (as set out in Appendix 1) be approved; 2. That the Treasury Management Policy, Treasury Strategy and Plan 2024/25 (as set out in Appendices 2 & 3) be approved; 3. That the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement 2024/25 (as set out in Appendix 4) be approved; 4. That the Investment Strategy 2024/25 (as set out in Appendix 5) be approved; 5. That the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy (as set out in Appendix 6) be approved.
Senior Leadership, Head of Service, Manager, Officer and Other Contact(s):	<p>Sal Khan (Interim Strategic Director) (0116) 257 2690 sal.khan@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</p> <p>Bev Bull (Head of Finance /Section 151 Officer) (0116) 257 2649</p>

	bev.bull@oadby-wigston.gov.uk Simon Ball (Senior Finance Business Partner) (0116) 257 2624 simon.ball@oadby-wigston.gov.uk
Strategic Objectives:	Our Council (SO1)
Vision and Values:	"A Stronger Borough Together" (Vision) Resourceful & Resilient (V4)
Report Implications: -	
Legal:	There are no implications directly arising from this report.
Financial:	The implications are as set out in this report.
Corporate Risk Management:	Decreasing Financial Resources / Increasing Financial Pressures (CR1) Reputation Damage (CR4) Regulatory Governance (CR6)
Equalities and Equalities Assessment (EA):	There are no implications directly arising from this report. EA not applicable.
Human Rights:	There are no implications directly arising from this report.
Health and Safety:	There are no implications directly arising from this report.
Statutory Officers' Comments: -	
Head of Paid Service:	The report is satisfactory.
Chief Finance Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Monitoring Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Consultees:	None
Background Papers:	None
Appendices:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Capital Strategy 2023/24 which includes the Prudential Indicators for 2024/25 – 2028/29 2. Treasury Management Policy 2024/25 3. Treasury Management Strategy 2024/25 which includes the Treasury Management Indicators for 2024/25 - 2028/29 4. Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement 2024/25 5. Investment Strategy 2024/25 6. Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy 2024/25

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Local Government Act 2003 and supporting regulations require the Council to 'have regard to' the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Prudential Code and the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice and to prepare, set and publish a Capital Strategy including prudential indicators, and a Treasury Management Policy, Treasury Strategy and Plan including treasury

indicators that ensure the Council's capital expenditure plans are affordable, prudent and sustainable in the long- term.

- 1.2 The prudential indicators consider the affordability and impact of capital expenditure plans and set out the Council's overall capital framework. The prudential indicators summarise expected treasury activity, introduce limits upon that activity and reflect the underlying capital programme. As a consequence, a Treasury Management Strategy is prepared which considers the effective funding of the capital expenditure decisions and complements the prudential indicators.
- 1.3 The Council is required to operate a balanced budget, meaning that cash raised during the year will meet cash expenditure. As part of this, the treasury management operation is to ensure that this cash flow is adequately planned, with cash being available when it is needed. Surplus moneys are invested in low risk counterparties commensurate with the Council's low risk appetite, providing adequate liquidity initially before considering investment return. The Council is required to calculate its budget requirement for each financial year to include the revenue costs that flow from capital financing decisions. This, therefore, means that increases in capital expenditure must be limited to a level whereby charges to revenue remain affordable within the projected income of the Council for the foreseeable future. These increases in charges may arise from increases in interest charges and debt repayment caused by increased borrowing to finance additional capital expenditure and any increases in operational running costs from new capital projects.
- 1.4 Treasury Management is, therefore, an important part of the overall financial management of the Council's affairs. Treasury Management is defined as: "The management of the local authority's investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risk associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks."
- 1.5 Specific treasury indicators are prepared and included in the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy which also requires Member approval.
- 1.6 The Annual Investment Strategy for Treasury Management investments, sets the limits for the maximum amounts to be invested and the types of investments the Council may consider.
- 1.7 The Minimum Revenue Provision statement states how the Council will charge revenue for capital expenditure, which is financed by borrowing or credit arrangements. Local Authorities are required each year to set aside some of their revenues as provision for this debt. This was revised in November 2023.
- 1.8 The Council's capital and treasury activities are strictly regulated by statutory requirements and guidance, including the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Government, CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice, Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) Investment Guidance and DLUHC Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Guidance.
- 1.9 Full Council is required to approve the Capital Strategy and Treasury Management Policy statement for the forthcoming year at or before the start of the year.
- 1.10 Annual reporting to the Policy Finance and Development Committee (PFD) is required annually to on the activities of the treasury management operation and on the exercise of the Section 151 Officer's delegated treasury management powers.

2. Capital Strategy, Treasury Strategies and Prudential Indicators 2024/25

2.1 The following strategies are attached as appendices for PFDC to recommend to Council on the 22nd February for approval:

- Appendix 1 – Capital Strategy 2024/25 which includes the Prudential Indicators for 2024/25 – 2028/29;
- Appendix 2 – Treasury Management Policy 2024/25
- Appendix 3 - Treasury Management Strategy 2024/25 which includes the Treasury Management Indicators 2024/25 - 2028/29
- Appendix 4 – Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement 2024/25
- Appendix 5 – Investment Strategy 2024/25
- Appendix 6 – Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy 2024/25

2.2. The values within these strategies align with the revenue and capital budgets. Changes in capital and treasury indicators will be reported to PFD on a quarterly basis. All changes to the budgets that impact on the strategies will be agreed with the Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Chair of Policy, Finance and Development Committee.

Capital Strategy Report 2024/25

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council

Introduction

This Capital Strategy report gives a high-level overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activity contribute to the provision of local public services along with an overview of how associated risk is managed and the implications for future financial sustainability. It has been written in an accessible style to enhance Members' understanding of these sometimes-technical areas.

Decisions made this year on capital and treasury management will have financial consequences for the Authority for many years into the future. They are therefore subject to both a national regulatory framework and to a local policy framework, summarised in this report.

Capital Expenditure and Financing

Capital expenditure is where the Authority spends money on assets, such as property or vehicles that will be used for more than one year. In local government this includes spending on assets owned by other bodies, and loans and grants to other bodies enabling them to buy assets. The Authority has some limited discretion on what counts as capital expenditure, for example assets costing below £3k are not capitalised and are charged to revenue in year.

- For details of the Authority's policy on capitalisation, see the accounting policies section of the Statement of Accounts:

In 2024/25, the Authority is planning capital expenditure of £6.679m as summarised below:

Table 1: Prudential Indicator: Estimates of Capital Expenditure in £ millions

	2023/24 Forecast £000s	2024/25 Forecast £000s	2025/26 Forecast £000s	2026/27 Forecast £000s	2027/28 Forecast £000s	2028/29 Forecast £000s
General Fund	2.586	1.412	0.493	0.493	0.418	0.418
HRA	1.786	5.267	1.500	1.500	1.500	1.500
Capital Investments	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Total	4.372	6.679	1.993	1.993	1.918	1.918

The main General Fund capital projects include Invest to Save projects (£300k), Vehicle Replacements (£450k) and Play Area Improvement (£495k); The Authority does not plan to incur capital expenditure on investments during 2024/25.

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is a ring-fenced account which ensures that council housing does not subsidise, or is itself subsidised, by other local services. HRA capital expenditure is therefore recorded separately and includes the building of new housing schemes (£2.178m), Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (£1.53m) and other capital works per the HRA Business Plan (£1.58m).

Capital investments include loans and shares made for service purposes and property held primarily for financial return in line with the definition in the *CIPFA Treasury Management Code*.

Governance: Service managers bid annually to include projects in the Authority’s capital programme. Bids are collated by Finance who calculate the financing cost (which can be nil if the project is fully externally financed). The Policy, Finance and Development Committee appraises all bids based on a comparison of service priorities against financing costs and makes recommendations to Full Council. The final capital programme will be presented to Full Council in February at the same meeting as this strategy.

- For full details of the Authority’s capital programme, see:

All capital expenditure must be financed, either from external sources (government grants and other contributions), the Authority’s own resources (revenue, reserves and capital receipts) or debt (borrowing, leasing and Private Finance Initiative). The planned financing of the above expenditure is as follows:

Table 2: Capital financing in £ millions

	2023/24 Forecast £000s	2024/25 Forecast £000s	2025/26 Forecast £000s	2026/27 Forecast £000s	2027/28 Forecast £000s	2028/29 Forecast £000s
External sources	0.107	1.010	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Capital resources	0.398	1.789	0.493	0.493	0.418	0.418
Revenue resources	1.688	2.608	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Debt	2.179	1.272	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
TOTAL	4.372	6.679	1.993	1.993	1.918	1.918

Debt is only a temporary source of finance, since loans and leases must be repaid, and this is therefore replaced over time by other financing, usually from revenue which is known as Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP). Alternatively, proceeds from selling capital assets (known as capital receipts) may be used to replace debt finance. Planned Minimum Revenue Provision payments (MRP) are as follows:

Table 3: Replacement of prior years' debt finance in £ millions

	2023/24 Forecast	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Forecast	2027/28 Forecast	2028/29 Forecast
Capital resources	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Revenue resources	0.224	0.298	0.308	0.317	0.327	0.338
TOTAL	0.224	0.298	0.308	0.317	0.327	0.338

- The Authority's full minimum revenue provision is available included as Appendix 4 to of this suite of reports.

The Authority's cumulative outstanding amount of debt finance is measured by the capital financing requirement (CFR). This increases with new debt-financed capital expenditure and reduces with MRP and capital receipts used to replace debt. The General Fund CFR is expected to decrease by £0.298 during 2024/25, due to the capital program being funded entirely from capital receipts accruing from the sale of Bushloe House. Based on the above figures for expenditure and financing, the Authority's estimated CFR is as follows:

Table 4: Prudential Indicator: Estimates of Capital Financing Requirement in £ millions

	2023/24 Forecast £000s	2024/25 Forecast £000s	2025/26 Forecast £000s	2026/27 Forecast £000s	2027/28 Forecast £000s	2028/29 Forecast £000s
General Fund services	22.543	22.241	21.931	21.610	21.278	20.936
Council housing (HRA)	19.732	21.005	21.005	21.005	21.005	21.005
Capital investments	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
TOTAL CFR	42.275	43.246	42.936	42.615	42.283	41.941

Asset disposals: When a capital asset is no longer needed, it may be sold so that the proceeds, known as capital receipts, can be spent on new assets or to repay debt. Repayments of capital grants, loans and investments also generate capital receipts. The

Authority plans to receive circa £3.4 m of capital receipts in the coming financial year as follows:

Table 5: Capital receipts receivable in £ millions

	2023/24 Forecast £000s	2024/25 Forecast £000s	2025/26 Forecast £000s	2026/27 Forecast £000s	2027/28 Forecast £000s	2028/29 Forecast £000s
Asset sales	0.400	3.400	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400
Loans etc. repaid	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
TOTAL	0.400	3.400	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400

- The Authority's Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Policy is available as part of the Full Council reporting pack in February 2024.

Treasury Management

Treasury management is concerned with keeping sufficient but not excessive cash available to meet the Authority's spending needs, while managing the risks involved. Surplus cash is invested until required, while a shortage of cash will be met by borrowing, to avoid excessive credit balances or overdrafts in the bank current account. The Authority is typically cash rich in the short-term as revenue income is received before it is spent, but cash poor in the long-term as capital expenditure is incurred before being financed. The revenue cash surpluses are offset against capital cash shortfalls to reduce overall borrowing.

Due to decisions taken in the past, the Authority currently has £31.981m borrowing at an average interest rate of 3.47%.

Borrowing strategy: The Authority's main objective when borrowing is to achieve a low but certain cost of finance while retaining flexibility should plans change in future. These objectives are often conflicting, and the Authority therefore seeks to strike a balance between cheaper short-term loans long-term fixed rate loans where the future cost is known but higher.

Projected levels of the Authority's total outstanding debt (which comprises borrowing, PFI liabilities, leases and transferred debt) are shown below, compared with the capital financing requirement (see above).

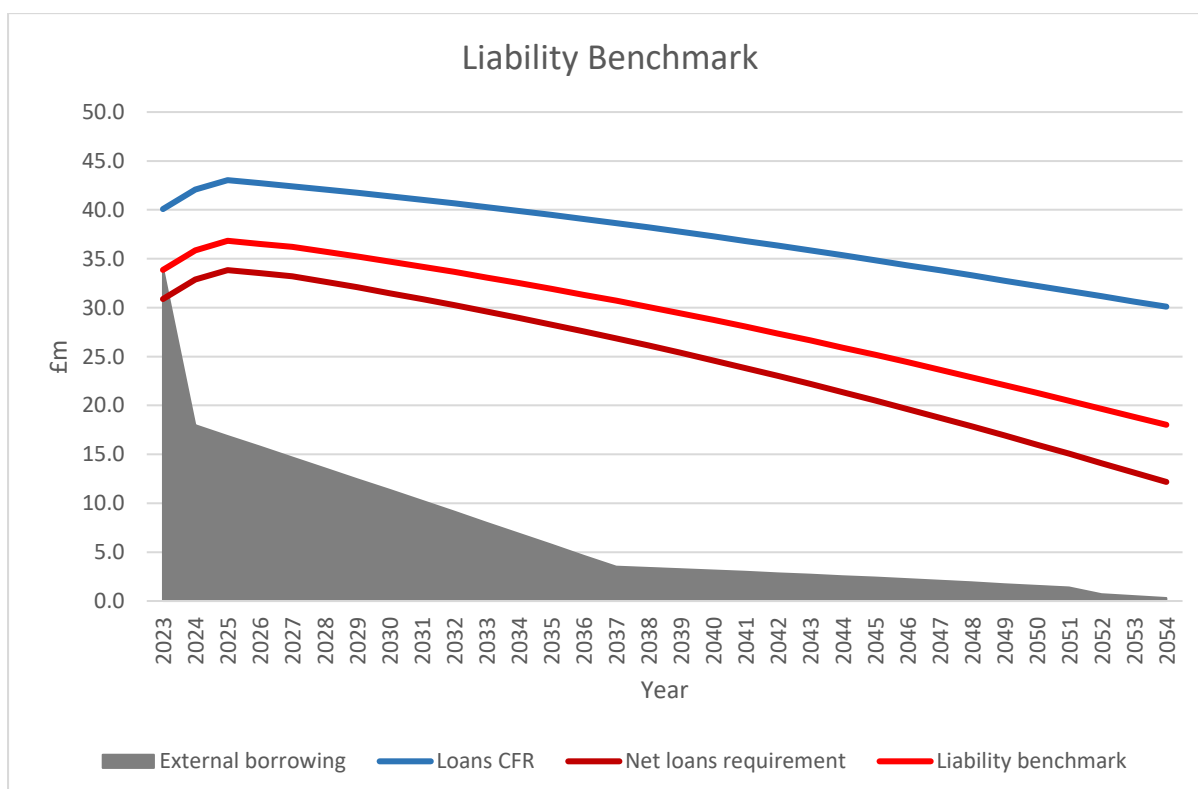
Table 6: Prudential Indicator: Gross Debt and the Capital Financing Requirement in £ millions

	2023/24 Forecast £000s	2024/25 Forecast £000s	2025/26 Forecast £000s	2026/27 Forecast £000s	2027/28 Forecast £000s	2028/29 Forecast £000s
GF and HRA Debt	36.474	35.877	36.278	36.676	37.072	37.465
Capital Financing Requirement	42.275	43.246	42.936	42.615	42.283	41.941

Statutory guidance is that debt should remain below the capital financing requirement, except in the short-term. As can be seen from table 6, the Authority expects to comply with this in both the short and medium term.

Liability benchmark: To compare the Council’s actual borrowing against an alternative strategy, a liability benchmark has been calculated showing the lowest risk level of borrowing. This assumes the same forecasts as table 6 above.

The liability benchmark is an important tool to help establish whether the Council is likely to be a long-term borrower or long-term investor in the future, and so shape its strategic focus and decision making. The liability benchmark itself represents an estimate of the cumulative amount of external borrowing the Council must hold to fund its current capital and revenue plans while keeping treasury investments at the minimum level required to manage day-to-day cash flow.



Affordable borrowing limit: The Authority is legally obliged to set an affordable borrowing limit (also termed the authorised limit for external debt) each year. In line with statutory guidance, a lower “operational boundary” is also set as a warning level should debt approach the limit.

Table 8: Prudential Indicators: Authorised limit and operational boundary for external debt in £m

	2023/24 Forecast £m	2024/25 Forecast £m	2025/26 Forecast £m	2026/27 Forecast £m	2027/28 Forecast £m	2028/29 Forecast £m
Authorised limit – borrowing	46.0	46.0	46.0	47.0	47.0	47.0
Operational boundary – borrowing	41.0	41.0	41.0	42.0	42.0	42.0

-
- Further details on borrowing are in the Council’s Treasury Management Strategy

Treasury investment strategy: Treasury investments arise from receiving cash before it is paid out again. Investments made for service reasons or for pure financial gain are not generally considered to be part of treasury management.

The Authority’s policy on treasury investments is to prioritise security and liquidity over yield that is to focus on minimising risk rather than maximising returns. Cash that is likely to be spent in the near term is invested securely, for example with the government, other local authorities or selected high-quality banks, to minimise the risk of loss. Money that will be held for longer terms is invested more widely, including in bonds, shares and property, to balance the risk of loss against the risk of receiving returns below inflation. Both near-term and longer-term investments may be held in pooled funds, where an external fund manager makes decisions on which particular investments to buy, and the Authority may request its money back at short notice.

Table 9: Treasury management investments in £millions

	2023/24 Forecast £000s	2024/25 Forecast £000s	2025/26 Forecast £000s	2026/27 Forecast £000s	2027/28 Forecast £000s	2028/29 Forecast £000s
Near-term investments	0.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
Longer-term investments	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
TOTAL	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000

Risk management: The effective management and control of risk are prime objectives of the Authority's treasury management activities. The treasury management strategy therefore sets out various indicators and limits to constrain the risk of unexpected losses and details the extent to which financial derivatives may be used to manage treasury risks.

- The treasury management prudential indicators are detailed in the Treasury Management Strategy

Governance: Decisions on treasury management investment and borrowing are made daily and are therefore delegated to the Section 151 Officer and staff, who must act in line with the treasury management strategy approved by Full Council. Half-yearly reports on treasury management activity are presented to Policy, Finance and Development Committee who scrutinise the treasury management decisions.

Commercial Activities

The Authority has very limited commercial activity which relates to three small shops which form part of an apartment block which is owned by the Council. The rental is c£17k per annum and is therefore not material and as such present little risk.

Governance: Decisions on commercial investments are made by the Section 151 Officer alongside the Senior Leadership Team. Any plans would then require approval by Full Council. Property and most other commercial investments are also capital expenditure and purchases will therefore also be approved as part of the capital programme.

Liabilities

In addition to debt of circa £36m (2024/25) detailed above, the Authority is committed to making future payments to cover its pension fund deficit (valued at £5m). It has also set aside £157k to cover OWBC share of risks arising from Business Rates appeals.

Governance: Decisions on incurring new discretionary liabilities are taken in consultation with the Section 151 Officer. The risk of liabilities crystallising and requiring payment is monitored by Finance and reported to Committee.

- Further details on liabilities and guarantees are shown each year in the Statement of Accounts.

Revenue Budget Implications

Although capital expenditure is not charged directly to the revenue budget, interest payable on loans and MRP are charged to revenue, offset by any investment income receivable. The net annual charge is known as financing costs; this is compared to the net revenue stream i.e. the amount funded from Council Tax, business rates and general government grants.

Table 10: Prudential Indicator: Proportion of financing costs to net revenue stream.

	2023/24 Forecast £000s	2024/25 Forecast £000s	2025/26 Forecast £000s	2026/27 Forecast £000s	2027/28 Forecast £000s	2028/29 Forecast £000s
Financing costs (£m) General Fund	0.598	0.949	0.791	0.818	0.846	0.874
Financing costs (£m) HRA	0.716	0.745	0.790	0.801	0.811	0.820
Proportion of net revenue stream GF	8.7	14.2	11.5	11.6	11.7	11.8
Proportion of net revenue stream HRA	12.9	13.1	13.6	13.4	13.3	13.1

Incremental Impact of Capital Investment Decisions on the Band D Council Tax

The estimates of the incremental impact of capital investment decisions on the Council Tax indicator identifies the trend in the cost of proposed changes in the three-year capital programme recommended in the budget report compared to the Council's existing commitments and current plans. The figures are based on the assumptions included in the budget.

	2023/24 Estimate £	2024/25 Estimate £	2025/26 Estimate £	2026/27 Estimate £	2027/28 Estimate £	2028/29 Estimate £
2023/24 Programme	6.60	6.60	6.60	6.60	6.60	6.60
2024/25 Programme	0.00	(4.55)	(4.55)	(4.55)	(4.55)	(4.55)
2025/26 Programme	0.00	0.00	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88
2026/27 Programme	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.86	0.86	0.86
2027/28 Programme	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.84	0.84
2028/29 Programme	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.83
Total	6.60	2.05	2.93	3.79	4.63	5.46

Incremental Impact of Capital Investment Decisions on Housing Rent Levels

The estimates of the incremental impact of capital investment decisions on housing rent levels are similar to the Council Tax calculation. This indicator identifies the trend in the cost of proposed changes in the housing capital programme recommended in the budget report compared to the Council's existing commitments and current plans, expressed as a change in weekly rent levels.

	2023/24 Estimate £	2024/25 Estimate £	2025/26 Estimate £	2026/27 Estimate £	2027/28 Estimate £	2028/29 Estimate £
2023/24 Programme	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2024/25 Programme	0.00	1.23	1.23	1.23	1.23	1.23
2025/26 Programme	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2026/27 Programme	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2027/28 Programme	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2028/29 Programme	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	0.00	1.23	1.23	1.23	1.23	1.23

Sustainability: Due to the very long-term nature of capital expenditure and financing, the revenue budget implications of expenditure incurred in the next few years will extend for up to 50 years into the future. The Section 151 Officer is satisfied that the proposed capital programme is prudent, affordable and sustainable following scrutiny of the available funding: the medium-term financial strategy and the due diligence of each project.

Knowledge and Skills

The Authority employs professionally qualified and experienced staff in senior positions with responsibility for making capital expenditure, borrowing and investment decisions. For example, the Section 151 Officer is a qualified accountant with substantial experience. The Authority pays for junior staff to study towards relevant professional qualifications including CIPFA, ACT (treasury) and AAT.

Where Authority staff do not have the knowledge and skills required, use is made of external advisers and consultants that are specialists in their field. The Authority currently employs Arlingclose Limited as treasury management advisers. This approach is more cost effective than employing such staff directly and ensures that the Authority has access to knowledge and skills commensurate with its risk appetite.



Oadby & Wigston
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Treasury Management Policy

Revised	19/01/2023
Next Revision By	31/01/2024
Head Of Finance Approval	



OADBY & WIGSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY

Introduction

The CIPFA code of practice Treasury Management in the Public Services was produced to assist all forms of public bodies with their treasury management strategies. In the publication of this policy the Council formally adopts the CIPFA code of practice as part of its standing orders and financial regulations.

Three Key Elements to the Policy

1. The Definition of The Treasury Activities of The Council

Oadby & Wigston Borough Council defines its treasury management activities as “The management of the organisation’s borrowing, investments and cash flows, including its banking, money market and capital market transaction; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks”.

2. The role of Risk Management in the Treasury Policy

Oadby & Wigston Borough Council regards the successful identification, monitoring and control of risk to be the prime criteria by which the effectiveness of its treasury management activities will be measured. Accordingly, the analysis and reporting of treasury management activities will focus on their risk implications for the Council.

3. Achievement of Business and Service Objectives

Oadby & Wigston Borough Council acknowledges that effective treasury management will provide support towards the achievement of its business and service objectives. It is therefore committed to the principles of achieving value for money in treasury management, and to employing suitable, comprehensive performance measurement techniques, with the context of effective risk management.

Treasury Management Practices (TMP)

TMP1 Risk Management

The Section 151 Officer will design, implement and monitor all arrangements for the identification, management and control of treasury management risk, and will report annually on their adequacy and suitability. They must also report, as a matter of urgency, the circumstances of any actual or likely difficulty in achieving the organisation’s objectives in relation to a failure in the policy.

In respect of each of the following risks, the arrangements, which seek to ensure compliance with the stated objectives, are set out in the schedule to this document.

1. Liquidity Risk

Oadby & Wigston Borough Council will ensure it has adequate though not excessive cash resources, borrowing arrangements, overdraft or standby facilities to enable it at all times to have the level of funds available to it which are necessary for the achievement of its operation.

The Council will not borrow earlier than required to meet cash flow needs unless there is a clear business case for doing so and will only do so for the current capital programme, to fund future debt maturities, or to ensure an adequate level of short-term investments to provide liquidity for the organisation

2. Interest Rate and Inflation Risk

The Section 151 Officer, on behalf of the Council, will manage its exposure to fluctuations in interest rates and inflation with a view to containing its net interest costs or revenues in accordance with its treasury management policy and strategy. It will achieve these objectives by the prudent use of its approved financing and investment instruments, methods and techniques, primarily to create stability and certainty of income but at the same time retaining a sufficient degree of flexibility to take advantage of unexpected, potentially advantageous changes in the level or structure of interest rates. The above is subject at all times to the considerations and if required, approval of any policy or budgetary implications.

3. Credit and Counterparty Risk

Oadby & Wigston Borough Council regards a prime objective of its treasury management activities to be the security of the principal sums invested. Accordingly, we will ensure that its counterparty list and limits reflect a prudent attitude towards organisations with whom funds may be deposited, and will limit its investment activities to the instruments, methods and techniques referred to in TMP4, and listed in the schedule to this document.

4. Refinancing Risk

Oadby & Wigston Borough Council will ensure that its borrowing, private financing and partnership arrangements are negotiated, structured and documented, and the maturity profile of the monies raised are managed, with a view to obtaining offer terms for renewal or refinancing if required. All arrangements should be competitive and as favourable to the Council as can reasonably be achieved in the light of market conditions prevailing at the time of transaction.

5. Legal and Regulatory Risk

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council will ensure that all of its treasury management activities comply with its statutory powers and regulatory requirements. It will demonstrate such compliance, if required to do so, to all parties with whom it deals in

such activities. It will ensure that there is evidence of counterparties' powers, authority and compliance in respect of transactions they may affect with the Council, particularly with regard to duty of care and fees charged.

6. Operational Risk, Including Fraud, Error and Corruption

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council will ensure that it has identified the circumstances, which may expose it to the risk of loss through fraud, error, corruption or other eventualities in its treasury management dealings. Accordingly, it will employ suitable systems and procedures, and will maintain effective contingency management arrangements, to enable risk to be minimised.

7. Market Risk

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council will seek to ensure that its stated treasury management policies and objectives will not be compromised by adverse market fluctuations in the value of the principal sums it invests and will accordingly seek to protect itself from the effects of such **fluctuations**.

8. Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG)

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council has always followed a Security, Liquidity and Yield (SLY) policy for its treasury management investments with security being the most important as the Council needs to be as certain as possible when an investment is made that the amount invested is returned when due. Liquidity is important because the Council needs cash to deliver its day-to-day activities therefore treasury officers have to determine how much should be invested in call accounts where daily access is available and how much is invested in term accounts where the money is only available on maturity. Finally yield, which is the least important of the three, will only be considered after the security and liquidity requirements have been satisfied.

For example, if the Council had an opportunity to invest a sum of money and there were two investment opportunities and each of these both met the security and liquidity criteria then in this scenario the investment that pays the greatest yield will be chosen. The Council will consider an organisation's ESG credentials when it has to choose between counterparties that both have similar SLY criteria.

TMP 2 Best Value and Performance Measurement

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council is committed to the pursuit of best value in its treasury management activities. Accordingly, the treasury management activities will be the subject of ongoing analysis of the value it adds in support of the organisations stated objectives and include measures of effective treasury risk management and not only measures of financial performance (income or savings).

TMP 3 Decision-making and Analysis

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council will maintain full records of its treasury management decisions, and of the processes and practices applied in reaching those decisions. Both for the purpose of learning from the past, and for demonstrating that reasonable steps were taken to ensure that all issues relevant to those decisions were considered at the time. The

issues, processes and practices taken account of when reaching decision are detailed in the schedule.

TMP 4 Approved Instruments, Methods and Techniques

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council will undertake its treasury management activities by employing only those instruments, methods and techniques detailed in the schedule, and within the limits and parameters defined in TMP1.

TMP 5 Organisation, Clarity and Segregation of Responsibilities and Dealing Arrangements

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council considers it essential, for the purpose of the effective control and monitoring of its treasury management activities, for the reduction of the risk or fraud or error, and for the pursuit of optimum performance; that these activities are structured and managed in a fully integrated manner, and that there is at all times clarity of treasury management responsibilities.

That there is a clear distinction between the Section 151 Officer charged with setting treasury management policies and those officers charged with carrying out those policies.

If and when the organisation intends, as a result of lack of resources or other circumstances, to depart from these principles, the Section 151 Officer will ensure that the reasons are properly reported in accordance with TMP6.

TMP 6 Reporting Requirements and Management Information Arrangements

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council will ensure that quarterly reports are prepared and considered on the implementation of its treasury management policies; on the effects of decisions taken and transactions executed in pursuit of those policies; on the implications of changes resulting from regulatory, economic, market or other factors.

Council will receive:

- Annual Treasury and Investment Strategies and Plan Report for the coming year, including the CIPFA Liability Benchmark
- Quarterly Treasury Management Performance Report to include any non-compliance with the Council's Treasury Management Policy and TMPs, reflecting the Council's quarterly forecast revenue and capital outturns.

TMP 7 Budgeting, Accounting and Audit Arrangements

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council will account for its treasury management activities in accordance with appropriate accounting practices and standards, and with statutory and regulatory requirements in force.

The Council will ensure that the costs involved in running the treasury management function will pertain to best value.

The Council will ensure its auditors, and those charged with regulatory review have access to all information and papers supporting the activities of the treasury management function as are necessary to fulfil their roles.

TMP 8 Cash and Cash Flow Management

All monies in the hands of Oadby and Wigston Borough Council will be under the control of the Section 151 Officer and will be aggregated for cash flow and investment management purposes. Cash flow projections will be prepared on a regular and timely basis, using a Liability Benchmark where appropriate, and the Section 151 Officer will ensure that these are adequate for the purposes of monitoring compliance with TMP1 – Liquidity Risk.

TMP 9 Money Laundering

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council is alert to the possibility that it may become the subject of an attempt to involve it in a transaction involving the laundering of money. Accordingly, we maintain procedures for verifying and recording the identity of counterparties and reporting suspicions.

TMP 10 Staff Training and Qualifications

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council recognises the importance of ensuring that all staff involved in the treasury management function are fully equipped to undertake the duties and responsibilities allocated to them. We will therefore seek to ensure that individuals are provided with training as required and/or identified by the Oadby and Wigston Borough Council Employee Appraisal and Development process.

TMP 11 Use of External Service Providers

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council recognises the potential value of employing external providers of treasury management services, in order to acquire access to specialist skills and resources. In doing so we will ensure that the cost and benefits are considered. We will also ensure, where feasible and necessary, that a spread of service providers is used, to avoid over-reliance on one company. Where services are subject to formal tendering standing orders will be applied.

TMP 12 Corporate Governance

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council is committed to the pursuit of proper corporate governance throughout the authority, and to establishing the principles and practices by which this can be achieved. Accordingly, the treasury management function will be undertaken with openness, transparency, honesty, integrity and accountability.

We have adopted and implemented the key recommendations of the Code, and this together with the other arrangements detailed in the schedule are considered vital to the achievement of proper corporate governance in treasury management. The Section 151 Officer will monitor and if and when necessary, report upon the effectiveness of these arrangements.

TREASURY MANAGEMENT PRACTICES - SCHEDULES

This section contains the schedules which set out the details of how the Treasury Management Practices (TMPs) are put into effect by this organisation.

TMP 1 Risk Management

TMP 2 Best Value and Performance Measurement

TMP 3 Decision-making and Analysis

TMP 4 Approved Instruments, Methods and Techniques

TMP 5 Organisation, Clarity and Segregation of Responsibilities, and Dealing Arrangements

TMP 6 Reporting Requirements and Management Information Arrangements

TMP 7 Budgeting, Accounting and Audit Arrangements

TMP 8 Cash and Cash Flow Management

TMP 9 Money Laundering

TMP 10 Staff Training and Qualifications

TMP 12 Corporate Governance

TMP 1 RISK MANAGEMENT

1. Liquidity

It will be the function of the Section 151 Officer to calculate from cash flow forecasts the extent of any surplus cash available for investment. There will be no requirement of the Council to maintain a surplus cash balance in the bank account although such surpluses may occur from time to time. The intention should always be to maintain a nil cleared balance as far as possible.

In the event of the Council having to borrow for short-term cash flow reasons this will be carried out through the money markets, or from the Council's bank if more economic.

2. Interest Rate and Inflation

The rate of interest on new investments will be made taking into account the market conditions and obtaining rates from a number of institutions on the Council's counterparty list.

Surplus cash may be invested with those institutions shown on the Council's counterparty list for a maximum maturity of 364 days.

The level of investments placed with any one institution are approved annually within the Treasury Strategy and Plan Report by Council. This limit may be adjusted by Council during the year if it is found to be prejudicial to the interest rates the Authority can earn on its investments.

The Authority determines annually, within its Treasury Strategy and Plan, the level of total external debt, temporary external borrowing, and variable against fixed interest rate exposure.

3. Credit and Counterparty Policies

The Section 151 Officer will be responsible for preparing for the Council a list of institutions in whom the Council's funds may be invested. This list will be supported by details of the criteria employed to assess the various credit standings of counterparties. As a general principle these institutions will have at least F1, F1+ Fitch short term rating or PI Moody's short-term rating although, subject to the supporting report of the Section 151 Officer, other non-rated institutions may be included.

The Council will seek to ensure that the maximum amount of market, media and local intelligence is gathered and communicated to the responsible treasury staff to assist them in constantly reviewing sectors and individual institutions on the approved list. The Section 151 Officer may add, delete or amend institutions on the approved list during the year. In any event, the list of counterparties will be reviewed annually by Council.

The Council's current policy is not to appoint external fund managers. Under the present circumstances, the Authority does not have sufficient surplus funds to give either enough scope or sufficient diversity of portfolio to justify such consultancy fees.

4. Refinancing

The maturity pattern of all outstanding debt must be reviewed before any new long-term loan is taken and before debt is rescheduled.

Variable and fixed rate funds should be kept under review with the potential of securing discounts.

5. Legal and Regulatory Work

Treasury management activities will be carried out in accordance with rules governing the investment of local authorities' funds as set out in the Local Authorities (Capital Finance) (Approved Investments) Regulations 1990, and the Local Authorities (Capital Finance) Regulations 1997, as amended.

In addition, activities will be conducted in accordance with the Council's approved Treasury Management Strategy and Plan, and Treasury Management Policy Statement. This includes the adoption of CIPFA's Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services and CIPFA's Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities.

Evidence of officers delegated powers, to borrow and invest, will be provided on request to counterparties as set out in the constitution.

All the banks included in the Council's lending list are authorised under the Banking Act 1987, to accept deposits in the UK.

6. Fraud, Error and Corruption, and Contingency Management

In order to minimise the possibility of fraud, error, and corruption the procedures for carrying out and monitoring treasury management activities are subject to audit, as well as various internal controls and reporting to the Council.

Evidence of fraud and corruption should be reported to the Section 151 Officer or Monitoring Officer, in accordance with the Council's Anti-Fraud & Corruption Policy, who will then determine the appropriate course of action.

The Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer must include arrangements for the proper and continuous fulfilment of the Treasury Management function in any disaster planning.

The Council's fidelity guarantee insurance provides cover of up to £2.5 million for all employees for losses caused by fraud.

7. Market Risk Management

The value and performance of the Council's investments is regularly monitored and is reported to Members on an annual basis.

In order to manage risk and protect public funds, the following are the only organisations with which investments will be placed.

- Other Local Authorities
- UK Clearing Banks and their subsidiaries.
- Government Institutions
- Building Societies
- Money Market Funds

- CCLA Property Funds

In addition, each clearing bank or subsidiary will be assessed for its credit standard and rating. The minimum rating that the authority will accept prior to placing a temporary loan are.

- Long Term Investments Fitch Rating A
- Short Term Investments Fitch Rating F1
- Money Market Funds are required to be rated AAA.

In addition, the Authority will invest with Building Societies with an asset base of at least six billion UK pounds as reviewed annually in the Councils Investment Strategy.

There should be a maximum amount which officers are permitted to invest with any one institution. This amount should be reviewed annually within the Treasury and Investment Strategies and Plan Report to the Council. Deposit accounts held with the Councils own bank are not subject to this limit.

The level of external debt, temporary external borrowing and exposure to variable and fixed rate interest should be set within the Treasury Strategy and Plan Report.

TMP 2 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

Banking services are renegotiated or re-tendered normally every 3-5 years to ensure competitive pricing.

The Council uses money broking services in order to make deposits or to borrow. Charges for all services are established prior to using them to ensure that the relevant terms are satisfactory in the light of market conditions.

The following brokers may be used by the Council:

- Martins Brokers
- Tradition Brokers

The quality of service provided by these brokers shall be monitored on a regular basis and reviewed annually.

In order to provide the best possible value in treasury management the Authority may employ financial consultants for specialist advice on the markets and developments in treasury management and accounting.

The following consultants may be used by the Council.

- Arlingclose Treasury Management

The performance of the Council's borrowing activities is monitored by calculating the average interest rate on external borrowing and is compared to the rate for the previous year. This is included in the annual Treasury Management Performance Report.

TMP3 DECISION MAKING AND ANALYSIS

In carrying out treasury management responsibilities the Section 151 Officer will meet on a regular basis with the Finance Team to discuss and agree the implementation of the Treasury Strategy and Plan, monitor performance and make decisions on operational treasury management issues.

Detailed records will be maintained of all borrowing and investments made by the Council. These records are reconciled on a monthly basis to the financial management system.

In respect of borrowing objectives, the Council will:

- minimise the revenue costs of debt.
- manage the debt maturity profile to ensure that there is no overexposure to re-borrowing in any one year.
- effect borrowing at the cheapest cost commensurate with future risk.
- be aware of the future interest rate forecasts and to borrow accordingly.
- monitor and review the level of variable interest rate loans in order to take advantage of interest rate movements.
- ensure that borrowings accord with statutory requirements.

In respect of investment objectives, the Council will:

- maximise the level of return commensurate with maximum protection of the Council's money.
- invest in accordance with the approved list of counterparties.
- manage the maturity profile to ensure that there is no exposure to reinvestment at any point in the year.
- ensure all investments fall within the definitions of Approved Investments

TMP4 APPROVED INSTRUMENTS, METHODS AND TECHNIQUES

1. Treasury Management Procedure Notes

Detailed procedures to be followed when carrying out cash flow monitoring and any borrowing or investment activities will be maintained and updated as requested.

2. Approved Activities of the Treasury Management Operation

- borrowing
- lending
- consideration, approval and use of new financial instruments and treasury management techniques
- managing the underlying risk associated with the Council's capital financing and surplus fund activities.
- managing cash flow
- banking activities
- leasing

3. Approved Instruments for Investments

The Council will only invest surplus funds in accordance with the investments approved under the Local Government (Capital Finance) (Approved Investments) Regulations 1990 and subsequent amendments i.e.

- Institutions authorised under the Banking Act 1987 by the Bank of England
- Building Societies
- Local Authorities
- Other public sector bodies as permitted by the above regulations.

4. Approved Methods and Sources of Raising Capital Finance

The following instruments are available and may be utilised to provide capital finance: -

	Rates of interest	
	Fixed	Variable
PWLB	✓	✓
Market Long-term	✓	✓
Market Temporary	✓	✓
Bank Overdraft		✓
Internal Funds		✓
Operating Leases	✓	✓
Finance Leases	✓	✓

No instruments, other than those listed may be used.

TMP5 ORGANISATION, CLARITY AND SEGREGATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES AND DEALING ARRANGEMENTS

In accordance with the Council's Constitution, Council is responsible for approving the annual Treasury Strategy and Plan.

1. Responsibilities of Staff Relating to Treasury Management

Section 151 Officer

- Ensure that Treasury Management activities comply with the CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services.
- Submit budgets for treasury management activities.
- Implement the Council's Treasury Strategy and Plan.
- Report to Council on the Treasury Strategy and Plan for the next financial year and Treasury Management Performance for the past financial year.
- Ensure the adequacy of internal audit and liaise with external audit.
- Approve the Council's lending list and any changes to it.
- Ensure staff involved in treasury management receive appropriate training.
- Ensure that the treasury management function is adequately resourced.

- Ensure all staff involved in dealing are aware of the principles contained in the Bank of England's London Code of Conduct for corporate dealing in the money market.
- Assess and appoint money brokers.
- Ensure that all proposed transactions are intra-vires.

Deputy Section 151 Officer

- Absence cover for the Section 151 Officer
- Prepare the annual Treasury Strategy and Plan Report and the annual Treasury Management Performance Report
- Prepare the annual budget for treasury management activities.
- Review TMPs
- Transmit priority payments.
- Advise the Section 151 Officer on treasury management matters.
- Manage the treasury management function.

Senior Finance Business Partner

- Check daily cash-flow and agree dealing.
- Ensure adherence to Council's lending list.
- Check monthly reconciliations.
- Maintain procedure notes for the treasury management function.
- Dealing and recording of deals
- Completion of Priority Payment forms
- Maintenance of documentation
- Prepare daily and long-term cash-flow projections.
- Check receipt of treasury management funds
- Prepare documentation to confirm deal which should be signed by an approved signatory.

Finance Business Partner

- Check daily cash-flow.
- Reconcile Treasury records to the financial ledger on a monthly basis.

Other Responsible Officers

Head of Paid Services

- That the system is laid down and properly resourced.
- That the Section 151 Officer complies with statutory guidelines as regards reporting to elected members on treasury policy, activity and performance.

The Monitoring Officer

- Should ensure that all policy and strategy put forward by the Section 151 Officer complies with the law.

Internal Audit Service

- Review compliance with approved policy and procedures.
- Review division of duties and operational practice.
- Review treasury function for probity.

2. Dealing and Decision-Making Limits

All treasury management activities should be carried out in accordance with the annual Treasury Strategy and Plan.

TMP 6 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND MANAGEMENT INFORMATION ARRANGEMENTS

1. Annual Treasury Strategy and Plan

The Treasury Strategy and Plan sets out the expected treasury activities for the forthcoming financial year. This strategy will be submitted to Council for approval before the start of each financial year.

The formulation of the annual Treasury Strategy and Plan involves determining the appropriate borrowing and investment decisions in the light of anticipated movement in both fixed and shorter-term variable interest rates.

The Treasury Strategy and Plan will include the following elements:

- The current treasury position.
- The expected movement in interest rates
- The Council's borrowing and debt strategy
- The Council's investment strategy
- Treasury performance indicators (see 2 below)
- Specific limits on treasury activities
- Local treasury issues

The Section 151 Officer must ensure that all proposed transactions are intra-vires, and if not must make a report under Section 114 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.

The Section 151 Officer and Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer must ensure that the stated policy is adhered to and if not must also bring the matter to the attention of the elected members as soon as possible.

In the circumstances of a Section 114 report the external auditor must be advised immediately.

2. Borrowing Limits

As required by the Local Government Act 2003 and CIPFA's Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities, Council must approve before the beginning of each financial year the following limits:

- the Authorised Limit for External Debt
- the Operational Boundary for External Debt
- the Upper Limit on Fixed Interest Rate Exposure
- the Upper Limit on Variable Interest Rate Exposure
- A Long-Term Projection of External Debt and the Capital Financing Requirement (the CIPFA Liability Benchmark)

for the forthcoming year and the following two years.

Furthermore, Council must approve before the beginning of the financial year:

- the Lower Limit for the Maturity Structure of Borrowing
- the Upper Limit for the Maturity Structure of Borrowing

for the following periods:

- under 12 months
- 12 months and within 24 months
- 24 months and within 5 years
- 5 years and within 10 years
- 10 years and above.

The Section 151 Officer is responsible for incorporating these limits into the annual Treasury Strategy and Plan and for ensuring compliance with the limits. Should it prove necessary during the year to amend these limits the Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Chief Executive may in exceptional circumstances do so, but only if it is necessary to avoid incurring a loss or cost to the Council.

Any such interim action must be reported to the Leader of the Council and Chairperson of the Policy, Finance and Development Committee and be endorsed at the next meeting of the Council.

3. Annual Treasury Management Performance Report

An annual report will be presented to Council by the end of September, to report on the performance of the Treasury Management Function for the previous year.

This report will include the following.

- Actual borrowing, investments and repayments for the year, detailing counterparty amounts and terms.
- The actual interest rate changes for the year against the original plan.
- A commentary on general performance
- A commentary on compliance with the Treasury Management Policy Statement and the Treasury Strategy and Plan.

TMP 7 BUDGETING, ACCOUNTING AND AUDIT ARRANGEMENTS

1. Accounting Practices and Standards

The Section 151 Officer will prepare a budget for Treasury Management in accordance with the appropriate accounting practices and standards and with the statutory and regulatory requirements in force.

2. List of Information Requirements of External Auditors

External auditors will have access to all papers supporting and explaining the operation and activities of the treasury management function.

TMP 8 CASH AND CASH FLOW MANAGEMENT

Cash flow projections will be prepared on a regular and timely basis in order to effectively manage cash balances and to calculate interest and investment income.

There is no necessity to maintain an aggregate surplus cash balance but where possible it is the intention to achieve a nil cleared balance.

The cash flow forecast is updated daily to take account of income and expenditure i.e. creditors and debtors and this information is provided by the National Westminster Bankline service. This will ensure for the purposes of monitoring compliance with TMP1 Liquidity Risk Management, that adequate funds are available on a regular basis.

Whenever the projected cash flow statement indicates a surplus cash balance funds are invested with institutions on the counterparty list.

The Council make creditor payments on the due date which ensures that funds remain in the account for as long as possible.

Debtor invoices are raised on a regular and timely basis and procedures are in place for reminder and recovery action to take place for unpaid invoices.

Bank statements are received on a daily basis and are reconciled to the Cash Book.

TMP 9 MONEY LAUNDERING

The Council does not accept loans from individuals. Loans are obtained from authorised institutions under the Banking Act 1987, building societies or from other public sector bodies, e.g. the Bank of England or other local authorities.

TMP 10 STAFF TRAINING AND QUALIFICATIONS

A number of different courses are run to accommodate the training requirements of staff involved in treasury management activities, as well as those involved at a strategic level. These courses will explain the complexities of dealing procedures, interest calculations, credit ratings, the regulatory framework, different types of investment instruments, etc.

Seminars are held for staff involved in managing the service, issues covered are for example:

- to provide updates on the implications of new regulations/ legislation
- codes of practice
- to obtain the latest economic forecasts for the economy and interest rates.

TMP 11 USE OF EXTERNAL SERVICE PROVIDER

External Service providers may be employed to give expert advice on borrowing and lending decisions. The Council will at all times make sure that these providers will only be employed where there is a clear value for money benefit to the organisation. The selection of these providers will be carried out under the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and their performance and value to the organisation will be monitored and measured.

The Council recognises that responsibility for treasury management decisions lies with the Council at all times.

TMP 12 CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The Council is committed to proper corporate governance, openness and transparency in its treasury management activities as demonstrated by the adoption of the Treasury Management Code of Practice.

Information about the Council's treasury management activities is accessible, and the strategy and outturn reports are public documents.

The procedures set out in the TMPs for reporting and audit (both internal and external audit) are designed to ensure the integrity and accountability of the function.

Appendix 3

TREASURY STRATEGY AND PLAN 2024/25

1.0 Introduction

In accordance with the requirements of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) latest Code of Practice on Treasury Management and the Council's Treasury Management Policy Statement, a Treasury Strategy and Plan is prepared each year.

For the purpose of this strategy, treasury management includes the management of all capital market transactions in connection with the cash and funding resources of the Council. This covers all funds and reserves including the collection fund and includes the arrangement of leases.

The strategy includes broad principles, which provide the framework within which the Council's treasury management activities are conducted together with detailed plans for the management of the Council's loans and investment portfolios. The strategy includes those indicators required by the Prudential Code that relate to treasury management.

2.0 Treasury Management Objectives

The primary objective of treasury management operations will be to maximise the revenue resources available to the Council whilst ensuring the effective management of risks associated with treasury management activities in accordance with the following principles:

- i) That the cost of borrowing is minimised commensurate with following a prudent funding policy.
- ii) That the most advantageous rates of return on investments are secured commensurate with the primary principle of maintaining the capital value of funds.
- iii) That the Council maintains flexibility in its borrowing and lending portfolios.
- iv) That the Council manages its borrowings and investments as a combined portfolio in order to achieve the optimum net debt position.

The sections below provide a summary of the principal activities anticipated during the period covered.

3.0 Balanced Budget Requirement

It is a statutory requirement under the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for the Council to produce a balanced budget. In particular, it requires a local authority to calculate its budget requirement for each financial year to include the revenue costs that flow from capital financing decisions. This, therefore, means that increases in capital expenditure must be limited to a level of increase in costs to revenue from:-

- Increases in interest charges caused by increased borrowing and,
- Any increase in running costs from new capital projects

to a level which is affordable within the projected income of the Council for the foreseeable future.

4.0 Current Treasury Position

The Council's detailed treasury position is highlighted in the following table.

		31st March 2023		Rate	31st March 2024		Rate
		Actual			Actual		
		GF	HRA	%	GF	HRA	%
		£ 000s	£ 000s		£ 000s	£ 000s	
Fixed Rate Debt	PWLB	500		4.10	500		4.10
	PWLB		14,089	3.17		13,082	3.17
	PWLB	4,480		2.66	4,392		2.66
	Market	2,000		1.95		7,000	5.50
	Market	7,000		4.10	6,000		5.50
	Market		1,000	4.10	4,000		5.50
	Market		5,000	4.20	1,500		5.50
Variable Rate Debt	PWLB	0	0		0	0	
	Market	0	0		0	0	
Total Debt		13,980	20,089		16,392	20,082	
Other Long-term Liabilities		0			0	0	
Total		13,980	20,089		16,392	20,082	
Fixed Investments			0		0	0	
Variable Investments		0	0		0	0	
Total Investments		0	0		0	0	
Net Borrowing		13,980	20,089		16,392	20,082	

5.0 Borrowing and Debt Strategy

General Fund

As at 31st March 2023, the Council's outstanding borrowing for General Fund purposes stood at a total of £16.392m. This was made up of two loans from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) totalling £4.89m, and £11.5m of short-term borrowing, as shown in the table at 4.0.

Up until the end of 2015/16, the Council was able to utilise cash balances, held in the form of short-term investments, grants and capital reserves, to help in the funding of its capital programme. Consequently, the Council was able to avoid increasing its long-term borrowing, despite carrying out ambitious schemes both in the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account.

In 2016/17 the financing of the Council's new leisure development was finalised. The Council borrowed £5m from the PWLB, taken over 39 years. The remaining £5m of the £10m project was funded by internal borrowing.

From 2016/17 to 2022/23 the Council did not borrow any further funds long term and instead continued to take advantage of the very low short term rates to keep interest payments under control. While there is scope to continue with this policy to some extent, the need to control the council's exposure to refinancing risk means that future borrowing in support of the capital programme will need to consist of a mix of short and long-term debt.

Short-term debt applicable to the General Fund is forecast to rise to £11.5m during 2023/24 due to the costs of the GF capital programme. This is forecast to drop to £9.5m, in 2024/25 due to the capital receipt from the sale of Bushloe House. In 2025/26 and subsequent years, borrowing of £0.5m a year is anticipated.

No new long-term borrowing is forecast on the general fund over the next five years.

Total external short-term borrowing relating to the General Fund for future financial years is expected to be:

2024/25	£9.5 million
2025/26	£10.0 million
2026/27	£10.5 million
2027/28	£11.0 million
2028/29	£11.5 million

In 2016/17 and 2017/18 the HRA used a total of £1.6m borrowing to fund its capital programme. This initially was supported by internal balances, however £1.5m of short-term borrowing is projected in 2024/25 in support of the HRA capital programme.

The HRA self-financing settlement involved the Council taking on £18.114 million of PWLB borrowing. Repayment of this borrowing commenced at the end of 2019/20, at the rate of £1m per annum. This repayment has been refinanced with short-term borrowing to date, however as from 2025/26, it will be necessary to refinance using new long-term borrowing, in order to maintain the proportion of short-term borrowing to gross debt below 50%.

6.0 Prudential Indicators and Limits on Activity

The purpose of these Prudential Indicators is to contain the activity of the treasury function within certain limits, thereby reducing the risk of an adverse movement in interest rates impacting negatively on the Council's overall financial position. However, if these are set to be too restrictive they will impair the opportunities to reduce costs.

6.1 Authorised Limit for External Debt

This represents the limit beyond which borrowing is prohibited and needs to be set and revised by Council. It reflects the level of borrowing which, while not desired, could be afforded in the short-term, but is not sustainable. It is the expected maximum borrowing need with some headroom for unexpected movements. This is the statutory limit determined under section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2003.

	2023/24 Estimate £ 000s	2024/25 Estimate £ 000s	2025/26 Estimate £ 000s	2026/27 Estimate £ 000s	2027/28 Estimate £ 000s	2028/29 Estimate £ 000s
Authorised limit – borrowing	46.0	46.0	46.0	47.0	47.0	47.0
Other Long Term Liabilities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	46.0	46.0	46.0	47.0	47.0	47.0

The Chief Financial Officer (Section 151 Officer) reports that the authorised limits given above are consistent with the council's current commitments, existing plans and the proposals in the capital

programme report. The limits are also consistent with the Council's approved treasury management policy statement and practices. Risk analysis of the key elements of the council's cash flow forecasts has been undertaken to determine these limits.

6.2 Operational Boundary for External Debt

This indicator is based on the probable external debt during the course of the year (allowing for peaks and troughs in cash flow and the impact of treasury management decisions). It is not a maximum and actual borrowing could vary around the boundary for short times during the year. It should act as an indicator to ensure the authorised limit is not breached.

	2023/24 Estimate £ 000s	2024/25 Estimate £ 000s	2025/26 Estimate £ 000s	2026/27 Estimate £ 000s	2027/28 Estimate £ 000s	2028/29 Estimate £ 000s
Borrowing	41.0	41.0	41.0	42.0	42.0	42.0
Other Long Term Liabilities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	41.0	41.0	41.0	42.0	42.0	42.0

6.3 Limits in Interest Rate Exposure

Upper Limits on Variable Rate Exposure – This indicator identifies a maximum limit for variable interest rates based upon net interest payments.

Upper Limits on Fixed Rate Exposure – Similar to the previous indicator this covers a maximum limit on fixed interest rates.

	2023/24 Upper %	2024/25 Upper %	2025/26 Upper %	2026/27 Upper %	2027/28 Upper %	2028/29 Upper %
Limits on Fixed Interest Rates	100	100	100	100	100	100
Limits on Variable Interest Rates	25	25	25	25	25	25

6.4 Maturity Structure of Fixed Borrowing

These gross limits are set to reduce the Council's exposure to large fixed rate sums falling due for refinancing.

	Lower %	Upper %
Under 12 months	0	50
12 months to 2 years	0	50
2 years to 5 years	0	50
5 years to 10 years	0	100
10 years and above	0	100

6.5 Total Principal Sums Invested

The purpose of this indicator is to control the Council's exposure to the risk of incurring losses by seeking early repayment of its investments. The limits on the long-term principal sum invested to final maturities beyond the period end will be:

Price Risk Indicator	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Limit on principal invested beyond year end	£10m	£10m	£10m	£10m	£10m	£10m

7.0 Local Performance Indicators

The Code of Practice on Treasury Management requires the Council to set performance indicators to assess the adequacy of the treasury function over the year. These are distinct historic indicators, as opposed to the Prudential Indicators, which are predominantly forward looking. The Council also sets local performance indicators which are as follows.

Local Indicator	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Average rate of interest on borrowing compared to the national average	Level	Level	Level	Level	Level	Level
Average rate of interest on investments compared to the national average	Level	Level	Level	Level	Level	Level

The results of these indicators will be reported as part of the Treasury Management Annual Report before 30th September each year.

Minimum Revenue Provision Statement 2024/25

Annual Minimum Revenue Provision Statement 2024/25

An underpinning principle of the local authority financial system is that all capital expenditure must be financed either from capital receipts, capital grants (or other contributions), by debt or eventually from revenue.

Where the Authority finances capital expenditure by debt, it must put aside resources to repay that debt in later years. The amount charged to the revenue budget for the capital expenditure is known as "Minimum Revenue Provision" (MRP), although there has been no statutory minimum since 2008. The Local Government Act 2003 requires the Authority to have regard to the former Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's Guidance on Minimum Revenue Provision (the MRP Guidance) most recently issued in 2018.

The broad aim of the MRP Guidance is to ensure a prudent provision is made from revenue over time to cover the total amount of capital expenditure needed to be met from revenue. A prudent provision is where the period over which MRP is charged is aligned to the period over which the capital expenditure provides benefits.

The MRP Guidance requires the Council to approve an Annual MRP Statement each year and recommends a number of options for calculating a prudent amount of MRP. However, the Guidance gives flexibility in how MRP is calculated, providing the calculation is 'prudent'. The following Statement incorporates options recommended in the Guidance.

Minimum Revenue Provision Policy

- For capital expenditure incurred before 1st April 2008, and for supported capital expenditure incurred on or after that date, MRP is calculated using the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) method.

The CFR method calculates MRP as 2% of the non-housing CFR at the end of the preceding financial year (2% of the capital expenditure funded by supported borrowing).

- For unsupported capital expenditure incurred after 31st March 2008, MRP is calculated using the Weighted Average Asset Life method.

The Weighted Average Asset Life method requires that the MRP for non-supported debt be calculated by dividing the non-supported CFR by a weighted average of the expected lifetime of the Council's assets on an annuity instalment basis. The annuity rate applied will be the PWLB rate for the weighted average assets life at the date the policy is approved. In the case of Oadby and Wigston, the weighted average asset life is currently 31 years.

This approach gives a robust basis and has been recognised as appropriate by the external auditors in a number of authorities in the past. It also allows for borrowing which is not directly linked to a particular asset. Treasury management procedures mean that the cheapest course of action to fund expenditure is to use the Council's uncommitted cash balances before borrowing externally, due to the returns on cash deposits being lower than borrowing rates. This means that we may be able to delay borrowing whilst we use our own cash, hence when we do decide to borrow this is not always directly attributable to a specific asset, it may in fact fund a number of assets or capital enhancements to existing assets.

Capital expenditure funded by prudential borrowing in year will not be subject to a MRP charge until the following year or the year after the asset becomes operational if that is beyond the following year.

HRA

No MRP will be charged in respect of assets held within the Housing Revenue Account.

This is due to:

- There is no statutory requirement to make a MRP in the HRA,
- Repayment of HRA debt began in March 2020 and
- Resources were required in the early years of the HRA business plan to fund the demands of the asset management strategy

It is planned in the short term that HRA external debt will be replaced with short term borrowing, in order to minimise the costs of servicing the debt. However, from 2025/26 onwards, it will be necessary to take on new long-term borrowing, in order maintain the proportion of short-term borrowing to gross debt below 50%.

INVESTMENTS STRATEGY 2024/25 – 2026/27

1.0 Introduction

This strategy is written in accordance with guidance issued under section 15 (1) (a) of the Local Government Act 2003, the Department of Levelling Up and Housing and Communities (DLUHC) Guidance on Local Authority Investments (3rd Edition) effective from 1 April 2018, , the revised CIPFA Treasury Management in Public Services Code of Practice and Cross Sectoral Guidance Notes (2021) and the revised CIPFA Prudential Code (2021).

The objectives of this strategy are to:

- Security - facilitate investment decisions which ensure that the Council's investment sums remain secure
- Liquidity - ensure the liquidity of investments so that the Council has sufficient cash resources available to carry out its functions at all times
- Optimum Yield - achieve the maximum return on investments after taking into account security and liquidity

2.0 Current Investments

Surplus funds arising from day to day operations are invested based on the most up to date forecasts of interest rates and in accordance with the Council's cash flow requirements in order to gain maximum benefit from the Council's cash position throughout the year. In the current financial climate only specified investments will be considered as set out below.

3.0 Investments: Loans

In accordance with relevant guidance, all investments will be placed with counterparties included on the Council's approved list. Institutions with which specified investments will be made include:

- UK government institutions and other local authorities
- institutions which have been awarded a high quality credit rating by a credit rating agency

The length of time an investment can be place for is specified below under each category of counterparty, normally this will be no longer than 364 days.

Non-Specified Investments are any investment not meeting the definition of a specified investment above. The Authority does not intend to make any investments denominated in foreign currencies, nor any that are defined as capital expenditure by legislation, such as company shares. Non-specified investments will therefore be limited to long-term investments, i.e. those that are due to mature 12 months or longer from the date of arrangement, and investments with bodies and schemes not meeting the definition on high credit quality.

The Council's Treasury Management Practice note 1 (3) states that 'The Section 151 Officer will be responsible for preparing for the Council a list of institutions in which the Council's funds may be invested. This list will be supported by details of the criteria employed to assess the various credit standings of counterparties'. The following credit ratings will be considered:

- Long-term ratings – these range from the highest rating of AAA to the lowest rating of D. As the title suggests, this indicator reflects the long-term stability of the institution.
- Short-term ratings - These have a time horizon of less than 12 months and therefore place greater emphasis on the liquidity necessary to meet financial commitments in a timely manner. As most of the Council's investments are expected to be for less than 364 days, this is of particular importance. The ratings are F1 (highest credit quality), F2 (good credit quality), F3 (fair credit quality) and B to D (representing various levels of potential default).
- Individual ratings – These range from the highest of A to the lowest of F. This rating is only assigned to banks and attempts to assess how it would be viewed if it were entirely independent and could not rely upon external support.
- Support ratings – These range from 1 to 5 with 1 being the highest. It is a judgement on whether a bank would receive support should this become necessary. It is assumed that any such support would come from the sovereign state or institutional owners.

The Council's counterparty list needs to provide security for the amounts invested whilst containing a sufficient number of institutions with which to place funds. For the purpose of this strategy in respect of Categories 1 and 2 below, only counterparties that meet all of the following criteria will be considered for investment.

- UK banks
- Building societies with asset bases in excess of £6 billion.
- By reference to all three major credit rating agencies (Fitch, Standard and Poor's, Moody's) only those that reach the minimum standard for the lowest agency rating set out.

Category 1

The minimum ratings that will be considered for all agencies are set out below:

Term	Credit Agency		
	Fitch	Moody's	S & P
Short	F1	P1	A1
Long	AA-	AA3	AA-
Individual	C	D	
Support	3		

For any organisation that meets the above criteria, up to £1.5m may be invested at any one time for a maximum duration of 364 days.

Any building society that meets the above criteria must also have an asset base in excess of £6 billion.

Category 2

The minimum ratings that will be considered for all agencies are set out below:

Term	Credit Agency		
	Fitch	Moody's	S & P
Short	F1	P1	A1
Long	A	A2	A1
Individual	C	D	
Support	3		

For any organisation that meets the above criteria, up to £1m may be invested at any one time for a maximum duration of maximum duration of 364 days.

Any building society that meets the above criteria must also have an asset base in excess of £6 billion.

Other counterparties that can be used and any restrictions applicable are set out below.

Debt Management Office

Investments of a maximum duration of 6 months can be made with this Government department and are unrestricted in value.

Public Authorities in England, Scotland and Wales

Investments totalling up to £5m at any one time with a maximum duration of three years can be made with these bodies. These include local government, fire and police authorities.

The Council exercises due diligence by assessing the organisation's financial stability. This is achieved by reviewing their credit status, most recent audited

financial statements, auditor's report, budget report and current news which is financial in nature. All decisions are signed off the by the Section 151 Officer or the Deputy Section 151 Officer.

Money Market Funds

Investments of up to £1.5m per fund at one time can be made provided they are AAA rated.

Credit ratings are monitored on a daily basis using Arlingclose credit rating service by the Section 151 Officer who will determine the amendments to be made to the counterparty list when credit ratings change.

The proposed counterparty list for investments is given at Annex 1.

The period for which investments are placed will be based on the Council's cash flow forecasts and estimates of movements in interest rates. The Council generally does not expect to place investments for longer than 364 days. This situation will be kept under review by the Section 151 Officer should a longer-term investment opportunity occur. Long-term investments will only be made where it is clear that surplus cash resources are not required for the day-to-day financing of the Council's activities. The maximum period for any long-term investments will be the three-year planning cycle covered by this strategy.

4.0 Policy on the Use of External Service Providers

External advisors will be used when appropriate e.g. to undertake independent valuations prior to acquisition, asset valuation or when there is a lack of expertise in-house regarding an industry.

The Authority uses Arlingclose as an external treasury advisor but still recognise that responsibility for treasury management decisions remains with the Council at all times. Whilst it is recognised that undue reliance should not be placed on external advisors, it is valuable to be able to access specialist skills and resources.

5.0 Scheme of Delegation

Full Council

- Approval of annual strategy
- Review of treasury management policy and procedures, including making recommendations to responsible body

Policy, Finance and Development Committee

- Approval of annual treasury outturn report
- Approval of mid year treasury management updates
- Mid year treasury management updates

Section 151 Officer

- Day to day management of treasury management, within agreed policy
- Appointment of external advisors, within existing Council procurement procedures and standing orders.

6.0 Role of Section 151 Officer

The Section 151 Officer has day to day responsibility for running the treasury management function.

7.0 Ethical Investment Strategy

The Council aims to be aware of ethical issues within its investment strategy. Where any member of the Council becomes concerned about such issues, these matters should be reported to the Section 151 Officer. Where necessary, the Section 151 Officer will then present a response to the concerns raised to the next meeting of the Policy, Finance and Development Committee.

EXTERNAL INVESTMENT OF FUNDS - APPROVED INSTITUTIONS**Category 1**

Restrictions	
Max Amount £m	1.5
Duration	364 days
Asset Base (Building Societies Only)	£6 bn

Category 2

Restrictions	
Max Amount £m	1
Duration	364 days
Asset Base (Building Societies Only)	£6 bn

The following institutions will also be classed as Category 2 although they currently may not meet the exact criteria.

Barclays Bank Plc

Lloyds Bank Plc

HSBC Plc

Santander UK Plc

National Westminster Bank Plc

Royal Bank of Scotland Plc

Bank of Scotland Plc

Nationwide Building Society

Debt Management Office

Restrictions	
Max Amount £m	N/A
Duration	6 months

Operated by a National Government Department

Public Authorities in England, Scotland and Wales

Restrictions	
Max Amount £m	5
Duration	3 Years

All public authorities (including local government, fire and police authorities) in England, Wales and Scotland

Money Market Funds

Restrictions	
Max Amount £m	1.5
Duration	N/A

Funds must be AAA-rated and operated by a company regulated by the Financial Services Authority. The Section 151 Officer, under delegated powers, will choose the appropriate fund(s).

Appendix 6

Flexible use of Capital Receipts Strategy 2024/25

1 Introduction

- 1.1 In the 2022/23 Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement the following was announced:

Extension of the flexibility to use capital receipts to fund transformation projects.

We are also announcing a 3-year extension from 2022-23 onwards of the existing flexibility for councils to use capital receipts to fund transformation projects that produce long-term savings or reduce the costs of service delivery. We will provide further details on the extension in due course.

- 1.2 On 4 April 2022, the Department of Levelling Up, Housing, and Communities confirmed this extension and published Guidance and a Direction.
- 1.3 The Council has previously produced strategies to 2022/23 in respect of the previous flexibility. This Strategy has been updated and produced for the financial year 2024/25, in the light of the extension and revised Guidance received in 2022.

2 Objectives and purpose

- 2.1 This Strategy is intended to enable the Council to potentially take advantage of this flexibility if appropriate. The Strategy forms part of the delivery of the Corporate Strategy and particularly supports the theme of Financial Sustainability.
- 2.2 The objectives of this Strategy are to:
- Outline the methodology for funding projects using this flexibility;
 - Identify actual and potential capital receipts that could be utilised to fund transformation projects;
 - Identify projects that are considered to be eligible and which could be funded by this method;
 - In subsequent years, report on the progress of projects approved in previous years.
- 2.3 The Guidance sets out examples of qualifying expenditure which includes “funding the cost of service reconfiguration, restructuring or rationalisation (staff or non-staff), where this leads to ongoing efficiency savings or service transformation” and it is for this purpose that the Council is proposing to use Capital Receipts in 2024/25.

3 2024/25 Revenue Budget

- 3.1 To support the significant and continued reconfiguration of the Council's Services to deliver the improvement and efficiencies set out in the Council's budget for 2024/25, it is proposed that the associated one-off costs are funded from capital receipts. The legitimacy of this use will be determined by the S151 Officer in order to ensure that it meets the requirements set out by the Secretary of State.

4 The Prudential Code

- 4.1 The Council has due regard to the requirements of the Prudential Code and the impact on its prudential indicators from the application of this Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy.
- 4.2 Any capital receipts which are received and not allocated will be used to fund revenue costs incurred to support the Council's service development and delivery of savings and efficiencies. These receipts have not been earmarked as funding for any other proposed capital expenditure and therefore there is no anticipated additional impact on the Council's prudential indicators as set out in the Council's Treasury Management Strategy.
- 4.3 The Council will also have due regard to the Local Authority Accounting Code of Practice when determining and including the entries required from undertaking and funding this scheme within the 2023/24 Statement of Accounts.

5 Monitoring the strategy

- 5.1 Implementation of this Strategy will be monitored as part of regular financial reporting arrangements.

6 Projects and activities to be funded by the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts

- 6.1 The following sets out the projects and activities that the Council is currently undertaking.
- 6.2 Further planned use of capital receipts will occur in 2024/25 as part of the council's Sustainability Programme for closing the council's project budget gaps and ensuring financial sustainability.

Project	Description and Progress	Lead	Planned value and timing of use of receipts
Customer Improvement Officer	Revenue costs associated with the funding of this post.	Head of Customer Services and Transformation	£50,000 per annum 2022/23 – 2024/25
Upgrade of Uniform Database	Costs of upgrading Uniform mapping software to remain	Head of Built Environment	£23,000 in 2023/24

	within support contract		
Service Transformation	Cost of voluntary redundancy programme and other transformation projects aimed at generating efficiencies	Section 151 Officer	£527,000 2023/24 – 2024/25



Full Council	Thursday, 22 February 2024	Matter for Information and Decision
---------------------	---------------------------------------	--

Report Title: **Pay Policy Statement (2024/25)**

Report Author(s): **Anne Court (Chief Executive / Head of Paid Service)**

Purpose of Report:	The Localism Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act") requires every local authority to produce and publish a Pay Policy Statement ("the Statement") for each financial year from 2012/13. This report sets out the proposed Pay Policy Statement for the coming financial year 2024/2025.
Report Summary:	<p>Section 38 of the 2011 Act requires local authorities in England and Wales to produce and publish a Pay Policy Statement for each financial year, which must be approved by Full Council.</p> <p>This statement sets out the Council's policies in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The remuneration of its Chief Officers; (b) The remuneration of its lowest-paid employees; and (c) The relationship between the remuneration of its Chief Officers and the remuneration of its employees who are not Chief Officers. <p>For the purposes of this statement, remuneration includes basic salary, bonuses and allowances or entitlements related to employment.</p>
Recommendation(s):	<p>A. That the contents of the report and appendices be noted; B. That Council approves the Pay Policy Statement for 2024/2025 (as set out at Appendix 1); and C. That Council approves the continued commitment to paying the Real Living Wage for 2024/2025.</p>
Senior Leadership, Head of Service, Manager, Officer and Other Contact(s):	<p>Anne Court (Chief Executive / Head of Paid Service) (0116) 257 2602 anne.court1@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</p> <p>Trish Hatton (Head of Customer Services & Transformation) (0116) 257 2700 trish.hatton@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</p> <p>Sarah Driscoll (HR Manager) (0116) 257 2790 sarah.driscoll@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</p>
Strategic Objectives:	Our Council (SO1)
Vision and Values:	"Our Borough - The Place To Be" (Vision)
Report Implications:-	
Legal:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Financial:	The implications are as set out at paragraph 2 of this report.

Corporate Risk Management:	Decreasing Financial Resources / Increasing Financial Pressures (CR1) Reputation Damage (CR4)
Equalities and Equalities Assessment (EA):	There are no implications arising from this report. EA not applicable.
Human Rights:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Health and Safety:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Statutory Officers' Comments:-	
Head of Paid Service:	The report is satisfactory.
Chief Finance Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Monitoring Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Consultees:	None.
Background Papers:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equality Act 2010 • Localism Act 2011 • Accounts and Audits (England) Regulations 2011 • Openness and Accountability in Local Pay: Guidance under Section 40 of the Localism Act' Guidance
Appendices:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pay Policy Statement (2024/2025) 2. Senior Leadership Team (SLT) Organisation Chart

1. Background

1.1 The Council is required to publish a Pay Policy Statement for 2024/2025 by 31st March 2024. The Statement for 2024/2025 is attached at **Appendix 1**.

2. Current Applicable Pay Award

2.1 The National Joint Council (NJC) final offer on the pay award for 2023/2024 was agreed as follows:

- With effect from 1 April 2023, an increase of £1925.00 was awarded to all NJC graded employees (SCP 1 to SCP 43).
- With effect from 1 April 2023, an increase of 3.5% was awarded to JNC Chief Officers.

2.2 For Oadby & Wigston Borough Council this means that the locally agreed pay spines have been reviewed and amended accordingly with the same award.

2.3 The pay offer for 2024-2025 has yet to be agreed and subject to its agreement the Pay Policy statement for 2024-2025 will be updated and presented to Council for approval.

2.4 The Real Living Wage (RLW) which the Council is committed to paying increased in October 2023 to £12.00 per hour and has already been implemented.

2.5 The Local Government Transparency Code 2015 requires publications of posts with salaries over £50,000. The Accounts and Audits (England) Regulations 2011 require posts with salaries over £50,000 to be published in the annual accounts.

- 2.6 If approved by Council, the Statement will take immediate effect, superseding the 2023/2024 Statement, and will be published on the Council's website.
- 2.7 The current Senior Leadership Organisational Chart **Appendix 2** is included for noting.

Appendix 1

OADBY AND WIGSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PAY POLICY STATEMENT (2024/2025)

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Oadby and Wigston Borough Council recognises that remuneration at all levels needs to be adequate to secure and retain high quality employees dedicated to the service of the public. However, in the context of managing scarce public resources with ever decreasing funds and further spending cuts to be made, such remuneration needs to avoid being unnecessarily generous or otherwise excessive.
- 1.2 It is important that local authorities are able to determine their own pay structures in order to address local priorities and to compete in the local labour market.
- 1.3 In particular, it is recognised that senior management roles in local government are complex and diverse functions in a highly politicised environment where often national and local pressures conflict. The Council's ability to continue to attract and retain high calibre leaders capable of delivering this complex agenda, particularly during times of financial challenge is crucial to the Council's performance.

2. Legislation

- 2.1 Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011 requires local authorities to produce and publish a Pay Policy Statement for each financial year thereafter, by the 31 March.
- 2.2 In determining the pay and remuneration of all employees, the Council will comply with all relevant employment legislation. This includes the Equality Act 2010, Part Time Employment (Prevention of Less Favourable Treatment) Regulations 2000, The Agency Workers Regulations 2010, The Fixed Term Employment (Prevention of Less Favourable Treatment) Regulations 2002, and where relevant, the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006.
- 2.3 With regard to the equal pay requirements contained within the Equality Act 2010, the Council ensures there is no pay discrimination in its pay structures and that all pay differentials are objectively justified through the use of an equality-proofed job evaluation mechanism, which directly relates salaries to the requirements, demands and responsibilities of the role.
- 2.4 The Localism Act 2011 and supporting statutory guidance provides details of matters that must be included in this statutory pay policy but also emphasises that each local authority has the autonomy to take its own decisions on pay and pay policies.
- 2.5 The format of this policy statement was approved by Full Council in April 2012 and is subject to review in accordance with the relevant legislation prevailing at that time, currently annually.

3. Scope

3.1. This Pay Policy Statement includes a policy on:-

The level and elements of remuneration for each Chief Officer;

- (a) The remuneration of the lowest paid employees;
- (b) The relationship between the remuneration of Chief Officers and other officers;
- (c) Other specific aspects of Chief Officer remuneration, fees and charges and other discretionary payments.

3.2. Remuneration in this context is defined widely to include not just pay but also charges, fees, allowances, benefits in kind, increases in enhancements of pension entitlements and termination payments.

4. Senior Pay

4.1 In this policy the senior pay group covers posts in the top three tiers of the Council. These include the Chief Executive, Strategic Director and Heads of Service.

4.2 The numbers in the above posts are as follows:-

- Chief Executive (1)
- Strategic Director and S151 Officer (interim)(1)
- Strategic Director (1)
- Heads of Service (4)

4.3 The policy for each group is as follows:-

4.4 Chief Executive

- (a) In line with nationally agreed terms the salary of the Chief Executive is locally agreed and the Pay Grade is currently in the following range:- C1 - 3 £102,409 to £112,503.
- (b) This salary was approved by Full Council and no additional bonus, performance, honoraria or ex gratia payments have been made.
- (c) Salary is subject to annual cost of living increases agreed by Joint Negotiating Committee for Chief Officers (JNC) for Local Authority Chief Executives national conditions.

4.5 Strategic Director-

- (a) The Strategic Director post is also locally agreed and the pay grade for this post is currently D4-6 £87,874 to £92,922.
- (b) This salary was approved by Full Council and no additional bonus, performance, honoraria or ex gratia payments have been made.
- (c) Salaries are subject to annual cost of living increases agreed by the Joint Negotiating Committee for Chief Officers (JNC) for Local Authority Services.

4.6 Heads of Service

- (a) The Heads of Service posts are also locally agreed and are currently within the following range:- Heads of Service Management Levels 1 – 4 £56,458 to £78,281.
- (b) Salaries are subject to annual cost of living increases agreed by the Joint Negotiating Committee for Chief Officers (JNC) for Local Authority Services.

4.8 Electoral fees

Fees are paid for Returning Officer duties with regards to fulfilling Election duties. This does not form part of the post holder's substantive role and these fees are payable as required and can be made to any senior officer appointed to fulfil the statutory duties of this role. The Returning Officer is an Officer of the Borough Council who is appointed under the Representation of the People Act 1983. The role of the Returning Officer involves and incurs personal responsibility and accountability and is statutorily separate from duties as an employee of the Borough Council, hence the additional remuneration which is paid. As Returning Officer, the employee is paid a separate allowance for each election for which they are responsible.

5. Lowest paid employees

- 5.1. The National Living Wage to be paid from 1st April 2024 is £11.44 (2023 - £10.42) per hour and the age threshold sits at 21 years (changing from 23 in previous years). Below age 21 years, The National Minimum Wage applies on a sliding age band scale. The rates to be paid from April 2024 are:-
 - 18-20 yrs - £8.60 (2023- £7.49)
 - Under 18 - £6.40 (2023- 5.28)
- 5.2 For employees classed as apprentices, the rates that apply are set out at paragraph 5.5 below . It is compulsory that employers pay at least the National Living Wage and national Minimum Wage rates where applicable to employees.
- 5.3 However on 15 March 2013, Councillors resolved to implement the Real Living Wage. The Real Living Wage is distinct from the National Living Wage and National Minimum Wage and is calculated by the Centre for Research in Social Policy which is an independent third party. The Centre for Research in Social Policy focuses on the wage rate that is necessary to provide workers and their families with a basic but acceptable standard of living. The minimum standard of living is socially defined and is often intrinsically linked to other social goals such as the fulfilment of care responsibilities. The Real Living Wage rate for 2023-2024 was announced on 24 October 2023. This was set at £12.00 per hour.
- 5.4 The lowest pay band within the council is Band 1 Scale Points 3. The pay scale points 1 & 2 were deleted as they did not reach the Real Living Wage threshold. Agreement between the national employers and trade unions on the 2023/2024 annual pay award was reached in November 2023. The relevant pay scale points have been amended to reflect this.
- 5.5 The Council also operates an apprenticeship programme that is designed to give people the opportunity to gain a relevant qualification through study and on-the-job training. The training opportunities afforded to individuals through the apprenticeship

programme are not directly comparable to other positions filled by employees within the Council.

Apprentices will be paid at least the minimum wage rate for their age, as set out in paragraph 5.1 above.

6. Pay Structure

- 6.1. The pay structure for all employees except the Chief Executive, Strategic Director and Heads of Service is established using NJC for Local Authorities Services National Pay Spine.
- 6.2. All posts bar those of the Chief Executive, Strategic Director, and Heads of Service posts are evaluated using the Greater London Provincial Council Job Evaluation Scheme, which is recognised by employers and trades unions nationally. This Scheme allows for robust measurement against set criteria resulting in fair and objective evaluations and satisfies equal pay requirements.
- 6.3. Progression within the band for all staff is subject to satisfactory performance on 1st April each year, provided that the employee has completed a minimum of 6 months service when an increment is awarded up to the maximum of the band. If the employee has not completed 6 months service, the increment will be payable in the employee's 6th month with the Council subject to satisfactory performance.

7. Multipliers

- 7.1 The current establishment has 188.74 FTE posts. Publishing the pay ratio of the organisation's top earner to that of its lowest paid earner and median earner has been recommended to support the principles of Fair Pay (Will Hutton, 2011) and transparency.
- 7.2 The Chief Executive's post is the highest paid post at the Council and is paid at £112,503 (1 FTE) per annum and is currently at the top of the pay scale. This is 3.65 times the average earnings in the Council which is £30,810. The Chief Executive's pay is 4.78 times the lowest pay which is £23,500 (this is with the increase to the Real Living Wage at £12.00 per hour).

8. Payments/Charges and Contributions

- 8.1 The Council operates the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) and makes pension contributions as required to all employees who participate in the scheme. The current rate is 22.4% of the whole time salary. All employees will be contractually enrolled into the scheme where they meet the following criteria: earn over £10,000 a year (2023/2024 figure) and are aged between 22 and state pension age.
- 8.2 Employee contributions will depend on the actual salary received, rather than a full time equivalent, with contributions ranging from 5.5% to 12.5%.
- 8.3 The Council has a determined policy on discretions available under the LGPS.

9. Discretionary Payments

The Council also recognises that it is important to motivate their employees by other non-salaried means. All employees receive a generous leave entitlement and are able to utilise the flexi-time scheme as well as access a range of employee discounts and

our employee assistance programme via our employee benefits platform. In addition we have a Cycle to Work scheme, a car loan scheme, a relocation package, access to free eye tests and free off-peak membership at local leisure centres.

10. Decision Making

10.1 Decisions on remuneration are made as follows:-

- Chief Officers' local pay level approved by Full Council;
- Pay structure for all other posts approved by Full Council.
- Market Supplements, which may be required to meet market forces from time to time, are approved by the Senior Leadership Team.

11. Disclosure

11.1 The Local Government Transparency Code 2015 requires publications of posts with salaries over £50,000. The Accounts and Audits (England) Regulations 2011 require posts with salaries over £50,000 to be published in the annual accounts. The Pay Policy Statement will be published on the Council's website.

11.2 The posts are as follows:-

- Chief Executive
- Strategic Director and S151 Officer (interim)
- Strategic Director
- Head of Law and Democracy
- Head of the Built Environment
- Head of Customer Service and Transformation
- Head of Finance
- Housing Manager
- Finance Manager
- Planning Policy & Development Manager
- Depot Manager
- Strategic Manager
- Corporate Projects & IT Manager

12. Performance related pay

12.1 There are no performance related pay schemes in place.

13. Equality and Diversity

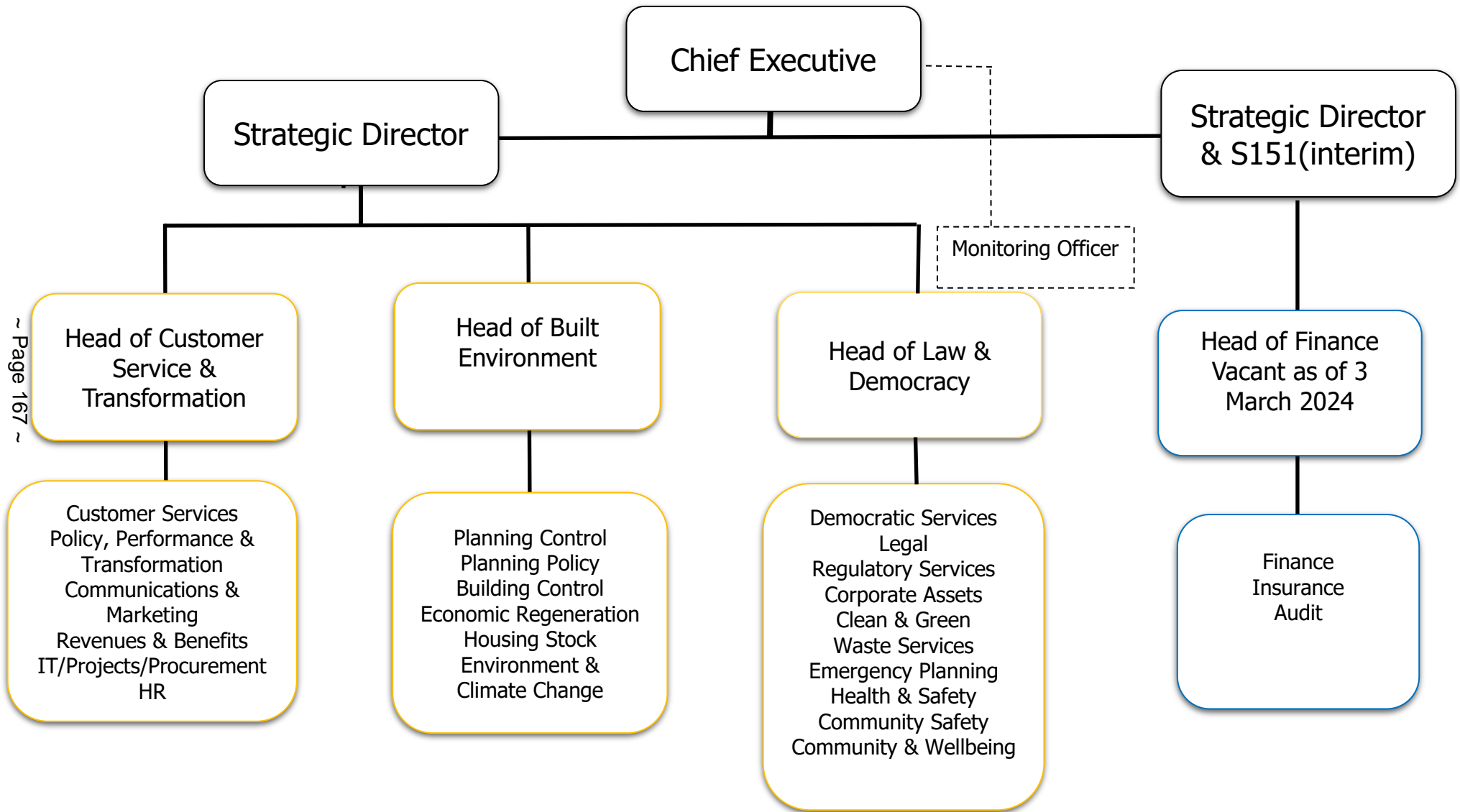
13.1 This Pay Policy Statement will assist the Council in monitoring remuneration across the Council and provide a fair system which avoids discrimination.

For further information please contact:-

Anne Court, Chief Executive / Head of Paid Service

Telephone: (0116) 257 2702: E-mail: anne.court1@oadby-wigston.gov.uk

Senior Leadership Team (Feb 2024)



Agenda Item 14



Full Council	Thursday, 22 February 2024	Matter for Information
---------------------	---------------------------------------	-----------------------------------

Report Title: **Interim Annual Report for 2022/23
and Key Recommendation 2023/24**

Report Author(s): **Grant Patterson (External Audit - Director, Grant Thornton)
Bev Bull, (Head of Finance / Interim Section 151 Officer)**

Purpose of Report:	To present the External Auditors Interim Annual Report for 2022/23 and an Immediate Annual Report for 2023/24 Key Recommendation.
Report Summary:	The Annual Report details the auditors' commentary on the Council's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.
Recommendation(s):	To note the content of the report and appendices.
Senior Leadership, Head of Service, Manager, Officer and Other Contact(s):	Sal Khan (Interim Strategic Director) (0116) 257 2690 sal.khan@oadby-wigston.gov.uk Bev Bull (Head of Finance / Interim Section 151 Officer) (0116) 257 2649 bev.bull@oadby-wigston.gov.uk
Strategic Objectives:	Our Council (SO1)
Vision and Values:	"Our Borough - The Place To Be" (Vision) Resourceful & Resilient (V4)
Report Implications:-	
Legal:	There are no implications directly arising from this report.
Financial:	There are no implications directly arising from this report.
Corporate Risk Management:	Decreasing Financial Resources / Increasing Financial Pressures (CR1) Reputation Damage (CR4) Regulatory Governance (CR6)
Equalities and Equalities Assessment (EA):	There are no implications directly arising from this report. EA not applicable
Human Rights:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Health and Safety:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Statutory Officers' Comments:-	
Head of Paid Service:	The report is satisfactory.
Chief Finance Officer:	The report is satisfactory.

Monitoring Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Consultees:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SLT
Background Papers:	None
Appendices:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Interim Annual Auditors Report (2022/23) 2. Immediate Annual Report for 2023/24 Key Recommendation

1. Interim Annual Report for 2022/23

- 1.1. The 2022-23 Annual Auditor's Report does not identify any significant weaknesses within the Council's arrangements. However, seven new improvements recommendations were made in the areas of financial sustainability reflecting the growing challenges in that area. The Council has made progress in addressing recommendations from the prior year but five are being carried forward into 2023-24.

2. Key Recommendation Report for 2023/24

- 2.1. In line with the requirements of the NAO's Code of Audit practice and due to the increasing financial challenges that the Council is facing within 2023-24 and the deterioration in its financial position and the reported risk that it could run out of money in 2025/26 unless further significant and challenging savings are achieved the auditor's have issued an immediate report highlighting a significant weakness in financial sustainability arrangements and have made a key recommendation as set out in the report.

Auditor's Interim Annual Report on Oadby and Wigston Borough Council

~ Page 170 ~

2022/23

16 January 2024



Contents

Section	Page
Executive summary	03
Use of auditor's powers	05
Securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources	06
The current LG landscape	07
Financial sustainability	09
Financial governance	16
Improvement recommendations	17
Governance	24
Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness	27
Follow-up of previous recommendations	30
Opinion on the financial statements	33
Appendices	
Appendix A – Responsibilities of the Council	35
Appendix B – An explanatory note on recommendations	38



We are required under Section 20(1)(c) of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 to satisfy ourselves that the Council has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. The Code of Audit Practice issued by the National Audit Office (NAO) requires us to report to you our commentary relating to proper arrangements.

We report if significant matters have come to our attention. We are not required to consider, nor have we considered, whether all aspects of the Council's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources are operating effectively.



The contents of this report relate only to those matters which came to our attention during the conduct of our normal audit procedures which are designed for the purpose of completing our work under the NAO Code and related guidance. Our audit is not designed to test all arrangements in respect of value for money. However, where, as part of our testing, we identify significant weaknesses, we will report these to you. In consequence, our work cannot be relied upon to disclose all irregularities, or to include all possible improvements in arrangements that a more extensive special examination might identify. We do not accept any responsibility for any loss occasioned to any third party acting, or refraining from acting, on the basis of the content of this report, as this report was not prepared for, nor intended for, any other purpose.

Grant Thornton UK LLP is a limited liability partnership registered in England and Wales: No.OC307742. Registered office: 30 Finsbury Square, London, EC2A 1AG. A list of members is available from our registered office. Grant Thornton UK LLP is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Grant Thornton UK LLP is a member firm of Grant Thornton International Ltd (GTIL). GTIL and the member firms are not a worldwide partnership. Services are delivered by the member firms. GTIL and its member firms are not agents of, and do not obligate, one another and are not liable for one another's acts or omissions.

Executive summary



Value for money arrangements and key recommendation(s)

Under the National Audit Office (NAO) Code of Audit Practice ('the Code'), we are required to consider whether the Council has put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

Auditors are required to report their commentary on the Council's arrangements under specified criteria and 2022/23 is the third year that we have reported our findings in this way. As part of our work, we considered whether there were any risks of significant weakness in the Council's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. Where we identify significant weaknesses in arrangements, we are required to make recommendations so that the Council may set out actions to make improvements. Our conclusions are summarised in the table below.

Criteria	2022/23 Risk assessment	2022/23 Auditor judgement on arrangements	2021/22 Auditor judgement on arrangements	Direction of travel
Financial sustainability	No risks of significant weakness identified.	A No significant weaknesses in arrangements identified, but seven improvement recommendations made and three prior year recommendations carried forward.	A The Council addressed the 2020/21 significant weakness, but three improvement recommendations made.	↓
Governance	No risks of significant weakness identified.	A Our work did not identify any areas where we considered that key or improvement recommendations were required, but one prior year recommendation carried forward.	A The Council addressed 2020/21 the significant weakness, but six improvement recommendations made.	↑
Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness	No risks of significant weakness identified.	A Our work did not identify any areas where we considered that key or improvement recommendations were required, but one prior year recommendation carried forward.	A No significant weaknesses in arrangements identified, but two improvement recommendations made.	↑

- G** No significant weaknesses in arrangements identified or improvement recommendation made.
- A** No significant weaknesses in arrangements identified, but improvement recommendations made.
- R** Significant weaknesses in arrangements identified and key recommendations made.

Executive summary (continued)



Financial sustainability

The Council is in a challenging financial position over the medium term and is working with officials from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) to present the case that it is not fairly funded. However, the Council cannot be dependent on additional government funding. Officers have identified income generation and savings schemes which, if fully implemented, would significantly improve the financial position, but difficult decisions are needed to implement these.

As Officers have identified opportunities which would significantly reduce the financial challenge we have stopped short of concluding that financial sustainability is a significant weakness in 2022/23. We have therefore not raised a “Key recommendation” but would urge the Council to take the opportunities available.

Financial planning is sound, but there is scope to enhance public reporting and the accuracy of revenue and capital budget setting. We have raised seven improvement recommendations to support the Council in this

We have noted that the Council’s latest reporting to Members in December 2023 shows a revised forecast cumulative deficit of £6.88m over the five year period 2023/24 to 2027/28 – an increase of £4.23m on the cumulative deficit of £2.64m reported in February 2023 before savings are factored in. Even if all planned savings are achieved, the Council is still estimating an underlying deficit of around £0.3m a year. We consider this is a significant deterioration in the Council’s position. As this primarily relates to 2023/24 arrangements we will report separately upon this as part of 2023/24 work.

Governance



The Council has appropriate risk management arrangements in place and ensures that proper standards and behaviours are maintained. Members are provided with the information they need to make decisions and the internal audit service meets the Council’s needs, providing a wide range of reviews each year.

From May 2023 the composition of the Audit Committee is, in our experience, unusual and not fully aligned to best practice as laid out in CIPFA’s *Audit Committees: Practical Guidance For Local Authorities And Police (2022 edition)*. However, we have not witnessed any potential conflicts in our attendance at Audit Committee and recognise that there is no statutory requirement to have an Audit Committee, the CIPFA guidance is best practice and that the Council has some safeguards in place to support independent decision making and scrutiny. We have recommended that when rolling forward our recommendation from last year in respect of undertaking the planned review of effectiveness against best practice it consider this at the same time.



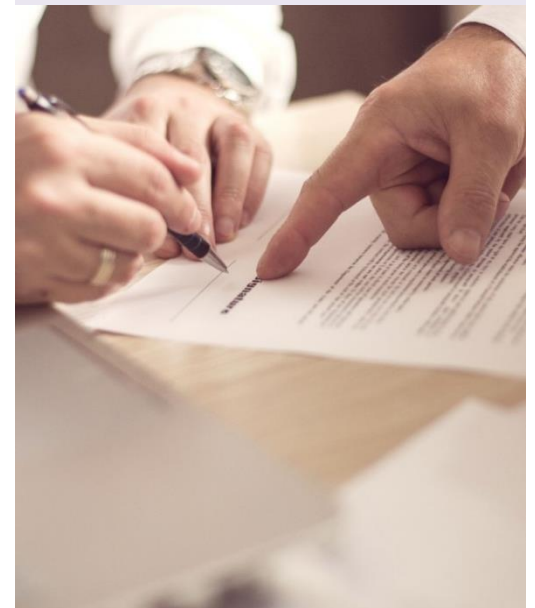
Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness

The Council has sound performance management arrangements in place, including ensuring that data underpinning Key Performance Indicators is accurate. The Council recognises that it can make better use of benchmarking and is working on this. Arrangements when working in partnership and commissioning and evaluating services are appropriate, including utilising external support when needed.



Financial Statements opinion

We are currently in the process of completing our audit of your financial statements. We anticipate issuing an unqualified audit opinion but will report our findings in a final version of this report once our work is complete.



Use of auditor's powers

We bring the following matters to your attention:

2022/23

Statutory recommendations

Under Schedule 7 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, auditors can make written recommendations to the audited body which need to be considered by the body and responded to publicly.

We did not make any written recommendations under Schedule 7 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

Public Interest Report

Under Schedule 7 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, auditors have the power to make a report if they consider a matter is sufficiently important to be brought to the attention of the audited body or the public as a matter of urgency, including matters which may already be known to the public, but where it is in the public interest for the auditor to publish their independent view.

We did not issue a public interest report.

Application to the Court

Under Section 28 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, if auditors think that an item of account is contrary to law, they may apply to the court for a declaration to that effect.

We did not make an application to the Court.

Advisory notice

Under Section 29 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, auditors may issue an advisory notice if the auditor thinks that the authority or an officer of the authority:

We did not issue any advisory notices.

- is about to make or has made a decision which involves or would involve the authority incurring unlawful expenditure,
- is about to take or has begun to take a course of action which, if followed to its conclusion, would be unlawful and likely to cause a loss or deficiency, or
- is about to enter an item of account, the entry of which is unlawful.

Judicial review

Under Section 31 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, auditors may make an application for judicial review of a decision of an authority, or of a failure by an authority to act, which it is reasonable to believe would have an effect on the accounts of that body.

We did not make an application for judicial review.

Securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the Council's use of resources

All councils are responsible for putting in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness from their resources. This includes taking properly informed decisions and managing key operational and financial risks so that they can deliver their objectives and safeguard public money. The Council's responsibilities are set out in Appendix A.

Councils report on their arrangements, and the effectiveness of these arrangements as part of their annual governance statement.

Under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, we are required to be satisfied whether the Council has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

The National Audit Office's Auditor Guidance Note (AGN) 03, requires us to assess arrangements under three areas:



Financial sustainability

Arrangements for ensuring the Council can continue to deliver services. This includes planning resources to ensure adequate finances and maintain sustainable levels of spending over the medium term (3-5 years).



Governance

Arrangements for ensuring that the Council makes appropriate decisions in the right way. This includes arrangements for budget setting and management, risk management, and ensuring the Council makes decisions based on appropriate information.



Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness

Arrangements for improving the way the Council delivers its services. This includes arrangements for understanding costs and delivering efficiencies and improving outcomes for service users.

In addition to our financial statements audit work, we perform a range of procedures to inform our value for money commentary:

- Review of Council and committee reports
- Regular meetings with senior officers
- Interviews with other members and management
- Attendance at Audit Committee
- Considering the work of internal audit
- Reviewing reports from third parties
- Reviewing the Council's Annual Governance Statement and other publications



Our commentary on the Council's arrangements in each of these three areas, is set out on pages 9 to 29.

The current LG landscape



National context

Local government in England continues to face significant challenges as a sector. These include a high level of uncertainty over future levels of government funding, alongside delays to the Government's plans for reform of the local government finance system, impacting on medium-term financial planning. This is also a time of generationally significant levels of inflation – the UK inflation rate was 7.8% in April 2022, rising to a 41-year high of 11.1% in October 2022, then reducing to 10.1% in March 2023. Inflation levels put pressure on councils' revenue and capital expenditure, as well as the associated cost of living crisis impacting on local communities and businesses, leading to an increase in demand for council services such as children with special education needs with associated transport costs, debt advice, housing needs, and mental health, as well as impacting on some areas of council income such as car parking and the collection rates of council tax, business rates and rents. This follows a significant period of funding reductions by Government (2012 to 2017) and the impacts of Brexit and the COVID-19 pandemic which, for example, have contributed to workforce shortages in a number of council service areas, as well creating supply chain fragility risks.

The local government finance settlement for 2023/24 was better than many in the sector anticipated demonstrating an understanding by Government of the financial challenges being faced by the sector. However, the Local Government Association, in July 2023, estimated that the costs to councils of delivering their services will exceed their core funding by £2bn in 2023/24 and by £900m in 2024/25. This includes underlying cost pressures that pre-date and have been increased by the pandemic, such as demographic pressures increasing the demand for services such as social care and homelessness.

Over the past decade many councils have sought to increase commercial activity as a way to generate new sources of income which has increased the nature of financial risk, as well as the need to ensure there is appropriate skills and capacity in place to manage such activities.

Local government is coming under an increased spotlight in terms of how the sector responds to these external challenges, including the Government establishing the Office for Local Government (Oflog) and there has been an increase in the number of councils who have laid a Section 114 Notice, or are commenting on the likelihood of such an action, as well as continued Government intervention at a number of councils.

There has also been an increase in the use of auditors using their statutory powers, such as public interest reporting and statutory recommendations. The use of such auditor powers typically derive from Value for Money audit work, where weaknesses in arrangements have been identified. These include:

- a failure to understand and manage the risks associated with commercial investments and council owned companies
- a failure to address and resolve relationship difficulties between senior officers and members
- significant challenges associated with financial capability and capacity
- a lack of compliance with procurement and contract management processes and procedures
- ineffective leadership and decision-making.

Value for Money audit has an important role in providing assurance and supporting improvement in the sector.

The current LG landscape (continued)



Local context

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council (the Council) covers a small geographical area of just nine square miles, two thirds of which is urban. The population of around 57,000 people is comprised around 18% people under 15 years of age and 21% over 65.

The Council has not been able to capitalise on growth within the borough. This is because the area is densely populated and there is limited opportunity for housing or employment land growth. This has meant the Council has not seen dramatic increases in council tax and new homes bonus from housing growth or additional retained business rates achieved through business growth which other councils have enjoyed.

Council tax

Compared to peers, the Council has a high level of Band D council tax. However, the Oadby and Wigston area is unparished, and as such, this level of council tax will also be funding spending that for other councils may be funded and delivered by a parish or town council.

Whilst the Council's level of Band D is high, proportionately across the borough, the Council has a heavier weighting of properties in a lower band (bands A – C) which generate less in council tax income compared to properties in higher bandings.

Additionally, since housing growth is restricted, the Council's tax base is towards the lower quartile when compared to other Councils.

Business rates

The Council has benefitted very little from business rates growth above the baseline – the level at which the government expect business rates to be generated. This is in contrast to some councils who have been able to retain significant amounts of rates, meaning greater opportunity to bolster reserves and remain financially sustainable.

To overcome these challenges the Council is starting to develop alternative income streams including a Selective Licensing Scheme for the housing rental market and car parking charges. The other main sources of non statutory income is garden waste collection. The Council faces considerable financial challenges and is working with government and identifying opportunities of its own to address these.

Financial sustainability



We considered how the Council:

- identifies all the significant financial pressures that are relevant to its short and medium-term plans and builds them into its plans
- plans to bridge its funding gaps and identify achievable savings
- plans its finances to support the sustainable delivery of services in accordance with strategic and statutory priorities
- ensures its financial plan is consistent with other plans such as workforce, capital, investment and other operational planning which may include working with other local public bodies as part of a wider system
- identifies and manages risk to financial resilience, such as unplanned changes in demand and assumptions underlying its plans.

Short and medium term financial planning

The Council has re-established sound arrangements to support financial planning, but there is scope to further enhance public reporting by including more of the key assumptions and sensitivity analysis undertaken. In the medium to longer term the Council faces a significant financial challenge.

2023/24 financial planning

The Council's financial planning includes latest government funding settlements. For 2023/24 budget setting there was comparatively little change required to the final settlement owing to accurate earlier forecasts. The changes are set out in detail within reports, despite being relatively modest. The Medium Term Financial Plan 2022-27 (MTFP) includes the assumptions used. However, the revenue budget setting report in February 2023 does not clearly set out assumptions in the growth of the council tax base (through new properties being built) or business rates. Earlier versions of the report (for example December 2022) indicate that the finance and planning teams have worked together to forecast growth in the council tax base, and key assumptions are published at that time. However, the assumptions are not published alongside the budget and MTFP. The report does clearly include the earlier reports as "Background" reports though, so readers are able to review the assumptions used if they wish. We have made an improvement recommendation on the next page.

The adjacent table, taken from the Medium Term Financial Plan presented in February 2023, shows the significant financial challenge the Council faces, even it manages to deliver all of the planned savings in its 'Sustainability Plan Programme'.

Item	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
In-Year Budget Gap / (Surplus)	422,000	271,000	810,000	686,000	457,000
Cumulative Budget Gap / (Surplus)	422,000	693,000	1,503,000	2,189,000	2,646,000
Sustainability Plan Programme Savings		- 237,000	-237,000	- 237,000	
In-Year Budget Gap / (Surplus) after delivery of savings	422,000	34,000	573,000	449,000	457,000
Cumulative Budget Gap / (Surplus) after delivery of savings	422,000	456,000	1,029,000	1,478,000	1,935,000

Financial sustainability (continued)

Short and medium term financial planning (continued)

2023/24 financial planning (continued)

The Council's financial planning reports include considerable detail around the funding settlement. The report also includes the proposed fees and charges for 2023/24, which underpin the £3m of locally generated income. However, there is little detail reported around how proposed increases in fees have been derived, other than to state that it is based on benchmarking or inflation. It is also unclear whether any sensitivity analysis has been conducted to assess whether the increase in costs to users is likely to lead to reduced demand.

A presentation to the Member' workshop in September 2023 and the Policy, Finance and Development Committee in December indicates that the assumptions used are reasonable, and the Council has used external advisors as appropriate - for example - on the savings that could be achieved by moving to alternative weekly bin collections.

In our prior year report we made an improvement recommendation "*Ensure that there is greater transparency in the budget setting process of the consideration of trends and risks and their impact on projected financial outturn, and of alternative proposals and scenarios.*"

While this has been addressed internally, it could be clearer in public reporting. Improving clarity on the assumptions around income will support readers to form a judgement on whether they are realistic. This is an area for improvement and we have made a recommendation below.

The Council's financial planning report from February 2023 states that inflation has been included based on the Office for Budget Responsibility forecast from November 2022. However, the report does not state what the rate is, or whether the Council still considers it appropriate three months later. It is also unclear that one rate would apply to all expenditure categories, except pay. An earlier version of the report, from December 2022, states that pay costs have been assumed to increase by 3.5%. We would expect to see these key assumptions clearly set out and considered in the budget setting report. Improving clarity on the assumptions around expenditure will support readers to form a judgement on whether they are realistic and we have made a recommendation below.

The Council should enhance its public reporting of financial planning by including more detail on the work that has taken place to develop key assumptions and any sensitivity analysis, especially around increased charges for services it provides.

Senior finance staff present regular sessions to Members so that they are informed of latest challenges and opportunities.

The Council undertakes appropriate cash flow forecasting covering a sufficient period. However, the cash balance is forecast to decrease from £15.5m at 1 April 2022 to £0.025m at 31 March 2024. This includes the repayment of £16m of borrowing which will need to be replaced as appropriate. A further £16.5m of borrowing is due for repayment on 1 April 2024.

The Council's performance against key financial and performance metrics is set out in the table below.

	2022/23	2021/22
Planned revenue expenditure	£6.5m	£7.1m
Actual revenue expenditure	£7.0m	£6.8m
Planned capital spend	£10.9m	£14.1m
Actual capital spend	£4.6m	£3.5m
Year-end cash position	£3.8m	£13.2m

Financial sustainability (continued)

Short and medium term financial planning (continued)

Financing carbon reduction

The adjacent text box sets out some of the carbon reduction challenges all councils face. The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) capital programme for 2023/24 includes £0.51m slippage from 2022/23 in relation to match funding the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund - to reduce carbon emissions in 130 council houses.

The Council's "Environment Strategy and Action Plan", updated in December 2022, includes many references to carbon reduction, but it is clear that there is no specific budget for this, and that projects are evaluated, including cost, on a piece meal basis. Given the size of the Council, this is reasonable.

~ Page 180 ~



Carbon reduction

The UK government has a target of 100% reduction in 1990 greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. Many of the carbon budgets set by the government are relevant to Local Authorities. By June 2022, more than 250 English Local Authorities in England had declared Climate Change Emergencies and set carbon reduction targets of their own.

To deliver value for money whilst also implementing carbon reduction, Local Authorities need strong processes. Carbon reduction costs need to be reflected within medium-term financial plans; funding needs to be consistent with other strategic priorities; costs need to be accurately recorded and monitored; and the relative costs of acting versus not acting need to be evaluated on an ongoing basis.

Climate change is often already reflected on Local Authority risk registers and where Local Authorities set themselves strategic goals around carbon reduction, effective processes for monitoring progress against those goals is needed. Training should be kept up to date both for executives and for members overseeing climate change and carbon reduction risk and performance. As legal requirements are evolving and new sources of funding and grants continue to come forward, horizon scanning for new duties and opportunities will also need to be vigilant.

Financial sustainability (continued)

Identifying savings

The Council is in a challenging financial position and is working with officials from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) to present the case that it is not fairly funded. Officers have identified income generation and savings schemes which, if fully implemented, work significantly improve the financial position. Difficult decisions are needed. There is also scope to improve reporting of delivery of these schemes.

In its February 2023 report the Council was forecasting a cumulative deficit of £2.64m over the five year period 2023/24 to 2027/28. Of this, £0.422m is in 2023/24, on expenditure of £7.5m (5.6%). The Council has developed a "Sustainability Plan Programme" (SPP) to deliver savings. At February 2023 £0.711m had been identified in the period 2024/25 to 2026/27 to leave the cumulative budget gap at the end of 2027/28 as £1.935m (see Table on page 9).

The Council's latest reporting to Members in December 2023 shows a revised forecast cumulative deficit of £6.88m over the five year period 2023/24 to 2027/28 – an increase of £4.23m on the cumulative deficit of £2.64m reported in February 2023 (before savings from the SPP are factored in). Reserves which could be set against the forecast deficit are expected to be £1.667m at 31 March 2024. The forecast deficit for 2024/25 of £1.267m is 14% of Net Revenue Expenditure. Through its SPP the Council believes it has identified £1.267m of annual savings from 2024/25 but, even if they are all achieved, the Council is still estimating an underlying deficit of around £0.3m a year (whereas previously small surpluses were being forecast if all savings were achieved). We consider this is a significant deterioration in the Council's position. As this primarily relates to 2023/24 arrangements we will report separately upon this as part of 2023/24 work.

The 2023/24 budget setting report shows that £0.200m of the savings were achieved in 2022/23 through reviewing earmarked reserves. This is not a genuine saving - it is one-off use of reserves, albeit that they may no longer be needed for their original purpose. There is a total of £0.500m for "service reviews", of which £0.050m is scheduled for 2023/24. The report is transparent in that it is unclear where this will be achieved. While the uncertainty around this is therefore clearly reported, we would recommend that schemes are only included in finance plans or reports once they are fully worked up and savings can be reliably forecast. This is an improvement area and we have made a recommendation.

The Council should only include savings or income generation schemes in financial plans when they are fully worked up and, ideally, have been approved by Members.

The table below, taken from the Medium Term Financial Plan presented in February 2023, shows the significant impact on Council reserves, even it manages to deliver all of the planned savings in its 'Sustainability Plan Programme'.



Financial sustainability (continued)

Identifying savings (continued)

In our prior year report we made an improvement recommendation “Ensure that financial plans are developed and implemented to close the funding gap that are not dependent on the use of reserves.”

Savings plans are not yet fully worked up, are currently insufficient to bridge the forecast deficit, and the Council is reliant on the use of reserves over the next five years. The February 2023 report forecasted that reserves will be used up during 2026/27 (revised to 2025/26 in December 2023), even if all of the anticipated and currently agreed savings are realised. This therefore remains an area for improvement.

The Senior Leadership Team and Corporate Management Team have identified a range of potential savings and income generation opportunities. Key Members have been engaged from an early stage, with a series of workshops held for all Members to raise awareness. Opportunities include increasing the cost of various services and car parking charges, stopping two discretionary services (£0.150m a year saving), reducing staff numbers, increasing the cost of green waste collection (£0.110m a year generated) and introducing alternate weekly bin collections (£0.240m a year saving). The opportunities total around £1.2m per year. Of these Officers anticipate that £0.7m will be the most difficult for Members to agree. But the Council needs to achieve all of the savings and income generation opportunities identified in order to achieve financial balance, even if there are no further unexpected pressures or costs, which is highly unlikely. Officers therefore need Member support to take difficult decisions in order to ensure that the Council remains financially stable. This is an improvement area and we have made a recommendation.

Officers and Members need to work together, taking difficult decisions where required, to ensure that the Council is put on a more financially stable longer term footing.

The need for contingency

The Quarter One 2023/24 Budget Monitoring Report to the September 2023/24 Policy, Finance and Development (PFD) Committee forecast an outturn deficit of £0.282m against a breakeven budget. This represented 4.1% of the revised revenue budget of £7.6m. The December 2023 Quarter Two Report shows a worsening position with a forecast deficit of £0.488m.

The report sets out the main reasons, including an increase in cost to support the homeless of £0.397m, £0.254m in leisure services, £0.119m staff vacancy savings not achieved, £0.147m pay awards being higher than budgeted, £0.123m of permanent salary staff savings offset by interim agency costs on essential posts and £0.118m errors in setting the original budget. These are offset to some degree through savings in capital financing charges of £0.417m due to minimum revenue provision savings and slippage in capital programme funding requirements and £0.206m of grant funding to support homelessness.

The Council is therefore failing to maintain expenditure within budget in 2023/24. This makes the need for developed savings plans even more important, so that some contingency is built in.

The Council met with officials from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) in May 2023 to present the case that it is not fairly funded. Further work and comparison was requested, which the Council has done, and it is now seeking a further meeting in the hope of securing additional grant funding. This has been delayed as a result of a re-organisation within DLUHC. The Council is now engaging with the new representative and continuing to liaise with other councils and national bodies.

Reporting savings

In our prior year report we made an improvement recommendation “Progress with delivering the recently agreed Sustainability Plan which needs to be monitored and reported to the Policy, Finance and Development (PFD) Committee.” The Council's MTFP explains that the regular finance reports to the PFD Committee will be extended to include reporting on the progress of delivery of the Sustainability Plan. Throughout 2022/23, including the outturn report to the June 2023 meeting, there is no evidence of this. The Quarter One and Quarter Two 2023/24 finance report to September and December Committees include a brief section. As the Council implements additional savings and income generation schemes it will need to enhance the public reporting of these. It may also be easier to report them together, rather than the Sustainability Plan and other areas of savings separately - there may be overlaps. Clear public reporting is crucial to give Members the assurance they need that savings or income generation is being achieved, or corrective action being taken where not. This is especially important where Members have made difficult decisions. This is an improvement area and we have made a new recommendation as below.

The Council needs to enhance reporting against all savings and income generation plans to provide both Members and the public with assurance that progress is being made and to identify areas where corrective action is required.

Financial sustainability (continued)

Financial planning and strategic priorities

There is scope to better link capital projects to the Council's priorities.

In our prior year report we made an improvement recommendation "Consider distinguishing between core statutory services service and discretionary service costs in financial plans."

The MTFP presented in February 2023 includes a chart showing the expenditure on statutory and discretionary services, noting that discretionary services generate £0.600 of income. The report states "Further work will be undertaken so that a more in depth analysis on the total spend of individual Core Statutory and Discretionary Service areas can be shared in future." Statutory expenditure is shown as £8m. The Council has addressed this recommendation.

The budget setting report includes the capital programme for both the general fund (£2.3m in 2023/24) and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) (£4.9m in 2023/24). The information reported includes a narrative update on each scheme. Within this the Council should consider including how the project will support delivery of the Council priorities. This is an area for improvement and we have made a recommendation.

The Council should enhance public budget setting reporting to clearly demonstrate how major investments – capital or revenue – will contribute to achieving the Council's priorities.

Financial planning and other operational plans

The Council has further work to do in order to reduce overspends on the revenue budget and underspends on the capital programme.

Capital programme

There has been significant slippage on the capital programme. The total capital budget for 2022/23 was initially set at £10.905m, but only £4.643m was spent. While the reasons for this have been reported each quarter the actual expenditure represents only 43% of the original plan. The reasons are clearly set out in quarterly reports, with the reasons being reasonable.

In our prior year report we made an improvement recommendation "Ensure quarterly capital programme monitoring reports include the re-allocation of budgets to alternative schemes. All schemes incurring expenditure should have a budget." This recommendation has been addressed.

In year financial reporting

In our prior year report we made an improvement recommendation "Improve the accuracy of in-year forecasting of the financial outturn to prevent unexpected significant swings in the forecast position during the year and particularly between the quarter three and quarter four reports."

The original general fund revenue budget for 2022/23 had been to achieve a breakeven position with the use of £0.125m of earmarked reserves. At Quarter One, the forecast deficit was £0.644m, but this was without the

use of reserves, so would have been £0.519m had the £0.125m initially planned been applied. The Quarter Two position was broadly the same, but by Quarter Three had worsened to a forecast deficit of £0.425m, after applying £0.346m of reserves. The provisional outturn position was £0.439m deficit after applying £0.324m of reserves. This means that the Council applied £0.200m more of earmarked reserves than initially planned and made a deficit of £0.439m compared to a break even plan. The position was therefore £0.639m worse than initially planned. Net revenue expenditure is £6.970m for 2022/23, which means that the unplanned deficit was 9% of expenditure. The Quarter Four report states "The main cause of the overspend relates to pay inflation for implementing the national pay award and reduced management fee from the Leisure Centre Operator." The latter resulted in a £0.202m variance.

This remains an improvement area and we have broadened our recommendation as below.

The Council needs to ensure that both revenue and capital budgets are realistic and achievable to avoid significant revenue overspends or capital underspends.

In our prior year report we made an improvement recommendation "Incorporate relevant service activity and workforce information in the quarterly budget monitoring reports." The Council proposed to implement this after the local elections in May 2023. It has therefore not been done in 2022/23. The Quarter One and Two 2023/24 Budget Monitoring Reports to the September and December PFD Committees do not include the recommended information. This remains an area for improvement.

Financial sustainability (continued)

Financial planning and other operational plans (continued)

Treasury management

The MTFP clearly sets out the contribution that treasury management makes to financial planning, including ensuring adequate cashflow and providing funding for the capital programme, while investing any surplus funds. The Treasury Management Policy is clear that the Council has a low appetite to risk in this area, and will invest funds with low risk counterparties.

Managing risks to financial resilience

The Council has appropriate arrangements to use scenario or sensitivity analysis to model the impact of changes in key assumptions on the financial position.

As reported previously, the Council plans to use reserves to manage financial risk. We have recommended that further plans are brought forward to lessen the use of reserves and increase financial sustainability.



Financial governance

Annual budget setting

The Council has appropriate arrangements in place to consult on the budget but, as reported on page 14, needs to improve accuracy.

In our prior year report we made an improvement recommendation “Engage with external stakeholders on options and considerations as part of the 2023/24 budget setting process.” Consultation on the budget for 2023/24 consisted of statutory and public consultation between 14 December 2022 and 27 January 2023. Public consultation was online, with 85 responses. These are set out in detail, as well as summarised in public reports.

The Council has appropriate arrangements in place to consult with stakeholders over the budget. This includes with trade unions, the Federation of Small Businesses and the public. The responses are included in full in the budget setting report, which provides a high degree of transparency. Our recommendation has been addressed.

The Council has an incremental approach to budget setting, meaning that the prior year budget is rolled forward and adjusted for known changes. The budget setting report clearly explains these changes and demonstrates an appropriate level of analysis and consideration.

Budgetary control

The Council has appropriate arrangements in place to ensure that timely financial information is provided to budget holders, regular meetings are held with finance colleagues and agreed actions clearly set out.


Capacity of the finance team

Our previous Auditor's Annual Report noted the historic challenges the finance team had faced, but that these were being resolved. Our draft Audit Findings Report to January 2023 Audit Committee noted that there were no significant issues, although there are a comparatively high number of audit adjustments. A new Head of Finance joined the Council in January 2023, but since then the Section 151 Officer has left, and the Head of Finance is now Acting Section 151 Officer. The Council is trying to recruit a Head of Finance again. There have also been changes at Finance Manager level, with interim staff being used and staff with limited public sector experience.

While there is no specific evidence that these staffing changes have led to the budget errors which the Council has reported, it is important that the Council finance team is fully and properly resourced in order to meet the challenges the Council faces. While the Chief Executive is aware of the challenge and taking appropriate steps to address the capacity issue this is an improvement area and we have made a recommendation.


The Council needs to ensure that it has an appropriately resourced and skilled finance team.

Improvement recommendations

Improvement Recommendation 1	The Council should enhance its public reporting of financial planning by including more detail on the work that has taken place to develop key assumptions and any sensitivity analysis, especially around increased charges for services it provides.
Improvement opportunity identified	Improving clarity on key assumptions around income and expenditure will support readers to form a judgement on whether they are realistic.
Summary findings	The Council undertakes appropriate analysis and testing to arrive at reasonable financial planning assumptions but need to better communicate this publicly.
Criteria impacted	 Financial sustainability
Auditor judgement	Our work has enabled us to identify a weakness in arrangements which we do not consider to be significant but have raised a recommendation to support management in making appropriate improvements.
Management comments	Agreed. The budget assumptions included in the 2024/25 annual budget and MTFP were included in appendix 3 to the December report to Full Council. This will be enhanced further for the February report.

Progressing the actions management has identified to address the recommendations made will support the Council in addressing the improvements identified from our work. We consider that the timescales provided by management are appropriate and encourage the Audit Committee to monitor progress of implementation to gain assurance over the arrangements in place. The range of recommendations that external auditors can make is explained in Appendix B.


Improvement recommendations

Improvement Recommendation 2	The Council should only include savings or income generation schemes in financial plans when they are fully worked up and, ideally, have been approved by Members.
Improvement opportunity identified	Including income generation or savings schemes which are not fully developed could present Council financial plans in an overly optimistic light. It is also good practice for Members to have approved these before they are included in financial plans.
Summary findings	While financial planning reporting is clear that some schemes are not fully developed, it would be better not to include them at all when reporting against actual positions.
Criteria impacted	 Financial sustainability
Auditor judgement	Our work has enabled us to identify a weakness in arrangements which we do not consider to be significant but have raised a recommendation to support management in making appropriate improvements.
Management comments	Agreed. The Council (12 December 2023) considered the emerging budget position for 2024/25. Council approved a new sustainability plan (appendix 4 to the report) with some small changes. The new sustainability plan savings and income generation schemes are worked up and specific in the exception of service transformation. Work is now being completed to develop this further with an action plan being implemented before the final budget setting report in February 2024.

Progressing the actions management has identified to address the recommendations made will support the Council in addressing the improvements identified from our work. We consider that the timescales provided by management are appropriate and encourage the Audit Committee to monitor progress of implementation to gain assurance over the arrangements in place. The range of recommendations that external auditors can make is explained in Appendix B.

Improvement recommendations

~ Page 188 ~

Improvement Recommendation 3	Officers and Members need to work together, taking difficult decisions where required, to ensure that the Council is put on a more financially stable longer term footing.
Improvement opportunity identified	The Council is in a challenging financial position but has an opportunity to significantly improve this by making difficult decisions, particularly around reducing some services and increasing the costs for users of others.
Summary findings	Officers have identified a range of savings and income generation opportunities which, if taken in full, could put the Council in a much more stable financial position over the medium to long term. The Council would then need to be able to withstand any financial shocks, so may need to identify further schemes, or ensure risk can be managed through having adequate reserves available for the purpose.
Criteria impacted	 Financial sustainability
Auditor judgement	Our work has enabled us to identify a weakness in arrangements which we do not consider to be significant, but have raised a recommendation to support management in making appropriate improvements.
Management comments	Agreed. The Council (12 December 2023) considered the emerging budget position for 2024/25. Council approved the sustainability plan (appendix 4 to the report) in the main, including moving to alternate weekly refuse and recycling collections. Some small changes to the proposal were made requiring a small increase in savings to be found through service transformation, however all the suggestions put forward to meet the £1.267M gap have been approved including an ongoing commitment that the Council should not use reserves to balance the revenue budget.

Progressing the actions management has identified to address the recommendations made will support the Council in addressing the improvements identified from our work. We consider that the timescales provided by management are appropriate and encourage the Audit Committee to monitor progress of implementation to gain assurance over the arrangements in place. The range of recommendations that external auditors can make is explained in Appendix B.

Improvement recommendations

Improvement Recommendation 4

The Council needs to enhance reporting against all savings and income generation plans to provide both Members and the public with assurance that progress is being made and to identify areas where corrective action is required.

Improvement opportunity identified

We have recommended that Officers and Members need to work together, taking difficult decisions where required, in order to improve the Council's financial sustainability. Transparent public reporting of the impact of those decisions is important.

Summary findings

If Members are to take difficult decisions in order to better protect Council finances they need assurance that these are having the desired impact. Services users also need to be able to see the impact those decisions are having as they may be affected by the reduced services or increased costs.

Criteria impacted

 Financial sustainability

Auditor judgement

Our work has enabled us to identify a weakness in arrangements which we do not consider to be significant but have raised a recommendation to support management in making appropriate improvements.

Management comments

Agreed. During 2023/24 updates on the sustainability programme have been reported to members in the quarterly budget monitoring reports for 2023/24. The longer term progress against the plan has been reported in each member budget workshop session held during 2023/24 and it was reported on in the 'Budget Setting Approach for 2024/25 & Medium-Term Financial Plan Update' report to Full Council 26 September 2023. A specific update on income generation was taken to PFD on the 5 December 2023.

Progressing the actions management has identified to address the recommendations made will support the Council in addressing the improvements identified from our work. We consider that the timescales provided by management are appropriate and encourage the Audit Committee to monitor progress of implementation to gain assurance over the arrangements in place. The range of recommendations that external auditors can make is explained in Appendix B.

Improvement recommendations

Improvement Recommendation 5

The Council should enhance public budget setting reporting to clearly demonstrate how major investments – capital or revenue – will contribute to achieving the Council’s priorities.

Improvement opportunity identified

The Council has strategic priorities and a capital programme, but these are not linked. It is therefore not clear how capital investments support the achievement of objectives.

Summary findings

While there is little scope for the Council to increase revenue budgets to support its priorities, it does have a capital programme in excess of £7m in 2023/24. Linking this to priorities or objectives demonstrates that it is being applied appropriately.

Criteria impacted



Financial sustainability

Auditor judgement

Our work has enabled us to identify a weakness in arrangements which we do not consider to be significant, but have raised a recommendation to support management in making appropriate improvements.

Management comments

Agreed. Major capital schemes in the programme are being revised and reevaluated including how they are meeting Council’s priorities, for example Ellis Park Community Facility – paused following Capital Sub Committee August 2023. The capital bids received for 2024/25 are being prioritised as identified in the December 2023 Full Council Report.

Progressing the actions management has identified to address the recommendations made will support the Council in addressing the improvements identified from our work. We consider that the timescales provided by management are appropriate and encourage the Audit Committee to monitor progress of implementation to gain assurance over the arrangements in place. The range of recommendations that external auditors can make is explained in Appendix B.

Improvement recommendations

Improvement Recommendation 6

The Council needs to ensure that both revenue and capital budgets are realistic and achievable to avoid significant revenue overspends or capital underspends.

Improvement opportunity identified

The 2022/23 outturn position was £0.639m worse than initially planned. Net revenue expenditure is £6.970m for 2022/23, which means that the unplanned deficit was 9% of expenditure. This is higher than we would expect to see.

Summary findings

We made a similar recommendation in our prior year report, but have broadened it to include capital expenditure.

Criteria impacted



Financial sustainability

Auditor judgement

Our work has enabled us to identify a weakness in arrangements which we do not consider to be significant but have raised a recommendation to support management in making appropriate improvements.

Management comments

Agreed. As part of the 2024/25 budget setting process a new approach of Star Chamber was introduced, this involved officer and member scrutiny of budgets line by line. As part of the process of officer scrutiny in preparing the information, a number of previous budget assumptions were re-assessed resulting in changes to budgets to make them realistic and achievable, which will reduce future year revenue overspends.

Major Projects monitoring has been enhanced by the introduction of the Corporate Project Assurance Board adding to the scrutiny of both major capital and revenue areas of spend or income. Improvements to the capital programme monitoring process are being progressed.

Progressing the actions management has identified to address the recommendations made will support the Council in addressing the improvements identified from our work. We consider that the timescales provided by management are appropriate and encourage the Audit Committee to monitor progress of implementation to gain assurance over the arrangements in place. The range of recommendations that external auditors can make is explained in Appendix B.

Improvement recommendations

Improvement Recommendation 7

The Council needs to continue with its efforts to ensure that it has an appropriately resourced and skilled finance team.


Improvement opportunity identified

The Council has not had a stable, fully resourced and appropriately skilled finance team for a number of years. While these issues are not unique to Oadby & Wigston BC they do create some challenges and the Council needs to ensure that the situation is rectified as soon as possible.

Summary findings

The Council has been trying to address the staffing challenges in its finance team for a while, but has been unable to do this on a permanent basis. Having an insufficiently resourced or skilled finance team is a risk, particularly given the challenging financial position the Council faces.

Criteria impacted

 Financial sustainability

Auditor judgement

Our work has enabled us to identify a weakness in arrangements which we do not consider to be significant but have raised a recommendation to support management in making appropriate improvements.

Management comments

Extensive market analysis has been undertaken to support the recruitment drive for a CFO (S151 Officer) and a Finance Manager (Deputy S151 Officer) which is underway with the support of a professional recruitment agency.

Progressing the actions management has identified to address the recommendations made will support the Council in addressing the improvements identified from our work. We consider that the timescales provided by management are appropriate and encourage the Audit Committee to monitor progress of implementation to gain assurance over the arrangements in place. The range of recommendations that external auditors can make is explained in Appendix B.

Governance



We considered how the Council:

- monitors and assesses risk and gains assurance over the effective operation of internal controls, including arrangements to prevent and detect fraud
- approaches and carries out its annual budget setting process
- ensures effective processes and systems are in place to ensure budgetary control; communicate relevant, accurate and timely management information (including non-financial information); supports its statutory financial reporting; and ensures corrective action is taken where needed, including in relation to significant partnerships
- ensures it makes properly informed decisions, supported by appropriate evidence and allowing for challenge and transparency
- monitors and ensures appropriate standards, such as meeting legislative/regulatory requirements and standards in terms of staff and member behaviour (such as gifts and hospitality or declaration of interests) and where it procures and commissions services.

Risk management and internal controls

The Council has appropriate arrangements in place to identify assess and report on strategic risks. The internal audit service meets the Council's needs, providing a wide range of reviews each year.

Risk management

Until April 2022, management and coordination of risk management was outsourced to the Council's appointed internal auditors. Since then, the revised arrangements are that the Strategic Director and Section 151 Officer chair a cross-organisational officer Risk Management Group which was established in April 2022. This group reviews strategic risks on a quarterly basis and recommends any changes through the Senior Leadership Team. Following this review, a Risk Management Quarterly Report is prepared and submitted to the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee will escalate any risks it considers appropriate to Full Council. The updated Risk Management Policy provides a clear process map, including guidance and tips and thresholds for when risks will be escalated.

The Internal Audit "Risk Management" report to the December 2022 Audit Committee provided "Significant" assurance, with only two low level recommendations made.

Audit Committee receives quarterly risk management reports which clearly summarise the approach to risk management and changes to reported risks since the last report. There are 14-15 risks reported, which is at the top end of what we would consider reasonable to allow Members to focus on the key corporate risks. While not an improvement recommendation at this point, if this number starts to creep up the Council could consider not reporting those risks which initially had a score of between four and nine but have been mitigated to four and below. In the July 2023 report there were two such risks.

The report provides assurance that risks are being managed - there is a column showing "Review Date", which in all cases is May 2023, a commentary to explain changes arising from the review, and a graphic showing "Direction of Travel" of the mitigated risk score. There is scope to make it clearer still how the mitigated risk score has changed - this could be included in the review commentary narrative. This does not warrant an improvement recommendation.

In our prior year report we made an improvement recommendation to "Improve the format of the Strategic Risk Register by identifying each risk against a primary corporate objective, summarise the sources of assurance and include a graphical representation the direction of travel of the mitigated risk score." This has been implemented and the risk register now includes all of the information we would expect to see and allows readers to clearly see the impact the risk could have on achieving the Council objectives, including the initial risk score, the mitigations or assurances in place, mitigated score, further actions required and timescales, the officer responsible and direction of travel.

Internal audit and counter fraud

In 2022/23 Internal Audit was provided by CW Audit Services (CWAS). From April 2023 CWAS merged with 360 Assurance. CWAS is a well established Midlands based internal audit supplier with a client base including local government and NHS bodies.

In 2022/23 CWAS undertook 20 assignments, providing an assurance level on 15. The assignments cover an appropriate base including risk management, counter fraud, financial systems, treasury management and some service areas.

The Head of Internal Audit Opinion for 2022/23 provided "Significant" assurance over the control environment, with commentary on the four reviews where "Moderate" assurance was given.

Governance (continued)

Risk management and internal controls (continued)

Internal audit and counter fraud (continued)

The Audit Committee is provided with sufficient assurance to enable it to assess whether internal controls have operated as expected.

The Council has appropriate arrangements in place in respect of the prevention and detection of fraud. The Internal Audit "Counter Fraud & Corruption" report to October 2022 Audit Committee provided "Significant" assurance. The principal finding was that the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy needs updating. Five recommendations were made, all medium or low risk, and all accepted with actions clearly set out. An updated policy was presented to the PFD Committee in June 2023.

Informed decision making including the Audit Committee

The Council ensures that Members are provided with appropriate information on which to make decisions. From May 2023 the composition of the Audit Committee is, in our experience, unusual, and the Council needs to take the opportunity to review this in line with best practice as scheduled for January 2024.

The Council has appropriate arrangements in place to ensure that all relevant information is provided before major decisions are made. Examples include a number of early reports on the 2023/24 budget setting approach, a new Corporate Charging Policy and seeking to increase the Council's income and seeking advance approval for unexpected capital expenditure on the Brocks Hill relocation.

Senior Members and Officers set an appropriate tone. This is reflected in the Local Government Association (LGA) Corporate Peer Challenge – Progress Review report from November 2022. Staff feedback in response to a survey on the office relocation indicates that, while not everyone is happy with it, the vast majority of people felt that communication and support was good.

Audit Committee effectiveness and composition

From May 2023 the composition of the Council's Audit Committee is, in our experience, unusual. We would not expect to see the Leader of the Council, members of the PFD Committee and Chair of the Service and Delivery Committee (SDC) as members of the Audit Committee. In our view this is inconsistent with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) guidance on Audit Committees (see below). However, we have not witnessed any potential conflicts in our attendance at Audit Committee and recognise that there is no statutory requirement to have an Audit Committee, the CIPFA guidance is best practice and that the Council has some safeguards in place to support independent decision making and scrutiny.

In our prior year report we made an improvement recommendation *"The Audit Committee reviews its effectiveness against CIPFA's best practice guidance (see CIPFA's Audit Committees: Practical Guidance For Local Authorities And Police (2022 edition))."*

The Annual Governance Statement (AGS) 2022/23 shows that this is scheduled for January 2024. Our improvement recommendation remains appropriate.

The Council's performance against key governance metrics is set out in the table below.

	2022/23	2021/22
Annual Governance Statement (control deficiencies)	None	None
Head of Internal Audit opinion	"Significant" assurance	"Significant" assurance

Governance (continued)



Standards and behaviours

The Council has appropriate arrangements in place to ensure that proper standards and behaviours of Officers and Members are maintained.

The Local Government Association (LGA) Corporate Peer Challenge in January 2022 made a recommendation "Establish ways for members and officers to work more effectively together". The follow-up report, from November 2022, comments on progress made including work on a Member-led Corporate Plan; a workshop and survey of Members to improve the Member enquiry service, LGA workshops to enhance Officers' political understanding and Members' involvement in the vision for the borough; and commissioning various Centre for Governance and Scrutiny sessions between October and November 2022 to further enhance Members' and Officers' understanding of each other's roles and involvement in decision making processes.

Gifts and hospitality and Declarations of Interest

The Council's approach and policy for gifts and hospitality is included in the Constitution. The gifts and hospitality register is kept up to date and is comprised low value "Thank you" gifts, which are invariably shared.

Senior Officers make annual declarations of interest, including "Nil Returns". Members' declarations are included on their page on the Council website. Review of these indicates that they are up to date and there is no evidence of missing declarations.

Procurement

The Council website provides relevant information regarding procurement, including the latest arrangements and processes and explaining that the Council uses Welland Procurement for support for contracts over £0.050m. The public contracts register is up to date. The Council has demonstrated good procurement governance in seeking Member's approval, through the PFD Committee, in advance of agreeing a contract extension with Capita for the provision of revenues and benefits processing software.

Net Zero

The Council has appropriate arrangements in place to ensure that it monitors and complies with any legislative changes relating to climate change/net zero. This includes having a Climate Change Officer and working with APSE (Association of Public Service Excellence) Energy to produce a 2019/20 Climate Change Baseline Study to measure the carbon footprint for Council operations and to provide a trajectory report to include decarbonisation scenarios and recommendations for net-zero.



Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness



We considered how the Council:

- uses financial and performance information to assess performance to identify areas for improvement
- evaluates the services it provides to assess performance and identify areas for improvement
- ensures it delivers its role within significant partnerships and engages with stakeholders it has identified, in order to assess whether it is meeting its objectives
- where it commissions or procures services assesses whether it is realising the expected benefits.

Use of financial and performance information

The Council has sound arrangements in place for performance management, including ensuring that the underlying data is accurate. The Council recognises that it can make better use of benchmarking and is taking steps to develop this.

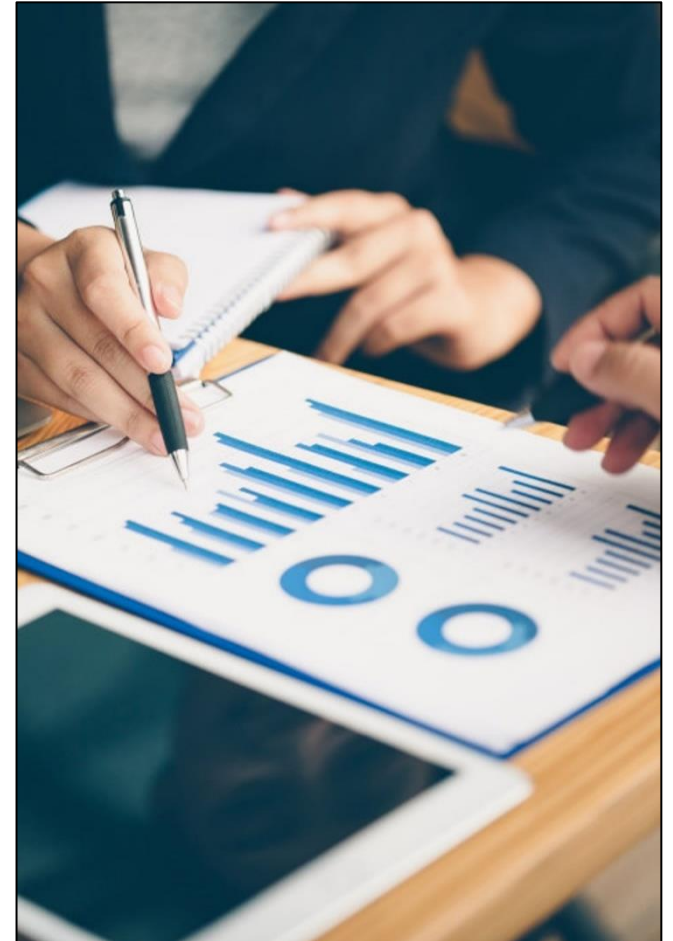
Performance management

The Council provides comprehensive quarterly performance reports to the Service and Delivery Committee (SDC). Reporting is against 44 "Continuous Improvement KPIs (Key Performance Indicators)" from the Corporate Plan 2019-2024 and a further 24 "statutory KPIs". The KPIs are summarised and shown in different ways - by the three corporate objectives and then the four departments. Where targets are being missed this is reported in detail with clear actions. The reports then provide detailed narrative of activity and performance for each area of the Council - housing, planning, economic regeneration etc.

The performance reports are comprehensive. This is appropriate as they are presented to SDC.

Accuracy of information used

The Council has appropriate arrangements in place to obtain assurance over the accuracy of financial data through the work of internal audit, in particular the "Financial Management and Reporting" work. Assurance arrangements for performance data have been strengthened following an internal report in previous years, with a rolling sample of five KPIs per quarter being checked back to supporting evidence by the Customer Service and Transformation team.



Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness (continued)

Use of financial and performance information (continued)

Benchmarking and learning from others

In our prior year report we made an improvement recommendation “Periodically benchmark cost and performance indicators with other similar authorities (for example Nearest Neighbour Group) and investigate reasons for any areas where other authorities appear to be achieving better results.” The Council recognises that it can make better use of benchmarking and is taking steps to develop this, with progress being reported through the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) action plan. As the new arrangements were not in place during 2022/23 our prior year improvement recommendation remains valid.

The Council has appropriate arrangements in place to learn from inspectors, including the LGA. Their follow-up report, in November 2022, observed “The peer team was genuinely impressed by the amount of positive work that OWBC has undertaken since publishing its action plan on 16 May 2022 to progress the CPC’s key recommendations”. The Council has continued to make progress against the recommendations, and has provided update reports to Members.

Assessing performance and identifying improvement

The Council has appropriate arrangements in place to evaluate service delivery and identify alternative approaches.

For example, the 2023/24 budget setting report includes a proposal to amend service delivery of the Community and Wellbeing Team. The proposal is for a shared service with Blaby District Council. While the proposal will actually result in a small increase in cost, it is clear that the service is not viable without the change from in-house delivery.

The LGA has recognised that the Council has responded very positively and quickly to the earlier recommendations it made. The progress reports on the AGS actions also identifies good progress against recommendations, with clear explanations for any delays. While a number of the recommendations made in our prior year report are still in progress at the end of March 2023, this is not unexpected given that the report was presented in January.

Partnership working

The Council has appropriate arrangements in place when working in partnership, the outcome of which is fed back to Members.

The work of partnerships is fed back to the SDC through the quarterly performance reports. This includes the work with UK Gas Services for void property work and the Lightbulb project to support residents to remain safe and well in their own homes.

The Council has appropriate arrangements in place to consult with key stakeholders and to report the outcomes. Examples include the 2023/24 budget setting proposals and the potential disposal of public open space – the latter receiving 606 responses.



Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness (continued)

Commissioning and procurement

The Council has appropriate arrangements in place when commissioning services, including utilising external support when needed.

The adjacent text box sets out some of the common procurement challenges. The Council website provides relevant information regarding procurement, including the latest arrangements and processes and explaining that the Council uses Welland Procurement for support for contracts over £0.050m. The public contracts register is up to date. The Council has demonstrated good procurement governance in seeking Member's approval, through PFD Committee, in advance of agreeing a contract extension with Capita for the provision of revenues and benefits processing software.

The Corporate risk register includes a high rated risk around supplier failure. The risk report to April 2023 Audit Committee showed that the initial risk of 20 has been mitigated down to 12, with assurance obtained from existing controls. Further actions are planned. The controls in place, particularly using external support, ensures that risk of supplier failure is appropriately mitigated, although it can never be eliminated.

Capital programme

The Council has appropriate arrangements in place to report on the capital programme, incorporating this into the quarterly finance reports to PFD Committee. The Council has demonstrated good contract management governance arrangements by seeking Member approval to use part of the contingency budget for Brocks Hill to reflect unexpected repairs before committing to having the work done.



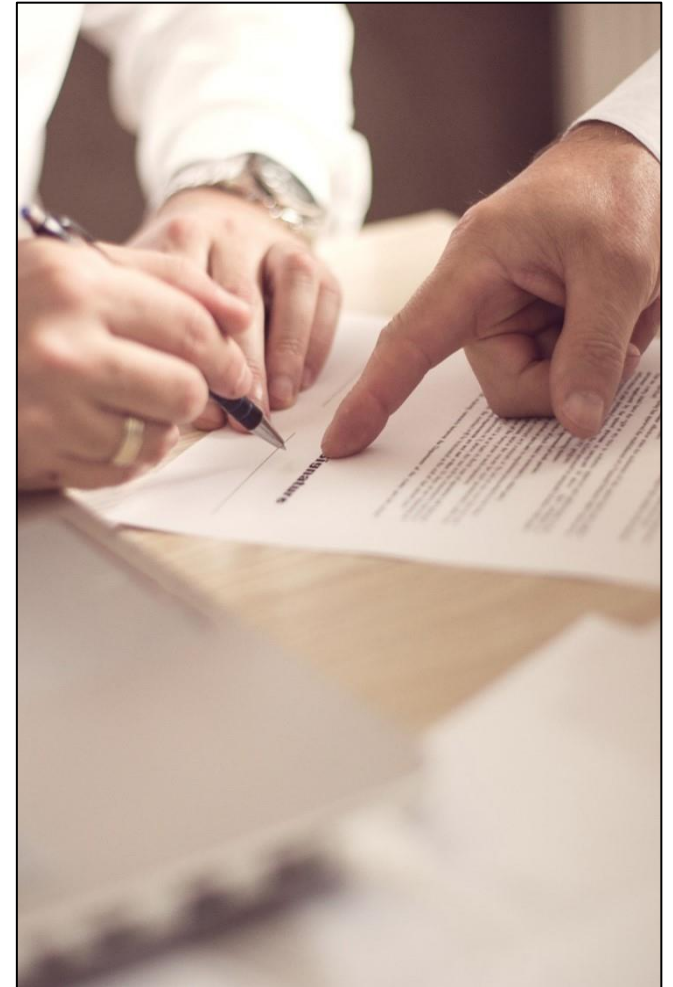
Procurement

Local authorities in England spend around £82.4 billion a year on goods and services. More than a third of all UK government spending on goods and services is spent in the local government sector.

Allowing for capital spending as well, the UK public sector procures around £300 billion a year overall from commercial partners.

Within this, local authorities run local services and deliver high value capital projects every year, balancing the complicated requirements of the Procurement Act and the Social Value Act together, often under close review from electors and other stakeholders. Whole of Government Accounts show that local government spending on goods and services outweighs spending by any one other individual UK government sector.

Given the current focus on net zero, local growth, and efficiency, the opportunity for local authority procurement to make a difference to the wider government agenda has perhaps never been higher. The importance of maintaining good practice has also perhaps never been higher. Local authority members and officers, for the most part, already work well with the commercial partners they appoint. However, with so much public money at stake, there is always scope for continuous improvement and for learning from examples of procurements that did not work entirely as intended.



Follow-up of previous recommendations

Recommendation	Type of recommendation	Date raised	Progress to date	Addressed?	Further action?
1 Ensure that financial plans are developed and implemented to close the funding gap that are not dependent on the use of reserves.	Improvement	January 2023	The Council is forecasting a cumulative deficit of £2.63m over the five year period 2023/24 to 2027/28. Savings plans are not fully worked up, are in any event insufficient to bridge the forecast deficit, and the Council is reliant on the use of reserves over the next five years. Reserves will be used up during 2026/27, even if all of the anticipated savings are realised. This remains an improvement area. See page 13.	No	Yes – the Council needs to implement the original recommendation.
2 Progress with delivering the recently agreed Sustainability Plan which needs to be monitored and reported to the Policy, Finance and Development (PFD) Committee.	Improvement	January 2023	The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) explains that the regular finance reports to the Policy, Finance and Development Committee will be extended to include reporting on the progress of delivery of the Sustainability Plan. Throughout 2022/23, including the outturn report to the June 2023 meeting, there is no evidence of this. This remains an improvement area. See page 13.	No	Yes – the Council needs to implement the original recommendation, which we have revised to include all savings or income generation schemes.
3 Consider distinguishing between core statutory services service and discretionary service costs in financial plans.	Improvement	January 2023	The Council clearly understands and reports the cost of delivering core statutory services (£8m) and discretionary services (net income of £0.6m). The Council plans to undertake further analysis in this area. See page 14.	Yes	No
4 Ensure that there is greater transparency in the budget setting process of the consideration of trends and risks and their impact on projected financial outturn, and of alternative proposals and scenarios.	Improvement	January 2023	The Council has appropriate arrangements to use scenario or sensitivity analysis to model the impact of changes in key assumptions on the financial position. See page 10.	Yes	No

Follow-up of previous recommendations (continued)

Recommendation	Type of recommendation	Date raised	Progress to date	Addressed?	Further action?
5 Engage with external stakeholders on options and considerations as part of the 2023/24 budget setting process.	Improvement	January 2023	The Council has appropriate arrangements in place to consult with stakeholders over the budget. This includes with trade unions, the Federation of Small Businesses and the public. The responses are included in full in the budget setting report, which provides a high degree of transparency. See page 16.	Yes	No
6 Improve the accuracy of in-year forecasting of the financial outturn to prevent unexpected significant swings in the forecast position during the year and particularly between the quarter 3 and quarter 4 reports.	Improvement	January 2023	<p>While in year forecasting has improved, the outturn was significantly different to the initial budget. The Council applied £0.2m more of earmarked reserves than initially planned and made a deficit of £0.439m compared to a break even plan. The position was therefore £0.639m worse than initially planned. Net revenue expenditure is £6.970m for 2022/23, which means that the unplanned deficit was 9% of expenditure.</p> <p>The total capital budget for the year was initially set at £10.905m, but only £4.643m was spent. While the reasons for this have been reported each quarter the actual expenditure represents only 43% of the original plan.</p> <p>This remains an improvement area. See page 14.</p>	No	Yes – the Council needs to implement the original recommendation, which we have broadened to include capital as well as revenue
7 Incorporate relevant service activity and workforce information in the quarterly budget monitoring reports.	Improvement	January 2023	The Council intend to implement this after the local elections in May 2023. It has therefore not been done in 2022/23. The Quarter One 2023/24 Budget Monitoring Report to the September PFD Committee does not include the recommended information. This remains an area for improvement. See page 14.	No	Yes – the Council needs to implement the original recommendation.

Follow-up of previous recommendations (continued)

Recommendation	Type of recommendation	Date raised	Progress to date	Addressed?	Further action?
8 Improve the format of the Strategic Risk Register by identifying each risk against a primary corporate objective, summarise the sources of assurance and include a graphical representation the direction of travel of the mitigated risk score.	Improvement	January 2023	The Council has implemented our prior year improvement recommendation to further enhance the risk register reported to Audit Committee from January 2023. The risk register now includes all of the information we would expect to see and allows readers to clearly see the impact the risk could have on achieving the Council objectives, including the initial risk score, the mitigations or assurances in place, mitigated score, further actions required and timescales, the officer responsible and direction of travel. See page 24.	Yes	No
9 The Audit Committee reviews its effectiveness against CIPFA's best practice guidance [see CIPFA's Audit Committees: Practical Guidance For Local Authorities And Police (2022 edition)].	Improvement	January 2023	The Annual Governance Statement 2022-23 shows that this is scheduled for January 2024. From May 2023 the composition has changed and members include the Leader of the Council and members of the PFD Committee and Chair of the SDC Committee. Our improvement recommendation still stands. See page 25.	No	Yes – the Council needs to implement the original recommendation.
10 Periodically benchmark cost and performance indicators with other similar authorities (for example Nearest Neighbour Group) and investigate reasons for any areas where other authorities appear to be achieving better results.	Improvement	January 2023	The Council recognises that it can make better use of benchmarking and is taking steps to develop this, with progress being reported through the Annual Governance Statement action plan. As the new arrangements were not in place during 2022/23 our prior year improvement recommendation remains valid. See page 28.	No	Yes – the Council needs to implement the original recommendation.
11 Ensure quarterly capital programme monitoring reports include the re-allocation of budgets to alternative schemes. All schemes incurring expenditure should have a budget.	Improvement	January 2023	There has been significant slippage in the original capital plan. The majority of this is moved to subsequent years. However, the Quarter Two report noted "Council Office Refurbishment (£22.8k) and Bushloe House Car Park Resurfacing (£28k) both of these schemes will not go ahead. The budgetary provision has been reprofiled to form a new capital maintenance provision for Brocks Hill of £10k per annum from 2023/24." See page 14.	Yes	No

Opinion on the 2022-23 financial statements



Grant Thornton provides an independent opinion on whether the Council's financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Council as at 31 March 2023 and of its expenditure and income for the year then ended, and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

We conduct our audit in accordance with:

- International Standards on Auditing (UK)
- the Code of Audit Practice (2020) published by the National Audit Office, and
- applicable law

We are independent of the Council in accordance with applicable ethical requirements, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard.

Audit opinion on the financial statements

We are currently in the process of completing our audit of your financial statements. We anticipate being able to issue our opinion in February 2023. From our work completed to date we anticipate issuing an unqualified audit opinion but will report our detailed findings in our Audit Findings Report and summarise them in a final version of this report once our work is complete.



Appendices

Appendix A: Responsibilities of the Council

Public bodies spending taxpayers' money are accountable for their stewardship of the resources entrusted to them. They should account properly for their use of resources and manage themselves well so that the public can be confident.

Financial statements are the main way in which local public bodies account for how they use their resources. Local public bodies are required to prepare and publish financial statements setting out their financial performance for the year. To do this, bodies need to maintain proper accounting records and ensure they have effective systems of internal control.

All local public bodies are responsible for putting in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness from their resources. This includes taking properly informed decisions and managing key operational and financial risks so that they can deliver their objectives and safeguard public money. Local public bodies report on their arrangements, and the effectiveness with which the arrangements are operating, as part of their annual governance statement.

The Chief Financial Officer (or equivalent) is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Chief Financial Officer (or equivalent) determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

The Chief Financial Officer (or equivalent) is required to prepare the financial statements in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC code of practice on local authority accounting in the United Kingdom. In preparing the financial statements, the Chief Financial

Officer (or equivalent) is responsible for assessing the Council's ability to continue as a going concern and use the going concern basis of accounting unless there is an intention by government that the services provided by the Council will no longer be provided.

The Council is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources, to ensure proper stewardship and governance, and to review regularly the adequacy and effectiveness of these arrangements.



Appendix B:

An explanatory note on recommendations

A range of different recommendations can be raised by the Council's auditors as follows:

Type of recommendation	Background	Raised within this report	Page reference(s)
Statutory	Written recommendations to the Council under Section 24 (Schedule 7) of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.	No	N/A
Key	The NAO Code of Audit Practice requires that where auditors identify significant weaknesses as part of the Council's arrangements to secure value for money they should make recommendations setting out the actions that should be taken by the Council. We have defined these recommendations as 'key recommendations'.	No	N/A
Improvement	These recommendations, if implemented, should improve the arrangements in place at the Council, but are not a result of identifying significant weaknesses in the Council's arrangements.	Yes	17-23 and 30-32



Significant weakness in respect of Oadby and Wigston Borough Council Value for Money arrangements

~ Page 207 ~

2023/24

16 January 2024



Executive summary

Value for money arrangements and key recommendations

Requirements of auditors

Under the National Audit Office (NAO) Code of Audit Practice ('the Code'), we are required to consider whether the Council has put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

Auditors are required to report their commentary on the Council's arrangements under specified criteria and 2022/23 was the third year that we have reported our findings in this way and 2023/24 will be the fourth. As part of our work, we consider whether there were any risks of significant weakness in the Council's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

The NAO Code of Audit Practice requires that where auditors identify significant weaknesses as part of the Council's arrangements to secure value for money they should make recommendations setting out the actions that should be taken by the Council. We have defined these recommendations as 'key recommendations'.

The Code requires auditors to report in a commentary each year under the specified reporting criteria and expects that where auditors identify significant weaknesses in arrangements as part of their work, they will raise them promptly with those charged with governance at the body ('immediate reporting').

Our 2022/23 value for money work

In our Auditor's Annual Report for 2022/23, in relation to financial sustainability, we noted that, based on its financial planning at February 2023, "*The Council is forecasting a cumulative deficit of £2.64m over the five year period 2023/24 to 2027/28.*"

We also commented "*The Quarter One 2023/24 Budget Monitoring Report to the September Policy, Finance and Development (PFD) Committee forecasts an outturn deficit of £0.282m against a breakeven budget. This represents 4.1% of the revised revenue budget of £7.6m. The report sets out the main reasons, including £0.241m leisure services, £0.106m staff vacancy savings not achieved and £0.115m errors in setting the original budget. There are savings in capital financing charges of £0.132m due to significant slippage in capital programme funding requirements. The Council is therefore failing to maintain expenditure within budget in 2023/24. This makes the need for developed savings plans even more important, so that some contingency is built in.*"

We concluded "*Officers have identified income generation and savings schemes which, if fully implemented, would significantly improve the financial position, but difficult decisions are needed to implement these. As Officers have identified opportunities which would significantly reduce the financial challenge we have stopped short of concluding that financial sustainability is a significant weakness. We have therefore not raised a "Key recommendation", but would urge the Council to take the opportunities available.*"

The Council is now forecasting a significant deterioration in its financial position. We consider that this is occurring within the 2023/24 financial year therefore do not propose to revisit our conclusions in respect of 2022/23. However, we do need to consider whether there are any matters which may require 'immediate reporting' in 2023/24. We consider these on the following page.

Executive summary

The Council finances in December 2023

The position in December 2023

The 5 December 2023 Policy, Finance & Development Committee received a report on the 2024/25 Draft Revenue Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan. The report highlights a significantly worse position than the one forecast in February 2023.

It states *“The report outlines the draft budget position for the 2024/25 year for the Council’s General Fund, which is an anticipated deficit position of £1.267m. The report outlines an updated MTFP position for 2024/25 to 2027/28 which shows a cumulative gap of £6.883m.”* (see table opposite).

The cumulative gap is an increase of £4.23m on the cumulative deficit of £2.65m reported in February 2023 (before savings from the "Sustainability Plan Programme" (SPP) are factored in). Through its SPP the Council believes it has identified £1.267m of annual savings from 2025/26.

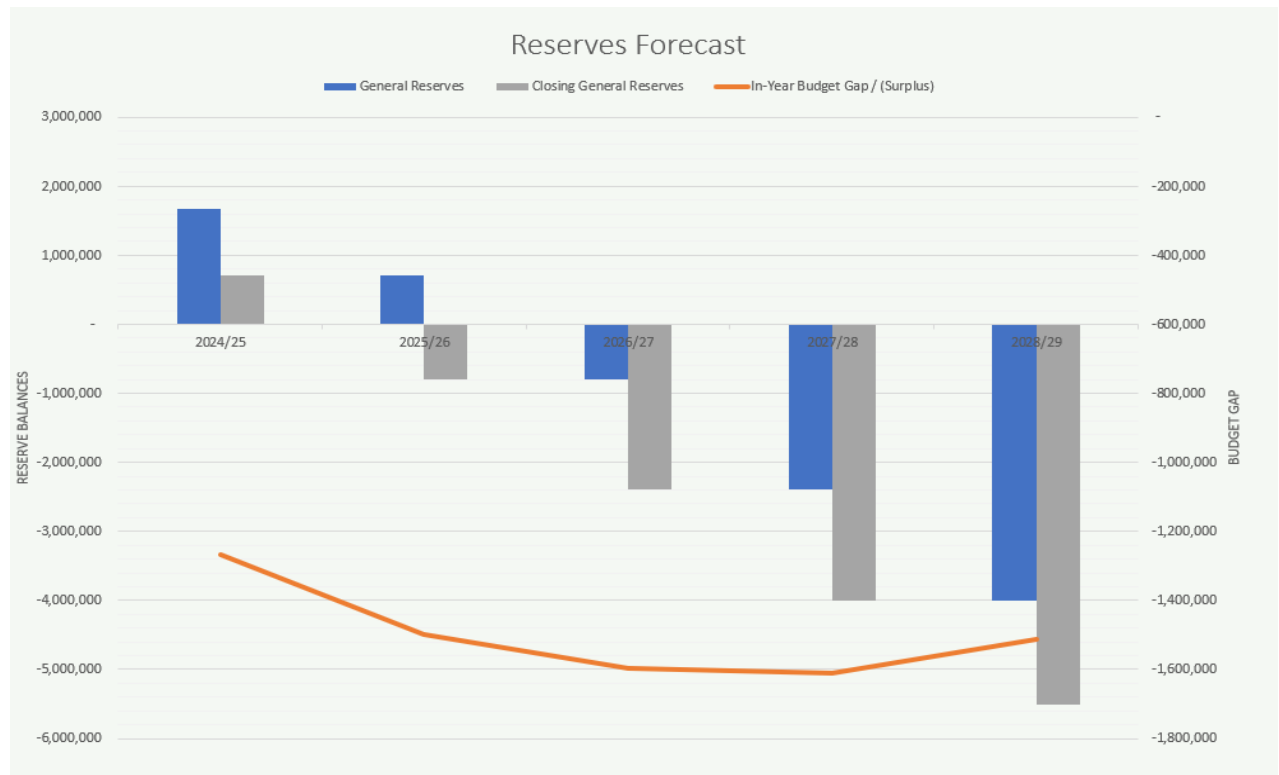
In our 2022/23 Auditor’s Annual Report we considered these in some detail, noting that around £0.7m of savings *“will be the most difficult for Members to agree. But the Council needs to achieve all of the savings and income generation opportunities identified in order to achieve financial balance, even if there are no further unexpected pressures or costs, which is highly unlikely.”*

Even if all of the savings are achieved, the Council is still estimating an underlying deficit of around £0.3m a year (whereas previously small surpluses were being forecast if all savings were achieved). The report also highlights that reserves used to balance the budget will run out in 2025/26, a year earlier than anticipated in the February 2023 report (see Chart opposite).

Judgement

We consider that the deterioration in the Council’s financial position and the risk that it will basically run out of money in 2025/26 unless further significant and challenging savings are achieved, is a significant weakness in arrangements and we have made a key recommendation as set out on the next page.

	February 2023		November 2023	
Financial Year	In-year Gap	Cumulative Gap	In-year Gap	Cumulative Gap
2023/24	£431,000	£431,000	£912,566	£912,566
2024/25	£269,000	£700,000	£1,267,000	£2,179,566
2025/26	£810,000	£1,510,000	£1,498,000	£3,677,566
2026/27	£686,000	£2,196,000	£1,596,000	£5,273,566
2027/28	£457,000	£2,653,000	£1,609,000	£6,882,566



Key recommendation

Key Recommendation 1

The Council needs to take urgent action to implement savings plans identified in order to ensure that the use of reserves to balance the budget does not continue and that the Council does not find itself in a position where it is unable to fund its expenditure in 2025/26.

Identified significant weakness in arrangements

The Council's latest financial projections are that its Medium Term Financial Plan shows a cumulative gap to 2026/27 of £6.883m before planned savings. Based on the Council's in order to maintain services reserves will need to be used to balance the budget with projections that these will run out in 2025/26. The Council has identified around £1.2m of potential savings. It now needs to implement these. Even if these savings are achieved in full there remains an annual underlying deficit of around £0.3m for which additional savings or funding will be required.

Summary findings

The risk of Chief Finance Officers having to issue a S.114 notice, effectively declaring a body bankrupt, is increasing. The latest financial forecasts show that, without significant action, Oadby and Wigston Borough Council is likely to be in that position some time in 2025.

Criteria impacted by the significant weakness



Financial Sustainability

Auditor judgement

Based on the work undertaken, we are not satisfied that Council has proper arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources in 2023/24. We have therefore identified a significant weakness in arrangements.

Management comments

The Council (12 December 2023) considered the emerging budget position for 2024/25. Council approved the sustainability plan (appendix 4 to the report) in the main, including moving to alternate weekly refuse and recycling collections. Some small changes to the proposal were made requiring a small increase in savings to be found through service transformation, however all the suggestions put forward to meet the £1.267M gap have been approved including an ongoing commitment that the Council should not use reserves to balance the revenue budget.

Progressing the actions management has identified to address the recommendation made will support the Council in addressing the weaknesses identified from our work. We consider that the timescales provided by management are appropriate and encourage the Audit Committee to monitor progress of implementation to gain assurance over the arrangements in place.



Agenda Item 15



Full Council	Thursday, 22 February 2024	Matter for Information and Decision
---------------------	---------------------------------------	--

Report Title: **Review of Designation of Polling Place for
Polling District G2 (Oadby Brocks Hill)**

Report Author(s): **Samuel Ball (Legal & Democratic Services Manager / Deputy
Monitoring Officer) (Deputy Acting Returning Officer)**

Purpose of Report:	To seek Council's approval on the alternative designation being proposed by the (Acting) Returning Officer (the "ARO") for the Harborough, Oadby and Wigston Constituency in respect of the polling place to be used at future elections and referenda that take place within the Borough of Oadby and Wigston for Polling District G2 only.
Report Summary:	The ARO proposes to re-designate Beauchamp College on Ridge Way, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 5TP as the polling place for electors residing in Polling District G2 in lieu of Brocks Hill Primary School on Howdon Road, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 5WP due to a change in circumstances.
Recommendation(s):	A. The content of the report and appendix be noted; and B. The Council approves the re-designation of Beauchamp College on Ridge Way, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 5TP as the polling place for electors residing in Polling District G2.
Senior Leadership, Head of Service, Manager, Officer and Other Contact(s):	<p>Anne Court (Chief Executive / Head of Paid Service) (Acting Returning Officer) (0116) 257 2602 anne.court1@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</p> <p>David Gill (Head of Law & Democracy / Monitoring Officer) (Deputy Acting Returning Officer) (0116) 257 2626 david.gill@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</p> <p>Samuel Ball (Legal & Democratic Services Manager / Deputy Monitoring Officer) (Deputy Acting Returning Officer) (0116) 257 2643 samuel.ball@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</p>
Strategic Objectives:	Our Council (SO1) Our Communities (SO2) Our Partners (SO5)
Vision and Values:	"Our Borough - The Place To Be" (Vision) Customer & Community Focused (V1)
Report Implications:-	
Legal:	There are no implications directly arising from this report.
Financial:	There are no implications directly arising from this report.
Corporate Risk	Regulatory Governance (CR6)

Management:	
Equalities and Equalities Assessment (EA):	There are no implications directly arising from this report. EA not applicable.
Human Rights:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Health and Safety:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Statutory Officers' Comments:-	
Head of Paid Service:	The report is satisfactory.
Chief Finance Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Monitoring Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Consultees:	None.
Background Papers:	Report entitled 'Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations, Full Council' to Full Council on Tuesday 28 November 2023
Appendices:	1. Polling District G2 (Map)

1. Background

- 1.1 At an extraordinary meeting of the Full Council on 28 November 2023, Members approved the revised Polling District, Polling Places and Polling Station arrangements as proposed by the (Acting) Returning Officer ("the ARO") following a statutory review of the same.
- 1.2 On the information available to the ARO at the time, this approval included the designation of Brocks Hill Primary School on Howdon Road, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 5WP as the polling place for electors residing in Polling District G2 situated in the Oadby Brocks Hill Ward.

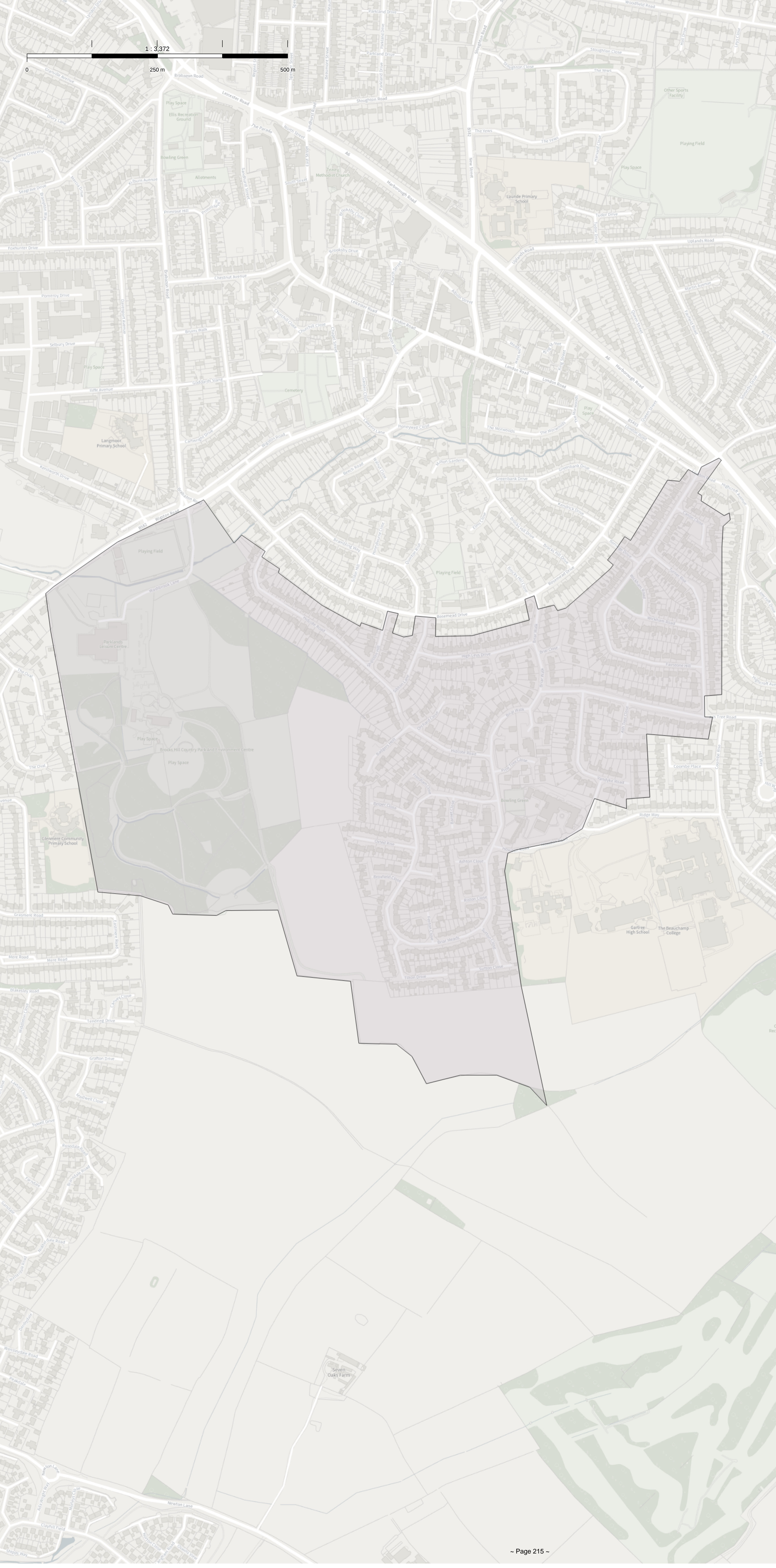
2. Information

- 2.1 On 30 November 2023, the ARO was contacted by the Headteacher at Brocks Hill Primary School informing us that the school had been fast-tracked for re-development under the Department of Education's School Rebuild Programme and from confirmed allocation of section 106 funding by the County Council with works anticipated as early as summer 2024.
- 2.2 Having been apprised of the nature and extent of the re-development works, on balance, the ARO has determined that such works would cause considerable disruption to the school building and general access to the site, thereby reducing its suitability and capacity for reasonable use as a polling place for the next 5-years as previously approved by Council.
- 2.3 The ARO was signposted by the Headteacher to contact her colleagues at the Lionheart Educational Trust (encompassing both Brocks Hill Primary School and Beauchamp College) to identify another suitable venue at neighbouring Beauchamp College on Ridge Way, Oadby.
- 2.4 On 18 December 2023, a visit to the college was undertaken which confirmed that there were adequate and reasonable facilities for voting available in one of the college's meeting rooms located at the very front of the site's main entrance, the use of which would have no impact on the college's day-to-day operations or resulting in any type of closure to pupils.

(Continued overleaf)

3. Proposed Change and Implementation

- 3.1 For the reasons above, the ARO proposes to re-designate Beauchamp College on Ridge Way, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 5TP as the polling place for electors in Polling District G2. The use of Coombe Park Pavilion on Coombe Rise, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 5TW as the polling place for electors in Polling District G1 remains unchanged and unaffected by this proposal.
- 3.2 The re-designation is not likely to have a detrimental effect upon the voting arrangements for affected electors due to it being within close proximity to the current designation at Brocks Hill Primary School and having comparable facilities. If approved, Beauchamp College will be used for all scheduled and non-scheduled elections with immediate effect.



Oadby & Wigston
BOROUGH COUNCIL

District G2

Ward:

Oadby Brocks Hill

County division:

Oadby

Parliamentary boundary:

Harborough, Oadby & Wigston

Parish:

None

Property count: **912**

Electorate count: **1693**