

## Appendix 4 – GF Non-Staff Budget Proposals

### Cost Pressures – Increase in Expenditure

Service	Revised Budget 22/23	2023-24 Permanent Growth	2023-24 One-off Growth	Description
Emergency Accommodation	14,300	31,700		The net growth of £32k is in relation to several movements in budgets associated with the provision of emergency accommodation.
Metric & WorldPay	0.00	18,000		£12k for the maintenance and servicing contract -new expenditure following the extension of car parking charges since the machines only came with 12 month warranty. Plus, a further £6k to cover the increase in banking fees for the Pay by Phone app. The figure is higher than anticipated due to the popularity of this payment option and is covered by additional income generated due to scheme demand.
Hired Staff	35,400	60,000		Cover for Refuse & Recycling bank holiday arrangements
Community & Wellbeing	0	25,000		Proposal for Blaby Borough Council to deliver health and wellbeing services on our behalf
Subscriptions	17,000.00	9,000		- Permanent growth for annual subscription costs for the council's main digital communication platform (Gov Delivery) and staff access health and safety administration system (DashPivot). This would be utilised across all departments and modernising the monitoring of business critical health and safety practices to a digital format will improve record keeping and accuracy, ensuring the Council's working practices and procedures are robust.
Audit Fees	149,000.00	72,000.00		This budget proposal includes External Audit Fees £48k and Internal audit £24k. Authorities have been advised to anticipate a major reset of total external audit fees following an announcement made by the Public Sector Auditor Appointments in October 2022 The Internal Audit budget was not correctly budgeted for in previous years and this change

			reflect this and the achievement of a (£10K) saving because of the management of risk being brought back in-house.
Debt Charges	720,900	296,200	The budget increase of £295k is for the expected increase in the MRP provision of £37k for the year and a further, largely unanticipated increase in interest payments of £258k, to reflect the ongoing outlook in respect of interest rates.
Recruitment	8,000	10,000	Recruitment support costs (finder fees, recruitment specialist, adverts in specialist publications etc)
Software Costs	308,400	192,300	The increase in costs is predominantly due to a range of budget areas to cover the cost of managing the Council's IT service in-house. Various changes are proposed, including specific inflationary increases to the Council's Customer Service Relationship Manager system, specific software in respect of IT infrastructure, security and backup and a new licence for the revenues and benefits system.
Local Plan	0.00	105,000	No contribution was made in the 2022/23 financial year to assist with 2022/23 budget setting on the basis that a larger value would be set aside from 2023/24. Currently, £270k is set aside in an earmarked reserve for the purposes of funding the Local Plan examination. Indications are that the total cost of the local plan examination could be between £385k and £575k. Given the budget challenges the Council faces, the median position (the middle position of the low and high estimates) of £480k will be budgeted for, meaning a further £210k is required. In order to spread this cost, this will be split over the next 2 years at £105k in 2023/24 and £105k in 2024/25.
Insurance Recharge	185,600	17,500	Increases due to Insurance contract renewal
Fuel Oil & Grease	128,900	46,700	Increase in budget due to the high energy prices. This is currently in line with the latest OBR forecasts (March 2022) which show a reduction in

				prices compared to levels currently being experienced. This may change and will be reviewed again after the OBR refresh in November.
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**Cost Pressure – Reduction in Income**

Service	Revised Budget 22/23	2023-24 Permanent Growth	2023-24 One-off Growth	Description
Grant Repayment	-10,000.00	10,000.00		Lightbulb Scheme came into effect in 2017. After 5 years any repayment of Disabled Facilities Grant will be administered directly through the scheme. The Council has received less income because of fewer deaths and property sales. We do not expect to receive repayments for grants awarded from this point forward as grants are administered through the Lightbulb Scheme.
Rent	-6,240.00	6,240.00		Reduction in income. This budget is no longer achievable as we no longer use council housing stock for homelessness prevention and is legacy budget correction.

**Savings – Increase in Income**

Service	Revised Budget 22/23	2023-24 Savings Plan	2023-24 One-off Growth	Description
Parking Charges	-550,000.00	-25,000.00		An increase in parking charges is not proposed, since the current projections based on existing and forecast demand is that the scheme will maintain its full cost recovery position for the foreseeable future, with the position on the car parking trading account being that the historic deficit will be fully recovered in circa 2025/26.
White Goods	-14,300.00	-15,700.00		Based on demand for this service being higher than previously budgeted plus an assumed increase of 7% to reflect the increase in fuel, other supplies and services and staffing cost

				increases (this year and next) in providing the service.
Garden Waste Service	-494,000.00	-56,000		The income projection is based on the performance in respect of demand 2022/23.
HRA Recharge	-1,240,435	-193,368		Increase in HRA Recharge calculated from increase in costs of central services
Elections	0		-12,978	New burdens grant for administering the ensuring electoral integrity programme
Legal Fees	-5,000.00	-20,000.00		Charge out professional legal services of qualified personnel to other Council's on an ad-hoc or shared service arrangements. Benchmarking has identified that several other Local Authorities (LA's) already offer this paid for service. Of the LA's identified the fee charged ranges between £100 to £300 for householder planning applications depending on the guaranteed Decision date. This change is in relation to demand and not the level of charges.
Taxi Licencing	-131,600.00	-6,000.00		Based on a 3% increase to cover the increased costs of staffing arising from the national pay award this year (2022/23) and likely next year (2023/24) in providing the service.
Business Licencing	-228,200.00	-10,000.00		It is accepted that there is the potential to increase income by c£10k through recovery of outstanding fees. This is in relation to demand only and there are no changes proposed to charges here.

#### Savings – Reduction in Expenditure

Service	Revised Budget 22/23	2023-24 Savings Plan	2023-24 One-off Growth	Description
External Contractors	100,000.00	-100,000.00		This is in respect of a contingency budget of £100k that was utilised in 2022/23 to cover the reduced manage fee receivable from SLM. Now that the SLM contract renegotiation has been agreed by Council, this £100k has been adjusted to reflect the renegotiated contract position for 2023/24

Public Cleansing Recharge	21,000.00	-21,000.00	This charge used to cover cleaning for bottle banks historically and is no longer required.
Printing Charges	56,000.00	-20,000.00	A reduction in expenditure of (£6k) to be achieved by reducing the printing, packaging, and posting and increasing electronic messaging of agenda packs for committee meetings. A reduction of (£14k) to be achieved through a new lease contract for fewer printers/copiers.
Sustainability Programme	0.00	-50,000.00	This is the first annual Sustainability Plan target in respect of service reviews next year. The saving has not yet been identified from budget lines and is subject to the Service Review timetable being implemented as part of the Sustainability Plan programme. The result of the service review will be for officers to make recommendations to members on service provision, which may include models of alternative delivery, including sharing with another council and outsourcing, will be considered as options to identify savings, along with service changes. An update, including the intended approach and service review programme, is due to be presented to the Service Delivery Committee at its next meeting.
Flexible use of Capital Receipts	0.00	-50,000.00	Capitalisation of revenue costs associated with cross-organisation work to streamline processes and achieve technological transformation, per Flexible use of Capital Receipts Strategy.

#### **Service Development**

Service	Revised Budget 22/23	2023-24 Savings Plan	2023-24 One-off Growth	Description
Bushloe House	130,415.00	-71,734.00		Expected savings on utilities and maintenance due to move, pro rata'd on the assumption that we move end of Jun 23.
Community Lottery JW	0.00	-20,000.00		Community Lottery was approved at Full Council in September 2022. Based on assumed demand in the

				form of ticket sales, of approximately 6,000 tickets per year, the net income achievable in year 1 is estimated at £20,000 for year 1.
Events - Rob Helliwell	0.00	-8,000.00		Events in the borough was approved by the Full Council in September 2022. It is anticipated that a target level of £10k will be achieved if the council uses its existing resources to support events in the Borough