

Date: 8 March 2024
My ref: Cabinet Executive
Your ref:
Contact: Democratic Services
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To Members of the Cabinet Executive

Councillor Terry Richardson (Leader)	– Leader of the Council
Councillor Maggie Wright (Deputy Leader)	– Finance, People & Performance Portfolio Holder
Councillor Nigel Grundy	– Neighbourhood Services & Assets Portfolio Holder
Councillor Les Phillimore	– Housing, Community & Environmental Services Portfolio Holder
Councillor Ben Taylor	– Planning Delivery and Enforcement & Corporate Transformation Portfolio Holder

Dear Councillor,

A meeting of the **CABINET EXECUTIVE** will be held on **MONDAY, 18 MARCH 2024** at **5.30 p.m.** for the transaction of the following business and your attendance is requested.

Yours faithfully



Louisa Horton
Monitoring Officer



AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Disclosure of Interests from Members
To receive disclosures of interests from Members (i.e. the existence and the nature of those interests in respect of items on this agenda).
3. Minutes (Pages 3 - 10)
To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2024 (enclosed).
4. Public Speaking Protocol
Requests received by the Protocol deadline to be reported by the Senior Democratic Services Officer with details of the Agenda Item to which they relate. (Such persons entitled to use the Protocol attend for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the business of the meeting and the time allocated to each person is a maximum of three minutes unless extended at the discretion of the Chairman).
5. UK Shared Prosperity Fund (Pages 11 - 20)
To consider the report of the Planning & Strategic Growth Group Manager (enclosed).
6. Cabinet Executive Response to Scrutiny Recommendations : Administrations Budget Proposals 2024/25 (Pages 21 - 28)
To consider the report of the Strategic Director (Section 151 Officer) (enclosed).

CABINET EXECUTIVE

Minutes of a meeting held via Zoom

MONDAY, 26 FEBRUARY 2024

Present:

Councillor Terry Richardson (- Leader of the Council) (Leader)
Councillor Maggie Wright (- Finance, People & Performance Portfolio Holder) (Deputy Leader)

Cllr. Nigel Grundy	- Neighbourhood Services & Assets Portfolio Holder
Cllr. Les Phillimore	- Housing, Community & Environmental Services Portfolio Holder
Cllr. Ben Taylor	- Planning Delivery and Enforcement & Corporate Transformation Portfolio Holder

Also in attendance as Observers:

Cllr. Nick Brown (Scrutiny Commissioner)

Officers present:-

Julia Smith	- Chief Executive
Sarah Pennelli	- Executive Director - S.151 Officer
Louisa Horton	- Executive Director - Communities and Monitoring Officer
Nick Brown	- Finance Group Manager
Katie Hollis	- Accountancy Services Manager
Katie Brooman	- Elections and Governance Manager
Nicole Cramp	- Democratic & Scrutiny Services Officer
Isaac Thomas	- Democracy Support Officer

1. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS FROM MEMBERS

No disclosures were received.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2024, as circulated, were approved and signed as a correct record.

3. PUBLIC SPEAKING PROTOCOL

No requests were received.

4. **SCRUTINY COMMISSION RESPONSE TO THE ADMINISTRATIONS
2024/25 DRAFT BUDGET PROPOSALS**

Considered – Report of the Senior Democratic Services & Scrutiny Officer, presented by Cllr. Nick Brown – Chairman of the Scrutiny Commission.

Cllr. Nick Brown thanked Cabinet Executive Members for attending the budget sessions and for responding to all the questions put to them.

Cllr. Maggie Wright thanked all Members who attended the scrutiny budget sessions and commended Officers who prepared the reports for the meetings.

Cllr. Les Phillimore queried the wording of Recommendation 10 which refers to housing support for 'vulnerable residents' and proposed that the wording could be made broader as the Housing Team is working to provide accommodation for a wider range of residents. Cllr. Nick Brown agreed with this proposed amendment.

Other options considered:

No other options were considered. Budget scrutiny is a constitutional requirement.

DECISION

That Cabinet Executive considers the comments and recommendations of Scrutiny Commission in respect of the draft 2024/25 budget proposals before making final recommendations to Council.

Reason:

Scrutiny Commission has a mandate to examine the Administration's draft budget proposals and submit comments to Cabinet Executive which it is then obliged to consider before making its own final recommendations to Council on Budget proposals. All non-executive members may be involved in this process.

5. QUARTER 3 BUDGET REVIEW 2023/24

Considered – Report of the Accountancy Services Manager.

Other options considered:

None.

DECISIONS

1. That the financial performance against the budget for the quarter ending 31st December 2023 be accepted.
2. That the forecast contribution of £318,257 to General Fund balances be accepted.
3. That the irrecoverable debts set out in paragraph 4.5 are authorised to be written off.

Reasons:

1. It is good practice that Members have oversight of the Council's financial performance at regular points during the financial year.
2. To recognise movements in the call on reserves and balances to date, along with potential variances in establishment costs and key income streams that may arise between now and the end of the financial year.

6. QUARTER 3 CAPITAL PROGRAMME REVIEW 2023/24

Considered – Report of the Accountancy Services Manager.

Other options considered:

None.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

1. That the report be accepted.
2. That the latest Capital Programme for 2023/24, totalling £11,760,992, be accepted.

Reasons:

1. To ensure that the Council has adequate resources in place to meet its capital expenditure commitments.
2. To reflect additions or other changes to the Capital Programme that have occurred in the 3rd quarter of the year.

7. 5 YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2024/25 TO 2028/29

Cllr. Ben Taylor left the room during consideration of this item and did not return.

Considered – Report of the Finance Group Manager.

Other options considered:

None. It is important to produce a 5-year Capital Programme as a minimum requirement of the Capital Strategy, and that the programme aligns with the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

1. That the 5 Year Capital Programme for 2024/25 to 2028/29 be approved.
2. That the application of capital resources of £3,826,900 for 2024/25, including a borrowing requirement of £1,665,938, be approved.
3. That the Capital Strategy 2024/25 to 2028/29 be approved.

Reasons:

1. To obtain approval for the proposed level of capital expenditure in 2024/25 and the suggested method of financing that expenditure.
2. To provide a longer-term forecast of capital expenditure and financing requirements for the period 2024/25 to 2028/29.
3. To ensure compliance with the Prudential Code.

8. **PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR & TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2024/25**

Considered – Report of the Finance Group Manager.

Other options considered:

None. The approval of the Treasury Management Strategy and prudential indicators is a statutory requirement.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

1. That the capital prudential indicators and limits for 2024/25 to 2028/29 are approved.
2. That the Treasury Management Strategy for 2024/25 and the treasury prudential indicators are approved.
3. That the Investment Strategy for 2024/25 be approved.
4. That the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement for 2024/25 be approved.
5. That delegated authority be granted to the Executive Director (Section 151), in consultation with the portfolio holder for Finance, Performance, and People, to decide whether to redeem its holding in the Lothbury Property Trust, or to transfer its investment to the proposed merger outlined at paragraph 4.3 of the report.

Reasons:

1. The Local Government Act 2003 and supporting regulations requires the Council to “have regard to” the CIPFA Prudential Code and the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice to set Prudential and Treasury Indicators for the next three years to ensure that the Council’s capital investment plans are affordable, prudent, and sustainable.
2. The Act requires the Council to set out its treasury strategy for borrowing and to prepare an Annual Investment Strategy. This covers the Council’s criteria for choosing investment counterparties and limiting exposure to the risk of loss.
3. The Act also requires the Council to undertake an annual review of its policy for calculating the minimum revenue provision (MRP) for repayment of external debt.
4. The timing of the proposed merger of the Lothbury Property Trust with an alternative property fund is such that the Council will only have a short window of opportunity to make its decision regarding the future of its property fund investment.

9. **SCHEDULE OF CHARGES 2024/25**

Considered – Report of the Accountancy Services Manager.

Other options considered:

Not to review the fees and charges. However, it is considered appropriate that, where possible, charges should be set at a level necessary to achieve full cost recovery.

DECISION

That the Schedule of Charges for 2024/25 be approved.

Reason:

To ensure that the fees and charges for 2024/25 are formally set and approved.

10. **GENERAL FUND BUDGET PROPOSALS 2024/25**

Considered – Report of the Executive Director (Section 151 Officer).

Other options considered:

None – The Council is required to set its budgetary requirement and for the Council to consider the opinion of the Executive Director (S151 Officer) as to the robustness of the proposed budget and the levels of reserves and balances being adequate.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

1. To have regard to the comments of the Executive Director (Section 151 Officer) in paragraph 4.7 in respect of the requirements of the Local Government Finance Act 2003.
2. That the 2024/25 General Fund Revenue Account net expenditure budget of £15.394m be approved.
3. That delegated authority be given to the S151 Officer in consultation with the Portfolio Holder to make amendments to the Budget should it be necessary.

Reasons:

1. It is a requirement for the Cabinet Executive and Council to take into account the requirements of the Local Government Finance Act 2003 in relation to the robustness of the budget and the adequacy of reserves.
2. Cabinet and Council are required to consider and approve the General Fund Revenue Account budget proposals in order to set the budget and Council Tax for the forthcoming financial year.
3. Delegated authority is sought in order to make any amendments to the Budget should any new information become available following approval by full Council.

11. **COUNCIL TAX 2024/25**

Considered – Report of the Finance Group Manager.

Other options considered:

None – the setting of the Council Tax Requirement is a statutory requirement, and changes to Council Tax Support and discretionary liability must be approved by Full Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

1. That the Council Tax Requirement for 2024/25 be set at £6,526,402.
2. The District Council Band D Council Tax be set at £189.14, reflecting an increase of 2.99% (£5.49), all other bands being determined in accordance with the relevant Sections of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended.
3. The precepts and Band D Council Tax for Leicestershire County Council*, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), the Combined Fire Authority, and the various Parish Councils within the District, be determined as set out in the following report, with all other bands being determined in accordance with the relevant Sections of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended.

Reason:

The Council is statutorily required to determine its own Council Tax Requirement and to determine the Council Tax for the 2024/25 financial year, after considering precepts set by the other preceptors.

THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 6.18 P.M.

Blaby District Council

Cabinet Executive

Date of Meeting	18 March 2024
Title of Report	UK Shared Prosperity Fund This is not a Key Decision and is on the Forward Plan
Lead Member	Cllr. Terry Richardson - Leader of the Council
Report Author	Planning & Strategic Growth Group Manager
Corporate Priority	All Priorities: A Place to Live; A Place to Work; A Place to Visit; People Strategy; Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)

1. What is this report about?

- 1.1 This report provides information on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and seeks approval for Year 3 project themes to be developed and funded.

2. Recommendation(s) to Council

- 2.1 To note the progress of Year 1 and 2 Projects set out at Appendix 1.
- 2.2 To approve the allocation of UK Shared Prosperity Fund against a number of Year 3 project themes set out at Appendix 2.
- 2.3 To give delegated approval to the Executive Director, Place, in consultation with cabinet to progress projects within the Year 3 Project Programme themes set out at Appendix 2.

3. Reason for Decisions Recommended

- 3.1 To enable the Blaby District Council allocation of UK Shared Prosperity Fund to be spent in accordance with the submitted Investment Plan.

4. Matters to consider

4.1 Background

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is part of the Government's Levelling Up agenda. It provides £2.6 billion of new funding for local investment by March 2025, with all areas of the UK receiving an allocation from the Fund via a funding formula. It is intended to help places across the country deliver enhanced outcomes by reducing inequalities and bridging gaps in the provision of opportunities.

The UKSPF guidance states that it will support the Government's wider commitment to level up all parts of the UK by delivering on each of the levelling up objectives:

- Boost productivity, pay, jobs and living standards by growing the private sector, especially in those places where they are lagging
- Spread opportunities and improve public services, especially in those places where they are weakest
- Restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places where they have been lost
- Empower local leaders and communities, especially in those places lacking local agency

Underneath the overarching aim of building pride in place and increasing life chances, there are three UKSPF investment priorities:

- Communities and place
- Supporting local business
- People and skills.

There are detailed objectives associated with each of these priorities which are aligned to the relevant Levelling Up White Paper mission. Further detailed information is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus>

4.2 Funding Allocations

Every area of the UK has received a funding allocation paid to lead local authorities, and Blaby District Council was allocated £2,115,168. This is for the period April 2022 to March 2025, paid in three tranches. So far we have received £770,085 to spend by the end of March 2024. Within the total fund allocation, 4% is earmarked for expenditure on resources to help with this management.

The allocation is conditional upon a number of requirements being met, and the key one of these was the production of an Investment Plan. This was signed off by Council in July 2022 and submitted to Government, and set out how we planned to spend the allocation across a number of interventions.

4.3 Key stages

The key stages of the UKSPF programme are broadly compromised of the following:

- Establishing resources and governance structure
- Setting the local context – data analysis, identifying challenges and inequalities
- Establishing the priorities and required interventions
- Developing the delivery mechanisms / projects
- Submitting and periodically updating the Investment Plan
- Developing the delivery mechanisms/ projects

- Delivering the projects
- Monitoring and reporting
- Ongoing consultation with stakeholders

All of these workstreams have been underway now since April 2022.

One of the aims of the UKSPF is to contribute to a better evidence base for supporting interventions in local areas. The collation and analysis of local data and evidence is an extremely important stage in developing an Investment Plan, and a mandatory requirement for drawing down the funding allocation. Work has been undertaken since April to understand the data and evidence for Blaby District, and what this tells us about the local challenges and intervention requirements.

This information has been used to inform the consideration of a programme of approved Year 1 and Year 2 projects. These projects have been put forward both internally by officers, and externally by a range of organisations, and approved by Cabinet. Details are attached at Appendix 1.

The UKSPF funding has been allocated for 3 years between 2022 and 2025, with a pre-set expenditure profile set out (see section 7 below). We are approaching the end of the second year, and the total available allocation to the end of March 2024 was £739,282 net of the 4% admin/resource allowance. The approved projects required £699,583, leaving a £39,699 contingency.

The revised expected expenditure is £616,422. This is lower than predicted, because some projects require longer for delivery and a very small number have not proceeded. It does however meet the 80% expenditure threshold for drawing down 100% of the Year 3 UKSPF allocation at the beginning of the 2024/25 financial year. The underspend will be rolled forward into 2024/25 and has been accounted for in the Year 3 allocation as set out below.

Year 3 Programme

4.4

The Year 3 allocation of £1,345,083 is required to be spent by the end of March 2025, and therefore it is necessary to agree the Year 3 projects.

After deducting the 4% admin/resource allowance, and adding the currently anticipated underspend from Years 1 and 2 of £122,840, this provides a total allocation of £1,414,120 to allocate to projects for Year 3.

Following an assessment of potential projects, against the interventions specified in our submitted Investment Plan, a proposed Year 3 project programme has been developed which is attached at Appendix 2.

These projects have been assessed against the UKSPF criteria and a range of other factors including:

- Can they realistically spend the allocation by the end of March 2025.
- Does the Council have the resources in place to deliver the projects, and if not can additional resources be built into the project.

- Are the timescales for delivery realistic, for example are we dependent on recruitment or procurement.
- Are they likely to have stakeholder support based on the consultation undertaken.

Work to further develop and deliver these projects continues, and further reports will be brought to Cabinet to seek approval for and changes to the programme as and when required during 2024/25.

4.5 Governance and Consultation

It is necessary to ensure that the fund is properly managed, and this requires careful monitoring of expenditure against each of the projects. In addition, a reporting framework has been set which requires returns to be submitted to Government. To date a number of returns have been submitted and accepted.

In addition, the UKSPF guidance requires us to ensure stakeholder input and consultation through a Local Partnership Group (LPG); although it does not define what this should look like. Therefore consultation and information sharing takes place via existing channels including Parish Liaison meetings and business breakfasts.

4.6 Resources

The Fund is managed by a Corporate Lead and support is provided by administration resource, which is paid for by the 4% resources/admin element of the fund.

5. **Relevant Consultations**

- 5.1 In developing Investment Plans, lead local authorities are required to undertake stakeholder consultation, and arrangements for this are set out at 4.4 above.

6. **Significant Issues**

- 6.1 There are no significant issues directly arising from this report.

7. **What will it cost and are there opportunities for savings?**

- 7.1 The UKSPF criteria requires expenditure to be split across the three years on a 'tapering up' basis. The results in the following yearly allocation inclusive of 4% resources/admin element:

Year	Allocation
2022/23	£256,695
2023/24	£513,390
2024/25	£1,345,083
Total	£2,115,168

The Fund is all external and therefore there are no costs to the Council arising from this report. There are obviously resource implications to ensure delivery of the projects.

8. What are the risks and how can they be reduced?

8.1 The risks and proposed mitigation are set out in the table below:

Risk	Actions to reduce the risks
Project delivery	Robust project governance
Funding not received from government	No projects will commence or recruitment started until funding has been confirmed
Lack of capacity to deliver projects	Projects involving Blaby District Council staff will have management costs built in and have been planned into officer work programmes
Increase in project costs due to inflation or other pressures	Any project issues will be considered regularly by SLT.

9. Other options considered

9.1 The other option is to not allocated any funding to a programme of Year 3 projects, however this would result in the allocation for 2024/25 potentially being lost.

10. Environmental impact

10.1 There are no implications directly arising from this report. The environmental impacts from each of the projects which receive funding will be carefully considered at the appropriate time. It is worth noting that some of the projects will have a really positive impact on our net zero targets.

11. Other significant issues

11.1 In preparing this report, the author has considered issues related to Human Rights, Legal Matters, Human Resources, Equalities, Public Health Inequalities, and Climate Local and there are no areas of concern.

12. Appendices

12.1 Appendix 1 – Year 1 and 2 Project Programme
Appendix 2 – Proposed Year 3 Project Programme

13. Background paper(s)

13.1 There is a suite of documents available on the Gov.uk website.

14. Report author's contact details

Cat Hartley Planning & Strategic Growth Manager
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Appendix 1 – Year 1 & 2 Project Programme:

Project Theme	Project	Current Stage
Community Safety	CCTV	In delivery
Walk & Ride	Walk & Ride	Complete
Community Mental Health Support	Community Mental Health Support	Officer in post
	Active Referral Scheme	Officer in post
	Mental Health Support in Schools	Started end of August 2023.
Increasing Physical Activity	Blue Prescribing	Commenced in May 2023
Housing	Housing - Temporary Accommodation	Not yet started, potential to be moved into a similar project
	Domestic Abuse Worker	In delivery
	Fosse Way Prison – Prison Impact Study	Contracts currently being drafted, to commence imminently
	BEAM	In delivery
Small Business Development	Small Business Unit Development	Not yet started, awaiting progress on another project
Rural/Village Centre Support	Business Support Coordinator	Officer in post
	ED Strategy	Complete – ED framework published
	Resource to deliver action plans	Not yet commenced – finalising specific requirement following launch of ED Framework
Business Support	Business Breakfasts	In delivery – dates taken place and further planned
	Job Fairs	In delivery – dates taken place and further planned
	Countywide Business Support	Due to commence imminently – contracts being signed
	EMC Support	Complete
	IDOX Grantfinder Subscription	Complete
Cost of Living Support	Cost of Living Support	In delivery
Green Initiatives	Queen's Green Canopy	Complete
	Parish Carbon Footprint Support	In delivery
	Green/Energy Improvements at Leisure Centres	Due to commence shortly
Parish Support	Parish Emerging Growth Support	In delivery and funding transferred
	Parish S106 Project Mapping	In delivery, although may be able to deliver with existing resource
	Parish Liaison support	Complete
	Place Narrative/Vision	In delivery – Thinking Place appointed
	Tourism - Taste the Place	In delivery
	Built Facilities Strategy / Playing Pitch Strategy	In delivery – contracts signed and work underway

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Appendix 2: Year 3 Proposed Projects

Project Theme	Project	Proposed Allocation (£)
Walking & Cycling	Capital projects to provide additional walking and cycling infrastructure.	600,000
Green & Open Spaces	Enhancement of green and open spaces to enable new play provision, new car parking provision, and improvement of existing facilities to deliver a higher quality offer for resident health and well-being.	570,000
Delivery of the Economic, Business & Work & Skills Framework	Range of initiatives including delivery of the Economic Development Framework, Work and Skills and Business Growth Officer resources, development of a business pathway model, Accommodation Study and Tourism project support.	160,000
Green Initiatives and Contingency for in-year projects		84,120

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Blaby District Council

Cabinet Executive

Date of Meeting	18 March 2024
Title of Report	Cabinet Executive Response to Scrutiny Commission Recommendations on the Administrations 2024-25 Draft Budget Proposals
	This is not a Key Decision and is not on the Forward Plan
Lead Member	Cllr. Maggie Wright - Finance, People & Performance (Deputy Leader)
Report Author	Executive Director (Section 151 Officer)
Corporate Priority	All Priorities: A Place to Live; A Place to Work; A Place to Visit; People Strategy; Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)

1. What is this report about?

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a response to Scrutiny Commission recommendations set out in the Scrutiny Commission report on the Administrations 2024-25 draft Budget proposals dated on the agenda on the 26th February 2024.

2. Recommendation(s) to Cabinet Executive

- 2.1 That Cabinet Executive agrees the response to Scrutiny Commission recommendations as set out at Appendix A of this report.

3. Reason for Decisions Recommended

- 3.1 The Local Government & Public Involvement In Health Act 2007 places a duty which requires Cabinet Executive to respond to Scrutiny Recommendations within two months of receiving them.

4. Matters to consider

4.1 Background

The Local Government & Public Involvement In Health Act 2007 places a duty which requires Cabinet Executive to respond to Scrutiny Recommendations within two months of receiving them. Scrutiny Commission have provided a report on the Administrations 2024-25 draft Budget proposals to Cabinet on the 26th February 2024.

Cabinet had opportunity to consider the recommendations prior to making the final recommendations to Council for the 2024-25 Budget Proposals, but is now formally responding to the recommendations by way of this report.

4.2 Proposal(s)

To agree Cabinet Executive's response to Scrutiny recommendations on the Administrations 2024-25 draft Budget proposals attached at Appendix A.

4.3 Relevant Consultations

Relevant Cabinet Executive Portfolio Holders and members of the Senior Leadership Team.

4.4 Significant Issues

Not applicable.

5. What will it cost and are there opportunities for savings?

5.1 There are no costs directly associated with this response.

6. What are the risks and how can they be reduced?

6.1 No risks have been identified.

7. Other options considered

7.1 No other options have been considered. Not responding to Scrutiny would not comply with requirements of the Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

8. Environmental impact

8.1 There are no environmental impacts associated with this report

9. Other significant issues

- 9.1 In preparing this report, the author has considered issues related to Human Rights, Legal Matters, Human Resources, Equalities, Public Health Inequalities, and Climate Local and there are no areas of concern.

10. Appendix

- 10.1 Appendix A – Cabinet Response to Scrutiny Recommendations on the Administrations 2024-25 Draft Budget Proposals

11. Background paper(s)

- 11.1 Not applicable.

12. Report author's contact details

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BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cabinet Executive Response to Scrutiny Recommendations on the Administrations 2024-25 Draft Budget Proposals

Date submitted to Cabinet Executive: 26th February 2024

Cabinet Member responsible for compliance with notice of requirement: Cllr Maggie Wright

	Recommendation	Agreed YES/N O/IN PART	Cabinet Response including proposed action	Responsible Officer	Action by date
R1	Scrutiny would be supportive of a 2.99% increase given the current financial uncertainty that local authorities face.	Yes	Cabinet welcome the support of Scrutiny to increase Council Tax by 2.99%.	Executive Director (S151)	March 2024
R2	Scrutiny would welcome an update in 6 months on the levels of demand for Council Tax Support and Discretionary Housing Payments provided or any other similar support scheme.	Yes	Cabinet welcomes the interest shown by Scrutiny of the support that is given to Blaby residents.	Finance Group Manager	October 2024
R3	Scrutiny asks that Cabinet considers whether it is appropriate to hold a vacancy savings provision which is based on unfilled positions.	No	Cabinet considers the holding of a vacancy provision to be the most appropriate manner in which to reflect a budget which is not overstated. To be clear, the provision is not a target figure	N/A	N/A

	Recommendation	Agreed YES/N O/IN PART	Cabinet Response including proposed action	Responsible Officer	Action by date
			for the Council to achieve and vacancies will be filled in the normal manner.		
R4	That Cabinet Executive continues to retain its investments and supports diversification in the Council's investments.	Yes	It is Cabinet's intention to retain the investment in the property fund, however this will be dependent upon the continuation of the Lothbury Property Fund. An update will be provided within the Quarterly Treasury Reporting to Council. Cabinet will continue to consider investment opportunities as part of the Council's Commercial Strategy.	Executive Director (S151) & Finance Group Manager	In line with Qtrly report
R5	That Scrutiny be notified should a partner withdraw from the Lightbulb service.	Yes	Cabinet welcomes the interest in the Lightbulb service and will notify Scrutiny if a partner should withdraw.	Group Manager Environmental Health, Housing and Communities	When applicable
R6	Scrutiny requests that the financial impact on Blaby be provided, if one or more partners withdraw their funding from the Lightbulb Partnership.	Yes	Cabinet welcomes the interest in the Lightbulb service and will provide information relating to the financial impact should one or more partners withdraw.	Group Manager Environmental Health, Housing and Communities	When applicable

	Recommendation	Agreed YES/ O/ IN PART	Cabinet Response including proposed action	Responsible Officer	Action by date
R7	That a breakdown of Blaby's contribution to Lightbulb, compared to other partner authorities be provided.	Yes	Information relating to the contributions made by Blaby and partner authorities will be provided.	Group Manager Environmental Health, Housing and Communities	TBC
R8	That the new offer in terms of sport and physical activity be provided to Scrutiny, highlighting what changes have been made.	Yes	Cabinet welcomes Scrutiny's interest in the changes that may become necessary with reduced funding for the provision of sport and physical activity.	Group Manager of Assets and Major Projects	TBC
R9	In order to mitigate some of the costs associated with HVO, Scrutiny recommends that the Cabinet Executive explores increased storage capacity of HVO at the depot.	No	The Council's fuel capacity is already considerable and Cabinet does not feel it appropriate to retain levels above the current levels.	N/A	N/A
R10	Scrutiny recommends that should demand on the service increase further, resource be increased in the Housing Team to support vulnerable residents.	Yes	Demand on services provided to vulnerable residents are monitored by officers in order that Cabinet can consider increasing resource should it be required. Note: the Housing Team also deal with residents that may not be defined under the term vulnerable.	N/A	N/A

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