

Full Council
13 December 2023

Amendment 1 To Recommendation 4
Budget Strategy 2024/25 – 2026/27

*Mover Councillor Crow and
Seconder Councillor Ali*

*(The new words are in **Red**)*

RECOMMENDATION 4

That Full Council be asked to:

- a) approve the process for of balancing the budget over the next 12 to 18 months, including the use of reserves to balance the budget as outlined in Section 8 of the report FIN/636.
- b) approve the minimum recommended General Fund Balance remains at £3m.
- c) approve the growth items for the General Fund as outlined in sections 6.3 of the report FIN/636.
- d) approve the inclusion of new capital schemes in future budgets with the value of £652,000 as identified in section 9.2 of the report FIN/636.
- e) note the following highlights of the Budget Strategy:
 - i. that the Budget is aligned to the Council’s Corporate Priorities.
 - ii. the outline 3 year forecast as shown in table 6 paragraph 6.5 of the report FIN/636.
 - iii. that the current budget deficit of £1.012m for 2024/25 (section 6.5 of the report FIN/636) is based on a Council tax increase of 2.99% which is £6.74. However, table 10 highlights that the gap could be higher when looking at sensitivity analysis.
 - iv. that there are uncertainties around Government funding prior to the settlement in December and the delay in Local Government Funding reforms as business rates retention and the future of New Homes Bonus.
- f) **Note the recent welcome announcement from Government, that additional funding would be made available to assist with any additional cost pressures that arise, if significant numbers of Chagossian British citizens move to Crawley.**

Proposed Amended Recommendation 4, if approved, now read:

RECOMMENDATION 4

That Full Council be asked to:

- a) approve the process for of balancing the budget over the next 12 to 18 months, including the use of reserves to balance the budget as outlined in Section 8 of the report FIN/636.
- b) approve the minimum recommended General Fund Balance remains at £3m.
- c) approve the growth items for the General Fund as outlined in sections 6.3 of the report FIN/636.
- d) approve the inclusion of new capital schemes in future budgets with the value of £652,000 as identified in section 9.2 of the report FIN/636.
- e) note the following highlights of the Budget Strategy:
 - i. that the Budget is aligned to the Council's Corporate Priorities.
 - ii. the outline 3 year forecast as shown in table 6 paragraph 6.5 of the report FIN/636.
 - iii. that the current budget deficit of £1.012m for 2024/25 (section 6.5 of the report FIN/636) is based on a Council tax increase of 2.99% which is £6.74. However, table 10 highlights that the gap could be higher when looking at sensitivity analysis.
 - iv. that there are uncertainties around Government funding prior to the settlement in December and the delay in Local Government Funding reforms as business rates retention and the future of New Homes Bonus. will be generated from the development of the old town hall site.
- f) Note the recent welcome announcement from Government, that additional funding would be made available to assist with any additional cost pressures that arise, if significant numbers of Chagossian British citizens move to Crawley.