

COUNCIL

26 October 2023

Report Title	Revenue Budget Update 2023/24
Executive Member	Councillor Lloyd Bunday, Executive Member for Finance and Transformation
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Are there public sector equality duty implications?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information (whether in appendices or not)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Applicable paragraph number for exemption from publication under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1974	

List of Appendices

None

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to request approval for:

- the use of the Transformation Reserve to fund one-off revenue implementation costs of the Development and Regulatory Services Case Management Systems and the inclusion of ongoing annual revenue savings of the system into the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP)

1.2 Approval of the funding will allow the schemes to move forward to procurement and delivery. The Executive considered these items at its meeting on 12th October and recommended that Full Council grant approval for the funding request as outlined in this report.

2. Executive Summary

2.1 This report contains details of revenue projects which have been submitted by officers to Executive as part of the Council's Revenue Approval Process. Each scheme must complete a business case setting out the changes requested to

the Revenue Budget Programme, including the purpose of the spend, the expected outcomes and the financial implications together with funding routes.

3. Recommendations

3.1 It is recommended that Council:

a) Approve the funding for the following changes to the revenue budget:

- i) Development and Regulatory Case Management System (CMS) – approve a revenue budget of £600k in 2023/24 for the procurement and one-off implementation costs of a new CMS funded through use of the Transformation Reserve and approve the inclusion of ongoing revenue savings of £40.4k in 2024/25 onwards over the 5 years of the contract.

3.2 Reasons for Recommendations: These are set out in greater detail within section 5 of the report, but can be summarised as:

- i) Expiry of incumbent contracts by 31st March 2024
- ii) Benefits from a single CMS, service delivery improvements and process efficiencies.

3.3 Alternative Options Considered:

- i) Alternative options considered for the CMS can be summarised as follows:-
 - o Do nothing.
 - o Do Minimal – replacement solution for Kettering.
 - o New supplier single solution.
- ii) More detail in relation to alternative options considered by the Executive in respect of the three schemes are set out in the report presented on 12th October 2023, as referenced in Section 8 of this report.

4. Report Background

4.1 This report covers the request for approval for the use of reserves in relation to the CMS which are revenue costs and therefore seeks to update the revenue budget for 2023/24 as included within the Medium-Term Financial Plan, as adopted by the Council in February 2023, and requests the proposed changes are approved and reflected within the revenue budget.

5. Issues and Choices – Further Detail on the Recommendations and Updates to the Revenue Budget for 2023/24

5.1 Revenue budget approval is being sought in 2023/24 for £600k in 2023/24 for the procurement and one-off implementation costs of a new CMS funded

through use of the Transformation Reserve, alongside approval of the inclusion of ongoing revenue savings of £40.4k in 2024/25 ongoing into the MTFP. The current CMS is coming to the end of its contract on 31st March 2024, and therefore a procurement exercise needs to be undertaken to replace the existing CMS. The system is essential to the delivery of an effective and efficient service.

- 5.2 Further information on this scheme is available from the separate report to Executive on 12th October 2023.

6. Next Steps

- 6.1 The procurement of a single CMS is expected to be completed by April 2024, with phased implementation commencing thereafter. Key milestones are detailed within the report to Executive, as referenced in section 8 below.

7. Implications (including financial implications)

7.1 Resources, Finance and Transformation

- 7.1.1 The additional budget requirements in this report are funded from the use of reserves. The funding source for the scheme is set out in the recommendations in section 3 of this report and within the scheme details as set out within section 5 of this report.

7.2 Legal and Governance

The Council must utilise funding and deliver schemes in line with the restrictions and requirements as set out in the agreements linked to that funding and the requirements as set out in the Council's Constitution, in particular the budget setting and policy framework and the financial regulations.

7.3 Relevant Policies and Plans

- 7.3.1 The schemes provide a strategic fit with the Council's priorities as set out within the corporate plan.

7.4 Risk

- 7.4.1 The deliverability of the revenue budget is monitored by Service Managers and Assistant Directors across the Council. There is further review throughout the year reported through to Executive.

7.5 Consultation

- 7.5.1 The 2023/24 Revenue Budget as part of the MTFP, was subject to consultation prior to approval by North Northamptonshire Council in February 2023. The budget was approved by Council at its meeting on 23rd February 2023 and was

subject to consultation from 22nd December 2022 to 27th January 2023. These proposed changes are in addition to the approved budget.

7.6 Consideration by the Executive Advisory Panel

7.6.1 Not applicable.

7.7 Consideration by Scrutiny

7.7.1 The scheme recommended in this report has not been considered by Scrutiny. However, monitoring against the budget is considered regularly by Corporate Scrutiny Committee.

7.8 Equality Implications

7.8.1 Nothing specific within this report.

7.9 Climate and Environmental Impact

7.9.1 The climate and environmental impact of each capital project will be considered and managed within the relevant scheme.

7.10 Community Impact

7.10.1 These proposals can be considered to have a positive impact on the community as the revenue budget delivers a range of schemes to support and connect communities.

7.11 Crime and Disorder Impact

7.11.1 Nothing specific within this report.

8. Background Papers

8.1 The following background papers should be considered in relation to this report.

[General Fund Budget 2023/24](#) – Full Council, 23rd February 2023

[Development and Regulatory Services Case Management System Procurement and Implementation Business Case](#) – Executive, 12th October 2023