

Appendix A

Bromsgrove District Council Medium Term Financial Plan 2024/25 Tranche One Savings Proposal Document

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Overview

Bromsgrove District Council provides district level local services, like housing, leisure and recreation, environmental health, waste collection, local strategic planning and planning applications, and local tax collection. Local Tax collection includes both Council Tax and Business Rates. The Council also collects Council Tax on behalf of County Council and the Fire and Police Authorities. The Council's proportion is just 12%. Business Rates are collected on behalf of the Council and the Government.

Bromsgrove is in the county of Worcestershire which operates a 2-tiered system of Local Government (as well as some parts of its area being covered by Parish Councils). The District Council provide the "district level" services (amongst others) described in the previous paragraph, whereas Worcestershire County Council provides county level local services like education, highways, transport planning, passenger transport, social care, libraries, waste disposal and strategic planning.

Parish Councils provide very local services like some parks, community centres, and war memorials.

Bromsgrove

- Covers an area of 84 Square Miles
- Has 96,000 residents
- Has 45,000 Homes and Businesses
- Has 31 Councillors and 30 Wards

The district has an above-average number of over 60s, with concentrations of people in several smaller towns and villages. Many residents commute to Birmingham but despite that has the highest % of self-employed and business start-ups in England. It has isolated areas of deprivation, higher median income levels.

Elections are held once every 4 years. All seats are contested together. The next election is in 2027.

The council has a 'leader and cabinet' form of governance, which means the council delegates authority to decide some matters to a Hybrid system of Governance with a 'cabinet', which is chaired by the Leader of the Council. The cabinet handles much of the ordinary business of the council, with the full council having the final say on matters of strategic policy, budget and council tax.

The Council, along with Redditch Borough Council, were one of the first Councils in the country to form a shared service in 2008. This means we have a single team servicing both Councils. We also host services such as Worcestershire Regulatory Services which is pan Worcestershire.

The Council's vision is *"To enrich the lives and aspirations of all our residents, businesses and visitors through the provision of high-quality services that ensure those most need in need receive the appropriate help and support."*

The Council has delivered the following:

Local services for you

The council provides many more services for your money than just emptying your bins. Here are some recent examples of what our services have done in your community, over one year:



Emptied **2.3m** bins

Ran over **300** events for families & children

Advised **9,000** people online just on the government's '£150 Council Tax rebate'

Enabled **25,000** people to view or comment on planning applications

Supported **438** patients referred to our Social Prescribers



Awarded grants to **12** local community groups

Made **800,000** garden waste collections

Supported **230** people through local health programmes

Updated **20,000** people's financial circumstances for benefits

Given **3,000** people telephone advice on benefits and **23,000** people online advice on their Council Tax Taken away **437** businesses' waste

Ran **10** consultation surveys, including with over **400** community panellists

Emptied **2,000** properties' cesspits & septic tanks

Spent **£332k** on schemes to prevent, and support people facing homelessness

Answered **62,000** queries on bins & cleansing

Provided lots of fun events in the school holidays and more, plus celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and Commonwealth Games Baton Relay

Welcomed **426** parents to Starting Well programmes

Determined over **700** planning applications

Key initiatives being delivered in 2023/24 include:

- Regeneration Investment of over £16m under the government's Levelling Up Programme. This includes the prospect of a new Community Hub and Commercial Space at the former Market Hall site, and clearance of the Windsor Street site all by the end of 2025.

Outcomes delivered include

- Implemented a 'redeployable' CCTV camera scheme enabling temporary camera deployment and saw CCTV services externally certified under the Surveillance Camera Commissioner's Code of Practice.
- Awarded the councils' biggest contract, the £5m 'minor civil engineering works' contract.
- Paid over £196k (in Redditch) and £138k (in Bromsgrove) to people in need via the government's cost of living-related Household Support Fund.

Document references

Via [CPC website](#): Leisure Strategies

Outcomes during Covid-19

As mentioned above, the pandemic had a significant impact on services delivered to residents. The councils swiftly implemented urgent crisis response and business continuity plans and played a pivotal role in leading both areas through an unprecedented national public health emergency.

The vast majority of services mostly continued throughout the pandemic, with changes, but broadly this meant:

- Immediate implementation of an enhanced Covid-19 governance structure, including a change to virtual committee meetings (and back to in-person again, with safety measures in step with the then-evolving restrictions).
- A series of vital short-term initiatives to protect the most vulnerable residents through local partnerships, and to protect staff continuing to work under difficult conditions.
- Large-scale operational changes so services could continue to be delivered to people safely.
- An immediate switch from office-based to remote working for most staff, changing fundamental working conditions in a very short space of time - a change that started the councils' continuing move to 'agile' working as policy (see Culture and elsewhere, below), and the major works to remodel premises.
- Significant new and enhanced partnership working (see 'Partnership working during Covid-19', below) including for incident management and health protection.
- Redeploying some staff into acutely critical areas to ensure service delivery in the face of significant sickness absence, particularly during the so-called 'pingdemic'.
- Managing much-needed financial help through to residents and businesses via a series of new schemes to get government and council funding out quickly to residents and businesses, through mandatory and discretionary business grants, Test and Trace self-isolation payments, and others - including building new audit and reconciliation processes to Government requirements and creating new local schemes for residents and businesses who fell outside the mandatory government grant schemes. See below for more detail.
- Running major new communications campaigns, supporting government guidelines and vaccinations, including a partnership with media outlets.
- Employing a team of 'Covid Advisors' to support businesses and the community with safety and compliance, including operational support for testing sites.



- Supporting the NHS and community response, including helping the NHS with test and trace and to set up testing centres and the area's mass vaccination facility on council property.
- Working to ensure that nobody had to sleep rough during the challenging lockdown periods, which restricted 'normal' access to temporary accommodation, which in Bromsgrove was done in partnership with housing provider bdht.

The Council sets a 3-year Medium Term Financial Plan every year, with the final Council Tax Resolution being approved by Council in February. This year's process will be more difficult due to the following factors:

- Starting the process with a £637k deficit from the 2023/24 MTFP.
- The present cost of living crisis.
- Changes to how the Government fund services.
- The number of S114 Statements at Councils, including our nearest neighbour Birmingham, and the impact this will have in funding of the sector.

As such, it is prudent to split the budget process into two tranches,

- Having an initial Tranche which seeks to close as much of the deficit as possible using information known as at the end of September and seeking approval for those savings to be implemented at Council in January
- Having a second Tranche after the Christmas break, which will be approved in February, that takes account of the Local Government Settlement whose final detail will not be known until early January.

This document sets out the present financial situation as well as Tranche 1 service pressures and savings proposals.

2024/25 Budget Process

The council is faced with a challenging financial position this year. The magnitude of the savings required has meant that we have had to consider significant changes to our operating model and redesign the way we deliver services.

Due to the nature and scale of this, developing the proposals has required additional time and resource to ensure the plans are robust, deliverable and collectively achieve financial sustainability.

As such, the budget will be delivered in two tranches, the first with proposals being approved on the 29th January and the second with proposals being approved on the 26th February.

Tranche 1	
Consultation Start Date	14 th November 2023
Budget Scrutiny Committee	21 st November 2023
Cabinet	22 nd November 2023
Consultation Closing Date	5 ^h January 2024
Cabinet	17 th January 2024
Council	24 th January 2024

Tranche 2	
Consultation Start Date	6 th February 2024

Budget Scrutiny Committee	tbc February 2024
Cabinet	14 th February 2024
Consultation Closing Date	Tbc
Cabinet	21 st February 2024
Council	21 st February 2024

Bromsgrove has the following Strategic Purposes:

Run and Grow a Successful Business

Finding Somewhere to Live

Aspiration, Work and Financial Independence

Living Independent, Active and Healthy Lives

Communities which are Safe, Well Maintained and Green

The Green Thread runs through the Council Plan

Council Service Areas

Business Transformation & Organisational Development

This service area covers the following Services:

Human Resources and Organisational Development - The Human Resources and Organisational Development primary function is to provide a HR advisory service, organisational development, training and health and safety, providing advice and support to the organisation in respect of; recruitment, employment issues, pay and grading, training, workforce planning and health and safety advice. HR focuses on the people within the business and on every aspect of the employment relationship.

Information Communication and Technology - The different areas of ICT include

- helpdesk support, technical project implementation, infrastructure and business
- application support, small systems development and automation, service requests,
- website design and support, graphical information systems support (including street naming and numbering) and information management.

Business Improvement Team - The Business Improvement team supports service areas to improve their delivery of our Strategic Purposes, through changing work practices, processes, and behaviours.

Policy, Equalities and Performance Team - The Policy Team supports elected members, CMT, managers and service areas with corporate planning (such as the development of the Council Plans), performance, data gathering and analysis, consultation and engagement and equalities.

Chief Executive

The Chief Executive's Unit comprises Strategic Partnerships (facilitating partnership working across the Borough to ensure more effective outcomes for people), Communications and Print and PA / Directorate Support (which provides administrative support to the Leader, Corporate Management Team and Mayor (including post room)).

Corporate Financing

Corporate financing sets out how the Council funds its revenue expenditure. The Council funds the majority of its activities from the collection of Council Tax and Business Rates. There are also Grants such as the Lower Tier Services Grant, and New Homes Bonus that makes up this figure.

Expenditure such as the Councils Minimum Revenue Position for borrowing and the net effect of investment income and payments also sit in this area.

Community and Housing General Fund Services

This service area covers the following Services:

Community Safety ensures compliance of the Council's statutory duties under the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 alongside providing co-ordination and support to the statutory Community Safety Partnership. Project activity improves community safety and reduces risk of crime & disorder with a focus on prevention. Examples include a youth work team, Safer Spaces Scheme, Nominated Neighbour Scheme, Respect Programme.

The **Housing Strategy** team comprises of the Housing Strategy & Enabling Service which is responsible for developing strategies and policies for all housing services and the effective management and delivery of Bromsgrove's housing development programmes. The private sector housing team are responsible for ensuring good housing standards by private sector landlords. Included in this service is the support for Disabled Facilities Grants. The Climate Change Officer provides advice to services across the Council with the aim of bringing about carbon reduction and efficiencies, including grant applications and the delivery of energy efficiency schemes.

A door-to-door **community transport scheme** called Dial A Ride provides a community transport for those who cannot access or use public or private transport.

NEW Lifeline is a telecare and assistive technology alarm service available 24 Hours per day, 365 days per year to any vulnerable person living within the District. Services include a pull cord/pendant to summon assistance, bed and fire alarm sensors, support for residents with dementia.

Bromsgrove and Redditch **Starting Well** is a commissioned service that works in partnership with Worcestershire Health & Care Trust. The focus is on improving health outcomes and reducing inequalities at the individual, family and community levels across Worcestershire. The service will contribute to ensuring every child has the best start in life, they are ready to learn at 2, ready for school at 5, thrive and develop well during their school years and into adult life.

Environmental Services

This service area covers the following Services:

Environment

Environmental services and operations, deliver a wide range of boroughwide and 'place based' services including weekly waste collections to nearly 80,000 households, and a paid for garden waste service to 22,000 households across the 2 Council areas (Bromsgrove and Redditch). The teams also deliver both a commercial waste and commercial recycling service, and a septic tank and cesspool emptying service to both households and commercial customers.

Grass cutting and street cleansing services are delivered via our 6 place teams and the core environmental team also undertakes Environmental Enforcement across the 2 Council areas.

The other key service areas include management of the Councils tree stock including Tree Preservation Orders and high hedges applications. Bereavement services, deliver both cremations and burial services.

Support services include management of the Council transport and vehicle fleets including the provision of workshops at the two depots, a Stores Service, Design and management of civil engineering projects and customer management via the Business Support Team.

Our on street enforcement and land drainage services across the 2 Council areas are delivered by a public sector contract/shared services with Wychavon and Wyre Forest respectively.

Financial and Customer Services

This service area covers the following functions:

Finance

Corporate finance set the Councils financial agenda. They are responsible for the Councils financial regulations/controls and compliance to them, Supporting Members, the Chief Executive and CMT, setting and delivering the budget, closing the Council's Accounts, in year monitoring of the Councils financial position to stakeholders.

Management Accountancy is the primary source of financial support to Budget managers and Heads of Service. They are responsible for the delivery of the

operational budget, the monthly/quarterly monitoring, and the closure of accounts in liaison with budget managers and other Council staff.

Exchequer Services delivers the Councils Payment and Income Services along with running the GPC Card (procurement Card) system and Insurance.

Payroll Services is a small team which work closely with HR and finance and run the monthly payrolls for Bromsgrove, Redditch, Rubicon and Wyre Forest Councils.

Revenues Services

Revenue Services is responsible for the annual collection of £60m of non-domestic rates; £116m council tax, £27m in sundry income and is responsible for collection of £2.4m in overpaid housing benefit across both Redditch and Bromsgrove.

Benefit Services

The principal functions of the Benefits Service are to maximise benefit awareness and take-up and to assess benefit claims promptly and accurately.

The service area is responsible for paying over £30 million of Housing Benefit and almost £10 million Council Tax Support to our residents across both Councils.

We also have £60k Essential Living Fund budget to administer alongside the £250k Discretionary Housing Payments. Our experienced Financial Independence Team deal with the applications for these schemes.

Customer Services

Customer Services provided a comprehensive service to the council, mainly face-to-face enquiries on both reception and cashiers.

When the building was closed to the public during the C-19 pandemic, we quickly mobilised the Customer Service Officers to take council tax and business rates calls, as well as providing outbound calls for locality where tenants were in arrears. When the buildings were re-opened in July 2021, staff have maintained these functions, albeit with fewer numbers.

Legal, Democratic and Property Services

This service area covers the following Services:

Legal Services - The shared legal service for Bromsgrove and Redditch Councils, is an in-house support service, providing legal advice and representation to the Council in its governance and decision-making role and to all departments of the Council in the delivery of their services to residents and in achieving their strategic objectives, including: Procurement, Contract negotiation, Litigation (both as Plaintiff and Defendant), Prosecutions, Planning Agreements, Property transactions

(acquisitions and disposals), Corporate governance and supporting corporate projects, Member support and the decision-making process.

As well as these operational services, we have an over-arching responsibility to ensure that the Council acts in a lawful manner, is compliant with the regulatory and statutory regimes within which it operates and to protect the council's standing with the courts and other external organisations, and its reputation generally.

The Local Land Charges service sits with the shared legal service though there is a separate budget for Land Charges.

Bromsgrove District Council is the 'host' authority to Worcestershire Regulatory Services [WRS], the shared environmental health and licensing service for Worcestershire. The Council act as legal advisor to meetings of its governing body, the WRS Joint Committee and provide advice and representation for BDC and RBC environmental health and licensing cases.

Procurement - Procurement is a support service which is at the core of both Councils and Rubicon Leisure. The Service strives to promote compliance with legal and corporate regulations and drives efficiencies and savings through a corporate wide approach to purchasing.

The Team provides support both for active procurements across the organisations at all stages of a procurement and additionally provides advice on procurement strategy more generally. The Team also provides support with contract management, assisting teams in ensuring that contractors deliver what has been procured to the correct standards, at the correct time and at the right price.

Shared Electoral Services - The Democratic Services team facilitates Committee meetings, manages the decision-making process, including the work programmes (Forward Plans) and provides a support service to elected Members and officers.

Electoral Services manage and deliver elections and electoral administration

Property Services - The Property Services Team manage the asset portfolio in line with the Asset Management Strategy and all associated repairs, cyclical maintenance and refurbishment of the portfolio of properties, owned by the Council.

Planning, Regeneration & Leisure Services

The Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Service is composed of the following teams: Building Control: Strategic Planning and Conservation: Development Management: Leisure and Cultural Services. NWEDR and Emergency Planning and Business Continuity are managed by WFDC in a three-way shared service arrangement and these teams link into the Service.

Building Control - The Building Control team ensures buildings are safely constructed with appropriate fire escapes.

Strategic Planning and Conservation - The team prepares local plans and supplementary planning and conservation documents and provides general policy, conservation, and listed building advice.

Development Management - This team is responsible for processing all types of applications under planning legislation and investigating breaches of planning control.

Leisure and Cultural Services - Leisure Services includes the strategy development and management of parks and events and the development of arts, sports and cultural services

Economic Development and Regeneration - The team leads on regeneration initiatives, supporting businesses, shaping the skills agenda, and generally making sure the issues locally are appreciated by all who make or shape decisions or release funding.

Emergency Planning and Business Continuity - This function ensures the councils, with its partners are prepared for a range of scenarios.

Regulatory Services

Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS) is the shared Environmental Health and Licensing service governed by a Joint Board, making it part of the six Worcestershire District Councils, with Bromsgrove District Council as the host authority. We provide all the traditional environmental health and licensing regulatory services for the six Worcestershire District Councils to include health & safety for commercial premises, food hygiene inspections, environmental protection (nuisance, contaminated land, air quality, private water supplies and industrial permitting) as well as administration of the licensing regime for taxi's, drivers, pubs, nightclubs, pet shops, animal boarding, stables, zoos and street trading. In addition we provide some environmental health and licensing services and associated services under contract or agreement for other local authorities in and outside Worcestershire.

Overall Financial Position

Bromsgrove Base Position (Revised Tranche 1)					
	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Base Budget Position 22/23 MTFP					
Expenditure	11,948	12,077	12,347	12,347	
Funding	-10,360	-10,864	-10,724	-10,724	
Net	1,588	1,213	1,623	1,623	
Revised Gap 22/23 MTFP					
Phase 1 Savings 2023/24 MTFP	-1,625	-1,847	-1,748	-1,748	
Revised Position	-37	-634	-125	-125	
Phase 1 Pressures 2023/24 MTFP					
Phase 1 Pressures 2023/24 MTFP	1,602	1,608	1,769	1,769	
Phase 1 2023/24 MTFP Position	1,565	974	1,644	1,644	
Local Government Settlement	-1715	-1200	-1200	-1200	
Additional Savings (Phase 2)	-707	-707	-707	-707	
Additional Pressures - Phase 2	1107	889	694	694	
Final 2023/24 MTFP Position	250	-44	431	431	
Known Changes					
23/4 Pay Award - 4% More than planned		770	770	770	
Utilities Increases running at 60% - 40% Savings		-140	-140	-140	
Existing Inflation Budget (Unallocated)		-188	-194	-194	
Inflation on Contracts - additional 5%		90	90	90	
Additional 1% on 24/5 Pay Award - to 3%		154	154	154	
7% Additional Fees and Charges Income		-273	-273	-273	
Additional 2% Pay Award for 26/7				308	
Quarter 1 23/4 Overspend position	788				
Use of 23/4 Utilities Reserve	-351				
2% Council Tax 2025/6			-191	-191	
2% Council Tax 2026/7				-195	
Year 2 Fees and Charges Income at 2%			-101	-101	
Year 3 Fees and Charges Income at 2%				-101	
Increase in number of Properties (Ctax Income)		-36	-84	-121	
Government Grant at 23/4 Levels		-515	-515	-515	
Draft Opening Position	437	-182	-53	-78	
Service Adjustments					
Reduction in Benefits Overpayments Target		200	200	200	
Use of HVD Fuel by 100% of Fleet		30	30	30	
Increase in HR Establishment		10	10	10	
PRA Housing Licence Costs		15	15	15	
Nw/wM Increased Charges		39	39	39	
Interest Charges on Updated Capital Programme		35	36	36	
MRP Increases on Capital Programme		24	46	48	
Revised Opening Position	437	172	323	300	

Savings/Funding Proposals

Use of the Utilities Budget

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Existing Budget	351,000	351,000	351,000
Savings Proposal	-140,000	-140,000	-140,000
Revised Budget	211,000	211,000	211,000

The utilities budget was increased by 100%, and an additional 100% put in reserves, to mitigate increased fuel charges due to the Ukraine crises. Costs are being monitored and they have only increased by 60%. The remaining 40% of the budget is therefore no longer required and is a savings.

Use of Existing Inflation Budgets

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Existing Budget	188,000	194,000	194,000
Savings Proposal	-188,000	-188,000	-188,000
Revised Budget	0	0	0

Like the Utilities budget, due to increased prices, a budget was put in the 2023/4 MTFP for increased inflation. There has been no call on this budget to date this year and as such it is a savings.

Increases to Fees and Charges

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Existing Budget	-3,786,000	-3,791,000	-3,791,000
7% Increase 24/5	-273,000	-273,000	-273,000
2% Increase 25/6		-101,000	-101,000
2% Increase 26/7			-101,000
Revised Budget	-4,059,000	-4,165,000	-4,266,000

It is proposed that fees and charges increase by 7% in 2024/5 – which in line with the 7% level of the pay award this year and Inflation which is presently 6.8%. Increases for future years have been assumed at 2%.

Increases to the Council Tax Base

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Existing Budget	-9,545,000	-9,545,000	-9,545,000
2% Increase in 2025/6		-191,000	-191,000
2% Increase in 2026/7			-195,000
Increased Properties	-36,000	-84,000	-121,000
Revised Budget	-9,581,000	-9,820,000	-10,052,000

Figures assume the full 1.99% allowable increase over all years of the 3 year MTFP and no increase in numbers of properties. In reviewing base budgets, the full 1.99% was not applied to 2025/6 and it has also been applied to the new financial year on the MTFP. It is assumed that housing numbers will increase by 150, 200 and then 150 over the three years based on Local Plan data.

Government Support Assumptions

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Existing Budget			
Savings Proposal	-515,000	-515,000	-515,000
Revised Budget			

Our assumption on the Local Government Settlement in the 2023/4 MTFP is £515k less than the Council received in 23/4. The Council took a prudent approach at that stage. On reviewing settlements however, since the removal of the RSG, they have been consistent and therefore this sum has been bought in line with 2023/4 settlement levels.

Growth Proposals

2023/24 Pay Award

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Existing Budget	15,512,000	15,742,000	15,742,000
Growth Proposal	770,000	770,000	770,000
Revised Budget	16,282,000	16,512,000	16,512,000

The jointly negotiated employers pay award for 2023/4 is approximately 7% (slightly lower than last year). The Council budgeted for a 2% increase and therefore this growth bid ensures budget reflect the expected pay award.

Future Pay Awards

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Existing Budget	16,282,000	16,512,000	16,512,000
1% on 24/5 pay budget	154,000	154,000	154,000
2% Pay Award in 2026/7	0	0	308,000
Revised Budget	16,436,000	16,666,000	16,974,000

As set out above, the Council budgets for a 2% Pay award. It is felt that it is prudent, given the large pay awards of the past 2 years, to increase this to 3% for 2024/5 before reducing the ongoing effect to 2% for future years.

Contract Inflation

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Existing Budget	0	0	0
Growth Proposal	90,000	90,000	90,000
Revised Budget	90,000	90,000	90,000

Although we have taken out the inflation budget, that has not been called on, from last years MTFP, we feel it is prudent to allow for inflationary increases in 2025/6.

Benefits Overpayments

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Existing Budget	-500,000	-500,000	-500,000
Growth Proposal	200,000	200,000	200,000
Revised Budget	-300,000	-300,000	-300,000

There is presently a target of £500k for the reclaiming of Benefit overpayments. We now have more accurate information and processes which mean that initial payments are more accurate and the need for recovery of overpayments has diminished. Over the past 2 years the Council has recovered under half of this amount (with many linked to Universal Credit payments) and so it is prudent to reduce this amount to £300k.

Use of HVO Fuel

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Existing Budget	262,000	262,000	262,000
Growth Proposal	30,000	30,000	30,000
Revised Budget	292,000	292,000	292,000

The Government has still not provided guidance on Waste delivery. The Council has a diesel fleet which could use HVO fuel would reduced the Carbon footprint of the fleet and the Council significantly. With alternatives to Diesel (Electric and Hydrogen powered vehicles) being extremely expensive with vehicles 2 to 4 times more expensive than existing vehicles it would be prudent to ensure the fleet used HVO fuel, significantly reducing the Council's carbon footprint. However, HVO fuel at the moment is significantly more expensive than diesel and this would cost an additional £100k a year. The Councils Carbon pledge is to move to this position over time so a £30k increase in budget allows for, prices dependent a 30% use of this fuel and an estimated savings of 206 tonnes of greenhouse gases from the fleet.

Increase of Human Resources Establishment

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Existing Budget	525,339	537,126	537,126
Growth Proposal	10,000	10,000	10,000
Revised Budget	535,339	547,127	547,126

The HR structure reports into one post. This funding added a second senior post to relieve pressure in this service area. This is a shared service and so costs are split with Redditch

Private Sector Housing – Monitoring Software

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Existing Budget	0	0	0
Growth Proposal	15,000	15,000	15,000
Revised Budget	15,000	15,000	15,000

There is the new requirement for the monitoring of the Private Housing Sector. There is a capital bid of £30k for software to undertake this. The ongoing licensing costs are £15k a year as they will be shared with Redditch.

On and Off Street Parking Management and Enforcement Contracts

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Existing Budget	242,000	242,000	242,000
Growth Proposal	93,000	93,000	93,000
Revised Budget	335,000	335,000	335,000

The Service Level Agreement between the Council and Wychavon District Council for the management and enforcement of on and off street parking increases from £242k to £335k a year, an increase of £93k a year. This is a new 5 year contract which will commence on the 1st April 2024. Future years increases of this contract will increase with CPI.

North Worcestershire Water Management Service Level Agreement

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Existing Budget	61,000	61,000	61,000
Growth Proposal	39,000	39,000	39,000
Revised Budget	100,000	100,000	100,000

The North Worcestershire Water Management Service Level Agreement with Redditch and Wyre Forest is being revised to reflect actual provision. The existing allocations are the existing proportion of costs are Wyre Forest 52% (£105k), Redditch 26% (£66k) and Bromsgrove 22%. (£61k). These will change to 43% Bromsgrove, 32% Wyre Forest and 25% Redditch. This would be a current year budget equivalent of Bromsgrove £100k, Redditch £67k and Wyre Forest £72k.

Increased MRP Costs due to Changes to the Capital Programme

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Existing Budget	1,236,000	1,456,000	1,456,000
Growth Proposal	24,000	46,000	48,000
Revised Budget	1,260,000	1,502,000	1,504,000

The Capital section sets out changes to Capital Programme requirements. Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) is required to offset the cost of Capital. For the IT changes, the lifetime is 5 years, for the remainder it is assumed to be 10 years.

Increased Interest Costs due to Changes to the Capital Programme

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Existing Budget	586,000	504,000	504,000
Growth Proposal	35,000	36,000	36,000
Revised Budget	621,000	540,000	540,000

The Capital section sets out changes to Capital Programme requirements. As this will be debt funded, the interest charges for that debt need to be accounted for. For the IT changes, the lifetime is 5 years and attracts an interest charge of 5.27%, for the remainder it is assumed to be 10 years and attracts an interest charge of 5.37%. Interest costs are as per Public Works Loan Board Rates as at the 11th October.

Capital Programme Proposals

Summary Position

	23/4	24/5	25/6	26/7	27/8
Q1 Approves Change - Fleet Replacement Costs	£9,400		£15,000		
Q1 Approved Change - Wheely Bin Increas	£85,000				
Q1 Approved Change - Wild Flowes Machinery	£62,000				
Revised Total	£156,400	£0	£15,000	£0	£0

Narrative

The update of Fleet Replacement costs. This is an increase of 94k in 22/23 and £15k in 25/26. Over a 10 year period the cost of this is £10.9k MRP plus interest at 5.63% of £6.1k is an additional cost of £17.0k per year.

Increase in wheely bin budget. The estimated spend on wheeled bins is likely to be closer to £150k based on previous expenditure. We have recently changed to Plastic bins for commercial which should bring that down a bit, but the overspend is likely to be in the region of £85k. Over a 10 year period the cost of this is £8.5k MRP plus interest at 5.63% of £4.8k is an additional cost of £13.3k per year.

New Capital budget for wildflowers equipment is added - £62,100 in 23/24. If this capital cost is reduced over a 10 year period the additional MRP is £6.2k per year and interest costs are £3.5k giving a total additional cost of £9.7k per year.

In addition to this there are also the following Leisure Proposals following the initial Play Audits. More are expected following consultation with Members:

Leisure Requirements	23/4	24/5	25/6	26/7	27/8
Cotton Pool Sanders Park	£32,500				
Sanders Park Pavilion improvements		£10,000			
Sanders Park refurbishments to café building exterior		£10,000			
BDC Play areas	£35,000	£100,000			
Additional parking as per Engineering team plan Sanders Park		£215,000			
Pathway and parking areas repairs Sanders Park		£14,500			
ClIr request Install height restrictor and bollards / hoops to car park to prevent traveller access		£15,000			
MMP recommendation. Check that the access ramp from Leach Heath Lane is DDA compliant. St Chads	£20,000				
Total	£87,500	£364,500	£0	£0	£0

Consultation Feedback Form

BUDGET CONSULTATION FORM

We want to hear the opinions of all residents, partner organisations, businesses and other interested parties as part of the budget setting process.

People will be able to give their opinions by completing an online survey on the council website by the 5th January 2024.

Hard copies can be requested by emailing the finance team at the Council

The consultation will close on 5th January 2024 at 5pm. Cabinet will consider comments on Wednesday 17th January 2024 and Full Council will debate the Tranche One proposals on Wednesday 24 January 2024.

The consultation will ask the following questions:

1. Do you have any comments to make about the phase one budget proposals?

2. Having read the phase one proposals document, how much do you now feel you understand about why the council must make total savings in Tranche 1 of the budget of almost £1,239million in 2024/25 made up of council tax and fees and charges increases, and reductions to the utilities and inflation budgets? Tick the answer you agree with.

- A great deal
- A fair amount
- Not very much
- Nothing at all

3. If you have any specific ideas about how the council can save money or generate additional income to protect services, please state these here:

So that we can check this survey is representative of Redditch overall, please complete the following questions.

Are you?

- Male
- Female

Please tick which of the following best describes who you are:

- Resident
- Business person
- Member of council staff
- Borough councillor
- Work, but don't live in Redditch
- Member of community or voluntary organisation
- Regular visitor
- Other (please state).....

Which of these age groups do you fall into?

- Under 16
- 16 to 24 years
- 25 to 34 years
- 35 to 44 years
- 45 to 54 years
- 55 to 64 years
- 65 to 74 years
- 75 years or over
- Prefer not to say

What is your ethnic group?

A White

English/ Welsh/ Scottish/ Northern Irish/ British

Gypsy or Irish Traveller

Any other white background

B Mixed/ multiple ethnic groups

White and Black Caribbean

White and Black African

White and Asian

Any other mixed/ multiple ethnic background

C Asian/ Asian British

Indian

Pakistani

Bangladeshi

Chinese

Any other Asian background, write in

D Black/ African/ Caribbean/ Black British

African

Caribbean

Any other Black/ African/ Caribbean background

E Other ethnic group

Any other ethnic group

Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

Yes.....

No

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey