

Recommendations

- 1. Considers and acknowledges the Acting Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer's s25 report on the robustness of the proposed budget and the adequacy of the Council's reserves, as set out in Appendix 8, including the factors which underpin the budget and specifically the need for exceptional financial support to balance the budget.**
- 2. That Council comment on the proposed updates to the Medium-Term Financial Strategy.**
- 3. That Council note on 6 February 2023 Thurrock Council was granted permission by the levelling up minister to raise council tax by an extra 5% to 10% without the need for a local referendum.**
- 4. That Council supports the paper assumes a council tax increase of 7.99%, as per paragraph 9.6.**
- 5. That Council supports a 2% Adult Social Care precept increase as per paragraph 9.6 and note that this will be used to fund increased demand and provider fees within older people care services.**
- 6. That Council agree the council tax requirement of £82.354m as per Appendix 9.**
- 7. That Council note the net cost of services requirement is £327.647m as per paragraph 8.1.**
- 8. That Council supports the proposed savings as per section 12 and Appendix 4 and note these are insufficient to address the funding gap without the need to seek exceptional financial support from Government.**
- 9. That Council note that exceptional financial support is required to balance the 2023/24 budget and that discussions with Central Government are ongoing, as per Appendix 3.**
- 10. That Council note the budget has been set based on the assumption that the request for exceptional financial support in respect of the 2022/23 budget deficit is granted.**
- 11. That Council supports the changes to the capital programme as set out in this report and associated Appendices.**
- 12. That Council agrees the impact of new Prudential Borrowing on the debt levels of the Council as set out in Appendix 5.**
- 13. That Council note the capital programme will be subject to a further review as set out in the report and following the issue of a**

Section 114 Notice.

14. That Council note the projected revenue impact of the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) costs as set out in Section 14.25.

15. That Council agree on the proposed delegation to Cabinet to approve additions to the programme based on the criteria set out in section 14.24.

16. That Council note the Dedicated School's Budget is set at £51.258m as per paragraph 15.13.

17. That Council note further reviews have been commissioned into the fees and charges policy and the pay policy as per paragraph 9.23 and 10.4 respectively.

18. That Council notes the Council's position on Reserves, recognising the unique situation the Council faces and a need to revisit the adequacy of Reserves as savings and service transformation are affected during 2023/24.

19. That Council note that work on the budget will continue during 2023/24, with more savings required to Council services.