

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting16th September 2021

1. Title of Item/Report

FINANCIAL UPDATE AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN (2021/22 QUARTER 1)

2. Record of the Decision

Cabinet was invited to note the Council's financial performance and position at the end of the first quarter of the 2021/22 financial year.

The summary position set out that:-

- The Covid Pandemic continued to have a financial impact in 2021/22. The Local Government Finance Settlement for 2021/22 included an allocation of Covid Support Funding of £5.623m, together with a time limited extension to the Sales, Fees and Charges Income Compensation Scheme.
- Monitoring of the financial position for the Council's Core business for the first quarter of the financial year (to 30th June 2021) highlighted a projected overall underspend of £955,000. A breakdown of the areas of variance were contained within the report. The position would continue to be closely monitored and managed throughout the remainder of the financial year.
- The position on the Contain Outbreak Management Fund and Covid Recovery.
- An update on the Capital Programme.

It was noted that the Council had been allocated additional funding in 2021/22 in respect of Covid Support funding of £5.623m and in the form of the Sales, Fees and Charges Income Compensation Scheme (currently estimated at £0.473m). In addition, New Burdens Funding of £229,000 had been received in respect of supporting the Council in delivering the various Covid Support Schemes.

The Outturn Report for 2020/21 identified that the balance of the Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) was being carried forward for use

in 2021/22. When added to additional COMF funds received for 2021/22, the total amount available and uncommitted was £4.550m. In compliance with the terms of the funding an element of existing expenditure would be charged to the Grant, which would have the impact of freeing up funding to be deployed on Covid recovery priorities.

The Council continued to provide Covid support and to respond as required to the Covid Pandemic. In total this was expected to amount to £1.7m and covered the Outbreak Response Team and Marshalls, support to Carers, support to the Voluntary and Community Sector and Covid related Communications. Therefore, a sum of £2.850m was available to support Covid Recovery and it was proposed that this be utilised as set out below:

Priority		£'000
Civic Enforcement	410	
Targeted Care for Your Area	250	
Highways / Potholes		400
Support for Fairer SOT Framework	120	
Employment Hub	500	
Skills Support		200
Early Years Communications	170	
ICT / Digital Improvements	250	
Technology support income collection	200	
Support to Taxi Licensing & Markets	350	
TOTAL		2850

RESOLVED that:-

1. The update to the Medium Term Financial Plan and the current level of General Fund balances be noted.
2. The revised Capital Programme at Appendix A to the report be noted.

3. Reasons for the Decision

To update Members on the Council's financial performance and the Medium Term Financial Plan.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None

6. Details of any Dispensations

N/A

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Midnight-Friday 24th September 2021.

Proper Officer
20 September 2021