

TITLE	Medium Term Financial Plan 2023-26 Revenue & Capital Budget Place & Growth
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 26 th October 2022
WARD	None Specific;
LEAD OFFICER	Deputy Chief Executive - Graham Ebers

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

To deliver on the priorities within the Council's Corporate Plan whilst maintaining a financially viable Council.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee:

- 1) recognise the imperative for responsible financial management in the current unprecedented financial circumstances;
- 2) consider the report, challenge proposals and identify further ideas to address the financial shortfall.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

This report presents to CCOSC the revenue and capital bids for the Place and Growth directorate (Appendix A). Detailed bid templates for revenue bids of £50,000 or more (Appendix B) and for the highest spend capital bids (Appendix C) are now provided for scrutiny.

Considerable work has been undertaken already by budget managers, senior officers and Corporate Leadership Team working with Executive Members in arriving at proposals for this Committee to consider. Some proposals may be seen as challenging or even contentious. This is inevitable given the severe financial pressures faced by the Council's requirement to set a safe and balanced budget and is imperative in responsible financial management. The Committee are asked to receive these proposals in this context and are invited to challenge and consider alternative and additional ideas to bridge the revenue budget gap of £4m and capital funding gap of £14m.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council continues to face severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of reductions to public sector funding and growing pressures in our statutory services. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions of approximately £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	See other financial implications	Y	Both
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	See other financial implications	Y	Both
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	See other financial implications	Y	Both

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

There are no financial implications associated with the scrutiny process, however, the full MTFP, when submitted to Council in February 2023, will have to represent a balanced budget, and the 2023/24 capital programme will be fully funded.

Cross-Council Implications

This is in respect of budgets across all Council services.

Public Sector Equality Duty

Equality Impact Assessments have not been undertaken at this stage, however initial consideration has been included in the capital bids where appropriate. A full equalities appraisal will be required before specific proposals are agreed and implemented.

List of Background Papers

MTFP 2022-25

Contact Graham Ebers	Service Resources & Assets
Telephone No Tel: 0118 974 6557	Email graham.ebers@wokingham.gov.uk