

TITLE	Medium Term Financial Plan 2024-27 Revenue & Capital Budget Place and Growth
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 14 th November 2023
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

To note the unprecedented financial challenges faced nationally by Local Government and the subsequent impact on Wokingham Borough Council together with the particular challenges for Wokingham.

To recognise the imperative for responsible financial management.

To 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 and is further detailed in Appendix A.

Detailed templates for revenue bids of £50,000 or more are provided for scrutiny in Appendix B.

The highest spend "new" capital bid templates are provided for scrutiny in Appendix C.

Those capital projects that have had bid documents presented to Overview and Scrutiny in previous years for Place and Growth are provided in Appendix D. The bids are as they were presented when initially proposed and have not been updated.

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 c£5m and capital funding gap of c£34m.

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 2024, will have to represent a balanced budget, and the 2024/25 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. An initial review of the revenue bids has also taken place with the Equalities team, so that Place & Growth are clear which bids are likely to need any further action. A full equalities appraisal will be required before specific proposals are agreed and implemented.

List of Background Papers

MTFP 2023-26

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