

Council: 22 February 2023 - Amendments to the Budget

The following proposals for amendments to the budget have been received.

No.	Proposed and Secoded by	Amendment	Note from Section 151 Officer (rule 3.1.14.3 Council Procedure rules)
1	<p>Councillor Henderson</p> <p>Councillor Thomas</p>	<p><u>Parking Fees</u></p> <p>It is proposed to increase parking charges by 20p rather than 10p as soon as can be achieved. This will increase fees and charges income by £50000 in 2023/2024. This extra funding is proposed to be used</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) To retain the grant support for Faversham Swimming Pools at £100000 rather than the current proposal to reduce it to £80000 (ii) To provide £30000 further grant to Citizens Advice beyond the currently reduced level in the budget. <p>This, as required, provides a balanced position for 2023/2024. The proposal will also reduce the deficit in future years as the full year saving through parking charges is £75000.</p>	<p>This amendment if agreed would require a further Off Street Parking Places Order (OSPPO) on the proposed increase to parking fees. The estimate for the additional income is based on the assumptions for the existing 10p proposed increase and would be a permanent change to the base budget, which would cover the cost of the proposed grant payments, or reduce the forecast budget gap.</p>
2	<p>Councillor Baldock</p> <p>Councillor Sarah Stephen</p>	<p><u>Staff pay increase</u></p> <p>In response to the ongoing cost-of-living crisis facing our lower paid staff, and in light of a reduction in the estimated forecast overspend for the current financial year. Take £200,000 from the budget contingency reserve to pay staff on grade 5 and below (Top of grade 5 = £29,766) a one-off payment of £1000.00 pro rata to 1fte. This is equivalent of 4 -5% of Grade 2 -3 salaries and 3-4% of grade 4-5 salaries. This will be made in addition to increments (where they are due) and is in addition to the proposed move to a 34-hour week.</p>	<p>Indications are that the Q3 budget monitoring report will show a reduction in the overspend previously forecast. This will result in a lower amount to be taken from reserves to cover the 22/23 overspend, leaving a higher Budget Contingency Reserve balance that would cover this one off spend, without adversely impacting on the reserve position that has previously been forecast.</p>

3	<p>Councillor Simmons</p> <p>Councillor Marchington</p>	<p><u>New Bins - Developers</u></p> <p>Double the 22/23 cost of new bins (across the entire range) to developers.</p> <p>+£52k/annum</p> <p>The proposed developer contributions would be: 140ltr bin currently £41.10 increased to £82.20. 180ltr bin currently £46.60 increased to £93.20. 240ltr bin currently £46.60 increased to £93.20. 1000ltr bin currently £451.80 increased to £903.60. 5ltr kitchen caddy currently £5.40 increased to £10.80. The 140ltr wheeled bin increase alone is estimated to generate £52k additional income.</p>	<p>This amendment has been based on the forecast of bins required for new build properties. There is a risk that developers challenge the s106 agreement that requires that they buy their bins from the council. This could impact on the income generated and the quality of the bins acquired.</p> <p>The proposal is a change to the base budget and would generate income to fund additional spend, or reduce the current forecast budget gap.</p>
4	<p>Councillor Whiting</p> <p>Councillor Bowen</p>	<p><u>Parish Lighting Grant</u></p> <p>Maintain Parish Lighting grants for 23/24</p> <p>£18.5k for 23/24</p> <p>The funding for this budget amendment, will be drawn from; The revenue generated by an increase in cost to developers of new bins (£52k) or From repurposing unused 22/23 reserve funding currently profiled to be spent on Rainbow Homes. This will reduce the total amount currently allocated to be spent on Rainbow Homes by £125k. or From repurposing of funding allocated in the 23/24 budget to be spent from reserves on Rainbow Homes. This will reduce the total amount currently allocated to be spent on Rainbow Homes by a further £250k (In addition to the £125k above). The amendment clearly shows a balanced budget as the Rainbow Homes spend from reserves will be less than currently budgeted.</p>	<p>The implications of maintaining the parish lighting grant for 2023/24 would be an increase in the budget gap of £18.5k.</p> <p>The use of additional income generated from the increased charge to developers for new build bins would cover the cost of this proposal from within the base budget.</p> <p>The use of the Housing & Commercial Growth Business Rates Fund (Rainbow Homes) to fund this proposal for 23/24 is a one off solution only. As stated in the s25 report within the proposed budget, the ongoing use of reserves is not sustainable in the medium term. Ongoing funding for this amendment would further increase the budget gap in future years.</p>

5	<p>Councillor Dendor</p> <p>Councillor N Hampshire</p>	<p><u>Discretionary Grants (1)</u></p> <p>Uplift Award Citizen’s Advice Bureau (CAB) and Swale Community Voluntary Services (CVS) grants by 10.1% £63.5k for 23/24</p> <p>The funding for this budget amendment, will be drawn from; The revenue generated by an increase in cost to developers of new bins (£52k) or From repurposing unused 22/23 reserve funding currently profiled to be spent on Rainbow Homes. This will reduce the total amount currently allocated to be spent on Rainbow Homes by £125k. or From repurposing of funding allocated in the 23/24 budget to be spent from reserves on Rainbow Homes. This will reduce the total amount currently allocated to be spent on Rainbow Homes by a further £250k (In addition to the £125k above). The amendment clearly shows a balanced budget as the Rainbow Homes spend from reserves will be less than currently budgeted.</p>	<p>The implications of increasing the level of grant awarded would increase the budget gap by £63.5k.</p> <p>The use of additional income generated from the increased charge to developers for new build bins would cover part of the cost of this proposal from within the base budget, leaving a funding gap of £11.5k.</p> <p>The use of the Housing & Commercial Growth Business Rates Fund (Rainbow Homes) to fund this proposal for 23/24 is a one off solution only. As stated in the s25 report within the proposed budget, the ongoing use of reserves is not sustainable in the medium term. Ongoing funding for this amendment would further increase the budget gap in future years.</p>
6	<p>Councillor N Hampshire</p> <p>Councillor A Hampshire</p>	<p><u>Discretionary Grants (2)</u> – withdraw if Discretionary Grants 1 is accepted.</p> <p>Award Citizen’s Advice Bureau (CAB) and Swale Community Voluntary Services (CVS) same grant as 22/23. £48.5k for 23/24</p> <p>The funding for this budget amendment, will be drawn from; The revenue generated by an increase in cost to developers of new bins (£52k) or From repurposing unused 22/23 reserve funding currently profiled to be spent on Rainbow Homes. This will reduce the total amount currently allocated to be spent on Rainbow Homes by £125k. or</p>	<p>The implications of maintaining the grants at 22/23 levels would be to increase the budget gap by £48.5k.</p> <p>The use of additional income generated from the increased charge to developers for new build bins would cover the cost of this proposal from within the base budget.</p> <p>The use of the Housing & Commercial Growth Business Rates Fund (Rainbow Homes) to fund this proposal for 23/24 is a one off solution only. As stated in the s25 report within the proposed budget, the ongoing use of reserves is not sustainable in the</p>

		<p>From repurposing of funding allocated in the 23/24 budget to be spent from reserves on Rainbow Homes. This will reduce the total amount currently allocated to be spent on Rainbow Homes by a further £250k (In addition to the £125k above). The amendment clearly shows a balanced budget as the Rainbow Homes spend from reserves will be less than currently budgeted.</p>	<p>medium term. Ongoing funding for this amendment would further increase the budget gap in future years.</p>
7	<p>Councillor Marchington</p> <p>Councillor Eakin</p>	<p><u>Car Parking – Daytime costs</u></p> <p>Retain the 22/23 pricing structure for 23/24. £75k for 23/24 The funding for this budget amendment, will be drawn from; The revenue generated by an increase in cost to developers of new bins (£52k) or From repurposing unused 22/23 reserve funding currently profiled to be spent on Rainbow Homes. This will reduce the total amount currently allocated to be spent on Rainbow Homes by £125k. or From repurposing of funding allocated in the 23/24 budget to be spent from reserves on Rainbow Homes. This will reduce the total amount currently allocated to be spent on Rainbow Homes by a further £250k (In addition to the £125k above). The amendment clearly shows a balanced budget as the Rainbow Homes spend from reserves will be less than currently budgeted.</p>	<p>The implications of freezing the car park fees at 2022/23 pricing structure would result in an increase in the budget gap of £75k. Part of that gap would be covered by the proposal to increase the charge to developers for new bins, leaving an ongoing funding gap of £23k.</p> <p>The use of the Housing & Commercial Growth Business Rates Fund (Rainbow Homes) to fund this proposal for 23/24 is a one off solution only. As stated in the s25 report within the proposed budget, the ongoing use of reserves is not sustainable in the medium term. Ongoing funding for this amendment would further increase the budget gap in future years.</p>
8	<p>Councillor Marchington</p> <p>Councillor Eakin</p>	<p><u>Car Parking – Evening Costs</u></p> <p>Maintain (where currently provided) free parking after 6pm for 23/24. £40k for 23/24 The funding for this budget amendment, will be drawn from;</p>	<p>The implications of not going ahead with the proposal to increase the charging period in the car parks would result in an increase in the budget gap of £40k.</p>

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9	<p>Councillor Bowen</p> <p>Councillor Horton</p>	<p><u>Car Parking – Restructure hourly rate</u></p> <p>Remove the 1/2hr option altogether and replace with a flat rate for ALL 1hr parking at £1 (reduction of 30p on the charge in the budget) £38k for 23/24 The funding for this budget amendment, will be drawn from; The revenue generated by an increase in cost to developers of new bins (£52k) or From repurposing unused 22/23 reserve funding currently profiled to be spent on Rainbow Homes. This will reduce the total amount currently allocated to be spent on Rainbow Homes by £125k. or From repurposing of funding allocated in the 23/24 budget to be spent from reserves on Rainbow Homes. This will reduce the total amount currently allocated to be spent on Rainbow Homes by a further £250k (In addition to the £125k above).</p>	<p>The implications of this proposal would be an increase in the budget gap of £38k.</p> <p>The use of additional income generated from the increased charge to developers for new build bins would cover the cost of this proposal from within the base budget.</p> <p>The use of the Housing & Commercial Growth Business Rates Fund (Rainbow Homes) to fund this proposal for 23/24 is a one off solution only. As stated in the s25 report within the proposed budget, the ongoing use of reserves is not sustainable in the medium term. Ongoing funding for this amendment would further increase the budget gap in future years.</p>

		The amendment clearly shows a balanced budget as the Rainbow Homes spend from reserves will be less than currently budgeted.	
10	Councillor Simmons Councillor Ingleton	<p><u>Garden Waste</u></p> <p>Maintain the cost of the brown bin service at the 22/23 level. £112k for 23/24</p> <p>The funding for this budget amendment, will be drawn from; The revenue generated by an increase in cost to developers of new bins (£52k) or From repurposing unused 22/23 reserve funding currently profiled to be spent on Rainbow Homes. This will reduce the total amount currently allocated to be spent on Rainbow Homes by £125k. or From repurposing of funding allocated in the 23/24 budget to be spent from reserves on Rainbow Homes. This will reduce the total amount currently allocated to be spent on Rainbow Homes by a further £250k (In addition to the £125k above). The amendment clearly shows a balanced budget as the Rainbow Homes spend from reserves will be less than currently budgeted.</p>	<p>The implications of freezing the cost of the brown bin service at 22/23 levels would result in an increase in the budget gap of £112k.</p> <p>The use of additional income generated from the increased charge to developers for new build bins would cover part of the cost of this proposal from within the base budget, leaving an ongoing funding gap of £60k.</p> <p>The use of the Housing & Commercial Growth Business Rates Fund (Rainbow Homes) to fund this proposal for 23/24 is a one off solution only. As stated in the s25 report within the proposed budget, the ongoing use of reserves is not sustainable in the medium term. Ongoing funding for this amendment would further increase the budget gap in future years.</p>
11	Councillor Eakin Councillor Ingleton	<p><u>Pitch Fees</u></p> <p>Freeze pitch fees for all Under 18s and U16s & mini bookings and offset the loss in proposed income by increasing adult pitch fee cost.</p>	<p>The change to the proposed charges would require a period of consultation.</p> <p>The amended fees would be as follows</p>

	Current proposal 2023/24		
Sports Facilities	Charge	VAT 20%	Total Charge
<i>With changing facilities and showers</i>	£	£	£
- Senior	71.50	14.30	85.80
- Under 18s	23.70	4.74	28.44
- Under 16s & mini soccer	17.80	3.56	21.36
<i>With changing facilities only</i>			
- Senior	59.20	11.84	71.04
- Under 18s	19.80	3.96	23.76
- Under 16s & mini soccer	16.70	3.34	20.04
<i>With no facilities</i>			
- Senior	40.50	8.10	48.60
- Under 18s	17.70	3.54	21.24
- Under 16s & mini soccer	10.90	2.18	13.08

Amendment				
Charge	VAT 20%	Total Charge	Increase	Increase
£	£	£	£	%
75.33	15.07	90.40	12.90	17%
21.50	4.30	25.80	0.00	0%
16.17	3.23	19.40	0.00	0%
62.70	12.54	75.24	10.74	17%
17.92	3.58	21.50	0.00	0%
15.08	3.02	18.10	0.00	0%
43.27	8.65	51.92	7.82	18%
16.00	3.20	19.20	0.00	0%
9.83	1.97	11.80	0.00	0%