

**Bracknell Forest Council
Record of Decision**

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| Work Programme Reference | I109006 |
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1. **TITLE:** Budget Update
2. **SERVICE AREA:** Resources
3. **PURPOSE OF DECISION**

To provide the Executive with an update on the current year's predicted spending against budget and an outline of future financial prospects.

4. **IS KEY DECISION** Yes
5. **DECISION MADE BY:** Executive

6. **DECISION:**

- i. notes the identified best-case and worst-case scenarios for the Council's current year financial position summarised in Table 1 and detailed in Annex A of the Executive Director: Resources report.
- ii. approves drawing the full £1.5m from the earmarked reserve for Inflationary Costs to support the current year's budget, as proposed in paragraph 5.3 of the Executive Director: Resources report.
- iii. Endorses the actions agreed by the Corporate Management Team to help contain expenditure in the current year as set out under paragraph 5.5 of the Executive Director: Resources report.
- iv. Supports the proposed responses to immediate budget priorities set out in the report and specifically:
 - a) approves drawings from reserves to meet time-limited costs proposed for core foster care allowances (£0.154m in 2022/23, paragraph 5.10), social worker recruitment and retention subject to detailed review by the Employment Committee (£0.190m, paragraph 5.15) and SEND support service staffing (£0.271m + £0.197m + £0.022m, paragraphs 5.25, 5.27 and 5.28); and
 - b) approves inclusion in the Commitment Budget 2023/24 funding of £0.371m for core foster care allowances (paragraph 5.10), additional funding and associated savings of £0.115m and -£0.179m respectively related to the enhanced foster care approach, £0.456m for social worker recruitment and retention proposals (paragraph 5.15) and £0.052m for SEND support service staffing (paragraph 5.28).
- v. Notes the Council's predicted medium-term financial prospects detailed in paragraphs 5.29 to 5.53 and summarised in Table 3 of the Executive Director: Resources report.

- vi. Reaffirms its support for the 7 key principles to guide budget preparations set out under paragraph 5.54 of the Executive Director: Resources report.

7. REASON FOR DECISION

The recommendations are intended to ensure that the Executive is aware of the Council's current and predicted future financial position.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

The Executive could choose not to support expenditure on the proposed priority areas. This is not recommended as the measures proposed are viewed as preventing more significant cost increases in the period ahead.

- 9. DOCUMENT CONSIDERED:** Report of the Executive Director: Resources

- 10. DECLARED CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:** None

| Date Decision Made | Final Day of Call-in Period |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 18 October 2022 | 25 October 2022 |