

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

14th January 2025

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2025/6 TO 2027/8 – Tranche 1

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Cllr. Ian Woodall, Finance Portfolio Holder
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Debra Goodall
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Wards Affected	N/A
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	N/A
Relevant Strategic Purpose(s)	All
Non-Key Decision	
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 The Council will set its budget in two Tranches this year as it did in the 2023/24 and 2024/25 Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) processes. The initial Tranche will be published in the Autumn with approval of options sought at Council in January, with a second Tranche to be considered in January once final settlement figures are known with final budget approval sought in February.
- 1.2 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budgets will be dealt with in a separate report although they will form part of a single report to Council in February at Council Tax setting time.
- 1.3 Executive received the Tranche 1 budget proposals at its meeting on the 26th November to go out to consultation.
- 1.4 Consultation has now taken place, with the results contained within this report.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Executive are asked to Recommend to Council that following consultation:

- 1 Members endorse the inputs into the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan as at the middle of October, and the associated risks and opportunities.**
- 2 An initial Tranche of savings proposals and pressures, as set out in Section 3.03 to 3.19, including the fees and charges increases, apart**

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from the dial-a-ride amendment, after consideration of feedback from the consultation exercise which closed on the 2nd January, be approved at Council.

- 3 The use of £300k of Economic Development Reserve for Feasibility studies at Matchborough, Winyates and Woodrow be approved

3. Background

Introduction

- 3.1 The Council sets a 3-year Medium Term Financial Plan every year, with the final Council Tax Resolution being approved by Council in February. Having a second Tranche after the Christmas break, for which approval will be sought in February 2025, that takes account of the Local Government Settlement whose final detail will not be known until early January
- 3.2 On the 26th November the Tranche 1 budget was presented for consultation. That budget proposed the following:

The Council's Base Assumptions including Inflation and Grants

- 3.3 Tax Base and Corporate Financing underlying assumptions are as follows:
- Council Tax – Figures assume the full 1.99% allowable increase over all years of the 3 year MTFP and no increase in numbers of properties.
 - Business Rates Increases – business rates assume growth in the base based on the combined Herefordshire pooling figures.
 - New Homes Bonus – It is assumed to be none in 24/5 onwards with nothing announced in the Chancellors Statement on the 30th October.
 - Services Grant - It is assumed that Central Government Grants are at similar levels to previous years (as was the case in 2023/4)
- 3.4 Grant support assumptions are as follows (Revenue and Capital). It should be noted that these are budgeted figures and final grant figures will not be confirmed until the time of the final Local Government Settlement.
- The main Revenue Grants are
 - S31 Grant - £0.748m
 - Housing Benefit Administration Grant - £0.235m
 - Housing Benefit Grant - £18.5m
 - Discretionary Housing Payment - £0.136m
 - Revenue Cost of Collection Grant - £0.106m
 - Homelessness Grant - £0.153m
 - The Council has £15.2m of Towns Fund Grant to be spent by April 2026 which is match funded by £2.0m of Council funding.

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- The Council has £2.4m of UK Shared Prosperity Fund to spend by April 2025. This is both revenue and capital in nature.
- 3.5 There are significant pressures mounting on the Council. At Q2 the overall revenue financial position is a £299k overspend position (up from a £164k overspend in Q1). This position is set out in detail in an additional report to this Committee today. The significant area of overspend is the maintenance costs of the fleet and clarity on its purchase date, and how far it impacts 2025/26, is required before it is added to this analysis. The remainder of salary based issues are part of the corporate adjustment section.
- 3.6 Corporate changes included in Tranche 1 2025/26 are:
- The Pay Award is increased from 2% to 3% for 25/6. This would be an additional £100k cost. In her Statement on the 30th July, the Chancellor did say that Government would accept acceptance the recommendations of the independent Pay Review Bodies for public sector workers' pay. If a 3% pay award is agreed then it would follow that the Council should receive £300k of funding for that award. However, until this is agreed, nothing will be assumed for associated funding. The Chancellors Statement on the 30th October spoke of a 3.2% increase of core spending power, but we need to see the detail to be sure.
 - Pension Fund Actuarial Triennial Revaluation. The Council did very well in the revaluation which came into effect for the 2023/4 financial year and which finishes in the 2025/6 financial year. Overall the Council had circa £1m of savings on the payments for each year. Although the fund continues to perform well we are concerned on the reducing g numbers of live members in the scheme and so have included an amount from 2026/7 of £200k as a potential risk.
 - Fees and Charges assumed an increase of 2%. However, given 50% of fees and charges costs link to staff costs and these possibly will increase at 5% for the 2024/5 financial year. Therefore, to keep pace this this increase of costs it is proposed that 3%, 4% and 5% increases are looked at. These amounts to additional income of the following for each scenario:
 - 3% Increase - £71k
 - 4% Increase - £142k
 - 5% Increase - £213k

It should be noted that at the recent WRS Board, other Board Members were looking to increase Fees and Charges tariffs by at least 3%. WRS numbers are not included pending discussions across members of the level of increases.

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- Until more information is understood in the detailed Local Government Settlement in December, it is assumed that Grant levels will remain at present levels.
- The largest change however will link to upcoming Waste Requirements. The Council is required to implement these proposals from April 2026, which the Council challenging present Government Funding allocations. The impact on Council budgets is significant in terms of both Revenue and Capital:
 - There is the requirement for additional Capital Investment, over and above any Grant of £193k. It assumes that this is required to be spent in 2025/6 and costs apportioned accordingly.
 - At present PWLB rates of 5.00% for 8 years debt this would be a yearly interest charge of £10k a year from 2025/6.
 - For MRP purposes this would be an additional cost of £24k a year from 2026/7.
 - At the present time, additional revenue costs are estimated to be circa £500k a year.
 - There is also programme implementation costs of circa £200k which is expected to be split across both Councils at £100k each.
- Additional inflation of 5% on contract is included at 5% which is £125k. It should be noted that 5% has also been included in the 24/5 year and this will be allocated in this financial year as and when it is required.
- A review has been undertaken of Corporate Budgets (Council Tax, Business Rates, Investment Income, Debt) against expected number and due to a number of factors there is a positive position..
- The Capital Programme at the moment is unchanged, apart from the fact that changes have been made to the Fleet as per the 24/5 Monitoring Reports.
- Adjustments, following the establishment review, will need to be made across both Councils to account for the £1m in-balance between pay budgets and recharges across both Councils.
- The previous administration had mooted a freeze in Council Tax for 2025/6. It is likely that the Labour Group will not enact this leading to additional ongoing funding of £144k a year.
- The Council had 3% in to cover staff inflation in 2024/5. This is now circa 5% and so this adjustment has also been made in the Corporate budgets section.
- There is also a budget savings in 25/6 relating in going to single status which will need to be addressed.

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- There are also works that link to Temporary Accommodation budgets but in fact are HRA buildings. This includes
 - The Anchorage
 - Auxerre House

More information on these schemes will come forward in the next quarter as their advancement will help the present TA budget which is over £600k.

- Analysis will be undertaken on Benchmarking data as well – as this will inform areas where further savings, if required, will be initially looked at.
- There will be an issue with National Insurance in relation to Rubicon in terms of both not covered by the Public Sector protections and having staff at the lower pay scales. Possible exposure, still to be confirmed is between £100 and £200k.

3.7 Corporate pressures are summarised in the following table and amount to a surplus of £317k in 2025/6 increasing to an ongoing deficit of £436k from 2026/7.

	2025/6 £000	2026/7 £000	2027/8 £000
Opening Position	-16	-17	-17
Changes			
Increase Pay Award to 3% (from 2%)	100	100	100
Pension Revaluation (addn costs)		200	200
Increase Fees and Charges to 4% from 2%	-142	-142	-142
Increased Waste Interest costs (Capital)	10	20	20
Increased Waste MRP costs (Capital)		24	24
Waste Project costs (capitalised)		20	20
Increased Waste Revenue costs		500	500
Contract Inflation	125	125	125
No Council Tax Freeze in 2025/6	-144	-144	-144
Improvements in Corporate Budgets	-450	-450	-450
2% Additional 23/4 Payoll cost over Budget	200	200	200
Net Additional Costs	-301	453	453
Initial View of Additional Costs	-317	436	436

3.8 Departmental pressures were requested to be returned by the 24th October. These are attached in **Appendix A** and cover both revenue and capital pressures. These departmental changes result in an overall £1.309m revenue

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pressure in the 2025/6 financial year and then £0.900m ongoing. This is summarised in the following table:

	2025/6	2026/7	2027/8
	£000	£000	£000
Position after Corporate Items	-317	436	436
Departmental Items	1,309	934	897
Position after Departmental Items	992	1,370	1,333

- 3.9 This results in an ongoing pressure of circa £1.3m. It should be noted that if the Council gets the full 3.2% Core Spending Power increase set out in the 2024 Chancellors budget, then this will result in circa £375k of additional funding, reducing the gap to circa £900k. It should be noted that there will also be political pressures as well.

Fees and Charges update

- 3.10 The section, looks at the impact of proposed Fees and Charges increases for the 2025/26 Financial year. These increases are shown in detail by service in the Fees and Charges Report which is shown as **Appendix B**. The table below highlights the possible increase of income if a 3% to a 5% increase was applied across the board. The 4% has been applied to Contributions and Fees and Charges (not parking) budgets and not on SLA Income or lifeline, where charges are set statutorily, and charges across more than one area. WRS increases will be agreed at the WRS Board Meeting in early November.

Year	2025/26	2026/27
Base Budget	3,404,000	3,404,000
3% Increase	71,000	71,000
4% Increase	142,000	142,000
5% Increase	213,000	213,000

Fees and Charges Increases

- 3.11 As has been noted in previous budgets, almost 50% of costs relate to staffing costs at the Council. Staffing budgets went up in 23/4 by on average by 5% and the settlement for this year 2024/5 is over 4%. The increases in fees and charges link to the previous year pay award and so just to keep pace with the increases in costs a level of 4% would be a minimum requirement.
- 3.12 The Transformation Team have looked at Income and fees/charges levels for:
- Its deliverability in 2023/4 and 24/5
 - Views on if additional % increases will be deliverable.
 - Bereavement costs have been updated to ensure they are rounded to pounds as per legislation.
- 3.13 The outcome of that high level analysis was that:

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- A blanket % increase on all controllable fees and charges and budgets would not be advisable, as this will just increase the rolling year variances in specific areas. Those budgets need adjusting to the correct base (both up and down).
- Bereavement services income has been heavily impacted by a newly created crematorium and a paper has been produced by the service manager which suggests a decrease in yearly budget achievement, decreasing and ceasing some fees from a competitive pricing perspective whilst also suggesting new income streams
- Knowledge of the full extent of what is or is not Vatable in income lines also needs to be clarified – so the right budgets are set.
- Garden and trade waste are areas where above inflation increases could be variable with previous years and current forecasting showing promise.

3.14 The overall impact of the 4% increase on the Council's position is set out in the table above. In setting the base budget levels to apply the increases an assessment has been made on deliverability as set out above. Note that in the Appendix there are proposed changes to the HRA charges (highlighted in the notes column), and Community Charges linked to Lifeline and Hire products (in red).

Impact on Reserves

3.15 As part of this Tranche 1 budget, it is requested that £300k is allocated from the Economic Development Reserve to undertake feasibility studies at the following centres: Matchborough Centre, Winyates Centre and Woodrow Centre.

3.16 It should be noted that there will also be an impact on General Fund Reserves from the decision to stop the library development. This is due to aborted design work which cannot be charged to capital. The magnitude is yet to be finalised and agreed but potentially is in the £3-500k region.

Capital Programme

3.17 The table below highlights the present Capital programme position to 2029/30 rolling forward the "Rolling Budgets" for an additional year.

Year	Total Programme	Council Funded	Grant Funded
2024/5	19,864,560	4,742,886	14,836,674
Carry Fwd	8,050,690		

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2025/6	5,002,180	1,348,316	3,653,864
2026/7	2,995,763	2,289,899	705,864
2027/8	1,654,918	949,054	705,864
2028/9	1,480,000	780,000	700,000
2029/30	1,685,154	979,290	705,864

Capital Programme

3.18 Additional Capital Programme items totalling £56k in 2025/6 are set out in the following table which now included updated property work required which will cost an additional ongoing cost of £100k a year in debt charges:

		2025/26 £	2026/27 £	2027/28 £	2028/29 £
Environmental					
Abavus Software Integration	The Abavus software package covers the customer interaction from the front end first contact to completion on all Environmental Services. It also provides efficient processes for our operational teams, so route reviews scheduling of work etc, taking online payments for bulky and garden waste collections, MOTs plus all commercial activities. Other activities include street cleaning, waste collections, trees, crematorium and cemetery services. Plus lots more from a management and data reporting point of view. The project was started 4 years ago and the final elements are now in their final completion stages. It is envisaged that the next 2 financial years a consultancy budget is available for any work that will roll over from a waste services and finance part of the software. There should be funding left as above	30,000	30,000	0	0
Abavus Licensing	as above	10,200	10,200	10,200	10,200
ICT					
PSN Firewall and Internal Firewall Replacement	Rubicon Firewall, RBBC PSN Firewall and Internal Firewall. These devices will no longer be supported from August 2026. Cisco (the manufacturers of the equipment) have stated this equipment is no longer supported beyond August 2026. This will be a major cyber security issue if they are not replaced before that time.	16,250			
Property Services					
Replace/Upgrade Track at Abbey Stadium	The sports athletic track is inspected to achieve the UKA Track mark and identified the Track is at it's minimum thickness, while still offering a good surface has significant reduction in its slip resistance. Track lighting is becoming a costly maintenance operation and requires upgrading to LED lighting which will also provide an energy saving.	300,000	0	0	0
Fire Compartmentalisation in Public Buildings	To undertake reinstatement of Fire Compartmentation in Redditch Corporate and Public Buildings. Following recommendations in the latest Fire Risk assessments, Property Services undertook a number of surveys of Corporate buildings including Rubicon Leisure Buildings and identified a number of areas of concern where some parts of the fire compartmentation is ineffective by its absence, damaged, disturbance or age degraded. Fire Compartmentation helps contain a fire to an area, enabling safe evacuation and limiting the affect of the fire and	250,000	250,000	250,000	0
Energy Performance Certificate Requirements	An Energy performance certificate (EPC) is required on all Non dwelling, before lease or Sale can be agreed. They show the energy efficiency rating, on a A-G rating scale to show the energy performance of a building. They enable persons to consider energy efficiency as part of their investment or business decision to buy or occupy that building. Buildings are responsible for almost 40% of the UK's energy consumption and carbon emissions. By April 2023 it was required that all commercial properties to have a minimum of an E rating with a requirement (achieved). All new leases from April 2025 will require to be a minimum "C" and by 2027. This related to 55 Commercial units	100,000	100,000	100,000	0
Abbey Stadium Roof Replacement	Abbey Stadium Sports Hall roof (to be read in conjunction with Rubicon proposal for Sports hall redevelopment). The sports hall roof is a steel Profile roof and has reached the end of its life. Protective coating on the external is failing exposing the steel roof below. Currently not leaking but a matter of time. Rubicon leisure have proposals to refurbish the sports hall and would be prudent to replace the roof at the same period of time. Incorporating new lighting/heating and ventilation systems. While sports hall is closed provide temporary marquee on the Carpark to	250,000	0	0	0
Total		956,450	390,200	360,200	10,200

3.19 In addition, there are the following Rubicon items that need considering:

- Abbey Stadium - Refurb indoor c/rooms and toilets £300k
- Forge Mill – new outdoor Kiosk and toilet refurbishment £90k
- Pitcheroak,- refurbish mail changing and 2nd Green rebuild £90k

Given that the Culture application was rejected in the budget, there is the requirement for an extension to the Arrow Valley building to increase kitchen size and provide rooftop terrace at £750k. This will be reviewed as part of the Tranche 2 proposals.

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Tranche 1 Feedback

- 3.20 Tranche 1 of the Medium Term Financial Plan was put out for consultation at the meeting of Executive on the 26th November 2024.
- 3.21 In the intermediate period however, there has been a consultation running on Tranche 1 of the budget. This supplemental paper updates Executive on the results of that consultation.

Tranche 1 Consultation

- 3.22 The Council has consulted on its Tranche 1 budget. This budget consultation opened on Thu 5 December 2024. An email invite was sent to the Redditch Community Panel. The survey was also promoted on a variety of social media channels.
- 3.23 The survey closed at 12noon on Thursday 2 January 2025. The response rate for the community panel was 44%. There were a total of 322 valid responses received.
- 3.24 Question 2 gives a split of the consultation responses by location with the highest percentage of returns coming from Webheath, Batchley and Headless Cross.
- 3.25 Question 17 gives the splits of Age Ranges of the people who filled out the questionnaire. The vast majority were over 50.
- 3.26 The survey asked respondents to rank the three most important services they felt the Council should invest in. These were:
- Community Safety (49.2.% of respondents).
 - Maintenance of the Landscape and Environment (46.1.% of respondents)
 - Housing (42.1.% of respondents).
- 3.27 Each question had the following Questions asked had the following possible responses.
- Strongly Agree
 - Agree
 - Neither Agree or Disagree
 - Disagree
 - Strongly Disagree
- 3.28 In those questions, 8 had responses well over 50% agreeing or strongly agreeing, and only one had a response lower than 50%:

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- Do you support fees and charges (such as hire costs) rising by 4% to keep them in line with inflation and rising staffing costs at a 47.7% approval rate.
- 3.29 The highest approval rating, at 84.1% was the question - Do you agree that the Council should invest in its land and assets to ensure they are safe and fit for the future e.g. dealing with trees affected by ash die back?
- 3.30 Two further questions were asked on what level of increase to Redditch Borough Council's proportion of Council Tax do you support?
- 61.7% agreed of strongly agreed with a 1.99% increase.
 - This dropped to 37.8% at 2.99%.
- 3.31 There were 2 free test questions:
- Please let us know your suggestions for investing in the borough to increase prosperity and enhance appeal for residents and businesses alike?
 - There were 181 responses to this question.
 - These responses are being analysed and split then into themes.
 - Please let us know any other comments on the budget or ideas for reducing costs or increasing income to ensure Council services remain sustainable?
 - There were 131 responses to this questions.
 - These responses are being analysed and split then into themes

The consultation spreadsheet sets out the overall summary and a breakdown by question is shown as **Appendix C**.

4. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

- 4.1 Financial implications are set out in section 3.

Legal Implications

- 4.2 A number of statutes governing the provision of services covered by this report contain express powers or duties to charge for services. Where an express power to charge does not exist the Council has the power under Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 to charge where the activity is incidental or conducive to or calculated to facilitate the Council's statutory function.

Service / Operational Implications

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4.3 Monitoring will be undertaken to ensure that income targets are achieved.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

4.4 The implementation of the revised fees and charges will be notified in advance to the customer to ensure that all users are aware of the new charges and any concessions available to them.

4.5 Initial Equalities Impact Assessments will be taken where required.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT

5.1 There is a risk that if fees and charges are increased that income levels will not be achieved, and the cost of services will increase. This is mitigated by managers reviewing their fees and charges annually. The Council must deliver a balanced budget and items impacting on distinct groups require and equalities review to be undertaken.

6. APPENDICES

Appendix A – Savings Proposal Document
Appendix B – Fees and Charges by Service
Appendix C – Consultation Results

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

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Appendix A – Savings Proposal Document

		2025/26 £	2026/27 £	2027/28 £	2028/29 £
Environmental Services					
Abavus software subscription	This extra budget request has been estimated increase in the costs of Abavus Software subscription package when fully implimented from 1 April 2025. The software contract is to be tendered in November 2024 for the next 4 years. The sum is calculated from an Abavus quotation for the service. A saving is identified from stopping the use of the current PDMS software package from 1st April 2026. The current ICT budget for BDC is 24/25 ££50.2k and will increase to £68.4k for 25/26. The current ICT budget for RBC for 24/25 is £62.4k and this will increase to £68.4k 25/26	6,400	10,200	10,200	10,200
Increased Fleet Fuel Costs	Last year there was a c£28k overspend based on Domestic Waste and Strategic Routes teams.	28,000	28,000	28,000	28,000
Bereavement Services	Increased utilities costs of £39k in 23/4	39,000	39,000	39,000	39,000
Tree Management Team	New ash die back strategy and deliver against it	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
Regeneration and Property Services					
Economic Development Budget shortfall - to deliver Council priorities	Economic Development has been brought back in house from NWEDR. While some staffing resource has been made available the working budget available is unclear and the staffing budget may be insufficient to deliver identified priorities. Priorities identified by each Council currently include: Work with the education authority, schools, universities and colleges to ensure that young people have the tools to create a positive future. Be leaders in regional partnerships Supporting local independent businesses Economic Development Strategy Support and encourage new business start ups	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000

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		2025/26 £	2026/27 £	2027/28 £	2028/29 £
Redditch Christmas Lights	<p>Lighting up the town centre for the festive season has been an expectation for a number of years by Redditch residents, businesses and members. This has built over the last 5 years as RBC has worked alongside the BID to showcase the lights through a festive switch on event which has been supported by thousands of residents and visitors.</p> <p>Improved festive lighting scheme will aid the vibrancy and vitality of the centre and support the festive events being grown through the community groups and Redditch BID. The impact of these changes will be monitored through footfall levels in the town centre and perception of the area through business surveys put out by Redditch BID.</p>	15,000			
Matchborough Feasibility Study					
Winyates Feasibility Study					
Woodrow Feasibility Study					
General					
Youth Community Engagement	<p>There has been a gap in our ability to engage with younger people, to both understand their views and to help them understand the democratic processes. There has also been a wider level of disenfranchisement within the wider community, with residents not always feeling like they can influence decisions. This has also been highlighted by elected members who are very keen to involve younger people in the democratic process and would pre-empt the proposed national policy of votes for 16 year olds. An externally delivered but internally supported youth council project, over a period of three years, would help to build this capacity and interest, developing a central youth council whilst also reinforcing or starting middle and high school level school councils across the Borough (where schools engage), to feed in different opinions and disseminate questions and projects</p>	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000

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		2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
		£	£	£	£
ICT					
Replacement of Corporate Telephony System	Mitel (the manufacturers of the equipment) have stated this equipment is no longer supported beyond 2028. This will be a major cyber security issue if it is not replaced before that time. The new service will be required 24 months before support ends to deliver the project.	90,000	55,000	55,000	55,000
Workforce Planning Apprentice Role - for sustainable ICT service		15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
ICT Applications Support Post to cover rise in new systems (to keep Council compliant)	The Systems & Data Group has gathered 18 requests for the new ICT systems in the past 3 months. To enable these to be implemented successfully, and then supported on a permanent basis, a new ICT Application Support post is required.	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
VMWare cost increases and possible move to Microsoft (migration)	VMWare have increased their license costs considerably (10 times) and this bid is to account for this. VMWare have been acquired by a new owner and the license charge has now been increased across all sectors including public sector. There is an option to move away from VMWare to use a solution provided by Microsoft which is currently included in their fee's at no further cost. This is a complex item of work but could provide a cheaper alternative moving forward. There is a risk however that if enough authorities do this, that Microsoft will also increase their costs for this.	125,000	125,000	125,000	125,000
Added security of Staff Internet site	The Staff Intranet site has been moved to the cloud as the onsite version was made redundant by Microsoft. Whilst this has been implemented successfully it now requires further security and functional improvements (including integration into Power Bi).	2,500	3,500	3,000	3,000
Idox contract cost increases	The Idox Uniform system has been used for many years throughout the Authority and when the contract was last renewed the price increase. This bid is to match the budget to that increase. Enables the use of the Idox Uniform system throughout the Authority. This enables the Authority to deliver legislative obligations including those from Planning and Legal.		5,000	5,000	5,000

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		2025/26 £	2026/27 £	2027/28 £	2028/29 £
Technical changes in Cloud authentication	A technical design change is required to our cloud authentication model (security design). This is a one-off item of work that requires specialist knowledge and skillset. Enables the secure use of our ICT systems to deliver all Corporate Strategic Purposes.	10,000			
eMail and Web Security Upgrades	The existing Email and Web security devices are over ten years old and require replacing with new technology that may be cloud based. This is an enabler for all Strategic Purposes.	11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000
Finance & Customer Services					
Upgrading TechOne and 24/5 Accounts finalisation	<p>1. Accountancy Services - Efficiency saving will not be achieved. Implementation of Techone system anticipated efficiency savings within the Team as a result of the implementation of the system. Until the ECR system has been properly implemented, staff savings are unlikely to be realised in 2025/26.</p> <p>2. Insurance Commission - This service provision ceased early 23-24 so no longer achievable.</p> <p>3. Techone system - system costs we not included within the finance budget. Some of the costs were being met from within existing IT budgets but this may not be sustainable on an ongoing basis</p>	319,150			
Civica Revs and Benefits Upgrade	Civica - Revenues & Benefits system, a new system was introduced a few years ago and budget was originally held in IT, however licence and annual support costs have increased and budget provision not sufficient.	325,000	325,000	325,000	325,000

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		2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
		£	£	£	£
EPR Responsibilities	In November, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) will share indicative estimates of their Year 1 Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for packaging payments via email to council chief executives, covering the financial year from April 2025 to March 2026 (the Assessment Notification). The Assessment Notification will include the indicative payment estimates, the payment schedule, and details on how the estimates were calculated. Guidance on the payment calculation method will be provided in a separate document attached to the email. The first payments will be made by November 2025	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc
Planning and Leisure					
Public Access Platform	Evidenced by enquiries from neighbours, conultees and members requesting this facility be provided. Idox quote has been provided (Idox Quotation Reference: Opp24.78600) dated 04.11.24. Bid is for £6,400 till Sept 2027 with £825 support and maintance each year there after.	6,400	825	825	825
Policy and Performance	Data Improvement Advisor (1)Grade 8 (initially for two year contract) and Data Insight Officer (1) Grade 6 (initially two year contract) to implement the data project across both Councils to streamline data (split across both Councils)	37,000	37,000	0	0
Total		1,309,450	934,525	897,025	897,025