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| **Budget Report** **Full Council 4th December 2023 (presented to Governance Committee 20th November 2023)****Clerk/RFO****Draft Budget for Precept 2024- 2025** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Background** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| The budget development process began in early September with Governance Committee. Since then, Committees have examined their budgets for next year and reached resolutions. At the start of the process the staff pay award was unknown and various other costs were indicating that we had a large deficit to cover. The pay award was confirmed on 2nd November 2023. As information has been forthcoming there is now greater clarity over costings and an ongoing rigorous process has resulted in a modest deficit.  We still don’t know about our precept amount. Therefore the precept for 2023/24 has been used for budgeting 2024/25ie. last year it was set at £48.83 for Band D. The taxpayer base of 6,287 resulted in a precept of £306,990. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| There are still pressures due to the rising cost of living and energy costs.  |  |  |
| **Strategy - basis for budget setting** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1. **Committee budget savings:** Governance Committee on 11th September (GOV2324/41.2) recommended

to the Committees to review their budgets in line with projected pressures. Modest savings within their budgets have been made without impacting core services and activities. There have been some increases in budget lines responding to actual cost of living rises. |  |  |
| **Assumptions.** It is assumed that the Public Deposit Account investment of £100,000 will yield £5,000 in 2024/25 (current performance) although investment income can go up and down. Due to retirement the duties of the Warden posthave been re-allocated (c/f Governance Committee agenda item 11) and the post is proposed for deletion. A review ofstaffing in 2024/25 has been proposed. |
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| **Recommendations:** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1. **Precept**. It is recommended that for 2024/25 the precept remains unchanged at £48.83 for Band D. The tax base

 may slightly change and figures will be adjusted. |  |  |
| 1. **Use of Reserves**: The council continues to retain general reserves of c.£219,000. This includes the Deposit Account

 Investment of £100,000 which is instant access and so should still be viewed as reserves we can call upon.  Furthermore, the amount of ‘contingency’ reserve (eg. 3 months), would be around £85,000 so it is recommended  that BTC can easily and justifiably make use of reserves to cover specific budget deficits this year. Earmarked reserves  for 24/25 currently stand at c. £23,000. |  |  |
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| **Outstanding Issues** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Governance has yet to resolve their budget at the time of writing. BHCC income target, actual out turn year to date is. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Summary Table**

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| ***Summary*** | **2023/24** | **2024/25** |
| Budgeted income | £313,040.00 | £318,040.00 |
|  Budgeted spend |  | £321,278.00 |
| Estimated Spend | £318,995.00 | £329,878.00 |
| difference (under/over spend) | £5,955.00 | £11,838.00 |
| Planned spend from Earmarked Reserves | £5,420.00 | £8,600.00 |
| **from General Reserves** | **£0.00** | **£3,238.00** |
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