

Amendment to the Capital Budget 2018/19

Submitted by: Green Group

Individual member: Cllr Eleanor Combley

Date submitted: 09/02/2018

Directorate /Service	Description of amendment	Implications of Service Delivery	Estimated Costs / Savings 2018/19 £000	Impact Statement
Finance	<p>Income: Use part of the Capital Contingency/ MRP draw-down, instead of putting it all into Reserves</p> <p>In 2018/19 capital contingency is planned to increase by 10 million. We propose adjusting this increase to £9.2 million and using the £800k to purchase/refurbish 2 properties.</p> <p>Alternatively, if other demands on the capital contingency mean it is no longer available, then because there have been changes to the Minimum Revenue Provision (the rate at which councils are required to pay back our debt) it is possible to draw down some of the historic overpayment. The Mayor's budget proposes drawing down the full £7.5m available and putting all of it directly into reserves, so this option would still allow £6.7m to be put into reserves, which is still clearly prudent budgeting. The remaining £800k would be used to purchase/refurbish 2 properties.</p> <p>This investment would enable significant revenue cost savings in the area of children's social care. This revenue in turn will support the plan to transform children's services so that we can move to a model of earlier intervention and prevention.</p>	<p>This proposal is assumed to be one-off for 2018/19 only.</p> <p>Work is ongoing as part of the Strengthening families transformation programme to assess the costs and benefits of the proposed approach to capital investment, in line with the potential for some new grant funding – and this would be in line with the Council's approach to utilisation of contingencies .</p> <p>With regard to the potential proposal, if the preferred option no longer exists then;</p> <p>The budget report sets out a strategy for ensuring the Council maintains an adequate level of reserves to mitigate the impact of risk. This is set out as paragraphs 16 and 17 of the main report, and relies on the planned MRP</p>	<p>(£800)</p>	<p>No equalities impact at this stage. However this will be assessed as part of the Strengthening Families transformation programme</p>

<p>Children's Services</p>	<p>Costs: Buy/refurbish two properties to run small scale (2 or 3-bed) specialist children's homes</p> <p>For children with complex social, emotional or mental health needs, our current children's homes are too large, and not sufficiently specialised. To find the care needed, we are sending children to homes outside the Bristol area, as far away as Cambridge or even Glasgow. This costs more, as well as making it more difficult for Bristol social workers to support those children and supervise their care. The alternative is to run one of our own homes mainly empty, which impacts on how many placements we have available, on staffing, and on costs.</p> <p>Out of area placements typically cost ~£40k more per year than comparable care provided locally. Reducing the number of out of area placements we use will allow us to make revenue savings and also enable us to provide better care.</p> <p>The Children's Services transformation plan has identified demand for about 10 small homes currently. Funding for one has already been bid for. However, given that it takes time to recruit staff with the skills required, it does not seem sensible to attempt to deliver all of them simultaneously.</p> <p>Therefore, this amendment provides capital funding for building/converting two additional homes.</p> <p>The running costs of these will be less than the revenue currently spent on the care of the same</p>	<p>drawdown to deliver this strategy.</p>	<p>The proposal is predicated on the delivery of savings from replacing existing residential care arrangements with the provision of new care facilities.</p> <p>Our policy is not to disrupt placements unless it is in the best interest of the child.</p> <p>Efficiencies might be generated from new placements resulting from natural churn or demand built into growth pressures contained in the transformation programme; however a detailed evaluation would be required.</p>	<p>£800</p>	<p>A full EQJA will accompany the final business plan for the Strengthening Families Transformation programme. This budget amendment would positively affect children with special educational needs and disabilities including autism, children who are at risk of criminal or sexual exploitation, and those with complex emotional and social mental health needs.</p>
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	<p>children, so over time this amendment will also save on revenue costs. (There is no revenue element relating to Children's Services in this amendment, because within this financial year the saving would be used within children's services to support the transformation programme.)</p>			
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Capital budgets can only be considered where financed from borrowing and the net financial impact of the amendment on the budget MUST be zero.

Chief Finance Officer/s151 Officer



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12th February 2018..... Date

