

Full Council

February 2024



Report of:	Denise Murray, Director Finance (Chief Finance Officer & S151 Officer)
Title:	2024/25 Budget Report
Ward:	City Wide
Member Presenting Report:	The Mayor and the Deputy Mayor / Cabinet Member for Finance, Governance and Performance

Recommendation

For Council to consider and approve the Mayor's 2024/25 Budget recommendations which include the various elements of the Revenue budget, Capital programme, Council Tax and Adult Social Care Precept for 2024/25.

All separate but associated budget reports (DSG, HRA) were previously aligned into the main report, and as such the only amendment to the suite of reports is the DSG Equalities Impact Assessment.

To note under the delegated authority to the Director Finance, after consultation with Deputy Mayor with responsibility for Finance, Governance and Performance and the Mayor, the following changes have been made to the budget report since approved by Cabinet on 23 January 2024:

1. The following government funding information received relating to 2024/25:

Public Health Grant - The final allocation of Public Health grant for 2024/25, was announced 5 February 2024, and for Bristol is £36.4 million (1.6% cash increase on 2023/24). Further details can be found in Section 10 of the main report.

Additional Funding Announcement 24 January 2024 - Announcement of £600 million (£4.2m allocation for Bristol) one-off funding for 2024-25 only, primarily allocated to support authorities with social care responsibilities, giving an increase in the funding guarantee so that all local authorities will see a minimum 4% in their core spending power, before taking any local decisions on raising council tax. The announcement also refers to the Rural Services Delivery Grant, supports councils with extreme Internal Drainage Board Levies, gives an increase in funding to the Isle of Wight and Isles of Scilly with residual allocated to Services Grant.



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Conditionality is applicable to the new funding announcement and local authorities will be expected to produce productivity plans which will set out how they will improve service performance and ensure every area is making best use of taxpayers' money.

The final Local Government Finance Settlement – published 5 February 2024, confirms the Bristol allocations including any additional funding post the provisional settlement. As a result, a number of revisions have been made to the budget report and where appropriate realignment of funding to address emerging pressures (such as Temporary Accommodation, Local Crisis Prevention Fund and the potential ASC equal pay review requirements). The following sections of the report have been amended to reflect the above:

Budget Report

- Table 1: General Fund Summary
- Table 3: Summary of Proposed General Fund Revenue Budget
- Figure 1: Breakdown of budget income 2024/25
- Table 4: Breakdown of baseline expenditure pressures and investments
- Table 6: Breakdown of baseline expenditure pressures and investments – Children & Families
- Table 8: Breakdown of baseline expenditure pressures and investments - Growth & Regeneration
- Table 9: Breakdown of baseline expenditure pressures and investments – Resources
- Table 31: General Fund assumptions as % of net budget and turnover days
- Figure 11: Funding gap analysis
- Appendix 1: Detailed budget summary by directorate
- Appendix 10: Service & corporate pressures
- Associated paragraphs have been updated to include reference to the new funding: 4.11; 5.17; 6.31; 6.34; 6.38; 6.43; 6.45.

2. The following government funding information received relating to 2023/24:

The final local government settlement outlined detail of two business rates grants figures for the current financial year (green plant and machinery exemption compensation and £100 million one-off from surplus Levy Payments). These are detailed in para 5.3.





3. The following additional information received or required as standard to complete the report:

- a) Appendix 11: Precept notification received from the Police and Crime Commissioner for Avon and Somerset and draft precept from Avon Fire Authority, to inform the Statutory Calculations in respect of Bristol's Council Tax.
- b) The National Joint Council (NJC) proposed 2024/25 pay claim for members in local government and schools to be submitted by the unions (GMB, UNISON and Unite) to the National Employers, is outlined in Section 17.31.

4. Other adjustments relate to minor formatting or transposition errors in previous report or to aid transparency, as follows:

- Table 24: merger of two tables expanded to incorporate Invest to Save and total investments.
- Table 28: wrong version incorporated displaying incorrect capital contingency – revised.
- Table 10: Corporate pressures and associated paragraphs – added to provide additional clarity on total budgetary pressures with the addition of delegations to CLB for the alignment of the corporate transformation funding, including para 6.47.
- Appendix 1: Detailed Budget Summary by Directorate - savings (2324R9 and 2324R12) revised to align with Delivery Executive decision.
- Appendix 4: Treasury Management Strategy, para 4.16: inclusion of Community Municipal Investments or Retail Bonds for Zero Carbon Initiatives as a source of funding.
- Appendix 4: Treasury Management Strategy, Table 5: value of other long-term liabilities corrected to the correct financial period.
- Appendix 4: Treasury Management Strategy, Annual Investment Strategy, paragraph 6 includes reference to Equitable Investment Policy & paragraph 7 additional narrative added in relation to performance.
- Appendix 9: Long Term Investments/Shareholdings - paragraph 4.1 corrected to reflect the units of housing and 'affordable' housing figures published on Goram Home's website and paragraph 4.5 updated to reflect an additional draw down from the working capital loan facility since the Cabinet report was published.
- Any other minor formatting updates.

