

Meeting of:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting:	Thursday, 19 January 2023
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	All Scrutiny Committees
Report Title:	Budget 2023/24 for Consultation and Further MTFP Update
Purpose of Report:	To present initial draft budget proposals for consultation in order to come forward with a balanced budget for approval in February
Report Owner:	Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources
Responsible Officer:	Director of Corporate Resources
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	Cabinet Members, Chief Executive and Directors, Head of Finance/Section151 Officer, Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services , Head of HR, Operations Manager Accountancy
Policy Framework:	This is a matter for Executive decision by Cabinet .
<p>Executive Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council is facing significant demographic and inflationary pressures in 2023/24 and into the medium term. • Cabinet approved the Financial Strategy and update of the Medium Term Financial Plan in October, at which time there was a funding gap of £28M in 2023/24 and £50M across the Medium Term. • Officers have been reviewing those pressures and funding assumptions in light of the Chancellor's Budget in November and the Welsh Government Settlement announcement on Tuesday 13th December, 2022. • There has been better than expected news in the Settlement. £227M was made available across Wales over and above the 3.5% commitment in last year's settlement • The table below summarises the current position. 	

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
	£K	£K	£K	£K	£K
Total Additional Funding	21,915	9,426	10,222	10,444	10,664
Use of Reserves	2,700	1,000	0	0	0
Pressures	-30,670	-14,837	-11,687	-13,119	-11,575
Funding Gap	-6,055	-4,411	-1,465	-2,679	-910
Savings/ Efficiencies	6,055	647	160	0	0
Overall Gap	0	-3,764	-1,305	-2,679	-910

- As part of the budget deliberations there has been a fundamental review of the Council's reserves. The reserves have been realigned with the Council's overall objectives and risks and have been streamlined to provide greater transparency and ease of management.
- The budget proposals will be subject to 4 weeks of consultation commencing 19th January, 2023.
- Cabinet will then consider a draft budget on 27th February, 2023 before the report is referred to Council on 6th March, 2023 having considered the comments received from the public consultation and scrutiny of the proposals in this report.

Recommendations

1. That Cabinet notes the updated financial position.
2. That Cabinet approves the revised funding and spend assumptions and saving proposals and refers this report and all appendices to Scrutiny Committee (Corporate Performance and Resources) with any recommendations being referred back to Cabinet on 27th February, 2023.
3. That Cabinet approves the realigned reserves to match the risks the Council now faces.
4. That Cabinet approves the savings proposals to be published for consultation with Vale of Glamorgan residents and other groups impacted by the Council's budget.
5. Cabinet is recommended to note the early work necessary to ensure all savings are delivered in full for 2023/24.

Reasons for Recommendations

1. It is important for Cabinet to be regularly appraised of the Council's medium term financial position.
2. Scrutiny is an essential part of the budget setting process and it is important that the funding and savings assumptions are validated and the savings proposals are realistic and deliverable and won't have any unintended impacts.
3. The review of the reserve was a fundamental of the Financial Strategy.
4. To ensure the savings proposals are included in the annual budget consultation.
5. To ensure all savings can be delivered in full for 2023/24.

1. Background

- 1.1. Cabinet approved the Financial Strategy and refreshed Five Year Medium Term Financial Strategy at its meeting on 6th October, 2022. The key elements of that paper are set out below.
- 1.2. Financial Strategy
- 1.3. Cabinet approved the following nine principles in the way it manages its finances and delivers a balanced budget for 2023/24.
 - i. Delivering the Corporate Plan
 - ii. Focussing on Supporting the Most Vulnerable
 - iii. Sustainable Finances
 - iv. Appropriate Level of Reserves
 - v. Generating Local Tax Revenue
 - vi. Fees & Charges
 - vii. Collective Responsibility to Manage the Finances

viii. Access & Transparent Finance

ix. Delivering Best Value

1.4. These principles have been at the heart of the work on the budget over the past two months and will continue to be.

1.5. Economic Position

1.6. The UK economy was almost unrecognisable from just twelve months earlier which emphasized the uncertain times in which the Council is operating and the difficulty this would present to both the UK and Welsh Government in the resources they could direct to local government.

1.7. Inflation has been broadly under control for more than a decade but had been climbing at the end of 2021 hitting 5.5% in January and rising to 9.9% at the end of August giving rise to a hard felt cost of living crisis. The Bank of England had initially stalled in its response to control what is largely imported inflation but started to increase rates in December 2021 to 0.25% with a series of further increases in the following months up to 1.75% in September 2022.

1.8. There was a Fiscal event on 22 September targeting support for fuel bills and tax reductions but not independently validated by the Officer of Budget Responsibility, which, as a result caused significant turbulence at the time of writing of the October report and naturally gave rise to pessimistic prospects for a more favourable than previously committed settlement for Welsh councils.

1.9. Financial assumptions

1.10. As at 6th October, 2022 the Council was faced with a £28.2M gap assuming the 3.5% increase in Aggregate External Finance in the Welsh Government's existing three year settlement and a Council Tax increase of 3.99% which was still subject to a policy decision.

1.11. Table 1: Funding Gap as at October 2022

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
	£K	£K	£K	£K	£K
Additional Funding					
Government Grant	6,510	4,621	3,943	4,022	4,102
Council Tax	3,408	3,507	3,577	3,648	3,722
Total Additional Funding	9,918	8,128	7,520	7,671	7,824
Investment	6,595	650	227	(227)	(227)
Demography	2,418	2,471	2,471	2,471	2,471
Inflation	21,659	12,656	8,498	8,610	8,483

Pressures	7,436	1,971	918	670	670
Total Pressures	38,108	17,748	12,114	11,524	11,397
Overall Gap	28,190	9,620	4,594	3,853	3,573

1.12. The main pressures impacting at this time were inflationary which were already building at the start of the calendar year but very much driven in the spring and remainder of the year by the war in the Ukraine. These have come through in the magnitude of pay awards, utility costs, pressures from suppliers, especially from the care sector and in transport costs. Further there are continuing demographic pressures with a growing school population and increase numbers of older people. There were aspirations for investment to deliver service improvement which it was recognised would be difficult to fund given the size of the overall gap.

Savings framework

1.13. The October report set out three broad strategies for addressing the £28M gap reported at that time – lobbying for greater funding and assessing the level of Council Tax increase, reviewing and managing down spending pressures and bringing forward savings proposals A framework was put in place to facilitate the identification of savings proposals across ten themes

- i. Demand Management/Invest in Early Intervention
- ii. Generating Income
- iii. Service Review
- iv. Invest to Save (omitted from the October report) Use of the Wider Community to Deliver Services
- v. Digital Strategy
- vi. Corporate Asset Management Plan
- vii. Workforce Review
- viii. Contract Review/Procurement
- ix. Community Engagement & Participation

1.14. These themes were similar to the earlier reshaping programme but undoubtedly the focus would be more on financial saving and efficiency than transformation.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

2.1. The report now considers funding, managing pressures and bringing forward savings proposals.

Economy/UK and Welsh Finances

2.2. There have been a series of important financial announcements over the past two months and a fair measure of confidence restored in the UK's finances since the events of September. Much of the Chancellor's 22 September Fiscal Event

actions were quickly undone following the election of new Prime Minister and appointment of a new Cabinet and especially Chancellor of Exchequer in early October and a commitment to a budget fully validated by the OBR.

2.3. Autumn Statement

2.4. The Chancellor, Jeremy Hunt presented the Autumn Statement on 17th November, 2022.

2.5. The OBR presented a far more gloomy forecast than back in March. The squeeze on real incomes, rise in interest rates and fall in house prices tipping the economy into recession in the immediate future. Unemployment is forecast to rise by 505,000 and increase from 3.5% to 4.9%. GDP is expected to return to growth in 2024 with output not expected to recover to pre pandemic levels until Quarter 4 of 2024.

2.6. Government borrowing is forecast to increase significantly, on average £54Bn for the next five years. This is driven by the high cost of debt interest and for 2022/23 and 2023/24 by the Energy Price Guarantee. Tax policy and spending cuts in the final three years of the settlement will lower the borrowing by an average of £36.9Bn per year.

2.7. The announcement honoured the October 2021 Spending Review commitments of a 3.5% increase in Aggregate External Finance in 2024/24 and 2.4% in 2024/25

2.8. As part of the Autumn Statement the Chancellor also announced additional departmental spending on NHS, social care and schools in England along with business support measures through the Business Rates system. This has triggered Barnett Consequential funding for the Welsh Government of £1.2Bn across 2023/24 and 2024/25 as detailed in the table below.

2.9. Table 2 Barnett Consequentials £1.2Bn

	2023/24	2024/25
	£M	£M
Health & Social Care	253	294
Schools	137	137
Business Rates	266	123
Other	-12	-83
	644	471

2.10. The settlement also implied a 1% per annum real terms increase in departmental spending after 2024/25 but given underlying service pressures this may still feel like austerity for some areas of spending.

2.11. Welsh Government Settlement

2.12. There has been a positive settlement for Wales as a result of the Barnett Consequentials. £227M of the £644M has been directed to local government which means the AEF increase for 2023/24 is 7.9%, a significant increase on the 3.5% anticipated. The consequentials have also had a positive impact on the

2024/25 which is now at 3.0%, a marginal increase on the 2.4% for 2024/25 in last year's three year Settlement.

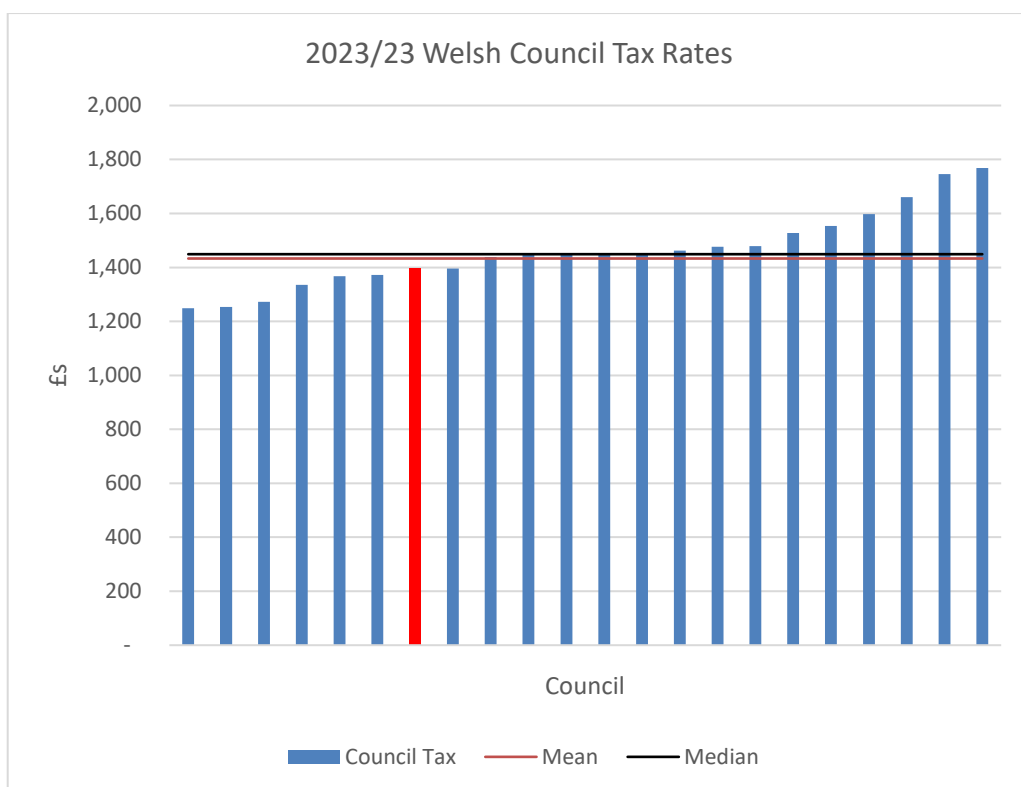
- 2.13.** The AEF is driven by the overall resources available including estimated Council Tax levels and the underlying need to spend on services, the Standard Spending Assessment (SSA) Overall SSA has increased by 6.2% across Wales and the key components School Services by 5.0% and Social Services 6.7%. The Schools Service increase takes into account the cost of the 2023/24 pay award but not the shortfall in the 2022/23 awards. The Social Services figure is higher due to the payment of the Real Living Wage to the care sector being factored in. The Vale of Glamorgan has done better than the Wales level figures and these are set out in the funding section below.
- 2.14.** The Settlement has included notification of the majority of grants, either with the continuing sum or nil where it is discontinued. There are quite a number marked as to be confirmed and also the Council is still awaiting details of its specific shares, an update on the latest position will be included in the February report. Of note at this stage though are the increases in the Universal Free School Meals grant and Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Rate Relief.
- 2.15.** Updated Financial Assumptions
- 2.16.** Table 3 below summarises the current financial forecast for the Council across the medium term. The full details of all of the pressures are set out in Appendix A and the movement between the £38.008M assumed in October and the £30,670M most up to date forecast is summarised in Appendix B. An increased funding settlement from Welsh Government alongside the work undertaken by services to manage pressures means the level of savings required to balance the budget is less than forecast earlier in the autumn.
- 2.17.** Table 3: Funding Gap as at January 2023

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
	£K	£K	£K	£K	£K
Additional Funding					
Government Grant	16,604	5,597	6,244	6,306	6,369
Council Tax	5,311	3,829	3,978	4,134	4,295
Reversal of 2022/23 use of reserves	-500	-500	0	0	0
Use of smoothing Reserves	3,200	1,500	0	0	0

Total Additional Funding	24,615	10,426	10,222	10,440	10,664
Investment	1,010	1,518	1,763	1,301	282
Demography	1,150	2,493	2,493	2,493	2,493
Inflation	23,455	10,939	7,265	8,688	8,800
Other Pressures	5,055	113	166	637	0
Total Pressures	30,670	14,837	11,687	13,119	11,575
Overall Gap	6,055	4,411	1,465	2,679	910

Funding

- 2.18.** Aggregate External Financing. The Council has fared well from the Welsh Settlement and the additional £2bn set aside for Wales in the Chancellor's Autumn Statement on 17th November, 2022. The Vale of Glamorgan's AEF will increase by 8.9% £16.6M which is a £10M improvement on the £6.5M 3.5% anticipated in the Financial Strategy in October which was the year two commitment in the Government's three year settlement in November 2021. The 8.9% increase is better than the 7.9% Wales increase due to relative population growth. There is also a 3% increase for 2024/25, which is line with the average increase for Wales in the Settlement, the Council is likely to do slightly better than this.
- 2.19.** The Vale of Glamorgan SSA increases are also better than the Wales equivalents, again due to relative population growth. The overall SSA increase is 6.4% and the increases for Schools Service and Social Services 5.1% and 7.0% respectively.
- 2.20.** Council Tax – increase
- 2.21.** For the purpose of modelling funding levels a Council Tax increase of 4.9% has been assumed. The Vale of Glamorgan currently charges £54 below the median Council Tax rate for Welsh Counties, at £1,396 for a Band D equivalent property for the county element.
- 2.22.** Chart 1: Council Tax Rates for Wales



- 2.23.** The 4.9% increase is equivalent to £69.12 for Band D property bringing the county element of the charge up to £1,479.06. This is an increase of £1.33 per week.
- 2.24.** The population of the Vale of Glamorgan continues to rise which sees an increase in the tax base supporting the additional burden this places on services. A detailed report on the Council Tax Base was presented to Cabinet on 15 December, the level of growth has slowed compared to the most recent years but there is still forecast to be an additional 356 Band D equivalent properties in 2023/24. The Council Tax collection rate has been held at 97.1% which is consistent with performance in 2022/23 as it continues to return to pre pandemic levels.
- 2.25.** There is a consultation underway on charging a premium on Council Tax for empty and second homes. Depending on the outcome premiums could be charges for empty properties in 2023/24 and second homes from 2024/25. Some of the additional revenue from charging a premium for second homes can enable resources to be set aside to support enforcement work.
- 2.26.** It is proposed to use earmarked reserves to smooth the impact of two specific pressures which are considered further below, utility costs where there is a likelihood of the current pressure reducing over the medium term and Homelessness costs where strategies are in place to provide more council provision to ease the pressure from the Government grant dropping away.
- 2.27.** Pressures
- 2.28.** There has been an extensive review of the Council's financial pressures and as set out in the October Strategy report to Cabinet this is very much a continuous process and there will undoubtedly be further movement before the final

budget proposals come forward in late February. This has been supported by in year revenue monitoring, the Quarter 3 Revenue Monitoring report is also on this agenda and presenting an in year surplus.

2.29. Investment

2.30. As anticipated, there is insufficient to take forward extensive investment in services for 2023/24 and beyond. Investment totals £1.010M and the main elements are provision of further Additional Learning Needs places, social services staffing and capacity building in the recently formed Resources and Place directorates.

2.31. Demography

2.32. There is limited demographic growth build in for 2023/24. The general schools population is stable but there is continued growth in demand for special school places at Ysgol Y Deri for which additional funding £1M is included. There is also an underlying demographic pressure in Adult Social Care but the service will manage this within the overall budget uplift of £9M set out below.

2.33. Inflation

2.34. This remains the primary cost driver for the Council in 2023/24 and amounts to £25.525M in total. Pay is a significant pressure of £10.801M with a need to correct the base for the 2022/23 awards which were greater than budgeted for as well as the pay awards for 2023/24 which Welsh Government have advised councils should use 5% for planning purposes. School Teachers pay is forecast at 3.5% from September 2023 in line with the recommendation of the Independent Pay Body. The pay inflation also incorporates the 10.1% increase in the Real living wage from 1st April, 2023.

2.35. Utilities costs have increased significantly for 2023/24, projections from the Council's energy supplier show increases for gas of around 230% which equates to approximately £1.5m, electricity increases range from 2% to 151% but account for a more significant proportion of energy usage for the Council's estate at an estimated additional cost of £2.7m. Whilst some of these costs are starting to reduce when compared with the estimates provided in October 2022 it is important that the Council tries to decarbonise its estate and makes use of renewal energy to reduce the reliance on energy which is an area that could continue to be volatile in the future. It is a commitment as part of the Climate Emergency and the drive to meet Net Zero by 2030 and to assist in implementing decarbonisation initiatives the Council is proposing to commit an additional £500k in the Capital Programme proposals which are included on this agenda to install PV panels, LED lighting and other decarbonisation and renewable energy initiatives. This funding can be utilised alongside Salix funding, the Council's Project Zero reserve and any further decarbonisation Capital funding that is available from Welsh Government to maximise the impact of the schemes undertaken.

2.36. Pay and utility cost inflation are impacting on the Council's third party providers, the Council's leisure centres utilise significant levels of energy and the Council

has a contractual obligation to contribute towards these additional costs, £250k has been included towards this pressure.

- 2.37.** Social Care in the care sector third party providers have been impacted by a myriad of inflationary pressures alongside significant recruitment pressures. The shortage of staff in Adult Social Care impacts the Council's ability to commission care which therefore understates the cost pressures in this budgetary area. As part of the 2022/23 budget proposals the WG made a commitment to fund third party care staff at the RLW and funding towards this has been included in the WG settlement and is included in the inflationary funding allocated to Adult Social Care. To address the commissioning issues around domiciliary care it is proposed that additional funding is provided for travel time and travel costs which is intended to enhance recruitment opportunities in this area.
- 2.38.** Home to School Transport, the third party providers in this sector have also been impacted by significant inflationary pressures in respect of fuel costs and recruitment shortages a number of providers in this area have also left the market in recent years. In addition the Council is required to provide increased amounts of specialist transport to support pupils with Additional Learning Needs.
- 2.39.** Across other services inflationary pressures for pay energy costs are reflected in the increase in Fire Levy for 2023/24. Inflationary pressures are also included across other Council contracts particularly ICT contracts and the Council's Waste contracts that are linked to RPI.
- 2.40.** Other Pressures
- 2.41.** Homelessness, the Council has additional obligations in respect of the changes made by the Welsh Government for the point at which temporary housing must be provided for those that are classified as homelessness, this is effectively a continuation of the approach to remove rough sleeping during Covid and requires the Council to maintain an increased number of temporary accommodation beds. Whilst additional forward funding was received from Welsh Government during Covid and the Council has been advised of the availability of some additional funding for 2023/24 in this area emerging pressures regarding move on arrangements for Ukrainian placements must also be considered. A Rapid Rehousing Strategy has been developed by the service and strategies around modular provision, acquisition of suitable temporary housing sites and use of existing Council sites identified as part of the corporate asset review will be prioritised to ensure that this additional need can be supported with suitable accommodation.
- 2.42.** There have been some areas of reduction in Other Pressures. Most notable are the historical unrealised savings in Resources which amounted to £0.426M. The pressure has been removed and the vacant posts within the service deleted, as the posts were vacant and there have been no redundancies as a consequence.
- 2.43.** Savings Proposals
- 2.44.** The full details of the savings proposals including FTE impact are set out in Appendix C and are summarised in the table below.

2.45. Table 4: Summary of Savings Proposals

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
	£K	£K	£K	£K	£K
Demand Management/Invest in Early Intervention	0	0	0	0	0
Generating Income	1,059	223	0	0	0
Service Review	2,222	(184)	60	0	0
Invest to Save	300	250	50	0	0
Digital Strategy	27	0	0	0	0
Corporate Asset Management Plan	310	288	50	0	0
Workforce Review	59	0	0	0	0
Contract Management/Procurement	77	70	0	0	0
Community Engagement & Participation	0	0	0	0	0
Total Savings	4,055	647	160	0	0
Efficiencies	2,000	0	0	0	0
Total Savings & Efficiencies	6,055	647	160	0	0

2.46. The savings are primarily being generated through additional income and service review. There is an efficiency target across the Delegated Schools Budget and the nature of these efficiencies will be a school level decision. The Financial Strategy has stated the importance of sustainable finances and there are proposals included for 2024/25 and 2025/26 but these are indicative only at this stage and will be subject to review and further development across the spring and summer.

2.47. The council will be consulting with residents on the savings programme as set out below. However, without prejudicing that process it will be necessary to start work to ensure that savings can be delivered in full from 1st April 2023.

2.48. On this Cabinet agenda is a separate report on proposals for the future management of waste collection. The report highlights proposals to change the Refuse collection service from 1st July, 2023 to 3 black bags every 3 weeks from the current arrangement of 2 bags per fortnight. The savings target for this is £150,000. The report also recommends introducing a chargeable subscription service for Green Waste collections from 1st July 2023. This service is non-statutory and under the Controlled Waste (England and Wales) Regulations

(2012) a charge for the collection of green waste can be applied. The savings target is £500,000 which will be met through a combination of raising income and also a reduction in resources required when compared to the current free of charge service. The consultation on this budget report will allow the organisation to seek views and opinions on these changes, as referenced in the relevant reports on this agenda.

2.49. The Council’s Car Parking Strategy is also under review and a number of reports on this will be presented to Cabinet in the forthcoming months, starting in February. Members will also note that there is a fees and charges setting report on this agenda, and in that report, reference is made to the work underway on a review of the car Parking strategy. As part of this work, there is an aspiration to move towards a tiered approach to charging at coastal car parks, so that there is consistency in approach across our car parks. This will be a key part of the work of that car parking strategy review and will be reported to cabinet in due course and as suggested above.

2.50. Directorate summary

2.51. The table below summarises the funding and efficiency position by directorate.

2.52. Table 5: Directorate Summary of Net Funding

	Learning & Skills	Schools	Social Services	Others	Total Pressures
	£K	£K	£K	£K	£K
Pressures					
Investment	0	250	240	520	1,010
Demography		1,000	0	150	1,150
Inflation	642	8,413	7,860	6,540	23,455
Other Pressures	1,300	150	280	3,325	5,055
Total Pressures	1,942	9,813	8,380	10,535	30,670
Use of Reserves	0	700	0	2,000	2,700
Savings	564	0	600	2,891	4,055
Efficiencies	0	2,000	0	0	2,000
Net Funding Increase	1,378	7,113	7,780	5,644	21,915

2.53. The overriding principles of the Financial Strategy have been to support delivery of the Corporate Plan objectives and to protect services supporting the most vulnerable in the community. The recognition of cost pressures and composition of the savings programme evidence that this approach has been followed.

2.54. Whilst the budget settlement did not meet all of the Councils needs it has directed resources to Social Services and Schools in excess of the notional increase in funding for these services in the settlement.

- 2.55.** The Vale of Glamorgan has historically spent in excess of Standard Spending Assessments (SSA) for the Schools Services and Personal Social Services blocks and the proposals in this report increase that spend still further. The overall Council budget however is expected to be £2m below the SSA set for the Council by Welsh Government.
- 2.56.** For central Learning and Skills the other pressures represent additional funding for pupils with Additional Learning Needs requiring external placements £300k, with Social and Emotional difficulties £150k and pupils attending the Dderw Newydd provision £500k. Also included is funding to correct the budget to reflect the reduced out of county income the Council receives (£350k) reflecting the increased need for placements with the Council's Resource Bases and Special Schools to be utilised for Vale of Glamorgan pupils.
- 2.57.** For Schools, there is a net increase in resources of £7.113M, this is after an assumed contribution of £700k from the energy reserve to reflect the expectation that some of the £1.6m inflationary pressure relating to utilities will be temporary. Funding for pressures includes an allocation towards the additional costs associated with an increased number of pupils attending Special Schools and Specialist Resource Bases. A significant proportion (59%) of the pressures shown is also allocated towards the additional cost of the 2022/23 teaching and non teaching pay awards and an allocation towards an estimated pay award for 2023/24. In the context of these significant inflationary pressures the budget whilst improved represents a real terms cut and therefore £2M of efficiencies are reflected demonstrating that the not all these pressures have been funded in full as part of this budget proposal.
- 2.58.** A significant element of the Social Services pressures are associated with inflationary pressures for arrangements with third party providers including additional funding for domiciliary care to address some of the recruitment issues in the sector, inflationary funding is also included for placements in Children's services. Included within other pressures is additional funding to support special guardianship and residence orders allowances and arrangements for family contact time. Following further discussions funding has also been set aside to invest in additional capacity in the support function in Children and Young People's services, funding for a dedicated Social Worker to support an emerging pressure around unaccompanied asylum seeker children. The Council will also invest to ensure improved capacity around the commissioning of arrangements for children's placements and additional hospital social worker capacity.
- 2.59.** The Other services additional funding includes £1M towards inflationary costs and additional ALN pupils requiring school transport as the service is managed in the environment and housing service. Other pressures includes £2.3M towards additional costs associated with homelessness temporary accommodation although it is intended that pressure can be reduced by £1.5m between 2024/25 and 2025/26 through investment in alternative temporary accommodation. Additional funding of £250k has also been set aside towards the additional costs associated with supporting Ukrainian people settled in the area. Inflationary pressures also include £549K set aside towards the increased cost of the fire levy, £2.8m towards the increased pay costs associated with both

the 2022/23 and 2023/24 pay awards and energy cost for all non schools Council assets including street lighting.

Reserves

- 2.60.** The Council has benefited from a history of sound financial management and does have a robust level of reserves. However, the risks of the Council have very much changed across the past twelve months and the Council’s reserves need to reflect these risks and it has also been necessary to ensure that they are managed more tightly and transparently than ever given the heightened level of financial uncertainty.
- 2.61.** The focused risks are inflation especially on utility costs and potentially redundancy and other exit costs given the magnitude of the savings ask and the likelihood of service reduction. Further, the Council needs to have reserves in place to deliver future efficiencies through rational of its physical and digital estates and also to deliver digital transformation.
- 2.62.** Table 6 summarises the position on the Council’s reserves with the full detail set out in Appendix D.
- 2.63.** Table 6: Summary of Reserves

As at	31 March 2024	31 March 2025	31 March 20256	31 March 2027	31 March 2028
	£M	£M	£M	£M	£M
General Fund	11.014	11.014	11.014	11.014	11.014
Learning and Skills	1.169	0.603	0.127	0.115	0.115
Social Services	7.732	6.914	6.333	6.039	6.039
Neighbourhood Services	0.944	0.944	0.944	0.944	0.944
Corporate Resources	0.422	0.344	0.264	0.264	0.264
Place	0.721	0.645	0.633	0.621	0.621
Other Ringfenced	1.590	1.626	1.624	1.659	1.423
Insurance	4.530	4.530	4.530	4.530	4.530
Other Corporate	0.595	0.463	0.327	0.220	0.220
Homelessness and Housing Reserve	0.985	0.485	0.485	0.485	0.485
Cost of Living	0.819	0.819	0.819	0.819	0.819
Pay Pressures	4.396	4.396	4.396	4.396	4.396
Energy Pressures	1.634	0.634	0.634	0.634	0.634
Legal	1.906	1.810	1.712	1.712	1.712
Project Zero	2.289	2.289	2.289	2.289	2.289

Investment and Growth Fund	2.239	2.247	2.255	2.263	2.263
Reshaping Risk and Investment	1.688	1.520	1.520	1.520	1.520
Corporate Landlord	1.343	1.343	1.343	1.343	1.343
Digital Reshaping	0.976	0.976	0.976	0.976	0.976
Capital	4.139	4.162	4.185	4.198	4.198
Total Reserves	51.131	47.764	46.410	46.041	45.805
Housing Revenue Account	0.949	1.051	1.067	1.099	1.132
Total Reserves	52.080	48.815	47.477	47.140	46.937

Consultation

- 2.64.** The Council consults on a continuous basis with its communities and residents to inform how it best directs its resources. The key piece of work is in support of the development of the Council’s Corporate Plan – Working Together for a Brighter Future.
- 2.65.** A Four week public consultation will commence on approval of this report. It will be on line and seek views on the financial strategy/council objectives, council tax levels, new/existing income, service reduction, and some specific elements of the savings programme. It will also seek views on the Capital Programme which is also on this agenda. The Consultation will close on 16 February which will enable the output to be fed into the Draft Budget and MTFP Report to Cabinet on 27th February, 2023, the report being published on 20th February, 2023.
- 2.66.** The views of Scrutiny are also being sought. Scrutiny will be asked to consider the funding and spending assumptions and ensure they are robust and also examine the savings programme to ensure the savings are deliverable and the impacts full understood. The first Scrutiny Committee is Health Living and Social Care on 7th February, 2023, the final is Corporate Performance and Resources on 15th February, 2023 which as well as making its own observations will collate the response of all of the Scrutiny Committee to forward on to Cabinet.

Next Steps

- 2.67.** The public consultation for these budget proposals including capital and some indicative savings proposals will be published on 19th January, 2023.
- 2.68.** Views of Scrutiny Committees will be sought during February as outlined above and will feed into Cabinet on 27th February, 2023 alongside the results of the public consultation.
- 2.69.** Consultation with Trade Unions, Voluntary groups and Schools Budget Forum will also be undertaken during this period.
- 2.70.** Feedback from these consultations will be considered alongside additional information on specific grant allocations, communication with third sector and

other public service bodies and additional detail on the settlement that is published by Welsh Government and the Welsh Local Government Association.

Timetable

2.71. The key dates through to Council on 6 March are set out below:

Date	Activity
19 January 2023	Public Consultation Opens
7 February 2023	Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee
8 February 2023	Homes and Safer Communities Scrutiny Committee
9 February 2023	Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee
14 February 2023	Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee
15 February 2023	Corporate Performance and Resource Scrutiny Committee
27 February 2023	Final Revenue Budget Proposals and Medium Term Financial Plan
3 March 2023	Final Settlement
6 March 2023	Council

3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?

- 3.1. The delivery of the Council's Corporate Plan and wellbeing objectives is significantly influenced by the available finance to deliver services. This report provides the context in which the Council will be operating in the immediate and medium term.
- 3.2. This report provides an immediate and medium term projection of the Council's financial position, however the decisions to be taken on the Financial Strategy in the coming months will be influenced by the need to think about the longer term implications of decisions, including the continued lobbying of Welsh Government for genuine multi year financial settlements to enable better forecasting and projection of budgets. It is positive that there is a two year Settlement covering both 2023/23 and 2024/25.
- 3.3. The approach to setting a balanced budget described in the body of this report includes reference to collaboration and the value of this approach has been well evidenced in recent years, most notably in the response to the pandemic, where the pooling of resources (whether financial, capacity or expertise) has resulted in improved outcomes and better value for money.
- 3.4. The report sets out proposals for consulting widely on the Council's budget, demonstrating the importance being placed on involving people in decision making and this will be further strengthened through the use of insight gained through engaging on the Council's Annual Self Assessment and in the production

of the Annual Delivery Plan for 2023/24. In understanding the views of others through this process, decisions will be taken in an integrated way – both internally and externally.

4. Climate Change and Nature Implications

- 4.1.** The Council’s response to the declaration of Climate and Nature Emergencies (in 2019 and 2021 respectively) involves significant council wide activity to deliver. The ability to respond to these plans will be impacted by the availability of financial resources to deliver them. The Council has established this area of work as a priority through the current (and likely, future) Annual Delivery Plan and therefore will continue to resource activity as far as possible, in conjunction with other priorities.

5. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

- 5.1.** The financial considerations are set out in the body of the report.

Employment

- 5.2.** Salaries and wages are a major element of the Council’s overall spend the inflationary impact of this pressures represents a significant proportion of growth set out as part of these draft proposals.
- 5.3.** Despite the increased settlement from Welsh Government and the detailed review of pressures a challenging savings and efficiencies target of £6M has been set for 2023/24 and there is likely to be an employment impact associated with these savings although service review and closure makes up a minimal proportion.
- 5.4.** There was also a specific theme in the savings framework to explore organisational design but this has not been taken forward at this time.
- 5.5.** The attached savings schedules indicate service reviews taking place which may have an impact on FTEs; it is encouraging at this point that any impact on the workforce is likely to be minimal. Nevertheless, the position remains, given the significant budgetary pressures that impact on FTE cannot be removed. It has not been possible at this time to assess the impact of the £2M efficiencies for schools on their workforce. Where there are such potential impacts, the Council will follow its existing policies and procedures and ensure that there is full engagement with staff and the Trades Unions. Further, some of the potential impact may reduce through turnover or redeployment.

Legal (Including Equalities)

- 5.6. The Council is required under statute to fix its council tax for the financial year 2023/24 by March 2023 and to do so will have to agree a balanced revenue budget by the same date.
- 5.7. The Financial Strategy and process for approving the 2023/24 Budget and MTFP at Council in March 2023 is aligned to the Council's agreed Corporate Plan – 'Working Together for a Brighter Future' 2020 and the 2023/24 Annual Development Plan which is currently being developed.
- 5.8. The budget proposals as set out in the report has due regard to the requirements of the Council's Strategic Equality Plan including the Equalities Act 2010 and Public Sector Equality Duty for Wales. The subsequent development of specific proposals and strategies set out in the report will require the completion of Equality Impact Assessments. This involves systematically assessing the likely (or actual) effects of policies on individuals who have a range of protected characteristics under the Act.

6. Background Papers

Annual Self-Assessment, Cabinet, 8th September, 2022

https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/_Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2022/22-09-08/Draft-Council-Annual-Self-Assessment.pdf

Financial Strategy & Medium Financial Plan Refresh, Cabinet 6th October, 2022

[Financial Strategy and MTFP Refresh \(valeofglamorgan.gov.uk\)](https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Financial-Strategy-and-MTFP-Refresh)

Appendix A		2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Category of Growth
Revised Summary Cost Pressures	Description	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
Directorate: Learning and Skills						
Delegated Schools						
Learning and Skills	Additional Needs Fund - Additional funding for Mainstream schools to support the needs of more complex children requiring higher levels of support.	250	-	-	-	Investment
Learning and Skills	Autism Special Resource Base at Whitmore High School - An Autism Resource base has been established at Whitmore High School and these are the year two costs of running the provision	150	-	-	-	Pressure
Learning and Skills	Demographic increase in pupils requiring placement in special school Ysgol Y Deri - Demographic increase in pupils requiring a specialist placement in Ysgol Y Deri School.	1,000	1,191	1,191	1,191	Demographic
Delegated Schools		1,400	1,191	1,191	1,191	
Central Learning and Skills						
Learning and Skills	Complex Needs Placements - Increase in pupils requiring Complex needs provision Out of County or in an independent provision.	300	140	140	140	Pressure
Learning and Skills	The Dderw Newydd provision has replaced the Pupil Referral Until and will be relocated to the new site at Court Road Depot. In accordance with Estyn recommendations the LA will provide a 5 day on-site provision which will require additional resources.	500				Pressure
Learning and Skills	Expansion of Learning and Wellbeing Class (Horizon) - pupils with anxiety - Expansion of the specialist class based at Ysgol Y Deri for pupils with significant levels of anxiety, preventing them from attending a mainstream school.	150	-	-	-	Pressure
Learning and Skills	Reduction in Out of County Income	350	208	200	200	Pressure
Central Learning and Skills		1,300	348	340	340	
Directorate: Social Services						
Children Services						
Social Services	External Placements - There are continuing and considerable pressure on the children's external placements budget given the complexities of the children currently being supported and the high cost placements some of these children require to meet their needs.	400				Inflationary
Social Services	Additional Capacity Business Support	30	-	-	-	Investment
Social Services	Social Worker for Unaccompanied Asylum Children	55	-	-	-	Investment
Social Services	Allowances Social Care Officer and Responsible - Special Guardianship and Residence Order Allowances	160	30	30	-	Pressure
Social Services	Family Support Contract Price Children and Young People Support contract size - Contact/Family time. Safety and assessment of that contact and continue to support services for parents with a learning disability (ALN).	120	-	-	-	Pressure
Total Children Services		765	30	30	-	
Resource Management and Safeguarding						
Social Services	Additional Capacity - Children's Commissioning Role and Finance Officer	60	-	-	-	Investment
Total Resource Management and Safeguarding		60	-	-	-	
Adult Services						
Social Services	Hospital Social Work - Increased volume of complex discharges. Additional social worker and social care officer	95	-	-	-	Investment
Social Services	Provider Fees, Quality Assurance & Demographic Pressures	8,100	7,200	3,500	3,500	Inflationary
Total Adult Services		8,195	7,200	3,500	3,500	
Total Social Services		9,020	7,230	3,530	3,500	

Revised Summary Cost Pressures	Description	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Category of Growth
		£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
Neighbourhood Services and Transport						
Environment and Housing	Waste Contract Contractual Inflation - annual uplift in contract costs for the large waste disposal/recycling contracts	150	75	75	75	Inflationary
Environment and Housing	Leisure Contract - Increased energy costs associated with the Leisure Contract	250	0	0	0	Inflationary
Environment and Housing	Ground Maintenance Contract Inflation	40	0	0	0	Inflationary
Environment and Housing	Cost of B&B Homelessness Accommodation - Additional Costs associated with maintaining a "no one left out approach". The cost estimate included is net of projected Housing Benefit Receipts.	2300	-1000	-500	0	Pressure
Environment and Housing	Impact of Ukraine Refugee Crisis -Additional support required to support the ongoing needs of people placed as a result of the ongoing Ukrainian Refugee Crisis	250	0	0	0	Pressure
Environment and Housing	CCTV - CCTV has undergone a major upgrade to the cameras, infrastructure and systems that support CCTV. The service is now operational in Cardiff and the majority of costs are to support the monitoring of the system.	150	0	0	0	Pressure
Environment and Housing	Private Rented Coordinator Support and support for new Temporary accommodation property - Therefore additional support to identify PRS landlords would assist the LA in meeting its duties by maximising its use of the PRS.	30	0	0	0	Investment
	Total Environment and Housing	3170	-925	-425	75	
Environment and Housing - Schools Transport						
Environment and Housing	School Transport - Inflationary increase for School Transport reflecting rising fuel costs and shortage of drivers and providers in the market.	850	200	200	200	Inflationary
Environment and Housing	ALN transport - The cost of transport for the Demographic increase pupils Ysgol y Deri, the majority of pupils need to be transported by Taxi to the provision.	150	150	152	152	Demographic
	Total Environment and Housing - Schools Transport	1000	350	352	352	
Place						
Place	Service Capacity Building	120				Investment
	Total Place	120	0	0	0	
Directorate: Corporate Resources						
Corporate Resources	Service Capacity Building	120				Investment
Corporate Resources	Fournet Telephony Contract (inflation)	40	0	0	0	Inflationary
Corporate Resources	Contract Inflation on Various ICT Contracts	25	31	35	0	Inflationary
Corporate Resources	iDev Licence support costs	35	0	0	0	Pressure
Corporate Resources	Communications IT licences	40	0	0	0	Pressure
Corporate Resources	CRM System - Cost of the Licence for You Gov Granicus System	30	0	0	0	Pressure
Corporate Resources	Oracle External Support - External Support Arrangements which are required to support the Cloud Based System	125	0	0	0	Pressure
Corporate Resources	Senior Lawyer (Private Matters) This relates to funding for a Senior Lawyer post in the Community Services Legal Team, to lead on private law matters as instructed by Social Services; this is an area of work which is not part of Legal Services ordinary remit	60	0	0	0	Pressure
Corporate Resources	Assistant Information Governance Officer - Additional capacity to address increased workload in respect of FOIs	30	0	0	0	Pressure
Corporate Resources	Senior Lawyer (Public Matters) - supporting the Community Services team subject to grant application for funding for next two financial years.	0	0	61	0	Pressure
Corporate Resources	Coroner Shared Service Contribution Increase	40	25	25	25	Pressure
Corporate Resources	Exchequer Financial System	20	0	0	0	Pressure

Revised Summary Cost Pressures	Description	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Category of Growth
		£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
Corporate Resources	Microsoft Licences	100	86	0	0	Pressure
Corporate Resources	Cloud based licence - delivery of cloud data management	0	66	0	0	Pressure
Corporate Resources	Network management & Security licence	0	0	115	0	Pressure
Corporate Resources	Land Charges	25	0	0	0	Pressure
	Total Corporate Resources	690	208	236	25	
Policy						
Policy	Members Remuneration - Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Draft Annual Report - February 2023	50	0	0	0	Inflationary
Policy	Fire Levy	549	0	0	0	Inflationary
Policy	Welsh Translation - Increased costs associated with Corporate Welsh Translation have led to budget overspend in recent years	120	0	0	0	Pressure
Policy	City Deal - Revenue Costs Associated with Prudential Borrowing for the Council's Contribution	0	50	95	272	Pressure
	Total Policy	719	50	95	272	

Total Cost Pressures	17,419	8,452	5,319	5,755
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	Inflationary	Demographics	Pressures	Investment	Total
Schools	-	1,000	150	250	1,400
Central Learning and Skills			1,300	-	1,300
Social Services	8,500	-	280	240	9,020
Environment and Housing	440	-	2,700	30	3,170
Environment and Housing - School Transport	850	150			1,000
Place	-	-	-	120	120
Corporate Resources	65	-	505	120	690
Policy	599	-	120	-	719
Total	10,454	1,150	5,055	760	17,419

Total Cost Pressures	17,419
Pay Cost Pressure	11,051
Energy Cost Pressure	4,200
Step In Social Services Cost Pressures	- 2,000
	30,670

Appendix B Movement on Pressures and Shortfall

Opening	Cabinet Oct 2022	Unrealised Savings Identified	RLW Proposal and Amend Pay Calculations	Revision Social Services and Energy Pressures	Reduction in Pressures SLT and Budget	Additional Investment	Move School Transport	Fire Levy Pressure	Step in Social Services Cost Pressures	Increase AEF for Settlement and Council Tax 4.9%	Use of Reserves	Savings Proposals	Closing
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
Delegated Schools													-
Other Pressures	2,250				- 1,100	250							1,400
Energy Inflation	1,253			1,347									2,600
Pay Inflation	5,768		45										5,813
Use of Reserves Schools													-
Total Delegated Schools	9,271	-	45	1,347	- 1,100	250	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,813
Central Pressures													
Learning and Skills	3,611				- 1,311		-1,000						1,300
Social Services	8,461			1,677	- 1,262	144							9,020
Environment and Housing	4,418				- 1,248		1,000						4,170
Place	593				- 593	120							120
Corporate Resources	1,444	- 426			- 448	120							690
Policy	330				- 160			549					719
Energy Inflation	1,817			- 217									1,600
Pay Inflation	4,963		25										4,988
Regrading/RLW Proposal	2,700		- 2,450										250
Cont from Reserves	500										- 500		-
Step in Social Services Cost									- 2,000				- 2,000
Total Pressures	38,107	- 426	- 2,380	2,807	- 6,122	634	-	549	- 2,000	-	- 500	-	30,670

Appendix B Movement on Pressures and Shortfall

Opening	Cabinet Oct 2022	Unrealised Savings Identified	RLW Proposal and Amend Pay Calculations	Revision Social Services and Energy Pressures	Reduction in Pressures SLT and Budget	Additional Investment	Move School Transport	Fire Levy Pressure	Step in Social Services Cost Pressures	Increase AEF for Settlement and Council Tax 4.9%	Use of Reserves	Savings Proposals	Closing
Savings													
Delegated Schools												- 2,000	- 2,000
Learning and Skills												- 564	- 564
Social Services												- 600	- 600
Neighbourhood Services												- 895	- 895
GF Housing												- 84	- 84
Place												- 265	- 265
Corporate Resources												- 582	- 582
Policy												- 1,065	- 1,065
Total Savings	-	-		-	-	-		-	-	-	-	- 6,055	- 6,055
Other Adjustments													
Council Tax Increase Base										- 527			- 527
Council Tax Empty Homes										- 500			- 500
Use of Reserves											- 2,700		- 2,700
AEF Assumption	- 6,510									- 10,094			- 16,604
Council Tax Assumption	- 3,408									- 876			- 4,284
Opening Shortfall	28,189	- 426	- 2,380	2,807	- 6,122	634	-	549	- 2,000	- 11,997	- 2,700	- 6,055	- 0

Appendix C

Directorate	Service	Description of Saving Proposal	Saving Category	Value					
				£'000 2023/24	£'000 2024/25	£'000 2025/26	£'000 2026/27	£'000 2027/28	£'000 Total
Directorate Learning and Skills									
Learning and Skills	Strategy, Community Learning and Resources	Payments to Non Maintained Nursery Providers	Service Review	20	14				34
Learning and Skills	Strategy, Community Learning and Resources	Removal of schools emergency repairs budget	Service Review	90					90
Learning and skills	Strategy, Community Learning and Resources	Move to cost recovery position for ACL	Generating Income	-	80				80
Learning and skills	Strategy, Community Learning and Resources	Makerspace income generation for letting out of makerspace rooms in barry and penarth libraries	Generating Income	20					20
Learning and skills	Strategy, Community Learning and Resources	External income -income generation for letting to external organisations for filming and events	Generating Income	20					20
Learning and skills	Strategy, Community Learning and Resources	Stop providing newspapers and DVDs in libraries	Service Review	15					15
Learning and skills	Strategy, Community Learning and Resources	Increase libraries fees and charges by 12%	Generating Income	5					5
Learning and skills	Strategy, Community Learning and Resources	Review Arts Provision	Service Review	65					65
Learning and Skills	Standards and Provision	Reshaping of Out of School Tuition	Service Review	89					89
Learning and Skills	Standards and Provision	Increase in retained element of Post 16 WG grant for school improvement administration	Service Review	50					50
Learning and skills	Standards and Provision	Review use of alternative funding sources to support service delivery	Service Review	190					190
Subtotal Directorate Learning and Skills				564	94	-	-	-	658
Directorate Social Services									
Social Services	Childrens and Young People	Closer to Home Residential Care (C&YPs)	Invest to Save	200	100				300
Social Services	Adult Services	Reduced building rental	Corporate Asset Strategy	-	50				50
Social Services	Adult Services	Closer to Home Supported Living (LD)	Invest to Save	-	100				100
Social Services	Resource Management and Safeguarding	Additional Income	Generating Income	400					400
Subtotal Directorate Social Services				600	250				850
Directorate Neighbourhood and Housing									

Appendix C

Directorate	Service	Description of Saving Proposal	Saving Category	Value						
				£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
				2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Total	
Environment & Housing	All	Increase in fees and charges	Generating Income	30						30
Environment & Housing	Highways	Parking Charging Review	Generating Income	20	100					120
Environment & Housing	Highways	Review Car Park Provison	Corporate Asset Strategy	50	-	-	-	-	-	50
Environment & Housing	Highways	Stop provision of sandbags	Service Review	5	-					5
Environment & Housing	Highways	Expand Construction and Design Team	Generating Income	-	25		-	-	-	25
Environment & Housing	Parks & Cleansing	Rationalisation of Public Conveniences	Corporate Asset Strategy	-	50	50	-	-	-	100
Environment & Housing	Parks & Cleansing	Review Charges for Coastal Toilets	Generating Income	-	5		-	-	-	5
Environment & Housing	Parks & Cleansing	Mobile Cleansing Service	Service Review	-	50	-	-	-	-	50
Environment & Housing	Parks & Cleansing	Mobile Parks Service	Service Review	-	50	50	-	-	-	100
Environment & Housing	Parks & Cleansing	Review Planting in Parks consider use of shrubs/drought resitant planting and sponsorship	Service Review	-	15	-	-	-	-	15
Environment & Housing	Parks & Cleansing	Do not apply for Green Flag and Coastal Awards	Service Review	5	-	-	-	-	-	5
Environment & Housing	Parks & Cleansing	Allotment Charging	Generating Income	3	-	-	-	-	-	3
Environment & Housing	Parks & Cleansing	Double Shift Mechanical sweepers (2 vehicles plus one spare)	Service Review	40	-	-	-	-	-	40
Environment & Housing	Parks & Cleansing	Review use of external suppliers	Service Review	-	25					25
Environment & Housing	Parks & Cleansing	Reduce Grass cutting schedule to 5 cuts a year	Service Review	40	-	-	-	-	-	40
Environment & Housing	Parks & Cleansing	Jenner Park alternative model	Corporate Asset Strategy	-	65	-	-	-	-	65
Environment & Housing	Support	Commercial Opportunities and Business Support review	Service Review	50	130	-	-	-	-	180
Environment & Housing	Support	Reassess Tracking Information to rationalise fleet	Service Review	-	10	10				20
Environment & Housing	Transportation	Charge for Post 16 Transport	Generating Income		-	-	-	-	-	-
Environment & Housing	Waste Management	Waste Collection for Black Bags to 3 weeks	Service Review	150	-	-	-	-	-	150
Environment & Housing	Waste Management	Green Bag Subscription Charge	Generating Income	500	-	-	-	-	-	500
Environment & Housing	Waste Management	Commercial Waste electric vehicles invest to save - business case	Invest to Save	-	50	50				100
Environment & Housing	Garage	Garage Generation of additional income	Generating Income	-	10					10
Environment & Housing	Garage	Charging for public use of Electric vehicle chargers	Generating Income	2	3					5
Neighbourhood and Housing	General Fund Housing	Budget Adjusment Pre Tenancy Adviser and VATs bu	Service Review	26						6
Neighbourhood and Housing	General Fund Housing	Review Senior Officer Recharges to HRA to ensure no cross subsidisation	Generating Income	33						33

Appendix C

Directorate	Service	Description of Saving Proposal	Saving Category	Value						
				£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
				2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Total	
Neighbourhood and Housing	Community Safety	Review Support Function - Vacant Post	Service Review	25						25
Subtotal Directorate Neighbourhood and Housing				979	588	160	-	-	-	1,707
Directorate Place										
Place	Regeneration	General Efficiencies within Regeneration service	Service Review	25						25
Place	Regeneration	Review of facilities contracts	Corporate Asset Strategy	10	23					33
Place	Regeneration	Administration target for Creative Communities team	Generating Income	15						15
Place	Regeneration	Review of Regeneration & Economic Development S	Service Review	62						62
Place	Regeneration	Reduce events grants budget	Service Review	3						3
Place	Regeneration	Review of visitor attractions in country parks	Service Review	50	22					72
Place	Planning	Review planning and additional fee income (e.g. PPA)	Generating Income	36						36
Place	Planning	Review of Business Support function	Service Review	44						44
Place	Private Housing	Increased DFG provision (removal of means testing)	Generating Income	20						20
Subtotal Directorate Place				265	45	-	-	-	-	310
Directorate Corporate Resources										
Resources	Democratic	Mayor's Budget Adjustment	Service Review	4						4
Resources	Democratic	Democratic Budget Adjustment	Service Review	1						1
Resources	Democratic	Registrars Budget Adjustment	Service Review	1						1
Resources	Legal Services	Legal Services Budget Adjustment	Service Review	17						17
Resources	Performance and Business Tra	Budget Adjustment	Service Review	9						9
Resources	Property	Budget Adjustment	Service Review	17						17
Resources	Human Resources	Budget Adjustment	Service Review	9						9
Resources	Finance	Budget Adjustment	Service Review	20						20
Resources	ICT	Budget Adjustment	Service Review	13						13
Resources	Democratic	Registrars' Income	Generating Income	30						30
Resources	ICT	O2 Mobile Phone Contract	Contract/Procurement Re	55						55
Resources	ICT	Managed Print Service	Contract/Procurement Re	-	70					70
Resources	ICT	Annual RSA Support Costs - Reduce number of users	Contract/Procurement Re	22						22
Resources	Performance and Business Tra	Review C1V Office Accommodation	Corporate Asset Strategy	50						50
Resources	Property	Review Docks Office Site	Corporate Asset Strategy	200	100					300
Resources	Property	Remove Vacant Posts	Workforce Review	43						43
Resources	Human Resources	Shared Cost AVCs (NI savings, potential up to additio	Generating Income	25						25
Resources	Finance	e-Billing in Revenues	Digital Strategy	7						7
Resources	Finance	Hybrid Mail - Housing Benefits	Digital Strategy	20						20
Resources	Internal Audit	Vale proportion of Vacant Post	Workforce Review	15						15
Resources	Internal Audit	Vale proportion of miscellaneous savings from budget	Service Review	2						2
Resources	Internal Audit	Counter fraud budget reduction	Service Review	22						22
Subtotal Directorate Corporate Resources				582	170	-	-	-	-	752

Appendix C

Directorate	Service	Description of Saving Proposal	Saving Category	Value						
				£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
				2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Total	
Policy										
Policy	Democratic	Mayor's hospitality budget and twinning savings	Service Review	40						40
Policy	Capital Financing	Appropriation of Debt to HRA - Savings against borrowing costs	Service Review	25						25
Policy	Capital Financing	Temporary Capital Financing Headroom	Service Review	1,000	- 500					500
Subtotal Policy				1,065	- 500	-	-	-	-	565
Total Savings				4,055	647	160	-	-	-	4,842

Subtotal Directorate Learning and Skills				564	94	-	-	-	-	658
Subtotal Directorate Social Services				600	250	-	-	-	-	850
Subtotal Directorate Neighbourhood and Housing				979	588	160	-	-	-	1,727
Subtotal Directorate Place				265	45	-	-	-	-	310
Subtotal Directorate Corporate Resources				582	170	-	-	-	-	752
Subtotal Policy				1,065	- 500	-	-	-	-	565
Total Savings				4,055	647	160	-	-	-	4,862

		Service Review		2,224	- 184	60	-	-	-	2,100
		Corporate Asset Strategy		310	288	50	-	-	-	648
		Digital Strategy		27	-	-	-	-	-	27
		Demand Management/Early Intervention		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Generating Income		1,159	223	-	-	-	-	1,382
		Invest to Save		200	250	50	-	-	-	500
		Workforce Review		58	-	-	-	-	-	58
		Contract/Procurement Review		77	70	-	-	-	-	147
		Use of Wider Community		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Savings and Efficiencies		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		TOTAL		4,055	647	160	-	-	-	4,862

Appendix D

Reserve Category	Reserves	Purpose	Balance 31-03-2023	Balance 31-03-2024	Balance 31-03-2025	Balance 31-03-2026	Balance 31-03-2027
			£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
General Fund	General Fund	The working balance of the Authority can be used to support Council Fund expenditure or to reduce the Council Tax. The minimum recommended level in the view of the S151 Officer is £10m.	11,514	11,014	11,014	11,014	11,014
Learning and Skills	Education Pressures and Improvem	To support Education Pressures, School Organisation and Restructuring, the Implementation of the ALN act, support delivery of WESP and provision of	2,794	1,194	664	192	180
Learning and Skills	Libraries and Communities	To support ACL, Libraries and other Cultural services	153	40	4	-	-
Social Services	Social Services Pressures	To cover additional burdens on the authority due to changes in legislation and other pressures on the service.	8,787	7,732	6,914	6,333	6,039
Neighbourhood Services	Neighbourhood Services	To be used for initiatives to improve Neighbourhood Services, including Parks and Highway services plus any potential costs of waste disposal initiatives.	1,935	47	47	47	47
Neighbourhood Services	Waste Management Contingency	Funding set aside to reduce the impact on the waste management budget of any decrease in the value of income received for recycling materials collected.	200	200	200	200	200
Neighbourhood Services	Civil Parking Enforcement	Fund which contains surpluses generated by the Civil Parking Enforcement function. Funds can be re-invested into future Highway/Environmental schemes or additional staffing resources.	127	127	127	127	127
Neighbourhood Services	Regulatory Improvements	Monies set aside for Regulatory Services issues and to be used for any future issues arising from the shared services collaboration.	100	100	100	100	100
Neighbourhood Services	Bad Weather	To fund necessary works during periods of severe weather conditions.	470	470	470	470	470
Corporate Resources	Corporate Resources	Set aside to mitigate project costs within the Corporate Resources directorate	494	418	340	260	260
Place	Local Development Plan	Set aside for costs relating to the production of the Local Development Plan.	263	263	263	263	263
Place	Place Reserve	Funding set aside to mitigate project costs within the Place directorate	575	317	241	229	217
Place	Private Housing/DFG	2 years funding need to try to move to sustainable model in that time	100	100	100	100	100
Place	Holton Road Surplus	RINGFENCED for Holton Road eed to understand how this will be used	21	21	21	21	21
Place	Country Car Park Reserve	Ringfenced Country Car Parking Reserve to be reinvested in Country Parks	-	-	-	-	-
Place	Donations	Income received from visitors which is used to fund general projects and to match-fund expenditure incurred by the Friends of the Heritage Coast.	20	20	20	20	20
Other Ringfenced	Building Services	Monies set aside for improvements to the Building Services department.	552	552	552	552	552
Other Ringfenced	Shared Internal Audit Service	Balance held on behalf of the partners for the shared audit service.	324	324	324	324	324
Other Ringfenced	Child Burial	Ring fenced grant funding received from Welsh Government.	68	68	68	68	68
Other Ringfenced	Building Control	Reserve set aside to fund future deficits on the ringfenced Building Control Trading Account.	114	114	114	114	114

			Balance	Balance	Balance	Balance	Balance
Reserve Category	Reserves	Purpose	31-03-2023	31-03-2024	31-03-2025	31-03-2026	31-03-2027
			£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Other Ringfenced	Election Expenses	Set aside for the Council and other elections costs.	270	276	312	310	345
Other Ringfenced	Catering Equipment	Repairs and renewal fund for catering equipment and vehicles in Schools.	256	256	256	256	256
Insurance	Insurance Fund	To fund potential future claims on the Authority based upon historical evidence. This is reviewed annually. No prediction for future use has been included at present and claims can have a long lead time.	4,530	4,530	4,530	4,530	4,530
Other Corporate	Trainee Appointments	To fund the appointment of trainees and interns to support services and the Reshaping Service programme.	521	393	261	125	18
Other Corporate	Stronger Communities Fund	To enable community groups, the voluntary sector and town and community councils to apply for revenue and capital funding that promotes initiatives within the Vale of Glamorgan consistent with the Council's vision of "Strong communities with a bright future".	191	191	191	191	191
Other Corporate	Mayors Foundation	Ringfenced funding to be issued as grants.	6	6	6	6	6
Other Corporate	Staff Employment Awards (EXTERNAL)	Ringfenced funding to support delivery of Staff Employment awards event.	5	5	5	5	5
Homelessness and Housing Reserve	Homelessness and Housing Reserve	This sum will be used to support homelessness prevention work.	1,887	887	387	387	387
Homelessness and Housing Reserve	Interpretation Services for Asylum Seekers	Propose this is Ringfenced	98	98	98	98	98
Other Ringfenced	Cwm Ciddy Challenge Funding	Ringfenced grant funding to be utilised within Porthkerry Country Park	4	4	4	4	4
Cost of Living	Cost of Living	To support the Council's response to the Cost of Living crisis	819	819	819	819	819
Pay Pressures	Pay Pressures	Funds to mitigate risks associated with Pay Awards and meet redundancy costs and pension costs when paid over 5 years.	4,396	4,396	4,396	4,396	4,396
Energy Pressures	Energy Pressures	Funds to mitigate risks associated with Energy costs	4,334	1,634	634	634	634
Corporate Landlord	Corporate Landlord	Fund to mitigate with risks across the Council's building assets	3,776	1,343	1,343	1,343	1,343
Investment and Growth Fund	Investment and Growth Fund	This fund is to be used to support the Non Treasury Investment Strategy Investment and Growth Fund.	2,354	2,239	2,247	2,255	2,263
Reshaping Risk and Investment	Reshaping Risk and Investment	To fund one off costs that will be incurred during the implementation of the Council's Reshaping Services programme.	1,863	1,688	1,520	1,520	1,520
Digital Reshaping	Digital Reshaping	Invest to save funding to support the implementation of new digital ways of working and to update current systems.	976	976	976	976	976
Legal	Legal Claims	To mitigate legal costs and fund future legal cases and judicial reviews.	2,000	1,906	1,810	1,712	1,712
Project Zero	Energy Management Fund	Ringfenced recyclable funding utilised as part of Salix funded schemes	70	70	70	70	70
Project Zero	Project Zero and Green Infrastructure	This reserve has been set up to provide funds for Environmental Initiatives across the Vale of Glamorgan.	1,811	1,811	1,811	1,811	1,811
Project Zero	Social Services Electric Vehicles and	Funds allocated by WG to support a pilot scheme with the independent care sector utilising electric vehicles, driving lessons and licences to enhance recruitment and retention.	408	408	408	408	408
Capital	School Investment Strategy	To be used to fund schemes identified as part of the Schools Investment Programme including the Sustainable Communities for Learning programme.	4,447	1,470	1,493	1,516	1,529

			Balance	Balance	Balance	Balance	Balance
Reserve Category	Reserves	Purpose	31-03-2023	31-03-2024	31-03-2025	31-03-2026	31-03-2027
			£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Capital	Telecare	Replacement fund for Telecare equipment and other service costs.	862	862	862	862	862
Capital	Vehicles Repair and Renewals	This fund is primarily for the replacement of plant and vehicles. Vehicles are purchased from the fund and the transfer in represents the equivalent "rental" amount reimbursing the fund.	902	-	-	-	-
Capital	Waste Transfer Station	Establishment of a Waste Transfer Station.	849	-	-	-	-
Capital	City Deal	Reserve set aside to mitigate the costs associated with City Deal to be utilised to minimise the cost of borrowing as part of agreed City Deal contributions	1,341	-	-	-	-
Capital	Capital Scheme Commitments	To fund schemes included in the Council's 5 year capital programme	3,881	1,807	1,807	1,807	1,807
	Total Excluding HRA		71,468	51,196	47,829	46,475	46,106
Housing Revenue Account	HRA	The fund is ring fenced by statute for use by the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). As well as acting as a working balance for the HRA, it is also used to fund repairs and the capital programme.	11,621	949	1,051	1,067	1,099
	Total		83,089	52,145	48,880	47,542	47,205