

<b>MEETING</b>	<b>ON</b>
<b>COUNCIL</b>	<b>26<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2020</b>



<b>TITLE</b>	<b>PROPOSER</b>	<b>Agenda item No.</b>
<b>CONSERVATIVE GROUP BUDGET AMENDMENT</b>	<b>Councillor Margaret Smith</b>	

## 1. PURPOSE

1.1 The Conservative Group proposes an amendment to the 2020/21 budget and MTFs as recommended to this Council by Cabinet on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020. This paper summarises our proposals for consideration by Council and our continued priorities for future years.

## 2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 To approve the proposals for seven new capital schemes, totalling £585,000 to the 2020/21 capital programme

## 3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

3.1 We have identified seven Capital Schemes which we feel are a priority and therefore propose that they are added to the Capital programme, as follows:

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Forecast cost £</b>	<b>Scheme details/rationale</b>
Withy Grove Park Toilets	60,000	To work towards obtaining a Green flag for the park
Land Drainage, Longton park, Longton	100,000	This park continually floods and becomes unusable and needs a full drainage programme
Playground, Walton Park	140,000	There is a recently formed friends of the park group and the play area needs upgrading and new equipment
Living Walls environmental works	125,000	Create living walls in the Borough
Bio Diversity scheme, Walton-le-dale	25,000	Starting in Walton-le-dale area to promote sustainable area
Signalised Pedestrian Crossing, Stanifield Lane	35,000	Work with LCC and parish council to install this long-awaited crossing to improve safe movement when crossing Stanifield Lane
Central Parks Masterplan	100,000	Continuation of works on Masterplan
<b>Total cost</b>	<b>585,000</b>	

<b>Proposed funding:</b> Farington Parish Council – contribution to pedestrian crossing	10,000
S106 – Drainage works, Longton park	40,000
Use of reserves: Business Rates Retention Reserve	535,000
<b>Total funding</b>	<b>585,000</b>

3.2 We have also consulted with the Statutory Officers to ensure our amendment is both legal and can be funded.

#### 4. IMPACT ON BUDGET FORECASTS

The table below highlights the reduced reserves balances, assuming the proposed use of reserves.

<b>RESERVES FORECAST-SUMMARY</b>	<b>Actual 31/3/19 £000</b>	<b>Forecast 31/3/20 £000</b>	<b>Forecast 31/3/21 £000</b>	<b>Forecast 31/3/22 £000</b>	<b>Forecast 31/3/23 £000</b>	<b>Forecast 31/3/24 £000</b>
<b><i>General Fund Balance</i></b>	<b>(4,680)</b>	<b>(4,802)</b>	<b>(4,802)</b>	<b>(4,621)</b>	<b>(4,421)</b>	<b>(4,198)</b>
<b><i>Earmarked Reserves</i></b>						
Apprenticeship Reserve	(267)	(267)	0	0	0	0
Borough council elections	(114)	0	(40)	(80)	(120)	(5)
Borough Investment account	(4,594)	(4,594)	(3,944)	(2,274)	(2,274)	(2,274)
Business rates retention reserve	(2,751)	(2,686)	(2,400)	(2,335)	(2,270)	(2,255)
Capital Funding Reserve	(3,073)	(3,108)	(703)	(276)	(526)	(776)
CIL admin	0	(149)	(149)	(149)	(149)	(149)
City Deal	(1,711)	(1,844)	(1,844)	(1,844)	(1,844)	(1,844)
Housing needs survey	(83)	(103)	(83)	(103)	(123)	(143)
Local Plans	(255)	(255)	(157)	(131)	(106)	(62)
My Neighbourhoods reserve	(54)	(54)	(54)	(54)	(54)	(54)
Organisational restructure costs	(27)	(27)	(27)	(27)	(27)	(27)
Performance Reward Grant	(47)	0	0	0	0	0
Repairs and Maintenance Fund	(500)	(500)	0	(250)	(500)	(750)
Climate Change	0	0	(250)	(250)	(250)	(250)
Credit Union	0	(150)	(150)	(150)	(150)	(150)
Transformation Reserve	(500)	(290)	0	0	0	0
Other earmarked reserves	(863)	(593)	(309)	(189)	(155)	(155)
<b><i>sub total</i></b>	<b>(14,839)</b>	<b>(14,619)</b>	<b>(10,108)</b>	<b>(8,110)</b>	<b>(8,546)</b>	<b>(8,892)</b>
<b>Revised Total reserves</b>	<b>(19,519)</b>	<b>(19,421)</b>	<b>(14,910)</b>	<b>(12,731)</b>	<b>(12,968)</b>	<b>(13,090)</b>
<b>Total reserves in MTFS</b>	<b>(19,519)</b>	<b>(19,421)</b>	<b>(15,445)</b>	<b>(13,266)</b>	<b>(13,503)</b>	<b>(13,625)</b>
<b>Forecast Reduction in reserves</b>			<b>535</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>535</b>

## **5. COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER**

- 5.1 With regards to the amendments to the Budget for 2020/21 and MTFS, the proposed additional capital schemes would need to be funded as set out above. There is an adequate level of reserves to meet the use of balances proposed. Use of reserves would mean that there would be no impact on the revenue budget, other than a minor impact on interest receivable of less than £5,000 p.a. However, as set out above there would be a reduction in the total level of reserves available to meet the funding requirements of the council going forward.
- 5.2 Clearly the work would need to be programmed alongside the other schemes in the programme and it may be the case that not all these could be delivered in 2020/21, without a review of the programme overall and the resources required to deliver these schemes.

## **6. COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER**

- 6.1 What the Conservative group propose are amendments to the proposed budget by the administration. There are no specific legal issues that need to be made in this context. The general legal issues associated with budget setting are set out in the report that contains details of the administration's proposals. Clearly it is for members to assess the desirability and deliverability of the proposed amendment from the Conservative group.