

Medium Term Financial Plan

Initial Equality Impact Assessment of Budget Proposal 2024/25



1. The Proposal

Budget Theme:	The way we work - managing our finances.
Budget reference:	TWWW03
Budget proposal 2024/25 (£):	£835,000

The following savings are included within this Theme:

Directorate Reference	Service Area	Budget Proposal	2024/25 Budget reduction
CSD02	Capital Financing	Savings following a review of capital financing costs and investment strategy opportunities. Various options being modelled that are linked to current borrowing requirement, cash-flow forecasts and interest rates.	£4, 735,000

Theme Narrative:

The council will seek to achieve a net reduction in the amount it pays for its capital financing costs and increase the investment yields it achieves on its external investments by making appropriate choices to manage the changes in interest rates.

Summary of changes:

The council currently generates interest on its surplus cash balances by investing these sums in accordance with the approved treasury management strategy; the council also incurs expenditure when borrowing money to fund the assets that are being delivered through the capital programme. The combination of these two things results in a net cost to the council's annual revenue budget.

It is anticipated that a lower net cost could be achieved by changing the strategy that covers these areas to integrate decisions associated with borrowing and investments, largely because of the changes and volatility being seen within interest rates.

Examples of potential changes could mean that the council may not borrow funds externally but would instead utilise surplus cash balances which would save interest

costs. The scale and mix of investments would also be reviewed to ensure that levels are optimised within the context of the council's risk profile.

Is any of the proposals within this theme a continuation of a previous medium-term financial plan saving?

Yes **No**

If yes, please insert reference number and year of assessment?

Budget Proposal	Year of assessment	Budget Reference
Net reduction in capital financing costs and increase in investment interest returns	2023/24	CSD21+22

If yes, please describe what steps you have taken to review the equality impacts from previous years?

There are no specific impacts on any of the defined groups.

2. Customer equality impact summary

Will the proposal have a disproportionate impact on any of these groups?

Insert X into one box per row, for impact level and type.

H = High, M = Medium, L = Low, N = None

+ = Positive, = = Neutral, - = Negative

Impact Level	Impact type						
	H	M	L	N	+	=	-
Disabled people (Including consideration of neurodiversity)				X			
People from different ethnic groups				X			
Men or women (including those who are pregnant or on maternity leave)				X			
People who are LGBTQ+				X			
People on a low income				X			
People in particular age groups				X			
People in particular faith groups				X			
People who are married or in a civil partnership				X			
People who are undergoing gender reassignment				X			
Other specific impacts, for example: carers, parents, armed forces community, impact on health and wellbeing. Please specify:				X			

3. Explanation of customer impact

There should be no impact on customers either internally or externally as these decisions relate to the council's processes and risk management framework.

Please describe how you will communicate these changes to your customers.

N/A

4. Staff equality impact summary

Are there any staffing implications for this proposal?

Yes **No**

Explanation of staff impact

None

6. Review and Sign Off

Service Manager Review

Insert any service manager comments here:

None

Is a further detailed equality impact assessment needed?

Yes **No**

If 'yes', when will the further assessment be completed?

Service Manager:

Melanie Watts

Date:

19 January 2024