

Cabinet Meeting - 29 January 2019

Agenda Item 4

Budget Amendment Proposals

As stated by the Cabinet Member for Safer, Stronger Communities during the Performance Finance Select Committee on the 17th of January 2019, the proposed reduction to the Search and Rescue team of £200k has been removed from the savings proposals. In light of an announcement by government to remove all grant funding from 2020/21 for this service, further work will be undertaken to develop options for future delivery. The removal of this savings was funded through a reduction in the contingency budget.

Proposal 1

The amendment removes two proposed savings from the draft budget for 2019/20. The savings are:

- (i) Reduce Intervention and Prevention team (£0.400m)
- (ii) Reduce support from the Business Resilience team (£0.100m)

Both savings would not proceed in 2019/20 budget under this amendment, but would instead be included as saving proposals for 2020/21 to allow additional time to explore alternative funding and sponsorship options for these services.

The delay in these proposed savings until 2020/21 is financed by:

- (i) the use of a one-off underspend on the Community Initiative Fund in 2018/19; and
- (ii) the use of part of the Business Rates Levy Account which the council was notified of as part of the provisional settlement in December 2018.

The changes are detailed in the table below. There is no overall change to the 2019/20 net budget requirement as a result of this change.

Table: Changes to the Draft 2019/20 Budget:

	£m
Net Budget requirement	574.919
Remove the following Saving Proposals from the 2019/20 budget	
Safer, Stronger Communities	
Remove Intervention and Prevention Team saving	+0.400
Remove Support from the Business Resilience team saving	+0.100
Revised net budget requirement	575.419
Financed by:	
Underspend on the 2018/19 Community Initiative Fund	-0.200
Business Rates Levy Account surplus	-0.300
New net budget requirement	574.919

As a result of this amendment, no recommendations are in need of revision. The budget report tables (Annex 2, Appendices 1 and 2), balancing the budget table (Annex 2, Appendix 3) and the Reserve table (Annex 2, Appendix 5) will be updated to show these changes in the Budget Report presented to Full Council.

Proposal 2

It is proposed that £750,000 will be made available as transitional funding to continue to work closely with our current provider homeless charities to explore new initiatives and to ensure an effective move to the newly commissioned arrangements.

This will be funded from unspent resources set aside, as part of the 2018/19 budget, to progress joint initiatives with the Districts and Borough Councils for improving social mobility and preventing homelessness.

The reserves schedule in (Annex 2, Appendix 5) will be updated to reflect this proposal in the Budget Report presented to Full Council.