

**REPORT FOR: EMPLOYEES'
CONSULTATIVE FORUM**

Date of Meeting:	11 January 2023
Subject:	INFORMATION REPORT Draft Revenue Budget 2023/24 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023/24 to 2025/26
Key Decision:	Yes (when considered by Cabinet)
Responsible Officer:	Dawn Calvert – Director of Finance and Assurance
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor David Ashton – Portfolio Holder for Finance and Human Resources
Exempt:	No
Decision subject to Call-in:	No
Wards affected:	All
Enclosures:	8 December 2022 Cabinet Report and Appendices for Draft Budget report

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

The Forum is requested to note the report detailing Harrow Council's Draft Revenue Budget 2023/24 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023/24 to 2025/26, as reported to the Council's Cabinet on 8 December 2022.

The budget and MTFS will return to Cabinet on 16 February 2023 for final approval and recommendation to Council. The Forum's comments will be submitted to Cabinet for consideration.

Section 2 – Report

The draft budget set out in the attached report shows a refreshed Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) with several changes which Cabinet were asked to approve and note.

The report shows a budget gap of £10.923m for 2023/24, a balanced position for 2024/25 and a budget gap of £10.964m for 2025/26.

The draft budget report submitted to Cabinet in December will be subject to further adjustments following the Local Government Financial Settlement, which was announced on 19 December 2022, and this will be reported to Cabinet in February 2023 as part of the Final Budget for 2023/24 and MTFS 2023/24 to 2025/26.

Whilst it is intended that Members will approve the final MTFS up to 2025/26 in February 2023, future year budgets from 2024/25 onwards are likely to be subject to a number of significant changes in relation to future Spending Reviews, reforms to services provided by Local Government as well as assumptions on council tax income, legislation and demographics. Therefore, Council will still be required to review the Council's budget on an annual basis.

All adjustments to the draft budget will be reported to Cabinet and Council in February 2023 as part of the setting of the final annual budget and council tax setting process.

Options considered

See attached report.

Further Information

See attached report.

Risk Management Implications

See attached report.

Legal Implications

See attached report.

Financial Implications

See attached report.

Equalities implications / Public Sector Equality Duty

See attached report

Council Priorities

See attached report.

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Statutory Officer: Dawn Calvert

Signed by the Chief Financial Officer

Date: 6 January 2023

Mandatory Checks

Ward Councillors notified: See attached report

EqIA carried out: See attached report

EqIA cleared by: See attached report

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Dawn Calvert, Director of Finance & Assurance,
dawn.calvert@harrow.gov.uk

Background Papers

See attached Cabinet report