



Extract from the minutes of the Worthing Joint Strategic Sub-Committee - 5 December 2022

JSS-C(W)/041/22-23 2023/24 Budget Update

The report provided members with a progress report on the delivery of the financial strategy for 2023/24, along with details of the proposals that would help to deliver a balanced budget for the next financial year and beyond.

The report outlined the medium term financial challenge through to 2027/28 and updated members, where possible, on government funding proposals.

Contained within the report were specific budget proposals to increase income, to deliver efficiency, and other savings initiatives for 2023/24.

It was noted that no comments had been received following the Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee considering the report at its meeting in November. The Committee was also advised that the appendices referred to in the recommendations should read 1, 2, 3 & 4 rather than 2a, 2b, 2c and 2d.

The recommendations in the report were proposed by Councillor McCabe, seconded by Councillor Turley and unanimously supported.

Decision

That the Worthing Joint Strategic Sub-Committee

- (i) Noted the current 5 year forecasts at appendix 1;
- (ii) Noted the committed growth items as set out in appendix 2;
- (iii) Approved the proposed savings as set out in appendix 3 subject to any changes arising from consultation;
- (iv) Recommended to council to approve the use of capital receipts to support the delivery of the budget as set out in appendix 4.**

(Link to the report on the website e.g. [Worthing Joint Strategic Sub-Committee - 5 December 2022](#))

**Extract from the minutes of the Worthing Joint Strategic Sub-Committee - 5
December 2022**

**JSS-C(W)/042/22-23 Outcome of the public consultation in respect of the
working age Council Tax Support Scheme for
Worthing Borough Council in respect of 2023/24**

At the meeting of the Joint Strategic Committee held on 11 January 2022 it was determined that a public consultation should be undertaken by Worthing Borough Council with a view to removing the £5.00 weekly restriction from the scheme for working age customers with effect from 1 April 2023.

At the meeting of the Worthing Borough Council Joint Strategic Sub-Committee held on 6 September 2022 refinement of the consultation questions was delegated to the Head of Revenues & Benefits in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Citizen Services.

The Council Tax Support scheme for pensioners was set nationally and Members therefore had no ability to determine local criteria.

The report detailed the consultation responses that had been received and recommended changes that could be made to the local working age Council Tax Support Scheme for Worthing Borough Council in respect of 2023/24.

The recommendations in the report were proposed by Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Whorlow and unanimously supported.

Decision

The Worthing Joint Strategic Sub-Committee noted the content of the report and recommended to the Full Council that with effect from 1 April 2023 the following changes should be made to the local Council Tax Support scheme for working age residents in Worthing:-

- a) The £5.00 weekly restriction will no longer apply;**

- b) The discretionary budget to support those in severe financial difficulty will no longer be required as the result of the removal of the restriction;**
- c) A valid claim for Council Tax Support shall be deemed to have been made by customers who have been awarded Universal Credit and indicated that they wish to claim Council Tax Support (unless further information is required to enable entitlement to be determined);**
- d) No other changes should be made beyond necessary technical amendments required to keep the scheme consistent with the national rules in respect of Housing Benefit.**

(Link to the report on the website e.g. [Worthing Joint Strategic Sub-Committee - 5 December 2022](#))