

## **Cabinet Lead for Finance – Councillor Tony Denton**

### **Finance & Treasury**

As presented to Council in February 2022, our financial position remains challenging. Although a balanced revenue budget was approved for 2022/23, our published 5-year Medium Term Financial Strategy indicates a funding gap of £2.6m.

On 1 June, Cabinet considered the 2021/22 draft out-turn report which indicated an end of year deficit of £311k which is primarily due to the significant increase in people that we have had to place in Bed and Breakfast and other temporary accommodation due to the shortage of affordable housing and pressure in the private rented sector. An end of year overspend of £776k was reported in this area.

On a more positive note, the out-turn report also confirmed that our holding of financial reserves remains strong with £14m within ear-marked revenue reserves and £3.2m in the General Fund Balance (23.5% of our net revenue budget).

Good progress has been made through the Budget Working Group in addressing the medium-term revenue funding gap. A review of future pension liabilities and associated financial provisions; along with a more proactive approach to investing the council's cash balances will generate on-going returns in excess of £1m per annum. Service reviews have commenced in key areas to better understand options and structures for future service delivery.

### **Revenues & Benefits**

Energy Rebates (£150)

Over 31,000 payments (£4.65million) were made in April to those customers that pay their Council Tax by Direct Debit and passed initial checks

14,500 letters were sent in May to customers, who we had been able to pay and invite them to apply for the grant. Before the end of May over 10,500 customers had completed the forms.

The scheme will end on 13<sup>th</sup> June, at which time, bank checks will be made to reduce the chance of fraud. We are aiming to make these payments to customers by 4<sup>th</sup> July.

Where we are unable to make payment or a claim had not been made, we plan to offset the £150 against the residents Council Tax to ensure no-one misses out.