

Audit and Finance Committee Briefing Note

Item Title:	Havant Borough Council Budget 2024/25
Brought by:	Steven Pink
Meeting date:	29th January 2024

Strategic Item <input type="checkbox"/>	Discussion Item <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Standing Item <input type="checkbox"/>
What is it you need from the Committee?	<p>To have sight of the draft budget paper before it is finalised and presented to Cabinet and Council. It is an opportunity for those charged with ensuring sound financial governance of the Council to discuss, question and/or make any recommendations for amendments in the structure or presentation of the report.</p> <p>Some of the appendices are yet to be finalised as some technical detail is still outstanding from third parties.</p>	
High-level overview:	<p>The Budget Report sets out the Revenue Budget for the year 2024/25, the Capital Programme for the period 2024/25 to 2028/29 and the Medium-Term Financial Plan for the period 2024/25 to 2028/29.</p> <p>Following a significant period of consultation and review, the net cash limited Revenue Budget for 2024/25 is £18.02m, which is an increase of 7% on the current year. The budget has been balanced without the use of reserves and an additional £275k of revenue bids have been included.</p> <p>The Medium-Term Financial Plan points towards a base budget deficit from 2025/26 growing to £2m by 2028/29 if no action is taken. However, there will be a savings and efficiency programme launched in early 2024/25 to address the funding gap.</p> <p>The Capital Programme will deliver up to £82.9m worth of projects over the next five years, with multiple funding sources including grants and capital receipts.</p>	
Contribution to Strategic Priorities / Policy Development	<p>The financial performance of the authority's budget has an overarching impact on all corporate priorities and the Council's ability to deliver against them. Ensuring the Council has a balance budget is not only a legal requirement, but also vital to allow the Council to deliver against its corporate priorities without putting the financial viability of the Council at risk.</p>	

or Service Improvement	
Financial implications:	The Budget sets out the plan for all spending across the Council for the new financial year. Failure to set a “balanced budget” would likely result in a Section 114 notice being issued and corrective action being applied to the Council.
Resource implications:	No change to current internal resource requirements

Committee Pathway and Dates	<p><i>Committee name – N/A</i></p> <p><i>O&S – 12th February 2024</i></p> <p><i>Cabinet – 14th February 2024</i></p> <p><i>Council – 29th February 2024</i></p>
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