

CABINET

14 February 2023

FINAL REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET 23/24

**Report of the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and Performance,
Change and Transformation**

Strategic Aim:	All	
Key Decision: No	Forward Plan Reference: FP/140422	
Exempt Information	No	
Cabinet Member(s) Responsible:	Councillor Karen Payne, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and Performance, Change and Transformation	
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Ward Councillors	All Wards	

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL that it:

- approves the General Fund Budget (Net Expenditure) for 2023/24 of £46.549m (section 9)
- approves budget reductions at service level (service savings, reversal of National Insurance rise and use of earmarked reserves) of £1.735m (Section 9.3) and corporate budget reductions of £1.889m as per section 9.3
- approves budget increases to meet service pressures of £5.401m arising from the inflation, cost of living and demand (Section 9.3) and a pay contingency of £743k
- approves the use of £589k of reserves to subsidise the main budget (Section 9) plus £900k set aside from general reserves to fund the Local Plan, Leisure and High Needs deficit (Section 7.1.4)
- approves the Council Tax resolution in Appendix 9 including an increase in Council Tax for Rutland County Council of 4.99% (2% for the Adult Social Care precept and 2.99% for main council tax) resulting in a Band D charge of £2,013.04 (Section 8)

- approves the award of up to an additional £25 discount on council tax bills for those individuals receiving local council tax support with an outstanding council tax liability to be funded from a Government grant (section 8.2.13).
- notes the outcome of consultation (section 13)
- approves changes to earmarked reserves as per Section 7.1.4
- approves additions/deletions to the capital programme as per Section 10
- notes the position on the Dedicated Schools Grant budget (Section 12)
- notes that additional revenue or capital expenditure may be incurred in 2023/24 funded through 2022/23 budget under spends to be carried forward via earmarked reserves. The use of reserves for budget carry forwards is not currently shown in the budget but will have no impact on the General Fund
- approves the estimated surplus of £38k on the Collection Fund as at 31 March 2023 (Section 8.3) of which £33k is the Rutland share.
- notes that the Director for Resources may ask for additional funds to support those in hardship as requested by Cabinet if required.

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The Council is required to set a balanced budget and agree the level of Council tax for 2023/24 in the context of its Medium Term Financial Plan. This report presents the final budget for approval.

2 MESSAGE FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

We set our budget at a time of global financial crisis. As our County, our Country, our World recovers slowly from the toll taken by the pandemic, (the impacts marked by globally high inflation rates, challenges with supply chains, high costs), war in Europe once more has created shock waves that are felt by us all. In short, everything is costing more from the diesel required to fuel our bin lorries collecting our rubbish, to the delivery of services that protect our most vulnerable residents. Costs will continue to escalate. You will recognise this position with your own finances.

This is why it is essential there is a 2.99% increase in Council Tax and 2% increase in the Adult Social Care levy, noting that inflation at time of writing sits at just under 10%. This rise is not sufficient to balance the books which is why we will be using the reserves we have prudently built up for a rainy day. The rainy day is here. We are in stronger position than other authorities to manage the financial challenges we face because we have reserves and, most importantly, we have a pragmatic plan to manage the challenges we face to ensure this Council is financially sustainable.

We know our services are incredibly important to our residents, whether this is the universal services such as bin collections, road maintenance or targeted services for our most vulnerable residents who need the support and help of our council. We know that demand for our services continues to rise, Adult Social Care just one key service to hence the 2% levy. We know the taxation system is profoundly unfair for Rutland residents. We deal with the here and now.

This budget takes an honest approach to deliver well within our means whilst ensuring we are financially sustainable in the future. It is important to underscore the fact that even with a 4.99% overall rise and the use of reserves, the income does not match the current outgoings. We therefore must re – shape our services, focussing on need, driving a pragmatic approach to service delivery, spending within our means.

We know times are hard for us all, and for some the financial challenges are untenable. This budget protects our Council Tax support fund in addition to the £33,000 pledged by Government to ensure practical help is there for those most in need.

With elections in May, an administration might place their electoral ambitions ahead of the long – term needs of the County by offering a Council Tax freeze, running down reserves to fund this. This, as is clearly articulated by our section 151 officer, would be a risk verging on negligence and so therefore, financially reckless.

There is no magic money tree. There are few certainties. What there is, however, is an honest, hardworking and measured approach that can be taken. This budget enables a prudent, long – term approach to the financial sustainability of this Council to be taken for the benefit of us all.

The Council has now consulted on its budget and whilst no changes have been made, I have asked the Director for Resource to monitor the position and to make a request to Cabinet if more funds are needed to support those in hardship paying their council tax bills.

3 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

3.1 Director for Resources: Section 151 Officer overview

3.1.1 The 23/24 Local Government Finance Settlement was received on 19th December following the Chancellors Autumn Statement at the end of November. This has now been finalised with no changes to the overall amounts for Rutland. The Settlement covered 23/24 only although it is our expectation that 24/25 will essentially be a rollover settlement, with the overall funding envelope set at the Autumn Statement. There are still however some issues that Ministers have not yet finalised for 2024/25.

3.1.2 **The Settlement is much more positive than was expected at the start of 2022.** It is the best cash-terms settlement for local government in well over a decade but also less-good in real terms. The Government defines the amount of core funding that councils have available as “spending power”¹. **Our Core Spending Power is increasing by 7%, £2.674m.** After a year when inflation rates reached a peak of nearly 10%, the pay settlement amounted to just under 6.5% and demand for services continued to rise, it was much needed. The Council’s experience in the last 12 months is that doing “Council business” is

¹ Core Spending Power may differ from actual funding received because the Government set a business rates baseline and Council’s may actually retain more, the Council tax yield expected by Government uses average growth in taxbase rather than the actual taxbase and some grants are not included in CSP.

more costly than it ever has been. **Against this backdrop an increase in the Council's Spending Power of 7% still falls below the 12 month inflation rate of 9.3% (November 2022).**

- 3.1.3 **The main driver for the increased funding in the Settlement is social care.** Resources for adult social care (in core spending power) will increase by £1.4m in 2023/24, through a combination of new money and the postponement of the adult social care charging reforms but additional funding will also be receiving via the Better Care Fund and levying of the Adult Social Care precept.
- 3.1.4 **Whilst the Government is increasing overall Spending Power, it makes one important assumption – that Councils raise council tax by the maximum available – that means 4.99% with the Government allowing a 2.99% increase for core services and 2% extra for social care².**
- 3.1.5 **So what does the extra Government funding and Council Tax flexibility mean for 23/24?** The Council approved a Financial Sustainability Strategy (FSS) in November 2022 which stated that Members would be prepared to subsidise the budget by up to £2m from reserves (in the next 4 years) whilst the Council took the necessary action to right size the budget by 27/28.
- 3.1.6 The extra funding from Government, the savings proposals in the proposed budget, a one off reduction in the Council's business rates appeals provision and a 5% tax rise would **leave the Council a 23/24 subsidy of £0.589m, a subsidy of c£1.4m in 24/25 which then falls to £147k after assuming the Councils saves £4.9m by 27/28 (the table in 4.1.3 shows this position).**
- 3.1.7 Conversely, a Council tax freeze would give the Council a 23/24 subsidy of £2.1m and leave a subsidy of £2.0m by 27/28. **The compound impact of any tax rise below the maximum threatens the Council's financial independence.**
- 3.1.8 The reason for this is because the cost of delivering local authority services is rising way beyond the increase in funding. Pressures on labour supply, additional tax burdens, energy prices, inflation have seen eye watering increases in cost **(the increase in the net expenditure budget compared to last year is £3m).**
- 3.1.9 **Simply put, if the Council wishes to do everything it can to preserve the Council's independence and financial survival then rises of 4.99% are a necessity** – not just this year but every year that the Council has the power to raise Council tax by this amount.

There are no scenarios that, in my opinion, would allow an alternative Strategy. Let's consider possible alternatives:

² In this report, a Council tax rise of 4.99% refers to a 2.99% increase for core services and 2% extra for social care.

- **Scenario 1** - *Government funding increases substantially in the future meaning the gap will be plugged.* The Chancellor has said growth after 25/26 will be at 1% per annum. Conversely, there are also those who speculate that implementation of the Fair Funding review will see a redistribution of funding to Unitary Councils. With 79% of Council spending power coming from council tax, it is very unlikely that additional funding will cover the gap without tax rises and delivery of savings.
- **Scenario 2** - *The cost of doing local authority business and demand for services decreases substantially* when inflation returns to normal levels as expected by say March 2024 with suppliers dropping prices to pre pandemic levels – again very unlikely with pay inflation and costs embedded and new contracts agreed. This is not something you would want to take a risk on.
- **Scenario 3** - *The Council can make savings but say £8m or £9m rather than just under £5m target in the MTFP.* In reality, out of a net budget of £44m, we would estimate that only £20m-£22m is controllable hence a £5m saving target is challenging at c25%. Setting a bigger target would be hopeful, bordering on reckless to the point that I would struggle to give positive assurance in my Section 25 Statement (Section 9.4).

3.1.10 The decision facing Elected Members is therefore difficult in the current circumstances. It is compounded because outside of known pressures, the **Council is working in an environment where risk and uncertainty are aplenty** and outside the control of the Council to the point that there is no guarantee that even maximum council tax rises, and savings would achieve financial sustainability in the long run.

3.1.11 Whilst there is still a strong view that the sector and the Council is being treated unfairly by the overall financial settlement, **the Council is left with no choice but to own its financial position and** as outlined in the Financial Sustainability Strategy take the action it can take now:

- Use reserves to balance the budget in the short term;
- Deliver its savings programme; and
- Use the Council tax flexibility it has been given as assumed by the Government in Spending Power.

3.1.12 **If it does not follow this course of action, then the Council will still be solvent for the next few years but its long term future will be out of its hands and reliant on external forces over which it has no Control.**

3.1.13 In terms of the 23/24 the following summarises the main features of the proposed Budget:

- A balanced budget achieved in challenging circumstances using £0.589m of General Fund reserves to balance the main budget and £0.900m to meet future liabilities for the Local Plan, High Needs and Leisure;
- Statutory duties are met;

- Service pressures of £5.401m have been included arising from demand, market cost pressures, contracts etc;
- Budget reductions of £1.735m including the use of one-off funding which contributes to current costs;
- Pay contingency of 4% (£743k);
- Expected investment income of £1.68m;
- Average Council Tax increase of £1.84p per week for a Band D equivalent property but an additional £33k to support those on low incomes; and
- A £250k contingency to mitigate against demand led and other pressures.

3.2 Our financial objectives

3.2.1.1 We have two key financial objectives which are clearly stated in our approved Corporate Strategy:

- The Council is committed to being financially sustainable. This means ensuring it can live “within its means”, only spending the funding it receives and balancing the budget in any given year without using General Fund reserves. This is our number one priority. The Corporate Strategy reaffirms this commitment. In the short term and in recognition of the pressures caused by the pandemic and cost of living crisis, Members have approved a FSS which permits the use of reserves up to 27/28 whilst the Council makes the necessary savings.
- The second key priority is to maintain our reserves above the current recommended minimum limit of £3m as approved by Council. This is important because the context we are working in is changing all the time and is laced with uncertainty. We always want to keep a level of funding aside to respond to a crisis, unexpected costs, or increased demand.

3.2.2 The remainder of this report gives Members answers to some of the key questions relevant to the budget setting process. Further detail can be found in individual sections.

3.3 Key Questions and Answers

Key questions	Status
<i>Funding outlook (section 4)</i>	
1. What resource does the Council have available in 23/24 and over the next few years?	The Council's Government funding and total available resources are known for 23/24. The total of Government funding and Council Tax is not sufficient to balance the budget (assuming Council Tax of 4.99%) and as per its FSS, the budget is balanced by use of reserves of £0.589m. The Council has made assumptions about 24/25 based on the Autumn Statement.

Key questions	Status
	Beyond 25/26 and a General Election, funding is difficult to predict but the Council is still projecting a small gap of £148k in 27/28 but this assumes maximum Council tax savings, delivery of £4m new savings and the Council's overall funding increases by 7% in 25/26,
2. Are we projecting a financial gap?	Yes, the proposed use of reserves for 23/24 is £0.589, For 24/25 the gap is projected to be £1.4m assuming £1.485m savings are made and Council Tax is raised by a further 4.99%.
3. How certain are we about the size of the gap?	The size of the gap is by no means certain given the risks (Section 5), uncertainties in respect of assumptions and future funding (Section 4). The Council will keep this under review.
4. Have we got a plan to close the gap?	The Council approved a FSS and is now working through a Transformation programme (Section 6). Savings have been proposed for 23/24. As work progresses, there will be greater clarity over the deliverability of the programme for 24/25 and beyond. By the end of September, the Council needs to provide more certainty of savings proposals for 24/25.
5. What level of reserves should the Council aim to retain?	It is proposed that the minimum level is retained at £3m but given the increased level of uncertainty and risk the Council will need to monitor this position. The short term position affords the Council time to reduce expenditure to match funding levels.
<i>Budget 23/24 (section 2)</i>	
6. What does the Directorate budget look like?	The Council's Directorate budget for 23/24 is £48.263m (section 9). The 22/23 budget at Outturn was £44.597m. The increase reflects inflation, contract costs, market pressures and pay inflation and savings (see Question 8 and 9).
7. Priorities – how does the proposed budget support the Council's priorities?	The Council's spending plans continue to promote the Council's priorities in line with the new Corporate Strategy (Section 9.2) despite savings made. The significant investment in the social care market helps sustain local provision of social care beds and support.
8. What new savings is the Council planning to make in 23/24?	The budget includes £1.735m of service savings (Section 9.3 and Appendix 5) including using ring fenced reserves to subsidise some current costs.

Key questions	Status
9. What pressures is the Council facing in 23/24?	The Council continues to experience pressure on its base budget of £5.4m (Section 9.3 and Appendix 5) plus the pay award pressure of £743k.
10. What choice does the Council have over the level of Council tax?	The Council can choose to raise council tax up to a maximum of 4.99% (including 2% for social care). Whilst Members do have a choice, not embracing a 4.99% increase would be extremely damaging to the point that the Councils' future would be dependent on outside factors such as extra Government funding (section 8).
<i>Statutory and constitutional requirements (Section 18)</i>	
11. Overall Position – Is the Council on track to meet its constitutional and statutory requirements?	Yes, Section 16 gives more detail.
<i>Consultation (section 16)</i>	
12. What consultation will Council be doing on the draft budget?	Details of consultation is included in Section 14. Consultation will span 3 weeks and include various questions and public meetings in the Council Offices.
<i>Capital (section 12)</i>	
13. Are there any additions/amends to the current capital programme?	There are various additions/deletions to the capital programme as per Section 10.

3.4 Updates since the draft Budget

- 3.4.1 Cabinet approved a draft budget for consultation (Report 02/2023) on 12th January. The final budget includes some technical changes which mean that the budget has been balanced using £6k of General Fund reserves. The paragraphs below provide an update on key issues.
- 3.4.2 Council tax rise – Cabinet has confirmed that following consultation, they will proceed with a 4.99% council tax proposal (2.99% general and 2% for adult social care).
- 3.4.3 Funding settlement – the Final Settlement has been tabled in Parliament and there were no changes to the quantum or distribution of the Settlement that impacted on Rutland.

- 3.4.4 Business Rates - the Council has completed its NNDR1 return and business rates estimates to Government. This has had no impact on the Council's financial projections for business rates for 23/24 but does involve some technical adjustments (more detail is given in 10.4).
- 3.4.5 Levelling up fund - £23m of capital funding has been awarded to the Council and Melton Borough Council to help boost the local economy and improve connectivity following a successful joint bid for the Government's Levelling Up Fund. A detailed report will be presented in March. The award is not believed to have an impact on the Council's revenue budget.
- 3.4.6 22/23 budget monitoring - the Council formally reported the position on the budget for 22/23 at Cabinet in January. It is likely that the provisional forecast will largely be in line with that previously declared, however there is likely to swings between functions with some areas spending less and some areas spending more. Should further underspends arise then this would be positive in so far as some one off investment in technology and other areas may be required to enable transformation of services. The following issues are being tracked and may impact 23/24 but no changes are proposed at this stage:
- a) Commissioned transport – demand continues to rise with 14 new SEN contracts and additional Taxi contracts required for home to school children not covered by main bus route has resulted in the projected outturn increasing by £350k;
 - b) Investment income – this will be better than reported by c£100k as cash balances retained remain higher than predicted with capital and other expenditure being lower and rates continuing to increase;
 - c) Staffing – the Council continues to see turnover and delays in recruitment mean that vacancy savings will increase by at least £80k from that projected at Period 8;
 - d) Repairs – spending on repair works on buildings is progressing slower than expected as only essential works are carried out and some works proving slower to commission;
 - e) Waste management – Council continues to benefit from lower gate fees and forecast has not moved;
 - f) Children's Services – Costs of some placements have moved but the overall position has not changed;
 - g) Adult Social Care – the amount of income from self funders for residential care has increased by c£120k.
- 3.4.7 Pay settlement 23/24 – this is still under negotiation for 23/24. The essence of the pay claim is RPI + 2% which is way beyond the 4% included in the budget.
- 3.4.8 Early Years - the Early Years funding rates have been confirmed with £5.63 for 2 year old provision and £4.64 for 3 and 4 year olds, see section 12.

- 3.4.9 Public health – the grant has not yet been confirmed.
- 3.4.10 Consultation responses – these are included in Section 13 with the full response to the budget survey given in Appendix 8.
- 3.4.11 Appendices – Members should note that the main Appendices have not changed.

4 FUNDING OUTLOOK

4.1 Medium Term Financial Plan


- 4.1.1 The Council produces a Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) which covers a five year period. It is a forward looking document which provides a financial picture over the next five years (in this case 2023/24 to 2027/28). The MTFP sets out the forecast spending profile of the Council and estimates the level of resources it will have available over the next 5 years. This enables the Council to forecast an annual surplus/deficit and assess whether its spending plans are affordable.
- 4.1.2 The MTFP is updated on an ad hoc basis to respond to changes in the local financial environment, government announcements and the results of budget monitoring but it is formally updated to fit in with the annual budget cycle. The MTFP provides a comprehensive picture of national influences on the Council's budget, local spending influences and priorities, as well as revenue and capital financial projections. Underlying risks together with a view of potential longer-term financial issues are also considered.
- 4.1.3 The MTFP can be used to model different assumptions and changes. Some of the possible impacts of changes are discussed in the section on Risk/Uncertainties.
- 4.1.4 The MTFP moves over time as assumptions change. The last detailed MTFP was produced at the Mid-Year report. Since that time figures and assumptions have legitimately moved – some have made the position worse, some better. Key events triggering change include the 22/23 pay settlement, local government finance settlement, approval of FSS and savings target, interest rate movements and service pressures. We were predicting negative balances of £9.049m by 27/28 and the latest MTFP shows a balance of £10.897m as shown in the table below.
- 4.1.5 For example, increasing the council tax assumption from 3% to 4.99% for the life of the MTFP gives an additional £13m. Delivering £4m of transformation savings by 27/28 gives a total amount saved of £10.1m over the MTFP period.

Projected Balance Mid-Year Report for 27/28	£000 9,049
Council Tax changes – 3% to 4.99%	(13,273)
Interest receivable – increases due to base rate changes	(3,480)

Pay Award changes – assumption changed from 2% to 4% in 23/24 and 3% in 24/25 and reflects 22/23 award settled after the mid-year	6,055
Pressures	17,606
Savings 23/24 – the 5 year benefit of £1.7m saved in 23/24	(7,490)
Transformation savings – delivery of £4m	(10,182)
Government funding	(9,900)
Additional Transfer to Reserve	900
Other Minor Movements	(182)
Balance for Budget Setting 27/28	(10,897)

- 4.1.6 A summary of the MTFP is shown overleaf with a summary of the different elements that influence it. More information is included on each.

5 YEAR MTFP (23/24 – 27/28)						
		23/24	24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28
General Fund	Opening value of General Fund Balances* (provisional subject to 22/23 outturn)	(14,611)	(13,172)	(11,791)	(11,310)	(11,045)
Net Service expenditure	Service expenditure, borrowing costs and contingencies	46,549	50,645	53,215	55,733	58,474
Less: Additional Savings	Additional savings to achieve the FSS	0	(1,485)	(1,820)	(2,877)	(4,000)
Equals: Net Expenditure		46,549	49,160	51,395	52,856	54,474
Less: Government funding	Social care grants, Share of Business rates, Other grants	(13,698)	(13,896)	(15,086)	(14,708)	(14,273)
Less: Council tax	Council tax	(32,074)	(33,882)	(35,828)	(37,883)	(40,054)
Less: Earmarked reserves	Use of set aside funds to offset expenditure	(188)	0	0	0	0
Equals: (Surplus)/deficit	Deficit means Council is not living within its means	589	1,381	482	265	148
Add: Transfer to Reserves	Additional transfer to reserves (see 7.1.4)	900	0	0	0	0
General Fund	Closing value of General Fund Balances	(13,172)	(11,791)	(11,310)	(11,045)	(10,900)



Local Government Settlement (4.2) - The Government funding settlement and value of other Government grants drive Government funding figures.	Risk/uncertainties (5) - Issues that can influence the level of income, expenditure and funding but not all are built into MTFP e.g. Council receives extra funding.	Reserves (7) - Planned use of earmarked reserves sustain expenditure and offset costs.
Assumptions (4.3) - Variables built into MTFP that influence the level of income, expenditure and funding. Some are known and some are not.	Savings (6) – Savings reduce expenditure or increase income.	Council Tax (8) - Assumed increases in Council Tax impact the future level of funding. The Government maximum limit is 4.99%.

4.2 COMPREHENSIVE SPENDING REVIEW AND FUNDING SETTLEMENT

Local Government Finance Settlement 23/24

- 4.2.1 The Chancellor announced the Autumn Statement (AS) on 17 November 2022 and The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) has also published its updated forecasts. After the economic and fiscal turmoil of the last year, the Chancellor had the job of both calming nerves (in the market and the wider economy) and producing budget plans that are politically and economically credible.
- 4.2.2 On these terms, the Autumn Statement (AS) was successful. It provided a credible plan for the short term, and guidelines for the medium term beyond 2025.²⁶ There are no detailed spending plans for the medium term – it is hoped that the economy will improve faster than forecast.
- 4.2.3 A lower growth rate for Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the driving factor behind the UK's worsening economic prospects. In March 2022, the OBR forecast that the UK would recover from the economic impact of the pandemic, and then continue to grow at around 1.7% per year from 2023 onwards.
- 4.2.4 Things have worsened sharply since then. The Bank of England forecast in its November Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) report that the economy will contract by 0.75% in the second half of 2022, and then continue to fall during 2023 and into the first half of 2024. The spike in inflation is behind the cost-of-living crisis (higher energy prices) and the increase in debt interest payments (increase in interest rates).
- 4.2.5 The Chancellor has responded to the worsening economic position by announcing very significant fiscal tightening. In doing this, his objective is both to bring the public finances under control and to demonstrate fiscal competence. Part of achieving this is to show that the fiscal plans are credible. Previously, the Government's fiscal mandate was "to reduce underlying debt as a percentage of GDP in the medium term". There was also a supplementary target that "require[d] current spending to be sustainably funded through tax revenues". The new rules require debt to be falling as a percentage of GDP by 2027/28 (year-5 of the fiscal plan), with a supplementary target that public sector borrowing must be under 3% of GDP.
- 4.2.6 The new rules allowed no change in departmental spending plans for the remainder of SR21 (2023/24 and 2024/25) but with new funding announced for social care alongside additional council tax flexibility, local government was expecting a growth in Core Spending power.
- 4.2.7 As expected, core spending power in England has increased to £59.544bn in 23/24 compared to £54.540bn in 22/23, a 9.18% increase. Overall, the picture for Rutland is slightly worse with core spending power at £41.06m compared to £38.33m in 21/22, an increase of 7%. There are two important comparative points to note in the Settlement:
- In 23/24 nationally 57% of CSP comes from council tax. In 23/24 78% of Rutland's spending power comes from Council tax, significantly higher than the national average;

- The average increase in CSP is 9.16% whereas in Rutland it is 7%. Councils with higher levels of deprivation have received over 11%;
- The average CSP per dwelling is £2,360 whereas in Rutland it is £2,298.

4.2.8 Whilst this figure is used for comparative purposes, most Council's (including Rutland) have more available resources because of miscellaneous grants and additional business rates income (spending power assumes Councils achieve their business rates baseline level but which most Councils keep more because of growth). This factor can distort spending power analysis.

Overall funding available since 19/20

	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24
RSG	0	0	0	0	0
Transitional Grant	0	0	0	0	0
Rural Service Delivery Grants	0.849	0.849	0.890	0.890	0.995
Core government funding	0.89	0.89	0.890	0.890	0.995
Misc grants (2)	0.875	1.039	0.964	1.679	2.632
New Homes Bonus (3)	1.148	0.966	0.518	0.461	0.007
Better Care Fund (4)	2.215	2.330	2.705	2.712	2.794
Business rates (5)	5.244	5.532	5.638	3.462	7.269
Total government funding	10.372	10.757	10.715	9.204	13.697
<i>Council tax (inc collection fund and adult social care precept)</i>	<i>26.496</i>	<i>27.863</i>	<i>28.426</i>	<i>30.451</i>	<i>32.073</i>
Total resources available	36.868	38.620	39.141	39.655	45.770
Use of Council earmarked reserves	(0.384)	(0.292)	(1.288)	(2.683)	(0.589)

4.2.9 **Adult social care grants.** The Autumn Statement (AS22) announced a large increase in funding for social care via three separate grant streams (on top of the existing social care grant), all of which are within Core Spending Power:

- Adult social care grant of £1.792m in 23/24 and we estimate £2.048m in 24/25.
- Funding for the ASC charging reforms will be re-purposed to fund ongoing pressures (£317k in 2023/24, and we estimate £478k in 2024/25).
- Better Care Fund (local government's 50% share is £300m in 2023/24 and £500m in 2024/25) of which we expect c£300k and £500k
- Ringfenced grant "to support capacity and discharges". This is £31k for Rutland.

4.2.10 The Independent Living Fund grant of £60k is being rolled into the Social Care Grant so will no longer be received separately.

4.2.11 The Council tax principles allow a 2.99% increase in core **council tax** plus a further 2% increase in the Adult Social Care precept. There is no option to defer the precept increase to future years. The decision around Council tax is discussed

further in Section 8.

- 4.2.12 The decision to freeze the **business rates** multiplier will be fully funded, and, from 23/24 onwards, compensation to authorities for under-indexation would be paid based on Consumer Price Index (CPI). The Government have undertaken a Business Rates revaluation which is aimed at being cost neutral and based on our business rates submission for 23/24 this appears to be the case.
- 4.2.13 In 23/24 the Council will benefit from an **additional £1.1m arising from a reduction in business rate appeals**. The Council provides for losses arising from businesses appealing their rates payments to the Valuation Office Agency. If businesses do not win or claims are withdrawn then the Council can release funding set aside. Around 11 claims have led to zero losses and other claims in the pipeline have not materialised. The release of the provision is a one off. This is included in the Business rate figures.
- 4.2.14 **Rural Services Delivery Grant (RSDG)** has increased from £890k to £995k.
- 4.2.15 The Council will receive £7k in **New Homes Bonus**.
- 4.2.16 **Services Grant** has reduced from £822m in 2022/23 to £464m in 2023/24, a reduction of £358m. The reduction includes removal of funding for the National Insurance Contribution increase (estimated at about £200m) and the funding increase for Supporting Families (£40m). Rutland is receiving £180k compared to £307k in 22/23.
- 4.2.17 The new **3% Funding Guarantee** replaces the “floor” element within the Lower Tier Services Grant. It ensures that no Council has a CSP increase of less than 3% without having to increase their Band D council tax. Rutland is receiving £9k.
- 4.2.18 **Public health** grant is outside CSP and is announced separately from the settlement itself, usually in the New Year. Our MTFP model assumes no increase in 2023/24.
- 4.2.19 The Council will also receive **£33k for additional Council tax support payments** for those in greatest need.

4.3 MTFP assumptions

- 4.3.1 The Policy Statement gave local authorities advanced notice of the principles that ministers would use in both the 2023/24 and 2024/25 local government finance settlements. There have been no changes in these principles in the funding settlement.
- 4.3.2 There is still some uncertainty for 2024/25, so this is not a fixed two-year settlement. We do not yet know the future of NHB, or the council tax base for 2024/25. More importantly, we do not yet know the level of inflation next September (it is expected to be around 7.5%), and whether ministers will decide to freeze the multiplier again. Therefore, we have estimated figures for the 2024/25 settlement but assumed that a 3% funding guarantee for CSP (before Council tax increases) is maintained.
- 4.3.3 As explained in Section 4, beyond 24/25 the Government funding position is still

unknown. The Government announced its intention to reform the funding regime, business rates retention and New Homes Bonus over four years ago and these reviews are still outstanding.

4.3.4 In the context of the current economic position, the Council has refreshed its assumptions about future funding.

Assumption	Description	23/24	Beyond
Pension contribution rates	Employer rates set by Pension Fund.	Lump Sum increased by £130k as per triannual review. Rate is 27.8% (up by 1%)	Rate fixed for 3 years.
Inflation	Assumed rates of inflation with the MTFP	Inflation rates amended based on latest information. Social Care rates increased to reflect outcome of Fair Cost of Care work (see Appendix 5, Ref P11) General Inflation 2% Other changes set out in Appendix 5	Same as 23/24
Interest rates	The rate at which the Council can invest surplus funds	Interest rates in the range of 3 – 5% for next 18 months.	Assume in 25/26 that rates drop to around 2%
Contingencies	Contingencies within the MTFP	The Council has a demand led contingency reduced to 0.5% (from 1%) of Net Cost of Services	Approx 1 % from 24/25
Staff pay award	Pay award for Chief Officers and other staff negotiated nationally.	Set at 4% for 23/24 only	3% in 24/25 and then 2%
Social care grant	Specific grants given by Government	As per local government draft	24/25 - see 4.2.10

Assumption	Description	23/24	Beyond
		financial settlement	25/26 - See 4.3.5 below
Rural Delivery grant	Grant for rural authorities	As per local government draft financial settlement	24/25 – as 23/24 25/26 See 4.3.5 below
Council tax base	Number of Band D properties	Taxbase estimated at 15,916.6 for 23/24	Growth set at 140 properties per annum approx. equivalent to 115 Band D properties
Council tax rate	Rate set by elected members	4.99% (with 2% for social care) as advised by the Executive	4.99%
Misc grants	Ad hoc grants	Assumed some grants will continue at the same rates unless known	See 4.3.5
Business Rates	Amount of funding Rutland is allowed to keep (its baseline) by Government from rates collected	Assume rates baseline continues as is (limited growth).	24/25 – in line with expected increase in funding as per 23/24 settlement 25/26 - See 4.3.5
Better Care Fund	Ringfenced funding shared with the CCG	As per Settlement	24/25 – as per 4.2.10 25/26 – no change

- 4.3.5 The issue of Government funding beyond 24/25 is difficult to gauge. There is a renewed commitment from the Government to implement fundamental funding reform in the near term. This is going to be after the next General Election, though, and possibly even under a different government. Changes in funding reform could then be very different than those that have been proposed by recent governments in recent years.
- 4.3.6 The Chancellor has stated that fiscal tightening is heavily back-loaded, with the vast bulk spending cuts in particular penciled in for after April 2025. This suggests that growth will be nearer 1%. Notwithstanding these comments, there are commentators suggesting that even without an injection of Government funding

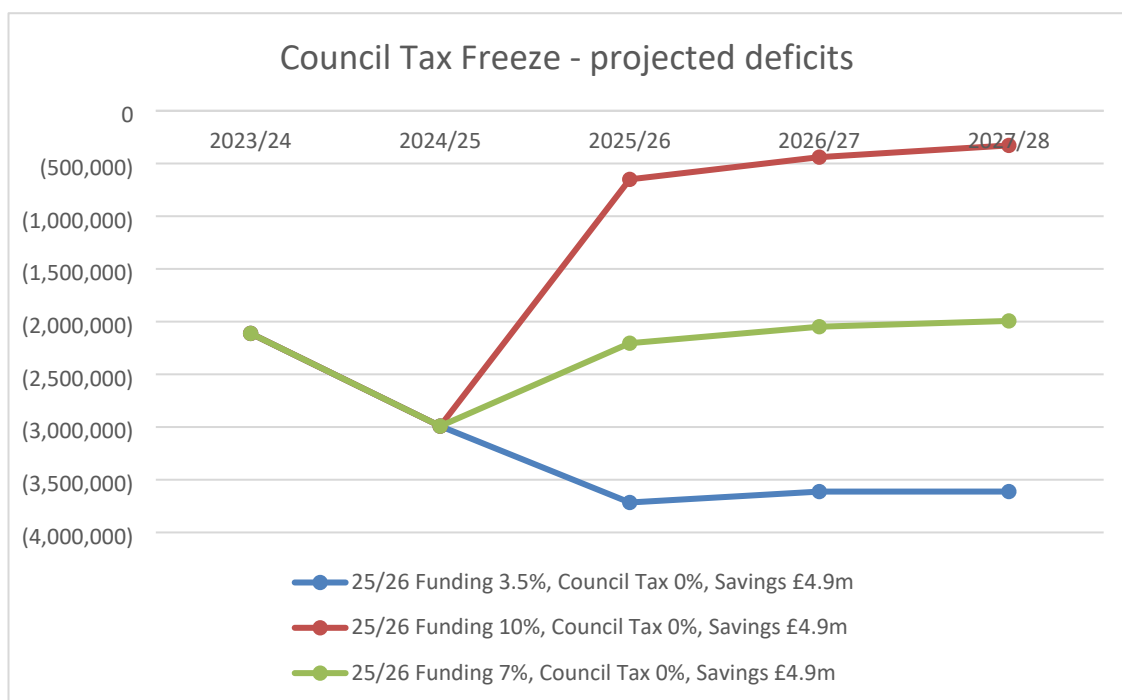
into the local government system, the implementation of Fair Funding will see a redistribution of funding from lower tier to upper tier Councils. This could see the Council receive up to £3m in additional funding but could also result in no additional funding depending on the method of redistribution. Should additional funding be received, then it may come with conditions or new responsibilities such as the implementation of the care cap.

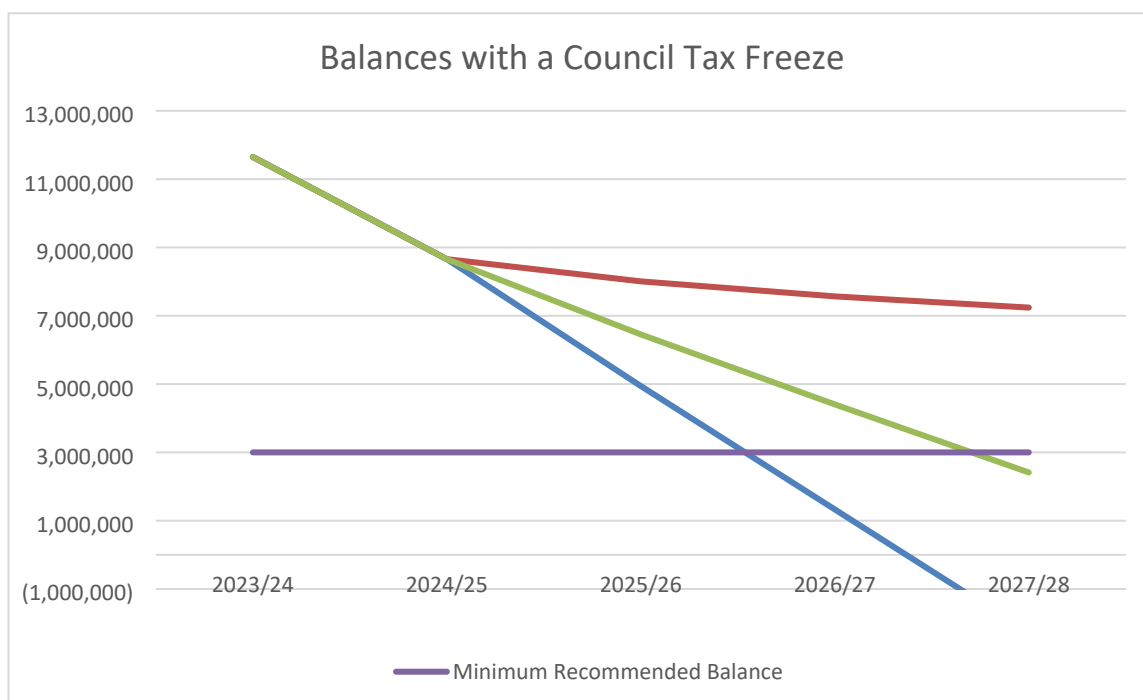
- 4.3.7 In short, speculating beyond 24/25 is difficult and assuming a significant increase in funding is wishful thinking and dangerous in the context of the current economic and political environment. For now, the Council has assumed a 7% increase in overall funding for 25/26 (represented by a Fair Funding Redistribution line on the MTFP) but with the assumption that the delayed care cap reforms will be implemented and will be c80% funded.

4.4 Alternative Scenarios

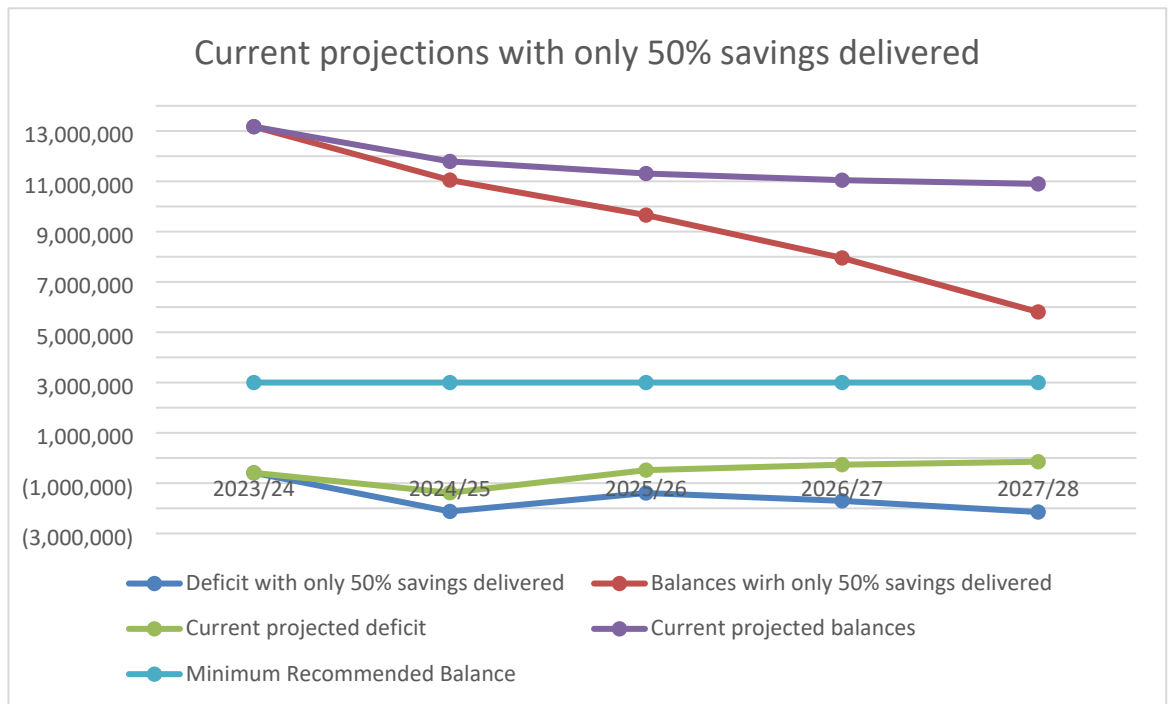
- 4.4.1 The MTFP sets out what we consider to be the most likely scenario but there are other alternatives revolving around three key variables: council tax rates, funding and savings/expenditure.

- 4.4.2 **Alternative Council tax rates** – applying a 4.99% increase will give the Council the most tax yield (see Section 8). Applying a lower rate in 23/24 increases the financial gap (1% represents c£305k in income so a freeze over 4.99% would give £1.5m less income in 23/24 and a total of over £8.5m over life of the MTFP) and requires more savings to be made (see below) or gambles on the Council receiving more funding in years to come.

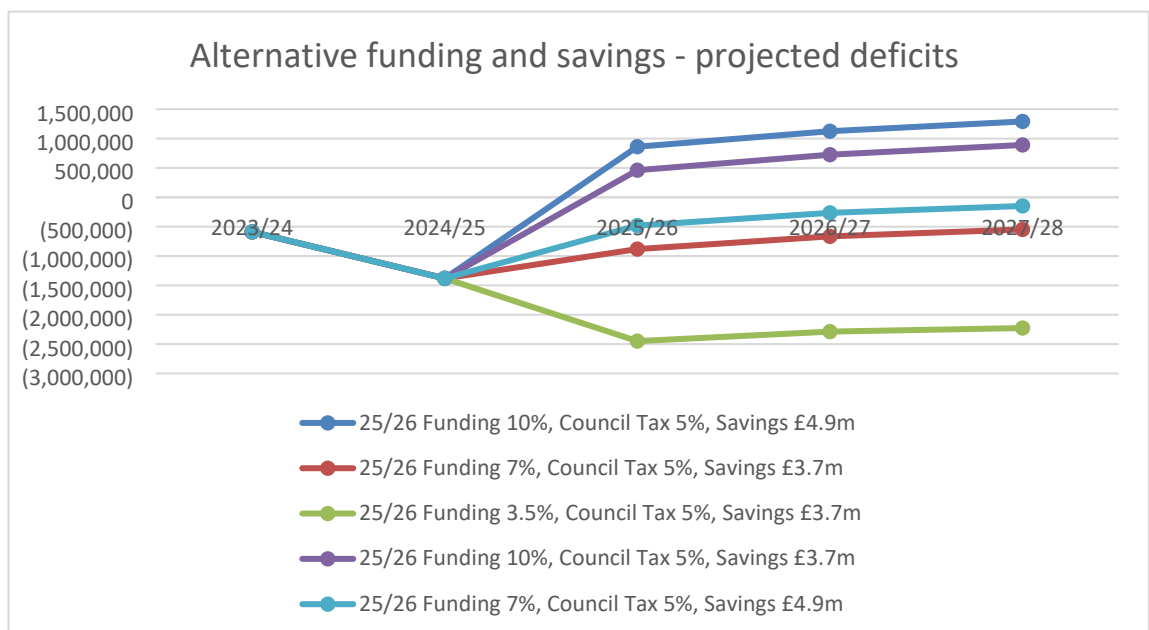


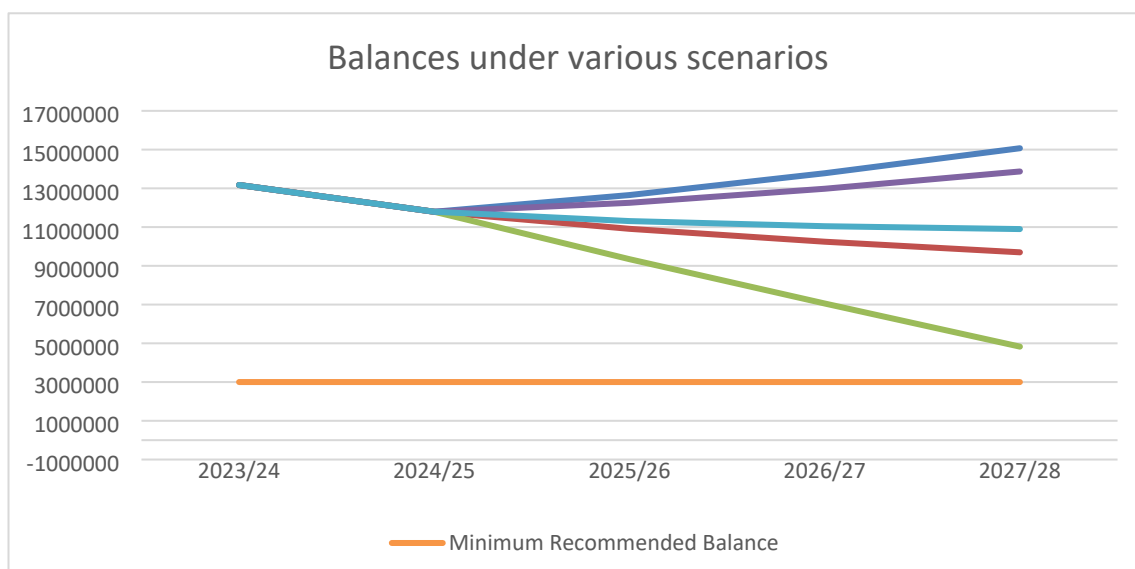


- 4.4.3 The above graph shows the position. A freeze and a low funding Settlement in 25/26 (of 3%) would see the Council with a deficit of over £3.6m (blue line) and would see balances reduce to below £0. If the Council decided to freeze council tax then it would hope for the best funding settlement in 25/26 (10%, red line). With a Settlement of this magnitude and delivery of an additional £4m savings (on top of what has been achieved in 23/24), the Council would still have a deficit of over £300k but balances of £8m. The risks associated with this option cannot be understated.
- 4.4.4 **Increasing the savings targets** – the MTFP includes a £4.9m savings target (£4m still to deliver). This is ambitious because the Council has already made substantial savings in previous years. In reality, out of a net budget of £46m, we would estimate that only £20m-£22m of the budget is controllable (some costs we simply cannot stop) hence a £4.9m saving target is challenging and represents around 25% of the controllable budget. Assuming that a bigger savings target could “fund” lower Council Tax rises is bordering on reckless. The Council would need to undertake due diligence to ensure any increased target is realistic.
- 4.4.5 More importantly, the target of £4m can only be achieved if Members support savings proposals – this is by no means guaranteed and under delivery of the target will have a significant impact. The table below shows the risk the Council runs if only 50% of the savings target is achieved. In this scenario, the Council would still be running a deficit of over £2m and balances would have reduced to c£5m.



4.4.6 Funding – funding for 24/25 is more or less certain but beyond that we are entering unknown territory (as per 4.3.5). The best thing financially would be to raise Council Tax now and then should additional funding be provided, reduce council tax increase in later years knowing that funding is certain. The graphs below illustrate the point.





4.4.7 A redistribution of funding to the level set out in 4.3.6 would at best give the Council future choices around council tax and the level of savings to be made. It does not allow the Council the luxury of “do nothing now and the problem goes away in a couple of years”. It is the combination of 10% increased funding and savings that would clear the Council’s deficit. The green line represents the worst scenario (failure to achieve £4.9m savings by £1.2m and a 3% funding increase in 25/26) but even in this case balances would remain above £3m if Council Tax is levied at 4.99% which would give the Council a chance to remedy the £2m deficit that would exist.

4.5 Funding outlook summary

4.5.1 With the MTFP updated for the Settlement, budget proposals for 23/24 and other assumptions, the overall position is clear – a 4.99% council tax rise would leave the Council a 23/24 subsidy of £0.589m, a subsidy of c£1.4m in 24/25 which then falls to £147k after assuming the Councils saves £4.9m by 27/28. Even with the savings programme delivered in full and maximum Council tax rises, the Council will not achieve its two Corporate Strategy priorities during the period of the plan unless something else happens e.g. extra funding is received, demand reduces etc. The scenarios in 4.4 show that in the context of significant uncertainty, the Council’s best chance for financial sustainability is to continue with its savings programme and raise Council Tax to the maximum.

	23/24	24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28
Priority 1:	x	x	x	x	x
Living within our means					
Priority 2:	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Balances above £3m					

5 RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

5.1 While the MTFP includes various assumptions, there are a number of inherent risks associated with these assumptions and a range of other factors that could impact on funding and spending that are outside of the Council's control (these are covered below).

	Issue/risk	Impact/ Action to mitigate risk
1	<p>The Council has received a 1 year financial settlement. Future funding is difficult to predict (see section 4.1 and 4.4.) as it is not clear as to how the Government will implement Fair Funding or Business Rates Retention which we expect to happen in 25/26 following the next General Election.</p> <p>Funding allocation methods are also critical. For example, using the relative needs formula for Adults would see the Council receiving £3m more than it would under the current system which part equalises funding for those with high taxbases.</p>	<p>MTFP assumes some redistribution and a 7% increase in funding from 25/26 followed by increases of 3.3%.</p> <p>The Council will continue to lobby for additional funding and respond to future calls for evidence.</p>
2	<p>The Government has indicated that 4.99% will be the maximum Council tax rises permitted without the need for a referendum.</p>	<p>MTFP assumes 4.99% tax rises from 23/24.</p> <p>The Council will lobby for additional Government funding rather than Council tax rises to minimise the local tax burden.</p>
3	<p>The social care cap of £86,000 as part of adult social care reforms has now been deferred and will be implemented from 1 October 2025.</p> <p>Despite work done to date, there are significant unknowns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of people who will come forward for a care assessment; • The number of those coming forward who will be eligible for care; • The size of any care package required and the amount of financial contribution those people may require; 	<p>The Council has a working scenario that assumes the reforms are implemented in 2025, and costs are 80% funded.</p>

	Issue/risk	Impact/ Action to mitigate risk
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How quickly people may reach the care cap meaning the Council picks up the full cost of care; • How much resource the Council will need to meet demand; and • Whether the reforms will be fully funded. <p>It is far too early for the Council, any Council for that matter, to assess with certainty what the costs might be or whether the Council will be fully funded. Previous analysis done in the sector suggested that the Government had underestimated costs by £10 billion.</p>	
4	<p>The Better Care Fund continues into 23/24 with additional investment of £600m in 23/24 and £1bn in 24/25.</p>	<p>The MTFP includes an additional £300k in 23/24 and £500k in 24/25. As this funding is likely to come with conditions, it assumes it will be used to fund new expenditure rather than subsidise current costs.</p>
5	<p>Schools funding (Dedicated Schools Grant) is outside of the General Fund and is ring fenced.</p> <p>The Council is carrying a deficit on the DSG, estimated by 2023 to reach £1.3m, caused by High Needs pressures which it aims to recover over time.</p> <p>In statute, the Council is not required to fund this deficit and an override continues until 25/26. It is not clear what happens beyond that date.</p> <p>The Council has joined the Delivering Better Value programme organised by the DfE which will provide support to the Council to tackle the issue of SEN demand and how to fund it.</p>	<p>The Council has set aside a reserve to cover the costs of the deficit and has no plans to change its position despite the existence of the override as it is not permanent.</p> <p>As the reserve balances is only £1m, it is proposed to increase this by £300k to meet the current deficit level.</p>

	Issue/risk	Impact/ Action to mitigate risk
	The Council will be able to access £1m of grant funding to help implement a DBV action plan.	
6	<p>Council tax is the largest single source of revenue for Rutland. The amount raised in future years will depend both on how the tax base evolves and on the scale of any increases in the tax rate.</p> <p>The tax base has grown by 117 which is broadly as expected. There have been no major changes in discounts, exemptions, new homes or the collection rate.</p>	The MTFP assumes net tax base growth of c115 Band D properties in line with the assumptions set out opposite.
7	<p>The Council voted in September 2021 to restart its Local Plan process and set aside c£1.4m to fund this which was topped up to £1.7m at Outturn.</p> <p>The latest information is that costs are estimated at £2.3m (covering costs of a new Local Plan and extra costs from operating without one). Additional planning income above that budgeted will reduce this cost.</p>	<p>The Council has a ringfenced reserve set aside for the Local Plan. If this is not sufficient then additional funding would have to be drawn down.</p> <p>Cabinet is proposing that £300k is set aside to top up the Local Plan reserve whilst the budget is reviewed.</p>
8	<p>Pay inflation rate for 23/24 is not finalised.</p> <p>The Council normally assumes a 2% increase but in the current economic climate and based on the 22/23 settlement, the budget assumes 4% in line with most other Councils.</p> <p>The pay settlement is not expected to be concluded before the end of the 22/23 financial year.</p>	The MTFP has provided for 4% in 23/24, 3% in 24/25 and reverts back to the normal 2% assumption for 25/26 onwards.
9	The Government target is to keep inflation below 2%. Inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was 9.3% (November 2022).	The Council has amended inflation rates in the MTFP to reflect increases in energy costs and contract price changes. The costs

	Issue/risk	Impact/ Action to mitigate risk
	The Council has seen the impact of inflation as it has extended and renewed contracts. Contract extensions have led to increased costs. In various other markets, energy costs and recruitment and retention issues have pushed up prices.	are shown in individual budgets.
10	<p>Interest rates have increased in 2022 from 0.25% to 3.5% and are expected to rise again to as much as 5% increasing the Council's ability to earn investment income and the potential to repay long term debt earlier.</p> <p>The Bank of England uses the base rate to influence how much people spend and as a consequence, keep inflation rates in line with the Government target of 2%.</p>	<p>Advice from our Treasury advisors is factored into investment returns expectations which have been increased to over £1.6m.</p> <p>Regular review of the debt position and consideration of the balance between investing surplus cash and using it to repay long term debt.</p>
11	<p>Capital financing costs have been estimated based on current spending plans.</p> <p>Corporate analysis of existing and potential new projects indicates that no further external borrowing is expected at this stage. However, the Council is in the middle of an asset review and will need to consider plans when this is completed.</p> <p>The Capital Investment Strategy highlights the need for a long term (10 year) capital plan. This could require further borrowing. For now, Cabinet has set out priorities for funding held (Report 197/2022) but it is possible that the Council may need to generate additional funding (borrowing, capital receipts) to meet needs. For example, a business case for infrastructure requirements for waste management (that could create revenue savings) may require capital investment beyond available resources.</p>	<p>The Council will aim to minimise borrowing unless there is an Invest to Save rationale.</p> <p>All other proposals for investment will be judged on their individual merits.</p>
12	The Government reform agenda continues and can have an impact on	Care cap reform costs are built into the MTFP from

	Issue/risk	Impact/ Action to mitigate risk
	<p>the Council's work and budget:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care cap reforms – deferred to October 2025 • The Schools Bill – has now been dropped • Elections Act 2022 – this has been passed but regulations are awaited as to how we implement voter ID • Environment Act 2021 – this has been passed but regulations are awaited which will cover green waste charging and food waste collections. <p>Regulations will determine how legislation should be implemented and the advent of new burdens funding will tell us whether we will have to bear any cost.</p>	<p>2025/26 assuming they are 80% funded.</p> <p>There is still some uncertainty around whether the Council will be able to charge for Green Waste, at present the Council have assumed that charging will be allowed</p> <p>It is assumed Food Waste collection will come in from 25/26 and be funded.</p>
13	<p>The Council has completed its condition survey work and has begun a £565k project to fund major essential works. This is a core part of its work on Asset Management.</p> <p>A Corporate Asset Programme has now begun with the plan to produce outline business cases for each Primary Key Asset. Focus will be on Catmose due to changes in the way we are working and Oakham Enterprise Park as the single-largest asset.</p>	<p>The capital programme includes a capital project.</p> <p>Future capital works and needs will be driven by the outcome of business case work. Capital funds and reserves are available but adequacy will depend on the extent of the long term programme.</p>
14	<p>Ash dieback, sometimes known as 'Chalara', affects ash and other species of trees and is caused by a fungal pathogen.</p> <p>The management of Ash dieback was identified in the MTFP as a future potential financial development/pressure but figures are unknown and no expenditure has been incurred to date.</p>	<p>The Council is proposing to remove its £500k earmarked reserves to fund ongoing work as no costs have been incurred to date.</p> <p>Any future costs will be picked up by the General Fund.</p>
15	<p>Businesses can appeal to the VOA about the amount of rates they pay. If their RV is reduced on appeal (NB: appeals can be backdated for years)</p>	<p>As explained in 4.2.13 the Council has now released its provision as claims have not led to losses.</p>

	Issue/risk	Impact/ Action to mitigate risk
	<p>then the Council will not only lose income but will have to refund businesses for any “overpayments” they have made.</p> <p>To mitigate this risk, the Council has a provision for appeals and losses. The amount set aside represents each Council’s estimate of the sums that may ultimately be repaid to ratepayers. Setting the provision is not straightforward but relies on the various types of information and judgements (and is subject to external audit).</p> <p>The dilemma for the Council is about the level at which to set its provision. If it is too low then the Council may incur costs in the future. If it is too high then the Council could reduce its income in the short term.</p>	<p>A new rating list has been produced for 2023 and the Council will continue to provide for losses.</p>
16	<p>The Council, like many others, is experiencing issues in respect of recruitment and retention.</p> <p>There are a number of challenges contributing to this including the lasting impact of the pandemic (, agile working which makes jobs further afield more accessible to staff, pay rates which are moving upwards as authorities will pay more to retain staff and uncertainty in the sector generally which makes the public sector less attractive for private sector candidates.</p>	<p>Review of recruitment and retention has been completed.</p> <p>Pay levels are reviewed to try and maintain competitiveness.</p> <p>The Council is recruiting for two Director positions and appointments are to be confirmed.</p>
17	<p>The Council has undertaken a review of the County’s leisure and wellbeing needs and has recently tendered for a contractor to run dry side provision at Catmose at zero cost to the Council.</p> <p>The Council has not secured any viable bids with suppliers unwilling to take the risk of rising energy costs.</p>	<p>The MTFP allows for £300k to meet the potential costs of either ceasing provision or continuing at cost.</p>

	Issue/risk	Impact/ Action to mitigate risk
	The Council is now assessing its position but it could mean that public leisure provision may close. As the Council has a lease with Catmose College and facilities were funded with external grant, there may be financial implication of any decision to close.	

6 SAVINGS: DELIVERING FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

6.1 Objective and priorities

6.1.1 The Council has approved a FSS which it is implementing. The strategy is geared around the two objectives set out in 3.2 and is built around three principles:

- raising council tax to maximise yield – this is our biggest income source;
- delivering a transformation programme and an “affordable service offer” and any other savings required; and
- using up to £2m of reserves to subsidise the budget to allow savings to be delivered. The savings per the FSS are set out below.

	23/24	24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28
Total recurring savings required (per FSS)	0.800m	2.443m	2.778m	3.835m	6.989m
Delivered in 23/24 inc one off savings	1.593m	0.958m	0.958m	0.958m	0.958m
New savings required (per MTFP)	0.800m	1.485m	0.335m	1.057m	1.123m
Cumulative to be delivered (per MTFP)	-	1.485m	1.820m	2.877m	4.000m
NB: The MTFP includes recurring savings of £4.958m which is less than the £6.989m originally envisaged but is based on the current programme and acknowledges that the 25/26 funding position is uncertain.					

6.2 Transformation programme

6.2.1 The Chief Executive and Corporate Leadership Team are leading the Transformation programme. From our work to date and conversations thus far with our Transformation Partner, it is clear that any plan will have to achieve two things:

- i) transform the way we deliver so that we reduce waste and maximise efficiency, and we get maximum value for our spend. Our Transformation work will allow us to develop an operating model that achieves this. But, the notion that a change of operating model will in itself will deliver the extent of savings required is unrealistic with the vast majority of savings expected from moving to an “affordable service” offer (we call this our strategic portfolio).
- ii) delivers a smaller but functional Council that spends less on its strategic portfolio whilst protecting the most vulnerable and enabling the community to do more for itself.

6.2.2 The Council has included savings targets in the MTFP and is working on the following workstreams:

Area	Mission statement
Operating Framework	To design a new operating framework that makes decision making lean and strips out unnecessary bureaucracy making it easier to deliver services for customers.
Customer	We will simplify access to customer services and look for opportunities to enhance customers lives and lived experience by reviewing how customer access works and our model for customer services.
Community Offer	To have an integrated all-age community offer including the Voluntary Community Sector (VCS) that allows individuals and communities to help themselves, provides preventative support and targeted intervention to prevent escalation of needs.
Commissioning and Contracting	The Council manages fragile marketplaces, effectively supports services to source and secure commercially viable contracts and ensures there are skilled contract managers in place to maximise value from contract arrangements in place.
Digital, Data and Technology	Customers are able to self-serve through online interactions and integrated systems create efficiencies and give better access to data and insight, meaning evidence-led decision making is easier.
Enabling Services	The Council’s support services function is reviewed, with clear consideration given to a centralised or decentralised model for each support function which will maximise the value offered by service delivery units.
Public Realm	To reorganise public realm services, rescale our revenue commitment whilst maintaining a safe public realm and develop a standardised and affordable offer across the County that is clear on the role and remit of the Council and partner organisations and who pays.

Area	Mission statement
Cultural Services	To develop an enabling cultural offer that enhances the visitor economy for reduced financial impact to the Council.
Asset Management	To optimise our estate, reduce cost and maximise revenues.
Special Educational Needs	To identify sustainable changes that can drive high quality outcomes for children and young people with SEND (within their locality) and secure a more efficient and cost effective model.
Integrated Care Organisation	To redesign and integrate health and adult social care services, utilising shared resources to secure a more efficient and cost effective model and one that improves the customer experience.
Transport	To design and implement a demand led public transport model which is sustainable and costs less and drives up passenger use and improves accessibility to services including health and education.

6.2.3 The Council's aim is to progress each workstream with a view to coming up with proposals and options for Members to consider post the May election. At this stage, it should be noted that Members have taken no decision in respect of the future delivery of services other than those reflected in this budget, but Members have acknowledged that all areas of Council business need to be examined.

6.2.4 Savings for 23/24 are included in the budget (Section 9). There is also a target in the MTFP for 24/25. There is work to be done to translate the target for 24/25 into one that is deliverable. By the end of April, the Council should be in a better position as workstream activity will be significantly progressed. **By September 2023 at the latest, the Executive should present detailed proposals (worked up proposals that can be actioned from 1 April 2024) for the achievement of 24/25 savings.**

7 RESERVES

7.1 Our approach

7.1.1 The Council has various reserves as set out below.

Reserve	Description
1.General Fund	General reserve available to fund shortfalls in expenditure or unexpected costs
2.Earmarked Reserves	These reserves are established by Council, they are set up for a specific purpose e.g., health and safety claims. The Council has generally two types: a) reserves set aside in case an event arises e.g.

Reserve	Description
	<p>redundancies; and</p> <p>b) reserves set aside where the Council knows spending will take place but is not sure how much or when e.g. Local Plan reserve. The latter is effectively a ring fenced reserve.</p> <p>In either case, the Council could choose to return the balance on these reserves to the General Fund.</p>
3.Ringfenced reserves	Where the Council receives ring fenced funding, any unspent funds must be held in a reserve and only used for that intended purpose.

7.1.2 For the purposes of its FSS, the Council proposed to use the term non ringfenced reserves to include the General Fund balances plus earmarked reserves that whilst earmarked could in effect be made available to subsidise the budget (those that meet the definition of 2a above).

7.1.3 This classification is helpful as it excludes statutory ringfenced reserves and those such as the Local Plan reserve which are already committed. The use of non ringfenced reserves in the MTFP effectively means that Members know the total amount of funds available to meet any costs outside of the budget.

7.1.4 **The Council will be asked to:**

- **release all balances held in 2a) above as per Appendix 6 back into the General Fund.**
- **set aside an extra £300k for the Local Plan reserve (Section 5, Risk 7);**
- **set aside an extra £300k to cover the SEN deficit (Section 5, Risk 5);**
- **set aside an extra £300k to cover the potential costs from a decision on Leisure provision (Section 5, Risk 17).**

7.1.5 This will give the Council balances (after budget setting) as follows with earmarked reserves constituting those reserves already committed for specific issues e.g. Local Plan costs.

Reserve	£
General Fund	13.173m
Earmarked reserves	4.100m
Ringfenced reserves	1.954m

7.2 The minimum level of reserves required

- 7.2.1 One of the reasons that a budget deficit (plugged by reserves) does not threaten the Council's resilience overnight is that the Council has been prudent over the years and has maintained a healthy reserve level. The total level of reserves relative to council revenue expenditure is relatively high compared to other Councils as per the CIPFA Resilience Index indicating a good degree of financial management.
- 7.2.2 These reserves can be called upon in the short term to balance the budget and meet any additional in year costs. Balancing the budget using reserves is not good practice but is legitimate in the short term alongside a plan to reduce reliance on reserves in the future. The Council's FSS allows for the use of up to £2m of reserves alongside a programme to reduce this usage to £0 by 27/28.
- 7.2.3 It is important to note that in its Local Government Finance Policy Statement, the Government encouraged "local authorities to consider how they can use their reserves to maintain services in the face of immediate inflationary pressures, taking account, of course, of the need to maintain appropriate levels of reserves to support councils' financial sustainability and future investment." The Council's FSS is commensurate with this direction.
- 7.2.4 The current financial position and events like the decision to restart the Local Plan process in 2021 (which calls upon £2m of Reserves) demonstrates the importance of having available funds.
- 7.2.5 The minimum level of reserves is set to take account of:
- strategic, operational and financial risks (see Section 5);
 - key financial assumptions underpinning the budget; and
 - the quality of the Council's financial management arrangements.
- 7.2.6 The Council's minimum reserves target is set at £3m. Presently, the Council's General Fund balances (and useable earmarked reserves) are above the minimum level. As at March 2023, reserve levels are budgeted to be at £13.173m (Appendix 1).
- 7.2.7 A review of the reserves position has been undertaken. **It is my view that the minimum reserve level should be maintained at £3m.** This level is deemed adequate based on professional judgement and a risk assessment taking into account the following factors:
- despite a good savings track record, the Council has work to do to deliver future savings but does have a programme in place being driven by the Chief Executive;
 - there are potential risk and cost pressures as set out in Section 5; and
 - the financial outlook is uncertain.

8 COUNCIL TAX AND COLLECTION FUND

8.1 Council tax – options for 23/24 and the adult social care precept

- 8.1.1 The Government has increased the Council Tax referendum limit to 4.99% for 23/24 (2.99% for main council tax and with 2% for social care). The draft budget proposes to raise Council Tax by the maximum available in light of its financial difficulties.
- 8.1.2 The rationale for applying the 2% Adult Social Care (ASC) precept is that the Council's budget assumes that the rate it will pay for increase to care rates following its fair cost of care work. The budget provides for substantial increases (subject to a report to be presented in February) for residential care, homecare and direct payments. As there are now few providers who will accept the current negotiated rate of £535 for a residential care bed, the Council is required to act to sustain the market – this is also an expectation from Government attached to extra funding.
- 8.1.3 The table below summarises the position for ASC and shows that the pressure on costs is not covered by all the additional funding.

Extra funding (compared to 22/23)		Extra costs (excludes general inflation and pay uplift for social workers and other staff)	
Better Care Fund	£300,000	Demand	£260,000
iBCF	£0	Better Care Fund	£300,000
Fair Cost of Care	£227,000	Fair Cost of Care	£2,000,000
Social care grant	£732,000	Care Cap Reforms	£117,000
Discharge Fund	£31,000		
Precept	£637,000		
Total	£1,927,000	Total	£2,677,000

- 8.1.4 The precept of £637,000 pays for c1,160 weeks of residential care (at the existing negotiated rate) or c35,400 hours of homecare.
- 8.1.5 The table below gives shows the difference between the various options that Members could apply for Council tax as a whole. **The compound impact of any tax rise below the 4.99% maximum is significant. For example, a tax freeze and a loss of £8.5m funding over 5 years would threaten the Council's financial independence.**

Change from 22/23	Council tax rate	23/24 Council tax revenue £m	Loss against maximum yield in 23/24	MTFP Impact (5 years)
4.99%	£2,013.04	£32.043m	N/A	N/A

3.99%	£1,993.86	£31.738m	£0.305m	£1.7m
2.99%	£1,974.69	£31.433m	£0.610m	£3.4m
1.99%	£1,955.52	£31.127m	£0.917m	£5.1m
0.99%	£1,936.34	£30.822m	£1.220m	£6.8m
0%	£1,917.36	£30.518m	£1.525m	£8.5m
NB: The losses over a 5 year period will vary according to a number of factors including growth, council tax support, collection rates, discounts and empty homes.				

8.2 Impact on residents and available support

- 8.2.1 The Council operates a Local Council Tax Support scheme (LCTS) which gives those eligible taxpayers a discount on the amount of Council Tax they are required to pay. The Scheme gives a maximum 75% discount on Council Tax bills for qualifying residents (i.e. those on low incomes who have capital of less than £10,000). This Scheme runs alongside the single person discount so residents living on their own only pay 25% of the value of Council tax for their property.
- 8.2.2 The scheme was originally approved on 7th January 2013 (Report 2/2013). Cabinet reviewed the scheme again on 20th August 2019 (Report 115/2019) and decided to continue with the existing LCTS scheme and to continue to adjust annually for inflation. There are no changes proposed this year.
- 8.2.3 The Council also has a discretionary hardship fund which would allow us to reduce Council tax for the most vulnerable and we have also received £33k from Government to make additional payments for those on low incomes. The Government expects that billing authorities will use its grant allocation to fund further reductions in the council tax liability of individuals receiving LCTS with an outstanding council tax liability, by up to £25. The Government expects councils to deliver this scheme using their discretionary powers under s13A(1)(c) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
- 8.2.4 The table below shows the impact on residents of the Council tax decision.

Impacts	22/23	23/24
<i>On residents</i>		
Council tax per Band D property	£1,917.36	£2,013.04
Weekly cost (Band D)	£36.77	£38.61
Maximum weekly cost for those receiving full council tax support	£9.19	£9.65 (£0 if residents are of pensionable age)
Number of households paying the full charge*	10,025	10,096
Number of households receiving single persons discounts/ council tax support*	6,705	6,715
Council tax support funding available for hardship cases	£20,000	£20,000 plus an additional £33,000 from Government

Impacts	22/23	23/24
NB: The Council offers various support for those on low incomes which can be found at https://www.rutland.gov.uk/my-community/cost-of-living-support .		

8.3 Empty home charges and the long term empty home premium

8.3.1 From 1st April 2013 the Government introduced new powers under the 1992 Act allowing local authorities to reduce the adverse impact of empty homes on communities by permitting Council Tax charges. The discounts (and long term empty home premium) were reviewed by Cabinet on 10th October 2017 (Report 165/2017) and approved by Council on 13th November 2017 as follows:

- The discount for uninhabitable homes was removed and full Council Tax charged from 1st April 2018; and
- The discount for empty homes was removed and full Council Tax charged from 1st April 2018.

8.3.2 The premium for long term empty homes was reviewed by Cabinet on 15th October 2019 (Report 152/2019) and various changes were approved by Council on 20th January 2020, with effect from 1st April 2020 as follows:

- 100% for properties that have been empty for more than two years; and
- 200% for properties that have been empty for more than five years; and
- From 2021/22 onwards, 300% for properties that have been empty for a least ten years.

8.3.3 There are no changes proposed to the above discounts/premiums for this year.

8.4 Council Tax base

8.4.1 The calculation of the Council Tax base is a key variable to setting the basic amount of Council Tax for the Council, parishes and major preceptors. The 2023/24 Council Tax Base was approved by delegation on 6 December 2022. This was calculated as 15,916.6 (Band D equivalents).

8.5 Council tax precepts

8.5.1 The Council acts as an “agent” and is also required to bill residents in the county for a precept on behalf of:

- the Office of the Leicestershire and Rutland Police and Crime Commissioner;
- Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland Combined Fire Authority; and
- Parish and Town Councils.

8.5.2 The Council does not have any control or influence on the amount of precept set by these authorities, nor does it benefit from this financially. For 2023/24 these precepts are:

	22/23 Band D	23/24 Band D	Increase %
Rutland County Council*	£1,917.36	£2,013.04	4.99
Add: Parish Precept (average)	£50.15	£56.03	11.72
Add: Police Commissioner	£258.23	£273.23	5.81
Add: Fire Authority	£74.29	£79.29	6.73
Average Band D**	£2,300.03	£2,421.59	5.29

*includes the adult social care precept of 2%, **rounded to 2 decimal places

8.6 Council Tax resolution

- 8.6.1 The Council is required to calculate its Council Tax requirement for 2023/24 in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992. These calculations are set out in Appendix 9.

8.7 Council Tax Collection Fund – the estimated balance for 2022/23

- 8.7.1 The Council, as a billing authority, is required to keep a special fund, known as the Collection Fund. If a surplus or deficit remains in the Collection Fund at the year-end it is subsequently distributed to, or borne by the billing authority (in this situation the Council) and the preceptors (Police and Fire Authorities). Billing authorities are required to estimate the expected Collection Fund balance for the year to 31 March in order that the sum can be taken into account by billing authorities and preceptors in calculating the amounts of Council Tax for the coming year. The difference between the estimate at 15 January, and the actual position at 31 March will be taken into account in the following financial year.
- 8.7.2 The estimated financial position on the Collection Fund at 31 March 2023 is shown below.

Estimated Surplus at 31 March 2023	£38,756
Share of Surplus	
Rutland County Council	£33,012
Leicestershire Police Authority	£4,476
Leicestershire Fire Service	£1,268

- 8.7.3 Regulations provide for the Council's share of the estimated surplus to be transferred to the General Fund in 23/24.

8.8 Business Rates Collection Fund – the estimated balance for 2022/23

- 8.8.1 The Councils draws down an amount from the Collection Fund based on an annual return completed in January and this forms the 'funding' from business rates, which

does not fluctuate.

- 8.8.2 For 22/23, the P8 position showed a deficit position of £75k. This is largely down to an increase in unoccupied property relief and small changes across a number of other reliefs.
- 8.8.3 As the amount collected will not be as high as when estimated in January, this creates a deficit, but the fund still pays out the estimated amount. The Council will then have to pay back the deficit in the next financial year.
- 8.8.4 To help neutralise this impact the Council will use the additional funds held in the NNDR reserve in order to meet the estimated deficit in the Collection Fund in January 2023.
- 8.8.5 The Council has completed the government return (NNDR1) to determine its income from business rates in 2023/24. There is no change to the draft budget in terms of level of income. The Council's gross income (the actual rateable value of the properties in Rutland) has increased, but this has been offset by changes to the bad debt provision, an increase in empty property relief and the dampening of the gross rates figure to reflect possibility of the impact of a recession.
- 8.8.6 If the changes in assumptions above do not materialise then any surplus or deficit would impact on the 24/25 budget. The Council would forego any income, it would just receive any surplus or repay any deficit at a later date.

9 REVENUE BUDGET

9.1 Revenue budget

- 9.1.1 The Council is proposing a net revenue budget of £46.549m. The table below sets out the detailed make-up of the draft budget.

	Draft budget 23/24 £000
People (Adult and Children's Services)	23,943
Places	16,221
Resources	8,073
<i>Sub-Total Directorate budgets</i>	48,237
Pay Inflation contingency	743
Demand Led Contingency	245
<i>Sub-Total Contingencies & Corporate Savings</i>	988
Net cost of services	49,225
Appropriations	(2,643)
Capital financing costs	1,647
Interest income	(1,680)
<i>Sub-Total Capital</i>	(2,676)
Total Net Spending	46,549
Funding	(45,771)
Contribution from Ring Fenced Reserves	(188)
Use of General Fund reserves	590

- 9.1.2 The draft budget does not include all expenditure that will likely be incurred in 23/24. Updates will be required for the following in due course:

- **Homes for Ukraine** – the Scheme will continue into 23/24. Hosts' 'thank you' payments to increase to £500 a month after a Ukrainian's first year of sponsorship, and will be extended from 12 months to 24 months. From 1st January 2023, Council's will receive £5,900 to help support each new arrival. Government will also provide £150million of new UK-wide funding in the 23/24 financial year to local authorities and devolved governments to help mitigate homelessness in place of the tariff. The Council has current funding which has been spent and will receive additional funding, as indicated above, so it is envisaged that funding will be drawn down as costs are incurred.
- **Local Plan** – the Council has set aside funding for a new Local Plan in a reserve. As expenditure is incurred, that funding will be drawn down to match expenditure.
- **UK Shared Prosperity Fund** – the Council has been awarded funding and will draw this down as expenditure is incurred.
- **Household Support Fund** – this scheme is fully funded by Government and will continue into 23/24 (funding level unknown).

9.2 Contribution to Corporate priorities

9.2.1 The budget will allow the Council to deliver on Corporate Strategy priorities and meet statutory obligations. The Council continues to focus on delivering and maintaining core services during difficult financial times and supporting those who are most vulnerable:

- the Council is investing new funding into the care sector which will allow care providers to receive an increased rate for care provision mitigating the cost rises they are facing;
- the Council is maintaining current Local Council tax support scheme arrangements and its discretionary funds for the most financially vulnerable residents;
- the Council continues to work closely with Health and will invest some new funding in supporting hospital discharge;
- the Council is investing in the waste management service and maintaining service provisions at the same levels;
- the Council continues to invest c£2m of capital funding in the Council's road network to keep it at a high standard;
- the Council continues to invest in transport provision to maintain access to public transport;
- the Council continues to meet increased demand for Home to School and Special Educational Needs (SEN) transport;
- the Council continues to expand its digital offer and enable residents to make service requests online; and

- the Council is investing in the development of a new Local Plan and has set aside significant funding for this.

9.2.2 For now the budget protects the majority of key services, and avoids service reductions that may be forced in the future. The Council will keep its Corporate Strategy priorities under review in light of how its Transformation work progresses.

9.3 Key assumptions

9.3.1 The **Directorate budgets** are detailed by functional areas in Appendices 2 to 4. The detailed budgets show how they have changed from 22/23 for the following items.

	Description	Directorate Budgets £000	Corporate Budgets £000	Total Budget
	Starting Budget	44,597	(568)	44,029
Inflation +	General inflation is applied to budgets. To illustrate the impact of inflation on different parts of the budget, inflation is shown separately for utilities and contracts.	421	0	421
Utilities +	Utilities inflation	118	0	118
Contracts +	Contract inflation pertaining to extension or renewal of contracts	810	0	810
Pay +	The impact of any pay award for 23/24 (still yet to be decided) is included in the Corporate provision. The Directorate Budgets includes any pay related costs such as pension costs, regrades etc.	361	743	1,104
Pressures +	A pressure represents an increase in the budget arising from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A loss of income or funding An increase in demand Implementation of reforms 	3,285	0	3,285
Changes in Depreciation +	Changes in depreciation for the assets the council holds	169	(169)	0
Changes in funding -	Additional funding may be provided for new duties as outlined above or to help subsidise existing duties. Funding can take the form of	237	0	237

	Description	Directorate Budgets £000	Corporate Budgets £000	Total Budget
	grants, use of reserves or external funding.			
National Insurance -	Reversal of NI uplift giving a saving	(142)	0	(142)
Savings =	Directorate Savings arising from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A reduction in demand • Stopping/reduction in service • Efficiencies Corporate Savings Arising From <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment Income • Reduction in Demand Contingency 	(1,593)	(1,720)	(3,313)
	23/24 budget	48,263	(1,714)	46,549
	Budget Reductions	(1,735)	(1,889)	(3,624)
	Budget Increases	5,401	743	6,144

9.4 Reserves and Estimates - robustness

9.4.1 Best practice requires me to identify any risks associated with the budget, and section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 requires me to report on the adequacy of reserves and the robustness of estimates.

9.4.2 The most substantial risks in 23/24 pertain to demand led budgets, delivery of savings and inflationary pressures on budgets. The Council has prudently assumed that:

- current trends of increased demand etc will continue but also has some contingency included in the budget for any pressures;
- social care rates will be increased to a level that is sustainable in the current care economy;
- savings of £1.735m can be realised.

9.4.3 It is my view that estimates made in the plan are prudent. In the medium term, the risks to the budget strategy arise from the risks detailed in Section 5 but can be summarised as follows.

- non-identification and delivery of future savings built into the MTFP;
- unidentified and uncontrollable pressures; and
- loss of future resources, particularly in respect of changes to business rates, government funding or council tax.

9.4.4 The risk of economic downturn continuing, nationally or locally, is a distinct possibility as noted in the risk section. This could result in further significant reductions in funding, falling business rate income, and increased cost of Council Tax reductions for tax payers on low incomes. It could also lead to a growing demand for Council support and services and an increase in bad debts.

9.4.5 In 23/24, it was my view that the Council's financial resilience is adequate. In light of the risks highlighted in section 5, **my view is that the position is deteriorating as reserves continue to be used to balance the budget but this is manageable in the short term because:**

- The Council has a good level of earmarked and General Fund reserves;
- The Council is largely self-sufficient and its high dependency on Council tax leaves it less vulnerable to further government reductions but only if Members raise council tax to the maximum allowable;
- Budget management is sound; and
- A savings programme is in place, year 1 savings have been delivered and work is progressing on workstreams which will deliver savings in year 2.

9.4.6 Subject to the above comments, I believe the Council's general and earmarked reserves to be adequate in the short term. I also believe estimates made in preparing the budget are robust based on information available.

10 CAPITAL PROGRAMME PRIOR YEAR

10.1 Overall Programme – existing and new projects

- The Capital Programme is developed around specific projects. The programme comprises of four strands:
- Approved projects: capital projects already approved that will span across more than one financial year (any projects already approved which are not yet completed will continue into 2023/24);
- Ring Fenced Grants: These grants can be awarded following a successful application process or passported by Government to support objectives. Projects will automatically be included in the existing capital programme (e.g. disabled facilities grants) if there is a project to spend the funding;
- Non Ring-Fenced Grants: New projects to be approved in the budget or in-year; and
- Funding available but not yet allocated.

10.1.1 The table below is an overview of the position for 2023/24. Projects that make up the total £16.420m are listed in Appendix 7.

Capital Programme	Budget Approved to Date	New Capital Projects	Budget 2023/24
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	£000	£000	£000
Strategic Aims and Priorities	6,000	282	6,282
Asset Management Requirements	10,138	0	10,138
Total Projects	16,138	282	16,420
Grant	(13,685)	(282)	(13,967)
Prudential Borrowing	(349)	0	(349)
Capital Receipts	(595)	0	(595)
RCCO	(309)	0	(309)
Developers Contributions	(1,200)	0	(1,200)
Total Budget Funding	(16,138)	(282)	(16,420)

10.2 Changes to the Capital Programme

- 10.2.1 In October 2022, £15.509m was approved as the new capital programme, amendments of £629k have been made since this report, A further £282k of ring fenced projects have been added within the 2023/24 budget setting process. These amendments are shown within the table below, therefore giving the council a revised capital programme of £16.420m.

	Project	Capital Project Approval or Delegation	Value £000	Value £000
Approved Capital Programme (Mid-Year Report Report 157/2022)				15,509
New Capital Programme – Approved Since Outturn				
Strategic Aims and Priorities	Exton Play Area Refurbishment	S106 Delegation	14	
Asset Management Requirements	Asset Review	Report 183/2022	565	
Strategic Aims and Priorities	Schools Energy Efficiency Improvement	Ring Fenced Funding	26	
Strategic Aims and Priorities	UK Share Prosperity Fund	Ring Fenced Funding	24	
Total New Capital Programme – Approved Since Mid-Year Report				629
New Capital Programmes for 2023/24 Budget Setting				
Strategic Aims and Priorities	Devolved Formula Capital	Ring Fenced 2023/24 Funding	12	
Strategic Aims and Priorities	Disabled Facilities Grants	Ring Fenced – 2023/24 Funding	270	
Total New Capital Programme – Approved for 2023/24 Budget Setting				282
Revised Capital Programme 2022/23				16,420

10.3 Approved projects – approved projects continuing into 2023/24

- 10.3.1 Some of the capital projects will span across more than one financial year. Any projects already approved which are not yet completed will continue into 2023/24. The estimated spend in 2023/24 will depend primarily on the outturn position (the

amount spent) for 2022/23. Examples include the school expansion project at Catmose and the council's asset review.

10.4 Approved projects – projects delivered with ring fenced funding

- 10.4.1 The Council receives Devolved Formula Capital funds which is passported to maintained schools to help them support the capital needs of their assets. Schools will decide what projects to fund.
- 10.4.2 For the Disabled Facilities grant which is part of the Better Care Fund, the full allocation is used to help residents remain in their home and be independent.

10.5 Projects in pipeline – to be submitted for approval or added in due course

- 10.5.1 In a few areas, works are ongoing and some proposals for new projects are being developed. In these areas, Cabinet reports are expected in 2023/24. Funding for any future projects will be met in full or in part from the unallocated funding (set out in 12.6 below). Areas under review include:
- 10.5.2 Levelling Up fund bid – Cabinet approval was given in June 2022 to submit a joint application with Melton Borough Council for Levelling Up Funding. If successful, the Council may be asked to provide match funding for up to 20% of the award value. An update will be given once the Council is notified on the outcome of the bid.
- 10.5.3 UK Share Prosperity Fund Allocation (UKSPF) – the funding has been launched to support the Levelling Up agenda. The Council is now allowed to draw down its £1m share of the allocation over the next 3 years. The 2022/23 allocations have been added to the Councils revenue and capital budget. The allocations for 2023/24 and 2024/25 will be included once detailed plans are known.

Allocation 22/23			23/24	24/25
Capital	Revenue	Capacity	£117,344	£823,984
£23,469	£35,203	£20,000		

- 10.5.4 The Rural England Prosperity Fund was announced by Government on 3rd September 2022. It complements the UKSPF and is a top-up to help address the extra needs and challenges facing rural areas. The Council submitted an investment plan (28th November 2022) and received an indicative allocation of £100k in 2023/24 and £300k in 2024/25. This is subject to government review. An update will be provided once the funding has been officially awarded.
- 10.5.5 Property Asset Review – Cabinet approval was granted in November 2022 for a capital project for emergency works on the Council's estate. The next phase of work will now focus on the options for each class of assets and subsequently the development of a longer term planned maintenance programme.
- 10.5.6 SEND Capital Funding – Funding for High Needs Provision Capital Allocation (HNPCA) has been confirmed for 2022/23 (£500k) and 2023/24 (£540k) but are

not included in the capital programme yet. The funding is to support local authorities to deliver new places and improve existing provision for children's and young people with special educational needs and disabilities or who require alternative provision. The Council is joining the Delivering Better Value programme in January 2023, these works will feed into the process and where appropriate, to a Cabinet paper. Proposals will be presented in the new year.

10.5.7 Highways – the Department for Transport provided indicative funding of £2.381m for 2023/24 for local roads and upgrades to tackle potholes, relieve congestion and boost connectivity. This is included within the unallocated table in 12.6 until a paper is presented to Cabinet for approval.

10.5.8 10 year capital investment plan – There is a commitment in the Corporate Strategy for the Council to develop a 10 year capital investment plan to guide future spending on infrastructure and facilities. As this will link to and be informed by the development of the new Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) it is anticipated that capital investment plan will now be developed in the latter half of 2023.

10.6 Unallocated Funding (funding available)

10.6.1 Currently the Council is holding capital funds that have not yet been approved to a project. A breakdown of these funds is shown in the table below.

	Developers Contributions			Other funds		
	Section 106	Community Infrastructure Levy Fund	Oakham North Agreement	Ring fenced Grants	Non ring-fenced Grants /Capital receipts	Total
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Opening Balance at P5	(2,695)	(2,569)	(3,168)	(1,327)	(3,281)	(13,039)
Changes since Mid Year report						
Changes since P5	0	0	0	(26)	0	(26)
New Projects Approved since P5	14	0	0	26	565	605
Total Changes since P5	14	0	0	0	565	579
Changes at Budget Setting 2023/24						
Estimated Grant Award 2023/24	0	(430)	0	(937)	(2,943)	(4,310)
New Capital projects approved at budget setting	0	0	0	282	0	285
Leisure Commitment	0	250	0	0	0	250
Total Changes at Budget Setting	0	(180)	0	(655)	(2,943)	(3,778)

Closing Balance Unallocated	(2,681)	(2,749)	(3,168)	(1,981)	(5,659)	(16,238)
Breakdown of Funding		Ring fenced Grants	Non ring-fenced Grants/ Capital receipts			
SEND Funding		(1,039)				
Schools Capital Maintenance Funding		(717)				
Other Social Care Funding		(225)				
Highways			(2,458)			
Integrated Transport			(1,929)			
Capital Receipts			(1,195)			
Other Non Ring Fenced Funding			(77)			
Total		(1,981)	(5,659)			

10.7 Indicative Allocations

- 10.7.1 A report (No: 197/2022) went to Cabinet in December, to set out the capital funds currently held by the Council, also to approve indicative allocations for the Council's investments. The report aligns the capital resources to the Council's strategic priorities that are set out in the Corporate Strategy and shows provisionally how the £16.2m held above might be used.
- 10.7.2 The indicative allocations will enable services and partners to develop their investment plans and bring forwards proposals for specific projects to meet the County's infrastructure needs and strategic priorities. Details of the indicative allocations can be found in the table below

	Developers Contributions					
	Section 106	Community Infrastructure Levy Fund	Oakham North Agreement	Ring fenced Grants	Non ring-fenced Grants	Total
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Opening Balance as above	(2,681)	(2,749)	(3,168)	(1,981)	(5,659)	(16,238)
Priority 1: A Special Place	1,383	0	1,000	0	4,526	6,909
Priority 2: Sustainable Lives	45	1,000	2,000	0	0	3,045
Priority 3: Health and Well	72	1,500	0	225	0	1,798
Priority 4: A County for Everyone	1,180	0	0	1,205	0	2,385

Priority 5: A Modern and Effective Council	0	0	0	551	1,133	1,684
Total Indicative Allocations	2,681	2,500	3,000	1,981	5,659	15,821
Unallocated (after indicative allocations)	0	(249)	(168)	0	0	(417)

10.7.3 **Priority One: A Special Place: Total £6.909m**

10.7.4 Investment in Highways, Heritage and Culture and the County's public spaces to improve the cultural offer, attractiveness, accessibility, and safety within the market towns and villages. This investment will enhance the public realm and support the development of the Council's cultural offer.

10.7.5 It is proposed that a community grants scheme is established to promote and support the vibrancy of the County's communities. The community grants scheme will be the subject of a future report to Cabinet.

10.7.6 **Priority Two: Sustainable Lives: Total £3.045m**

10.7.7 Investment in the County's waste and recycling services and facilities to secure long-term resilience and value for money and address the pressure of additional waste arisings created by growth.

10.7.8 It is also proposed to invest in the redesign of a sustainable and integrated public transport network that supports the implementation of the approved Bus Service Improvement Plan, increases bus usage, and reduces the County's carbon footprint.

10.7.9 **Priority Three: Healthy and Well: Total £1.798m**

10.7.10 Investment in improvements and increased health provision that meets the needs of all the County's residents. This investment must increase provision and not just upgrade or maintain existing provision. The County's health services are under pressure and additional development means further investment is required to support local residents.

10.7.11 Use of ring-fenced adult social care capital funds to support the care and independence of the County's residents.

10.7.12 **Priority Four: A County for Everyone: Total £2.385m**

10.7.13 Investment in the provision of services for early years, children, and young people and promoting the delivery of affordable housing within the County. The Council is exploring options for the provision of 'family hub' services which this investment could support.

10.7.14 It is also proposed to work with Police and Fire and Rescue services to invest in ensuring Rutland remains safe and welcoming.

10.7.15 Priority Five: A Modern and Effective Council: Total £1.684m

10.7.16 Investment in optimising the use of assets to provide value for money and support future service delivery and the County's strategic priorities. The report to November cabinet on the high-level asset strategy will inform investment priorities and requirements for the Council's operational estate.

11 TREASURY MANAGEMENT

11.1 Overview

11.1.1 At the time of approving the budget, the Council will approve the Treasury Management Strategy and Capital Investment Strategy. The implications of these strategies (capital plans, investment returns and borrowing changes) are reflected in the draft budget where known but there are also issues that may impact the MTFP in the future.

11.2 Key issues

11.2.1 Over the past few years, Treasury Management has become high profile as a number of Council's treasury activity has hit the headlines. Excessive borrowing and investments in property and other commercial ventures has got some Council's into financial trouble to the point that they now face intervention and/or have been issued with s114 notices.

11.2.2 In response to this activity, regulations have been tightened to prevent what regulators including CIPFA believe is reckless activity and now the requirements placed on all Council's is greater than ever. The Council's treasury activity has always been prudent, and the new regulations do not impact the way it works.

11.2.3 The Council's TMS sets out rules on investment which focus on security, liquidity and yield. The Council's current approach, which is low risk, will reduce yield compared to previous years reflect current economic conditions. The Council does not plan to change this approach and invest in longer term investment products.

11.2.4 Nor does the Council propose to borrow purely for investment gain. This is not allowed now under CIPFA guidance and under the Council'

11.2.5 The Council's capital financing costs include any borrowing charge. Presently, the capital plans include limited borrowing. There may be borrowing implications from future projects that could impact the MTFP. This work will be prioritised after the Council had produced its new corporate plan.

11.2.6 The Council's Capital Investment Strategy will still permit borrowing for capital expenditure where financial return is a key priority alongside service considerations.

11.3 Prudential indicators – indicators to be approved

11.3.1 Local authority capital expenditure is based on a system of self-regulation, based upon a code of practice (the "prudential code").

11.3.2 Council complies with the code of practice, which requires us to agree a set of indicators to demonstrate that any borrowing is affordable, sustainable, and

prudent. To comply with the code, the Council must approve the indicators at the same time as it agrees the budget. The Treasury report includes all relevant indicators.

11.4 Minimum Revenue provision – method of calculation

- 11.4.1 By law, the Council is required to charge to its budget each year an amount for the repayment of debt. This is known as “minimum revenue provision” (MRP).
- 11.4.2 MHCLG Guidance issued requires full Council to approve an MRP Statement in advance of each year. Council will be asked to approve the MRP Statement as part of the Treasury Management Strategy.
- 11.4.3 The Government is consulting on the duty of local authorities to make prudent Minimum Revenue Provision each year. Where authorities borrow to finance capital spend, they are required under regulations to set aside money each year from their revenue account. This is referred to as Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) and is to make sure they can afford to repay the principal of their debt.
- 11.4.4 Prudent MRP must be determined with respect to the authority’s total capital financing requirement. The intention is to stop the intentional exclusion, by some authorities, of debt from the MRP determination because it relates to an investment asset or capital loan. The changes proposed will not impact on the Council.

12 SCHOOL FUNDING

12.1 Overview – How school funding works

- 12.1.1 Schools are funded from ring fenced grants, the most notable of which is the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). This funding cannot be used for any other Council function, and essentially schools operate within their own fund with any under or over expenditure being taken forward into future years.
- 12.1.2 The Government has announced indicative allocations for all blocks (Schools, High Needs, Early Years and Central Services for 2023/24).
- 12.1.3 As in previous years, the Council is able to transfer 0.5% of the Schools Block allocation to the High Needs block with the agreement of the Schools Forum. Due to the pressures being experienced by the High Needs budget, Forum has agreed to this transfer for 2023/24. This transfer will equate to approximately £0.140m being transferred between blocks.
- 12.1.4 A local authority must engage in open and transparent consultation with all maintained schools and academies in the area, as well as with its Schools Forum about any proposed changes to the local funding formula including the method, principles and rules adopted. Whilst consultation must take place, the local authority is responsible for making the final decisions on the formula. The options are limited.
- 12.1.5 Schools have reserves they can call on, and the Council will work closely with any maintained school (there are 3 in Rutland) that is experiencing financial difficulty to draw up a recovery plan.

12.2 Allocations – funding received and allocated

DSG

- 12.2.1 The Schools Block allocation for Rutland is £30.294m compared to 2022/23 of £28.182m (an increase of £2.112m) equating to an increase of 7.5%. The National Funding Formula sets the Primary and Secondary units of funding for each authority based on the previous year's census data and these are used to calculate the funding received by the authority for the following year.
- 12.2.2 The two units of funding for Rutland County Council for 2023/24 have been set as follows:
- Primary Unit of Funding is £4,712.25 (£4,487.63 in 2022/23)
 - Secondary Unit of Funding is £5,746.146 (£5,525.00 in 2022/23)
- 12.2.3 The High Needs block allocation for 2023/24 is £5.872m compared to 2021/22 of £5.272m (an increase of £0.600m) equating to 11.4%.
- 12.2.4 The current level of spending on high needs is projected to be £5.7m in 2022/23, and continues to rise, and therefore the allocation for 2023/24 is likely to be insufficient to cover costs next year. The transfer of 0.5% from the Schools Block (approximately £0.140m) is for one year only.
- 12.2.5 The Council is likely to be carrying a DSG deficit of c£1.37m by the end of March 2023. The Council does have a plan to address the issue and is part of the Delivering Better Value programme which will start in January which is aimed at helping Councils to improve delivery of SEND services for children and young people while ensuring services are sustainable. As part of DBV the Council will be able to apply for up to £1m of grant funding to help implement change and reform.
- 12.2.6 However, recouping this deficit will be a significant challenge without additional funding and may take some years to recover if it can be recovered at all. The Council do have a ringfenced reserve of £1.025m (balance on the DSG as at 31st March 2022) to cover its liability if the deficit is not recovered. The will be increased to cover the projected balance of £1.37m.
- 12.2.7 The Early Years block allocation for 2023/24 has been provisionally set as £1.810m based on an increase rate for 2 year old funding of £5.63 (£5.57 2022/23) and funding for 3 and 4 year olds of £4.87 (£4.61 2022/23).
- 12.2.8 The Council has set individual rates paid over to nurseries (after deducting 5% for Council statutory duties). The rates will be £5.63 (£5.57 2022/23) for 2 year olds and £4.64 (£4.38 2022/23) for 3 and four year olds. The increase in rates from the government (para 12.2.7) has been passed in in full to providers of early year education.
- 12.2.9 The Central School Services block allocation is £0.198m for 2023/24 a slight increase (£0.01m) from the allocation in 2022/23. The Central School Services block pays for the following services:
- Admissions Services;

- Nationally agreed copyright licence fees; and
- The local authority statutory responsibilities (previously covered by the Education Services Grant) e.g. be strategic lead for education of children and young people.

12.3 Pupil Premium Grant (PPG)

- 12.3.1 The DfE have not yet published the pupil premium rates for 2023/24. Any allocations are passported straight to schools.

12.4 Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM)

- 12.4.1 The DfE have not yet published the pupil premium rates for 2023/24. Any allocations are passported straight to schools.

13 CONSULTATION

- 13.1 The Council is required to consult on the budget as set out in Section 13 below and has met those requirements. Consultation for 23/24 included:

- a) Consideration by the Scrutiny Panels at a special meeting in January;
- b) A survey for residents;
- c) Public events where the Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance engaged with residents; and
- d) Consultation online, static displays at libraries and publicity through the local print and broadcast media through January.

13.2 Scrutiny Panel feedback

- 13.2.1 Scrutiny Panel met on 26th January to discuss the budgets. There were no formal recommendations made by the Panels for Cabinet to consider. There were individual questions about points of detail.
- 13.2.2 One of the main themes coming out of the meeting was the support available for those in hardship. Members noted the funds currently available and the additional £33k to be invested in council tax support alongside the Household Support Fund but asked whether this would be sufficient. The Director for Resources explained that Officers would monitor the position and would make a request for additional funds if funds were oversubscribed or there were signs of problems re arrears. Cabinet have asked for this to be noted in this report.
- 13.2.3 Various questions were asked about savings (post room savings, IT systems) but points of detail. In respect of climate change, the saving included was a one off and it was explained that the Council will work with external partners to maximise what it can do.
- 13.2.4 A question was asked about support for those from the Ukraine. It was explained that additional funding would be received in 23/24 (albeit less per head) and the Council would use this and any unspent funding in 22/23 to fund any ongoing costs. It could not be guaranteed that funding would be sufficient.

13.2.5 As the Council had just been notified of the outcome of the LUF bid, there were questions around whether the LUF bid would cause any ongoing revenue issues. The Council's initial view is that there would be no impact, but a full report will come to Cabinet 7th March setting out details of the award.

13.2.6 Full minutes (and a recording) of the Scrutiny meeting is available on the Council website.

13.3 Survey

13.3.1 The Council received 155 responses to its draft budget survey. Out of a population of 41,000 residents the response rate was low but similar to the previous year. The consultation feedback on the budget was influenced significantly by the decision taken by Cabinet to cease leisure provision at Catmose.

13.3.2 Of the replies received, there was general support to use the Councils reserves in the short term and to implement a transformation programme to reshape the Council to create more savings. A majority support that maximum use of council tax to help fund local services, but comments were made about the unfairness of funding Rutland receives and the need to lobby central government which is ongoing.

13.3.3 Some commented on the fact they thought Rutland was too small to be independent. A number of respondents queried the financial viability of the Council and commented that services were already reducing whilst council tax was increasing. There were various comments which claimed the Council was not managing its finances prudently.

13.3.4 The full results are published in Appendix 8 including anonymised comments in response to various free text questions.

13.4 In person engagement

13.4.1 Public budget presentations and question and answer sessions were held at Uppingham, Oakham and Ketton.

13.4.2 Positive feedback was received following the presentation in Uppingham with a limited number of questions regarding green bins, inflation and hospital discharge/working with our NHS colleagues.

13.4.3 The Oakham session was dominated by views and questions regarding the leisure contract expiry announced a few days previously. Recognising the importance of this subject to the public in Oakham a further Public session will be held on 6th February which will be reported separately.

13.4.4 Feedback on other subjects related to public transport, activities for young people, affordable housing, and ongoing engagement with the public including the member role. There were no questions around the rate of Council Tax.

13.5 Summary and next steps

13.5.1 The Portfolio Holder for Finance has stated that the Council will now take time to consider its next steps in relation to its engagement objectives and how it will pick up the comments made in feedback received.

14 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 14.1 There are four key areas where the Council has choices: revenue savings/pressures, the capital programme, council tax funding and reserve levels. These are considered separately.

14.2 Revenue savings/pressures

- 14.2.1 Option 1 - In terms of revenue savings/pressures Members could approve all savings/pressures for consultation – this is the recommended option. Where savings have been put forward Officers are of the view that these are achievable. The budget includes service pressures most of which arise from a need to respond to statutory requirements and/or unavoidable circumstances such as demand and the need to make in year savings.
- 14.2.2 Option 2 - Members could not accept all savings/pressures – this would mean that in those areas where savings have been put forward officers would revert back to original spending plans. In terms of pressures, then where these are included to respond to statutory requirements, Officers would need to find alternative savings either before the budget was set or in-year; otherwise it is likely that the budget would be overspent. Officers have already absorbed pressures where possible. Members could request that more savings are made in 23/24. Members would need to give clear direction as to where additional savings would need to be made. Simply requesting an additional say £500k is saved with no direction would be unacceptable in light of the savings already proposed in 23/24. Reducing the savings to be made would be equally damaging and Members would need to be mindful of the financial implications of doing this on the overall financial position. Option 2 is not recommended.

14.3 Capital programme

- 14.3.1 Option 1 - The capital programme for 23/24 includes projects already approved by Cabinet/Council. Some additions/deletions are proposed, and Members could approve the capital programme as stated.
- 14.3.2 Option 2 – Members could reject all or some of the additions/deletions. This is not recommended as changes reflect Council priorities.

14.4 Funding – Council Tax

- 14.4.1 The MTFP includes funding assumptions. The majority are based on the professional judgement of officers taking into consideration the settlement allocation and all other available information. The one key funding decision that Full Council has to make is around Council tax levels.
- 14.4.2 Option 1 - Members could approve the draft budget which assumes a 4.99% Council Tax increase (2% for Adult Social Care).
- 14.4.3 Option 2 – Members could vary the Council Tax rate. The impact of not making this decision is set out in Section 4. The loss of income for different rates is shown in Section 8. Given the financial gap already projected, the risks highlighted in Section 5 and the comments made by the s151 Officer in Section 3.1.

15 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 15.1 The draft budget as presented relies on a contribution from the General Fund of £0.598m and £0.900m to be put into earmarked reserves.

16 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

- 16.1 The Council is on course to agree its budget and set its Council Tax for 2023/24 within the timetable required by statute and the constitution as per the table below.
- 16.2 Section 31A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 requires billing authorities to calculate their Council Tax requirements in accordance with the prescribed requirements of that section. The function of setting the Council Tax is the responsibility of Full Council. This requires consideration of the Council's estimated revenue expenditure for the year in order to perform its functions, allowances for contingencies in accordance with proper practices, financial reserves and amounts required to be transferred from general fund to collection fund. The Council is required to make estimates of gross revenue expenditure and anticipated income, leading to a calculation of a budget requirement and the setting of an overall budget to ensure proper discharge of the Council's statutory duties and to lead to a balanced budget.

Requirement	Status
<i>Statutory requirements under Local Government Finance Act 1992:</i>	
To levy and collect council tax	To be approved at Council in February 2023
To calculate budget requirements and levels of council tax	To be approved at Council in February 2023
To consult representatives of persons subject to non-domestic rates about proposals for expenditure	Covered in consultation (section 13)
To approve the budget and set Council Tax by 11th March in each year	To be approved at Council in February 2023
The Council is also required by the Local Authorities (Funds)(England) Regulations 1992 in exercise of the powers under section 99(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, to make an estimate on 15 January of the amount of the deficit or surplus on the Collection Fund as at 31st March 2018. This report sets out an estimated figure.	Section 8.3

Requirement	Status
<i>Statutory requirements under Local Government Act 2003:</i>	
Under section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 the Section 151 Officer is required to report to the Council on the robustness of the estimates made for the purpose of setting the Council Tax and the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves.	Section 9.4
<i>Constitution</i>	
The Council is required to consult on the budget for a minimum of 3 weeks.	Section 13 covers consultation plans.

17 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

- 17.1 In the exercise of its functions, the Council must have due regard to the Council's duty to eliminate discrimination, to advance equality of opportunity for protected groups and to foster good relations between protected groups and others.
- 17.2 The Council has completed Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) screening for all savings proposals and for the proposed tax increase. There are no proposals or decisions on specific courses of action that could have an impact on different groups of people and therefore full EIAs are not required. Some of the analysis relating to the Council tax increase is shown below:

Proposal
A Band D Council Tax increase of 4.99%, including the Adult Social Care Precept of 2% taking Band D Council Tax from £1,917.36 to £2,013.04 (Rutland County Council only). This proposal is linked to one aspect of local government funding where the Council has some discretion to raise additional funds by increases to Council Tax. The Council Tax rules in place that limit the extent of any Council Tax increases before a referendum is required, the limit for Rutland for 2023/24 is 4.99%.
Initial impact
<p>This increase will be applied to all bands of council tax. This will impact on all residents who are eligible to pay Council Tax. The average increase cost per week on a Band D property is £1.84.</p> <p>Since Council Tax is applicable to all properties it is not considered that the increase targets any one particular group; rather it is an increase that is applied across the board. At the same time because the increase is applied to all properties it is not possible to exempt any particular groups. By increasing Council tax, the Council is able to prevent further reductions in services to local</p>

residents and in so doing continue can mitigate adverse impacts facing individual households.

Actions take to mitigate impact

The risk is mitigated through various support offered: Local Council Tax Support, additional Hardship award, a Discretionary Fund and Advice.

On top of the 75% discount, for those on LCTS the Council continues to offer further support to those who can demonstrate financial hardship. It has funds of £20k set aside and is prepared to increase this amount should the need arise.

The Council also provides some budgeting and financial advice and has a contract with Citizens Advice Rutland to provide more specialist support if needed. The Council has a webpage dedicated to showing the support available to those in need.

<https://www.rutland.gov.uk/my-community/cost-of-living-support/>

18 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

18.1 There are no community safety implications.

19 DATA PROTECTION

19.1 A Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA) has not been completed because there are no risks/issues to the rights and freedoms of natural persons.

20 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS

20.1 There are no health and wellbeing implications.

21 CONCLUSION AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

21.1 The Council is required to set a balanced budget and agree the level of Council tax for 23/24. This budget is affordable within the context of the MTFP.

22 BACKGROUND PAPERS

22.1 There are no additional background papers to the report.

23 APPENDICES

- Appendix 1 Medium Term Financial Plan
- Appendix 2 Resources Directorate budget 23/24
- Appendix 3 Places Directorate budget 23/24
- Appendix 4 People Directorate budget 23/24
- Appendix 5 Pressure / Savings
- Appendix 6 Earmarked Reserves
- Appendix 7 Capital

Appendix 8	Consultation
Appendix 9	Council Tax Resolution

Appendix 1 – Medium Term Financial Plan

	2022/23 P8 £	2023/24 £	2024/25 £	2025/26 £	2026/27 £	2027/28 £
People	21,240,700	23,942,704	25,135,804	25,794,304	26,545,204	27,312,704
Places	15,843,200	16,221,200	17,470,100	17,859,200	18,260,000	18,671,400
Resources	7,833,000	8,072,500	8,020,900	8,115,500	8,241,500	8,470,400
Additional Savings		0	(1,485,000)	(1,820,000)	(2,877,000)	(4,000,000)
ASC Reform Costs	0	0	0	200,000	400,000	600,000
Contribution to Overheads	(162,000)	0	0	0	0	0
Projects	433,600	0	0	0	0	0
Pay Inflation Contingency	0	743,200	1,329,500	1,722,800	2,111,000	2,505,100
Demand Led Contingency	0	244,900	764,500	1,299,400	1,851,000	2,420,600
Net Cost of Services	45,188,500	49,224,504	51,235,804	53,171,204	54,531,704	55,980,204
Capital financing and related items	(588,200)	(996,000)	(996,000)	(996,000)	(996,000)	(996,000)
Interest Receivable	(1,091,900)	(1,680,000)	(1,080,000)	(780,000)	(680,000)	(510,000)
Net spending	43,508,400	46,548,504	49,159,804	51,395,204	52,855,704	54,474,204
Other Income	(1,819,100)	(271,900)	(380,000)	(330,700)	(330,700)	(330,700)
New Homes Bonus	(461,300)	(7,000)	(7,000)	0	0	0
Improved Better Care Fund	0	(218,800)	(218,800)	(218,800)	(218,800)	(218,800)
Better Care Fund	(2,712,300)	(2,793,500)	(2,993,500)	(2,993,500)	(2,993,500)	(2,993,500)
Social Care Grant	0	(1,793,000)	(2,048,000)	(2,048,000)	(2,048,000)	(2,048,000)
ASC Market Sustainability		(318,000)	(478,000)	(478,000)	(478,000)	(478,000)
ASC Discharge Fund		(31,000)	(51,000)	(51,000)	(51,000)	(51,000)
Rural Delivery Grant	(890,400)	(995,100)	(890,400)	(890,400)	(890,400)	(890,400)
Fair Funding Redistribution				(2,607,657)	(2,002,859)	(1,318,763)
Retained Business Rates Funding	(3,462,200)	(7,269,300)	(6,829,700)	(5,467,900)	(5,694,600)	(5,943,500)
Government funding subtotal	(9,345,300)	(13,697,600)	(13,896,400)	(15,085,957)	(14,707,859)	(14,272,663)
Council Tax/Social care precept	(30,292,100)	(32,040,700)	(33,882,200)	(35,827,600)	(37,882,900)	(40,054,000)
Collection fund Deficit/(Surplus)	(159,000)	(33,012)	0	0	0	0
Total available Resources	(39,796,400)	(45,771,312)	(47,778,600)	(50,913,557)	(52,590,759)	(54,326,663)
Earmarked Reserve	(2,369,800)	(188,000)	0	0	0	0
Use of General Fund Balances	1,342,200	589,192	1,381,204	481,647	264,945	147,541
Balance brought forward	(13,026,162)	(14,661,868)	(13,172,676)	(11,791,472)	(11,309,825)	(11,044,880)
Transfer in of Earmarked Reserves	(4,002,906)					
Local Plan	0	300,000	0	0	0	0
Leisure		300,000				
High Needs	1,025,000	300,000				
Balance carried forward	(14,661,868)	(13,172,676)	(11,791,472)	(11,309,825)	(11,044,880)	(10,897,339)

Ringfenced ER b/f	(6,882,607)	(5,342,107)	(6,054,107)	(6,054,107)	(6,054,107)	(6,054,107)
Ringfenced ER c/f	(5,342,107)	(6,054,107)	(6,054,107)	(6,054,107)	(6,054,107)	(6,054,107)

Appendix 2 – Resources Directorate Budget 22/23

22/23 Restated Budget – this is the budget for 22/23 (as presented at Outturn) adjusted for one off budgets (Budget Carry Forwards etc.) and 21/22 and 22/23 pay awards

Pressures – These are new pressures identified during the budget setting process. These link to appendix 5 and will be referenced started “P”

Savings – These are savings identified during the budget setting process. These link to appendix 5 and will be referenced started “S”

National Insurance (NI) Social Care Levy Removal – This is the saving from the governments decision to reverse the 1% social care levy on National Insurance.

Government Funding – These dictate changes to Government Funding within the Directorate Budgets

Pay Inflation – this column represents changes to pay (increments, pension changes, regrades etc.)

Contractual Inflation – These are pressures from Contracts identified during the budget setting process. These link to appendix 5 and will be referenced started “CI”

Utility Inflation – Pressures due to hyper inflation on utilities (Gas, Water and Electric)

General Inflation – general allowance for items costing more (not linked to a contract)

Depreciation – Adjustments for Depreciation within the Directorate Budgets

Transfers – Transfers within the budget to reflect operational changes and depreciation adjustments. Where depreciation is adjusted this will be denoted with a “D” in the reference field

	22/23 Restated Budget	Pressures	Savings	NI Levy Removal	Government Funding	Pay Inflation	Contractual Inflation	Utility Inflation	General Inflation	Depreciation	Transfers	23/24 Budget	Saving and Pressure References
Resources	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
Chief Executives Office	273	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	280	
Directorate Management Costs	320	0	0	(1)	0	(1)	0	0	0	0	0	318	
Communications	241	0	0	(2)	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	243	
Corporate Costs	173	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	3	0	0	181	CI1
Pensions	1,044	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1)	0	0	1,043	
Audit Services	199	0	0	0	0	0	97	0	0	0	0	296	CI1, CI2
Finance and Insurance	942	0	0	(11)	0	12	17	0	11	0	0	971	CI3
Information Technology	1,535	64	(42)	(5)	0	11	78	0	5	(4)	10	1,652	P2, P15, S10, S11, S15, CI1, CI4
Business Support Services	1,012	0	(150)	(6)	0	21	0	0	1	0	2	880	S13, S14
Members Services	290	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	300	P4
Customer Services Team	202	0	0	(2)	0	4	0	0	0	0	(10)	194	
Elections	130	87	(27)	(1)	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	190	P3, S25
Legal and Governance	677	0	(74)	0	0	11	0	0	6	0	0	620	S12, S17

	22/23 Restated Budget	Pressures	Savings	NI Levy Removal	Government Funding	Pay Inflation	Contractual Inflation	Utility Inflation	General Inflation	Depreciation	Transfers	23/24 Budget	Saving and Pressure References
Resources	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
Human Resources	488	0	(23)	(3)	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	471	S1, S16
Revenues and Benefits	363	43	0	(8)	0	4	0	0	(4)	0	0	398	P1
Financial Support	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	
Total Resources	7,929	199	(316)	(39)	0	82	197	0	27	(4)	2	8,077	

Appendix 3 – Places Directorate Budget 22/23

	22/23 Restated Budget	Pressures	Savings	NI Levy Removal	Government Funding	Pay Inflation	Contractual Inflation	Utility Inflation	General Inflation	Depreciation	Transfers	23/24 Budget	Saving and Pressure References
Places	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
Directorate Management Costs	402	0	(40)	(3)	0	(7)	0	0	0	0	0	352	S10
Development Control	183	0	(38)	(6)	0	12	0	0	1	0	0	152	S15
Drainage & Structures	143	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	10	156	
Emergency Planning	37	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	38	
Environmental Maintenance	1,439	0	(24)	(2)	0	5	179	0	4	0	0	1,601	CI1
Forestry Maintenance	108	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	110	
Crime Prevention	125	0	(5)	(1)	0	1	0	0	1	10	0	131	S2
Highways Capital Charges	1,828	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	116	0	1,944	
Highways Management	283	94	(10)	(4)	0	8	0	0	2	0	0	373	P5, P6
Commissioned Transport	2,357	256	(18)	(3)	0	5	14	0	29	0	0	2,640	CI1, P7, S10
Lighting, Safety Barriers and Traffic Signals	169	0	0	0	0	0	0	68	2	0	(10)	229	
Parking	(191)	0	(16)	(1)	0	3	0	1	5	3	0	(196)	S5
Pool Cars & Car Hire	107	0	0	0	0	0	22	0	1	0	0	130	CI1

	22/23 Restated Budget	Pressures	Savings	NI Levy Removal	Government Funding	Pay Inflation	Contractual Inflation	Utility Inflation	General Inflation	Depreciation	Transfers	23/24 Budget	Saving and Pressure References
Places	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
Public Protection	417	0	(1)	0	0	0	59	0	0	0	0	475	S6, CI1
Public Rights of Way	35	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	52	P9
Public Transport	835	0	(25)	0	0	0	0	0	18	0	0	828	S26
Road Maintenance	339	0	(20)	0	0	0	0	16	7	0	0	342	
Transport Management	602	0	(126)	(3)	0	6	0	0	0	15	0	494	S10, S20
Waste Management	3,276	0	(179)	0	0	1	0	0	96	4	0	3,198	S3, S30, S31
Winter Maintenance	280	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	286	
Planning Policy	363	0	0	(3)	0	7	0	0	1	0	0	368	
Tourism	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Health & Safety	44	0	(2)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	43	S4
Property Services	1,217	74	(45)	(5)	0	10	24	11	14	(26)	0	1,274	CI5, P?, P8, S21
Building Control	15	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	18	CI1
Commercial & Industrial Properties	(178)	0	0	0	0	1	0	16	7	0	0	(154)	
Economic Development	208	0	(87)	(1)	0	2	0	0	1	1	0	124	S18, S19
Culture & Registration Services	168	0	0	(2)	0	4	0	0	(6)		0	164	
Libraries	496	0	0	(2)	0	5	0	2	2	9	0	513	
Museum Services	475	0	0	(1)	0	3	0	3	3	5	0	488	

	22/23 Restated Budget	Pressures	Savings	NI Levy Removal	Government Funding	Pay Inflation	Contractual Inflation	Utility Inflation	General Inflation	Depreciation	Transfers	23/24 Budget	Saving and Pressure References
Places	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
Sports & Leisure Services	93	0	(6)	(1)	(6)	2	0	1	2	11	0	96	S27
Total Places	15,677	440	(642)	(38)	(6)	69	301	118	203	148	0	16,227	

Appendix 4 – People Directorate Budget 22/23

	22/23 Restated Budget	Pressures	Savings	NI Levy Removal	Government Funding	Pay Inflation	Contractual Inflation	Utility Inflation	General Inflation	Depreciation	Transfers	23/24 Budget	Saving and Pressure References
People	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
Directorate Management Costs	1,404	2,090	(102)	(9)	0	51	0	0	1	0	38	3,473	P11, S13, S7
Public Health	(214)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	0	(5)	(197)	
BCF Enablers	128	0	0	0	300	2	0	0	1	0	0	430	
BCF Unified Prevention	343	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	(36)	307	
BCF Holistic Management of Health & Wellbeing	1,033	0	(40)	0	0	6	0	0	11	0	(142)	865	S28
BCF Hospital Flows	1,264	0	0	(2)	0	1	0	0	7	0	6	1,276	
Non BCF Contract & Procurement	531	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	2	0	(65)	470	
ASC - Community Inclusion	1,269	39	(52)	(13)	0	23	0	0	1	0	(25)	1,242	P10, S8, S28
ASC Prevention and Safeguarding	72	0	(128)	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	67	13	S23
ASC Prevention and Safeguarding - Staffing	303	0	0	(3)	0	6	0	0	0	0	(98)	208	
ASC Housing	252	0	0	0	0	17	0	0	3	0	0	270	
ASC Support and Review - Daycare	104	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	(75)	31	

	22/23 Restated Budget	Pressures	Savings	NI Levy Removal	Government Funding	Pay Inflation	Contractual Inflation	Utility Inflation	General Inflation	Depreciation	Transfers	23/24 Budget	Saving and Pressure References
People	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
ASC Support and Review - Direct Payments	1,414	0	0	0	0	0	62	0	0	0	(216)	1,260	CI1
ASC Support and Review - Homecare	1,998	13	0	(3)	0	9	53	0	23	0	632	2,725	P14, CI1
ASC Support and Review - Homecare	(425)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	55	(370)	
ASC Support and Review - Other	323	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	330	
ASC Support and Review - Residential and Nursing	4,001	247	0	0	0	0	197	0	12	0	(347)	4,110	P14, CI1
ASC Support and Review - Staffing	552	0	0	(5)	0	14	0	0	0	0	279	840	
Hospital and Reablement	720	0	(135)	(6)	0	14	0	0	15	0	0	608	S8, S9
Safeguarding	378	0	0	(2)	0	1	0	0	2	0	(50)	329	
CSC Referral, Assessment and Intervention Service	262	0	(25)	0	0	30	0	0	0	0	(41)	226	S24
CSC Permanency and Protection Service	476	0	(23)	(3)	0	3	0	0	5	0	(51)	407	S24, CI1

	22/23 Restated Budget	Pressures	Savings	NI Levy Removal	Government Funding	Pay Inflation	Contractual Inflation	Utility Inflation	General Inflation	Depreciation	Transfers	23/24 Budget	Saving and Pressure References
People	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
CSC Fostering, Adoption and Care Leaver Service	2,281	0	(56)	(2)	0	5	0	0	53	0	143	2,424	S24, S32
Early Intervention - Targeted Intervention	1,085	300	(72)	(4)	0	9	5	0	7	0	(2)	1,328	P16, S7, S29, S33, CI1
Early Intervention - SEND & Inclusion	878	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	4	0	0	892	
Early Intervention - Universal and Partnership	316	0	(2)	(2)	0	(1)	0	0	3	0	0	314	S7
Schools and Early Years	222	0	0	(4)	(57)	2	0	0	0	25	(69)	119	
Rutland Adult Learning and Skills Service (RALSS)	21	0	0	(4)	0	2	0	0	4	0	0	23	
Total People	20,991	2,689	(635)	(65)	243	210	312	0	191	25	(2)	23,952	

Appendix 5 – Savings and Pressures

The tables below shows changes to the budget from 22/23 including the impact of pressures and savings.

Table Reference	Resources	Places	People	Corporate	Total
Table 1 – Contractual Inflation	196	301	312	0	809
Table 2 – Pressures	199	397	2,689	0	3,285
Pay Inflation (Directorate Appendices)	82	69	210	0	361
Utility Inflation (Directorate Appendices)	0	118	0	0	118
General Inflation (Directorate Appendices)	27	203	191	0	421
Government Funding (Directorate Appendices)	0	(6)	243	0	237
Depreciation (Directorate Appendices)	(4)	148	25	0	169
Service Pressures	500	1,230	3,670	0	5,400
Table 5 – Corporate Pressure	0	0	0	375	375

Table Reference	Resources	Places	People	Corporate	Total
Table 3 – Budget Re-alignment and change in Funding	(5)	(212)	(248)	0	(465)
Table 4 – Service Led Savings	(311)	(430)	(390)	0	(1,131)
NI Savings	(39)	(38)	(65)	0	(142)
Service Savings	(355)	(680)	(703)	0	(1,738)
Table 5 – Ring Fenced Funding	0	0	0	(188)	(188)
Table 5 – Corporate Savings	0	0	0	(1,719)	(1,719)
Total	(355)	(680)	(703)	(1,907)	(3,645)

Table 1 – Contractual Inflation

Ref		Resources £000	Places £000	People £000	Total £000	Comments
	Contractual Inflation – Two types of Pressure 1) Inflation built into contract and due to hyper inflation has led to higher than assumption within MTFP 2) Re-procurement led to higher cost					
CI1	General Contract Inflation	75	277	312	664	Pressure due to inflation built into contracts
CI2	External Audit	92	0	0	92	The Council opted into the National Procurement process ran by the Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA). Following the results of the tender all Councils have been advised that fees are expected to increase by 150%, The Councils current scale fee for Audit is £57k plus £17k for specific Grant Audits.
CI3	Asset Valuations	17	0	0	17	The Council has to undertake a rolling programme of asset valuations to support the production of the Statement of Accounts. This is a key piece of work that is prescribed within the CIPFA Code. The Council re-procured its Asset Valuation Contract in 2022/23. The result of the procurement was an uplift in cost from the £8k currently paid to £25k.
CI4	Internet and Intranet	12	0	0	12	The new website has moved hosting provider and the annual costs for support and maintenance have increased. In addition, a project has commenced for the hosting of a new intranet for staff and members.
CI5	Cleaning Contract	0	24	0	24	Revised value for cleaning contract as per report 194/2022 presented to Cabinet 13th December

Ref		Resources £000	Places £000	People £000	Total £000	Comments
	Total Contractual Inflation	196	301	312	809	

Table 2

Ref		Resources £000	Places £000	People £000	Total £000	Comments
	One-Off Pressures					
P1	Community Care Finance Staffing	43	0	0	43	<p>The service has been unable to recruit to a full time role and this has been covered by an agency worker (37 hours per week) and Civica On Demand service (20 hours per week). This will need to continue to enable the service to operate, increasing by 5 hours to cope with an increase in workload.</p> <p>The original pressure for both posts is £105k but is offset by reducing staff in other areas to help mitigate the pressure.</p>
P2	IT Schools Admissions	37	0	0	37	<p>The current costs of the Capita system are around £108,000 per annum. The end of the contract is April 2024 and options are being considered for a system replacement that will offer better value for money.</p> <p>Any system go live would need to be September and therefore we are unable to match the end data of the Capita cost and we will have duplicate costs in 23/24 before starting to save costs when compared to the main Capita contract.</p>

Ref		Resources £000	Places £000	People £000	Total £000	Comments
						The above costs are based on current proposal of £64,000 annual costs but 7 months in 23/24
P3	Local Elections	87	0	0	87	This is the cost of running the local elections in 23/24. Some costs are recharged to parishes and shown in savings.
P4	Members Training	5	0	0	5	<p>All-out elections to the Council in May 2023 mean there will be a large amount of Member training to deliver in the 23/24 financial year. This goes beyond the normal amount of training required in-year for which the budget would otherwise be £1,000.</p> <p>There is some specialist training that will be delivered externally which comes with associated costs e.g. planning training etc.</p>
P5	Highways Contract Procurement	0	40	0	40	The pressure is to cover legal costs and the use of Social Value Engine to evaluate and monitor social value.
P6	Highways Staffing	0	54	0	54	To cover maternity leave from 1 st April 2023 to 5 th March 2024.
	Total One-Off Pressures	172	94	0	266	
	Recurring Pressures					
P7	Commissioned Transport	0	256	0	256	Forecasted spend for next year, based on growing trends for the past 2 full academic years is showing a pressure of £255,000 required in addition to existing budget allocation. The pressure reflects an:

Ref		Resources £000	Places £000	People £000	Total £000	Comments
						<p>Increase in the number of SEND students requiring transport to out of county placements on the ground of enhanced need; and</p> <p>Price increases across the board for the transport sector resulting in higher bid prices for contracts.</p>
P8	Property Asset Review	0	31	0	31	Pressure approved as per Asset Review Report 183/2022 presented to Cabinet on the 15 th November.
P9	Public Rights of Way	0	16	0	16	Seasonal vegetation clearance that was previously undertaken by the now vacant PROW post is currently being undertaken by a contractor (Tarmac), at a cost of approximately £8,000 per cut (2 cuts each year). There can be some off-setting against savings in the salary budget (highways management) whilst the PROW post remains vacant. This is being included as an option in the specification for the new Highways Term Maintenance contract.
P10	Community Support Services	0	0	39	39	Previously some tenants were assessed by health to be eligible to receive Health funding, however on a review by health it was decided that these tenants are no longer eligible but still require staffing support.
P11	ASC Fair Costs of Care	0	0	2,000	2,000	<p>Fair Cost of Care is focused on delivering a sustainable local care market.</p> <p>Paying a fair rate enables providers to cover the cost of care delivery and be able to make a reasonable profit (including</p>

Ref		Resources £000	Places £000	People £000	Total £000	Comments
						<p>re-investment in their business), surplus or meet their charitable objectives.</p> <p>For local authorities, it recognises the responsibility they have in stewarding public money, including securing best value for the taxpayer.</p>
P14	ASC Demand	0	0	260	260	<p>The Homecare budget is under pressures due to the cost of fuel and an increase in people receiving homecare packages of care</p> <p>Homecare PD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase due to one case which will not receive health funding. <p>Older People Residential and Nursing exceeding budget due to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 new non banded rated placements • 3 new service users • Increases due to depleted fund cases (were self-funders but now ASC funded)
P15	ASC Reforms	27	0	90	117	<p>Although the care cap reforms have been delayed some elements will be implemented as they support the Councils transformation agenda e.g. digital access and self serve and will be required to be in place for October 2025.</p>

Ref		Resources £000	Places £000	People £000	Total £000	Comments
P16	Childrens Demand	0	0	300	300	New Domiciliary support for small number of children with very complex health and care needs.
	Total Recurring Pressures	27	303	2,689	3,019	
	Total Pressures	199	397	2,689	3,285	

Table 3

Ref		Resources £000	Places £000	People £000	Total £000	Comments
	Savings - Budget Re-Alignment					
S1	HR	(5)	0	0	(5)	Review of Professional Fees
S2	CCTV	0	(5)	0	(5)	Reduction in Fees - not used in last 2 years
S3	Environmental Services	0	(1)	0	(1)	Reduce Car Mileage Budget as not being used
S4	Health & Safety	0	(2)	0	(2)	Fees and Charges Budget reduced in line with spending
S5	Parking	0	(16)	0	(16)	Various budget(s) reduced in line with spending
S6	Dog Warden	0	(1)	0	(1)	Reduce budget in line with current spend
S7	Children's	0	0	(10)	(10)	Reduction in some small third-party budgets e.g. Furniture, equipment, books

Ref		Resources £000	Places £000	People £000	Total £000	Comments
S8	Adults	0	0	(8)	(8)	Minor Budgets not required
	Total Budget Alignment	(5)	(25)	(18)	(48)	
Savings - Change in Funding Source from General Fund to Ringfenced						
S9	Adults	0	0	(130)	(130)	We will widen the use of available Disabled Facilities Grant to cover other costs.
S10	Transport Grants	0	(149)	0	(149)	We will use transport grants to fund (where possible) work being done by current officers rather than bring in external consultants.
S13	SEN	0	0	(100)	(100)	We will use SEN capital grants to fund (where possible) costs of staff working on proposals for use of capital grants
S15	Development Control	0	(38)	0	(38)	Removal of Post - Funding from Reserves (Grant)
	Total Change in Funding Source	0	(187)	(230)	(417)	

Table 4

Ref		Resources £000	Places £000	People £000	Total £000	Description of Saving	Impact
	Service Led Savings						
S10	IT Hardware	(10)	0	0	(10)	IT Hardware - Agreed saving of 20/21 Budget Review	Staff will be asked to use laptops for longer than a reasonable life and it is unlikely that that end user hardware will not be replaced unless the device is not functioning. Investment in central IT server hardware will not be carried out during the financial year 23/24 unless absolutely essential.
S11	IT Mobile phones	(7)	0	0	(7)	Mobile Phones - Agreed Saving of 20/21 Budget Review	Replacement for additional phones will not be possible and there will be no options to extend the number of staff that have a mobile phone.
S12	Legal	(50)	0	0	(50)	The Council is reviewing its legal arrangements with a view to optimising spend and getting better value for money	Commissioning process to be tightened up. More work will be delivered in house (within central legal or in service areas). Reduction in core offer with additional projects may need to ask for additional budget provision. Legal support to be reduced for non-essential/low risk matters and Member requests for ad hoc external legal advice may not always be possible e.g. Planning matters.
S13	Business Support Staffing	(100)	0	0	(100)	Interim staffing savings by removing four vacancy posts	These savings have been enabled by a number of changes to working practices e.g. subsumed some tasks into the work of others, made better use of technology to

Ref		Resources £000	Places £000	People £000	Total £000	Description of Saving	Impact
						from the budget pending further support service review	reduce administrative burden, deprioritised some low value work e.g. minuting of certain meetings and rationalised management.
S14	Postage and Printing	(50)	0	0	(50)	Remove vacancy in corporate support which supports post and reprographics	<p>Revision to the post and reprographics offer for the Council includes a freeze on a staff vacancy. This means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - less capacity to deal with work beyond post and reprographics e.g meeting support, 18 pointing, website support. - reducing how much the Council posts, limiting postage to statutory and essential items only. - reducing the amount of days post is posted/collected from 3 days to 1 day per week. - we will stop printing and posting to Parish Councils. - we will stop printing in colour. - we will recharge services printing anything which is not meeting a statutory requirement for distribution. - we will move more towards digimail as the method for printing and posting bulk services such as council tax reminders. - we will minimise printing for Council meetings.

Ref		Resources £000	Places £000	People £000	Total £000	Description of Saving	Impact
S15	IT	(25)	0	0	(25)	Various IT savings including removal of IT health check, additional savings on phones and data connection between sites.	The removal of the PSN certification process is expected also remove the need for an external health check which provides external assurance around the security of the network. Clearly any reduction in overall assurance might lead to additional risks in managing a secure network Review of data connections between sites will be the result of new procurement and no significant loss of service.
S16	Training	(18)	0	0	(18)	Reduce training to priority areas only. Budget has already been reduced by £20k, further reductions of £18k.	Some planned training will be cancelled and training offered to staff will be reduced or sourced via less costly routes if possible. This may limit career development and potentially impacting recruitment.
S17	Governance Staffing	(24)	0	0	(24)	Reduction in staffing (1 post)	The team is planning measures to reduce service offer, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reducing meeting schedule where meetings are not required. - Items for noting to instead be suggested for circulation by email or Members bulletin circulation thereby reducing workload required for quality checks and printing prior to publication. - Reducing level of detail in minuting in line with sector norms (recognising existence of recordings online). - Reducing broader administrative support available to staff and Members

Ref		Resources £000	Places £000	People £000	Total £000	Description of Saving	Impact
							such as through booking of meetings and training courses.
S18	Climate Change	0	(49)	0	(49)	Holding Climate Change officer post	<p>No proactive work will be done on Carbon Reduction plan/strategy over and above what services are already indirectly contributing through existing activities or can do through embedding environmental strategic thinking in the Local Plan, key procurement activity such as waste management, highways and transport. Community led initiatives will have to be self-managed and organised without support or co-ordination from the Council.</p> <p>This may also limit the Council's response to delivering on new government targets on biodiversity net gain.</p>
S19	Economic Development Staffing	0	(38)	0	(38)	Holding Economic Development post	<p>The Council will develop a new Strategy focusing on its enabling role through planning, transport, securing funding etc.</p> <p>Direct engagement with the County's business community will be more limited, potentially impacting the development and ownership of the economic strategy. Capacity to arrange and host business liaison activities, and events will be limited to business events.</p>

Ref		Resources £000	Places £000	People £000	Total £000	Description of Saving	Impact
							Should Government introduce further business grant support, additional resources would be needed. Currently working with Melton and Harborough to explore scope for shared resource to manage UKSPF £1m with Melton and Harborough. There is a risk of clawback if the Council does not adequately monitor and manage.
S20	Transport Staffing	0	(35)	0	(35)	Holding Sustainable Transport Officer post and reconfigure management of Transport services	<p>A fundamental redesign of the Council's transport network is underway as part of the Transformation programme.</p> <p>At a micro level, there will be limited proactive support on promoting sustainable transport and road safety campaigns within community and schools. Reduced staffing has meant a corresponding reduction in work in this area.</p> <p>Reductions in staff within the team will result in other workstreams being delayed such as independent travel training (which can lead to savings on home to school transport/SEN transport) and Road safety education and monitoring (which can increase risk of accident/injury)</p>

Ref		Resources £000	Places £000	People £000	Total £000	Description of Saving	Impact
							<p>The Council has a comparatively high standard highways network as recognised through Government incentive funding.</p> <p>It will proactively take local traffic concerns and manage them through the annual Highways capital programme rather than in year activity. This may involve a change in the way the Council engages with local communities.</p>
S21	Property Staffing	0	(45)	0	(45)	Holding Building Surveyor	<p>The lack of capacity arising from the vacant Building Surveyor role will result in ongoing delays in dealing with reactive repairs and other property matters. Should unforeseen/urgent/serious work arise it will result in reprioritised and may mean other work will need to be paused/stopped this will mean needing to stop some work.</p>
S22	Highways & Environment	0	(89)	0	(89)	Highways & Environment - pausing and reducing works	<p>Some revenue costs have been capitalised which increases risk of overspend if the capital programme is not delivered in full. A portion of fixed costs was removed which again increases risk if capital programme is not delivered. There is reduced budget for emergency works and unplanned remediation.</p> <p>Drainage and jetting budget has reduced due to reserves being exhausted over</p>

Ref		Resources £000	Places £000	People £000	Total £000	Description of Saving	Impact
							<p>recent years so the capability in this area is under pressure and will impact on both planned and reactive work.</p> <p>Reduced capacity to deliver unplanned grounds maintenance on ad-hoc land in RCC responsibility and in closed church yards. This work will be introduced to a programme of work within the contract in future years, however this is longer-term. The savings reduce capacity to deliver on reactive requests in the short-term.</p> <p>It will proactively take local traffic concerns and manage them through the annual Highways capital programme rather than in year activity. This may involve a change in the way the Council engages with local communities.</p>
S23	Adults	0	0	(128)	(128)	Carers grant to be withdrawn. Rutland is one of very few LA's who have continued funding carers in this way especially as we have two posts in ASC who offer support as well as the specialist Admiral Nurse service.	A carers assessment is a statutory responsibility which Rutland will continue to meet, through our current staffing resource. With 400 people badged as a carer in Rutland and only 27 receiving a direct payment we currently have an inequitable service. The carers budget is £128,000, which is currently due to save £57,000, if we do not commission any further direct payments this year. It is proposed we stop them completely which will save the whole

Ref		Resources £000	Places £000	People £000	Total £000	Description of Saving	Impact
							128K (Made up of LPT contribution, BCF and establishment). There is a risk of complaints however, a carers voucher could be considered at a greatly reduced rate as other LA's do which possibly could be financed from the LPT contribution.
S24	Children's Third Party Fees and Charges	0	0	(75)	(75)	Improved practice, better assessments for courts and undertaking family help meetings has led to less use of External Experts.	There is no immediate impact. However, if staffing levels reduce or case numbers are high, there would be limited capacity to outsource additional assessments which leads to reduced timeliness and quality of service.
S25	Elections recharges	(27)	0	0	(27)	Charges for Contested Parish Elections. If Parishes are uncontested the saving not available.	None to the Council. Parishes have been notified of likely charges so should provide for this amount
S26	Public Transport	0	(25)	0	(25)	Contribution from Oakham Town Council towards Oakham Hopper	No direct impact to the Council – additional income. It could result in Parish Councils raising Council Tax by a higher percentage.
S27	Active Rutland	0	(6)	0	(6)	Release of small sink fund (set aside for small repairs)	Future repairs will have to be absorbed in the budget.
S28	Adults Learning Disabilities day-care	0	0	(90)	(90)	Stopping support for elements of Learning Disabilities day-care and a dementia support worker.	The risk of not appointing to the dementia support worker for one year, to save £26,700 would mean the service would need to delay its time to respond to people. At a time when memory services have a backlog of people waiting for a diagnosis

Ref		Resources £000	Places £000	People £000	Total £000	Description of Saving	Impact
							staff will continue to triage risk and prioritise the most complex cases. Freeze recruitment for two community support workers for LD day opportunities for 12 months – this will reduce the capacity to expand the new day opportunities service, resulting in fewer service users being able to attend the service and a reduction in income generated from health, self-funder, and other local authorities service users
S29	Children with Disabilities	0	0	(20)	(20)	Holding of Children with Disabilities Social Worker post (0.5) once interim contract ends.	Increased caseloads for existing staff risks affecting timeliness and quality of service delivery. There will be a risk of increased complaints and legal challenges and costs. This includes reduced capacity towards meeting statutory timescales for plans, such as CiN plans and Section D of the EHCPs.
S30	Refuse Collection	0	(50)	0	(50)	Align budget to expected contract position	None. The MTFP assumed c8% in the MTFP for the 22/23, but the actual increase was significantly less than this.
S31	Refuse Collection	0	(93)	0	(93)	Reduce disposal costs based on current gate fees.	If gate fees increase, which are outside of the Councils control, this will result in a pressure.
S32	Adoption	0	0	(28)	(28)	Reduce budget to revised contract sum	May reduce the offer of services commissioned by Lincolnshire should they

Ref		Resources £000	Places £000	People £000	Total £000	Description of Saving	Impact
							continue to increase the costs of the contract based on inflation.
S33	Children's Staffing	0	0	(49)	(49)	Holding of Participation and Engagement Officer post	Reduced participation and engagement opportunities for children and young people to influence service planning and regional national work. Increase in workload for existing staff.
	Total Service Savings	(311)	(430)	(390)	(1,128)		
	Total Savings	(316)	(642)	(638)	(1,596)		

Table 5

	Total £000	Comments
Ring Fenced Reserve Funding		
Adults Micare (BCF)	(48)	We will recharge more of the MiCare service to Better Care Fund (BCF) as it contributes towards achieving health outcomes.
Hospital Discharge	(140)	Additional BCF fund hospital discharge will cover social worker costs from those helping on hospital discharges.
Total Savings	(188)	

	Total £000	Comments
Corporate Savings		
Interest Receivable	(1,430)	Updated assumptions based on expected rate profile. Tails off from 24/25.
Grants	(50)	The Council plans to set aside a % amount of new grants to cover the associated service and management overhead subject to terms and conditions.
Reduction in Demand Contingency	(239)	Reduce demand contingency by 50% to offset some of the service pressures.
Total Corporate Savings	(1,719)	
Corporate Pressures		
Pay Award	743	The Council had assumed a 2% pay award for 23/24, but this seems unlikely in the current market so are proposing increasing this to 4% which will create a pressure of £375k

Appendix 6 – Earmarked Reserves

Reserve	Balance 31/03/22	Budget Report Drawdown 22/23	Movement at P8	Total Movement 22/23	Balance 31/03/23	Transfer To General Fund	Budget Report Drawdown 23/24	Balance 31/03/24
National Non Domestic Rates	(2,772,850)	2,314,000		2,314,000	(458,850)			(458,850)
Tourism	(11,136)			0	(11,136)			(11,136)
Leisure					0		(300,000)	(300,000)
High Needs Reserve			(1,025,000)	(1,025,000)	(1,025,000)		(300,000)	(1,325,000)
Local Plan	(1,704,700)			0	(1,704,700)		(300,000)	(2,004,700)
Locally Set Ring Fenced	(4,488,686)	2,314,000	(1,025,000)	1,289,000	(3,199,686)	0	(900,000)	(4,099,686)
Public Health	(407,121)		(33,000)	(33,000)	(440,121)			(440,121)
Grants	(1,050,100)		173,200	173,200	(876,900)			(876,900)
Better Care Fund	(936,700)	200,000	(88,700)	111,300	(825,400)		188,000	(637,400)
Total Ring Fenced by Statute	(2,393,921)	200,000	51,500	251,500	(2,142,421)	0	188,000	(1,954,421)
Total Ring Fenced Reserves	(6,882,607)	2,514,000	(973,500)	1,540,500	(5,342,107)	0	(712,000)	(6,054,107)
Invest to Save	(172,721)		100,000	100,000	(72,721)	72,721		0
Internal Audit	0			0	0			0
Staffing Contingency	0		(290,800)	(290,800)	(290,800)	290,800		0
Training	(125,144)		15,600	15,600	(109,544)	109,544		0
Repairs	(249,000)			0	(249,000)	249,000		0
Highways	(396,438)	30,000		30,000	(366,438)	366,438		0
Brexit	(266,000)		266,000	266,000	0	0		0
Digital Rutland	(25,775)			0	(25,775)	25,775		0
Social Care Reserve	(1,316,454)		34,000	34,000	(1,282,454)	1,282,454		0
Legal & Insurance	(100,000)			0	(100,000)	100,000		0

Hardship Reserve	(187,174)	40,000		40,000	(147,174)	147,174		0
Pressure Reserve	0			0	0	0		0
Ash Die Back	(500,000)			0	(500,000)	500,000		0
Budget Carry Forward	(641,100)		404,000	486,300	(154,800)	154,800		0
CST Improvements	(145,900)		49,000	49,000	(96,900)	96,900		0
Rutland Adult Learning	(40,000)			0	(40,000)	40,000		0
Covid	(613,100)	79,000		79,000	(534,100)	534,100		0
Neighbourhood Plans	(27,000)			0	(27,000)	27,000		0
Culture Reserve	(6,200)			0	(6,200)	6,200		0
Total Non-Ring-Fenced Earmarked Reserves	(4,812,006)	149,000	577,800	809,100	(4,002,906)	4,002,906	0	0
General Fund	(13,026,162)			2,367,200	(10,658,962)	(4,002,906)	1,489,192	(13,172,676)
Total Non-Ring Fenced Reserves	(17,838,168)	149,000	577,800	3,176,300	(14,661,868)	0	1,489,192	(13,172,676)

Appendix 7 – Capital Programme

Asset Management Requirements Capital Programme									
Project	Project Description	Total Project Budget at M8	Approval Sought	Total Project Budget	Prior Year's Outturn (include estimate for 2022/23)	Estimated spend for 2023/24	Estimated Project Outturn for future years	Total Estimated Project Outturn	Project Over/ (Under) spend
Schools Maintenance	The capital project is to address maintenance issues in maintained schools and to support the smooth transition to Academy Status. (Report 184/2017)	36	0	36	19	12	5	36	0
Schools Capital Expansion Project – Catmose Project	The capital programme enables the local authority to meet its statutory obligation to provide sufficient secondary school places within Rutland (Report 38/2021)	5,400	0	5,400	4,860	362	178	5,400	0
Asset Review	The Asset Review Project will be used for any essential works to council owned assets, that were identified within the Corporate Asset	565	0	565	100	465	0	565	0

	Programme (Report 183/2022)								
Highways Capital Projects	The highways capital project is for the permanent repair of carriageways, footways, surface dressing and bridges in Rutland (Report 39/2021 & 65/2021)	2,606	0	2,660	2,660	0	0	2,660	0
Integrated Transport Block	The capital project is for the improvement of new transport schemes within Rutland (Report 25/2021)	1,324	0	1,324	445	450	429	1,324	0
Emergency Active Travel Project	The project is to support the installation of temporary projects for the COVID-19 pandemic (Ring Fenced Funding & Report 25/2021)	103	0	103	85	18	0	103	0
St Eabbass Close	The capital project is to improve existing infrastructure at St Eabass Close, Ryhall. (Delegated Approval)	4	0	4	0	0	4	4	0
ITCP 2019/42 Barlethorpe Roundabout	The capital project is to provide a formal pedestrian crossing at the Barleythorpe roundabout. (Delegated Approval)	100	0	100	100	0	0	100	0

**Total Asset Management
Requirements**

10,138

0

10,138

8,216

1,307

616

10,139

0

	Strategic Aims and Priorities Capital Programme								
Project	Project Description	Total Project Budget at M8	Approval Sought	Total Project Budget	Prior Year's Outturn (include estimate for 2022/23)	Estimated spend for 2023/24	Estimated Project Outturn for future years	Total Estimated Project Outturn	Project Over/ (Under) spend
Devolved Formula Capital	The funding is passed directly to schools to use for capital improvements to buildings and other facilities. (Ring- fenced funding)	12	12	24	12	12	0	24	0
Schools Energy Efficiency Improvement	The capital project is for eligible schools and six form colleges to improve buildings and facilities, prioritising works to improve energy efficiencies. (Ring Fenced Funding)	26	0	26	26	0	0	26	0
Disabled Facilities Grants	The project supports disabled people to live more independently and safely in their own homes by providing home adaptations. (Ring-fenced funding)	495	270	765	365	400	0	765	0

Changing Place at Anglian Water	Grant funding was awarded for the installation of a changing place toilet at Rutland Water (Ring Fenced Funding)	78	0	78	0	78	0	78	0
Changing Place at Uppingham	Grant funding was awarded for the installation of a changing place toilet at Uppingham (Ring Fenced Funding)	80	0	80	0	80	0	80	0
SEND	The project provides Rutland with the opportunity for additional local education places to improve outcomes for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and assist them as they mature into independence. (Report 86/2018)	1,549	0	1,549	731	400	418	1,549	0
Sports Grants	The project allowed communities to bid for funds relating to sports, recreation, leisure and community facilities (Report 80/2015)	418	0	418	343	0	75	418	0
Catmose Pool - contribution	This is a contribution to Catmose College to facilitate the demolition of the Swimming pool	150	0	150	150	0	0	150	0

towards demolition	(Report 76/2022)								
Digital Rutland Full Fibre	The project supports the connecting of homes and businesses within Rutland to a faster broadband (Report 159/2019)	2,229	0	2,229	1,686	0	543	2,229	0
Uppingham Town Centre WC	The project is a contribution towards the refurbishment of the public convenience at Uppingham Town Centre (Report 90/2020)	27	0	27	27	0	0	27	
Exton Play Area Refurbishment	The project is to support the improvement and safety requirement of Exton children's play area (Delegated Approval)	14	0	14	14	0	0	14	0
Great Casterton C of E Primary (S106)	The project is for extension works to provide wheelchair friendly access to a cloakroom and classroom. (Delegated Approval)	43	0	43	43	0	0	43	0

SMSJ Fire Exit and Emergency Lighting	The project will contribute towards the fire exit and emergency lighting works needed at the school (Delegated Approval)	17	0	17	6	0	11	17	0
Affordable Housing, Brooke Road, Oakham	The project is a grant award to Platform Housing Group for the development of the former allotments at Brooke Road, Oakham (Report 03/2021)	650	0	650	0	0	650	650	0
UK Share Prosperity Allocation (UKSPF)	The project is a contribution towards the delivery and implementation of the council's investment plan. (Ring Fenced Funding	24	0	24	24	0	0	24	0
Oakham Enterprise Park - Unit 2 and 4	The capital project for Oakham Enterprise Park is to develop the site to maximise the return on the asset (Report 75/2019)	110	0	110	66	0	44	110	0
Website Development	The capital project is for a new council website platform (Report 173/2021)	49	0	49	49	0	0	49	0
IT Projects	The allocation will support a number of IT capital projects within the council	30	0	30	0	0	30	30	0

	(Delegated Approval required)								
Total Strategic Aims and Priorities		6,000	282	6,282	3,542	970	1,771	6,282	0
Total Capital Programme		16,138	282	16,420	11,758	2,277	2,387	16,420	0

Appendix 8 – Consultation

Rutland County Council budget consultation 2023/24

Number of respondents – 159 (Residents – 155, Business Owner – 4)

Q1. Setting the council's budget

Rutland County Council must set a balanced budget each year. The amount we spend on running your local services can't be more than the total amount of money we get from our three main sources of income – money given to us by national government, fees and charges and Council Tax.

National government uses something called 'Core Spending Power' to measure the total resources available to councils to fund local services. Core spending power for councils in England has increased this year. However, it is based on the government's assumption that councils will raise Council Tax by the maximum 4.99% allowed (2.99% Council Tax and 2% just for Adult Social Care).

The current government funding formula does nothing to make up for historic inequalities in the way Council's have been funded over many years. Some councils get more money from the government than others, which means Council Tax makes up a smaller proportion of their overall Core Spending Power. Under the current funding model, Rutland gets less government funding per household than other councils with the same responsibilities. As a result, Council Tax accounts for 78% of our Core Spending Power. Nationally, other authorities rely on Council Tax for around 57% of their Core Spending Power. This is a big difference.

Do you understand the role that Council Tax plays in funding local services?

- Yes - 130 (94%)
- No - 4 (3%)
- Not sure - 5 (4%)

Do you understand why Council Tax is even more important in Rutland than many other local authority areas?

- Yes - 106 (76%)
- No - 23 (17%)
- Not sure 9 (7%)

Do you support Rutland County Council's view that there should be fairer government funding for local councils?

- Yes - 121 (87%)
- No - 9 (7%)
- Not sure - 9 (7%)

Additional comments

What can be done to get the current funding model changed and reduce the burden of council tax on Rutland's residents?

As RCC have consistently failed to secure enough central government funding it is time to give up independence as a county

There should also be far more transparency and no more closed cabinet decisions on spending.

Year upon year we are told that council tax must increase by the maximum because the government gives us less funding per person in Rutland than the national average. What is actually being done about this? We are paying more and more and getting less and less and each year we hear the same reasons why this is. Whatever is being done is clearly ineffective - time for a new tactic?

I do not feel that the council use funds well - E.g closure of Catmose sports centre

I agree but I think that money should be spent on representing the views of the community not on closing much needed community services like the leisure centre.

Rutland County Council is not viable.

Setting budgets is a discretionary act on behalf of RCC. Therefore I understand the size of the pie is set but the size of the slices is locally controlled. I think you have not prioritised keeping people healthy and well over patching people and roads up. The preventative agenda is so important and jointly with the NHS is a Council responsibility. Allowing Catmose Gym to close is an example of the incorrect prioritisation of resource.

If the government contribution was more equal to the national average for our area then Council Tax would not have to be relied on so heavily.

When I asked our MP at the hustings before the election what she intended to do about this inequality - both historical & current - in central government funding I was told that had an appointment with Sajid Jarvis the then Chancellor. Since then obviously there have been several others and she is more interested in Foreign Affairs and her own career/agenda than her constituency so I doubt there has been any change.

Under funded - but money needs to be ringfenced to keep sports centre

Since gaining independence in 1997 Rutland has been trying to get fairer funding from the government. It is widely reported we receive less funding per head than other unitary authorities but not why.

I feel very sad and feel disappointed and that it's unacceptable that the sports and leisure sector is gaining no level up or money being invested into it. Yet the government shares that children need to gain so many hour exercise each week and with not providing this service any money you are actually placing them on the safeguarding system of ill health especially for families whom don't have the capital to spend using public transport each month or multiple times a week to get to the clubs that once was in walking distance. Shame on you.

What has happened to the funds paid by developers building new houses to the council to pay for local services? I believe Rutland raises quite a lot of money in this way but I know of no services or amenities funded by this money?

Building new properties thus increasing the poll tax revenue is short sighted considering the lack of Infrastructure and amenities within Rutland. This will not entice people to move into the area.

I agree that the government funding per Household is far too low and very unfair, I don't object to the council tax being raised, but I feel the budget is not being used to benefit the

local residents and funding should be reallocated to reflect the will and needs of the community, for example I do not agree with huge amount of the budget put towards culture especially the huge amount of money towards the museum I feel this would be much better spent on keeping catmose sports centre open and available heath fitness and local amenities should come way before museums

Why are RCC only receiving approx £500 per resident when other authorities receive over £1,000 per resident. RCC should be lobbying Central Government for fairer funding for Rutland and should continue until they get it. This inequality is leading to the extortionate council tax Rutland residents have to pay and the RCC imposing the largest increase they are allowed to every year.

I don't understand why the constant bids RCC make to the government for fairer funding has repeatedly failed.

The only way to solve the funding issue is to become part of Leicestershire again which would generate extra monies Council tax increases for Rutland will become unsustainable in the next year. It adds £141 extra to my bill.

This has been an ongoing issue for many years a more aggressive approach is needed

As Rutland's funding is half the local average this needs to be much more aggressively challenged, especially as this has been the case for many years causing hardship to a great number of residents.

Greater government consideration/funding needs to be given to smaller councils such as Rutland who have to run the same services as larger councils but with the cost offset amongst fewer people. This would help make council tax more equitable nationwide

It does not seem to benefit us being a small county in terms of funding, and economies of scale

Please can a fairer proportion of the budget go towards Leisure.

Please inform and educate Rutland residents on what we can do to lobby the government to change the way that council tax is disproportionately high in Rutland. All Rutland residents are against having to pay the highest council tax in the country and we would lobby, rally, support any actions if we knew what the right way to approach this is.

These questions are horribly thought through and extremely leading. Rutland doesn't deserve a tonne of money because it simply does not need it.

These questions are simply loaded to provide you with the answers you want.

Know this is not your fault. Point I wish to make in how unfair the tax is, I live in a 2 bedroom home, paying £2000. Yet on the same estate a home twice my size only pays the same. another 10/12 roomed house only pays £200 more. I am 92, retired with little other income than my state pension.

There needs to be a more supportive approach from Rutland Council towards local businesses and the benefit that we bring to the towns of Rutland, whilst I appreciate there is a token effort towards this, without a more strategic plan the town will be desolate with the next 10 years. There should be a more United front with the councils strategic plan and businesses operating in the area. After all we all have a similar goal, to better serve the communities that we are in to improve our mutual success.

There are an extreme lack of local services in Rutland which is reducing even more so I'm sure the extra increase isn't going to our non existent services

You fail to deliver, high level services in Rutland, you fail in projects for younger people in Rutland, and have pulled a swimming pool and stopped support a skate park, you are allowing new houses but not allowing services to keep up.

Consultation uses inappropriate questions. It looks like you already get the answer you want. Why not be impartial?

I'm sure many of Rutland residents have no problems with the high council tax rates....it's a wealthy and desirable area. It will be impossible to get a formula that is 'fair' for all, so suggest RCC accept the current situation and look at better ways to manage within the current system

Consult the people before making decisions!

You need to fund catmose leisure facilities. You need to lobby and make accountable out Tory MP for the cuts to LA funding her government have made over the past decade.

Just because we live in a rural area, with fewer residents, it would still make sense to have the same funding per capita as other more densely populated counties.

Rutland needs more funding from central government. The current climate makes it frightening for people to have to find more money to pay for services. I hope the council continues to support people in need

More effort should be made by our MP to get a more even funding for Rutland. I know we are out of the normal funding regime, but that should not exclude us from a better deal

I suggest that serious consideration is given by councilors to the possibility of rejoining Leicestershire because the burden of providing a full range of services is just too great for the magnitude of Rutland's population and the low level of funding from the (central) government

It is obviously unfair that there is such a difference in funding when we all pay income and other taxes and contribute to our local communities.

Put more pressure on government for fairer funding

It is disappointing that the national government is incompetent and that your questions above are so leading

It's a rip off again. Absolutely scandalous increase and we all predicted you would again go for the maximum. You're all still getting your pay rises and your new office equipment & furniture in the council offices

The suggestion is we get less Government funding as we are perceived to be an affluent area. Perception is not enough on such an important area what are the facts, do we have them i.e. health standards, aging population, numbers on benefits and how do they compare with similar areas. How do we make the case to government.

Rutland should not be disadvantaged because it is small as it still needs to offer all the services that local councils provide.

Forward Planning/Spending on encouraging environmental issues i.e. linking villages/towns with good width cycle lanes to promote fitness and quality of life going forward. The cost, whilst a big consideration should be accepted as inevitable if we mean to address environmental issues now rather than wasting money on mowing grass verges. Getting to grips with Illegal Speeding and encouraging the public to take part in Drastic Action to find ways to stop Fly Tipping and dropping litter in public places i.e. clever

advertising/humour. Why are psychologists not being employed to educate and improve people's intelligence? It's called thinking outside the box.

These are leading questions, not an impartial consultation.

Rutland residents can ill afford the constant demands for higher council tax payments, caused by the inequality of the funding system.

We have a Conservative MP - she should sort the variance in the funding formula compared to other Councils. Our Council Tax is too high for the services it provides.

I am appalled by the increase and I wish my salary was also increasing by 5% to compensate for this increase. The local services are not reflective of this - roads have constant holes and reappear in the same places, clearly cheap fixes. Maybe a look at money spent on other things within the council environment would be a better view to recoup some monies.

I am disgusted that our council tax is rising by the maximum once again. I pay almost double the council tax of the Prime Minister and King Charles for Buckingham Palace. Our MP should lobby more if we are not being funded fairly and the whole council tax scheme should be overhauled and replaced by a fairer system. The council also wastes money. For example why are the Christmas lights still on, on the 12th January? Is there not an energy crisis and not only are we wasting money on this but it is an environmental impact. I am furious that since I have lived in Rutland my council tax has increased year on year. When will it stop. We even had a green bin cost rise for goodness sake!

If RCC were to merge with a larger council, i.e. Leicestershire County Council, surely the disparity would not be as great in terms of government funding.

Q2. Our financial health

The Council has worked hard to manage its budget carefully over many years. We consistently receive positive value for money assessments from independent auditors, while the Local Government Association recently highlighted Rutland as a national example of good practice for the quality of its financial management. This is because we spend less money to deliver the same services as other local authorities and often achieve better results.

Our approach to financial management has worked well over the past 10 years – allowing us to absorb much of the pressure caused by rising inflation and growing demand for key services like adults and children's social care. To put this in context, Rutland County Council made savings of almost £12.5million between 2011 and 2021 while still managing to protect local services.

The current state of the UK economy is placing even more pressure on the public sector. The cost of delivering local services is rising way beyond any increase in council funding or Core Spending Power. Despite making even more savings in 2022, increased demand for local services, rising energy prices and an inflation rate of 10% over the past 12 months mean that it will cost us £5million more to deliver the same local services in 2023/24, compared to last year.

Do you think that Rutland County Council manages its finances well?

- Yes - 23 (17%)
- No - 71 (53%)
- Not sure - 41 (30%)

Do you understand why the cost of running local services has increased significantly in the past 12 months?

- Yes - 109 (81%)
- No - 15 (11%)
- Not sure - 11 (8%)

Please use the space below to leave any additional comments:

High inflation is affecting everyone's budgets. Rutland's council tax is already the highest and a 4.99% increase (the maximum) will obviously be higher than in other areas. Why are we being discriminated against by central government?

You haven't protected vital services. The health and wellbeing of residents has been neglected. Local plan costing over £1million scrapped!!! Shocking avoidable waste of council's funds

The decision to close Catmose Sports Centre is really disappointing and is not the right one for our local community. Whilst I appreciate the pressures the Council is under, this is a short term saving with massive long term health and financial effects. I cannot see how this can be the right decision for the residents of Rutland, or for our children. The suggestion that we should instead travel to access leisure is one that will have detrimental environment impacts and also is a barrier to many people accessing the services that are so important for both their physical and mental health

I think the council manage their finances poorly and make costly errors. They are short sighted - as is evident in their decision to close Catmose sports centre. I don't think the council manages their finances well and I think many costly errors are made. As such they make short sighted decisions like closing Catmose sports centre.

Dont do Staff Pay Award, like the rest of the country, no pay rises this year.

Why go for Levelling up fund if its going to cost the council 'Council may be asked to provide match funding for up to 20% of the award value'? The museum funding is of no value to the majority of people living in Rutland. Reduce the huge amount of council funding (not levelling up money) the museum now you have levelling up money. Use that money for leisure facilities in Rutland.

I don't understand why funding can't be diverted from the museum to Catmose Sports Centre

Failure to retain the Catmose gym is a complete dereliction of your duty of care towards the health of residents.

Rutland is too small to achieve economies of scale. It needs to merge with at least one neighbouring authority.

Rutland County Council is subject to the whims of self interested local councillors.

Closing the sports centre is going to have a big impact on physical and mental health for years to come and increase the health and wellness funding required. I am not impressed with the management of contractors for highways, the costs of the schemes, and not taking costs out to reflect a post COVID way of working. For example why still spend 100k on lease cars? You use Teams, they are in the car park most of the time. 100k revenue would support the Gym.

Cost of running services has significantly increased across many sectors of industry. This however has challenged many businesses to work collaboratively with suppliers to ensure resilience to the services they offer to their customers. Energy prices are predicted to settle out in 2023 therefore increasing an ability to forecast costs. This is exactly the period of time when we should be using reserves that have been built up by the good financial keeping of our council over many years and not be making permanent decisions about the closures of hugely beneficial leisure assets within the county that will cause huge detriment to the quality of life for thousands of our counties population

I feel that there have been numerous occasions when RCC have squandered public monies and if more consideration had been made lots of funds wouldn't have been wasted i.e. SGB, HIF Fund Application and Local Plan

There is a significant amount of private/personal money put into the provision of adult social care through private care agencies which in turn relieves RCC of that financial burden. There is no way that RCC would be able to fund adequate adult social care otherwise - and the care that is offered is frequently inappropriate and inadequate.

It appears that money is spent on areas that are used more by older residents, and younger people are forgotten

Really sad that you at the local council are removed a sports centre and not even replacing it for all ages from birth up to 90s work out in the place. Finding level up funds even for 2 years would help support people.

I know this is supposed to be an affluent area but that is no excuse for providing no leisure facilities in the community for ordinary people. Most people cannot afford to pay to belong to private health clubs and swimming pools . There should be something available for local people on a budget.

Key services that need funding have had funding removed such as sports and leisure facilities. For the size of the population the director structure seems bloated and expensive.

Maybe austerity isn't working and we should try something else. Just a thought.

Reducing the social structure and facilities is not good book balancing but an easy way of reducing costs

I understand the impact that the cost of living crisis has had across all sectors but turning Oakham in to a care village does seem like a fair distribution of funds have a larger than average older population and providing some of the best adult social care. Is making a dying town becoming a place people come to die
RCC should manage their budget more appropriately and invest on leisure facilities for the county. With the announced closure of Catmose Sports Centre there will be no public leisure facilities left in oakham, and I feel this is a very short sighted decision as it will have an impact on the physical and mental health of local residents who regularly use these facilities. The decision to close these facilities will undoubtedly mean they will never be re-instated, as was the swimming pool.

Time to start getting value for money and stop just paying out over inflated costs with no question. My concern is the spiralling costs for adult social care along with SEN costs none of this should be paid out of Council Tax. A separate budget should be used to cover costs More money needs to be allocated to Sports and Leisure. The decision to close Catmose Leisure Centre to save costs is disgraceful and the public should have been consulted. How you can justify £93,000 for Leisure and over a million to the Museum and other areas under that umbrella proves how out of touch the council are

The same is true for every council and for every private sector business. We just have to crack on and do our best.

It seems ludicrous that the health and wellbeing of residents has not been prioritized. Having worked in NHS healthcare for 20 yrs I find it unbelievable that this county has not prioritized service provision of leisure facility which offers preventative self care opportunities for physical and mental health. I am also worried as a parent that a museum is given priority in a world where it is more challenging to keep young people active.

Running local services should also include the health interests of residents as promoted by the government and sports and leisure facilities properly funded not closed down

Disproportionate spending on public facilities/services vs day-to-day council running costs. The council is not run cost effectively/efficiently as an organisation

I'm not sure if you allow businesses to submit tenders to provide services for running local services in Rutland. If you don't, you should request tenders from businesses and choose the most cost-effective one to save on future operating costs.

I'm sure there are elements that Rutland council do well in terms of managing the finances, but this is not seen by Rutland residents, we just see a reduction in local services e.g. swimming pool and now Catmose sports centre and an increase in council tax rates and payment for green bins.

Again horribly loaded questions. Incredibly dumb wording. Rutland offers nothing to its residents, nor has it sought to raise revenue outside off passing costs to its residents and businesses.

You are wasteful

As previously stated we have No services or a distinct lack of.

I understand completely that the Tories are the worst thing to happen to this country - shame on so much of Rutland for supporting them. I still think that the financial support is going in all the wrong places and none of it, not one cent, improves the lives of us residents. I couldn't help but notice that my council tax bill went up dramatically only to pay for the police in other places.

The rising costs will be short term, the council should always have plan for increases in costs such as fuel and maybe, purchase in advance .

I don't see cuts to overpaid executive posts. I don't see merging with other authorities

Spend some of the savings to give the community what it needs! Higher paid councillors and a long term savings plan isn't the answer!

The increase is mainly down to underfunding by central government.

However you have raised taxes each year and as a teacher my wages have not risen in line with your tax rises or inflation !!

I might have a better understanding if, when clicking on "Where does my Council Tax Go", there was a simple cost by service breakdown rather than a 93 page document that uses "Pressure" 86 times as an undefined licence to spend taxpayers money. That document might be ok internally to justify the author's existence and salary it does nothing to explain in simple terms to me where the money goes. Hardly transparent is it?

Why is the cost of providing local services going up by GBP 6.1m when the total expenditure in 2022/23 is GBP 46.9m (if my memory serves me correctly) - that is an increase of close to 13% - much greater than the rate of inflation

RCC is a vanity project and it should be combined with another county to be able to benefit from being a greater size and have scalable services and budget accordingly

With the amount of council tax flooding into the RCC and from all the additional new housing everything should be perfect, but it's shambolic.

We pay one of the highest Council Tax rates in the country yet get poor services for Services have never returned to how they were pre COVID and there is no reason for this. So many problems which need addressing, and then on top of this we have to pay extra for the green bin to be collected. Rutland Council do not give value for money and they should list exactly where the money is spent in detail

Increased costs by poor national government decisions and incompetence. Poor local government for years.

It was already too much

We are a small area ,have the council fully explored ,compensating for this impacting on loss of benefits of economy of scale by developing practical strategic partnerships with other public bodies and the private sector

Rutland should align with another larger local authority so as to have better expertise than they can afford to pay for as such a small local authority.
Too expensive for poor service provided by this council

Young people should be encouraged more in practical skills that will give them ideas to pursue future careers, especially in the science/medical fields. Again using the study of Psychology to tap into individual talents which all individuals process rather than concentrate on exams.

i) The council just paid to revamp its website. Whilst small, it shows you don't understand the current financial need to stop wasteful spending ii) I would abolish Rutland Council and let Leicestershire / Cambridgeshire run services iii) Your chief executive is on more than £100000 per year. Don't ask me for more money without cutting your own costs first.

spending on things like the fair isn't a good use of public money - it's not a necessity. Better car parking facilities, with a park and ride if easier would be good. The increased housing in the area isn't being offset by increased public services like drs surgeries or a public swimming baths

Even though costs have risen there is a need for RCC service commissioners to keep downward pressure on the cost of these services and shop around for best value local services are a joke when you live in a remote area but no services. This is not a party political broadcast on behalf of the Council. Give us the facts and less propaganda.
We have all seen increases costs and no additional support.

Q3. Transforming the council

Because of the current economic climate and the severe financial pressure on councils, Rutland is facing a big funding gap – the amount of money we need to run local services is now much bigger than the funding we have available to us. Knowing this, Councillors recently approved new plans to use Council Tax, cost reductions and a safe amount of reserve funding to balance Rutland's annual budget in each of the next four years, while using this time to reorganise the council and make it as efficient as it can be. Our total savings target over this period is around £4.9million.

Although the situation is very serious, many other councils are in a worse position and face the prospect of sweeping cuts to balance their budgets. Rutland has enough reserves to manage the situation carefully and create a more sustainable council over the next four years – one where we spend less money by fundamentally changing the way we work. This process of wholesale change is taking the form of a council-wide 'Transformation Programme' As well as changing how we work, it is inevitable that we will need to reduce our overall spending and prioritise key services for vulnerable people if we are to continue operating in the current economic climate.

Do you agree with the following principles that form the basis of Rutland County Council's Transformation Programme:

We will transform the way we deliver local services so that we reduce waste and maximise efficiency, getting maximum value for the money we spend

- Agree - 89 (70%)
- Disagree - 24 (19%)
- Not sure - 15 (11%)

We will create a smaller but functional council that spends less overall, while protecting the most vulnerable and enabling the community to do more for itself

- Agree – 68 (54%)
- Disagree - 27 (21%)
- Not sure - 31 (25%)

Please use the space below to leave any additional comments:

Can you expand on what is meant by 'enabling the community to do more for itself' please?

Could a cost saving be made by selling the prestigious council headquarters building. Most of it must be unoccupied now with the numbers working from home. More economical premises may be available ie the Enterprise Park
Stop wasting money on those Council offices, they are inefficient to heat not required as most officers work from home They could be used for a gym, cinema, medical centre and community hub.

What do you mean by "enabling the community to do more for itself"? This sounds like we will pay more and get less for our money and be left without support or services that are so vital e.g. childcare which is currently provided by Catmose Sports Centre and which will be taken away come March, leaving us with no alternative childcare options

I do not feel the council are in touch with the wishes of the community and so do not feel they are supporting the vulnerable - as evident in their decision to close Catmose sports centre

I don't think a community will be able to do more for itself if mental health and wellbeing plummet due to the removal of Catmose sports centre.

Why are you increasing the provision for pay awards from 2% to 4% when some of this could be used to support Catmose Sports Centre. Why does RCC mit consider a zero pay round for just one year?

This transformation should not include the closure of Catmose Sports Centre. That's going backwards, not forwards.

No one could disagree with the principle of reducing waste and maximising efficiency, but you've not shown any evidence of this to date. We are already too small to function efficiently. Cutting the number of Council officers will not improve the situation.

How is closing the sports centre contributing to enabling the community to do more for itself. How can we proactively manage our health with the space, community environment and knowledgeable staff that we currently have at Catmose Sports? Just sell Catmoes, it costs a lot to run and the offices are empty.

I feel rather sorry for the employees who are made redundant so that a 'smaller but functional council' can be created

Services already provided are limited should they really be cut even further!!

RCC needs a massive overhaul in terms of efficiency and spending - in terms of the office staff and accommodation alone. The fact that after the pandemic the staff in the offices are still unavailable, phones not being answered between 12.30 - 2pm etc would indicate that there is no need for such huge office accommodation when staff are working from home - even when 'normal' people and council taxpayers are back at work and cannot contact the council during working hours. The council offices could be moved to the enterprise park - which is frankly undeveloped and under utilised - why does it still look like a prison? It hardly encourages businesses to relocate there - I certainly wouldn't expect my clients to come there - and the current RCC offices could be sold off for redevelopment.

Having also seen the pay scales for the executive officers this is also something that needs to be looked at - when the lowest salary is £46k and the average full time salary in Rutland - if you can get a full time contract - is around £20k - it shows how out of touch the executive/director level is with the local population. They maybe comparable with other local authorities but those other authorities have large incomes due to commerce & industry paying their business rates (one of Oakham largest land owners is Oakham School and they are exempt from business rates) and more residential council tax. Maybe more of those roles should be made part time/paid on results.

Yes, protect the most vulnerable - but this isn't always the obvious people. Residents will suffer without use of sports centre

The principles for the transition programme are sound provided there are followed

Balance funds and return back to the community leisure centre is needed

You still need to provide services for everyone

I agree but doubt RCC will see them through. Incompetent. Creating a smaller and more efficient council is good but simply pushing the community to do everything for itself is not the answer. The council is supposed to provide services.

'enabling the community to do more for itself' - or 'leaving the community to figure it out'?

You have made sweeping cuts, to the facilities available to the local community. How can the community do more for itself. I do see the council helping and offering alternatives for the closures that it is currently proposing?

Saving just under 5 million over 4 years should not be the objective if it involves losing local amenities like the catmose sports centre, this is not a case of saving to have something better in the future but instead losing the facilities and infrastructure that people want and need right now so that the council looks good

on paper that they saved money while the residents suffer and the town dwindles away

I agree with the principles but whether they are carried out remains to be seen.

Unsure what is being protected

I agree with the principal but without specific details can't confirm agreement
All talk no action

It is not what you spend, rather how you spend it. It is not enough to focus predominantly on an aging population as our future generations will pay the price for lack of focus on activity. Again a leisure centre should be a given not an option

Why do you know account for joining with large authorities and changing unitary status to being about better , bigger and more streamlined services and acknowledge the council can't continue as a unitary authority as it is not big enough or sustainable enough to be able to do so?

The council needs to increase its diversity and become more representative of minority voices in the local community. Too many decisions are currently dominated by single perspectives
It seems that Rutland as a county is unfeasible

I disagree with your first statement because you have decided to close Catmose Sports Centre for approximately 900 community members from April of this year. This contradicts your claim about transforming local services. This decision should not have been made without first consulting with the residents and soliciting their feedback. There are some prominent business people in Rutland who could have offered alternative solutions to keep the sports centre open to the public!

I agree in protecting vulnerable people obviously, but there needs to be an agreement with local residents on other areas we would like to see prioritised for spending. For too long the council has not been transparent enough on what areas have to be funded and what areas we have a choice on. Please let Rutland residents have a choice, rather than decisions made by cabinet members without fully consulting residents on fundamental services that residents rely on e.g. Catmose sports centre.

I agree you should pay less and consider your departments that you outsource with little value for money

That means relying more on the voluntary sector

These statements are neither inherently good nor bad as there is no detailed and fully coated plan around how this looks.

You will continue to increase everyone's council tax whilst at the same time reduce services and amenities. That is what you mean, isn't it! "To enable the community to do more for itself " what do suggest, fill in potholes ourselves?

Rutland public procurement objectives need reviewing and some instances of its use should be brought in house. As an example the majority of transport expenditure goes to companies from out of county, therefore the benefits of expenditure from those businesses is also out of county. We need to have a focus on using businesses and entities from within the borders of Rutland, creating a network of support and introducing those companies that are unaware of opportunities to work with the council. By utilising businesses within the county, this creates jobs and expenditure within the county reducing the burden on the social system and decreasing the unemployment rate, creating a more attractive environment for further businesses to enter the Rutland economy and creating a positive circular effect. This is not a one stop solution but a collaborative effort from multiple departments, businesses and the community. Communication is key, far too often the council gets caught short having not communicated effectively, whilst it's traumatic may I remind you of the one way system proposals. Had this of been communicated effectively and proactively it probably would have gone forward and been a great success.

I have put disagree to the first question on this page because I think you have achieved none of that

You from your own figures are wasting large sums of money on Directors and management.

You mismanage services. Planning needs outsourcing to another authority as you cannot show efficient decision making.

It looks like you are chasing to cut costs from leisure and well-being which is a very short sighted decision and not consistent with your strategic vision

Efficiency and protecting...rather than enhancing and improving. Shut the leisure centre, more long term pressure on social care in the future. Its backward short term sticking plaster politics and yiu need to be better.

Good words but as always what, in practical terms do you mean!!

Easier said than done ... would support (e.g. in referendum) a higher council tax to avoid harmful cuts

I fear that Rutland has too small a population to be able to increase efficiencies enough - our costs are too granular

I have concerns a smaller council will lead to less service and less vigilance which could lead to corrupt practices and bullying by powerful interests. Money talks!

It's all words and no action

You need to give value for money and provide a decent service. None of this will ever happen.

The most wonderfully created survey that leads you to support the Rutland council view of their world. Clever but doesn't actually inform you of what people think, want or need.

All just waffle

support efficiencies but what do we jettison to achieve this i.e youth service town Centre development ,economic development

Again RCC should consider being part of a larger local authority where greater expertise can be afforded and a higher standard maintained than is currently possible.

Leading questions shouldn't be allowed. This isn't a fair and objective consultation.

How are you reducing waste and maximising value for money? Where is that communicated? How are you protecting the most vulnerable?

Would need much greater detail on a scaled down operation.

Stop using the future tense and do it NOW. You overspend on running costs and make the residents pay for this waste of money. Cut the Council's costs today and spread the deficit in equal proportions over ALL other services

If we only let through some activities privately funded there would be more for people to do. Why did a cinema get turned down because people may want to use the hall for dances? How many dances have taken place. We need to allow some change in this town. Also we have so many new developments. Surely you are making much more money now as you are allowing so much development.

Q4. Our latest budget

While councils feel that they are being treated unfairly, we are left with little choice but to set a budget based on the UK's current economic outlook, rate of inflation and local government funding model. This means using our reserves to balance our budget in the short term, implementing a Transformation Programme to reshape the council (create more savings) and raising Council Tax by the maximum amount allowed, to fund local services.

If we do not follow this course of action, our funding gap will grow and our ability to balance the budget will be reliant on external factors like inflation and the level of government funding, over which councils have no control. Rutland County Council would be solvent for the next few years. However, our long-term future would be out of our hands, effectively risking bankruptcy.

With the 12-month rate of inflation running at 10% for 2022, the government expects councils to raise Council Tax by the maximum amount allowed (4.99%), as well as using reserves and making savings to balance their budgets and keep delivering local services.

Do you agree with the following actions, as proposed on the council's draft budget for 2023/24:

Use a safe amount of the council's financial reserves to balance the budget in the short term

- Agree - 86 (74%)
- Disagree - 17 (15%)
- Not sure - 13 (11%)

Implement a Transformation Programme to reshape the council and create more savings

- Agree - 84 (72%)
- Disagree - 15 (13%)
- Not sure - 17 (15%)

Use the Council Tax flexibility given to us by national government on the explicit understanding that councils will make maximum use of this to help fund local services

- Agree - 71 (61%)
- Disagree - 33 (28%)
- Not sure - 13 (11%)

Please use the space below to leave any additional comments:

Is there any way independent businesses could be encouraged to return to the town centre. Taxes/rents could be reduced. This would be better than empty units bringing in zero revenue and depressing the face of our once thriving market town. RCC have proven that they do not use funds effectively such as the scrapped local plan that cost over £1million and funds are wasted on areas that add less value than others, there is also no long term thinking in the decision making

How much will this transformation cost? Could the money not be used better elsewhere? What alternatives have been considered for transformation?

Agree that the Council should make maximum use of the funds to fund local services which the community rely on e.g. the sports centre and Visions

I do not feel the council need more flexibility, rather they need a better grasp of the wants of their community - E.g Catmose sports centre

I don't feel the council manage their funds well enough to have flexibility and I feel that they lack the integrity for me to have faith in their decisions.

It all sounds great on paper, but will it actually be implemented? Not a great track record so far in 'walking the walk'

No shutting services without proper consultation and consideration of alternative approaches.

You have already demonstrated that you will funnel money into whatever your aged Councillor deem important, without listening to the needs of Rutland residents.

A growing town like Oakham needs it's own services, especially as we are now deemed in the 'work from home' belt. It is more important that residents have leisure facilities close by. And given the rural location and lack of public transport to travel for leisure, putting a reliance on facilities further away also adds to more pollution, contributing to climate change, as well as an increase in time and cost for those individuals. I would like to be able to spend my money in the local economy - ideally Oakham, but at least Rutland - not just cafes, but entertainment

and leisure venues eg bowling, cinema, fitness with my family not have to travel a minimum of 20 mins but other longer to get to these things.

I think you need to listen to the grumbles of residents, swimming pool, gp surgery, gym, invest in these with your section 106 money.

Spending needs to be focused on assets where the council can return profits over the next number of years. Many other councils are able to effectively run mass access leisure centres and use these to the benefit of the council. Some ran directly by the council allowing further flexibility and pass back of the profits. Has the council considered operating more of these assets directly themselves?

Surely you should be concentrating on getting more funding from the government if we only get half of the national average.

Once again there has been huge sums wasted - the binned Local Plan for example - this sort of waste simply doesn't happen in the corporate/commercial world - it's about time that the Councillors etc were made accountable for this wasting of funding.

Fund the services that the residents want, not what the council wants

Is there a long term financial strategy for Rutland? Having the highest council tax in the country every year will detract from growth and local development

Give the public a leisure centre

But do not take the above ticks as approval of your performance as a council, which I expect the questions above are designed to elicit. I am far from satisfied with the levels of service provided.

Residents must have the opportunity to influence which services are prioritised for funding.

Address the inflated wages paid to council employees. Readdress the way it simply cuts its local facilities and youth activities. What plans have you got to draw new businesses into the area. How are you creating new jobs for the longevity of the youths to build a future for themselves

Using a safe amount of the savings to help prevent the loss of local facilities like the catmose sports centre as a short term measure as as the new houses are built and the population increases this facility can grow and be an asset to the county RCC could use some of the reserves to invest and protect the running of leisure facilities at Catmose Sports Centre.

I do however believe that within this budget there needs to be facilities available for the residents of Rutland. Leisure facilities are vitally important for health and well-being, otherwise the county will be facing a new set of challenges in reducing the mental health challenges that residents will face. This also includes the younger members of the county, who unfortunately do not have a facilities that they can use, especially considering they have also lost Jules House and we're not

granted a skate park. So, it's no wonder that county lines is becoming more apparent within our county.

Fund catmose gym

Already the highest rates in the country

How much will a transformation project cost and is than significantly less than the savings that would be made in the short term?

Instead of constantly increasing the council tax, aggressively lobby for Rutland's case for proper funding since it hasn't been properly funded for 40 years

I agree that we should use our reserve in the short term for key things which would fail without it e.g. Catmose Sports Centre. I do not agree with the reserve being used for things that are within the Council's means to manage e.g. the local plan. By allocating £300k of the reserve to the local plan, I assume that this is £300k that can't be allocated to something else e.g. Catmose sports centre.

Stop thinking about 'Creating Savings' why aren't we creating more revenue? Using the council buildings for weddings, creating events, fun runs, cycle events etc to bring tourism and revenue to the area. Do things differently. Innovate. Stop blaming central government.

We pay one of if not the highest council tax in the country, yet have the least in amenities and services. You are only concerned with building more and more houses which adds to every resident's problems.

Whilst it may be a collaborative approach in terms of savings and a combined increase in council tax. Increasing the council tax to fill the gaps in shortfalls isn't a responsible method of increasing revenue, it's akin to a business just increasing prices to increase profit, on a percentage basis you're not making anything extra. A more comprehensive look at where the council can bring 3rd party contracts in house and develop a better business model is more appropriate, as it is no fault of the residents of Rutland that the council has a shortfall on costs and should not be for them to pick up the shortfall at a time of economic turmoil. In reality the maximum 4.99% rise is going to generate circa £2m, therefore in the grand scheme of your budgeting spread the saving across your expenditure on people, or reduce the portfolio of redundant properties without the loss of the museum, better commercialisation of the museum could generate an additional £300k per annum with ease. Reducing the potential increase by 15% with that one objective.

Lower costs, get more community involvement

The public don't get 5% wage rises to cover your increases. Cut your own costs before impacting on the public. Just learned you intend to stop leisure activities. If you don't want to be a local council, resign and allow others to run it more effectively.

Don't make short sighted cost cutting decisions that will have much worse longer term consequences, like closing key leisure and sports provisions for kids and adults

Raise tax as much as you can. Depends what transformation means....

Great words..... so why another increase!

My income is fixed and given the inflation rate I have to limit and in a lot of circumstances stop my spending. The council should stop demanding more money and reduce spending!

I suppose that Rutland CC DC should be permitting the construction of as many new homes as possible so that the number of households paying council tax is maximised EVEN THOUGH THIS WILL SPOIL THE RURAL NATURE OF THE AREA. I am particularly concerned that any development to the north of Stamford should benefit Rutland CC DC at the expense of Kesteven.

Council tax is so high here we are faced with having to leave the county and the home we love. Rutland is for wealthy people only and local born citizens are priced out of the market. It seems to want to build more houses to increase Council tax earnings but we can't afford it.

Every year the same old story, pay more and get less

As more houses are being built the council gets more revenue but still fails to deliver the basics. The Government does not expect Council tax to rise by the maximum it is a decision made by individual Councils.

You waste money on consultations and don't listen, you pay for all sorts of nonsense in the name of forward plans and don't listen.

RCC council tax is extremely high for what the community receive. They lack expertise. They should join with another larger local authority so as to offer better value for money.

It will get spent on the same rubbish you currently do.

No council tax increase should take place. My wages haven't gone up, why should my council tax. You assume people can pay more.

Who determines what Maximum use to help fund local services is and how is that communicated and measured to ensure it works?

Greater detail not sweeping statements regarding transformation. Every year more money is demanded but do we get maximum value?

Do it NOW and make the changes. Stop talking about 4 years and make the cuts in the Councils overheads and spending

Q5. Do you have any other suggestions on how the Council could increase income, reduce costs or make savings to help us balance the budget?

Return Rutland management to Leicestershire

Sell the RCC offices or rent out use of facilities to be used more efficiently, dont waste another £1.4million on another local plan if you're going to use the same ineffective officers and resources that wasted the last £1.1million on the now scrapped local plan.

Recruit for jobs to stop the need to pay so much for agency staff. Do more to regenerate the high street and fill the empty shops to increase income from business rates - the high street is dying.

I have very little faith in the council's financial management or their integrity. I do not agree with their allocation of funding and so not feel it matches the needs of the community - E.g closing Catmose sports centre

I think the council make poor decisions and do not prioritise key areas. Schools are woefully underfunded, SEND support is poorly supported and now Catmose Sports centre is closing. There is very little about the Council's budget that gives me hope or faith.

Closing Catmose Sports centre and having to pay back money you were given is costing you more that it would to provide support to SLL or another provider to keep it going, at least to ride out the economic situation at the moment. You have decided to just cut your loss and big loss it will be without any consideration on what else could be done with a provider to bring down running costs. Its in the news that levelling up funding is costing council millions of pounds
<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2023/jan/24/councils-freeze-levelling-up-projects-as-soaring-costs-exceed-grants> reject the money, the schemes it was going to was a waste of money and not really "levelling up" Rutland.

Use half of the money to subsidise the museum to support Catmose sports centre

Consider using volunteers, for instance to keep Catmose Sports Centre open. Accept that Rutland County Council is an expensive and non-viable council that cannot provide the facilities this county deserves. Council officers do their best, but they can only operate as instructed by Councillors who are out of touch with the electorate.

Close your council office building - there never appears to be anyone there, move into office space at Ashwell Enterprise Park or the King Centre. Provide some good facilities like Catmose Sports that bring in an income, its a shame you didn't consider moving the dry side activities into VAR before you sold that.

Look at your estate. I also think your management structure is a bit top heavy with too many 'head of' roles.

I don't agree with where your spending priorities lie. Transport is not one of the biggest issues for Rutland - leisure, tourism, well-being and culture are. Deciding not to put aside a paltry amount to keep Catmose leisure centre open is misguided

and short-sighted. Especially when huge amounts of capital are being wasted on things like the cock up with the local plan. RCC needs to be more forward-looking and creative in how it sets budgets and what it places most importance on. Interest rates are rising and predicted to stay high therefore savings not returning a higher return than inflation are actually decreasing the value of the savings and therefore should be invested or allocated to areas where a return will be made or and investment into future returns can be made. I feel the return on investment into the museum does not appear to make financial sense to return any profit to the council within the next 5 years

Get rid of some of the middle managers who are on an extortionate wage.

Don't waste money on unrealistic developments and don't put all your eggs in one basket. Lots of wasted funds have been used on the failed Local Plan and SGB due to greed

Yes - see my previous comments about the efficiency saving by relocating to the enterprise park and making that a viable & desirable location for business instead of a run down prison, clearly there is no need for large council offices anymore as so many staff are still working from home or the services have been sub contracted out to other councils. The current RCC building could be closed and redeveloped. Also the huge salary payments for the executives/department lead managers - currently around £1.9 million should be looked at and reduced.

Spend less on road works, there has been a ridiculous amount recently, and I see no benefit. Spend more on health and leisure - sports centre and doctors

Any income generation would require investment and expenditure

Place funds in to the leisure centre

Use the money from building developers to spend on facilities for the local community. Sell the Catmose building. Make sure your own expenses are held to a minimum.

Give up the huge council offices. Review of all employee roles and make redundancies. Stop wasting money. We have the highest council tax rate in the country but nothing to see for it.

Reconsider staffing model at director level. Reconsider the use of the council officers when WFH has become so popular. Work to get the amount per household in line with national average.

Radically- reintegrate with Leicestershire or another neighbouring county for economies of scale/purchasing power

You should spend the money that you have where the people want it to be spent!

Why spend close to £1 mil on museums & libraries and only £98k on leisure. Why is so little allocated to leisure when leisure is let to a head and happy community. Does the council have a 5 year business plan in process?

Investing in facilities we already have that like the catmose sports centre to allow it to become an asset to the county as the population increases sounds like a good long term investment

Reduce costs by closing Catmose House and relocate into more appropriate office space, possibly Melton Council and there seems to be a lot of joint working.

Review/justify the pay structure of directors as a lot of services seem to be outsourced to neighbouring authorities.

Consider selling or repurposing the current council building. It is vastly underused post covid which forced a rethinking of ways of working e.g. home working.

Start looking at rejoining Leicestershire, as Rutland expands with all the new builds it will become even more difficult to finance. Increasing council tax will not sort the issue

Stop funding things that no one cares about, stop spending money on consultants, consult the people of Rutland instead.

Move out of council buildings, improve your digitalisation and focus on activity not assets.

See above re increase in funding and correct formula applied to Rutland
What you don't say is why you have not considered joining up with another la or disbanding unitary authority and go back to Leicestershire to bring about better, bigger more effective services? You no longer have a customer service Face to face roles so it's easy to do!

Form better partnerships with neighbouring councils to pool resources (not just Leicestershire) Rent/sell-off council assets (eg buildings) to reduce office running costs in a working from home era Increase funding for leisure and health facilities (eg continued use of catmose leisure centre; increase doctors' surgeries) to make Oakham a more desirable place to live and increase the revenue from council tax

Allow businesses to tender for all of Rutland Council's requirements for running local services in order to reduce costs! The cost saving could then be added to your reserves.

I think there needs to be a review of what is being spent on the library, museum services and leisure in particular. I was astounded to see that we spend circa half a million pounds each year on the library, and again half a million pounds on museum services - it is key to understand what that money is being spent on? Staff? Utilities? What else? There must be savings that could be made at both, maybe opening hours would have to be reduced, or commercial ventures would need to be brought into these buildings to bring in additional revenue. How can we expect a sports centre to be net zero cost, yet the museums are not expected to have the same scrutiny? I think many people in Oakham /Rutland would pay more to keep the sports centre open, similar to the green bins. Other ideas for income - I know the council are looking to revamp public transport, could something more radical than just the basic bus service be looked into e.g. a bus that could be used

by tourists/local residents for accessing Rutland Water, a hop on/hop off service that went to the car parks around the Water. Providing greater accessibility for local residents to the Water and bringing tourists and money into Oakham (sort of like a park and ride). This could be a seasonal or weekend only service and potentially make money for the council particularly in the Summer months.

Move from the building you are currently in to a more practical space. Ask Leicestershire County Council if we join back with them this will reduce the need for so many management post and reduce costs I'm also described to see over £1 million pounds being plunged into muse and and libraries and only £100k into activities and Leisure. This needs to be balanced and addressed Little to do in Rutland Can't even get on a 3G pitch for schools so they have to go to Stamford Embarrassing

Base council tax on household income not size of house?

Per the above. Start running things like a business looking to thrive rather than simply survive. Innovate. Bring events, acts, creatives to the area. Axe some of your executives on high salaries, and reduce your overly generous pension scheme. Force employees back to the office full time, or seek smaller more economic premises and sell Catmose. Make your road repair teams work more efficiently, instead of repairing the same potholes 2 or 3 times a year, do the repair properly. Stop closing roads at the drop of a hat, sometimes multiple times a year, Lands end way for eg.

Yes.get gov.to make CT fairer. As I said earlier,what is fair about me paying £2000.other properties twice/ 3 times larger paying the same or only 10% more. One running a business from home

- Commercialisation of the museum -Take school transport provisions in house - I have a portfolio of suggestions, however I can be hired as a consultant to help the council plan for the future in this area
Allow shops to come into town. Allow things for kids like skate park and leisure facilities to STOP people going out of country to spend their money. Our Money should be kept in our own county bur can't due to lack of services

Improve tourism, charge more costs to house builders.

No recruitment to over double average wage. Outsource planning department No spending at all on County Council buildings before publically accessible ones (Leisure centre comes before your offices)

Increase council tax more for higher band payers that can afford it, most of rutland residents could afford it. Rutland is full of wealthy old people, it wouldn't be too much to ask them to pay a bit more, and if they don't like it, they have choices where they live

Lobby government.

You have highly paid staff to adress this and also many years experience yet you produce the same political messages which are always an excuse to raise taxes. When was the last rebate or tax reduction? You participate in these consultations.

Do you ever produce evidence that demonstrates any significant change you make as a result?

Improve our waste collection, particularly green bin waste, and compost this to re sell back to the community

The only solution whilst the current funding formula is in place is to surrender Rutland's independence

RCC should be cease in its current format and be combined with another council to create larger covering area to leverage a greater population to then be able to properly scale its budget v services required. Rutland is just too small to stand alone and makes the council tax costs disproportionately and unfairly high

Run the finances properly, make people accountable and spend the money like it's your own

Stop using Council Tax money to fund pension's would be a start. Also stop giving loads of cash to the Town Council as they have plenty in reserve.

Campaign against the national government - they are selfish, truth dodgers and embarrassing. What a mess - 12 years of self indulgent nonsense. Be better locally.

Only employ people who live in Rutland not Yorkshire!

A big ask given the information available but first thoughts Rutland has a high level of residents and businesses with a wide range of expertise does the council use it to support its tasks. This is not easy and would require facilitating properly it will not just happen. Does the county hall have office space to let with more staff homeworking. Why does the lord of the manor get the income from the market this could be sorted. previously I have suggested looking at better economies of scale through working with others

Are some of the older inefficient building owned & used by the council being looked at in the transformation for selling or leasing out rather than running themselves.

Join a large local authority. Rutland is too small to stand alone, and it should not be sacrificed to pride to recognize that bigger local authorities have more to offer.

Making decisions based on practical facts rather than wasting money on employing Data procedures that confirm the obvious i.e. Speeding is a National problem that is getting worse despite huge efforts by Councils namely road sinkage/visual displays. Accountability can be enforced in all areas where it clearly dangerous and inflicts on quality of life. Encourage people to dispose of tree waste that clogs drainage and encourages flooding. This includes avoiding grease being poured in sinks and finding a use for used oil or having collection points that have a use to recycle.

Cut chief executive and senior salaries. Never mentioned. Any "Head of" should be restricted in terms of maximum pay, especially at these times. Don't like that,

work somewhere else. Disband Rutland Council and merge with Leicestershire or Cambridgeshire.

Are you a 100% paperless office? Are you turning down the heating in offices and switching off lights when rooms aren't used? Have you reduced your head count to streamline roles? Are you ensuring that where you spend money, the same kind of cost reductions are being adhered to and our money isn't wasted?

Have one but better library based in Oakham.

Reduce salaries at RCC, stop wasting money on "feasibility studies", turn thermostats down on Council run properties, build more houses in the 30-120 houses per site bracket, stop advising Parish Councils to build up their reserves and get them to use some of their reserves to avoid an increase in the 2022/23 Precept, do not increase the Adult Social Care Levy and find the 2% levy "hole" in cuts to services, get our Conservative MP to stop focusing on 'trivia' and get her to increase the Government's funding contribution to make the level of CSP obtained from council tax, similar to those levels (57%) experienced by other Councils (per RCC), adjust for the mistatement that the economy will contract when it hasn't, adjust contracts of employment so that unaffordable pension contributions fall in line with Money Purchase Schemes, invest reserve funds in 3 year accounts to maximise return and negate the "2% assumption for 25/26, cut staff pay awards to 2% for 23/24 and 24/25, Scrap giving away grants for 2 years.

Get our fair share of funding from government!

Merge with a larger local authority.

ENDS

Appendix 9 2023/24 Council Tax Resolution

This resolution sets the total budget for the purpose of setting the Council Tax. It includes the budget for the Council's own activities plus precepts from parish councils. The Council is asked to formally resolve as follows:

1 COUNCIL TAX BASE

That it be noted that at the Cabinet meeting on 14 February 2023 the Council calculated the following amounts for the year 2023/24 in accordance with regulations made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992; as amended by the Local Government Act 2003.

- (a) 15,916.64 being the amount calculated by the Council in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 as its Council Tax Base for the year.
- (b) For each part of the Council's area the Band D equivalents are as follows:

PARISH	COUNCIL TAX BASE (Band D equivalents)
Ashwell	138.96
Ayston	24.45
Barleythorpe	881.53
Barrow	45.38
Barrowden	273.55
Beaumont Chase	1.43
Belton-In-Rutland	184.55
Bisbrooke	109.35
Braunston- In- Rutland	207.17
Brooke	39.74
Burley	125.29
Caldecott	119.44
Clipsham	73.15
Cottesmore	739.38
Edith Weston	330.29
Egleton	53.40
Empingham	433.78
Essendine	166.46
Exton And Horn	251.51
Glaston	96.31
Great Casterton	183.65
Greetham	319.57
Gunthorpe	12.15
Hambleton	95.39
Ketton	778.34
Langham	629.31
Leighfield	4.47

PARISH	COUNCIL TAX BASE (Band D equivalents)
Little Casterton	110.33
Lyddington	206.83
Lyndon	45.07
Manton	170.55
Market Overton	202.48
Martinsthorpe	1.65
Morcott	187.15
Normanton	16.28
North Luffenham	327.93
Oakham	4208.69
Pickworth	30.97
Pilton	20.18
Preston	101.90
Ridlington	93.84
Ryhall	609.96
Seaton	111.30
South Luffenham	221.34
Stoke Dry	16.88
Stretton	128.84
Teigh	34.44
Thistleton	48.87
Thorpe By Water	38.97
Tickencote	41.44
Tinwell	125.01
Tixover	63.95
Uppingham	1655.36
Wardley	18.18
Whissendine	571.03
Whitwell	36.00
Wing	153.20

being the amounts calculated by the Council in accordance with Regulation 6 of the Regulations, as the amounts of its Council Tax base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

2 COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENT

That the 2023/24 Council Tax Requirement in respect of the Council's own budget (excluding Parish Precepts) be approved at £32,040,832.

3 BASIC AMOUNT OF COUNCIL TAX

This resolution sets the Basic Amount of Council Tax for each part of the Council's area. These amounts are based on precepts from parish councils in addition to the budget for the Council's own activities and hence the Basic Amount of Council Tax differs between parts of the Council's area.

That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2023/24 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended):

- (a) £75,264,027 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) (a) to (e) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils. (Gross expenditure)
- (b) £42,331,567 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act. (Revenue Income)
- (c) £32,932,460 being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax Requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act).
- (d) £2,069.07 being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).
- (e) £891,760 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as per Appendix C)
- (f) £2,013.04 being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precept relates.

Part of the Council's area	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Ashwell	1,361.22	1,588.08	1,814.95	2,041.82	2,495.56	2,949.29	3,403.04	4,083.64
Ayston	1,342.03	1,565.70	1,789.37	2,013.04	2,460.38	2,907.72	3,355.07	4,026.08
Barleythorpe	1,357.32	1,583.54	1,809.76	2,035.98	2,488.42	2,940.86	3,393.30	4,071.96
Barrow	1,347.90	1,572.55	1,797.20	2,021.85	2,471.15	2,920.45	3,369.75	4,043.70
Barrowden	1,380.42	1,610.48	1,840.55	2,070.62	2,530.76	2,990.89	3,451.04	4,141.24
Beaumont Chase	1,342.03	1,565.70	1,789.37	2,013.04	2,460.38	2,907.72	3,355.07	4,026.08
Belton-In-Rutland	1,375.68	1,604.96	1,834.24	2,063.52	2,522.08	2,980.64	3,439.20	4,127.04
Bisbrooke	1,349.34	1,574.23	1,799.12	2,024.01	2,473.79	2,923.57	3,373.35	4,048.02
Braunston- In-Rutland	1,378.23	1,607.93	1,837.64	2,067.34	2,526.75	2,986.15	3,445.57	4,134.68

Brooke	1,342. 03	1,565. 70	1,789. 37	2,013. 04	2,460. 38	2,907. 72	3,355. 07	4,026. 08
Burley	1,343. 10	1,566. 94	1,790. 79	2,014. 64	2,462. 34	2,910. 03	3,357. 74	4,029. 28
Caldecott	1,381. 19	1,611. 39	1,841. 58	2,071. 78	2,532. 17	2,992. 57	3,452. 97	4,143. 56
Clipsham	1,342. 03	1,565. 70	1,789. 37	2,013. 04	2,460. 38	2,907. 72	3,355. 07	4,026. 08
Cottesmore	1,371. 44	1,600. 02	1,828. 59	2,057. 16	2,514. 30	2,971. 45	3,428. 60	4,114. 32
Edith Weston	1,386. 51	1,617. 59	1,848. 68	2,079. 76	2,541. 93	3,004. 09	3,466. 27	4,159. 52
Egleton	1,357. 01	1,583. 18	1,809. 34	2,035. 51	2,487. 84	2,940. 18	3,392. 52	4,071. 02
Empingham	1,357. 40	1,583. 63	1,809. 86	2,036. 09	2,488. 55	2,941. 01	3,393. 49	4,072. 18
Essendine	1,399. 27	1,632. 48	1,865. 69	2,098. 90	2,565. 32	3,031. 74	3,498. 17	4,197. 80
Exton And Horn	1,376. 28	1,605. 66	1,835. 04	2,064. 42	2,523. 18	2,981. 94	3,440. 70	4,128. 84
Glaston	1,343. 21	1,567. 08	1,790. 94	2,014. 81	2,462. 54	2,910. 28	3,358. 02	4,029. 62
Great Casterton	1,364. 59	1,592. 02	1,819. 45	2,046. 88	2,501. 74	2,956. 60	3,411. 47	4,093. 76
Greetham	1,371. 24	1,599. 77	1,828. 31	2,056. 85	2,513. 93	2,971. 00	3,428. 09	4,113. 70
Gunthorpe	1,342. 03	1,565. 70	1,789. 37	2,013. 04	2,460. 38	2,907. 72	3,355. 07	4,026. 08
Hambleton	1,369. 16	1,597. 36	1,825. 55	2,053. 74	2,510. 12	2,966. 51	3,422. 90	4,107. 48
Ketton	1,397. 30	1,630. 18	1,863. 06	2,095. 94	2,561. 70	3,027. 46	3,493. 24	4,191. 88
Langham	1,373. 36	1,602. 26	1,831. 15	2,060. 04	2,517. 82	2,975. 61	3,433. 40	4,120. 08
Leighfield	1,342. 03	1,565. 70	1,789. 37	2,013. 04	2,460. 38	2,907. 72	3,355. 07	4,026. 08
Little Casterton	1,359. 20	1,585. 74	1,812. 27	2,038. 80	2,491. 86	2,944. 93	3,398. 00	4,077. 60
Lyddington	1,385. 86	1,616. 83	1,847. 81	2,078. 78	2,540. 73	3,002. 68	3,464. 64	4,157. 56
Lyndon	1,342. 03	1,565. 70	1,789. 37	2,013. 04	2,460. 38	2,907. 72	3,355. 07	4,026. 08
Manton	1,433. 89	1,672. 87	1,911. 85	2,150. 83	2,628. 79	3,106. 75	3,584. 72	4,301. 66
Market Overton	1,375. 36	1,604. 58	1,833. 81	2,063. 03	2,521. 48	2,979. 93	3,438. 39	4,126. 06
Martinsthorpe	1,342. 03	1,565. 70	1,789. 37	2,013. 04	2,460. 38	2,907. 72	3,355. 07	4,026. 08
Morcott	1,370. 86	1,599. 34	1,827. 81	2,056. 29	2,513. 24	2,970. 19	3,427. 15	4,112. 58

Normanton	1,342. 03	1,565. 70	1,789. 37	2,013. 04	2,460. 38	2,907. 72	3,355. 07	4,026. 08
North Luffenham	1,382. 69	1,613. 14	1,843. 58	2,074. 03	2,534. 92	2,995. 82	3,456. 72	4,148. 06
Oakham	1,383. 64	1,614. 24	1,844. 85	2,075. 45	2,536. 66	2,997. 87	3,459. 09	4,150. 90
Pickworth	1,342. 03	1,565. 70	1,789. 37	2,013. 04	2,460. 38	2,907. 72	3,355. 07	4,026. 08
Pilton	1,342. 03	1,565. 70	1,789. 37	2,013. 04	2,460. 38	2,907. 72	3,355. 07	4,026. 08
Preston	1,351. 84	1,577. 15	1,802. 45	2,027. 76	2,478. 37	2,928. 98	3,379. 60	4,055. 52
Ridlington	1,380. 22	1,610. 25	1,840. 29	2,070. 32	2,530. 39	2,990. 46	3,450. 54	4,140. 64
Ryhall	1,380. 90	1,611. 05	1,841. 20	2,071. 35	2,531. 65	2,991. 95	3,452. 25	4,142. 70
Seaton	1,379. 76	1,609. 72	1,839. 68	2,069. 64	2,529. 56	2,989. 48	3,449. 40	4,139. 28
South Luffenham	1,390. 22	1,621. 93	1,853. 63	2,085. 33	2,548. 73	3,012. 14	3,475. 55	4,170. 66
Stoke Dry	1,342. 03	1,565. 70	1,789. 37	2,013. 04	2,460. 38	2,907. 72	3,355. 07	4,026. 08
Stretton	1,388. 78	1,620. 25	1,851. 71	2,083. 17	2,546. 09	3,009. 02	3,471. 95	4,166. 34
Teigh	1,344. 94	1,569. 09	1,793. 25	2,017. 40	2,465. 71	2,914. 02	3,362. 34	4,034. 80
Thistleton	1,346. 53	1,570. 95	1,795. 37	2,019. 79	2,468. 63	2,917. 47	3,366. 32	4,039. 58
Thorpe By Water	1,342. 03	1,565. 70	1,789. 37	2,013. 04	2,460. 38	2,907. 72	3,355. 07	4,026. 08
Tickencote	1,349. 91	1,574. 89	1,799. 88	2,024. 86	2,474. 83	2,924. 79	3,374. 77	4,049. 72
Tinwell	1,348. 00	1,572. 67	1,797. 33	2,022. 00	2,471. 33	2,920. 66	3,370. 00	4,044. 00
Tixover	1,342. 03	1,565. 70	1,789. 37	2,013. 04	2,460. 38	2,907. 72	3,355. 07	4,026. 08
Uppingham	1,401. 81	1,635. 44	1,869. 08	2,102. 71	2,569. 98	3,037. 24	3,504. 52	4,205. 42
Wardley	1,342. 03	1,565. 70	1,789. 37	2,013. 04	2,460. 38	2,907. 72	3,355. 07	4,026. 08
Whissendine	1,381. 97	1,612. 30	1,842. 62	2,072. 95	2,533. 60	2,994. 26	3,454. 92	4,145. 90
Whitwell	1,342. 03	1,565. 70	1,789. 37	2,013. 04	2,460. 38	2,907. 72	3,355. 07	4,026. 08
Wing	1,392. 65	1,624. 76	1,856. 86	2,088. 97	2,553. 18	3,017. 40	3,481. 62	4,177. 94

Being the amounts given by multiplying the amount at 3(e) above by the number which, is the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section

36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings in different valuation bands.

4 LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

That it be noted that for 2023/24 the Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Combined Fire Authority have stated the following amounts in a precept issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Act 2003 for each of the categories of dwellings as shown below:

VALUATION BAND	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Combined Fire Authority	52.86	61.67	70.48	79.29	96.91	114.53	132.15	158.58

5 OFFICE FOR THE LEICESTERSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

That it be noted that for 2023/24 the Office for the Leicestershire Police and Crime Commissioner have stated the following amounts in precept issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

VALUATION BAND	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Leicestershire Police	182.15	212.51	242.87	273.23	333.95	394.67	455.38	546.46

6 COUNCIL TAX 2023/24

That having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3(h) and 4 & 5 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2023/24 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Part of the Council's area	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Ashwell	1,596.23	1,862.26	2,128.30	2,394.34	2,926.42	3,458.49	3,990.57	4,788.68
Ayston	1,577.04	1,839.88	2,102.72	2,365.56	2,891.24	3,416.92	3,942.60	4,731.12
Barleythorpe	1,592.33	1,857.72	2,123.11	2,388.50	2,919.28	3,450.06	3,980.83	4,777.00
Barrow	1,582.91	1,846.73	2,110.55	2,374.37	2,902.01	3,429.65	3,957.28	4,748.74
Barrowden	1,615.43	1,884.66	2,153.90	2,423.14	2,961.62	3,500.09	4,038.57	4,846.28
Beaumont Chase	1,577.04	1,839.88	2,102.72	2,365.56	2,891.24	3,416.92	3,942.60	4,731.12

Belton-In-Rutland	1,610. 69	1,879. 14	2,147. 59	2,416. 04	2,952. 94	3,489. 84	4,026. 73	4,832. 08
Bisbrooke	1,584. 35	1,848. 41	2,112. 47	2,376. 53	2,904. 65	3,432. 77	3,960. 88	4,753. 06
Braunston- In- Rutland	1,613. 24	1,882. 11	2,150. 99	2,419. 86	2,957. 61	3,495. 35	4,033. 10	4,839. 72
Brooke	1,577. 04	1,839. 88	2,102. 72	2,365. 56	2,891. 24	3,416. 92	3,942. 60	4,731. 12
Burley	1,578. 11	1,841. 12	2,104. 14	2,367. 16	2,893. 20	3,419. 23	3,945. 27	4,734. 32
Caldecott	1,616. 20	1,885. 57	2,154. 93	2,424. 30	2,963. 03	3,501. 77	4,040. 50	4,848. 60
Clipsham	1,577. 04	1,839. 88	2,102. 72	2,365. 56	2,891. 24	3,416. 92	3,942. 60	4,731. 12
Cottesmore	1,606. 45	1,874. 20	2,141. 94	2,409. 68	2,945. 16	3,480. 65	4,016. 13	4,819. 36
Edith Weston	1,621. 52	1,891. 77	2,162. 03	2,432. 28	2,972. 79	3,513. 29	4,053. 80	4,864. 56
Eggleton	1,592. 02	1,857. 36	2,122. 69	2,388. 03	2,918. 70	3,449. 38	3,980. 05	4,776. 06
Empingham	1,592. 41	1,857. 81	2,123. 21	2,388. 61	2,919. 41	3,450. 21	3,981. 02	4,777. 22
Essendine	1,634. 28	1,906. 66	2,179. 04	2,451. 42	2,996. 18	3,540. 94	4,085. 70	4,902. 84
Exton And Horn	1,611. 29	1,879. 84	2,148. 39	2,416. 94	2,954. 04	3,491. 14	4,028. 23	4,833. 88
Glaston	1,578. 22	1,841. 26	2,104. 29	2,367. 33	2,893. 40	3,419. 48	3,945. 55	4,734. 66
Great Casterton	1,599. 60	1,866. 20	2,132. 80	2,399. 40	2,932. 60	3,465. 80	3,999. 00	4,798. 80
Greetham	1,606. 25	1,873. 95	2,141. 66	2,409. 37	2,944. 79	3,480. 20	4,015. 62	4,818. 74
Gunthorpe	1,577. 04	1,839. 88	2,102. 72	2,365. 56	2,891. 24	3,416. 92	3,942. 60	4,731. 12
Hambleton	1,604. 17	1,871. 54	2,138. 90	2,406. 26	2,940. 98	3,475. 71	4,010. 43	4,812. 52
Ketton	1,632. 31	1,904. 36	2,176. 41	2,448. 46	2,992. 56	3,536. 66	4,080. 77	4,896. 92
Langham	1,608. 37	1,876. 44	2,144. 50	2,412. 56	2,948. 68	3,484. 81	4,020. 93	4,825. 12
Leighfield	1,577. 04	1,839. 88	2,102. 72	2,365. 56	2,891. 24	3,416. 92	3,942. 60	4,731. 12
Little Casterton	1,594. 21	1,859. 92	2,125. 62	2,391. 32	2,922. 72	3,454. 13	3,985. 53	4,782. 64
Lyddington	1,620. 87	1,891. 01	2,161. 16	2,431. 30	2,971. 59	3,511. 88	4,052. 17	4,862. 60
Lyndon	1,577. 04	1,839. 88	2,102. 72	2,365. 56	2,891. 24	3,416. 92	3,942. 60	4,731. 12
Manton	1,668. 90	1,947. 05	2,225. 20	2,503. 35	3,059. 65	3,615. 95	4,172. 25	5,006. 70

Market Overton	1,610. 37	1,878. 76	2,147. 16	2,415. 55	2,952. 34	3,489. 13	4,025. 92	4,831. 10
Martinsthorpe	1,577. 04	1,839. 88	2,102. 72	2,365. 56	2,891. 24	3,416. 92	3,942. 60	4,731. 12
Morcott	1,605. 87	1,873. 52	2,141. 16	2,408. 81	2,944. 10	3,479. 39	4,014. 68	4,817. 62
Normanton	1,577. 04	1,839. 88	2,102. 72	2,365. 56	2,891. 24	3,416. 92	3,942. 60	4,731. 12
North Luffenham	1,617. 70	1,887. 32	2,156. 93	2,426. 55	2,965. 78	3,505. 02	4,044. 25	4,853. 10
Oakham	1,618. 65	1,888. 42	2,158. 20	2,427. 97	2,967. 52	3,507. 07	4,046. 62	4,855. 94
Pickworth	1,577. 04	1,839. 88	2,102. 72	2,365. 56	2,891. 24	3,416. 92	3,942. 60	4,731. 12
Pilton	1,577. 04	1,839. 88	2,102. 72	2,365. 56	2,891. 24	3,416. 92	3,942. 60	4,731. 12
Preston	1,586. 85	1,851. 33	2,115. 80	2,380. 28	2,909. 23	3,438. 18	3,967. 13	4,760. 56
Ridlington	1,615. 23	1,884. 43	2,153. 64	2,422. 84	2,961. 25	3,499. 66	4,038. 07	4,845. 68
Ryhall	1,615. 91	1,885. 23	2,154. 55	2,423. 87	2,962. 51	3,501. 15	4,039. 78	4,847. 74
Seaton	1,614. 77	1,883. 90	2,153. 03	2,422. 16	2,960. 42	3,498. 68	4,036. 93	4,844. 32
South Luffenham	1,625. 23	1,896. 11	2,166. 98	2,437. 85	2,979. 59	3,521. 34	4,063. 08	4,875. 70
Stoke Dry	1,577. 04	1,839. 88	2,102. 72	2,365. 56	2,891. 24	3,416. 92	3,942. 60	4,731. 12
Stretton	1,623. 79	1,894. 43	2,165. 06	2,435. 69	2,976. 95	3,518. 22	4,059. 48	4,871. 38
Teigh	1,579. 95	1,843. 27	2,106. 60	2,369. 92	2,896. 57	3,423. 22	3,949. 87	4,739. 84
Thistleton	1,581. 54	1,845. 13	2,108. 72	2,372. 31	2,899. 49	3,426. 67	3,953. 85	4,744. 62
Thorpe By Water	1,577. 04	1,839. 88	2,102. 72	2,365. 56	2,891. 24	3,416. 92	3,942. 60	4,731. 12
Tickencote	1,584. 92	1,849. 07	2,113. 23	2,377. 38	2,905. 69	3,433. 99	3,962. 30	4,754. 76
Tinwell	1,583. 01	1,846. 85	2,110. 68	2,374. 52	2,902. 19	3,429. 86	3,957. 53	4,749. 04
Tixover	1,577. 04	1,839. 88	2,102. 72	2,365. 56	2,891. 24	3,416. 92	3,942. 60	4,731. 12
Uppingham	1,636. 82	1,909. 62	2,182. 43	2,455. 23	3,000. 84	3,546. 44	4,092. 05	4,910. 46
Wardley	1,577. 04	1,839. 88	2,102. 72	2,365. 56	2,891. 24	3,416. 92	3,942. 60	4,731. 12
Whissendine	1,616. 98	1,886. 48	2,155. 97	2,425. 47	2,964. 46	3,503. 46	4,042. 45	4,850. 94
Whitwell	1,577. 04	1,839. 88	2,102. 72	2,365. 56	2,891. 24	3,416. 92	3,942. 60	4,731. 12

Wing	1,627. 66	1,898. 94	2,170. 21	2,441. 49	2,984. 04	3,526. 60	4,069. 15	4,882. 98
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**7 COUNCIL TAX 2023/24 - SECTION 30 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT
FINANCE ACT**

It should be noted that the amounts in respect of Council taxes set in accordance with Section 30 of the Act are amounts which given administration and enforcement demand notice requirements are rounded to two decimal places.

**8 COUNCIL TAX 2023/24 - SECTION 52ZB OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT
FINANCE ACT 1992**

The Council determines that, in accordance with Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the basic amount of its council tax for 2023/24 is not excessive.

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