

Appendix B: Revised Principles

Principles

1. In identifying the savings needed to deliver a balanced budget, the overarching aim is to minimise the impact on services to residents.
2. Revenue generation – the Council will seek to maximise its income from fees and charges.
3. Fees and charges – these will be set to reflect the true costs of providing the service, including both direct costs and a contribution to other costs. Any exceptions to this general principle should be explicitly agreed, along with the rationale for this being the case.
4. Service pressures – services are expected to manage and contain any routine 'in-year' pressures within their budget.
5. Budget risk – the Council will accept a higher level of risk in its budget-setting for individual service areas.
6. "Discretionary" spend – in any future scenario, significant savings in the discretionary areas of the Council budget will be needed to balance the budget & meet MTFS pressures.
7. "Discretionary" spend - where these reductions in discretionary spend impact on third party organisations, the Council will manage this reduction over a reasonable period and engage with stakeholders to work on ways to mitigate the impact as far as possible.
8. Transformation – the Council will need to be more ambitious and determined in areas such as Digital, Shared Services and Commercial developments to meet the medium-term financial, whilst accepting that these areas take more time to produce realisable savings.
9. Assets – leaseholder charges should reflect the true costs of providing assets (including both direct costs and a proportion of overheads). Where there is a gap currently, the level of subsidy will be shared for consideration by the Council with a view to recovering the full amount over a reasonable period of time. Any exceptions to this principle should be explicitly agreed, along with the rationale for this being the case.
10. Community assets – the Council will adopt a consistent 'policy-led' approach to making decisions on which community assets it will continue to support financially and make clear the level of any subsidy applied. Any exceptions to this principle should be explicitly agreed, along with the rationale for this being the case.
11. Decision-making - once the savings plan has been developed and considered by the Council, any proposal to reduce a saving will only be considered if an equivalent alternate saving is also proposed at the same time.