

Special Council: 1 March 2023

General Services Revenue Estimates	
Proposer:	Joe Cullinane
Seconder:	Amanda Kerr

That the Council approves the recommendations set out in the report subject to the amendments noted below;

a) *Alternative proposals:*

Increase vacancy management turnover target - £345,923

Increase PCN charges to maximum level - £150,000

One enforcement team for PCN and Environmental fines - £93,000

Total: £588,923

b) *Remove the following proposals from the report:*

Food for Life Accreditation - £53,923

Christmas Lights - £35,000

Cost of the School Day - £500,000

Total: £588,923

c) *use of the general funds unearmarked reserves to:*

Earmark the 'savings' resulting from the teachers strike for a school staff wellbeing fund - £278,000 to date with 'savings' from future strike dates to be earmarked for the fund

Workforce Planning Fund - £2.368m

Total earmarking of funds from the general fund: £2.646m

d) Amend proposal C in the recommendations to:

notes the projected outturn position for 2022/23 and approves the earmarking of the balance of underspend (after the earmarking of funds in 2022/23 for a school staff wellbeing fund - specific to the value of teacher strike savings in 2022/23) to add to the Workplace Planning Fund. If, however, the value of funds earmarked for a school staff wellbeing fund results in a Council overspend position in 2022/23, then the value of the overspend should be met from the balance of the Workforce Planning Fund as outlined in part c of the Motion.

e) Council notes the recent decision to approve the PFI Service concession and agrees that the re-mortgaging of assets must provide tangible benefits for North Ayrshire's residents and communities, delivering investment that improves the lives of our residents whilst making the Council more financially sustainable.

Council therefore rejects the proposal to use £16.146m in a non-recurring basis to unsustainably mitigate Government cuts and to establish a £4m fund to cuts jobs as set out in the table at 2.5.11.

Council approves the following alternative investment of the service concession money which will tackle poverty, improve local infrastructure, grow the local economy, deliver on our climate change ambitions, and provide a greater level of financial sustainability for the Council over the medium to long term:

To balance the revenue budget in 2023/24 - £1.858m

Rollout free school meals to ALL P6 and P7 pupils from August 2023 and to develop a pilot of universal free school meals for Secondary School pupils - £1.405m

Reinstate holiday meal vouchers to £4 per day in 2023/24 - £600,000

Energy Smart Scheme - £350,000

Child poverty fund - £1m

Investment Fund (to invest in renewable energy, new commercial estate and low carbon infrastructure that generates income and lowers costs) - £8m

Transformation Challenge Fund (providing investment to redesign services to improve outcomes whilst reducing costs) - £4m

Reinstate funding for Community Wealth Building - £2.333m

Potholes fund - £2m

Total - £21.546m

f) Council further approves the following reviews for future years:

Review of temporary accommodation, including charges

The transfer of Redburn Grove to the HRA

Please complete the undernoted in respect of the motion:-

Does the motion meet the requirement to produce a balanced budget?

X

Have the movers considered the undernoted implications? (complete below)

Financial Consequences	Although the changes still deliver a balanced budget for 2023/24, the proposals outlined will result in a significant level of financial risk to the Council through the use of service concession flexibility, impact on staffing budgets, uncertainty around levels of PCN income and additional risk against the level of reserves from the outturn position if all underspends relating to the teacher strike are used for staff wellbeing fund which then in turn creates an overspend position for the Council in 2022/23. Further, by not using service concession flexibility to help address the budget gap in 24/25 (£5m) this creates an anticipated Budget gap in 24/25 of over £17m.
Legal Motion	The terms of the amendment are legally competent.
Impact on Equalities/ Protected Groups:	No negative impact
Socio Economic Duty (Impact on Inequalities):	Not impact on inequalities