



BUDGET SCRUTINY 2023/24 FINANCE & COMMERCIAL DIRECTORATE

2 FEBRUARY 2023

OVERVIEW

- In December 2022, the Finance & Commercial Directorate presented a combined total value of savings for financial year 2023/24 of **£3.143m**.
- Following continued efforts to build upon these, the Directorate has subsequently identified a further **£4.363m** of savings to add to the above.
- Thus the total position for the Directorate in respect of 2023/24 savings is now **£7.506m**
- In addition to the proposals from Finance & Commercial, three cross-council savings proposals have been put forward amounting to a further **£2.150m**
- The following slides set out further detail on the additional savings identified since December's scrutiny sessions
- EIAs have been prepared and made available in respect of all proposals

2023/24 – BUDGET SAVINGS PROPOSALS – **FINANCE & COMMERCIAL**

The following savings proposals have been put forward for delivery to further contribute towards the 2023/24 budget target:

Revenues & Benefits Agency savings – RES-2324-51 – £0.450m

- Combination of initiatives through a restructure and procurement of interim staff from a different framework

Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) – RES-2324-58 – £3.500m

- MRP is a statutory revenue charge applied to fund capital expenditure. The asset disposal programme is ahead of schedule and this has led to a reprofiled and reduced MRP charge for 2023/24. In turn, this contributes towards closing the savings gap in 2023/24.

Budgeted Overhead Cleanse – RES-2324-48 – £0.788m increase of £0.413m from last reported savings

- By means of unutilised budget arising from efficiencies over the course of time

The Directorate has also put forward proposals for price increases as part of the Fees and Charges report which went to Cabinet on 16 January, details of which can be found within [the report](#).

2023/24 – BUDGET PROPOSALS SUMMARY – FINANCE & COMMERCIAL

Ref. No.	Saving title	2023/24 Saving (£m)
	TOTAL VALUE OF PROPOSALS PRESENTED IN DEC 2022	3.143
RES-2324-51	Revenues & Benefits Agency Savings	0.450
RES-2324-58	Minimum Revenue Provision	3.500
RES-2324-48	Budgeted overhead cleanse (increase in savings from last reported)	0.413
	UPDATED TOTAL VALUE OF 2023/24 SAVINGS	7.506

2023/24 – BUDGET SAVINGS PROPOSALS – **CROSS-COUNCIL**

The following savings proposals have been put forward for delivery to further contribute towards the 2023/24 budget target:

Fees and Charges increases – X-2324-26 – £0.900m

- A [report](#) went to Cabinet in December for approval, setting out in detail the schedule of proposed increases across a wide range of fees and charges. Each of the directorates have contributed towards this and would be able to respond to queries on any specifics within the schedule.

Review of strategic Commissioning – X-2324-54 – £0.750m

- A review of strategic commissioning to both reduce costs and make better use of resources to deliver outcomes through improved commissioning practice.

Support Services – X-2324-57 – £0.500m

- Savings from merging SCF and Council back office services. SCF spends c£1.3m on these services which when merged would mean duplication of activity. Efficiencies can be made through holding vacancies and eliminating unnecessary work through a shared approach and vision

2023/24 – BUDGET PROPOSALS SUMMARY – CROSS-COUNCIL

Ref. No.	Saving title	2023/24 Saving (£m)
X-2324-26	Fees and charges increases	0.900
X-2324-54	Strategic Commissioning *	0.750
X-2324-57	Support Services	0.500
	UPDATED TOTAL VALUE OF 2023/24 SAVINGS	2.150

*The savings marked with an asterisk have been assessed to require a full EIA

CONSULTATION

No further consultations required

2023/24 – OVERALL SUMMARY

Presentation Date	Directorate	2023/24 Saving (£m)
1/12/2022	COO (Now Strategy & Transformation)	1.155
1/12/2022	Finance & Commercial	3.143
7/12/2022	Place including Housing & Property	3.823
15/12/2022	Adults	4.962
31/1/2023	Adults	0.726
31/1/2023	Children's Services	0.805
1/2/2023	Place & Communities	0.505
1/2/2023	Housing & Property	0.200
2/2/2023	Strategy & Transformation	0.668
2/2/2023	Finance & Commercial	4.363
2/2/2023	Cross-Council	2.150
	TOTAL GENERAL FUND SAVINGS 2023/24	22.500
31/1/2023	Slough Children First	1.140