Proposed Allocation of the General Fund Outturn Variance 2024/25 and In-Year Budget Adjustments for 2025/26

Description	Expenditure Budget £	Income Budget £	Comments / Reason for Adjustment
SECTION 1 - ALLOCATION OF GENERAL FUND OUTTURN VARIANCE 2024/25 - RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE PORTFOLIO HOLDER			
Use of GF Outturn Variance 2024/25 Carried Forward via the Revenue Commitments Reserve	(5,417,000)		
Homelessness Costs	1,000,000		As set out within the budget reports for 2025/26 considered earlier in the year, this area of the budget remains a significant financial challenge, although the Government have continued to provide additional funding to support Local Authorities. Although Spendells House is now having a significant positive impact, it is likely that the pressure on the Council's underlying homelessness budgets will remain. It is therefore proposed to provide a further sum of £1.000m to support this position, which takes the total additional support provided to £2.000m in 2025/26 (£1.000m has already been identified within the underlying budget position via earlier budget adjustments)
Supporting the delivery of savings / efficiency plans and wider corporate priorities	1,000,000		An initial sum of £0.250m has already been set aside during the year for utilising within the context of the Council's Highlight Priorities for 2025/26, which also recognises the impact of Local Government Reorganisation. It is proposed to set aside a further £1.000m to support this important area of the Council's activities.
Coast Protection Works	1,000,000		In recognising the Council's obligations in terms of its coastal defence responsibilities, an initial sum of £1.000m has already been set aside during 2024/25 to support remedial works that are likely to emerge from the current associated review, with £0.970m remaining at the end of March 2025. It is proposed to increase this by a further £1.000m, giving a total amount of £1.970m in 2025/26 to support this area of the Council's activities.
Waste and Recycling Collection and Street Cleaning Contract Arrangements	2,417,000		As recognised within the associated report considered by Cabinet at their May 2025 meeting, a further report will be presented to them following the evaluation of final tenders, which will include proposed financial / budget adjustments as necessary. Reflecting the financial analysis that will need to be set out within the report mentioned above, it is proposed to set aside the balance of the overall outturn variance as an initial sum to enable it to be considered as part of the potential / wider budget adjustments that are likely to be necessary.
Section 1 Totals	**0**	**0**	

Description	Expenditure Budget £	Income Budget £	Comments / Reason for Adjustment
SECTION 2 - IN-YEAR BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS 2025/26			
To fund the creation of a Fixed Term Refugee Support Officer post to support responsibilities associated with asylum dispersal.	45,000		In recognising the Council's responsibilities associated with asylum dispersal, it is proposed to create the necessary internal capacity, the costs of which can be fully met from the relevant grant funding made available by the Government.
Use of associated asylum grant funding received from the Government to support the above post		(45,000)	
Costs Associated with the Community Governance Review - Clacton-on-sea, Holland-on-sea and Jaywick Sands	20,000		As part of the budget setting process for 2025/26, an initial sum of £48k was set aside to support this review, following a decision of Full Council on 26 November 2024. The review is now underway and based on revised estimates, that were also acknowledged by the CLOSC as set out elsewhere on the agenda, a further sum of £20k is requested, of which £10k is supported by external grant income.
Grant Contribution from the Society of Council Clerks		(10,000)	
Use of Corporate Investment Fund to support the above cost	(10,000)		
Project Delivery Unit Capacity - Contracts Lawyer	25,000		As highlighted in earlier reports, the Council has to date secured additional capacity via agency arrangements. It is proposed to extend the current arrangements for a further period funded from existing budgets.
Use of Existing Employees Budgets to meet the cost of the above	(25,000)		
Section 2 Totals	**55,000**	**(55,000)**	
SECTION 3 - IN-YEAR BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS 2025/26 (NET NIL IMPACT) - LEISURE FACILITIES AND THE PRINCES THEATRE			
LEISURE FACILITIES			
Expenditure Budgets			
Employee Costs (Including Training)	88,700		Please see the main body of the report for further details. The adjustments are based on a number of budget changes to reflect the actual experience at the facilities, as broadly reflected in the outturn position for 2024/25 - there is no net overall impact on the wider budget.
Building Repairs / Maintenance Costs / Contract Cleaning	159,600		
Utilities and Business Rate Costs	380,800		
Other Costs	27,400		
Income Budgets			
Memberships Income		(128,500)	
Other Income		(318,000)	
Transfer from Corporate Utilities Contingency 'fund'	(210,000)		
Sub Total	***446,500***	***(446,500)***	
PRINCES THEATRE			
Expenditure Budgets			
Employee Costs	108,650		Similarly to the above, based on the outturn position in 2024/25, these proposed budget adjustments better reflect the actual position across the various lines of the theatre budgets and the correlation between income from bookings etc. and expenditure, such as artistes and production costs and staff capacity to support events and shows during the year.
Building Repairs and Maintenance Costs	15,860		
Artistes and Production Costs	148,430		
Other Costs	90,090		
Income Budgets			
Sales, Bookings and Other Income		(363,030)	
Sub Total	***363,030***	***(363,030)***	
Section 3 Totals	**809,530**	**(809,530)**	