

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE – PLANNING APPEALS

Council – 20 February 2024

Report of: Deputy Chief Executive & Chief Officer - Finance & Trading

Status: For Decision

Key Decision: No

Executive Summary: This report requests that Council consider the use of a supplementary estimate with regards to the cost of Planning Appeals in 2023/24 above the budgeted level.

Portfolio Holder: Cllr. Kevin Maskell

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Recommendation to Council:

The cost of Planning Appeals in excess of the budget in 2023/24 be met from a supplementary estimate of £120,000.

Reason for recommendation: To fund the unplanned appeals costs. There has been a significant cost incurred in respect of Planning Appeals which forms a significant element of the 2023/24 forecasted deficit.

Introduction

- 1 Significant costs have been incurred in respect of Planning Appeals which forms a part of the 2023/24 forecasted deficit.
- 2 Hearings and Public Inquiry appeals are not that common and if the base line budget was to be increased then it may have a detrimental impact on other services delivered by the Council.
- 3 The Oakhill Road appeal in particular resulted in £120,000 of additional costs being incurred as the Development Management Committee's decision did not follow the Officer recommendation.
- 4 There is a small Appeals budget, but it is not sufficient to cover all the costs associated with Planning Appeals in the current year.
- 5 The Financial Monitoring reports presented to FIAC and Cabinet during 2023/24 have mentioned the overspend on Planning Appeals and the proposal to offset this overspend by the utilisation of a supplementary estimate which reflects that this expenditure is outside the scope of the budget process. This report formalises that action.

Key Implications

Financial

The additional £120,000 costs in Planning appeals be met from a supplementary estimate and funded from the Budget Stabilisation Reserve.

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement.

There are no legal implications.

For the effective management of our resources and in order to achieve a sustainable budget it is essential that all service cost changes and risks are identified and considered.

Equality Assessment

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

Net Zero Implications

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the council's ambition to be Net Zero by 2030. There is no perceived impact regarding either an increase or decrease in carbon emissions in the district or supporting the resilience of the natural environment.

Appendices – None

Background Papers – None

Adrian Rowbotham

Deputy Chief Executive & Chief Officer - Finance & Trading