

**Executive Board
22 February 2022**

Subject:	Medium Term Financial Plan 2022/23 to 2025/26
Corporate Director(s)/Director(s):	Clive Heaphy, Interim Corporate Director for Finance and Resources
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Sam Webster, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources
Report author and contact details:	Lisa Kitto, Interim Deputy Section 151 Officer and Finance Strategic Lead lisa.kitto@nottinghamcity.gov.uk
Other colleagues who have provided input:	Richard Grice, Transformation Programme Director Ceri Walters, Head of Commercial and Transformation Finance
Subject to call-in: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Recommendation 4 of this decision is not subject to call-in because the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed that the decision is reasonable in all circumstances and should be treated as a matter of urgency so that the statutory deadlines may be met.	
Key Decision: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Criteria for Key Decision: (a) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Income <input type="checkbox"/> Savings of £750,000 or more taking account of the overall impact of the decision and/or (b) Significant impact on communities living or working in two or more wards in the City <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Type of expenditure: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Revenue <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capital If Capital, provide the date considered by Capital Board: 17 January 2022	
Total value of the decision: £439,400,000	
Wards affected: All	
Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder(s): Throughout the budget process	

Relevant Council Plan Key Outcome:

Clean and Connected Communities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Keeping Nottingham Working	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Carbon Neutral by 2028	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Safer Nottingham	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Child-Friendly Nottingham	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Healthy and Inclusive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Keeping Nottingham Moving	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve the City Centre	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Better Housing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Financial Stability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Serving People Well	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):

Executive Board in November 2021 approved a progress report on the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for the 4-year period 2022/23 to 2025/26 building on both the Council's then titled Recovery and Improvement Plan and its Strategic Council Plan, each of which prioritise achieving sustainable medium term finances as a sound platform for the provision of Council services. The Council carried out an 8 week consultation process on proposed savings and this report reflects the results of this consultation and how they have informed this updated MTFP.

This report sets out the Council's revenue and capital budget proposals for the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Schools Budget for 2022/23 within the context of a medium term outlook.

The report comprises 8 annexes as follows:

- **Annex 1** – 2021/22 forecast budget outturn;
- **Annex 2** – Revenue Medium Term Financial Plan 2022/23 to 2025/26;
- **Annex 3** – Capital Strategy and Programme;
- **Annex 4** – HRA revenue and capital budget;
- **Annex 5** – Robustness of the budget, required under The Local Government Act 2003 (Pt II);
- **Annex 6** – Budget Consultation 2022/23;
- **Annex 7** – Schools Budget 2022/23;
- **Annex 8** – Transformation Programme.

This report should be read in conjunction with its Annexes and the Treasury Management Strategy 2022/23 and Capital and Investment Strategy 2022/23 report which is also on this Executive Board's agenda.

The Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee has approved part the HRA element of this report as detailed in recommendation 4 to be exempt from call in. This is due to the timing of Executive Board and the Housing Act 1985 which requires tenants to receive 28 days' notice of any proposed rent increase.

Annex 1 – Forecast Outturn 2021/22

The Council's General Fund revenue forecast as at Qtr3 2021/22 shows a favourable variance of **£5.1 million** against the annual budget. This compares with a forecast adverse variance of **£2.0 million** reported to December 2021 Executive Board, which was reflected in the Council's Consultation draft Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) presented to Executive Board in November 2021. The favourable movement of **£7.1m** has been driven by Adults & Health and Corporate budgets offset by adverse variances in Children & Young People and the Council's Companies.

This is a forecast and the final outturn is likely to be subject to changes in the final quarter of the financial year particularly in those budget areas that are dependent on income owing to the continued uncertainty of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on customer behaviour.

The S151 Officer recommends that underspends in the final 2021/22 outturn position are transferred to a **financial resilience reserve** to mitigate any risks that materialise in 2022/23 – 2025/26 that are unable to be contained within existing budgets. The operating environment for local authorities continues to be volatile and it important that the Council maintains resilience throughout this period. This strategy aligns with best financial practice and reflects the reduced future budget flexibility within the MTFP and the continuing risks faced by the Council.

In December 2020, the council applied to the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to capitalise **£35 million** of revenue costs of which **£20 million** was approved and capitalised in 2020/21. The Leadership of the Council have elected not to request the further capitalisation of **£15 million** in 2021/22 and is therefore not included within any forecasts.

Included within **Annex 1** is a restatement of the 2020/21 outturn position in relation to the unlawful allocation of housing funds to the General fund, to reverse the accounting entry with regards to the 2020/21 management fee rebate. The net impact of this and other changes is to reduce reserves by **£1.5 million**. There is a requirement to repay the Housing Revenue Account from the Council's General Fund (subject to receiving a Direction from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities – DLUHC) and this has been factored into the review of the Council's reserves. The precise sum will be determined once all investigations are complete.

Annex 2 - Revenue Medium Term Financial Plan 2022/23 to 2025/26

The MTFP is predicated on a number of assumptions that are likely to change over time, the details of which are set out in the report. Any changes to these assumptions during 2022/23 will be reported to Executive Board as part of the quarterly budget monitoring reports.

The revenue element of the MTFP is set out in the context of:

- increased demand for services, in particular those relating to Adults and Children's Social Care, which are expected to continue over the life of the plan;

- a challenging financial position and the need to remain financially sustainable and resilient;
- a lack of certainty over future funding that impacts on the Council's ability to carry out any long term financial planning.

This MTFP is provisionally balanced in all years from 2022/23 to 2025/26 based on the Council's stated aim of two years' firm budgets and two further years' indicative. The Council has commenced an ambitious but critical Transformation Programme and this MTFP represents a hybrid of business as usual (BAU) savings and, into the medium term, Transformation being the mechanism for delivering sustainable on going savings. Wave 1 and 2 of the Transformation Programme savings contribute to balancing the budget from 2022/23 and it is assumed that Wave 3 Transformation Programme savings will deliver savings from 2024/25 onwards and thereby ensuring that the budget is balanced over the 4 year period.

The MTFP is based on the following key assumptions:

- a starting budget gap as reported in November 2021 MTFP of **£28 million** for 2022/23 rising to **£38.1 million** in 2025/26, driven largely by inflationary and demand pressures and a reduction in Covid-19 funding from 2021/22 levels;
- final 2022/23 Settlement Funding Assumptions of **£123.3 million**. This provides a one year settlement with a more fundamental review of local government funding expected to start in Spring 2022 with an expected implementation for 2023/24;
- a proposed increase in basic council tax from April 2022 of **1.99%** and an additional increase of **1.00%** Adult Social Care Precept to fund the pressures in Adult Social Care as permitted by Government for 2022/23. This results in a total proposed increase in Council Tax of **2.99%** for 2022/23. The MTFP for the period 2023/24-2024/25 assumes an increase of **2.99%** per annum comprising the same mix of funding. The assumed Council Tax increase for 2025/26 is **1.99%**;
- Cost Pressures of **£17.1 million** in 2022/23 rising to **£40.8 million** in 2025/26, arising primarily from pressures in Children's and Adult Services;
- an assumed pay award of **2.75%** on the lowest pay bands and **1.75%** on all other pay bands for 2021/22 and **2.00%** p.a. for 2022/23 to 2025/26;
- new BAU savings of **£13.5 million** for 2022/23 rising to **£15.6 million** in 2025/26;
- Transformation Programme savings of **£1.5 million** for 2022/23 rising to **£14.0 million** by 2025/26. At this time these are a strategy and approach and do not require formal consultation, they will require engagement as the programme progresses;
- Wave 3 Transformation Programme savings of **£0.6m** in 2024/25 and **£4.1m** in 2025/26.

The Equality Impact Assessment is detailed in **Appendix A** and provides an overview of equality issues associated with the Council's budget. It summarises the potential equality impacts and the steps taken to minimise impact on protected groups during the development of the plan.

Annex 3 - Capital Strategy and Programme

The report provides an update on the Capital Programme following the Quarter 3

review. As part of this review and the draft Capital Strategy the proposed capital budget is contained within Annex 3. The Council operates a strict approach to considering and prioritising schemes for inclusion in the capital programme set against available resources including a technical review process. The Council does not commit to spend ahead of resources being available.

This draft capital programme includes schemes that have undergone this prioritisation process during 2021/22 and is predicated on a number of assumptions around timing of current unsecured funding and project forecasts. If funding is not secured as currently forecast the Capital Programme will be required to either create slippage in current forecasts or identify compensating capital savings.

Annex 4 – Housing Revenue Account (HRA) revenue and capital budgets

The report sets out the assumptions for establishing a balanced HRA in line with legislative requirements and the basis of the fee payable to the Council owned Teckal company, Nottingham City Homes (NCH) who manage HRA resources on behalf of the City Council. The report also provides an update on the HRA Capital Programme following the Quarter 3 review. The Council at all times remains accountable for managing the HRA and its finances as well as for establishing key policies and priorities in relations to housing stock and associated tenancies.

Annex 5 – Robustness of the budget, required under The Local Government Act 2003 (Pt II)

Under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003, the Council's section 151 officer has a duty to report on robustness of estimates and adequacy of reserves when the authority is considering its budget requirement.

This assessment has been undertaken recognising the risks and volatility faced by the Council over the MTFP period, and the S151 Officer has concluded that the budget is robust and that the level of reserves remains adequate. The assessment includes a series of recommendations including the creation of a Financial Sustainability Reserve to assist in managing future volatility.

Annex 6 – Budget Consultation 2022/23

An 8 week consultation on the November 2021 MTFP proposals closed on 10 January 2022 with consultation taking place via on-line survey and a range of targeted and general engagement events. This consultation period is twice as long as previous years and has extended its reach to a far greater number of consultees. Following this consultation, it is recommended that the MTFP includes the following changes to savings proposals with a net reduction in savings of circa **£0.25m**:

- Children's Centres – retain 4 centres rather than the originally proposed 3
- Play & Youth services – retain an additional 3 staff compared with the original proposal
- Greyhound Street toilets – to remain free of charge as opposed to introducing a charge.

Annex 7 – Schools Budget 2022/23

This report details the construction of Schools budgets funded by Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) totalling **£322.0 million** for 2022/23 including material changes that have arisen since 2021/22 and the basis of its distribution to both educational settings and the Local Authority (LA) totalling **£324.5 million**. This budget has 4

elements - budgets delegated to individual schools, support to high needs pupils, provision for early years expenditure and support for central services.

Annex 8 – Transformation Programme

The transformation Annex of this report sets out the purpose and scale and outcomes of the council's transformation portfolio and the specific programmes from Waves 1 & 2 the Council will undertake.

Does this report contain any information that is exempt from publication?

No

Recommendation(s):

1 2021/22 Forecast Outturn (Annex 1)

- a) To note the current forecast outturn for 2021/22;
- b) To approve budget virements of **£3.4 million** and a net use of reserves of **£0.3 million** as set out in Appendices **B** and **C**;
- c) To approve the principle that any underspends achieved in 2021/22 are to be used to replenish reserves through the creation of a financial sustainability reserve.

2 Revenue Medium Term Financial Plan 2022/23 to 2025/26 (Annex 2)

- a) To recommend to City Council approval of the proposed General Fund revenue budget for 2022/23 with a net budget requirement of **£227.6 million**;
- b) To endorse proposals to set a Council Tax level (Band D) of **£1,955.32**.

3 Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2026/27 Element (Annex 3)

- a) To recommend to City Council approval of the proposed Capital Programme for 2021/22 – 2026/27.

4 HRA budget 2022/23 (Annex 4)

- a) To recommend to City Council approval of the proposed HRA budget for 2022/23 as set out in **Annex 4**.
- b) To approve the:
 - i. Proposed rent increase of **4.1%** for 2022/23;
 - ii. Continuation of the tenant incentive scheme in 2022/23 of up to **£0.5million** per annum;
 - iii. Proposed increase in general service charges of **4.1%**.
 - iv. Proposed increase to garage rents of **3.1%**.
 - v. Delegation of authority to Nottingham City Homes (NCH) to award capital contracts up to the value of the scheme/programme as set out in **Annex 3**.

5 Robustness of the Medium Term Financial Plan (Annex 5)

- a) To note the report of the Council's Section 151 Officer in respect of the robustness of the estimates within the budget and the adequacy of reserves.

6 Budget Consultation (Annex 6)

- a) To note the outcomes of the budget consultation and the Council's response..

7 Schools Budget (Annex 7)

a) To approve the in-year budget transfers and payments associated with the grant funding and the use of the reserve included in this report. This will not exceed the grant value.

b) To delegate the authority to the Portfolio Holder for Finance & Resources and the S151 Officer to approve any final budget adjustments in conjunction with the Portfolio holder for Leisure, Culture & Schools and the Corporate Director (People).

8 Transformation Programme (Annex 8)

a) To approve the strategies being applied to the transformation programmes identified in Waves 1 & 2.

b) To note and endorse the wave 3 outline proposals for transformation subject to the approval of individual business cases.

c) To note that proposals are subject to consultation where appropriate.

d) To note that as these strategies are adopted, the outcomes and impacts will form part of further consultation and appropriate approval.

e) To note that the reduction in Full Time Equivalent posts is currently estimated and at this stage it is not possible to identify which posts are vacant. Clarity of this will form part of recommendation 8b).

f) To note that the costs associated with delivery for Childrens service redesign is contained within a separate report presented to this board. If this proposal is *not* approved, this will impact on these budget proposals and the Council may not meet its legal requirement to set a legal budget for 2022/23 nor a balanced 4 year MTFS.

1. Reasons for recommendations

- 1.1 This report seeks approval of the proposed 2022/23 – 2025/26 MTFP and specific approval of HRA budget proposals with a recommendation of approval of the proposed MTFP by the City Council on 7 March 2022.
- 1.2 This MTFP covers a 4 year period to meet its objective of agreeing a longer term financial planning framework within which longer term decisions relating to services can be taken.
- 1.3 The report sets out the assumptions and plans for revenue and capital elements of the MTFP as well as proposals to reduce costs that will contribute towards the delivery of a provisionally balanced budget for all 4 years.
- 1.4 The newly formed Transformation Programme will be the Council's key strategy for achieving long term service and financial sustainability and is expected to close the future budget gaps detailed in this report.
- 1.5 Proposals that include workforce reductions will be subject to internal consultation with Trade Unions and affected colleagues. Details of such proposals may,

therefore, be amended during the consultation period and may impact on the way in which identified proposals will be delivered.

Background (including outcomes of consultation)

2. Annex 1 – Forecast Outturn 2021/22

- 2.1 The Council's Qtr3 2021/22 General Fund revenue forecast is showing a **£5.1 million** favourable variance to budget, this is a **£7.1 million** movement from the Qtr2 adverse budget variance of **£2.0 million**. Headlines from this annex are summarised below.
- 2.2 The Qtr3 forecast underspend of **£5.1 million** is largely due to variances within the following areas:
- Adults & Health **£6.4 million** favourable.
 - Children & Young People **£3.5 million** adverse
 - Neighbourhoods, Safety & Inclusion **£2.3 million** favourable
 - Skills, Growth & Economic Development **£1.1 million** adverse
 - Energy, Environment & Waste Services **£1.0 million** favourable
 - Companies **£3.5 million** adverse
 - Corporate **£6.4 million** favourable
 - 2021/22 Pay award **£3.0 million** adverse
- 2.3 The **£7.1 million** movement between Qtr2 and Qtr3 is largely due to movements in the following Portfolios:
- Highways, Transport & Cleansing Services **£2.6 million** favourable movement
 - Adults & Health **£2.2 million** favourable movement
 - Energy, Environment & Waste Services **£1.1 million** favourable movement
 - Leisure, Culture & Schools **£0.9 million** favourable movement
 - Strategic Regeneration & Communications **£0.7 million** adverse movement
- 2.4 The S151 Officer recommendation is that any underspends achieved in 2021/22 are transferred to a newly created Financial Resilience Reserve at year end to ensure to manage demand and other risks over the next 4 years whilst local government finances remain volatile.
- 2.5 In December 2020, the council applied to MHCLG to treat **£35 million** of revenue costs as capital. The [then] Secretary of State approved total capitalisation of **£20 million** in 2020/21 and for 2021/22 was 'minded to' support a further Capitalisation Direction but this would be subject to an assessment in Q3 2021/22, in conjunction with the Improvement Board. The Leadership of the Council has elected not to request the further **£15 million** capitalisation request for 2021/22 and is therefore not included within the Qtr3 forecast outturn position.
- 2.6 Part of the remedy following the S114 notice issued in December 2021 in relation to the unlawful allocation of housing funds to the General Fund and approved at City Council on 4 January 2022 is to amend the 2020/21 accounts to remove the **£1.5 million** management fee rebate from being recognised in the General Fund. The impact of this is to reduce the favourable variance in the 2020/21 outturn from **£38.7 million** to **£37.2 million** and to reduce the amount transferred to reserves. Details of which are included within Annex 1.

2.7 The movement on earmarked reserves for Qtr3 including the impact of the 2020/21 restatement is a net drawdown of **£0.3 million**. The balance on earmarked reserves following these movements is **£162.5 million**.

3. Annex 2 – Revenue Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2022/23 to 2025/26

3.1 The objective of the MTFP is to have an integrated golden thread based upon:

- The Council Plan – focus on outcomes
- The Together for Nottingham plan
- Service Planning – which is robust and costed
- Financial Plans – a sustainable medium term financial strategy and plan
- Performance Plans – strong evidence based performance framework to drive good decision making

3.2 The core financial objectives on which the Council's MTFP is constructed are:

- a) To ensure that the Council's medium and long term financial health and viability is built on solid foundations;
- b) To maintain an adequate level of reserves commensurate with the risks that it faces;
- c) To set a balanced and sustainable budget over the medium term (4 years);
- d) To agree the financial parameters within which service and budget planning should take place;
- e) To ensure that resources are directed towards the highest priorities and away from lesser ones with a clear alignment between priorities and affordability;
- f) To ensure that the Council monitors and manages its financial resources effectively to ensure that spending commitments do not exceed resources within each spending area and the Council as a whole.

3.3 The Strategy for the development of the MTFP for this planning period has been a hybrid approach of business as usual (BAU) savings together with savings from the Transformation Programme to achieve financial sustainability. The expectation is that savings from the Transformation Programme will become a mechanism for future savings.

3.4 All budget lines have been reviewed as part of the MTFP process and significant savings have been assumed within corporate budgets. In the past these budgets have been used to mitigate overspends as they have arisen and the removal of significant corporate budgets reduces in year budget flexibility. This increases the importance of having adequate financial resilience reserves to address any risks that arise which can't be covered by existing departmental base budgets. The S151 recommendation to transfer underspends arising in 2021/22 to a newly created financial resilience reserve supports this strategy.

3.5 Below are the key headlines and assumptions for the MTFP:

- Starting budget gap of **£28 million** in 2022/23 rising to **£38.1 million** in 2025/26;
- MTFP is balanced in all 4 years;
- Council Tax increase of **1.99%** basic and **1.00%** ASC giving Band D charge of **£1,955.32**;
- Additional pressures of **£17.1 million** in 2022/23 driven largely by Children's and Adults;

- Final settlement brought extra **£22.2 million** Core Spending Power – **7.7%** increase;
- new BAU savings of **£13.5 million** for 2022/23 rising to **£15.6 million** in 2025/26;
- Funding of Transformation (**£15 million**) and associated Redundancy costs (**£9 million**) through ‘Flexible Use of Capital Receipts’ to protect reserves;
- Transformation Programme is a key part of the integrated budget process with assumed savings from Waves 1 and 2 of **£1.5 million** in 2022/23 rising to **£14.0 million** in 2025/26, excludes Wave 3;
- Wave 3 Transformation Programme savings are expected to close the projected budget gaps in 2024/25 and 2025/26;
- Impact of the Voluntary Debt policy is reducing debt servicing costs to give more for services

3.6 The draft budget reflects the culmination of the extensive work of councillors, colleagues and other stakeholders which has been scrutinised extensively throughout the process to fulfil a legal obligation. This has enabled the 2022/23 budget to be balanced to fund provision of a wide range of services; many of them statutory.

4. Annex 3 – Capital Strategy and Programme

4.1 A review of the capital programme has been undertaken to stabilise the programme and put it on a sustainable footing for the longer term together with the implementation of a revised debt management strategy which aims to reduce debt levels.

4.2 An overall general fund programme of **£334.9 million** of which **£153.9 million** relates to 2022/23;

- **£22.7 million** from prudential borrowing;
- **£106.7 million** funded from specific grants and contributions;
- **£24.4 million** from capital receipts and other internal contributions

4.3 Public Sector Housing capital programme of **£274.9 million**

5. Annex 4 – HRA revenue and capital budget

5.1 An overall HRA of

- A forecast 2021/22 outturn surplus of **£0.1m**;
- Total HRA expenditure budget for 2022/23 of **£111.1 million**;
- An increase in rents of **4.1%**;
- A proposed increase in general service charges of **4.1%** in line with CPI;
- Closing working balance of **£9.3 million** in 2022/23

6. Annex 5 – Robust of the budget and adequacy of reserves

6.1 The statutory assessment of the Robustness of the Budget and Adequacy of reserves concludes that the budget is robust and that the level of reserves is adequate. However, it is important to note that the environment in which the Council operates has been challenging for a number of years as a result of the Government period of austerity and the impact this has had on the Councils funding position and the level of reserves it holds.

- 6.2 The Council continues to prepare medium term financial plans in a period of extreme uncertainty particularly around future levels of funding with the Final Settlement confirming funding for 2022/23 only. The Fair Funding review, which represents a more fundamental review of Local Government funding, is expected in Spring 2022 for an expected implementation of 2023/24.
- 6.3 Previous budget reports have highlighted that the Council was carrying significant risk in relation to the low level of its unallocated and earmarked reserves in comparison to other similar sized Councils.
- 6.4 The changes and reductions in base Corporate budgets will result in reduced in- year budget flexibility and therefore the requirement for adequate financial resilience reserves to mitigate and manage any in-year risks is a fundamental part of the overall budget strategy.
- 6.5 The MTFP has been built on a medium case scenario and therefore contains risks. The Robustness of the Budget and adequacy of reserves statement will reference the following risks:
- Demand pressures particularly in Children’s, Adult Social Care and Public Health
 - Pay Award - 2021/22 Pay Award not finalised (assumed 1.75%) and 2% pa in the MTFP for 2022/23+
 - Energy and fuel price volatility
 - Covid - potential impact on income and expenditure;
 - Deliverability of Transformation, significant growth in savings assumed;
 - Reduced Council’s overall budget flexibility following the removal of some Corporate Budgets
 - Funding uncertainties for 2023/24+ dependent upon the outcomes of the “Fair Funding” review
 - Further issues arising in relation to the HRA (Section 114 notice)
 - Adequate reserves to cover future risks (S151 assessment as part of MTFP)
- 6.6 The Council’s Chief Financial Officer’s (S151 Officer) assessment concludes that the budget is robust and that there are adequate levels of reserves and includes a series of recommendations, these include:
- The transfer of 2021/22 in year underspends to the financial resilience reserve to mitigate against the risks of Covid-19 related pressures and loss of income as well as the removal of corporate contingencies from the MTFP.
 - Align the MTFP to the new Council Plan and service planning framework.
 - Continuation of the controls over earmarked reserves and that these continue to be subject to S151/ Deputy S151 Officer approval and also subject to a prioritisation process and to replenish the resilience reserve.
 - Increase the general fund balance to **£13.6m** from April 2022 and to increase by **£1.0m** pa for the period of the MTFP.
 - Review and update the current MTFP practices as necessary to align with CIPFA Financial Management Code

7. Annex 6 – Budget Consultation 2022/23

- 7.1 Public consultation commenced on 16 November 2021 for an eight week period and closed on 10 January 2022. Consultation consisted of an on-line survey and a range of targeted and general on-line and in person engagement events
- 7.2 Consultation received almost 700 responses (via surveys and emails) and over 300 participants at events.
- 7.3 Overwhelmingly, the vast majority of responses to the survey and comments received at the engagement events related to the children’s centres and play & youth service proposals (69%). Other notable proposals that received responses include parking permits and bulky waste, albeit to a much lesser extent.
- 7.4 Following consultation the MTFP is recommending the following financial changes to savings included as part of the November 2021 Executive Board report:
- **Children’s Centres** - Officers are developing a detailed proposal for a new Children’s Centre model based on retaining four centres under direct Council operation rather than the three in the original proposals.
 - **Play & Youth services** - proposal around staffing reductions, however, has been reconsidered and an additional 3 FTE staff will be retained, ensuring there are 15 youth workers plus a manager providing city-wide outreach.
 - **Greyhound Street toilets** would remain a free of charge service facility.

8. Annex 7 – Schools Budget 2022/23

- 8.1 This annex presents the Council’s Schools Budgets for 2022/23 which has been prepared in line with the parameters agreed at Schools Forum and with the financial regulations issued by the Department for Education. Indicative budgets and guidance will be issued to schools by 28 February 2022.
- 8.2 Where applicable the Local Authority’s (LA’s) Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) incorporates the impact from the Dedicated Schools Grant.
- 8.3 The key points relating to the Schools budgets are:
- Total grant funding for Nottingham is **£324.5 million** for 2022/23;
 - This is an increase of **£11.7 million (3.8%)** from 2021/22 indicative budget of which:
 - **£9.2 million** funds pupil growth;
 - **£5.0 million** in increased High Needs (HN) funding;
 - A **£2.1 million** reduction in Early Years due to reduction in pupil numbers.
 - The High Needs block budget aligns to the Special Education Needs strategy;
 - The figures are provisional and the grant will be amended throughout the year;
 - Any unallocated balance will be transferred to the Statutory Schools Reserve.

9. Annex 8 – Transformation Programme

- 9.1 The transformation programme has been developed to ensure the council has financial sustainability and can deliver services within the resources available. This is a new and bold agenda that focuses on preventing demand from arising, helping

people find the services they need as efficiently as possible and ensuring services are designed to both improve outcomes and minimise cost.

10. Other options considered in making recommendations

10.1 Throughout the budget process a range of different options have been considered including various levels of council tax, investment and cost reductions. This is a complex process with many iterations and possibilities too numerous and detailed to present as discrete options here. This report presents the overall set of current draft proposals which together seek to balance levels of investment, income, cost reductions and an appropriate level of council tax.

11. Consideration of Risk

11.1 Risk comments are contained within the body of the report.

12. Finance colleague comments (including implications and value for money/VAT)

12.1 Finance comments are contained within the body of the report.

12.2 A detailed and comprehensive risk assessment has been undertaken in order to inform the Chief Finance Officer's assessment of the affordability of these budget plans and the consequent recommended levels of reserves and contingencies. This is summarised in the Robustness of the Budget and Adequacy of Reserves statement contained within this report.

13 Legal colleague comments

13.1 The City Council is required to set a balanced budget for 2022/23 before 11 March 2022.

13.2 The Council also has a duty under the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between protected groups (such as disabled people or ethnic minority groups) when considering proposed new or changing policies, services or functions, including decisions on funding for services, and decisions on implementation of policies developed outside the Council.

13.3 Where consultation has been required, and consequently taken, in relation to savings proposals it is understood that due regard has been had to the responses received. Failure to comply with this obligation could lead to challenge by way of judicial review.

Comments provided by Malcolm R. Townroe, Director of Legal and Governance, on 11 February 2022.

14. Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

14.1 An EIA is attached as **Appendix A**, and due regard will be given to any implications identified in it.

15.1 Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)

15.1 Not applicable

16. Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA)

16.1 Not applicable

17. List of background papers relied upon in writing this report (not including published documents or confidential or exempt information)

17.1 None

18. Published documents referred to in this report

Consideration of and response to Section 114 Report and Section 5 Report dated 15th December 2021, 4 January 2022, Extraordinary City Council

<https://committee.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=156&MId=9457>

Review of the 2021/22 Revenue and Capital Budgets at 30 September 2021 (Quarter2), 21 December 2021 Executive Board

<https://committee.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=177&MId=9112>

Medium Term Financial Plan 2022/23 to 2025/26, 16 November 2021 Executive Board

<https://committee.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=177&MId=9111>

Review of the 2021/22 Revenue and Capital Budgets at 30 June 2021 (Quarter1), 21 September 2021 Executive Board

<https://committee.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=177&MId=9109>

Pre-audit Corporate Financial Outturn 2020/21, 20 July 2021 Executive Board

<https://committee.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=177&MId=9108>

Transformation and Improvement Update, 20 July 2021 Executive Board

<https://committee.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=177&MId=9108>

Request to the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to capitalise revenue costs (capitalisation), 12 March 2021 Executive Board

<https://committee.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=177&MId=8975>

Budget 2021/22, 8 March 2021 City Council

<https://committee.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=155&MId=8633>

Budget 2021/22 and Medium Term Financial Outlook, 23 February 2021 Executive Board

<https://committee.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=177&MId=8590>

Nottingham City Council Recovery and Implementation Plan, 19 January 2021 Executive Board

<https://committee.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=177&MId=8589>

Equality Impact Assessment Form**Document Control****Control Details:**

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Strategic Budget EIA: Y/N	Yes
Exempt from publication: Y/N	No

Document Amendment Record:

Version	Author	Date	Approved
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Summary

(Please provide a brief description of proposal / policy / service being assessed)

2022/23 Budget Proposals

This document provides an overview of equality issues associated with the Council's 2022/23 Budget. It summarises the potential equality impacts and the steps taken to minimise impact on protected groups.

The Medium Term Financial Plan 2022/23 to 2025/26 report approved at November 2021 Executive Board contains details of savings proposals and the final list of saving proposals following public consultation are contained within Annex 2 of this report. These two reports form the basis of the budget and this assessment should be read in conjunction with those reports.

Public consultation commenced on 16 November and various meetings have been held as part of this process in addition to the consultation pages and survey on the Council's website. The Budget will be presented to Full Council on 7 March 2022 for approval.

Budget proposals cover all Portfolios and span various services across the Council, an assessment as to the proposals that require an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been carried out, initial screenings and where appropriate individual EIA's have been completed and these are available to view on Nottingham Insights ([Document library - Nottingham Insight](#)) or a copy can be provided upon request.

For many of the proposals the EIA will be an on-going process – particularly where there may be future decisions on what service models may look like, or more detailed proposals and that Executive Board will be required to review the information at that stage too, in order to demonstrate they have paid due regard at the time of any future decisions.

The Equality Duty 2010 is a continuing duty, therefore it will be necessary to monitor the effects of the decision after implementation.

The Council's equality objectives are to:

- ensure our workforce reflects the communities we serve;
- create economic growth for the benefit of all communities;
- provide inclusive and accessible services for our citizens; and
- lead the City in tackling discrimination and promoting equality

Detail of affected posts

The budget proposals submitted to Executive Board on 16 November contain a range of savings proposals to address the above budget challenges. The proposals with staffing impacts form the basis of the consultation process with Trade Unions and affected colleagues and

detailed documentation in the form of an enabling document contains proposed changes to the services and posts.

The proposals submitted to Executive Board in November 2021 contained the deletion of **91.17** full time equivalent posts from the Council's establishment. A number of the proposals are dependent on public consultation feedback and the linked staff consultations will not start until we understand the outcome of those consultations. Current consultations are taking place on 42.47 posts. 8 posts from the booklet under Targeted Family Support are no longer at risk and the remaining posts will depend on further public consultation outcomes which will start in February 2022.

Information used to analyse the effects on equality:

(Please include information about how you have consulted/ have data from the impacted groups)

This assessment is based on a process of consultation and equality impact assessment (EIA) built into the Council's overall budget development process. This has included:

- Screening of all proposals to identify potential equality impact;
- EIA's for specific budget proposals where a potential equality impact has been identified;
- Ongoing discussions between Officers and Executive Councillors;
- Regular budget meetings for Councillors to approve, amend or reject budget proposals, taking into account their potential equality impact;
- Additional consideration of cumulative equality and wider community impact of the proposals
- Use of our voluntary redundancy (VR) process to achieve the proposals with staffing implications. Data from the VR scheme, including those interested and those making applications, utilised to assess the effects on equality and an on-going assessment of the data, throughout the consultation process.

Impacts and Actions:

	Could particularly benefit X	May adversely impact X
People from different ethnic groups.	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
Men	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
Women	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
Trans	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
Disabled people or carers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
Pregnancy/ Maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
People of different faiths/ beliefs and those with none.	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
Lesbian, gay or bisexual people.	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
Older	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
Younger	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
Other (e.g. marriage/ civil partnership, looked after children, cohesion/ good relations, vulnerable children/ adults).	<input type="checkbox"/>	x

<p>How different groups could be affected (Summary of impacts)</p>	<p>Details of actions to mitigate, remove or justify negative impact or increase positive impact (or why action isn't possible)</p>
<p>Provide details for impacts / benefits on people in different protected groups.</p> <p>Note: the level of detail should be proportionate to the potential impact of the proposal / policy / service. Continue on separate sheet if needed (click and type to delete this note)</p> <p>Workforce Impact Colleagues across a range of service areas will be affected by the budget proposals, in total 83 FTE (with targeted families 8 FTE out) are affected across all budget proposals. 24.55 FTE are currently vacant.</p> <p>The council has a legal obligation to consult with both the affected colleagues and recognised trade union representatives regarding these proposals.</p> <p>Colleagues have been provided with the opportunity to express interest in voluntary redundancy, as part of the Council's updated DCR Policy. The Council is seeking to avoid compulsory redundancies as part of the budget proposals and VR will be utilised to meet the savings put forward, wherever possible.</p> <p>The budget proposals have the potential to impact colleagues</p>	<p>Continue on separate sheet if needed (click and type to delete this note)</p> <p>Mitigating Impact on our Workforce</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Colleagues will be provided with relevant consultation documents, including the published budget proposals, so that they are fully informed of the proposals and their potential impact. This will take place after consultation which commenced on 16th November and proposals have been shared with trade union colleagues. 2. Consultation meetings with trade union colleagues will be ongoing. In addition to this, managers will undertake group and individual 1-1 consultations, offering up to three individual sessions. These ensure individuals and trade unions can contribute to the proposals, suggest alternatives, ask questions and discuss personal implications. Welfare support forms a part of these 1-1 meetings. 3. Regular monitoring of the VR process will be implemented,

across all protected characteristics and this is indicated on page 5 of this EIA.

However, given the use of Voluntary Redundancy, the actual impact is currently unknown, as we are working through expressions of interest and applications and therefore do not yet know the make up of staff that will be leaving.

Of the expressions of interest so far, the split between over and under 55 is roughly even. In previous years this has been two thirds over 55. A more even representation during this round.

Further monitoring of applications will be undertaken and details of this are included within the actions and the table below.

Community Impact

People (Adult and Health, Children and Young People)

1. NGY Services – ending the grant funding of the youth services and NGY base provided by Base 51 (charity supporting 11-25 year olds)

With the City Council's reduction in funding, there will be a reduction in NGY staffing hours and the services that BASE 51 can offer. This includes:

- Universal youth provision
- Gym provision

with 4 review stages, as follows:

Stage 1 – Launch of Consultation – awareness of make up of the service area affected.

Stage 2 – Close of 'Expressions of Interest' window

Stage 3 – close of 'Application' window

Stage 4 – Close of consultation & VR 'Decisions'

4. A range of support mechanisms are already in place for colleagues who have expressed interest in VR, with details on our dedicated intranet page. This page contains specific support and information for colleagues in the affected group of ages 55+, including advice and support around Pensions, planning for retirement and financial planning. There is also a range of support for those wishing to find new employment.

Mitigating Community Impact

People (Adult and Health, Children and Young People)

1. NGY Services – ending the grant funding of the youth services and NGY base provided by Base 51

Service Users: adverse impact - young people, from different ethnic backgrounds, LGB, trans and vulnerable children

- Consultation with BASE 51/NGY in relation to this proposal to try and mitigate any adverse impact on the service.
- Continue to support NGY through collaborative work with the Youth Service and Youth Justice Service
- Where possible, we will support Base 51 with funding bids from applicable sources

- A practical crisis services, (e.g. laundry, showers, food bank and support from a youth worker)
- A 'safe place' for young people in crisis in the City Centre
- No Outreach work and wider partnership working

2. Play & Youth – reduction of the service (and buildings) to provide targeted youth provision only

Play & Youth Service

- The youth offer for 10-17 year olds will be reduced to a targeted outreach / detached offer.
- The team will support and work in partnership with VCS organisations and partners to support youth sessions being delivered in specified areas of the city.
- The team will develop and deliver specific citywide sessions alongside partners, and will lead on the development and delivery of themed sessions.
- They will be deployed to work responsively across specific areas of the city, to support community and partnership delivery, focussing on the identified needs and risks to young people.
- All current post within the service will be reviewed to ensure we maintain a skilled team able to work in a new and innovative way.

Play & Youth Buildings

- The youth offer will be based out of one building.
- One other additional site will be maintained with a caretaker facility to allow for community use
- Opportunities for partners in youth and community to take on responsibility for other buildings will be sought and the youth team will work alongside partners, otherwise delivery from other

2. Play & Youth – reduction of the service (and buildings) to provide targeted youth provision only

Service Users: adverse impact - children, young People, from different ethnic backgrounds and vulnerable children

Actions to mitigate children and young people impact

- We will work with the voluntary community and Area Based Grant partners to ensure that children and young people with the highest levels of need are identified and offered support through their universal offer.
- We will consult with children and young people to ensure their voices are informing decision making as the Play and Youth service is reshaped for future service delivery.
- Public consultation on the Councils budget proposals will begin on 16th November 2021
- Public consultation events are scheduled for the Play and Youth Service on 30th November and 1st/ 2nd December 2021.

Actions to mitigate impact on 5-9 age group

- We will work with the voluntary community and Area Based Grant partners to ensure that children and young people with the highest levels of need are identified and offered support through their universal offer.

sites would cease.

Play and Youth Staffing levels

As a result of the reduction in buildings and service delivery for play and youth services, a reduction in staffing is also proposed.

3. Children's Centres – Early Help service to operate only from 3 Children's Centres across the City

Re-shape Children's Centre provision to enable a service provision to the most vulnerable families to be maintained in the context of the reduced buildings and staffing infrastructure.

Early Help Service

- The Early help offer will reduce
- Early Help will continue to provide targeted Early Intervention services. They will continue to offer evidence based interventions, with a focus on building resilience in families, child development, positive attachment, parenting skills and supporting survivors of domestic abuse
- They will be a focus on group interventions, targeted to those families most in need
- Early Help will continue to work with Public Health, Midwifery, Public Health Nursing service, Early Years and SSBC to develop the Best Start for life strategy
- Early Help will continue to develop family hub models from the remaining sites, with a greater emphasis on a virtual offer for families with children aged 0 – 19

- We will work with partners delivering Early Help services to ensure that children and young people with the highest levels of need are identified and offered support through their universal offer.

3. Children's Centres – Early Help service to operate only from 3 Children's Centres across the City

Service Users: adverse impact - children including vulnerable children, Women - including women covered under maternity ad pregnancy, people from different ethnic groups, disabled people/carers, older people

Actions to mitigate Service User impact

- We will consult with women, children and young people to ensure their voices are informing decision making as Children's centres are reshaped for future service delivery.
- We will work with partners and universal services, including Health services and SSBC to ensure that they identify women with the highest levels of need in order to target resources where they will have most impact.
- For guidance around consultation please visit: <http://intranet.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/analysis-and-insight/>
- Public consultation on the Councils budget proposals will begin on 16th November 2021
- Public consultation events are scheduled for the Children's Centres on 30th November and 1st/ 2nd December 2021.

Children Centre Buildings

- Six Children Centres will close
- The Early Help service will operate from three Children's Centres, with three teams working across the City
- External and Internal partners will need to find alternative delivery and office space

The Early Help Staffing levels

As a result of the reduction in buildings and service delivery for Children's Centres, a reduction in staffing is also proposed

4. Reconfiguration and prioritisation of Targeted Family Support and Edge of Care Services

Edge of Care (EOC) and Targeted Family Support services

- Work with children, young people and families who are in need of support, including both intensive support and crisis intervention.
- Provide support and interventions targeted at avoiding admission to care
- Work with partners to ensure effective joint work with families.
- More specialist teams also provide support to the families they are working with on a 24/7 basis. The teams have therapists who work with families on drug and alcohol misuse issues, mental health, physical abuse and neglect. They work with the whole ecology including schools, and have reduced risk of exclusions and reduced reoffending rates for the children they have supported

This proposal seeks to review the EOC and Family Support Services in order to find efficiency savings.

4. Reconfiguration and prioritisation of Targeted Family Support and Edge of Care Services

Service users: adverse impact - women/single carers, male carers, women covered by maternity and pregnancy, vulnerable children

A review is taking place on options available and mitigations will be determined after this.

Resident Services

1. Introduce a proposed charge for bulky waste, including discount schemes

The aim of this decision is to introduce a £20 booking fee per bulky waste appointment. Each appointment will be limited to a maximum of 6 items (afterwards additional cost will apply) Residents who receive Council tax support will obtain one or two free collection(s) per year.

The definition of bulky waste is :

Waste that exceeds 25kg in weight or waste which cannot fit into receptacles for households waste

The main driver for this change is the need to offset part of the overall costs for the provision of Neighbourhood Services core services which includes refuse and recycling collections.

Resident Services

1. Introduce a proposed charge for bulky waste, including discount schemes

Residents: Could adversely impact – younger people and disabled residents

Some residents in these groups will be eligible to receive a free collection should they be in receipt of Council Tax support. On the point of bookings all residents will be asked for their Council tax number. This will be checked to assess whether the property will be eligible to receive a free collection or a paid for collection or not.

The Service will also offer advice that other family members, friends or neighbours may be able to assist in taking items to Household Waste Recycling Centres.

Residents will be signposted via the Council Website and the Contact Centre to other service providers such as Charities, who collect bulky items for reuse.

2. Libraries services reduction in spend including book fund, events, themed activity and IT replacement

This proposal will see a reduction in the bookfund of £100,000 (including digital resources, newspapers, E-Books, Local Studies resources etc) leaving £205,000 in the budget for 2022/23. This is part of a wider proposal for the continued temporary controlled spending throughout 2022/23.

2. Libraries services reduction in spend including book fund, events, themed activity and IT replacement

Resident groups adversely impacted – people from different ethnic groups, LGB residents

To identify and respond to specific minority group reading needs, we will conduct engagement with library users and specific groups to support purchase decisions regarding the book stock during the year

Purchase of stock for community language material will continue in line with needs of community

Rotation circulation of physical stock will be undertaken to make sure customers see a wider more diverse range of titles on library shelves across the library network.

Asian Language Stock in particular to move to Hyson Green / Mary Potter Library, to reflect highest demand from Asian community in that Neighbourhood

General rotation Includes:

- Asian language materials – quarterly
- African Caribbean material – Biannual
- LGBT literature – Biannual
- European Languages – Biannual
- Alternative Formats – Biannual

3. Creation of a new Community Development team through merging of existing teams

The proposal is to create a new combined Resident Development Team that provides support to neighbourhoods and communities to replace the existing two teams (Neighbourhood Development and Community Cohesion)

4. Introduce a Residents parking permit charging scheme

The current allocation of residential permits is free. Residents are entitled to 3 free permits with a combination of 1 resident and 2 visitor or 3 visitor permits.

The proposal is for one free permit per household to those residents who are part of a permit scheme and who meet the residents permit eligibility criteria. This can either be a residential permit or a visitor's permit. If a second permit is required for that particular household an administration fee of £35 will be charged to the resident. If a third permit is required for the same household an administration fee of £50 will be charged to the resident. Permits will be renewed on an annual basis and the administration charge is per annum. The maximum allocation of permits per household is three.

3. Creation of a new Community Development team through merging of existing teams

This proposal seeks to benefit residents from all protected characteristics.

The new model will have a remained focus on place and geographical locations of services and enabling residents to connect to the services they need, and/or deliver services themselves to support their local neighbourhoods.

4. Introduce a Residents parking permit charging scheme

This proposal will impact residents from all protected characteristics. Before implementation a separate consultation will be undertaken and a detailed EIA will be undertaken before a final decision is made.

5. Reduction in Area based Partnership Grant funding

Recommission service with a 24% funding cut from 2022 as part of tender process

6. Reduction in Community Grants funding

In order to develop balanced budget proposals for 2022/23, Nottingham City Council is proposing a reduction of £54k through the reduction of annual Community Centre grants.

The services delivered from Community Centres are non-

5. Reduction in Area based Partnership Grant funding

Impact on partners receiving funding – Area Based Grants, Communities of identity and specialist grants

Actions to mitigate the impact of these savings include efforts to secure alternative national grant funding and working with the Integrated Care Partnership and Employment and Skills teams to leverage relevant resources, which will reduce inequalities in both communities of geography and identity. The Community Partnerships service and Grants lead officer will work with affected organisations to implement the changes and to assess local need and other support options with Neighbourhood Development Officers and Area Partnerships.

In 2019/20 the Cohesion Officers (4) brought £1million into local VCS groups around key targets such as ending youth violence, women's services support and refugee welcome and the remaining officers would seek to support these organisations as well as delivering statutory duties. These officers will continue to support groups affected by the COI grant reduction in accessing other grants.

These impacts will need to be considered alongside impacts of staffing changes in Community

6. Reduction in Community Grants funding

The council will work with the Nottingham Community and Voluntary Services (NCVS) to develop support and training on fundraising

The service will

statutory and provide a range of support and activities delivered directly or through organised groups as well as a venue for hire by the public. Some Community Centres provide a static base for services to be delivered from through office/space lets e.g. nursery settings, social care delivery and social enterprises.

7. Close the public convenience on Victoria Embankment

Nottingham City Council currently provide a charged for public conveniences on Victoria embankment via a subcontractor Healthmatic. Due to the financial pressures Nottingham City Council are currently experiencing we have proposed to Cancel this contract and remove the facility from the embankment.

To service will also engage with Officers within the Energy Services Team to undertake Energy Performance Reviews looking at reducing energy, installing energy saving devices and general knowledge on more efficient operating, reducing the carbon footprint of the City

Actions following proposal mapped onto a timeframe chart

- Approval of proposed changes to levels of support – December 2021
- Agreement with Contracts (NCC refuse services and Energy Team re water charges) re plans to transfer costs to centres – January 2022
- Communication with Community Centre managing bodies- initial meeting– January 2022
- Impact assessments with CAs and any exit plans agreed - by mid-February 2022
- Provide support to those impacted if closing – March 2022
- Implement changes- by end March 2022

7. Close the public convenience on Victoria Embankment

To mitigate the impact, we will let citizens know approximately two months in advance to the 1st April 2022 go live date to enable users that facility will close.

Growth and City Development

1. Public Transport - schools

The Council has a statutory requirement to provide home to school transport for some pupils within the City. The actual number each year depends on a number of criteria, but it is typically about 375 pupils per year who are eligible for an Academic Year pass.

At the moment, in order to encourage use of public transport at an early age, academic year passes are upgraded to Robin Hood Card passes for each pupil. Academic year passes provide pupils with unlimited travel from September to July, usually with just one operator. The Robin Hood Card pass allows travel for 12 months a year across all operators in the Robin Hood Scheme. This proposal is to no longer offer Robin Hood Cards, and to provide academic year passes which meet the requirements for home to school transport instead at a saving of £35,000 per annum.

2. Medilink fare increase

A fares increase on all Linkbus services, including Medilink, from 1 November 2021. There have been no fares increases on the services since March 2019, due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the conditions imposed by government in order to claim special Covid support for bus services.

The fares increases are marginal, with the cost of an adult single rising by ten pence from £2.30 to £2.40.

Growth and City Development

1. Public Transport - schools

Could adversely impact young people. Vulnerable young people

The affected children will receive an academic year pass, which will allow children to travel to and from school on the most accessible public transport service for where they live, and they will also have unlimited travel (all day, seven days a week) with the relevant operator(s) throughout the academic year (September to July).

Affected parties will be able to buy discounted under 19 tickets from commercial operators during the summer holidays, which will reduce the impact on low income families affected by the proposal.

2. Medilink fare increase

Service Users impact – women, people on low incomes

Ongoing monitoring of the bus network:

Fares on the Linkbus services are set at the prevailing levels of the commercial bus network in Nottingham. This is a requirement of the Transport Act 1985, so that subsidised bus services do not under-mine and abstract passengers from the viable commercial routes around them. As part of Robin Hood Card negotiations, the fares on Linkbus services are set in line

3. Bus service reductions – reduce frequency and number of services

Subsidised bus services in the City are being considered as an area for efficiency savings. This can be achieved through a reduction in the number of vehicles required to operate the services.

There will be a reduction in the number of buses allocated to the Locallink and Worklink routes from six buses to four buses at any one time. All five routes currently operated will still be served, but two routes will be reduced to each operate on three days each week (alternate days), and one of these routes will also see a frequency reduction

with those of Nottingham City Transport Ltd, as the main network provider in the City

3. Bus service reductions – reduce frequency and number of services

Service Users impact – women, older people, disabled people or carers.

Subject to available budget, aim to continue to provide services within 400m of Nottingham City residents where this is already the case. Alternative forms of provision may need to be investigated, including:

- Provision of some routes by commercial operators where this is possible
- demand responsive bus services
- Provision of a service using the Easylink Dial-a-Ride operation. Provision of existing services but at a reduced frequency
- Routes being merged together and diverted to serve other areas

Ongoing monitoring of the bus network:

- Accessibility to public transport services is monitored by Transport Strategy Team, using GIS technology;
- Contract Spend monitored on a monthly basis for each service;
- Passenger numbers monitored on a monthly basis for each service;

4. Withdrawal of school bus service A1

To withdraw the A1 School bus service, aimed at providing school journeys, on grounds that other services are available for many users of this route. The options involve an additional short walk from the service or an interchange between frequent services along the route.

4. Withdrawal of school bus service A1

Service Users adverse impact – young people, disabled people or carers, people covered by religion protected characteristic (Trinity is a faith-based school), women

Public Transport Team will observe the level of provision on commercial bus routes that provide the alternative links to these schools, in particular NCT services 35 and 79.

Removal of the A1 service will mean that, for some students, this will involve an interchange bus trip (via Bulwell Bus Station), or an extended walking distance to one single bus service. The situation on these services, at key travel times, will be observed and monitored.

Consultation with ward councillors and the Portfolio Holder will take place.

Consultation with the schools affected will also be undertaken.

Information is available, to the public at:

<https://www.transportnottingham.com/localink/>

Once the changes are known (post consultation), publicity will be put out as leaflets, flyers, online, social media and at stops (electronic and hard copy timetables).

Arrangements for future monitoring of equality impact of this proposal / policy / service:

The equality impact assessment will need to be reviewed on a regular basis as applications for VR are received. 4 x reviews will be undertaken during the consultation process, to monitor the number of VR

expressions of interest, applications and decisions.

EIA's where there is a community impact should identify their own monitoring mechanisms appropriate to the particular proposal.

9. Outcome(s) of equality impact assessment:

<input type="checkbox"/>	No major change needed	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adjust the policy/proposal
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Adverse impact but continue	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stop and remove the policy/proposal