



Dorset
Council

Dorset Council

Date: Tuesday, 13 February 2024
Time: 6.30 pm
Venue: Council Chamber, County Hall, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ

All members of Dorset Council are requested to attend this meeting of the Full Council.

Chief Executive: Matt Prosser, County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1XJ

For more information about this agenda please contact Democratic Services
Meeting Contact susan.dallison@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

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Agenda

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9. BUDGET STRATEGY AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

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To consider the Budget recommendations from Cabinet.

Appendix 2 will be published as a supplement to this agenda as soon as it becomes available.

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Addendum to Full Council report on budget strategy

1. The statement

- 1.1 On 5 February 2024, the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Michael Gove, provided a statement to Parliament regarding the final local government finance settlement for 2024/25.
- 1.2 The final settlement follows consultation on the provisional settlement which closed on 15th January 2024. The settlement has provided councils across the country with further resources to deliver services to their communities.

2. National context

3. In recognition of the work undertaken by councils, the final Settlement makes available a total increase of 7.5% in cash terms of national level Core Spending Power with a minimum funding guarantee of 4% before any decision the Local Authority makes about organisational efficiencies, use of reserves, and Council Tax levels. This makes available £64.7 billion in additional resources compared with the 2023/24 local government settlement, to help local authorities to support their communities through challenging times.

4. Increases in the quantum

- 4.1 Turning to the overall increase, a further £600m was made available between the provisional and final settlement. This includes £500m distributed through the social care grant and £15m for Rural Services Delivery Grant.
- 4.2 At a local level the funding changes are set out in the table, below.

Illustrative Core Spending Power of Local Government:			
	Provisional 2024/25 £ millions	Final Settlement 2024-25 £ millions	Increase in funding £ millions
Settlement Funding Assessment	48.3	48.3	
Compensation for under-indexing the business rates multiplier	9.7	9.7	
Council tax requirement excluding parish precepts ^{1 2 3}	307.2	307.2	
Improved Better Care Fund	12.5	12.5	
New Homes Bonus	0.9	0.9	
New Homes Bonus returned funding	0.0	0.0	
Rural Services Delivery Grant ⁴	2.8	3.2	0.4
Transition Grant	0.0	0.0	
Adult Social Care Support Grant	0.0	0.0	
Winter Pressures Grant ⁵	0.0	0.0	
Social Care Support Grant ⁶	0.0	0.0	
Social Care Grant ⁷	26.1	29.7	3.6
Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Care Fund	0.0	0.0	
ASC Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund ⁸	7.5	7.5	
Lower Tier Services Grant	0.0	0.0	
ASC Discharge Fund	2.9	2.9	
Services Grant ⁹	0.3	0.3	0.0
Grants rolled in ¹⁰	0.0	0.0	
Funding Guarantee ¹¹	1.6	1.5	-0.1
Core Spending Power	419.7	423.6	3.9

5. Updated budget numbers from the change in the settlement

- 5.1 The changes from the provisional settlement to the final settlement has seen an additional £3.9m in funding. Broken down as follows:
- 5.1.1 Social Care Grant, increase of £3.6m
 - 5.1.2 Rural Services Delivery Grant, increase of £437k
 - 5.1.3 Minimum Funding Guarantee, decrease of £101k
 - 5.1.4 Services grant, increase of £27k
- 5.2 The Council is setting a budget which provides an 8% uplift to service budgets. This includes significant increases in budget for Social Care and Home to School Transport in particular. Proposals in the report amount to an increase in the net budget of £7.1m for Adults & Housing, £6.7m for Children's and £12m for Home to School Transport.
- 5.3 To ensure these increases could be funded, the 'Our Future Councils' efficiency requirement of £12M was incorporated into the budget. Based on the final settlement figures the Our Future Council efficiency requirement has been reduced from £12m to £8.1m for 2024/25.
- 5.4 As a result of the changes outlined the budget information has been updated as per the following restated appendices:

Appendix 1a – Budget Summary

	Original Budget		2024-25			£'000 Movement in Balances	£'000 Net Budget (2024- 25)
	£'000 Pay	£'000 Non-Pay	£'000 Fees & Charges	£'000 Grants /Funding			
People Services - Adults	33,835	214,532	(70,288)	(23,431)	(261)	154,387	
Service user related	253	191,016	(55,341)	(16,398)	0	119,531	
Adult Care Ops	21,834	330	(4,910)	(106)	0	17,147	
Commissioning	5,375	12,549	(4,973)	(4,291)	(261)	8,399	
Director Office	799	3,114	0	(736)	0	3,177	
Housing	5,158	7,521	(5,063)	(1,900)	0	5,716	
Building Better Lives	416	2	0	0	0	418	
Corporate Development	33,744	77,510	(12,793)	(64,804)	(2,975)	30,682	
Finance & Commercial	12,552	71,343	(9,001)	(64,804)	0	10,090	
Human Resources	6,150	354	(2,253)	0	(279)	3,971	
Digital & Change	3,102	91	(102)	0	(748)	2,343	
ICT Ops	5,848	4,240	(1,320)	0	0	8,768	
Director	(88)	155	0	0	0	67	
BI & Performance	1,382	19	0	0	0	1,401	
Comms & Engagement	1,253	159	(37)	0	0	1,375	
Community Grants	386	972	0	0	0	1,358	
Chief Executive Office	1,136	173	0	0	0	1,309	
Transformation	1,494	0	0	0	(1,494)	0	
Climate & Ecological	530	4	(81)	0	(454)	0	
Place	73,798	108,169	(65,865)	(5,816)	(311)	109,975	
Economy, Infrastructure, Growth	25,910	59,000	(27,511)	(4,799)	(645)	51,955	
Place	34,936	37,520	(27,051)	(684)	588	45,309	
Customer Services, Libraries, Archives	7,552	2,358	(1,756)	(333)	0	7,822	
Directors Office	499	1,687	(1)	0	0	2,185	
Assets & Regeneration	4,900	7,605	(9,547)	0	(254)	2,704	
People - Children	50,962	54,137	(7,307)	(13,329)	0	84,462	
Quality and Assurance	2,922	210	(329)	(19)	0	2,784	
Care & Protection	22,379	44,801	0	(4,341)	0	62,838	
Commissioning & Partnerships	8,020	(2,882)	(3,314)	(667)	0	1,158	
Education & Learning	13,686	3,508	(2,316)	(1,659)	0	13,219	
Director's	3,954	8,500	(895)	(6,643)	0	4,916	
DSG Recharge	0	0	(454)	0	0	(454)	
Legal & Democratic	5,973	2,853	(1,139)	0	0	7,687	
Assurance	1,227	585	(61)	0	0	1,751	
Democratic & Electoral	1,145	2,118	(136)	0	0	3,127	
Land Charges	482	1	(750)	0	0	(268)	
Legal	3,119	150	(192)	0	0	3,077	
Public Health	4,284	22,859	(13,521)	(13,622)	0	0	
Public Health	4,284	22,859	(13,521)	(13,622)	0	0	
Central Finance	7,178	10,897	(4,697)	(32,628)	8,748	(10,503)	
General funding	5,473	(167)	(697)	(32,516)	(8,122)	(36,030)	
Capital financing	0	10,257	(4,000)	0	11,901	18,158	
Contingency	0	0	0	0	4,969	4,969	
Precepts	0	788	0	(112)	0	676	
Retirement Costs	1,705	19	0	0	0	1,725	
Total Non Schools Budget 2024/25	209,774	490,957	(175,610)	(153,631)	5,201	376,690	
Schools Budget	0	330,108	0	(330,108)	0	0	
Budget Requirement 2024/25	209,774	821,064	(175,610)	(483,739)	5,201	376,690	

Business Rates Top Up	(63,976)
Revenue Support Grant (RSG)	(698)
Council Tax Surplus	(307,876)
New Homes Bonus	(938)
Rural Services Delivery Grant	(3,202)
	<u>(376,690)</u>

Appendix 1b – Cost type analysis

Cost Type	Original Budget 2024/25 £'000
Internal Charges (Expenditure)	9,467
Authority (Democratic) Costs	1,939
Pay Related Costs	209,774
Premises Related Costs	22,822
Transport Related Costs	35,719
Supplies and Services	445,449
Transfer Payments	133,029
Levies & Precepts	788
Third Party (Contracted Out) Payments	170,906
Net Schools Budget	945
Contingency and Movement in Reserves	5,201
Gross Expenditure	1,036,039

Government Grants (Specific)	(483,739)
Income, Fees & Charges	(175,610)
Gross Income	(659,349)

Budget Requirement	376,690
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Council Tax	307,876
Business Rates	63,976
New Homes Bonus	938
Rural Services Delivery Grant	3,202
Revenue Support Grant	698
Total Funding	376,690

* This includes an estimate for schools and public health budgets

Appendix 1c

Dorset Council summary movements in budget 2023/24 to 2024/25

	Adjusted base budget 23/24	Draft base budget 24/25	Increase in base after adjustments	%
Adults & Housing	£147,218,371	£154,387,356	£7,168,985	5%
Childrens	£77,760,595	£84,462,153	£6,701,558	9%
Corporate	£35,626,263	£38,368,703	£2,742,440	8%
Place	£86,648,730	£109,974,703	£23,325,973	27%
Central Finance	£299,017	(£10,502,667)	(£10,801,684)	N/A
Total	£347,552,976	£376,690,248	£29,137,272	8%

Council Tax, Business Rates and Central Grants Funding	(£347,552,976)	(£376,690,248)	(£29,137,272)	8%
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Appendix 1d

Adults Services & Housing – summary of movements

	£
Adults and Housing base budget position 2023/24 after adjustments	£147,218,371
Pay inflation	£1,391,184
General Inflation	£6,130,881
Fees and Charges income	(£1,726,747)
Gas and Electricity costs	£154
Cost of increments & pay award	£950,234
Increase in business rates	£3,119
Pressures	
Growth in Adults	£6,920,160
Housing Benefit subsidy shortfall	£1,500,000
Savings	
Market management	(£5,000,000)
Working age accelerator	(£500,000)
HomeFirst Accelerator	(£926,000)
Accommodation with support	(£74,000)
Commissioned Community Care	(£1,500,000)
Adults and Housing current base budget for 2024/25	£154,387,356
Increase in base	£7,168,985

Appendix 1e

Corporate Development and Legal & Democratic Services – summary of movements

	£
Corporate Services base position 2023/24 after adjustments	£35,626,263
Pay inflation	£1,802,013
General inflation	£141,153
Fees and Charges income	(£198,624)
Gas and Electricity costs	£0
Cost of increments & pay award	£1,014,056
Pressures	
Pay awards for 23/24 & 24/25 will increase Apprenticeship Levy	£70,220
Scrutiny Support Officer	£46,586
Graduates	£45,800
LGA registration Fees	£6,400
IT additional costs for DC overall support	£614,000
Income shortfall due to reduced demand	£63,000
External Audit Fees	£288,700
Savings	
Automate invoice processing within the financial exchequer team	(£30,000)
Improved debt recovery by centralising invoicing/debt function – saving the organisation money in reduced debt write offs. Value is the net effect as would bring in an additional post to chase more debt.	(£150,000)
Risk based budget monitoring	(£50,000)
IT Savings	(£741,000)
Climate business rates retention	(£179,864)
Corporate current base budget for 2024/25	£38,368,703
Increase in base	£2,742,440

Appendix 1f

Place – summary of movements

£

Place base position 2023/24 after adjustments	£86,648,730
Pay inflation	£3,306,365
General inflation	£1,599,004
Increase in business rates	£176,920
Fees and Charges income	(£2,522,236)
Gas and Electricity costs	£398,417
Additional cost of pay award & increments	£2,814,808
<u>Pressures</u>	
Reduction in school joint use allocation	£729,995
DIY charges at HRC	£500,000
Permanent base budget of CD Assets and Property	£157,500
Realignment of DMR budget	£1,079,000
Leisure contracts increase	£54,000
Community Safety costs	£45,000
Waste disposal tonnages	£364,000
Housing cost recovery - saving no longer being achieved	£65,000
Public toilet closure - saving no longer being achieved	£84,000
Tourism income not achieved	£40,000
Ash die-back costs	£150,000
Coast and Greenspace general pressure	£17,000
Leisure general pressure	£3,000
Flood and coastal general pressure	£42,000
Dorchester Market	£68,000
POPs pressure	£508,000
Waste operations general pressure	£384,000
Fleet staff savings no longer being achieved	£50,000
Dorset Travel overspend in 2023/24	£6,900,000
Waste strategy contract prices over and above inflation	£452,000
Dorset Travel growth for 2024/25	£5,100,000
Waste Strategy HRC uplift	£234,000
Apprentices for Greenspace	£220,000
Out of Hours Service (full year effect - £400k)	£140,000
Realignment of Car Parking income	£3,500,000
Realignment of premises related costs	£304,600
Planning reduction of income	£900,000
<u>Savings</u>	

Coombe House & SWH income	(£100,000)
Withdrawal from QE	(£331,000)
Asset & regeneration operational savings	(£140,969)
Waste trade and garden additional income	(£500,000)
Glass recyclate savings	(£325,000)
Realignment of fuel	(£250,000)
Place Service operating efficiencies	(£582,000)
Economic Growth & Infrastructure Vacancy/Sickness management	(£484,000)
Highways operating efficiencies	(£225,000)
Increase in Highways income	(£484,299)
Increase income from Libraries, CSU and Archives	(£165,000)
Customer Services operating efficiencies	(£190,056)
Archives operating efficiencies	(£55,000)
Libraries operating efficiencies	(£47,000)
Holiday lets - trade waste	(£50,000)
Reduction in vehicle parts	(£30,000)
Place Services vacancy management	(£70,000)
Street cleaning reduction	(£350,000)
Reduction in agency costs - Waste ops	(£159,076)

Place current base budget for 2024/25	£109,974,703
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Increase in base	£23,325,973
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Appendix 1g

Children's Services – summary of movements

Children's base position 2023/24 after adjustments	£77,760,595
Pay inflation	£2,235,340
General inflation	£1,488,725
Fees and Charges income	(£112,591)
Gas and Electricity costs	£5,407
Increase in business rates	£9,986
Cost of increments & pay award	£1,383,773
Pressures	
Children in Care financial growth	£1,355,918
Grow our own social workers	£220,000
High Needs Recharges	£250,000
July forecast pressures	£2,000,000
Unaccompanied Children	£300,000
LAG Funding	£600,000
Removal of the part-traded services income target	£600,000
CWAD demand pressure	£500,000
B2SA Head of Service	£115,000
Savings	
Childrens Home Project	
Our Family Digital Offer	(£750,000)
Family Hubs	(£750,000)
Mockingbird	(£750,000)
Safeguarding Families Together	(£1,250,000)
Birth to Settled Adulthood	(£750,000)
Children's current base budget for 2024/25	£84,462,153
Increase in base	£6,701,558

Appendix 1h

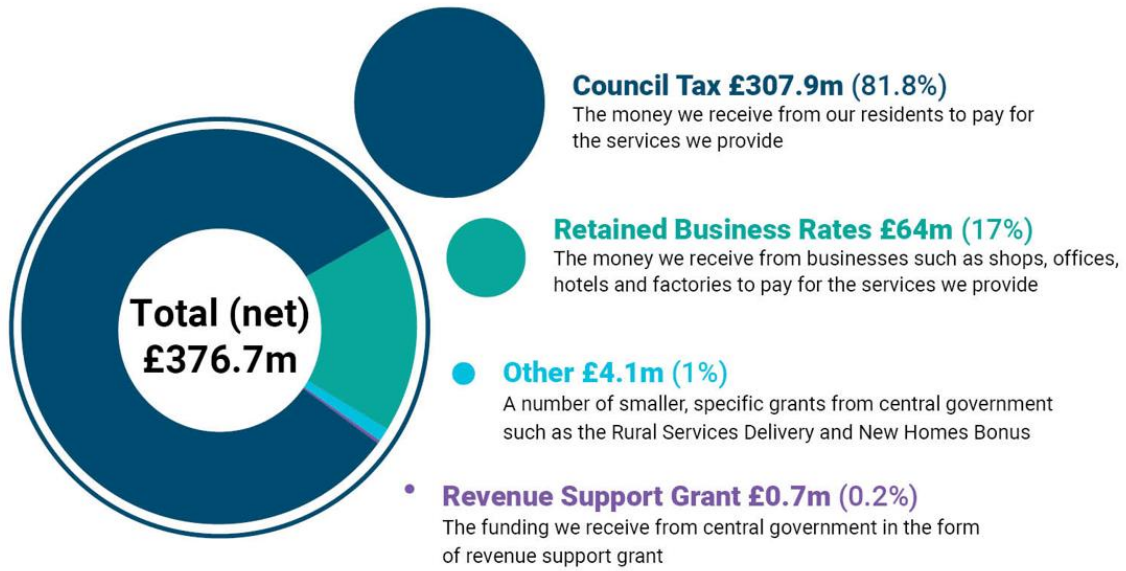
Central budgets – summary of movements

Central Finance base budget position 2023/24 after adjustments	£299,017
Changes to rates	(£190,025)
Increase in grants	(£3,339,881)
Interest paid for capital programme	£660,000
Reduction in bad debt provision	(£500,000)
Contribution from Health	£2,500,000
Reduction in contingency	(£3,600,000)
Savings from Our Future Council Programme	(£8,122,278)
Increase in MRP	£1,500,000
Increase in levy costs	£50,500
LGPS secondary rate	£240,000
Central Finance current base budget for 2024/25	(£10,502,667)
Increase in base	(£10,801,684)

Appendix 1i

Sources of funding

2024/2025 - Dorset Council sources of funding



Appendix 1j

How the budget is spent

2024/2025 - How will Dorset Council spend its money?



* Includes Revenues & Benefits, Finance, Procurement, Human Resources, IT, Legal and Democratic Services.

Appendix 1k – MTFP

	MTFP Yr1	MTFP Yr2	MTFP Yr3	MTFS Yr4	MTFP Yr5
	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Council tax	307.876	319.490	331.542	344.040	357.021
Business rates (NDR funding)	63.976	60.457	60.457	60.457	60.457
Other grants treated as general funding	4.838	3.900	3.900	3.900	3.900
Total funding	376.690	383.848	395.900	408.398	421.378
Budget requirement	376.690	397.256	422.343	448.256	472.240
Budget gap (cumulative)	0.000	(13.408)	(26.443)	(39.859)	(50.861)

Appendix 11 – changes from 2023/24 to 2024/25

	£'000	£'000	£'000
	Net Budget	Net Budget	Change
	2024/25	2023/24	from
			2023/24 -
			2024/25
People Services - Adults	154,387	147,218	7,169
Service user related	119,531	118,417	1,113
Adult Care Ops	17,147	15,243	1,904
Commissioning	8,399	6,535	1,863
Director Office	3,177	2,606	572
Housing	5,716	4,030	1,686
Building Better Lives	418	387	31
Corporate Development	30,682	28,553	2,129
Finance & Commercial	10,090	9,006	1,084
Human Resources	3,971	3,538	433
Digital & Change	2,343	2,160	183
ICT Ops	8,768	8,581	188
Director	67	35	32
BI & Performance	1,401	1,323	79
Comms & Engagement	1,375	1,249	127
Community Grants	1,358	1,333	25
Chief Executive Office	1,309	1,161	148
Climate & Ecological	0	169	(169)
Place	109,975	86,649	23,326
Economy, Infrastructure, Growth	51,955	35,225	16,731
Place	45,309	40,959	4,350
Customer Services, Libraries, Archives	7,822	7,412	410
Directors Office	2,185	596	1,589
Assets & Regeneration	2,704	2,458	247
People - Children	84,462	77,761	6,702
Quality and Assurance	2,784	2,625	159
Care & Protection	62,838	57,437	5,401
Commissioning & Partnerships	1,158	4,034	(2,876)
Education & Learning	13,219	11,653	1,566
Director's	4,916	2,715	2,201
DSG Recharge	(454)	(704)	250
Legal & Democratic	7,687	7,073	614
Assurance	1,751	1,525	226
Democratic & Electoral	3,127	3,021	106
Land Charges	(268)	(369)	101
Legal	3,077	2,896	181
Public Health	0	0	0
Public Health	0	0	0
Central Finance	(10,503)	299	(10,802)
General funding	(36,030)	(26,618)	(9,412)
Capital financing	18,158	15,998	2,160
Contingency	4,969	8,569	(3,600)
Precepts	676	626	51
Retirement Costs	1,725	1,725	0
Total Budget after adjustments	376,690	347,553	29,137

Aidan Dunn

Executive Director, Corporate Development

06 February 2024