

BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2023/24

- Summary:** This report presents for approval the budget for 2023/24 and to make statutory calculations in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to set the Council Tax for 2023/24. The report also includes the Chief Finance Officer's report on the robustness of the estimates and adequacy of reserves.
- Options considered:** It is a statutory requirement to set the budget each year, whilst there are options around the content of the budget presented for approval, the budget now recommended reflects the recommendations made by Cabinet at its meeting on 6 February 2023.
- Conclusions:** It is the opinion of the Council's Chief Finance Officer that the 2023/24 budget has been set within a robust framework and the impact of this resolution will maintain an adequate level of financial reserves held by the Council.
- Recommendations:** That having considered the Chief Finance Officer's report on the robustness of the estimates and the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves, the following be approved:
- 1) The 2023/24 revenue budget as outlined at Appendix A within this report;
 - 2) The statement of and movement on the reserves as detailed at Appendix D within this report;
 - 3) The updated Capital Programme and financing for 2022/23 to 2026/27 as detailed at Appendix C of this report;
 - 4) The new capital bids recommended for approval as detailed at Appendix C1 within this report
 - 5) That Members note the current financial projections for the period 2024/25 to 2026/27;
 - 6) That Members note the results of the Budget Consultation exercise as discussed in paragraph 3.15 and shown in Appendix F.
 - 7) The Policy Framework for the Earmarked Reserves and the Optimum Level of the General Fund Reserve for 2023/24 to 2026/27 as detailed at Appendix B within this report;
 - 8) The Local Council Tax Support Scheme (LCTS) for 2023/24 as set out in paragraphs 3.14 to 3.16;

- 9) The Council Tax Support Fund as set out in paragraphs 3.17 to 3.20;
- 10) That Members undertake the Council Tax and statutory calculations set out at section 4, and set the Council Tax for 2023/24;
- 11) The demand on the Collection Fund for 2023/24 is as follows:
 - a. £6,722,490 for District purposes
 - b. £2,875,207 for Parish/Town Precepts;

This reflects the recommended Council Tax increase of £4.95 for the District element for an average Band D property.

Reasons for Recommendations:

To approve the 2023/24 budget for revenue and capital and to make the statutory calculations in respect of the 2023/24 Council Tax.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS AS REQUIRED BY LAW

(Papers relied on to write the report and which do not contain exempt information)

Budget reports and briefings, precepts (NCC, Police and Parishes)

Cabinet Member(s) All	Ward(s) affected: All
Contact Officer, telephone number and email: Tina Stankley, 01263 516439, tina.stankley@north-norfolk.gov.uk	

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report presents for approval the 2023/24 General Fund revenue and 2023/24 capital budgets along with the Council Tax for 2023/24. It also presents for information only the current budget projections for the following three years 2024/25 to 2026/27.
- 1.2 A draft 2023/24 budget review report was provided for pre-scrutiny by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting of 25 January 2023. Following this, the budget for 2023/24, along with detailed projections for the following three financial years, were recommended by Cabinet on 6 February 2023. For clarification, the recommendations within this report refer to those included within the Cabinet agenda and amended as applicable. This report includes the updated position for the 2022/23 budget, the proposed budget for 2023/24 and future years' projections.

2. Background

- 2.1 Local authorities throughout the UK are finding themselves affected by many external factors that are beyond their control at the current time.
- 2.2 Since countries started to come out of lockdown last year and reopen their economies there have been shortages of labour and supplies and materials. China has only started to open its borders again within the last few months and with so many component parts coming out of China there have been supply chain disruptions in all sectors e.g. car manufacturing, building materials and the computer/technology industry. This resulted in inflation running at 5.4% in December 2022, the highest rate since March 1992. The Bank of England in early 2022, expected this to peak at 6% in April 2022. The UK also had the added disruption from Brexit having an impact on the economy.
- 2.3 Then came the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, which continues. This has had far-reaching consequences on the global economy with significant disruptions in trade and fuel and food shocks. Russian control of the oil supply and grain supply has contributed to a European energy crisis and food shortages which in turn have brought about rising inflation across the globe.
- 2.4 The UK government has also struggled during the year with the country being led by 3 different Prime Ministers during the year. The mini budget in September 2022 was disastrous for the country with the already weak pound falling further against the dollar rapidly and confidence fell in the UK economy. This, with the resultant expensive imports, saw a dramatic rise in inflation which was running at 9.2% in December 2022. The Bank of England has increased its base rate for 10 consecutive meetings to try and manage inflation levels, and it now stands at 4%, the highest level for 14 years.
- 2.5 With higher interest rates, labour shortages, continuing post-COVID recovery, a war in Ukraine, a cost-of-living crisis and an uncertain economic outlook we are now seeing many parts of the public sector and the national rail workers taking to strike action in a bid for better pay and better funding in their sectors and better working conditions. This is a challenging time for the Council and the uncertainty is a considerable risk for the Council.

3. The 2023/24 Budget

- 3.1 The Council, along with the rest of the sector, is seeing rising utility and contract costs, along with increases in other costs e.g. pay inflation running at a higher level than previously forecast. The cost-of-living crisis is also leading to an increase in the demand for Council services. This is placing significant pressure on the Council's budgets.
- 3.2 Despite this, a draft balanced budget for 2023/24 has been prepared and is being presented whereby the Council is able to continue delivering its core services with the provision of services for the vulnerable and meeting the Net Zero target continuing to be priorities for the Council. This required a review of service budgets to identify a significant level of savings and increases in income. These savings and increases in income forecasts have been included to balance the 2023/24 budget.

Funding

- 3.3 The provisional Local Government Finance Settlement (LGFS) was announced on 19 December 2022. A new grant – the 3% funding guarantee grant - was introduced by the Government, the purpose of which was to meet the significant inflationary pressures being faced by local government. It guaranteed a minimum increase in funding for all councils of at least a 3% increase in funding when compared with 2022/23 LGFS. As part of the provisional LGFS there was some clarification of the long-awaited future funding changes i.e. the Fairer Funding Review and the Business Rates Reform. It was confirmed that these will not be implemented before 2025/26.
- 3.4 The final settlement announcement was made on 6 February 2023. Whilst in the final settlement there were some minor changes to the amounts of individual grants these were offset by a reduction in the 3% Funding Guarantee Grant, so that overall there was no change in funding when compared to the provisional settlement. The one-off 3% Funding Guarantee Grant which is being distributed in 2023/24 ensures that all councils will receive a minimum increase in Government funding of at least 3%. So as other grants have increased this has reduced so the overall level has been maintained. The Government is also distributing the 2022/23 Business Rates Levy Surplus and NNDC will receive its share i.e. £27,049 in 2023/24. This has been transferred to the Business Rates Reserve. The table below gives details of the funding.

Government Funding:	2022/23 Updated Budget	2023/24 Provisional Settlement Funding	2023/24 Final Settlement Funding
	£	£	£
Revenue Support Grant	(93,540)	(102,462)	(102,462)
3% Funding Guarantee	0	(1,039,298)	(974,416)
Family Annexe Council Tax Discount Grant	0	(50,074)	(50,074)
LCTS Admin Grant	0	(136,747)	(136,747)
New Homes bonus	(886,575)	(31,080)	(31,080)
Rural Services Delivery Grant	(507,661)	(507,661)	(567,386)
Lower Tier Services Grant	(147,545)	0	0
Services Grant	(222,339)	(125,284)	(130,442)
Business Rates Levy Surplus Distribution			(27,049)
Total Government Funding	(1,857,660)	(1,992,606)	(2,019,656)
Increase in funding from 2022/23		(134,946)	(161,996)

- 3.5 With the LGFS being another one-year settlement; there being no indication about whether we'll receive the 3% funding guarantee in 2024/25; no replacement yet being announced for the New Homes Bonus Scheme; and no details about what the new funding regime may be like, this has required far higher levels of estimation and assumption around future levels of funding in the medium-term. In the absence of this information the budget has been based on best estimates.
- 3.6 It has been assumed that the Retained Business Rates income will continue at the same level for another year, but then a reset is expected for 2025/26 in which it is likely that all growth will be removed, and this may have a significant impact on the level of Retained Business Rates income. The income for 2025/26 reflects this assumption in the Medium-Term Financial Strategy. This has been identified as a significant risk for the Council.

- 3.7 After withdrawing from the Norfolk Business Rates Pool in 2021/22, NNDC took the decision to re-join the pool in 2022/23 following an improvement in the general economy and the impact of COVID-19 on income collection lessened. The Council will remain in the pool again for the 2023/24 financial year, along with the other Norfolk authorities. The Council expects to benefit from this and any additional income that NNDC receives from this will be invested in projects that will support economic regeneration in the district.
- 3.8 There will be another year of support for businesses within the district as the Government has announced that the reliefs for Retail, Hospitality and Leisure (RHL) and Supporting Small Business (SSB) will continue in 2023/24. The Council will use its discretionary relief powers to grant these reliefs (under Section 47 of the Local Government Act 1988). The Council will receive Government funding to fully cover the costs of distributing the reliefs.
- 3.9 As part of the LGFS the details of the Council Tax limits before a referendum is required, were announced. For 2023/24 District Councils can increase the Council Tax by a maximum of 3% or £5, whichever is the higher. A 3% increase on last year's Council Tax of £158.67 for Band D property equates to £4.76. The Chief Finance Officer recommends that the Council Tax is increased by £4.95 to maximise the income received and to assist in setting a balanced budget. This increase equates to around £203,000 for the year. This increase will contribute to maintaining services for our residents, businesses, and visitors. A rise of £4.95 per year on a Band D property has been assumed in each year of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy. This assumption is purely for forecasting the financial position. However Council Tax increases are subject to review, discussion, and consultation each year and it is a decision to be taken by full Council each year.
- 3.10 The General Fund Summary for 2023/24 has been updated to reflect the final parish precepts received. The amount of all precepts has now been confirmed and this totals £2,875,207.
- 3.11 It should be noted that as the billing authority, the setting of the parish precepts will have an impact on the total billed amount although not on the element which represents the District Council. This means the total District amount billed for an average Band D for 2023/24 will be £233.60 (see para 4.6), comprising District element of £163.62 and parish element of £69.98.
- 3.12 In making decisions in relation to setting the Council Tax, section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 requires the Chief Financial Officer of the Council to report to the Council on the following matters:
- the robustness of the estimates made for the purpose of the budget calculations
 - the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves.
- 3.13 This is provided in section 4 of the report.

Lobbying and Consultation

- 3.14 The Council will continue to lobby central government in terms of increased funding allocations and relaxation/increased flexibility in terms of the council tax referendum principles which will be one of the things required if income raising and decision making is ever to be truly local. The Council will also continue to respond to all relevant consultations, to the Business Rates and Fair Funding Reviews consultations when they come out.

- 3.15 The Council now carries out its statutory ratepayer consultation on the draft Budget in its website which it is felt makes it more interactive and easier for members of the public to participate in. The consultation on the draft Budget for 2023/24 has yielded a significant number of responses when compared with previous years' numbers. There were 653 responses compared with last year when we had in the region of 50 responses. The responses are contained in Appendix F and provide valuable information on the views of respondents, which Members can consider in making approving the level of Council Tax for 2023/24.

Council Tax Support

- 3.16 Council Tax Support (CTS) is financial support that the Council can give to people on low incomes. It is a reduction to their Council Tax bill to help with the cost of their bill. Since 2013 each district council has been responsible for its own CTS scheme for working-age people. The scheme must be reviewed and agreed each year as part of the taxbase and budget setting process. The details of the proposed CTS Scheme for 2023/24 can be found below and is presented for approval by full Council.
- 3.17 Our working age CTS scheme principles have remained largely unchanged since the scheme started in 2013. They are based on the rules for the old Council Tax Benefit scheme prior to 2013 and use many of the same principles as the ongoing Housing Benefit scheme. This makes the scheme easier for our customers to understand, and simpler to administer. Since 2013 the working age CTS scheme rules have been amended to reflect wider welfare reform changes, including amendments to the Housing Benefit rules and the introduction of Universal Credit. There have been no significant welfare reform changes in the current year that need to be reflected in our CTS scheme for 2023/24. CTS for pension age people is paid under national regulations whereby central government is responsible for the rules of the scheme and the council will meet up to 100% of the cost of the residents Council Tax bill. Our local scheme for working age people means that the council will meet up to 91.5% of the cost of a resident's Council Tax bill.
- 3.18 Whilst there have been fewer changes in recent years as the pace of welfare reform has slowed, the managed migration of Universal Credit is now expected to be completed by 2026 and will change how much Council Tax Support households receive. This is because the method used to calculate how much support someone can get differs depending on whether that person is receiving legacy benefits or Universal Credit. To best support all vulnerable households' going forward, we recommend the scheme remains unchanged for 2023/24, but that the full impact of the CTS scheme from 2024/25 should be reviewed to ensure that is the status quo maintained for the customer, and that it remains cost effective and affordable to the Council.

Council Tax Support Fund

- 3.19 The Government has provided some additional new funding to the Local Authorities under S31 of the Local Government Finance Act 2003. This funding has been made available but must be paid out strictly in accordance with S13A (1) (c) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and in line with guidance issued on 23 December 2022.
- 3.20 This additional funding stream will be referred to as the 'Council Tax Support Fund' and is designed to meet the immediate needs of all taxpayers who are claiming Council Tax Support as of 1 April 2023, under S13A (1) (c) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. The fund will assist all Council Tax Support claimants who will be required to make a payment of Council Tax for the 2023-24 financial year.

- 3.21 North Norfolk District Council has been allocated £203,643 under the Council Tax Support Fund 2023. Based on modelling undertaken on the current caseload, we estimate that we'll make payments to 7,728 claimants, providing up to £25 to each one, which will total £84,487. These payments will only be made if the full Council approve the CTS scheme for 2023/24 and this Fund at this meeting today (22 February 2023). The remaining funding would be available to support households who become eligible for Council Tax Support during the financial year 2023/24.
- 3.22 The Council is also able to use a proportion of its allocation to establish its own local approach to help economically vulnerable households with council tax bills. A Discretionary policy under the scheme will be put forward for approval at a future meeting. The funding must be spent before 31 March 2024 and must not exceed the initial allocation.

Rate Relief Policy

- 3.23 The full report and accompanying appendices for the updated Rate Relief Policy has been included as a separate agenda item. The policy has been updated to reflect the new and extended schemes announced and includes guidelines as to how the schemes are to be implemented and the financial implications for the authority.
- 3.24 The new policy will enable the Retail Hospitality and Leisure Relief, Supporting Small Business Relief, the scheme for local newspaper discount, the scheme for low-carbon heat networks, the Hardship Relief and the Rural Rate Relief to be awarded discretionary reliefs in 2022/23 and 2023/24.

4. Chief Finance Officer's Report

The Robustness of the Estimates

- 4.1 This section of the report provides a commentary on the robustness of the estimates now presented and provides an analysis of the risks facing the Council in relation to the control of income and expenditure flows compared to the budgets that are recommended for 2023/24.
- 4.2 The framework within which the budget for 2023/24 has been prepared is like that of previous years and takes into account the following:
- a. Previous financial year out-turn position (2021/22) (paragraph 4.3)
 - b. Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2023/24 to 2026/27 (paragraph 4.4)
 - c. In-year budget monitoring and associated reports (paragraphs 4.9 to 4.11)
 - d. Cash flow monitoring (paragraph 4.12 and 4.13)
- 4.3 The outturn position for 2021/22 was reported to Cabinet on 6 September 2022. The outturn position is used to update the financial planning process and helps to establish the baseline for the current estimates by reflecting significant movements against the current position and those which will have an on-going impact on the future financial position of the Council.
- 4.4 The financial planning process is a well-rehearsed process. For 2023/24 the updated Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) has been produced alongside the budget for 2023/24 and it is included in this report as Appendix A. The MTFS for the period 2023/24 to 2026/27 has been prepared against a backdrop of uncertainty for the

reasons discussed in Section 2. This uncertainty and the uncertainty around the funding for local government results in a far higher level of risk associated with trying to forecast a robust financial position over the medium term. However best estimates and assumptions have been used in producing this. Members are asked to note the MTFs for 2023/24 to 2026/27.

- 4.5 Following on from last year's White Paper on the Levelling Up agenda, the Government have announced a new devolution agreement between the Government and Norfolk County Council. The devolution deal will transfer new powers and a £600 million investment fund over 30 years to Norfolk County Council, who will work collaboratively with local partners to deliver on the county's priorities. As part of this deal, the County Council will adopt a governance model with a directly elected leader, who will be elected in May 2024. The deal is subject to local consultation, a council resolution to change their governance model so that electors directly elect the council leader and elements, such as the transfer of new powers, and requires parliamentary approval to secondary legislation. This is still subject to the passing of the relevant measures in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill.
- 4.6 NNDC submitted two bids for Levelling Up funding but heard in January 2023 that it had been unsuccessful with both bids. There were 520 bids from local authorities across the country and only 100 were successful. This was very disappointing for NNDC, but it will seek feedback on the bids so that it can put together stronger bids in the future. The Council will also need to review the schemes that were included in the bids to identify if they still need to go ahead and on what basis.
- 4.7 The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic continues to lessen and so is seen to be less of a risk for 2023/24. There continues to be a backlog of work to catch up on e.g. inspection work and this may incur additional cost to achieve this. Any ongoing residual impacts will continue to be closely monitored along with any further proposed Government support.
- 4.8 The MTFs seeks to identify future estimated budget requirements and funding shortfalls at an early stage of the annual budget process to enable preparation and planning beyond the short term. It also highlights work streams that will commence prior to the start of the following financial year that will support delivery of a sustainable budget for the Council in the medium term where appropriate.
- 4.9 Budget monitoring throughout the year is critical to ensuring the robustness of the estimates and maintaining a sound financial position. The in-year budget monitoring process is carried out throughout the year with all expenditure and income being monitored monthly. Not only does this provide an essential tool for identifying early on any variances so that mitigating action can be taken, but it is also fundamental in enabling the inclusion of the most up to date information in the future budgets and projections taking into account where budget pressures and additional income and savings are during the year.
- 4.10 The regular budget monitoring exercises that take place are used to inform the annual financial planning and budget process of changes that will have an on-going financial impact in future years, as opposed to having only a one-off implication in the current financial year.
- 4.11 As part of the budget monitoring process, monthly variance reports are provided to budget managers and regular reports are presented to Cabinet and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee detailing the latest projected outturn position for the current year. Regular reviews of expenditure, commitments and income streams are carried out to identify overspends or shortfalls in income at the earliest opportunity and reported to

the Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) and Members along with recommended action plans to ensure that the Council's overall actual income and expenditure budget can be contained within budget.

- 4.12 In terms of cash flow monitoring, there have been no major cash flow issues during the year. One-day notice actual cash balances have been slightly lower than forecast throughout the year. This was due to the Government requesting that local authorities repay their unused COVID-19 grant funding in March 2022. Local authorities were unaware that this request would be coming and for NNDC this amounted to a repayment of £8.9m at a time of year when Councils are short of cash with there being no Council Tax income coming in during February and March every year. A repayment request has been received again this year for £6.0m but there are measures in place to cover this. The Council has taken some planned short-term borrowing during the 2022/23 for cash flow purposes and it has been secured at the best rates available.
- 4.13 For 2023/24 it has been decided that as little short-term borrowing as possible should be taken to avoid incurring borrowing costs. This should save the Council circa £180k for the year. This does however mean that around £10m of investments will have to be called back to meet cash flow fluctuations and this will result in some loss of investment income, but this will be considerably less than the savings being made by not borrowing. This will take place at the appropriate time and on the best terms available. The earliest that this will take place will be later this month (February) and only when required.
- 4.14 The annual budgets and the financial projections are prepared using the knowledge and information that is available at the time. Service managers and budget holders, being experts in their field are usually aware of any developments and changes that may affect their service delivery and consequently the cost of providing their services. Advice is also sought from any external advisors that the Council use to determine if there is anything that may impact on the Council's financial position. Officers also network and obtain information from their professional bodies to keep informed.
- 4.15 However, many budgets are related to factors that fall outside the control of the Council, e.g. pay awards, changes in demand led services, changes in inflation and interest rates, and all of these can have a significant impact on the Council's overall budget and financial position both in the current and future years. Forecasting for these external influences is a challenge and a risk for the Council.
- 4.16 There are several financial risks facing the authority which are relevant at both service and corporate level. To manage these risks there are a few key areas within the budget that need to be closely monitored during the forthcoming financial year, as any variances can have a significant impact. These include:
- a) **The impact of changes in global and national politics and economies** – This is very difficult to predict with a high degree of accuracy, but by keeping abreast of developments in both and seeking advice from experts in these fields informed assumptions can be made and sensitivity analysis can be undertaken so should there be changes in any areas the Council can react quickly and look at options to mitigate the impact. Officers will monitor the actual position against that forecast with any unexpected changes ultimately having to be covered using reserves if there is no other option open to the Council.
 - b) **Car park income** – This area generates a significant level of income for the Council which in turn supports the delivery of other services across the Council. As this is a demand led service which is influenced by external factors this area is

regularly monitored. The 2023/24 budget currently assumes gross income of £3.04m from all car parking related fees and charges.

- c) **Planning and building control fees** – The 2023/24 base budget includes income totalling approximately £1.363m from planning and building control fees. This income, like car parking, is demand led and so will be monitored regularly to identify any significant adverse variances against the budget.
- d) **Waste fee income and recycling credits** – This is another significant source of income to the Council and reflects the activity across the district in recycling domestic refuse and commercial waste. A total income budget of £4.423m is included in the 2023/24 base budget.
- f) **Future Funding** – An update on the delayed funding reforms was given as part of the provisional LGFS announcement and this was that the earliest date for introducing any Business Rates reform and Fair Funding Review outcomes would be 2025/26. This has resulted in a continuation of one-year funding settlement, which provides no certainty in our funding positions and thus the medium-term forecasts.
- g) **New Homes Bonus (NHB)** – The one-year settlement confirmed that the New Homes Bonus grant will only be £31k for 2023/24. This is significantly lower than the £887k received in prior years. There are two factors that have led to this reduction, the first being that 2023/24 is the first year where no legacy payments have been received and the second is that there was very little overall growth in the council taxbase over the year.
- h) **Investment Returns** – During 2022/23 the Council's investment income has increased significantly due to the increases in Bank of England base rate. This has resulted in a healthy return of the Council's investment portfolio. There has been some short-term borrowing taken in 2022/23 to cover cashflow needs but the cost of this is more than adequately covered by the investment income. The Council's short-term borrowing costs (circa £150k) for the 2022/23 financial year will be about 10% of investment income (circa £1.56m).

On 2 February 2023 the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) increased the base rate to 4%, and it is forecast to increase to 4.25% on the 23 March and 4.5% on the 11 May. So the investment return is predicted to remain at a healthy level throughout 2023/24. The Treasury Management Strategy (included as another agenda item) gives details on the expected return for the forthcoming year.

The investment income budget includes interest on loans made to housing associations, investments in various pooled funds, covered bonds and term deposits.

- i) **Employee budgets** – The budget has been updated to include take account of the national pay review and annual increments and assumes a 5% pay award for 2023/24. For 2024/25 onwards the pay award has been assumed to be 2%. As a guide each 1.0% change in the pay award equates to approximately £146k per annum. This is a significant risk to the Council as there are currently a growing number of areas within the public sector that are taking strike action in an attempt to secure higher pay awards than they have been offered. This is just to keep pace with the inflation rate and meet the ever-increasing costs in the current cost of living crisis. An allowance has been made to reflect vacancy savings of 2% as in previous years.

- j) **Procurement** – Construction procurement continues to bring challenges due to the spiralling costs. Inflation, brought about by a combination of factors, is running at above 10%. This is placing pressure on significant pressure on budgets especially with capital projects and schemes. The Council will need to continue to monitor this position and take this into account when putting together any budget estimates involving construction costs.
- 4.17 Looking beyond 2023/24, the financial projections included in the MTFS indicate that further savings and efficiencies will have to be made. This is based on a forward projection of the 2023/24 levels as there is currently no indication of what the future funding regime will be. It is also assumed that if there is a reset of business rates then growth will be taken out and this could lead to a large reduction in this funding stream. The current financial projections show a budget deficit of £745k in 2024/25, £2.8m in 2025/26 and £2.3m in 2026/27.
- 4.18 The capital programme continues to be funded from external and internal resources i.e. capital receipts, grants, preserved right to buy receipts and revenue. Member preference is to avoid borrowing to fund future capital projects. However if this can be demonstrated to provide value for money then this is an option to be revisited. Prudent estimates are made of the timing of capital receipts and grant funding is always secured before a scheme is included if it is to be a grant funded scheme. A detailed Capital Programme and its funding can be found at Appendix C1 and capital bids can be found at Appendix C2.
- 4.19 Elected Members have been involved in the preparation of the 2023/24 budget. There has been a Corporate Leadership Team and Cabinet meeting to identify savings, other officer/member meetings and reports to Cabinet and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Budget monitoring reports are also presented to Members during the year.
- 4.20 The Council also takes professional advice from third party organisations concerning technical areas that impact on the budget process, e.g. external advice in relation to the Collection Fund income, treasury management, VAT and insurance. By doing so the Council is able to monitor the wider implications of changes in interest rates, inflation and employment and take remedial action to mitigate financial risk.
- 4.21 The Chief Finance Officer has been in post for three months and so this report includes the best known facts and financial position. The three months has not been long enough to fully review the areas of responsibility. Reviews will take place following completion of the budget setting process to establish any areas of weakness and to identify where improvements and changes in controls, processes, procedures and systems needs to take place to provide the Chief Finance Office with full assurance of robustness and completeness of the financial position.

Adequacy of the Reserves

- 4.22 An assessment of the adequacy of the available reserves throughout 2023/24 is based on the potential commitments against the reserves which are either:
- General Reserve
 - Earmarked Reserves.
- 4.23 Where there is budgeted expenditure to be funded from a reserve, these have been included in the reserves statement.
- 4.24 There are three main reasons for holding reserves:
- a) as a contingency to cushion the impact of unexpected events or emergencies;

- b) to cushion against the impact of uneven cash flows and to avoid temporary borrowing; and
 - c) as a means of building up funds to meet known or predicted liabilities (earmarked reserves).
- 4.25 The review the reserves is a well-established part of the budget setting and monitoring process and financial planning for the Council and is informed by the framework as set out in Appendix B to this report. An updated reserve statement is included at Appendix D to this report.
- 4.26 When assessing the level of reserves the Council should take account of strategic, operational and financial risks facing them.
- 4.27 There continues to be uncertainty around the funding streams for Local Government and so this continues to be a risk for Councils. The system of Business Rates Retention now means there will be fluctuations of income in year and between years, an element of this risk is mitigated by the earmarked reserve which was established for this purpose.
- 4.28 Other income streams from demand led services remain vulnerable both from economic factors and seasonal factors including weather that can influence for example car parking income. Steps have been taken to set prudent estimates of income from these services but the activity that drives the income remains difficult to predict.
- 4.29 The outcome of the assessment of the General Fund Reserve for 2023/24 and forward years is that it is recommended that the minimum level that the reserve should be maintained at is £2.1m for 2023/24. This represents 10.5% of the net budgeted operating expenditure (excluding parish precepts). The actual level of the General Reserve at the end of the 2023/24 financial year is estimated to be just under £2.5m.
- 4.30 Earmarked reserves are estimated to total around £12.6m by the end of the 2023/24 financial year. The earmarked reserves have been reviewed against the framework in Appendix B, as decisions are made on the utilisation of these reserve, the overall reserves position and projections will be updated accordingly.
- 4.31 All the earmarked reserves follow the protocol at paragraph 2.2 of the Policy Framework at Appendix B to this report.

Summary of the Robustness of the Estimates and the Adequacy of the Reserves

- 4.32 In the opinion of the Chief Finance Officer the overall budgeted level of both the General Fund Reserve and the Earmarked Reserves shown in Appendix D are considered adequate in the short term. The General Reserve balance (£2.5m) at the end of 2023/24 is forecast to be above the recommended minimum balance (£2.1m). All reserves will continue to be monitored throughout 2023/24 and will be subject to another annual review in 2024/25.
- 4.33 When considering the robustness of the estimates and adequacy of reserves a holistic approach is taken, which considers the general reserve, earmarked reserves and the identified risks in relation to the revenue and capital budgets presented for approval.

5. COUNCIL TAX SETTING FOR 2023/24

- 5.1 The following pages represent the information required for Members to set the Council Tax for the year commencing 1 April 2023.
- 5.2 Norfolk County Council will be meeting on the 21 February 2023 and the recommendation is to increase the Council Tax by 4.99%. The Norfolk Police and Crime Panel met on 2 February 2023 and agreed the Norfolk Police and Crime Commissioner's proposals for a 5.19% increase in Council Tax. The figures used in this report assume that there will be a £4.95 increase for North Norfolk District Council (excluding town and parish council precepts), a £75.69 for Norfolk County Council, and a £14.94 increase for the Norfolk Police & Crime Commissioner per Band D.
- 5.3 The Localism Act 2011 makes provision for council tax referendums to be held if an authority increases its relevant basic amount of council tax in excess of principles determined by the Secretary of State. These excessiveness principles are set each year and the Secretary of State has decided that for 2023/24 an increase above the amount for 2022/23 will be excessive, and a referendum must be held, in the following circumstances; for Norfolk County Council if the increase is 3% or more with a further 2% precept for adult social care); for the Norfolk Police and Crime Commissioner if the increase is more than £15; and for North Norfolk District Council if the increase is both 3% or more, and more than £5.
- 5.4 The excessiveness principles apply in 2023/24 to billing authorities and major precepting authorities, but not to local precepting authorities (town and parish councils).
- 5.5 The Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012 contain rules for the calculation of the Council Tax Base, which is an amount required by the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to be used in the calculation of the tax by the Council as the billing authority, and Norfolk County Council and the Norfolk Police and Crime Commissioner as major precepting authorities, and in the calculation of the precept payable by the Council to the County Council and Norfolk Police and Crime Commissioner. The Council Tax Base was calculated as follows for the year 2023/24.

The number of dwellings in each Council Tax band taking into account the multipliers, discounts, exemptions, rate of collection and Council Tax Support:-

- a) or the whole Council area as 41,086 (Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992) being calculated by the Council, in accordance with Regulation 3 of The Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, as its Council Tax base for the year;
- b)

PART OF THE COUNCIL'S AREA	COUNCIL TAX BASE	PART OF THE COUNCIL'S AREA	COUNCIL TAX BASE
Alby With Thwaite	104.22	Little Barningham	50.02
Aldborough & Thurgarton	235.25	Little Snoring	242.31
Antingham	118.04	Ludham	507.39
Ashmanhaugh	68.88	Matlaske	64.80
Aylmerton	212.13	Melton Constable	210.20
Baconsthorpe	81.80	Morston	59.12

Bacton	510.93	Mundesley	1,145.77
Barsham	98.90	Neatishead	235.16
Barton Turf	236.91	North Walsham	4,122.64
Beckham East/West	113.42	Northrepps	369.95
Beeston Regis	392.60	Overstrand	471.76
Binham	197.09	Paston	92.09
Blakeney	545.19	Plumstead	49.10
Bodham	171.16	Potter Heigham	410.12
Briningham	64.22	Pudding Norton	76.89
Brinton	120.59	Raynham	227.91
Briston	884.95	Roughton	333.19
Brumstead	24.06	Runton (East & West)	727.98
Catfield	327.56	Ryburgh	234.96
Cley	329.74	Salthouse	117.98
Colby	189.32	Scottow	292.44
Corpusty & Saxthorpe	284.58	Sculthorpe	280.56
Cromer	3,038.86	Sea Palling	204.65
Dilham	145.21	Sheringham	3,178.34
Dunton	50.77	Sidestrand	46.06
East Ruston	192.96	Skeyton	90.35
Edgefield	209.34	Sloley	100.03
Erpingham	256.45	Smallburgh	191.24
Fakenham	2,662.82	Southrepps	344.56
Felbrigg	81.70	Stalham	1,173.97
Felmingham	198.36	Stibbard	137.58
Field Dalling	144.38	Stiffkey	130.60
Fulmodeston	178.72	Stody	88.97
Gimingham	149.56	Suffield	58.13
Great Snoring	89.46	Sustead	93.02
Gresham	166.65	Sutton	392.17
Gunthorpe	152.31	Swafield	110.57
Hanworth	95.55	Swanton Abbott	148.48
Happisburgh	317.12	Swanton Novers	84.35
Helhoughton	92.50	Tattersett	281.54
Hempstead	76.32	Thornage	94.47
Hempton	183.04	Thorpe Market	125.91
Hickling	410.84	Thurning	33.00
High Kelling	315.52	Thursford	108.12
Hindolveston	210.69	Trimingham	134.73
Hindringham	235.68	Trunch	363.75
Holkham	85.04	Tunstead	258.87
Holt	1,883.56	Upper Sheringham	111.56
Honing	123.34	Walcott	213.96
Horning	606.92	Walsingham	362.61

Horseley	35.36	Warham	89.46
Hoveton	849.43	Wells-Next-The-Sea	1,131.92
Ingham	151.11	Westwick	29.66
Ingworth	39.97	Weybourne	332.98
Itteringham	62.26	Wickmere	54.01
Kelling	93.34	Wighton	106.22
Kettlestone	95.45	Witton	134.68
Knapton	159.38	Wiveton	82.23
Langham	211.92	Wood Norton	104.58
Lessingham	228.97	Worstead	319.88
Letheringsett With Glandford	123.93		

being the amounts calculated by the Council, in accordance with Regulation 6 of The Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, as the amounts of its Council Tax base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which special items (parish precepts) may relate.

5.6 That the following amounts be now **CALCULATED** by the Council for the year 2023/24 in accordance with Sections 31A to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and the relevant regulations and directions as follows:-

- a) £59,015,677 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the expenditure items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act.
- b) £49,401,673 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the income items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
- c) £9,614,004 being the amount by which the aggregate at (a) above exceeds the aggregate at (b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its Council Tax requirement for the year.
- d) £233.60 being the amount at (c) above divided by the amount at 5.5(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).
- e) £2,875,207 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
- f) £163.62 being the amount at (d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at (e) above by the amount at 5.5 (a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item (Parish precept) relates.

g)

PART OF THE COUNCIL'S AREA	COUNCIL TAX BASE	PART OF THE COUNCIL'S AREA	COUNCIL TAX BASE
Alby With Thwaite	192.40	Little Barningham	179.57
Aldborough and Thurgarton	214.62	Little Snoring	220.36
Antingham	194.11	Ludham	191.16
Ashmanhaugh	226.14	Matlaske	198.34
Aylmerton	199.15	Melton Constable	239.73
Baconsthorpe	241.85	Morston	163.62
Bacton	197.28	Mundesley	249.02
Barsham	196.03	Neatishead	206.34
Barton Turf	197.74	North Walsham	267.51
Beckham East/West	201.09	Northrepps	214.10
Beeston Regis	195.45	Overstrand	225.09
Binham	206.24	Paston	242.49
Blakeney	246.16	Plumstead	224.71
Bodham	222.04	Potter Heigham	203.70
Briningham	194.76	Pudding Norton	228.64
Brinton	205.08	Raynham	205.46
Briston	227.99	Roughton	200.01
Brumstead	163.62	Runton (East & West)	184.22
Catfield	204.52	Ryburgh	222.14
Cley	206.88	Salthouse	214.47
Colby	248.31	Scottow	208.07
Corpusty and Saxthorpe	225.88	Sculthorpe	197.19
Cromer	261.10	Sea Palling	231.57
Dilham	199.77	Sheringham	270.43
Dunton	163.62	Sidestrand	201.61
East Ruston	203.13	Skeyton	176.28
Edgefield	196.38	Sloley	203.82
Erpingham	209.47	Smallburgh	194.99
Fakenham	253.58	Southrepps	212.95
Felbrigg	228.49	Stalham	325.46
Felmingham	172.94	Stibbard	253.33
Field Dalling	208.64	Stiffkey	220.51
Fulmodeston	207.12	Stody	218.13
Gimmingham	217.11	Suffield	189.42
Great Snoring	236.27	Sustead	192.96
Gresham	212.82	Sutton	204.41
Gunthorpe	185.28	Swafield	213.36
Hanworth	189.78	Swanton Abbott	210.76
Happisburgh	178.29	Swanton Novers	267.24

Helhoughton	252.32	Tattersett	174.96
Hempstead	212.10	Thornage	211.25
Hempton	259.77	Thorpe Market	213.25
Hickling	188.88	Thurning	163.62
High Kelling	202.33	Thursford	206.16
Hindolveston	225.32	Trimingham	246.07
Hindringham	198.83	Trunch	230.23
Holkham	204.77	Tunstead	193.53
Holt	246.44	Upper Sheringham	208.70
Honing	182.26	Walcott	203.81
Horning	198.39	Walsingham	246.35
Horsey	191.90	Warham	241.86
Hoveton	237.96	Wells-Next-The-Sea	234.29
Ingham	179.50	Westwick	163.62
Ingworth	234.42	Weybourne	219.83
Itteringham	205.38	Wickmere	228.42
Kelling	227.90	Wighton	205.63
Kettlestone	206.99	Witton	200.74
Knapton	205.97	Wiveton	211.49
Langham	212.21	Wood Norton	192.65
Lessingham	183.22	Worstead	191.61
Letheringsett With Glandford	179.75		

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 5.6(f) above to the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at 5.5(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

h)

PART OF THE COUNCIL'S AREA	VALUATION BANDS							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Alby with Thwaite	128.27	149.64	171.02	192.40	235.16	277.91	320.67	384.81
Aldborough and Thurgarton	143.08	166.93	190.78	214.62	262.32	310.02	357.71	429.25
Antingham	129.41	150.98	172.54	194.11	237.25	280.39	323.53	388.23
Ashmanhaugh	150.76	175.89	201.02	226.14	276.40	326.65	376.91	452.29
Aylmerton	132.76	154.89	177.02	199.15	243.40	287.66	331.92	398.30
Baconsthorpe	161.23	188.11	214.98	241.85	295.60	349.35	403.09	483.71
Bacton	131.52	153.44	175.36	197.28	241.12	284.96	328.80	394.56
Barsham	130.69	152.47	174.25	196.03	239.60	283.16	326.72	392.07
Barton Turf	131.83	153.80	175.77	197.74	241.69	285.63	329.57	395.49
Beckham East/West	134.06	156.40	178.74	201.09	245.77	290.46	335.15	402.18

PART OF THE COUNCIL'S AREA	VALUATION BANDS							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Beeston Regis	130.30	152.02	173.74	195.45	238.89	282.32	325.76	390.91
Binham	137.49	160.40	183.32	206.24	252.07	297.90	343.73	412.48
Blakeney	164.10	191.45	218.80	246.16	300.86	355.56	410.26	492.32
Bodham	148.02	172.70	197.37	222.04	271.38	320.73	370.07	444.08
Briningham	129.84	151.48	173.12	194.76	238.04	281.32	324.60	389.52
Brinton	136.72	159.50	182.29	205.08	250.65	296.23	341.80	410.16
Briston	151.99	177.33	202.66	227.99	278.66	329.33	379.99	455.99
Catfield	136.35	159.07	181.80	204.52	249.97	295.43	340.88	409.05
Cley	137.92	160.91	183.89	206.88	252.86	298.83	344.81	413.77
Colby	165.54	193.13	220.72	248.31	303.49	358.67	413.85	496.62
Corpusty and Saxthorpe	150.59	175.69	200.78	225.88	276.08	326.28	376.47	451.77
Cromer	174.06	203.07	232.09	261.10	319.12	377.14	435.17	522.20
Dilham	133.18	155.38	177.57	199.77	244.16	288.56	332.95	399.54
East Ruston	135.42	157.99	180.56	203.13	248.27	293.41	338.55	406.27
Edgefield	130.92	152.74	174.56	196.38	240.03	283.67	327.31	392.77
Erpingham	139.65	162.92	186.20	209.47	256.02	302.57	349.12	418.95
Fakenham	169.05	197.22	225.40	253.58	309.93	366.28	422.63	507.16
Felbrigg	152.32	177.71	203.10	228.49	279.26	330.04	380.81	456.98
Felmingham	115.29	134.51	153.73	172.94	211.37	249.81	288.24	345.89
Field Dalling	139.09	162.27	185.45	208.64	255.00	301.36	347.73	417.28
Fulmodeston	138.08	161.10	184.11	207.12	253.15	299.18	345.21	414.25
Gimingham	144.74	168.86	192.98	217.11	265.35	313.60	361.85	434.22
Great Snoring	157.51	183.77	210.02	236.27	288.78	341.29	393.79	472.55
Gresham	141.88	165.53	189.17	212.82	260.11	307.41	354.70	425.64
Gunthorpe	123.52	144.11	164.69	185.28	226.46	267.63	308.81	370.57
Hanworth	126.52	147.61	168.69	189.78	231.95	274.13	316.30	379.56
Happisburgh	118.86	138.67	158.48	178.29	217.92	257.54	297.16	356.59
Helhoughton	168.21	196.25	224.28	252.32	308.39	364.46	420.53	504.64
Hempstead	141.40	164.96	188.53	212.10	259.23	306.36	353.50	424.20
Hempton	173.18	202.04	230.91	259.77	317.50	375.22	432.95	519.54
Hickling	125.92	146.91	167.89	188.88	230.85	272.83	314.80	377.77
High Kelling	134.88	157.37	179.85	202.33	247.29	292.25	337.22	404.66
Hindolveston	150.21	175.25	200.28	225.32	275.39	325.46	375.53	450.64
Hindringham	132.55	154.65	176.74	198.83	243.02	287.20	331.39	397.67
Holkham	136.51	159.27	182.02	204.77	250.28	295.78	341.29	409.55
Holt	164.29	191.67	219.06	246.44	301.21	355.97	410.74	492.89
Honing	121.51	141.76	162.01	182.26	222.77	263.27	303.77	364.53
Horning	132.26	154.30	176.35	198.39	242.48	286.56	330.65	396.78
Horse	127.93	149.25	170.57	191.90	234.54	277.18	319.83	383.80
Hoveton	158.64	185.08	211.52	237.96	290.84	343.72	396.60	475.92
Ingham	119.66	139.61	159.55	179.50	219.39	259.28	299.17	359.00
Ingworth	156.28	182.32	208.37	234.42	286.51	338.61	390.70	468.84
Itteringham	136.92	159.74	182.56	205.38	251.02	296.66	342.30	410.76
Kelling	151.93	177.25	202.57	227.90	278.54	329.19	379.83	455.80
Kettlestone	137.99	160.99	183.99	206.99	252.99	298.99	344.98	413.98
Knapton	137.31	160.20	183.08	205.97	251.74	297.51	343.28	411.94
Langham	141.47	165.05	188.63	212.21	259.37	306.53	353.68	424.42
Lessingham	122.15	142.51	162.87	183.22	223.94	264.66	305.38	366.45

PART OF THE COUNCIL'S AREA	VALUATION BANDS							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Letheringsett with Glandford	119.83	139.81	159.78	179.75	219.70	259.65	299.59	359.51
Little Barningham	119.71	139.66	159.62	179.57	219.47	259.38	299.28	359.14
Little Snoring	146.91	171.39	195.88	220.36	269.33	318.30	367.27	440.73
Ludham	127.44	148.68	169.92	191.16	233.64	276.12	318.60	382.32
Matlaske	132.22	154.26	176.30	198.34	242.41	286.49	330.57	396.68
Melton Constable	159.82	186.46	213.10	239.73	293.01	346.28	399.56	479.47
Mundesley	166.01	193.68	221.35	249.02	304.36	359.70	415.03	498.04
Neatishead	137.56	160.48	183.41	206.34	252.19	298.05	343.90	412.68
North Walsham	178.34	208.06	237.79	267.51	326.96	386.40	445.85	535.02
Northrepps	142.73	166.52	190.31	214.10	261.68	309.25	356.83	428.20
Overstrand	150.06	175.07	200.08	225.09	275.11	325.13	375.15	450.18
Paston	161.66	188.61	215.55	242.49	296.38	350.27	404.16	484.99
Plumstead	149.81	174.78	199.75	224.71	274.65	324.59	374.53	449.43
Potter Heigham	135.80	158.43	181.06	203.70	248.96	294.23	339.50	407.40
Pudding Norton	152.43	177.83	203.24	228.64	279.45	330.26	381.07	457.29
Raynham	136.97	159.80	182.63	205.46	251.11	296.77	342.43	410.92
Roughton	133.34	155.56	177.78	200.01	244.45	288.90	333.35	400.02
Runton (East & West)	122.81	143.28	163.75	184.22	225.16	266.10	307.04	368.44
Ryburgh	148.09	172.77	197.45	222.14	271.50	320.86	370.23	444.28
Salthouse	142.98	166.81	190.64	214.47	262.13	309.79	357.46	428.95
Scottow	138.71	161.83	184.95	208.07	254.31	300.55	346.78	416.14
Sculthorpe	131.46	153.37	175.28	197.19	241.01	284.83	328.65	394.38
Sea Palling	154.38	180.11	205.84	231.57	283.04	334.50	385.96	463.15
Sheringham	180.29	210.34	240.39	270.43	330.53	390.63	450.73	540.87
Sidestrand	134.40	156.81	179.21	201.61	246.41	291.22	336.02	403.22
Skeyton	117.52	137.10	156.69	176.28	215.45	254.62	293.80	352.56
Sloley	135.88	158.53	181.18	203.82	249.12	294.41	339.71	407.65
Smallburgh	129.99	151.66	173.32	194.99	238.32	281.65	324.99	389.98
Southrepps	141.97	165.63	189.29	212.95	260.28	307.60	354.93	425.91
Stalham	216.97	253.13	289.30	325.46	397.78	470.11	542.43	650.92
Stibbard	168.89	197.03	225.18	253.33	309.63	365.92	422.22	506.67
Stiffkey	147.00	171.50	196.00	220.51	269.51	318.51	367.51	441.02
Stody	145.42	169.65	193.89	218.13	266.60	315.08	363.55	436.26
Suffield	126.28	147.32	168.37	189.42	231.51	273.61	315.70	378.84
Sustead	128.64	150.08	171.52	192.96	235.85	278.73	321.61	385.93
Sutton	136.27	158.99	181.70	204.41	249.84	295.27	340.69	408.83
Swafield	142.24	165.94	189.65	213.36	260.77	308.18	355.60	426.72
Swanton Abbott	140.50	163.92	187.34	210.76	257.60	304.43	351.27	421.52
Swanton Novers	178.16	207.85	237.55	267.24	326.63	386.02	445.41	534.49
Tattersett	116.64	136.08	155.52	174.96	213.84	252.72	291.60	349.92
Thornage	140.83	164.30	187.78	211.25	258.19	305.14	352.09	422.50
Thorpe Market	142.17	165.86	189.56	213.25	260.64	308.04	355.43	426.51
Thursford	137.44	160.35	183.25	206.16	251.97	297.79	343.60	412.33
Trimingham	164.04	191.39	218.73	246.07	300.75	355.43	410.12	492.14
Trunch	153.49	179.07	204.65	230.23	281.40	332.56	383.72	460.47
Tunstead	129.02	150.52	172.03	193.53	236.54	279.55	322.56	387.07
Upper Sheringham	139.13	162.32	185.51	208.70	255.08	301.46	347.84	417.41

PART OF THE COUNCIL'S AREA	VALUATION BANDS							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Walcott	135.87	158.52	181.16	203.81	249.10	294.39	339.69	407.62
Walsingham	164.23	191.60	218.98	246.35	301.09	355.84	410.58	492.70
Warham	161.24	188.11	214.99	241.86	295.61	349.36	403.11	483.73
Wells-next-the-Sea	156.19	182.23	208.26	234.29	286.36	338.42	390.49	468.59
Weybourne	146.55	170.98	195.41	219.83	268.69	317.54	366.39	439.67
Wickmere	152.28	177.66	203.04	228.42	279.18	329.94	380.70	456.84
Wighton	137.08	159.93	182.78	205.63	251.32	297.02	342.71	411.26
Witton	133.83	156.13	178.44	200.74	245.35	289.96	334.57	401.49
Wiveton	140.99	164.49	187.99	211.49	258.49	305.49	352.49	422.99
Wood Norton	128.43	149.83	171.24	192.65	235.46	278.27	321.08	385.30
Worstead	127.74	149.03	170.32	191.61	234.19	276.77	319.35	383.22
All Other Parts of the Council's Area	109.08	127.26	145.44	163.62	199.98	236.34	272.70	327.24

being the amounts given by multiplying (as appropriate) the amounts at 5.6(f) or 5.6(g) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation Band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

- 5.7 That it be **NOTED** that for the year 2023/24 the Norfolk County Council and the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner for Norfolk have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

	VALUATION BANDS							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Norfolk County Council	1,061.76	1,238.72	1,415.68	1,592.64	1,946.56	2,300.48	2,654.40	3,185.28
Norfolk Police and Crime Commissioner	201.96	235.62	269.28	302.94	370.26	437.58	504.90	605.88

- 5.8 That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 5.6(h) and 5.7 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, **HEREBY SETS** the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2023/24 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

PART OF THE COUNCIL'S AREA	VALUATION BANDS							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Alby with Thwaite	1,391.99	1,623.98	1,855.98	2,087.98	2,551.98	3,015.97	3,479.97	4,175.97
Aldborough and Thurgarton	1,406.80	1,641.27	1,875.74	2,110.20	2,579.14	3,048.08	3,517.01	4,220.41
Antingham	1,393.13	1,625.32	1,857.50	2,089.69	2,554.07	3,018.45	3,482.83	4,179.39
Ashmanhaugh	1,414.48	1,650.23	1,885.98	2,121.72	2,593.22	3,064.71	3,536.21	4,243.45
Aylmerton	1,396.48	1,629.23	1,861.98	2,094.73	2,560.22	3,025.72	3,491.22	4,189.46
Baconsthorpe	1,424.95	1,662.45	1,899.94	2,137.43	2,612.42	3,087.41	3,562.39	4,274.87

PART OF THE COUNCIL'S AREA	VALUATION BANDS							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Bacton	1,395.24	1,627.78	1,860.32	2,092.86	2,557.94	3,023.02	3,488.10	4,185.72
Barsham	1,394.41	1,626.81	1,859.21	2,091.61	2,556.42	3,021.22	3,486.02	4,183.23
Barton Turf	1,395.55	1,628.14	1,860.73	2,093.32	2,558.51	3,023.69	3,488.87	4,186.65
Beckham East/West	1,397.78	1,630.74	1,863.70	2,096.67	2,562.59	3,028.52	3,494.45	4,193.34
Beeston Regis	1,394.02	1,626.36	1,858.70	2,091.03	2,555.71	3,020.38	3,485.06	4,182.07
Binham	1,401.21	1,634.74	1,868.28	2,101.82	2,568.89	3,035.96	3,503.03	4,203.64
Blakeney	1,427.82	1,665.79	1,903.76	2,141.74	2,617.68	3,093.62	3,569.56	4,283.48
Bodham	1,411.74	1,647.04	1,882.33	2,117.62	2,588.20	3,058.79	3,529.37	4,235.24
Briningham	1,393.56	1,625.82	1,858.08	2,090.34	2,554.86	3,019.38	3,483.90	4,180.68
Brinton	1,400.44	1,633.84	1,867.25	2,100.66	2,567.47	3,034.29	3,501.10	4,201.32
Briston	1,415.71	1,651.67	1,887.62	2,123.57	2,595.48	3,067.39	3,539.29	4,247.15
Catfield	1,400.07	1,633.41	1,866.76	2,100.10	2,566.79	3,033.49	3,500.18	4,200.21
Cley	1,401.64	1,635.25	1,868.85	2,102.46	2,569.68	3,036.89	3,504.11	4,204.93
Colby	1,429.26	1,667.47	1,905.68	2,143.89	2,620.31	3,096.73	3,573.15	4,287.78
Corpusty and Saxthorpe	1,414.31	1,650.03	1,885.74	2,121.46	2,592.90	3,064.34	3,535.77	4,242.93
Cromer	1,437.78	1,677.41	1,917.05	2,156.68	2,635.94	3,115.20	3,594.47	4,313.36
Dilham	1,396.90	1,629.72	1,862.53	2,095.35	2,560.98	3,026.62	3,492.25	4,190.70
East Ruston	1,399.14	1,632.33	1,865.52	2,098.71	2,565.09	3,031.47	3,497.85	4,197.43
Edgefield	1,394.64	1,627.08	1,859.52	2,091.96	2,556.85	3,021.73	3,486.61	4,183.93
Erpingham	1,403.37	1,637.26	1,871.16	2,105.05	2,572.84	3,040.63	3,508.42	4,210.11
Fakenham	1,432.77	1,671.56	1,910.36	2,149.16	2,626.75	3,104.34	3,581.93	4,298.32
Felbrigg	1,416.04	1,652.05	1,888.06	2,124.07	2,596.08	3,068.10	3,540.11	4,248.14
Felmingham	1,379.01	1,608.85	1,838.69	2,068.52	2,528.19	2,987.87	3,447.54	4,137.05
Field Dalling	1,402.81	1,636.61	1,870.41	2,104.22	2,571.82	3,039.42	3,507.03	4,208.44
Fulmodeston	1,401.80	1,635.44	1,869.07	2,102.70	2,569.97	3,037.24	3,504.51	4,205.41
Gimingham	1,408.46	1,643.20	1,877.94	2,112.69	2,582.17	3,051.66	3,521.15	4,225.38
Great Snoring	1,421.23	1,658.11	1,894.98	2,131.85	2,605.60	3,079.35	3,553.09	4,263.71
Gresham	1,405.60	1,639.87	1,874.13	2,108.40	2,576.93	3,045.47	3,514.00	4,216.80
Gunthorpe	1,387.24	1,618.45	1,849.65	2,080.86	2,543.28	3,005.69	3,468.11	4,161.73
Hanworth	1,390.24	1,621.95	1,853.65	2,085.36	2,548.77	3,012.19	3,475.60	4,170.72
Happisburgh	1,382.58	1,613.01	1,843.44	2,073.87	2,534.74	2,995.60	3,456.46	4,147.75
Helhoughton	1,431.93	1,670.59	1,909.24	2,147.90	2,625.21	3,102.52	3,579.83	4,295.80
Hempstead	1,405.12	1,639.30	1,873.49	2,107.68	2,576.05	3,044.42	3,512.80	4,215.36
Hempton	1,436.90	1,676.38	1,915.87	2,155.35	2,634.32	3,113.28	3,592.25	4,310.70
Hickling	1,389.64	1,621.25	1,852.85	2,084.46	2,547.67	3,010.89	3,474.10	4,168.93
High Kelling	1,398.60	1,631.71	1,864.81	2,097.91	2,564.11	3,030.31	3,496.52	4,195.82
Hindolveston	1,413.93	1,649.59	1,885.24	2,120.90	2,592.21	3,063.52	3,534.83	4,241.80
Hindringham	1,396.27	1,628.99	1,861.70	2,094.41	2,559.84	3,025.26	3,490.69	4,188.83
Holkham	1,400.23	1,633.61	1,866.98	2,100.35	2,567.10	3,033.84	3,500.59	4,200.71
Holt	1,428.01	1,666.01	1,904.02	2,142.02	2,618.03	3,094.03	3,570.04	4,284.05
Honing	1,385.23	1,616.10	1,846.97	2,077.84	2,539.59	3,001.33	3,463.07	4,155.69

PART OF THE COUNCIL'S AREA	VALUATION BANDS							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Horning	1,395.98	1,628.64	1,861.31	2,093.97	2,559.30	3,024.62	3,489.95	4,187.94
Horsey	1,391.65	1,623.59	1,855.53	2,087.48	2,551.36	3,015.24	3,479.13	4,174.96
Hoveton	1,422.36	1,659.42	1,896.48	2,133.54	2,607.66	3,081.78	3,555.90	4,267.08
Ingham	1,383.38	1,613.95	1,844.51	2,075.08	2,536.21	2,997.34	3,458.47	4,150.16
Ingworth	1,420.00	1,656.66	1,893.33	2,130.00	2,603.33	3,076.67	3,550.00	4,260.00
Itteringham	1,400.64	1,634.08	1,867.52	2,100.96	2,567.84	3,034.72	3,501.60	4,201.92
Kelling	1,415.65	1,651.59	1,887.53	2,123.48	2,595.36	3,067.25	3,539.13	4,246.96
Kettlestone	1,401.71	1,635.33	1,868.95	2,102.57	2,569.81	3,037.05	3,504.28	4,205.14
Knapton	1,401.03	1,634.54	1,868.04	2,101.55	2,568.56	3,035.57	3,502.58	4,203.10
Langham	1,405.19	1,639.39	1,873.59	2,107.79	2,576.19	3,044.59	3,512.98	4,215.58
Lessingham	1,385.87	1,616.85	1,847.83	2,078.80	2,540.76	3,002.72	3,464.68	4,157.61
Letheringsett with Glandford	1,383.55	1,614.15	1,844.74	2,075.33	2,536.52	2,997.71	3,458.89	4,150.67
Little Barningham	1,383.43	1,614.00	1,844.58	2,075.15	2,536.29	2,997.44	3,458.58	4,150.30
Little Snoring	1,410.63	1,645.73	1,880.84	2,115.94	2,586.15	3,056.36	3,526.57	4,231.89
Ludham	1,391.16	1,623.02	1,854.88	2,086.74	2,550.46	3,014.18	3,477.90	4,173.48
Matlaske	1,395.94	1,628.60	1,861.26	2,093.92	2,559.23	3,024.55	3,489.87	4,187.84
Melton Constable	1,423.54	1,660.80	1,898.06	2,135.31	2,609.83	3,084.34	3,558.86	4,270.63
Mundesley	1,429.73	1,668.02	1,906.31	2,144.60	2,621.18	3,097.76	3,574.33	4,289.20
Neatishead	1,401.28	1,634.82	1,868.37	2,101.92	2,569.01	3,036.11	3,503.20	4,203.84
North Walsham	1,442.06	1,682.40	1,922.75	2,163.09	2,643.78	3,124.46	3,605.15	4,326.18
Northrepps	1,406.45	1,640.86	1,875.27	2,109.68	2,578.50	3,047.31	3,516.13	4,219.36
Overstrand	1,413.78	1,649.41	1,885.04	2,120.67	2,591.93	3,063.19	3,534.45	4,241.34
Paston	1,425.38	1,662.95	1,900.51	2,138.07	2,613.20	3,088.33	3,563.46	4,276.15
Plumstead	1,413.53	1,649.12	1,884.71	2,120.29	2,591.47	3,062.65	3,533.83	4,240.59
Potter Heigham	1,399.52	1,632.77	1,866.02	2,099.28	2,565.78	3,032.29	3,498.80	4,198.56
Pudding Norton	1,416.15	1,652.17	1,888.20	2,124.22	2,596.27	3,068.32	3,540.37	4,248.45
Raynham	1,400.69	1,634.14	1,867.59	2,101.04	2,567.93	3,034.83	3,501.73	4,202.08
Roughton	1,397.06	1,629.90	1,862.74	2,095.59	2,561.27	3,026.96	3,492.65	4,191.18
Runton (East & West)	1,386.53	1,617.62	1,848.71	2,079.80	2,541.98	3,004.16	3,466.34	4,159.60
Ryburgh	1,411.81	1,647.11	1,882.41	2,117.72	2,588.32	3,058.92	3,529.53	4,235.44
Salthouse	1,406.70	1,641.15	1,875.60	2,110.05	2,578.95	3,047.85	3,516.76	4,220.11
Scottow	1,402.43	1,636.17	1,869.91	2,103.65	2,571.13	3,038.61	3,506.08	4,207.30
Sculthorpe	1,395.18	1,627.71	1,860.24	2,092.77	2,557.83	3,022.89	3,487.95	4,185.54
Sea Palling	1,418.10	1,654.45	1,890.80	2,127.15	2,599.86	3,072.56	3,545.26	4,254.31
Sheringham	1,444.01	1,684.68	1,925.35	2,166.01	2,647.35	3,128.69	3,610.03	4,332.03
Sidestrand	1,398.12	1,631.15	1,864.17	2,097.19	2,563.23	3,029.28	3,495.32	4,194.38
Skeyton	1,381.24	1,611.44	1,841.65	2,071.86	2,532.27	2,992.68	3,453.10	4,143.72
Sloley	1,399.60	1,632.87	1,866.14	2,099.40	2,565.94	3,032.47	3,499.01	4,198.81
Smallburgh	1,393.71	1,626.00	1,858.28	2,090.57	2,555.14	3,019.71	3,484.29	4,181.14
Southrepps	1,405.69	1,639.97	1,874.25	2,108.53	2,577.10	3,045.66	3,514.23	4,217.07
Stalham	1,480.69	1,727.47	1,974.26	2,221.04	2,714.60	3,208.17	3,701.73	4,442.08

PART OF THE COUNCIL'S AREA	VALUATION BANDS							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Stibbard	1,432.61	1,671.37	1,910.14	2,148.91	2,626.45	3,103.98	3,581.52	4,297.83
Stiffkey	1,410.72	1,645.84	1,880.96	2,116.09	2,586.33	3,056.57	3,526.81	4,232.18
Stody	1,409.14	1,643.99	1,878.85	2,113.71	2,583.42	3,053.14	3,522.85	4,227.42
Suffield	1,390.00	1,621.66	1,853.33	2,085.00	2,548.33	3,011.67	3,475.00	4,170.00
Sustead	1,392.36	1,624.42	1,856.48	2,088.54	2,552.67	3,016.79	3,480.91	4,177.09
Sutton	1,399.99	1,633.33	1,866.66	2,099.99	2,566.66	3,033.33	3,499.99	4,199.99
Swafield	1,405.96	1,640.28	1,874.61	2,108.94	2,577.59	3,046.24	3,514.90	4,217.88
Swanton Abbott	1,404.22	1,638.26	1,872.30	2,106.34	2,574.42	3,042.49	3,510.57	4,212.68
Swanton Novers	1,441.88	1,682.19	1,922.51	2,162.82	2,643.45	3,124.08	3,604.71	4,325.65
Tattersett	1,380.36	1,610.42	1,840.48	2,070.54	2,530.66	2,990.78	3,450.90	4,141.08
Thornage	1,404.55	1,638.64	1,872.74	2,106.83	2,575.01	3,043.20	3,511.39	4,213.66
Thorpe Market	1,405.89	1,640.20	1,874.52	2,108.83	2,577.46	3,046.10	3,514.73	4,217.67
Thursford	1,401.16	1,634.69	1,868.21	2,101.74	2,568.79	3,035.85	3,502.90	4,203.49
Trimingham	1,427.76	1,665.73	1,903.69	2,141.65	2,617.57	3,093.49	3,569.42	4,283.30
Trunch	1,417.21	1,653.41	1,889.61	2,125.81	2,598.22	3,070.62	3,543.02	4,251.63
Tunstead	1,392.74	1,624.86	1,856.99	2,089.11	2,553.36	3,017.61	3,481.86	4,178.23
Upper Sheringham	1,402.85	1,636.66	1,870.47	2,104.28	2,571.90	3,039.52	3,507.14	4,208.57
Walcott	1,399.59	1,632.86	1,866.12	2,099.39	2,565.92	3,032.45	3,498.99	4,198.78
Walsingham	1,427.95	1,665.94	1,903.94	2,141.93	2,617.91	3,093.90	3,569.88	4,283.86
Warham	1,424.96	1,662.45	1,899.95	2,137.44	2,612.43	3,087.42	3,562.41	4,274.89
Wells-next-the-Sea	1,419.91	1,656.57	1,893.22	2,129.87	2,603.18	3,076.48	3,549.79	4,259.75
Weybourne	1,410.27	1,645.32	1,880.37	2,115.41	2,585.51	3,055.60	3,525.69	4,230.83
Wickmere	1,416.00	1,652.00	1,888.00	2,124.00	2,596.00	3,068.00	3,540.00	4,248.00
Wighton	1,400.80	1,634.27	1,867.74	2,101.21	2,568.14	3,035.08	3,502.01	4,202.42
Witton	1,397.55	1,630.47	1,863.40	2,096.32	2,562.17	3,028.02	3,493.87	4,192.65
Wiveton	1,404.71	1,638.83	1,872.95	2,107.07	2,575.31	3,043.55	3,511.79	4,214.15
Wood Norton	1,392.15	1,624.17	1,856.20	2,088.23	2,552.28	3,016.33	3,480.38	4,176.46
Worstead	1,391.46	1,623.37	1,855.28	2,087.19	2,551.01	3,014.83	3,478.65	4,174.38
All Other Parts of the Council's area	1,372.80	1,601.60	1,830.40	2,059.20	2,516.80	2,974.40	3,432.00	4,118.40

5.9 Excessiveness Determination

5.9.1 The Council's basic amount of council tax as calculated in paragraph 5.6 (f) above is 3.1% above the relevant basic amount of council tax for 2023/24, which equates to £4.95 and less than the £5.00 increase which would require a referendum to be held.

5.9.2 The Council has determined that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2023/24 is **not** excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992. As the billing authority, the Council has **not** been notified by a major precepting authority that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2023/24 is excessive and that the billing authority is not required to hold a referendum in accordance with Section 52ZK of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

6 Financial Implications and Risks

- 6.1 The Council is required to set the Council Tax each year in accordance with the legislation set out above in this report. If this is not done, there is a risk that the council will be unable to bill in a timely manner with a consequential loss of revenue, and this may prevent the prudent management of the Council's financial affairs. The Council will be required to hold a referendum if it decides to increase its council tax by both above 3.0%, and more than £5.00 (for shire districts) above the 2022/23 amount.
- 6.2 The overall budget for 2023/24 is balanced. Section 4 of the report presents the Chief Finance Officer's statement on the robustness of the estimates and the adequacy of reserves. This statement is informed by a number of risks that are facing the authority, in particular those detailed at paragraph 4.16. It is recommended that the level of the General Reserve is maintained at a minimum level of £2.1m.
- 6.3 The Director for Resources (S151 Officer) is required by section 114 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 to report to Members if it appears that the expenditure the authority proposes to incur in a financial year is likely to exceed the resources available to it to meet that expenditure. In addition, duties under section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 establish a requirement to report on the robustness of the estimates made for the purposes of agreeing the Council's budget.
- 6.4 These duties therefore require a professional judgement to be made by the Director for Resources as the officer ultimately responsible for the authority's finances. As a result, the officer takes a view of the robustness of the Council's budget across the whole period covered by the Medium-Term Financial Strategy, and this is reported to Members as part of the budget setting process. In view of this duty, and the considerable uncertainty around funding levels after the end of the current settlement, the Council will need to achieve substantial, sustainable savings in 2024/25 in order to establish a solid platform for the development of a robust budget in future years.

7 Sustainability – None as a direct consequence of this report.

8 Equality and Diversity

- 8.1 The Council is legally required to consider the equality duty in its decision-making and this includes the budget process. As part of any savings or investments the Council must consider how it can:
- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, and victimisation;
 - Advance equality of opportunity between different groups; and
 - Foster good relations between different groups by tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

9 Section 17 Crime and Disorder considerations – None as a direct consequence of the report.