

REPORT OF Finance Manager and S.151 Officer

To: Internal Scrutiny Committee

Subject: QBR 2

Date: 16 November 2021

Reference:

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

For Members to receive the quarterly business report for the period ending 30th September 2021

1. INTRODUCTION

The Internal Scrutiny Committee monitors the Council performance each quarter via the QBR

2. REPORT

The QBR 2 (2021/22) is attached at Appendix 1 for the Committee's information. The projected surplus for the financial year 2021/22 is £853k. The detail of the projected surplus is detailed within the QBR report.

At the time of writing this report the impact of Central Government's spending review upon Torridge Council is not known; however there are several cost pressures which have arisen since the budget and MTFFS (Medium Term Financial Strategy) was approved by Full Council in February 2021; namely:

- Increased financial support to Leisure
- Construction Price inflation
- Increased Employer's National Insurance to meet additional costs of Social Care
- Impact of the 2021/22 pay award
- Inflation pressures, Fuel etc

It is therefore recommended that the projected surplus of £853k is allocated as follows

- £100k to continue the Councils' support for Apprentices, allowing it to "grow its own"
- £153k funding for a Trainee and Graduate Planning reserve; the Council has a relatively aging workforce and to supplement the Council's apprentices scheme there will be occasions where it makes operational sense to train up new employees who will have already attained a higher levels of qualification skills to succession plan and on occasion where there is still an incumbent in place.
- £600k to the Transition in Government Funding reserve. This reserve exists to manage the uncertainty in Government Funding, allowing to Council to set a balanced budget whilst corrective action is taken to bring the budgets back into balance.

3. IMPLICATIONS

Legal Implications

No specific legal implications



Financial Implications

Considered in the QBR and the report

Human Resources Implications

Previous commitments from the Council to support Apprentices

Sustainability/Biodiversity Implications

None

Equality/Diversity

Not applicable

Risk Management

Recruitment has been challenging for posts in some service areas for a number of years, which poses a clear risk to service delivery. Having place both an apprentice and trainee / graduate scheme provides the Council the opportunity to better plan for current and future workforce planning.

Compliance with Policies and Strategies

This report is in compliance with the Council's Constitution

Data Protection (GDPR) Implications

Not applicable

Climate Change

Not applicable

4. CONCLUSIONS

The Internal Scrutiny Committee monitors the Council performance each quarter via the QBR.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members recommend to C&R the usage of the projected 2021/22 surplus as detailed in the report, namely:

- £100k to Apprentice Reserve
- £153k to Trainee and Graduate Succession Planning Reserve
- £600k to Transition in Government Funding Reserve

