

Policy and Oversight Board Action Sheet

12 December 2022

Item 4: The cost-of-living crisis – working together to improve the local response

1. To consider how the council could help to address data sharing issues across different organisations.
2. To provide more agile support for residents by enabling faster decision making and assessments.
3. Further information to be sought about low-cost ceramic heaters.
4. Further details about the location of the cost-of-living popups to be made available.

Follow-up: All actions to be covered in the cost-of-living section of the 'Looking back' report on the April agenda.

24 January 2023

Item 4: 2023 Medium Term Financial Strategy

1. The Director of Finance to confirm the base figure relating to the ring-fenced grants increase.

Follow-up: The base figure for the ring-fenced grants was £37.9m for 2022/23. The major components of these grants was explained at the meeting and the full details can be found in Appendix E of the Revenue Budget and Council Tax Levels 2023/24 report:

<https://democracy.lbhf.gov.uk/documents/s123419/Appendix%20E%20Government%20grant%20funding.pdf>

2. The Assistant Director of Programmes and Assurance to provide key headline information from the Census 2021 as part of a report to a future meeting of the Board.

Follow-up: 'Census 2021 headlines and implications' is on the April agenda.

3. The Head of Strategic Planning and Monitoring to provide further details on the 1,600 new households assumed in the Council budget.

The details of the increase were set out in the Council Tax Base and Collection Rate 2023/24 and Delegation of the Business Rate Estimate report. The table is replicated below for ease of reference.

Link to full report:

<https://democracy.lbhf.gov.uk/documents/s122574/COUNCIL%20TAX%20BASE%20AND%20COLLECTION%202023-24.pdf>

	Band D Equivalents
An increase in the tax-base due to new non-exempt properties	11
An allowance for new properties added in-year	275
A forecast reduction in the number of single persons discounts	143
Reduction in the number of local council tax support scheme discounts	682
Reduction in student and other discounts	233
Increase in the 2022/23 tax base	1,673

4. The Director of Finance to include business rate revenue as a risk factor in future MTFS proposals.

Follow-up: This will be included in the future MTFS

5. The Director of Finance to provide Council workforce figures for the previous three years.

Follow-up: The Council's budgeted workforce estimates (all General Fund) for the past 3 years were:

2020/21 - 2,030

2021/22 - 2,030

2022/23 - 2,050

Estimates will fluctuate, for example as services expanded or contracted or were delivered internally or externally.