

# **EDUCATION OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

## **DRAFT REVENUE BUDGET & DRAFT CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2024/25 – 2027/28**

**21 November 2023  
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**Walsall Council**

**PROUD OF OUR PAST OUR PRESENT AND FOR OUR FUTURE**

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# 1. Overview

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The draft budget for the Local Authority, as reported to Cabinet on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023, includes the latest medium term financial outlook (MTFO) for the four year period 2024/25 – 2027/28.

The MTFO is update for all known pressures, including best professional assumption around the cost-of-living impact and the impact of rising demand on our services.

Due to the size and breadth of cost pressures, this has had a significant impact on the assumptions in relation to the 2024/25 budget, with additional growth now required of c£57.69m, resulting in a budget gap of c£18.06m.

The proposals set out in the report to Cabinet do not yet balance the budget for 2024/25, so there will be a requirement to report back on changes and options to close the gap at the next meeting of Cabinet on 13 December 2023.

The final draft budget will be considered by Cabinet on 7 February 2024 for recommendation to Council on 22 February 2024.

## 2. Investments / Cost Pressures

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Those investments relating to the remit of this Committee are shown at **Appendix 1** of the report and total **£5.29m** over 4 years.

The key investments relating to the remit of this committee include:

- Provision for future demand and cost increases relating Home to School transport;
- Increased resources to support current and future demand for Educational Psychology services.

### 3. Savings Proposals

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Those savings proposals relating to the remit of this Committee are shown at **Appendix 2** of the report and total **£257k** over 4 years.

The key savings relating to the remit of this Committee include:

- Reduction in home to school transport costs through route optimisation and improved value for money;
- Reduction in current resources resulting from new ways of working.

## 4. Draft Capital Programme

Those council funded schemes relating to the remit of this Committee are shown at **Appendix 3** of the report totalling **£2.00m** over 4 years, and external funded schemes of **£79.47m** at **Appendix 4** of the report.

The key council funded capital projects within the remit of this Committee are:

- Provision to support the condition of the school estate;
- Provision for repairing / replacing permanent mobile classrooms when they reach a state of disrepair.

The key external funded capital projects within the remit of this Committee are:

- Basic Need funding provided by the DfE to support the capital requirement for providing new pupil places by expanding existing schools or establishing new schools;
- Devolved Formula Capital provided by the DfE then passported to schools to provide capital funding needed for improvements to buildings and other facilities;
- Capital Maintenance provided by the DfE to improve and maintain the condition of the school estate;
- High Needs Provisional Capital Allocation provided by the DfE to support the capital requirement for providing new SEND pupil places by expanding / improving existing schools.