

2019/20 - 2021/22 BUDGET INVESTMENT**A COMMUNITY SAFETY****A1 Community Safety Hub - £285,000**

Additional permanent staffing resources for the Community Safety Hub as approved at Cabinet 19/6/18.

A2 Grounds Maintenance - £100,000

This additional investment requirement is a result of continuing demand pressure in the Grounds Maintenance budget, as a result of the income budget for selling services not being realised.

Sub Total for Community Safety**£385,000****B HEALTH & WELLBEING****B1 Housing Benefit/Localised Council Tax Scheme Administration Grant - £90,000**

This Government grant income provides funding support to the Local Authority for the administrative running of the national Housing Benefit and Localised Council Tax Scheme. The Department for Works and Pensions (DWP) announces annually the Local Authority allocations for the above grant. Nationally the total available for distribution for this overall grant has reduced year on year and the consequent reduction in the Council's annual grant for 2019/20 from the DWP is £90,000.

Given the high risks around the recent introduction of Universal Credit and its implications for benefits staffing in dealing with this new process coupled with the need to ensure that housing benefit subsidy is maximised for administrative delay and local authority error it is important that the grant income reduction is addressed by this investment.

B2 Outdoor sports - £100,000

The number of sports clubs renting pitches, paying fees and participating in organised team sports has decreased in successive recent years. National statistics show there is a reduction of 21% in football between 2011 and 2015 alone, which is reflected in the number of leagues and teams now in operation locally. Cricket teams have also suffered year on year reductions. Participation in other physical activities such as running and cycling have grown, but these do not command any income to the Council.

2019/20 - 2021/22 BUDGET INVESTMENT**B3 Golf – £90,000**

Golf is another sport to have suffered considerable loss of participation and subsequent income to the Council. Coupled with increasing competition from private clubs, the Council's income budget has not reflected this shift in consumer behaviour and needs adjusting to align the income budget with actual income.

Sub Total for Health & Wellbeing**£280,000****C CHILDREN & LIFELONG LEARNING**

Members will be aware of the national increase of demand in Children's services over the past 5 years. The Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) and Local Government Association (LGA) have raised this issue with central government that unlike Adults services where the Better Care Fund (BCF), Improved Better Care Fund (iBCF) and the precept has given local authorities additional resources to meet that demand, this has not been forthcoming for children's services. In addition to the increase of need and demand, the raising of the bar in the recent Ofsted Inspection regime means additional resources were required following the 2016 Single Inspection service. As a result a detailed financial review has been undertaken and recommends the following.

C1 Getting it right for Every Child (Demand strategy) for children's services - £1,108,000

Externally commissioned research into need and resources within Children's Services highlighted Southend as having less funding than both the England average and other similar local authorities. A strategy is being developed in conjunction with our transformation programme to ensure we are best placed to meet increased demand in the short term and to ensure appropriate services are in place to reduce demand in the medium to long term. The funding will facilitate the additional social work posts funded temporarily following the Ofsted inspection to be made permanent and additional post to maintain and improve outcomes for children and families. In total there will be an additional 6 to establishment of new qualified social workers to grow our own, 7 additional social worker places (5 of which are in post on temporary basis through the Ofsted improvement) 2.5 additional more senior staff to oversee practice and 2 additional administration

C2 Edge of Care Team - £330,000 (and a further £250,000 annually from 2020/21)

The Edge of Care team has successfully supported children and young people to either remain safely at home or out of care, return home from care, or in a sustained foster placement, thus avoiding high cost residential placements. A detailed review of this service indicates cost savings/avoidance of £1.3m over a year. To ensure continued success this investment will allow us to make all temporary resources permanent.

2019/20 - 2021/22 BUDGET INVESTMENT**C3 Adolescent Team - £275,000**

The development of the Adolescent Team followed the innovated work with vulnerable young people which has strengthened families and improved relationships, enabling children to remain living safely within the family home safely and sustainably. This work was commended in the recent JTAI inspection. To ensure continued success and following the increased identification of young people at risk of exploitation this investment will allow us to make all temporary resources permanent.

C4 Increase fees for foster carers to prevent loss of capacity - £100,000

To keep up with increased living costs and prevent the risk of foster capacity dropping and potentially causing an increase on high cost placements, there is a need to invest in increased foster carer fees. This investment, over and above inflation, also ensures we keep children locally placed and will, alongside the edge of care investment, contribute to savings in external high cost placements for 19/20.

C5 Early years funding - £350,000

As part of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), historically £500K has been transferred between schools and early years (EY) to fund early year's development and training over and above the seven statutory duties it is required to deliver. This has resulted in a very high performance profile for EY in the Borough, which in turn leads to a good start in schools. This funding employs under contract EY professionals, which comes to an end in March 2019. Under the National Funding Formula, this will no longer be possible. An investment request is being made to fill this gap. The risk associated with this gap is if this if we in not getting this funding is that over time, readiness for school and outcomes will diminish.

C6 SEN children costs rising particularly ASD provision - £100,000

Specialist Provision for pupils of mainstream intellectual ability whose Autism prevents them from accessing mainstream school could be placed in mainstream school by the expansion of Autism Resource Bases (ARB)'s. Currently Southend has two ARBs supporting key stage 1 but pupils needing access to such provision in key stage 2-4 do not have that available and are placed often inappropriately in special schools or in expensive independent schools away from their local community. We propose a one off pump priming investment over 2 years to support mainstream schools to support these pupils whilst at the same time reducing costs for schools over the short term. Over the two years of this investment we will support mainstream schools to create a longer term sustainable plan in managing these pupils This cost can also be offset by the cost of placing those pupils in special schools or independent school placements which may mean with rigorous admission criteria there is a minimal revenue cost (or even a saving) to the high needs block by introducing the additional places in ARBs.

2019/20 - 2021/22 BUDGET INVESTMENT**C7 Virtual Schools funding - £75,000**

The Head Teacher of the Virtual School will pull together a request for funding to support the continued improvement and growth in the virtual school. Due to the increase in looked after children numbers this permanent investment is needed to ensure operational matters do not detract from sustained improvement in outcomes and is to recruit a Deputy Head teacher post.

Sub Total for Children and Lifelong Learning**£2,338,000****D ADULT SERVICES****D1 Adult Social Care - £3,362,000**

There continues to be year on year pressures on adult services including demographic (£500k) and transition from Children's to Adults pressures (£400k) as well as National Living Wage (NLW) implications (£1,000k). In addition, further investment will be made to enable the on-going transformation work. This level of investment means that all new resources being made available through the iBCF, social care precept and the ring fenced element of the social care grant are being invested in adult social care. This strategic approach replaces the need for standalone investments to cover NLW, demographic and transition pressures.

Sub Total for Adult Services**£3,362,000****E STAFFING CAPACITY****E1 Customer Service Staffing - £170,000**

To create additional management capacity and a technical/user support team to ensure the ongoing development and take up of "MySouthend". This investment will improve and enhance the customer interface with the Council and will provide evidence and data to assist with service redesign. This investment will be offset by savings detailed in D2 and D3; namely the deletion of the Group Manager post for Bereavement services and other staffing savings that will be realised through the roll out of phase 2 of the channel shift project.

2019/20 - 2021/22 BUDGET INVESTMENT**E2 Corporate Strategy Staffing - £75,000**

Additional staffing around communications and policy/strategy to support/deliver the Southend 2050 ambition, themes and outcomes. Additional capacity and capability particularly around the use of insights (intelligent data), service redesign, user research and outcome based planning will be essential in the next phase of the organisation's development. This investment will ensure that data and intelligence is used consistently across the organisation to inform policy development and service redesign. It will introduce capacity and capability in this area, whilst at the same time maintaining/enhancing the community engagement function. The investment will also strengthen the communications resource and allow for proactive media (including social media) and reputational management.

Sub Total for Staffing Capacity **£245,000**

TOTAL INVESTMENT **£6,610,000**

Summary

Community Safety	385,000
Health & Well Being	280,000
Children & Lifelong Learning	2,338,000
Adult Services	3,362,000
Staffing Capacity	<u>245,000</u>
Total Proposed Investment	<u>£6,610,000</u>