

Annex A - detail of base budget changes by cost centre

	2021/22 budget	Reversal of Contingencies	Pay inflation	One Off Growth	Recurring Growth	2022/23 budget
Assets	(2,156,935)	(208,925)	44,375	0	(184,466)	(2,505,951)
Commissioning Strategy	6,332,921	0	401,655	0	9,150	6,743,726
Communications & Marketing	128,336	0	6,948	0	31,350	166,634
Contracts	1,241,965	(1,505,829)	10,437	0	250	(253,177)
Corporate Finance	1,654,530	(32,500)	64,019	22,500	(10,005)	1,698,544
Corporate Responsibility	1,274,132	0	33,602	(1,383)	(3,900)	1,302,451
Customer Experience	1,003,107	0	67,774	10,340	(60,246)	1,020,975
Development Management	437,213	0	106,507	(100,000)	89,944	533,664
Environmental & Regulatory Services	106,541	0	5,433	0	(15,000)	96,974
Finance	710,724	0	32,220	0	19,167	762,111
Insight & Intelligence	436,441	0	22,949	650,000	39,580	1,148,970
Localities	599,422	0	16,197	0	30,236	645,855
Operational Services	1,056,941	0	93,419	0	61,954	1,212,314
People	279,137	0	14,939	0	(14,500)	279,576
Technology	1,064,477	0	76,048	0	91,040	1,231,565
	14,168,952	(1,747,254)	996,521	581,457	84,554	14,084,230

Assets:

This cost centre covers our commercial properties and our climate change programme. Our Investment Property income has been subject to pressure over the last 18 months but with effective management from the Estates team putting payment plans in place, it is estimated that the Council will recoup the remainder of outstanding rent from 2020/21 by Quarter 2 of 2022/23. The purchase of Carterton Industrial Estate Plot 3 as part of our Recovery Programme, provides the Council with an additional £280,000 of rental income per annum.

Commissioning Strategy:

This budget covers grounds maintenance and waste and contains large parts of the Ubico budget. There has been pressure on the recycling element of the budget due to an increase in the cost of recycling resulting in a £300,000 per annum increase in contract costs for 2022/23 to 2024/25. Work is being carried out to develop a range of options to deliver long term revenue savings from the Waste Service to offset the market volatility of recycle income & disposal costs.

The income budget for Green Waste has been increased by £179,000 in relation to the 2021/22 increase that was not included in the base budget.

The final Ubico budget has yet to be agreed but initial inflation of £383,000 has been included in this first draft of the budget for 2022/23

Communications and Marketing:

Individual Business Managers have input into their marketing spend but work directly with the specialists in the Comms team who bring their expertise to each task and find the most effective and cost efficient way to reach the largest number of people.

Additional Communications Officer posts have been approved to work across all 3 of the Partnership Councils represented as a recurring growth item in the table.

Contracts:

The main item in this budget is the Leisure contract. The expected improvement in budget comes from the reversal of the contingency in the 2021/22 budget offsetting 100% of the Management Fee for the year, shown in the table above. GLL, who have the contract to operate the Leisure Centres are doing their best to return to a profitable operation and in 2022/23 we are anticipating receipt of the full budgeted monthly Management Fee. The monies advanced to them by the Council during the Covid pandemic are expected to be repaid during 2020/21 as agreed.

Corporate Finance:

This section covers centralised services like Legal and Treasury. The significant one off adjustment in the table reflects the reversal of Fixed Term posts brought in to support the Council's Covid response which will expire at the end of the 2021/22 financial year.

A new Project Manager and Project Support Officer have been agreed as permanent posts, shown in the table as recurring growth, to manage the delivery of complex projects which align with Council Priorities. Initially these posts will be funded through Earmarked Reserves.

Corporate Responsibility:

These are central governance costs, members costs, election costs etc. There are no significant growth items for 2022/23.

Customer Experience:

There is a variety of services contained in this area from Customer Services and Front of House to Homelessness. The closure of the Town Centre Shop has resulted in a reduction in staffing costs going forward. There are no other significant changes.

Development Management:

Planning application, appeals, conservation, flood defence and the Growth Board are covered by this budget which has seen a growth in both income and costs. The provision of 2 new career grade Planner posts, funded initially from Earmarked Reserves and an offsetting increase in income have both been included in the base budget. It is hoped that the introduction of career grade posts will improve the level of staff retention in the service and thus reduce the negative impact of both service and budget of regularly losing and recruiting staff.

Environmental and Regulatory Services:

Some small savings have been identified but there are no significant changes to report in this budget.

Finance:

There are no significant changes to report.

Insight and Intelligence:

The main focus of this budget is planning policy. There is a requirement to review the Local Plan which is likely to cost circa £650k. This cost may or may not all be incurred in the 2022/23 financial year but will impact our budget and reserves to the same extent either way. Confirmation is currently being sought as to whether some of the grant funding previously earmarked for the Garden Village could be used to offset this required expenditure.

Localities:

These are the budgets for communities, arts and tourism. There is no significant change in 2022/23.

Operational Services:

This department covers all aspects of benefit payments and revenue collection, including fraud investigation. It also covers Car Parking, Pollution Control, Food Safety and Markets. The growth showing in the table relates to the removal of a vacant Car Parking Enforcement Officer post and the movement in estimated Housing Benefit Subsidy. A review of Offstreet Parking income is currently underway in light of the fact that the service has not bounced back from the impact of Covid.

People:

People covers human resources and training. No significant change to this budget.

Technology:

This budget predominantly covers ICT. There are increases in software licence support & maintenance to reflect the current market rate increases of between 8% and 11%. These rises have been deferred and negotiated down where possible and, as much as we can, we've found or generated savings offset them. The cost of printing is currently significantly lower due to many staff working in an agile manner from home.