

APPENDIX 3 – Current MTFS Guiding Principles

In developing budget proposals, and reviewing budget activity, each Committee must adhere to the current MTFS guiding principles, including the overarching principle that all investment and savings decisions will be aligned to the priorities within the Council Plan:

1. Fees & Charges will be reviewed annually and adjusted for inflation, regulatory guidance, and competitiveness. When setting charges, the impact on vulnerable groups will be considered.
2. Capital decisions will be based upon strong business cases, taking account of invest to save principles where appropriate. Whole life capital financing costs impacting the net revenue position of the Council will be fully considered and reflected in the MTFP.
3. Service level spend will be benchmarked with suitable peer groups and regularly reviewed to ensure the principle of an efficient Council is being achieved.
4. The Council will maximise the opportunities from automation and a policy of 'Digital First' in service delivery.
5. Service reviews will be undertaken Council wide within the timeframe of the MTFS. This will ensure that operating models, organisational design and costs are subject to regular reviews and adjustment.
6. Service development, savings, and investment will be brought forward based on business cases that must demonstrate alignment to the Corporate Plan, feasibility, deliverability and value for money.
7. The Council will consult with stakeholders across the borough in forming budget proposals.
8. The Council will review alternate delivery models and seek joint working and management initiatives with regional and other partners to align to the Wirral Plan.
9. The Council will continually review its Earmarked Reserves for appropriateness and purpose. Unearmarked reserves (sometimes referred to as 'General Balances') will be brought to a level of 5% of net expenditure by 2029/30.
10. Given the challenging financial position of the Council and the need to maintain key statutory services. The Council will seek to maximise receipts from all funding streams, including Council Tax over the period of the MTFS.