

From: Peter Oakford, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance,
Corporate and Traded Services

Zena Cooke, Corporate Director of Finance

To: Cabinet 30th March 2023

Decision No:

Subject: **KCC Share of Retained Business Rates and
Final Local Government Finance Settlement 2023-24**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Summary:

The budget report to County Council on 9th February 2023 (published 1st February 2023) included a reference that County Council's estimated share of retained business rates and business rate collection fund balances was received too late to include in the final report. It was stated that a separate report would be presented to Cabinet setting out the County's share of retained business rates and collection fund.

The attached report sets out the analysis from the Kent district and borough councils' returns which detail the business rates estimates and impact on the County Council's revenue budget.

The budget report presented to County Council also did not include the final local government finance settlement which was published on 6th February 2023. The final settlement included some minor changes from the provisional settlement published on 19th December 2022 and which was used as the basis for government grant allocations in the final draft budget. The attached report includes details of the changes in the final local government settlement.

In total the estimated share of retained business rates and collection fund, and the final local government finance settlement, results in an increase in the available revenue funding for 2023-24 of £4,725.2k.

Recommendations:

a) Cabinet is asked to agree the transfer of £1,067.6k into the local taxation reserve, in line with existing policy on the treatment of collection fund balances.

b) Cabinet is asked to agree that the remaining balance of additional funding of £3,657.6k is used to support core spending in 2023-24 and thereby the drawdown from corporate smoothing reserve required to balance that 2023-24 budget (approved at County Council on 9th February 2023) can be reduced by this amount.

Background Documents

- 1 KCC's Budget webpage
<https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/finance-and-budget/our-budget>
- 2 Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 19th December 2022

[Provisional local government finance settlement: England, 2023 to 2024 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/106822/provisional-local-government-finance-settlement-england-2023-to-2024-2022-19-december-2022.pdf)
- 3 Final Local Government Finance Settlement 6th February 2023

[Final local government finance settlement: England, 2023 to 2024 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/106822/provisional-local-government-finance-settlement-england-2023-to-2024-2022-19-december-2022.pdf)

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