

Appendix 3 -

Policy and Service Committees Minute Extracts

ECONOMY, REGENERATION AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

Monday, 22 January 2024

63 2024-25 BUDGET REPORT UPDATE

The Director of Regeneration and Place presented the report of the Director of Finance. The report gave an update on the budgets within the remit of the Committee in respect of forthcoming pressures and proposed savings that were being considered within the Medium Term Financial Plan. The report noted that the Council had a legal responsibility to set a balanced budget, which sets out how financial resources are to be allocated and utilised. The report highlighted the external challenges impacting the 2024/25 budget setting process and proposed options to address the challenges faced.

Members queried the figures on the budget pressures relating to the Birkenhead Commercial District and whether tenants had been secured for the new office buildings. The Director of Regeneration and Place explained that the budget pressure figure of £2 million was not for void periods and was being utilised for a range of issues relating the completion of the buildings. He noted that marketing had begun for the office buildings and was going well, he stated that a report updating Members would be brought to committee in due course.

Resolved – That

- 1. The indicative pressures and proposed savings detailed in Appendix 1 be noted; and**
- 2. The Budget Workshop feedback and outcomes, as detailed in Appendix 3 be agreed.**

ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 23 January 2024

69 2024-25 BUDGET REPORT UPDATE

The Director of Adults, Health & Strategic Commissioning Services introduced the report of the Director of Finance which provided an update on the budgets within the remit of the Committee in respect of forthcoming pressures and proposed savings that are being considered within the Medium Term Financial Plan. The report also summarised the outcomes of the recent Budget Workshops between Members and senior officers. The workshops enabled officer and Member liaison on proposed budget options, facilitated discussion and allowed direction to be obtained on further

analysis required and provided an opportunity for alternative proposals to be considered.

The Council faced a challenging financial outlook due to inflationary and demand pressures alongside the previous significant reductions in Government funding and uncertainty around the future financial settlements.

Members requested further detail on Shared Lives.

The Social Care precept was also discussed by Members and it was noted that this had been taken into account in the figures in the report. If the precept was not applied the money available for Adult Social Care would be reduced by in excess of £2million.

It was explained to Members that Local Authorities would be expected to absorb any Care Quality Commission (CQC) assessment costs within their settlements. No additional funding had been made available to cover assessment costs.

Resolved – That

1. The indicative pressures and proposed savings detailed in Appendix 1 and 2 be noted.

2. The Budget Workshop feedback and outcomes, as detailed in Appendix 3 be agreed.

TOURISM COMMUNITIES, CULTURE & LEISURE COMMITTEE

Thursday, 25 January 2024

61 2024-25 BUDGET REPORT UPDATE

The Director of Neighbourhood presented the report of the Director of Finance which provided an update on the budgets within the remit of the Committee in respect of forthcoming pressures and proposed savings that are being considered within the Medium-Term Financial Plan. It was also for the Committee to consider feedback and outcomes from the Budget Workshops which had been held. The Policy and Service Committees are responsible for those services being delivered under their operational headings within their annual budget envelope. The Policy and Resources Committee, in consultation with the respective Policy and Service Committees, has been charged by Council to formulate a draft Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and budget to recommend to the Council. The Council was required to set a balanced budget each year and set a Medium-Term Financial Plan which considers the future pressures and savings options that will be taken forward to result in a balanced budget position. The Council faces a challenging financial outlook due to inflationary and demand pressures alongside the previous significant reductions in Government funding and uncertainty around the future financial settlements. It was noted that there were apparent pressures caused by achievement against targets for

some areas of work but the targets themselves have been reconsidered ready for future budget proposals.

Members debated the implications of the proposals.

Resolved - That:

1. The indicative pressures and proposed savings detailed in Appendix 1 and 2 be noted; and

2. the Budget Workshop feedback and outcomes, as detailed in exempt Appendix 3 be agreed.

ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Monday 29 January 2024

69 2024-25 BUDGET REPORT UPDATE

The Director of Neighbourhood Services presented the report of the Director of Finance which provided an update on the budgets within the remit of the Committee in respect of forthcoming pressures and proposed savings considered within the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFS). Budget pressures relating to the Committee were outlined, which primarily related to inflationary increases in the Refuse & Street Cleansing contract, the Waste Levy and Transport Levy. It was reported that there were no specific budget savings within the remit of the Committee within the MTFS as savings had been identified within the Neighbourhoods Directorate within the remit of the Tourism, Communities, Culture & Leisure Committee.

Resolved – That

1. The indicative pressures and proposed savings detailed in Appendix 1 and 2 be noted; and

2. The budget workshop feedback and outcomes, as detailed in appendix 3, be agreed.

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, 01 February 2024

7 2024-25 BUDGET REPORT UPDATE

The Finance Manager presented a report on behalf of the Director of Finance which provided an update on the budgets within the remit of the Committee in respect of forthcoming pressures and proposed savings that were being considered within the

Medium Term Financial Plan. The report noted that the Council had a legal responsibility to set a balanced budget, which set out how financial resources were to be allocated and utilised. The report highlighted the external challenges impacting the 2024/25 budget setting process and proposed options to address the challenges faced.

Resolved – That

- 1. The indicative pressures and proposed savings detailed in Appendix 1 be noted; and**
- 2. The Budget Workshop feedback and outcomes, as detailed in Appendix 3 be agreed.**