

## **Appendix 3 – Policy & Service Committee budget proposals feedback**

### **3A - Policy and Service Committees Minute Extracts**

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#### **ECONOMY, REGENERATION AND HOUSING COMMITTEE**

**Monday 20 January 2025**

#### **Minute 36 - 2025-26 BUDGET REPORT UPDATE**

The Finance Manager (Place) presented the 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.

It was stated that it was also for the Committee to consider feedback and outcomes from the Budget Oversight Panels (BOPs) which had been held in recent months. The Panels enabled officer and member liaison on proposed budget options, to facilitate discussion and allow direction to be obtained on further analysis required. The Panels also provided an opportunity for alternative proposals to be considered.

The Policy and Service Committees were responsible for those services being delivered under their operational headings within their actual budget envelope. The Policy and Resources Committee, in consultation with the respective Policy and Service Committees, had 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 considered the future pressures and savings options that would be taken forward to result in a balanced budget position.

It was reported that the Council faced a severe budget challenge to identify savings required to set a balanced budget for next financial year, largely due to increased demand and costs for social care services, compounded by the previous significant reductions in Government funding and uncertainty around the future financial settlements.

Unless significant, deliverable cost reductions were identified and approved, the Council would not meet its statutory obligation to set a legal and balanced budget without a significant increase in funding.

The Chair noted that Members wished to discuss the content of the exempt appendices relating to the report. Therefore, on a motion by the Chair, seconded by Councillor George Davies, it was –

**Resolved: That, under section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt**

**information as defined by paragraphs 3 and 4 of Part I of Schedule 12A (as amended) to that Act. The Public Interest test had been applied and favoured exclusion.**

During the discussion of exempt appendix three, Members raised their concerns about the effects that savings proposal 7 of the January Budget Oversight Panel would have on service delivery and questioned whether the savings would be offset by the loss on income that taking this option might cause.

### **Resolved – That**

- 1. The indicative pressures and proposed savings detailed in Appendices 1 and 2 be noted; and**
  - 2. The Budget Oversight Panel feedback and outcomes, as detailed in Appendix 3 be agreed.**
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## **ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday 21 January 2025**

### **Minute 57 – 2025-26 BUDGET UPDATE**

The Head of Finance – People introduced the report of the Director of Finance which provided an update on the budgets within the remit of the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee in respect of forthcoming pressures and proposed savings that were being considered within the Medium-Term Financial Plan.

It was also for the Committee to consider feedback and outcomes from the Budget Oversight Panels (BOPs) which had been held in recent months. The Panels enabled officer and member liaison on proposed budget options, to facilitate discussion and allow direction to be obtained on further analysis required.

The Panels also provided an opportunity for alternative proposals to be considered. The Policy and Service Committees were 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, had 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 considered the future pressures and savings reforms that would be taken forward to result in a balanced budget position.

It was reported that the Council was facing a severe budget challenge to identify savings required to set a balanced budget for the next financial year, largely due to increased demand and costs for social care services, compounded by the previous significant reductions in Government funding and uncertainty around the future financial settlements.

Unless significant, deliverable cost reductions were identified and approved, the Council would not meet its statutory obligation to set a legal and balanced budget without a significant increase in funding.

The Chair noted that Members wished to discuss the content of the exempt appendices relating to the report. Therefore, on a motion by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Mary Jordan, it was –

**Resolved - That under section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by paragraphs 3 and 4 of Part I of Schedule 12A (as amended) to that Act. The Public Interest test had been applied and favoured exclusion.**

Members considered the exempt Appendix 3 and agreed the outcomes as detailed in Appendix 3.

**Resolved – That**

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

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## **CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday 22 January 2025**

### **Minute - 2025-26 BUDGET UPDATE**

The Head of Finance (People) presented the 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.

It was stated that it was also for the Committee to consider feedback and outcomes from the Budget Oversight Panels (BOPs) which had been held in recent months. The Panels enabled officer and member liaison on proposed budget options, to facilitate discussion and allow direction to be obtained on further analysis required. The Panels also provided an opportunity for alternative proposals to be considered.

The Policy and Service Committees were responsible for those services being delivered under their operational headings within their actual budget envelope. The Policy and Resources Committee, in consultation with the respective Policy and

Service Committees, had 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 considered the future pressures and savings options that would be taken forward to result in a balanced budget position.

It was reported that the Council faced a severe budget challenge to identify savings required to set a balanced budget for next financial year, largely due to increased demand and costs for social care services, compounded by the previous significant reductions in Government funding and uncertainty around the future financial settlements.

Unless significant, deliverable cost reductions were identified and approved, the Council would not meet its statutory obligation to set a legal and balanced budget without a significant increase in funding.

The Chair noted that Members wished to discuss the content of the exempt appendices relating to the report. Therefore, on a motion by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Paula Basnett, it was –

**Resolved: That, under section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by paragraphs 3 and 4 of Part I of Schedule 12A (as amended) to that Act. The Public Interest test had been applied and favoured exclusion.**

Members discussed the content of the exempt appendices.

**Resolved – That**

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

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**TOURISM, COMMUNITIES, CULTURE & LEISURE COMMITTEE**

**Thursday 23 January 2025**

**Minute 72 - 2025-26 BUDGET REPORT UPDATE**

The Head of Finance (Place) introduced the 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.

It was also for the Committee to consider feedback and outcomes from the Budget Oversight Panels (BOPs) which had been held in recent months. The Panels enabled officer and member liaison on proposed budget options, to facilitate discussion and allow direction to be obtained on further analysis required. The Panels also provided an opportunity for alternative proposals to be considered.

It was stated that it was also for the Committee to consider feedback and outcomes from the Budget Oversight Panels (BOPs) which had been held in recent months. The Panels enabled officer and member liaison on proposed budget options, to facilitate discussion and allow direction to be obtained on further analysis required. The Panels also provided an opportunity for alternative proposals to be considered.

The Policy and Service Committees were responsible for those services being delivered under their operational headings within their actual budget envelope. The Policy and Resources Committee, in consultation with the respective Policy and Service Committees, had 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 considered the future pressures and savings options that would be taken forward to result in a balanced budget position.

It was reported that the Council faced a severe budget challenge to identify savings required to set a balanced budget for next financial year, largely due to increased demand and costs for social care services, compounded by the previous significant reductions in Government funding and uncertainty around the future financial settlements.

Unless significant, deliverable cost reductions were identified and approved, the Council would not meet its statutory obligation to set a legal and balanced budget without a significant increase in funding.

The Head of Finance informed members that, following discussions with officers, an alternative second recommendation was being proposed. This was to delegate authority to a final Committee Budget Oversight Panel, to consider and agree any amendments to the proposals as set out in Appendix 3, and for the Budget Oversight Panel to agree the final outcomes and feedback to be presented to the Policy and Resources Committee.

Members discussed the content of the exempt appendices.

### **Resolved – That**

- 1. The indicative pressures and proposed savings detailed in Appendices 1 and 2 be noted; and**
  - 2. The Committee's Budget Oversight Panel be delegated authority to consider and agree any amendments to the proposals, as set out in Appendix 3, and agree the final feedback and outcomes to be reported to Policy and Resources Committee.**
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## **ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

**Monday 27 January 2025**

### **Minute 56 - 2025-26 BUDGET REPORT UPDATE**

The Head of Finance – Place 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 requested the Committee consider feedback and outcomes from the Budget Oversight Panels (BOPs) which have been held in recent months. The Panels enabled officer and member liaison on proposed budget options, to facilitate discussion and allow direction to be obtained on further analysis required. The Panels also provided an opportunity for alternative proposals to be considered.

The Council was required to set a balanced budget each year and set a Medium-Term Financial Plan which considered the future pressures and savings options that would be taken forward to result in a balanced budget position.

The Council faced a severe budget challenge to identify savings required to set a balanced budget for next financial year, largely due to increased demand and costs for social care services, compounded by the previous significant reductions in Government funding and uncertainty around the future financial settlements. Unless significant, deliverable cost reductions were identified and approved, the Council would not meet its statutory obligation to set a legal and balanced budget without a significant increase in funding.

The Chair noted that Members wished to discuss the content of the exempt appendices relating to the report. Therefore, on a motion by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Steve Foulkes, it was –

**Resolved: That, under section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by paragraphs 3 and 4 of Part I of Schedule 12A (as amended) to that Act. The Public Interest test had been applied and favoured exclusion.**

During the discussion of exempt appendix three, Members also discussed a risk matrix that had been shared with Committee which detailed some amendments to the proposals brought to the Budget Oversight Panel on 20 January 2025. Members raised concerns about the effects that savings proposal 1 on the risk matrix may have on service delivery and resident safety but received assurances from the Assistant Director.

**Resolved – That**

- 1. The indicative pressures and proposed savings detailed in Appendices 1 and 2 be noted; and**

- 2. the budget oversight panel feedback and outcomes as detailed in the risk matrix and amended at Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee on 27 January 2025 be agreed.**