

RESOURCES AND PERFORMANCE SELECT COMMITTEE



DATE: 21 January 2021

DEPUTY CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES UPDATE

Purpose of report:

To share details of the Cabinet Member's priority areas of work including strategy and policy developments and provide an overview of the budget position and performance of services within his/her portfolio.

Introduction:

1. This report updates the Committee on ongoing work in areas within the Finance portfolio.

What does the Cabinet Member expect to achieve in 2020/21?

Cash impact:

Given the continuing pandemic situation the overarching focus is on cash management and the impact on maintaining 20/21 budgeted position. Building on SCC response to Covid-19 throughout the year we are rapidly assessing the impact of the new lockdown within directorates, the resulting impact on any outstanding efficiency saving programmes and the 20/21 yearend. Specific activities include:

2. Ongoing focus on delivering the 20/21 yearend within budget. Areas of concern continue to be Adult Social Care, Children's Social Care and Waste and are monitored through the monthly directorate budget monitoring meetings. Plans formulated to close any gaps.
3. Monitoring of the impact of lockdown January 2021 on directorate budgets and the resulting impact on FY20/21 close and opening budget 21/22.
4. Monitoring of cash flow – focus on ASC debt (provision/write offs) and Council Tax/Business Rate recovery (Base rates, collection fund deficit, government relief grants).

5. Monitoring of Transformation Programme; Review of programme delivery 2018 to date and scrutiny of renewed program 21-25. Monthly deep dives through the Transformation Board supplemented by detailed finance meetings. Value for money; funding model; progress.
6. Monitoring of Capital Programme and impact of non-delivery on future budgets.
7. Finalisation of 21/22 revenue and capital budget and approval at Full Council 9th February 2021.
8. Monitoring of the revised Internal Audit Assurance programme; follow up on “requiring improvement”.
9. Monthly monitoring of procurement activity.

Finance is the enabler for delivery of services across the Council, however within Finance BAU service delivery is aligned where relevant to the Council’s corporate priorities of Empowering Communities, Enabling a Greener Future, Tackling Health Inequalities and Growing a Sustainable Economy so Everyone Can Benefit. Commencing Q4 20/21, Procurement are undertaking a modernisation review which will be centered around the 4 priorities outlined above.

Non-cash impact:

In anticipation of the Council’s yearend work will be done to understand the impact of Covid-19 on asset valuations.

Conclusions:

10. The 20/21 financial position requires continual monitoring in order to respond to the ongoing pressures of Covid-19 and the unknown impact of the January 2021 lockdown. Careful management is required to deliver the 20/21 yearend within budget.

Recommendations:

1. The Committee reviews the information contained in this update and offers feedback to the Cabinet Member.
2. The Select Committee considers where it may add value to the Cabinet Member’s work through scrutiny and scopes topics as required.

Next steps:

The Cabinet Member(s) to return with a further update at a future formal meeting of the Committee.

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Sources/background papers: None.

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