

Scrutiny Recommendations: Stage 1

Committee	Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Conclusion	Recommendation	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead
Scrutiny & Overview Committee	16 February 2021	Budget 2021-22	The Committee agreed that it was hopeful the budget could be delivered, following reassurance given on both the robustness of the development process and the achievability of the budget itself. However, given that similar assurances had been provided in previous years, which in hindsight had been optimistic at best, there remained serious concerns that could only be allayed through the actual delivery of the budget.			
Scrutiny & Overview Committee	16 February 2021	Budget 2021-22	The Section 25 statement from the interim Section 151 Officer, which confirmed that the budget was sound, as long as there was a political will to deliver it, was accepted by the Committee.			
Scrutiny & Overview Committee	16 February 2021	Budget 2021-22	The Committee agreed there should be a certain amount of confidence in the estimation of the growth items included in the budget, given that these had been reviewed by external organisations and were based on worst case scenarios.			

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Scrutiny & Overview Committee	16 February 2021	Budget 2021-22	The priority for the Council to live within its means, while protecting the most vulnerable residents in the borough, was supported by the Committee.			
Scrutiny & Overview Committee	16 February 2021	Budget 2021-22	There was concern about the deliverability of the Adults and Children's Social Care budgets, particularly the savings which targeted a reduction in the number adults and children in the care system. To ensure that there was not an adverse impact, it was agreed that the budget and performance of these services would be regularly monitored by their respective Scrutiny Sub-Committees.	That regular monitoring reports on the budget and performance of Children and Adults Social Care is scheduled for meetings of the relevant Scrutiny Sub-Committees throughout 2021-22.	Janet Campbell & Alisa Flemming	Debbie Jones & Annette McPartland
Scrutiny & Overview Committee	16 February 2021	Budget 2021-22	As the delivery of the budget was predicated on changing the culture with the Council toward finance control, it was questioned how it could be demonstrated to the Committee that these cultural changes were being embedded across the organisation.	That performance indicators are created which allow the Scrutiny and Overview Committee, and the wider political and corporate leadership, to monitor the effectiveness of the work to implement cultural change across the Council in regard of financial monitoring and controls.	Hamida Ali, Stuart King & Callton Young	Katherine Kerswell

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Scrutiny & Overview Committee	16 February 2021	Budget 2021-22	It was agreed that there should be Member oversight of the potential risks arising from the savings programme, to ensure there could be confidence that these were being managed appropriately and mitigation identified as needed. Given that risk sat within the remit of the General Purposes and Audit Committee, it would be appropriate for them to receive regular updates on the risks associated with the delivery of the budget.	That the General Purposes and Audit Committee received regular reports on the risks identified in the budget, to provide reassurance that these were being managed effectively.	Callton Young	Chris Buss
Scrutiny & Overview Committee	16 February 2021	Budget 2021-22	There remained concern that there could be potential, unforeseen consequences arising as a result of the savings programme and further reassurance was required to confirm how these would be picked up through the corporate monitoring process.	That an update be provided to the Members of the Scrutiny & Overview Committee to confirm how corporate monitoring of the budget will enable potential, unforeseen consequences arising from the savings programme to be identified at an early stage.	Stuart King & Callton Young	Chris Buss
Scrutiny & Overview Committee	16 February 2021	Budget 2021-22	There was a concern about the potential impact upon the workload of Council staff, which would need to be monitored corporately.			

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Scrutiny & Overview Committee	16 February 2021	Budget 2021-22	It was agreed that there was an onus on all Councillors to ensure the budget was delivered and the right level of challenge was provided. Councillors also needed to accept that some service areas would be reduced from their current level.			
Scrutiny & Overview Committee	16 February 2021	Budget 2021-22	Although the Committee accepted the reassurance that the budget outcome for the remainder of 2020-21 was reasonably certain, it was agreed that should there be any major alterations to the budget going forward over the life of the Medium Term Financial Strategy, it should be reported to the Committee.	That timely updates are provided to the Scrutiny & Overview Committee on any major alterations to the Council's in-year budget over the life of the Medium Term Financial Strategy.	Stuart King & Callton Young	Chris Buss