

Summary of comments from the Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committee on 31 January 2022

- The Committee raised a number of detailed comments and questions which were answered by the relevant Cabinet Members and officers. These will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
- The Committee welcomed the work of both officers and Cabinet in producing a balanced budget for 2022/23 and thanked officers for this.
- The Committee supported the direction of travel being set in the budget and felt that the rise in Council Tax was justified. The Committee noted the financial strength of the Council but recognised the challenges ahead.
- The Committee recognised that there are significant risks identified for the year ahead but is currently satisfied with the level of reserves and contingencies to identify and deal with any issues that may arise.
- The Committee also recognised the financial pressures to be faced in future years and supported any savings proposals and budget implications being brought to scrutiny committees and Member Briefings as early as possible to enable member input.
- The Committee supported the continued lobbying of the Government to ensure the needs of residents can continue to be met in future budgets in order to match service demand and supply. It also supported lobbying in terms of longer-term funding settlements in future to enable long-term planning to take place.
- The Committee welcomed the opportunity to continually monitor the performance and financial position of the Council on a quarterly basis through review of the Performance and Resources report by the scrutiny committees in 2022/23.