
Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committee

20 January 2021

Summary of comments from the Budget Member Day held on 14 January 2021

Summary

A presentation was given to Members which outlined the overall budget position followed by details for each portfolio area.

Questions and comments raised by Members included:-

- Reiterated the need to reinforce to Government the financial difficulties being faced by the Council and the need to fully understand the cost implications of the COVID pandemic.
- Need to consider how the Council utilises its assets and resources to make better use of buildings, particularly in relation to new ways of working following COVID and population growth needs. The advantages of linking services provided to different generations should be considered. Need to think about the longer-term requirements rather than purely the short-term gains.
- Considerations in relation to how the Council works with communities and partners to provide most effective service.

There were also a number of specific questions that were answered by Cabinet Members and officers in relation to:-

- The implications of the proposed Council Tax increase and how the 3% increase for Adult Social Care would be used/manged ie is it ring-fenced for specific services within Adult Services.
- Clarification on the proposed savings outlined in November 2020 not being taken forwards.
- The Business as Usual reductions outlined in the Adult and Health Services portfolio area.
- Green Technology and the benefits to be achieved.
- The planned investments deferred within the Fire and Rescue Services budget.
- The growth effect of population and complexity of need on the Council's resources.
- Delay to the decision around the future of County Local Committees.

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