

Summary of comments from the Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committee 20 January 2021

The Revenue Budget 2020/21, Capital Strategy 2021/22 to 2025/26 and Treasury Management Statement 2021/22 were presented to the committee to review and make any comments for Cabinet to consider ahead of agreeing the budget to be approved at County Council in February.

The committee recognised the exceptional circumstances and challenges in setting a balanced budget this year and supported the continued lobbying and challenge to central Government for additional funding. This is particularly relevant for Adult Social Care funding and the Public Health Grant.

The committee also recognised the considerable number of external risks which could impact on the budget going forwards through the year.

A number of detailed comments and questions were made which will be included within the Minutes of the meeting. The attendance of Cabinet Members at the meeting was welcomed as this resulted in questions being largely answered during the meeting.

Particular concerns raised by the committee included the savings proposals included within the budget papers in relation to the Early Help redesign.

In relation to the Capital Strategy and Programme the committee commented that the Council's property portfolio could be better utilised, particularly in relation to the number of surplus assets.

Cllr Joy Dennis

Chairman of Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committee

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