

Wiltshire Council

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

26 September 2023

Financial Planning Task Group Update

Financial Year 2023/24 - Quarter One Capital Budget Monitoring

Purpose

1. To update Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on the discussions of the Financial Planning Task Group on 8 September 2023 regarding the Financial Year 2023/24 - Quarter One Capital Budget Monitoring.

Background

2. The Financial Planning Task Group (FPTG) is a standing task group reporting to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.

Membership

3. The membership of the task group is as follows:

Cllr Gavin Grant (Vice-chairman)
Cllr Gordon King
Cllr Charles McGrath
Cllr Pip Ridout (Chairman)
Cllr Ian Thorn

Terms of Reference:

4. The terms of reference of the task group are:
 - a) To review the council's draft Financial Plan, Medium-Term Financial Strategy (4-year financial model) and Treasury Management Strategy, reporting its findings to OS Management Committee.
 - b) To undertake regular monitoring of the council's capital and revenue budgets (including the delivery of savings), ensuring that mid-year trends and developments are considered when the council's Financial Plan is updated.
 - c) To undertake ongoing review of the council's financial position, including the monitoring of reserves, investments, debt, and financial risks.

- d) Where they materially affect the council's overall financial position, to consider the council's:
 - i. approach to strategic procurement
 - ii. major contracts
 - iii. financial investment in, and liability to, its wholly owned subsidiaries.
- e) To help develop the council's approach to the annual budget setting cycle, including the specific contribution of Overview and Scrutiny.
- f) To bring regular reports to OS Management Committee, highlighting key financial developments and risks for further discussion.

Financial Year 2023/24 - Quarter One Capital Budget Monitoring

The Task Group met on 8 September 2023 to discuss the reports going to Cabinet on 12 September 2023, also present were:

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| Cllr Nick Botterill | Cabinet Member for Finance, Development Management and Strategic Planning |
| Cllr Rich Rogers | Portfolio Holder for Contracts Procurement and Commissioning |
| Andy Brown | Corporate Director Resources & Deputy Chief Executive (S151 Officer) |
| Lizzie Watkin | Director Finance |
| Sarah Rose | Head of Finance Adults & Health |

Observing:

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|---------------------|--|
| Cllr Graham Wright | Chairman, OS Management Committee |
| Cllr Chris Williams | Vice-Chairman, OS Management Committee |
| Cllr Jerry Kunkler | Chairman, Environment Select Committee |

Treasury Management Outturn Report 2022/23

| Issue (Page and paragraphs numbers refer to the reports) | Further information / Comments |
|---|---|
| Spending profile (para 11) | The council spent 14%, up to June, of the revised annual capital programme (it was profiled to be 20%). This is still low in terms of spend. Capital spend has its own issues as it is project driven with milestones on works, any delays cause issues for the profile. There is still some way before the budget is profiled in great detail. There are a number of issues for why the spend is low. For example, highways spend is low, possibly due to billing issues, but they are confident that by Q2 it will be on track. |

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| Stone Circle (para 12) | When Stone Circle was set up, it was envisaged it would repay its loans over 50years. The current Stone Circle business plan now means the repayment is beyond that 50 year time scale. When interest rates are lower, then the loan repayment may come back under the 50 year timeframe. |
| Trowbridge Leisure Centre (para 83) | The total £25m approved for the programme was funded via debt. The council can though apply Community Infrastructure Levy (CiL) funding as the leisure centre is on the infrastructure list. Therefore £10m CiL has been allocated to the programme. The overall cost has not been increased but now £10m of the original leisure centre borrowing has been re-allocated into highways investment. |
| Reprofiling (Appendix D) | Reprofiling means that projects can be moved – back and forward. This does not mean that the projects are dropped, there is still a commitment to deliver as the spend has been approved by Cabinet and Full Council. |

Cllr Pip Ridout, Chairman of the Financial Planning Task Group

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