

Wiltshire Council

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

28 September 2022

Financial Planning Task Group Update

Financial Year 2022/23 - Quarter 1 – Capital Budget Monitoring

Purpose

1. To update Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on the discussions of the Financial Planning Task Group on 26 September 2022 regarding Financial Year 2022/23 Quarter 1 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 George Jeans
Cllr Gordon King
Cllr Charles McGrath
Cllr Bill Parks
Cllr Pip Ridout (Chairman)
Cllr Elizabeth Threlfall

Terms of Reference:

4. As agreed at the Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC) on 19 May 2022 the terms of reference of the task group have been amended to clarify its responsibilities regarding financial risk, savings, capital budgets and reserves.
 1. 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.
 2. 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.
 3. To undertake ongoing review of the council's financial position, including the monitoring of reserves, investments, debt, and financial risks.

4. 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.
5. To help develop the council's approach to the annual budget setting cycle, including the specific contribution of Overview and Scrutiny.
6. To bring regular reports to OS Management Committee, highlighting key financial developments and risks for further discussion.

Quarter 1 – Capital Budget Monitoring

The Task Group met on 26 September 2022 to discuss the reports going to Cabinet on 27 September 2022, also present were:

Cllr Nick Botterill	Cabinet Member for Finance, Development Management and Strategic Planning
Lizzie Watkin	Assistant Director Finance

Observing:

Cllr Graham Wright	Chairman, OS Management Committee
Cllr Chris Williams	Vice-Chairman, OS Management Committee

Quarter 1 – Capital Budget Monitoring

Issue (Page and paragraphs numbers refer to the reports)	Further information / Comments
Overprogramming of capital spend (General)	There is continued overprogramming of capital spend in the financial year (£307.115m in the original budget 2022/23; £269.427m as of 30 June 2022). Capital spend is a challenge to schedule correctly. Inflation will be a significant issue for any future capital expenditure. The process of identifying deliverable projects within given timescales is being improved.

Cllr Gavin Grant, Vice-Chairman of the Financial Planning Task Group

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