

Wiltshire Council

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

16 November 2021

Financial Planning Task Group Update

Purpose

1. To update Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on the work of the Financial Planning Task Group since September 2021.

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-chair)
Cllr George Jeans
Cllr Gordon King
Cllr Charles McGrath
Cllr Bill Parks
Cllr Pip Ridout (Chair)
Cllr Elizabeth Threlfall
Cllr Derek Walters

Terms of Reference:

4. The task group's terms of reference are below:
 1. To review the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (4-year financial model);
 2. To review the approach and robustness of the council's capital, debt and revenue financial planning regime;
 3. To help develop the approach to the annual budget setting cycle;
 4. To review the specific contribution of overview and scrutiny in the annual budget setting cycle with a focus upon outcomes;
 5. To undertake periodic budget monitoring including reviews of key midyear trends and developments and to ensure that these are considered when updating the Financial Plan;
 6. To, where it materially affects the council's overall financial position, to consider the council's:
 - a) approach to strategic procurement

- b) major or financially significant contracts
 - c) financial investment in, and liability to, its wholly owned subsidiaries
7. To work under the direction and guidance of the Management Committee and report regularly to the Cabinet Member, Management Committee and select committees (as appropriate) on its work and findings and to make any necessary referrals.

Recent activity

20 September 2021

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee Forward Work Planning Meeting with the Executive – Finance & Procurement, Commissioning, Commercialisation

5. The Chairman and vice-chairman of the Financial Planning Task Group attended the OSMC meeting with the Executive. The FPTG forward work plan was slightly amended and presented to the task group on 8 October.

8 October 2021

Forward work plan 2021/22

6. The task group reviewed its forward work plan focusing upon the run up to the publication of the council's new budget in January 2022. The forward work plan is set out in Appendix 1.
7. The task group considered the Cabinet's forward work plan (Oct 2021 to January 2022) to identify any relevant items for review. This was helpful as major contracts will now come forward individually to be considered on their own merits.
8. A number of major contracts are going to Cabinet for discussion and the task group agreed that due to the cross-cutting nature of these reports it will ensure that scrutiny of them is joined up. Therefore, task group members will attend briefings for contracts and programmes that are significant along with the relevant select committee chairman and vice-chairman. In order to develop the knowledge of members of the task group it will not always be the chairman and/or vice-chairman attending.
9. The task groups terms of reference refer to '*major or financially significant contract*' (terms of reference 6b). The task group has agreed to define this more clearly in order to help prioritise its time.

Proposals

- 1. To note the update on Financial Planning Task Group activity provided.**
- 2. To note the task group's forward work plan, Appendix 1.**

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Forward Work Programme – Financial Planning Task Group – Oct 2021

Date	Item	Details	Officers	Members
7 January 2022	Stone Circle business plan (tbc) New Term Highways Maintenance Contract (>£1m annual)		Andy Brown	Cllr Pauline Church
26 January 2022	Final Financial Plan 2022-23 (tbc)		Andy Brown	Cllr Pauline Church
March 2022 (tbc)	tbc		Andy Brown	Cllr Pauline Church