

CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Thursday, 14 th October 2021
Report Subject	Medium Term Financial Strategy / Budget 2022/23 – Stage 2 -Overview & Scrutiny Responses
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Finance, Procurement and Social Value
Report Author	Corporate Finance Manager, Chief Executive and Head of Democratic Services
Type of Report	Strategic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the Cabinet meeting on 13th July, a report on the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Budget 2022/23 was considered. This was the first stage of developing our budget for 2022/23. It explained that during September and October, the Overview & Scrutiny Committees would be reviewing the costs pressures, and the opportunities for cost control and efficiency under their respective terms of reference.

As shown in the report below, this sequence of consultation commenced with this committee, to consider corporate services on 16th September. Consultation ends with this meeting.

By carrying out this budget consultation, the Cabinet is fulfilling its constitutional requirements.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That the Committee considers the result of consultation on the 2022/2023 budget proposals from the Overview & Scrutiny function and responds to the Cabinet accordingly.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY RESPONSES TO BUDGET CONSULTATION		
1.01	At the Cabinet meeting on 13 th July, a report on the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Budget 2022/23 was considered. This was the first stage of developing our budget for 2022/23. It explained that during September and October, the Overview & Scrutiny Committees would be reviewing the costs pressures, and the opportunities for cost control and efficiency under their respective terms of reference.		
1.02	<p>During each of the consultation items, Members were reminded of the announcement on 7th September 2021) that, from April 2022, a new health and social care tax would be introduced across the UK to fund reforms to the care sector and NHS funding in England. The tax would begin as a 1.25% increase in National Insurance paid by employees, the self-employed and by employers. The Chief Executive commented on the direct and indirect impacts for the council: Direct impacts on the Council; indirect would be on our partners/contractors which will fuel fee and contract inflation.</p> <p>It was emphasised that there would be 'consequential' payments to the Welsh Government as a result of this decision. However, as a major employer, it would also have a significant impact on the council's budget.</p>		
1.03	Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Meeting date	Resolutions
	Corporate Resources – Corporate Services review	16/09/21	<p>That the Committee:</p> <p>(a) Notes the report and supports the approach for the individual Overview & Scrutiny Committees;</p> <p>b) Accepts the Corporate Services and Corporate Financing cost pressures; and</p> <p>(c) Advises that there are no areas of cost efficiencies which it believes should be explored further.</p>
	Education, Youth & Culture	16/09/21	<p>(a) That the Committee supports the Education and Youth Portfolio cost pressures;</p> <p>(b) That no further cost efficiency areas be proposed by the Committee to be explored further; and</p>

				(c) That further information on how the proposed £1M Investment in Delegated School Budgets is disseminated to Schools be provided to the Committee.
		Social & Health	30/09/21	<p>(a) That the Committee supports the Social Services portfolio cost pressures</p> <p>(b) That there are no further cost efficiency areas identified by the Committee to be explored further</p> <p>(c) That the Committee's concerns around the unknown areas, including the arrangements going forward for services currently supported by the Integrated Care Fund and increases in National Insurance contributions be fed back to the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee.</p>
		Environment & Economy	12/10/21	The response of this committee will be reported verbally: it met after this agenda was published.
		Community, Housing & Assets	13/10/21	The response of this committee will be reported verbally: it met after this agenda was published.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	None anticipated.

3.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
3.01	Not applicable

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/ CARRIED OUT
4.01	None

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	None

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	None at this juncture.

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	Contact Officer: Robert Robins, Head of Democratic Services Telephone: 01352 702320 E-mail: robert.robins@flintshire.gov.uk

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	None