

**COUNCIL**  
**14 JULY 2022**

## **REPORT OF CABINET - SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN**

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### **Worcestershire Adults Safeguarding Board Annual Report 2020/21**

1. Professor Keith Brown, the Independent Chair of the Adults Safeguarding Board, attended the Cabinet meeting and presented the Board's annual report for 2020/21.
2. Areas discussed included exploitation and self-neglect. Joint working across various public bodies in tackling these issues was welcomed. The difficulties being experienced in recruitment of carers were also referred to.
3. Overall the report was positive and the efforts of all involved in developing and demonstrating good practice was acknowledged at the meeting.

### **Resources Report – Provisional Financial Results 2021-22**

4. Cabinet has endorsed the Council's financial performance for the year ended 31 March 2022 and the unaudited Annual Financial Report and Statement of Accounts 2021/22. It has also approved transfers to increase Earmarked reserves and general balances and considered the draft Annual Governance Statement for 2021/22. Final approval of the Governance Statement will be sought from the Audit and Governance Committee.
5. The Council delivered a small underspend of £1.336 million on its net £352.5 million budget, that is a -0.4% variance. In addition to the net base budget the Council had £70.4 million of COVID related grant income available to use in 2021/22; (£46.9 million received in 2021/22 and £23.5 million brought forward from 2020/21). The majority of these grants were awarded for specific purposes and those relating to Adult Social Care allocated directly to providers. The £1.336 million underspend will be added to increase the General Fund Balances.
6. The outturn position for 2021/22 has enabled a modest increase in General Fund Balances to be made in addition to what was anticipated earlier in February this year. This enables continued strengthening of the Council's overall financial resilience.
7. £70.4 million of COVID related grant income was available for use in 2021/22. All COVID grant funding has been spent in line with grant conditions in 2021/22 with £17.9 million in respect of General COVID grant, Clinically Extremely Vulnerable, Containment Outbreak Management Fund and Home to School Transport to be carried forward to be used in 2022/23.

## **Local Government Ombudsman Report**

8. Cabinet has considered a report from the Local Government Ombudsman following a complaint that the County Council took too long to put in place a direct payment for an individual's care. The complainant said this caused her distress and meant she did not receive appropriate care. The Ombudsman found fault causing injustice and made recommendations

9. Since receipt of the report the Council has implemented remedies proposed by the LGO, including apologising to the complainant and paying her £3,000 in recognition of the disruption, inconvenience and distress caused by not having care.

10. The Council has also commissioned a new provider to administer direct payments, and response times following referral average 2/3 days for new recipients.

## **Household Support Fund**

11. Cabinet has considered a report summarising how funding received since 2020, initially through the Winter Grant and Local Support Grant and subsequently through the Household Support Fund, has been used.

12. Cabinet has also considered the proposed use of the additional funds between now and the end of September that will ensure this is targeted to residents in need of support and in line with the Government guidance.

13. Cabinet has endorsed the proposed allocation of the £3.95m that Worcestershire will receive from the new Household Support Fund in 2022/23 which is in line with government guidance and modelled around local understanding of need across different categories, informed by local intelligence and previous delivery of the funds. Funding will only be used for schemes that are free to residents.

14. Cabinet has also delegated the implementation of the delivery of the Household Support Fund, including the allocation of any extension to the grant within the terms applicable to it, to the Strategic Director of People in consultation with the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Communities and in liaison with the Chief Financial Officer.

## **Contact Points**

### Specific Contact Points for this report

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## **Background Papers**

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Assistant Director for Legal and Governance) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

Agenda and background papers for the meetings of the Cabinet held on 26 May and 1 July: [Browse meetings - Cabinet - Worcestershire County Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](https://www.moderngov.co.uk/Browse-meetings-Cabinet-Worcestershire-County-Council)