

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

17 JANUARY 2023

BUDGET SCRUTINY 2023/24

Summary

1. The Panel will consider the draft Budget for 2023/24 for the areas within its remit relating to Children and Families including Children's Social Care, Education and Special Educational Needs (SEND).
2. The Cabinet Members with Responsibility for Children & Families and Education, the Director of Children's Services (Chief Executive, Worcestershire Children First), the Director of Resources (Worcestershire Children First) and the County Council's Chief Financial Officer (S151) have been invited to the meeting.

Background

3. Members of the Panel are reminded that they have had the benefit of quarterly performance and financial monitoring throughout the year as part of the Scrutiny Panels' role in maintaining oversight of service provision, identifying trends, budget pressures and challenges.
4. In addition, the Leader and Chief Executive of the County Council attended the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board (OSPB) on 7 December to discuss the new and emerging pressures for the Council likely to impact on the 2023/24 budget and medium-term financial plan, following the autumn statement.

Budget Scrutiny 2023/24

5. As part of the Budget Scrutiny process for 2023/24, the Director of Children's Services has been asked to identify the main messages from the draft 2023/24 Budget for areas within the remit of the Panel and these are set out in Appendix 1.
6. The draft Council Budget 2023/24 was presented to Cabinet on 5 January 2023 and is also available to the Panel at Appendix 2.
7. The Panel's discussions on the draft Council Budget 2023/24 will be reported to the OSPB on 30 January 2023, when the Board will formulate its comments to Cabinet for its meeting on 2 February 2023.

Purpose of the meeting

8. Following discussion of the information provided, the Panel is asked to determine any comments on the draft 2023/24 Budget for the Chairman to report back to the OSPB at its meeting on 30 January 2023.

Supporting Information

Appendix 1 - Main messages from draft 2023/24 Budget for areas within the remit of the Panel (presentation slides)

Appendix 2 - Draft 2023/24 Budget discussed by Cabinet on 5 January 2023
[Agenda for Cabinet on Thursday, 5th January, 2023, 10.00 am - Worcestershire County Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#) (Copy issued to Panel members)

Specific Contact Points for this Report

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Democratic Governance and Scrutiny Manager (Interim Monitoring Officer) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

[Agenda for Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board on Wednesday, 7th December, 2022, 10.00 am - Worcestershire County Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

[Agendas and Minutes - Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel - Worcestershire County Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

[All agendas and minutes are available on the Council's website here](#)

[The Council's Budget Books are available on the website here](#)