

# **CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL**

## **10 JANUARY 2024**

### **BUDGET SCRUTINY 2024/25**

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#### **Summary**

1. The Panel will consider the draft Budget for 2024/25 for services relating to Children and Families.
2. The Cabinet Members with Responsibility (CMRs) for Children and Families, and for Education and the Director of Children's Services/Chief Executive of Worcestershire Children First (WCF) have been invited to attend 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 attended the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board (OSPB) on 26 July to discuss the role of Scrutiny in the 2024/25 budget setting process and this Panel was requested by the OSPB to review cost pressures relating to children's social care placements and home to school transport (comments attached at Appendix 1).

#### **Budget Scrutiny 2024/25**

5. As part of the Budget Scrutiny process for 2024/25, the Director of Children's Services/Chief Executive of WCF has been asked to identify the main messages from the draft 2024/25 Budget for areas within the remit of the Panel. These are set out in Appendix 2.
6. The draft Council Budget 2024/25 is being presented to Cabinet on 10 January 2024 and is also available to the Panel at Appendix 3.
7. The Panel's discussions on the draft Council Budget 2024/25 will be reported to the OSPB on 29 January 2024, when the Board will formulate its comments to Cabinet for its meeting on 1 February 2024.

#### **Purpose of the meeting**

8. Following discussion of the information provided, the Panel is asked to determine any comments on the draft 2024/25 Budget for the Chairman to report back to the OSPB at its meeting on 29 January 2024.

## **Supporting Information**

Appendix 1 - Feedback to the OSPB from the Panel on children's social care placements and home to school transport

Appendix 2 - Main messages from draft 2024/25 Budget for areas within the remit of the Panel (presentation slides)

Appendix 3 - Draft Council budget 2024-25 to be discussed by Cabinet on 10 January 2024. [Agenda for Cabinet on Wednesday, 10th January, 2024, 10.00 am - Worcestershire County Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

## **Contact Points**

Alyson Grice/Alison Spall, Overview and Scrutiny Officers, Tel: 01905 844962/ 846607  
Email: [scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk)

## **Background Papers**

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Chief Financial Officer), the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

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

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