

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL 18 JANUARY 2024

BUDGET SCRUTINY 2024/25

Summary

1. The Panel will consider the draft Budget for 2024/25 for the for services relating to Corporate Services, Chief Executive Unit, Commercial and Change, and Community Services.
2. The Cabinet Members with Responsibility for Communities and for Corporate Services and Communication, the Strategic Director of Commercial and Change, the Strategic Director for People, the Assistant Director for Communities and the Deputy Chief Finance Officer 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 contract and pay inflation as part of its remit on budget scrutiny (comments attached at Appendix 1).

Budget Scrutiny 2024/25

5. As part of the Budget Scrutiny process for 2024/25, the Strategic Directors of Commercial and Change and for People, have 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 was presented to Cabinet on 10 January 2024 and is also available to the Panel at [4 Jan 2024 draft budget report](#)
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 on contract and pay inflation
Appendix 2 - 2024/25 Draft Budget Proposals

Contact Points for this Report

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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:

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

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