

Scrutiny Report



Performance Scrutiny Committee – Place and Corporate

Part 1

Date: 2 September 2019

Subject Recommendations Monitoring – Budget Proposals 2019-20

Author Scrutiny Adviser

The following people have been invited to attend for this item:

Invitee:	Area / Role / Subject
Bev Owen	Strategic Director - Place
Paul Jones	Head of Streetscene and City Services
Steve Davies	Senior Strategy Manager, City Services
Rhys Cornwall	Head of People and Business Change

Section A – Committee Guidance and Recommendations

1 Recommendations to the Committee

The Committee is requested to:

1. Consider the Officer responses in relation to the recommendations made by the Committee at the 14 January 2019 meeting upon the 2019 - 20 Budget Proposals in relation to the subsequent implementation of the budget decisions;
2. Determine if it wishes to make any comments to the Cabinet.

2 Context

Background

- 2.1 The Budget saving proposals were reported to the Performance Scrutiny Committee- Place and Corporate as part of the Budget consultation for the financial year 2019-20. The proposals were included in the Medium Term Financial Plan at the meeting on the 14 January 2019. (***Links to the Report and Minutes of the Performance Scrutiny Committee – Place and Corporate held on 14 January 2019 are provided in the Background Papers in Section 7 of this report.***)

- 2.2 The Committee made a number of recommendations that were presented to Cabinet together with the information gathered from the rest of the consultation process. The Budget Process and Public Engagement aspects of the Budget Proposals were considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on the 31 January 2019. (***Links to the Report and Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee held on 31 January 2019 are provided in the Background Papers in Section 7 of this report.***)
- 2.3 To ensure that the Officers' responses addressed each of the Committee's recommendations, the relevant Head of Service has been requested to provide an update to the Committee. As part of this update and provide a structure to this update, the Heads of Service have been asked to provide an update upon the Budget Proposals that the Committee commented on, and these comments are provided in **Appendix 1**. The Committee's full comments are provided in **Appendix 2** for information.
- 2.4 The Committee is requested to monitor whether its recommendations were taken into account in the implementation of the budget proposals by the Officers. The Committee has an opportunity to ask questions, gather evidence from the Officers upon the implementation of the budget decisions, and make any comments to the Cabinet.

3 Information Submitted to the Committee

- 3.1 **Appendix 1** – contains Head of Services response to the Committee's recommendations on the 2019-20 Budget Proposals.

Appendix 2 – contains the Recommendations made by the Committee on 14 January 2019, for information.

4. Suggested Areas of Focus

4.1 Role of the Committee

The role of the Committee in considering the report is to:

- Establish whether the monitoring report adequately addresses the Committee's Recommendations;
 - What progress has been made towards the recommendations?
 - What actions are in place to continue progress over the next twelve months?
- Question the relevant Officer on any areas the Members feel requires additional explanation or information.
- Query whether the Service Area has achieved the proposed saving as set out in the business case.
 - If the saving has been achieved what impact has it had?
 - If the projected saving has not been made, why and will this have a financial impact on this year's spending?
- **Conclusions**
 - What was the overall conclusion on the information contained in the report?
 - Does the Committee wish to make any comments to the Cabinet?
 - Do any areas require a more in-depth review by the Committee or further information required?

Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act

- 4.2 The Committee's consideration of the implementation of the Budget decisions should consider how services are maximising their contribution to the five ways of working. Below are examples of the types of questions to consider:

5 Ways of Working	Types of Questions to consider:
<p>Long-term</p> <p>The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.</p>	In implementing the budget decisions, how was it ensured that the impact upon future generations was being established and long-term impact identified?
	What evidence demonstrates the WFGA has been considered in implementing the decisions?
<p>Prevention</p> <p>Prevent problems occurring or getting worse.</p>	What has been done to prevent future problems?
<p>Integration</p> <p>Considering how public bodies' wellbeing objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.</p>	Were any other organisations providing similar / complementary services?
<p>Collaboration</p> <p>Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the organisation itself).</p>	What co-working with other sectors has been undertaken?
	How was the knowledge / information / good practice of others been used to inform / influence these decisions?
<p>Involvement</p> <p>The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.</p>	How were the people who would be impacted by this decision involved?

Section B – Supporting Information

5 Supporting Information

- 5.1 Evaluating the impact of the recommendations made by Scrutiny is an important tool in assessing whether the work of the Scrutiny Committee is making a difference and making an impact.
- 5.2 The Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) practice guide 'Demonstrating and Enhancing Impact' outlines the importance of being able to demonstrate that Scrutiny is effective and that it has impact, as follows:

“When we talk about scrutiny having an “impact” we mean that the work of councillors sitting on scrutiny committees should translate into better outcomes for local people. A scrutiny investigation of an issue should lead to services provided to the public improving. If scrutineers are unable to demonstrate either to themselves or others that their work adds value and makes a positive difference to local people, it is more difficult to justify expending resource on it in difficult financial times.”

(A link to the Centre for Public Scrutiny Guide: ‘Demonstrating and Enhancing Impact’ is provided in the Background Papers in Section 7 of this report.)

5.3 **Demonstrating impact does not necessarily mean that a decision was changed, or altered, Scrutiny’s recommendation of the budget being discussed at this meeting were centred around identifying risks and potential issues for the Council to take into account should it chose to proceed with the proposal. *The value of Scrutiny in assessing the implementation of the recommendations at this stage is to check whether those issues identified by the Committee are being addressed and mitigated against when the decisions are being implemented.***

6 Links to Council Policies and Priorities

Well-being Objectives	Promote economic growth and regeneration whilst protecting the environment	Improve skills, educational outcomes & employment opportunities	Enable people to be healthy, independent & resilient	Build cohesive & sustainable communities
Corporate Plan Commitments	Thriving City	Aspirational People		Resilient Communities
Supporting Function	Modernised Council			

7. Background Papers

- [The Centre for Public Scrutiny \(CfPS\) Guide ‘Demonstrating and Enhancing Impact’](#)
- [The Essentials - Wellbeing of Future Generation Act \(Wales\)](#)
- [Corporate Plan 2017 - 2022](#)
- Performance Scrutiny Committee – Place and Corporate held on 14 January 2019
[Report \(Agenda Item 5 refers \) and Minutes](#)
- Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee held on 31 January 2019
[Report \(Agenda Item 5 refers\) and Minutes](#)

Report Completed: August 2019