

FINANCIAL RESOURCES SCRUTINY FORUM

Minutes of meeting held via Microsoft Teams on 21 January 2021

Chair:

Councillor Monique McAdams

Councillors Present:

Councillor Walter Brogan, Councillor Grant Ferguson, Councillor Eric Holford, Councillor Martin Lennon, Councillor Jared Wark

Councillors' Apologies:

Councillor Archie Buchanan, Councillor Janine Calikes, Councillor Mary Donnelly

Attending:

Finance and Corporate Resources

C Lyon, Administration Officer; L O'Hagan, Finance Manager (Strategy); J Taylor, Head of Finance (Strategy)

Housing and Technical Resources

D Craig, Property Manager (Commercial)

1 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Financial Resources Scrutiny Forum held on 26 November 2020 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

The Forum decided: that the minutes be approved as a correct record.

3a Capital Budget Monitoring 2020/2021– General Fund Capital Programme

A report dated 5 January 2021 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the position of the General Fund Capital Programme 2020/2021 at 6 November 2020 (Period 8).

The revised programme for the General Fund Capital Programme for 2020/2021 totalled £83.433 million, as detailed in Appendix B to the report. The revised programme consisted of the base budget plus carry forward projects, previously approved adjustments and adjustments to the programme, which totalled a net decrease of £1.657 million, as detailed in Appendix A to the report, which had been agreed at Executive Committee on 16 December 2020.

The £1.657 million decrease included an amount of estimated project spend moved from 2020/2021 into 2021/2022. This was not as significant a value as at this point in previous years, as an exercise had been undertaken to review the impact of the programme due to COVID-19. That exercise was now 8 to 10 weeks old and it had become apparent that there was a second wave of movement due to the pandemic which had impacted on spend anticipated between now and the end of the financial year. This position would continue to be monitored over the coming months.

At 6 November 2020, £29.242 million had been spent and actual funding received to 6 November 2020 was £56.632 million, as detailed in Appendix D to the report.

The physical progress achieved with the General Fund Capital Programme 2020/2021 at 6 November 2020 was detailed in Appendices E to G of the report.

The Forum decided: that the position as at 6 November 2020 be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 26 November 2020 (Paragraph 3a) and Minutes of the Executive Committee of 16 December 2020 (Paragraph 3)]

3b Capital Budget Monitoring 2020/2021 – Housing Capital Programme

A report dated 5 January 2021 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the position of the Housing Capital Programme 2020/2021 at 6 November 2020 (Period 8).

The revised Housing Capital Programme for 2020/2021 totalled £48.172 million, spend to 6 November 2020 totalled £19.797 million and actual funding received was £19.797 million, as detailed in Appendix A to the report.

The physical progress achieved with the Housing Capital Programme 2020/2021 at 6 November 2020 was detailed in Appendix B to the report.

Councillor McAdams requested details on what was included in the East Kilbride Package 98 Project. Officers agreed to obtain this information and feedback to Councillor McAdams.

The Forum decided: that the position as at 6 November 2020 (Period 8) be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 26 November 2020 (Paragraph 3b) and Minutes of the Executive Committee of 16 December 2020 (Paragraph 3)]

4 Revenue Budget Monitoring – 2020/2021

A report dated 16 December 2020 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted:-

- ◆ detailing the expenditure and income for the Revenue Budget to 6 November 2020
- ◆ detailing the expenditure and income position for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) to 6 November 2020
- ◆ providing an update on the 2020/2021 Revenue Budget for the General Fund, taking account of the financial implications of the coronavirus pandemic

The figures showed an underspend of £2.980 million on the General Fund Revenue Account, after COVID-19 spend and funding, and a breakeven position on the Housing Revenue Account. The forecast to 31 March 2021 on the Housing Revenue Account was a breakeven position.

Details of the COVID-19 pressures across Resources were included in Appendix 1 to the report. Details were also provided on the Council's predicted COVID-19 net spend of £4.657 million for 2020/2021, taking account of additional grant funding and other savings.

The total Food Fund, Hardship Fund and Consequential funding used to 6 November 2020 was £14.438 million, which equated to 63.5% of the total funding confirmed to date and included £0.751 million of funding used in 2019/2020.

Despite investment in the Children and Families Service, there continued to be financial pressures which were mainly due to additional external residential placements made in the early part of the year. The overspend at 6 November 2020 (Period 8) was £0.151 million, a decrease of £0.079 million since the previous period. Work was ongoing with the Service to reduce the overspend further, however, the projections of costs for the year were increasing due to additional placements required.

Financial pressures were also evident within the Adults and Older People's Service in relation to increasing costs within the Home Care Service. Work was ongoing to identify actions to manage and reduce this financial pressure, which was estimated at £0.8 million, however, there might be further demands and pressures experienced over the winter period. Such costs would be included in the Mobilisation Plan if not funded from the Winter Planning funding provided by the Scottish Government. There had been discussions with the Integrated Joint Board (IJB) Chief Financial Officer on various recovery plan solutions which would cover the current predicted shortfall in the budget.

The Forum decided:

- (1) that the net underspend of £2.980 million on the General Fund Revenue Account at 6 November 2020 be noted;
- (2) that the breakeven position on the Housing Revenue Account at 6 November 2020 and the forecast to 31 March 2021 of a breakeven position be noted;
- (3) that the total net expenditure and lost income of £14.438 million in relation to COVID-19, offset by Government Grant included in the Council's position as at 6 November 2020, be noted;
- (4) that the pressures experienced in Children and Families' and Adult and Older People's Services be noted; and
- (5) that the Council's predicted spend in relation to COVID-19 of £4.657 million for 2020/2021 be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 26 November 2020 (Paragraph 4)]

5 Revenue Budget Monitoring 2020/2021 – Detailed Resource Analysis

A report dated 16 December 2020 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted comparing actual expenditure against budgeted expenditure for the period ending 6 November 2020 (Period 8).

Appendices A to F to the report provided the following information for each Resource and the Housing Revenue Account:-

- ◆ an Executive Summary showing the top level position for each of the Services within the Resource and the Housing Revenue Account as at 6 November 2020 (Period 8)
- ◆ details of the most significant variances within Resources and the Housing Revenue Account across subjective headings and across Services as at 6 November 2020 (Period 8)
- ◆ a line by line trend analysis of the total Resources' expenditure and income across subjective headings as at 6 November 2020 (Period 8)

The Forum decided: that the position as at 6 November 2020 (Period 8) be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 26 November 2020 (Paragraph 5)]

6 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.