

FINANCIAL RESOURCES SCRUTINY FORUM

Minutes of meeting held via Microsoft Teams on 11 November 2021

Chair:

Councillor Monique McAdams

Councillors Present:

Councillor Walter Brogan, Councillor Grant Ferguson, Councillor Jared Wark, Councillor Geri Gray
(*substitute for Councillor Mary Donnelly*)

Councillors' Apologies:

Councillor Archie Buchanan, Councillor Janine Calikes, Councillor Mary Donnelly, Councillor Eric Holford, Councillor Martin Lennon

Attending:

Finance and Corporate Resources

H Calley, Administration Officer; N Docherty, Administration Assistant; L O'Hagan, Finance Manager (Strategy); J Taylor, Head of Finance (Strategy)

Housing and Technical Resources

F McCafferty, Head of Property Services

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 30 September 2021 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

3a Capital Budget Monitoring 2021/2022– General Fund Capital Programme

A report dated 26 October 2021 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the position of the General Fund Capital Programme 2021/2022 for the period 1 April to 10 September 2021 (Period 6).

The revised programme for the General Fund Capital Programme for 2021/2022 totalled £83.477 million, as detailed in Appendix B to the report. The revised programme agreed by the Executive Committee on 3 November 2021, included adjustments totalling a net increase of £0.173 million, as outlined in Appendix A to the report-

Budget for the period was £20.104 million and spend to 10 September 2021 was £20.181 million, an overspend of £0.077 million. A full breakdown was detailed in Appendix C to the report. Actual funding received at 10 September 2021 was £57.300 million.

The programme spend and funding for the General Fund was summarised in appendices A and D to the report.

The physical progress achieved with the General Fund Capital Programme 2021/2022 at 10 September 2021 was detailed in appendices E to G to the report.

The revised Capital Programme included a project to replace the Audio-Visual equipment in the Council Chamber and Committee Room 1. Due to issues in obtaining supplies, it was expected that this project would not complete before the end of February 2022.

The Forum decided: that the position on the General Fund Capital Programme as at 10 September 2021 be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 30 September 2021 (Paragraph 3a) and Minutes of the Executive Committee of 3 November 2021 (Paragraph 4)]

3b Capital Budget Monitoring 2021/2022 – Housing Capital Programme

A report dated 26 October 2021 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the position of the Housing Capital Programme 2021/2022 for the period 1 April to 10 September 2021 (Period 6).

The revised Housing Capital Programme for 2021/2022 totalled £79.640 million and spend to 10 September 2021 totalled £31.657 million which represented an underspend of £0.141 million, as detailed in Appendix A to the report.

The physical progress achieved with the Housing Capital Programme 2021/2022 at 10 September 2021 was detailed in Appendix B to the report.

As previously reported, the timescales for some projects within the Housing Investment Programme (HIP) had changed and the financial programme had been amended to reflect those changes. The impact of material shortages and price increases would continue to be monitored.

Any significant increases in contract values for the Housing Capital Programme would be brought to members' attention.

The Forum decided: that the position on the Housing Capital Programme as at 10 September 2021 be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 30 September 2021 (Paragraph 3b) and Minutes of the Executive Committee of 3 November 2021 (Paragraph 4)]

4 Revenue Budget Monitoring – 2021/2022

A report dated 3 November 2021 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the overall financial position of the Council's General Fund Revenue Account and the Housing Revenue Account for the period 1 April to 10 September 2021 (Period 6).

Since the previous update submitted to the Committee at its meeting on 22 September 2021, further information had become available in relation to cost pressures which were attributable to COVID-19, as detailed in the report. The Council had also been notified of 4 new funding allocations for COVID and those were also detailed in the report. Total funding now amounted to £59.661 million, of which £27.402 million was specific, leaving £32.259 million to meet other COVID cost pressures. The updated cost position showed an estimated £18.649 million of spend to be met from this funding in 2021/2022. The revised funding and costs had been added to the Cost of Recovery position, detailed at Appendix 1 to the report.

The total COVID net expenditure, before funding, at 10 September 2021 amounted to £14.016 million. This was an increase of £6.040 million on the previously reported figure. Those costs were partially offset by specific funding of £10.121 million, leaving costs of £3.895 million to be met from the non-specific funding. A full breakdown of the position to 10 September 2021 was provided in Appendix 3 to the report.

At 10 September 2021, the position on the General Fund Revenue Account was an overspend of £0.120 million, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report.

The Housing Revenue Account showed a breakeven position at 10 September 2021, as detailed in Appendix 4 to the report.

Councillors Brogan and Donnelly made reference to South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture (SLLC) venues which had remained closed for a considerable length of time and would now require maintenance works to allow those venues to reopen. The Head of Finance (Strategy) confirmed that the Council had a Prioritised Urgent Investment Fund to assist in keeping buildings operational and indicated that the General Manager, SLLC would be requested to provide Forum members with details of the plan for the re-opening of those venues and for checking and carrying out repairs to allow halls to reopen.

The Forum decided:

- (1) that the net overspend of £0.120 million on the General Fund Revenue Account at 10 September 2021, after COVID-19 spend and funding, be noted;
- (2) that the total net expenditure of £3.895 million, after specific funding in relation to COVID-19, offset by Government Grant included in the Council's position as at 10 September 2021, be noted;
- (3) that the updated COVID-19 position for 2021/2022 be noted; and
- (4) that the breakeven position on the Housing Revenue Account at 10 September 2021 be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 30 September 2021 (Paragraph 4)]

5 Revenue Budget Monitoring 2021/2022 – Detailed Resource Analysis

A report dated 3 November 2021 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted comparing actual expenditure against budgeted expenditure for the period 1 April to 10 September 2021 (Period 6).

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 10 September 2021
- ◆ details of the most significant variances within Resources and the Housing Revenue Account across subjective headings and across Services as at 10 September 2021
- ◆ a line by line trend analysis of the total Resources' expenditure and income across subjective headings as at 10 September 2021

The Forum decided: that the position as at 10 September 2021 (Period 6) be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 30 September 2021 (Paragraph 5)]

6 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.