

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**BUDGET MONITORING PANEL: MONTH NINE BUDGET MONITORING
REPORT 2015/16**

Purpose of Report

1. To provide Members with an update on the outcome of the third meeting of the Budget Monitoring Panel recently established by the Committee. This meeting focused on a review of the month nine budget monitoring Cabinet report.
2. To seek agreement to investigate any areas for more detailed scrutiny and report any issues to the relevant Cabinet Member and Director.

Background

3. On 15 September 2015, the Committee agreed their 2015/16 work programme. As part of this process, Committee Members considered the Wales Audit Office's September 2014 *Corporate Assessment of Cardiff Council* report and the subsequent advice to scrutiny committees to aim to achieve Committee meetings that last no longer than three hours. Whilst the Committee should maintain robust and appropriate levels of scrutiny across its terms of reference, it should seek to ensure that agendas are of a manageable size, and that work occurs outside Committee meetings.
4. To assist this approach, Committee Members agreed to establish a Budget Monitoring Panel to scrutinise budget monitoring reports ahead of Committee meetings, bringing reports back to the Committee with issues of concern or suggestions for further in-depth scrutiny, for agreement by the whole Committee.

Outcome of February 2016 Panel Meeting

5. The Budget Monitoring Panel (consisting of Cllrs Cook, Murphy and Thorne) met on 24 February 2016 to discuss and review the Month Nine Budget Monitoring Report and projected overspend for both the Education and Lifelong Learning Directorate and Children's Services, together with the detailed projection of the achievement or otherwise of each of the approved set of budget savings. A report summarising this work and the Panel's recommendations is attached at **Appendix A.**

Further Scrutiny

6. Members may wish to agree to undertake further Budget Monitoring Panel meetings shortly after each Cabinet budget monitoring report is published and to report any comments or concerns to the following Committee meeting.

Way Forward

7. Committee Members will have the opportunity to discuss the information provided in this report and appendix, and agree a way forward with regard to any issues the Panel has recommended for the Committee to consider.

Legal Implications

8. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with

the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

9. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is recommended to discuss the information provided in this report and appendix and:

- i. Agree the report and the way forward for the continued scrutiny of Directorate savings and overspends; and
- ii. To identify any areas for further investigations.

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Interim Monitoring Officer
8 March 2016