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**DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2021 - 2024 and 2021/22 DRAFT CABINET  
BUDGET PROPOSALS**

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**Purpose of Report**

1. To provide Members with context for the scrutiny of the sections of the Council's draft Corporate Plan 2021 – 24 and draft Cabinet 2021/22 Budget Proposals that relate to Directorates falling within the remit of this Committee.

**Background**

2. The Council's Constitution allows for Scrutiny Committees to consider the draft Cabinet Budget Proposals prior to their consideration by the Cabinet and Full Council.
3. This Scrutiny Committee meeting will focus on those areas of the draft budget proposals that fall within this Committee's terms of reference, together with the alignment of those proposals with the areas of the Corporate Plan that impact on the lives of children and young people in Cardiff. Members will therefore be presented with the budget proposals, for the following Directorates: Social Services (Children's Services) and Education and Lifelong Learning.
4. Following the Scrutiny Committee meeting, the Chair will detail the Committee's comments or recommendations in correspondence to the Cabinet, for their consideration, prior to finalising their budget proposals. The Cabinet will consider their draft Cabinet budget proposals at their meeting on 25 February 2021. At that meeting the Cabinet will formally

recommend their budget recommendations for consideration and adoption by Full Council, at its meeting on 4 March 2021.

5. The scope of the scrutiny is as follows:
  - The relevant sections of the *Corporate Plan 2021-2024*, in terms of priorities, actions and monitoring implementation of these;
  - The relevant *Budgetary Proposals* in terms of their alignment with the *Corporate Plan* – to test whether they support delivery of the priorities detailed in the Corporate Plan;
  - The relevant Budgetary Proposals in terms of *potential impact* on service delivery, service users and citizens of Cardiff;
  - The *achievability* and *deliverability* of the proposed savings; and
  - The *affordability* and *risk* implications of the proposed capital program

### **Structure of Papers**

6. Attached to this report, Members will find a copy of relevant sections of the draft Corporate Plan 2021 – 2024 and draft Cabinet budget papers 2021/22 that fall within this Committee’s remit, and which Members may wish to scrutinise during the meeting.
7. To assist Members, where appropriate, lines in some of the attached appendices have been colour coded as follows:
  - Education & Lifelong Learning – peach
  - Social Services (Children’s Services) – light green
8. The papers include:
  - **Appendix 1** - Draft Corporate Plan 2021 -24 extract containing sections relevant to Children and Young People
  - **Appendix 2** - Overview of 2021/22 savings proposals
  - **Appendices 3i, 3ii, 3iii** - Financial Pressures, Commitments, Realignment & Capital Ambition Growth Policy

- **Appendix 4** - Employee Implications
- **Appendix 5** - Budget Consultation
- **Appendix 6** - Controllable Budget analysis – Children’s Services
- **Appendix 7** - Draft budget proposals
- **Appendix 8i, 8ii, 8iii** – Capital Programme
- **Appendix 9** - Controllable Budget Analysis – Education & Lifelong Learning
- **Appendix 10** - Summary of Fees and Charges
- **Appendix 11** - Corporate Presentation to Scrutiny Committees

### **Structure of Meeting**

9. The following Cabinet Members and officers have been invited to attend the Committee:

- Councillor Weaver, Cabinet Member, Finance, Modernisation and Performance;
- Chris Lee, Corporate Director Resources;
- Ian Allwood, Head of Finance;
- Councillor Hinchey - Cabinet Member for Children & Families;
- Councillor Merry – Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education, Employment and Skills;
- Sarah McGill – Corporate Director People & Communities;
- Melanie Godfrey – Director of Education and Lifelong Learning;
- Deborah Driffield - Director Children's Services.

## SUMMARY OF DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2021 – 2024

### (Appendix 1)

10. In July 2017, the Council's Administration set out a policy programme and associated delivery commitments entitled 'Capital Ambition' establishing the Cabinet's key priorities for the municipal term, and outlining a programme of action to continue to drive the city economy forward, whilst ensuring that the benefits of success are felt by all residents.

11. In January 2020, the Cabinet approved an update of the Administration's policy programme, priorities and commitments entitled, *Capital Ambition, our Continuing Commitments for Cardiff*. The commitments set out within the Capital Ambition focuses on four main priorities, which form the basis for the Corporate Plan 2021-24:

- **Working for Cardiff:** making sure that all our citizens can contribute to, and benefit from, the city's success
- **Working for Wales:** A successful Wales needs a successful capital city
- **Working for the Future:** Managing the city's growth in a sustainable way.
- **Working for Public Services:** making sure our public services are delivered efficiently, effectively and sustainably in the face of the rising demand and reducing budgets.

12. The Well-being of Future Generations act places a statutory duty on Public Bodies to publish well-being objectives. In Cardiff, the Council and the Public Service Board have adopted the same 7 Well-being Objectives reflecting their shared aspirations for the city and a common understanding of challenges. The Corporate Plan is therefore structured around Capital Ambition priorities and 7 well-being-objectives.

13. Members will note that due to ongoing public health crisis, the corporate plan is largely recovery focused; prioritising the city's response to the crisis and in response new Well-being objective has been established '*Managing the Pandemic*'.

14. The Corporate Plan also makes clear the steps the Council will undertake to make progress in achieving these objectives.

## **SUMMARY OF BUDGETARY POSITION**

15. The Local Government Financial Settlement is a key factor in drafting the budget. Due to the timing of the UK Spending Round, which took place in late November, the Provisional Settlement was delayed until 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2020.

### Resources Available

16. Resources available to the Council in 2021/22 (before any increase in the rate of Council Tax are set out below):

	<b>£000</b>
Aggregate External Finance (i)	487,913
Council Tax (2021/22 tax-base at 2020/21 prices) (ii)	187,044
Use of Reserves (iii)	750
<b>Resources Available</b>	<b>675,707</b>

## Resources Required

17. The resource requirement for 2021/22 is modelled in the table below:

<b>Resources Required</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
<b>Base Budget Brought Forward</b>		<b>656,186</b>
Pay Award (non-schools) (i)	3,672	
Price Inflation (ii)	3,950	
Financial Pressures (iii)	2,266	
Policy Growth (iv)	800	
Commitments, Realignment & Capital Financing (v)	10,031	
Demographic Pressures (vi)	5,515	
Schools Growth (vii)	8,881	
		<b>35,115</b>
<b>Resources Required</b>		<b>691,301</b>

## Funding Gap

18. Comparing the resources available to the Council (with no increase in the rate of Council Tax) with the resources required results in the following shortfall.

<b>Funding Gap</b>	<b>£000</b>
Resources Required	691,301
Resources Available	675,707
<b>Shortfall</b>	<b>15,594</b>

The table below sets out how the 2021/22 Funding Gap will be addressed.

<b>Strategy to Address Funding Gap</b>	<b>£000</b>
Savings Proposals	10,244
Council Tax increase at 3.5% (net of CTRS)	5,350
<b>Shortfall</b>	<b>15,594</b>

### Revenue Budget Savings

19. The 2021/22 Budget is predicated on the delivery of £10.244 million in efficiency savings, including a 1% efficiency proposal in Schools (£2.540 million) along with £7.704 million in other directorates as summarised below:

<b>Nature of Saving</b>	<b>£000</b>
Review of staffing arrangements	1,706
Reductions in premises costs	762
Reductions in external spend	2,224
Capital financing (early repayment)	1,300
Income	1,712
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,704</b>

### Commitments, Realignment & Capital Financing relevant to CYPSC

20. The most significant realignments for 2021/22 include £1.704 million for Children's Services, £1.082 million for Education Out Of County Provision, £1.033 million for School Transport costs and £1.300 million for Adult Services (of which £0.600 million is to be funded via additional specific grant). It also includes £2.045 million of additional commitments, including the Fire Service Levy at £0.389 million and the full year costs of operating the Children's Assessment Centre at £0.432 million. It includes £2.847 million of Capital Financing Commitments.

### Financial Resilience Mechanism

21. The Council has a £3.8 million budget called the Financial Resilience Mechanism (FRM) that was set up to help the Council deal with funding uncertainty. It is used to invest in priority areas, but investment is one-off and determined each year. This means that the budget is used

proactively, but could be deleted in future if required, without affecting day-to day services.

22. In the context of the better than anticipated funding position, the FRM will not be required to address the funding position and is therefore available for one-off investment. The table below provides a summary of how it will be used and further information is included in Appendix 4.

<b>FRM – One-off use for 2021/22</b>	
<b>Category</b>	<b>£000</b>
Cleaner and Greener Cardiff	1,282
Children and Young People	1,057
Support for Communities	651
City Infrastructure	810
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,800</b>

### Financial Resilience

23. The Council will also maintain its General Contingency of £3 million in 2021/22. In the past, this was specifically held to protect the Council against late or under-delivered savings. The savings requirement for 2021/22 is lower than in previous years, and the revised approach to identifying and implementing savings should offer greater assurance with regard to their successful and timely delivery. However, it is not proposed to reduce the general contingency for 2020/21 for the following reasons:

- The position over the medium term is uncertain, and the lower savings requirement for 2021/22 cannot be assumed to become the norm.
- The exposure to additional cost in relation to demand-led services, where that demand is difficult to predict.
- The uncertainty brought about by the pandemic and the difficulty in judging what the long-tail effects of COVID19 may be on the economy, public finances generally, and future demand on services.



- The comparatively low level of the Council's reserves

## **COVID-19 Pandemic**

24. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic continues to have a significant financial impact on the Council. During 2020/21, additional costs associated with COVID-19 have included the procurement of protective equipment, provision of emergency accommodation for homeless people, and the continued provision of food / financial assistance to those entitled to free school meals whilst schools were closed, and to pupils self-isolating. They also reflect the provision of financial support to care providers, supplier relief in other areas and operational changes required to ensure the safe delivery of services.
25. In addition, income loss associated with the pandemic reflects the closure of the Council's cultural and sporting venues, including theatres, Cardiff Castle and Cardiff International White Water. It also reflects a reduction in activity in other income generating areas including planning, parking, moving traffic offences, trade waste and school catering.
26. To date, the WG has committed £557 million as part of a COVID Hardship Fund to support Local Authorities during 2020/21. As at the end of December 2020, this Council's accepted and pending claims to WG totalled over £37 million in respect of expenditure and over £30 million in respect of income.
27. The table below focuses specifically on the particular risks that pose the greatest threat to financial resilience during 2021/22, considered under four key drivers.

Wider Issue	Potential Implications for Cardiff Council	Rate
Failure of businesses / Unemployment	• Potential increase in Council Tax Reduction Scheme Demand	R
	• Loss of investment estate income	R
	• Free School Meals - any eligibility increase	R
	• Potential need to increase Bad Debt Provisions	RA
Public Health Measures	• Ongoing loss of income - venues, music service etc.	R
	• School catering - ongoing viability of current model	R
	• Provider and Supplier viability	R
	• Ongoing costs of PPE	RA
	• Any learning needs catch up (post schools closure)	RA
	• Cleansing - schools and offices	A
Behavioural Shift	• Test Track Protect - assume funding ongoing and sufficient	A
	• New transport norms - impact on Parking & CPE income	R
	• Impact on Cardiff Bus	RA
	• More emphasis on outside space - maintenance / cleansing	A
	• Switch in waste streams - more household waste	A
Demographics	• Office and ICT requirements - new ways of working	A
	• Will there be increased family breakdown?	R
	• Difficulty in predicting demand in Adult Social Care	RA
	• Homelessness - transitional arrangements / any increase	A

## BREXIT Arrangements

28. A second specific risk factor, which forms part of the background against which the 2021/22 Budget is being set, is the impact of the recently agreed Trade Deal with the European Union. There is a need to closely monitor and react appropriately to any practical implications that arise across the range of services delivered.

## Draft Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2025/26 – (Appendices 8i, 8ii, 8iii)

29. The proposed 2021/22 budget outlines capital expenditure proposals of £1,290,055 million for the 2021/22 to 2025/26 financial years, of which £244,983 million is earmarked for 2021/22. Details of the individual Directorates' capital programmes are included in the sections below.

## **SPECIFIC PROPOSALS WITHIN C&YP TERMS OF REFERENCE**

30. This report provides the Committee with an opportunity to consider the draft Cabinet budgetary proposals and their alignment to the Corporate Plan 2021 - 2024, for the proposals that relate to this Committee's terms of reference. These are set out below by Cabinet Member portfolio.

### **SOCIAL SERVICES (CHILDREN'S SERVICES)**

#### **a. Draft Corporate Plan 2021 – 2024**

31. The draft *Corporate Plan* set out the key issues, priorities, resources and most importantly outcomes for the Social Services directorate, copy of an extract relevant to Children's Services is attached at **Appendix 1**. Councillor Graham Hinchey, Cabinet Member for Children, and Families will make a short statement on his section of the *Corporate Plan*.

32. The Lead Cabinet Member has a commitment to address the actions to address the well-being objective:

#### **Well-being Objective 1: Cardiff is a great place to grow up**

##### ***Safely Reopen Schools and Regain Momentum***

- Increase the level of support available to young people to help secure and maintain a positive destination in education, employment or training post-16, whilst also helping to mitigate the impact of the emerging economic crisis and the negative effects of disrupted education in examination years, by utilising the Cardiff Commitment partnership **(S1.6)**
- Introduce pre-16 mentoring capacity for Children Looked After to support education recovery and progression and continue to forge links with the Bright Start programme for care leavers **(S1.7)**

***Protect the well-being of vulnerable children, young people and families***

- Enable all young people – who are known to social services – to play an active and central role in planning for their transition to adulthood during the year Enable all young people – who are known to social services – to play an active and central role in planning for their transition to adulthood during the year **(S1.19)**
- Support mental health and emotional well-being for children and young people by working in partnership to deliver an integrated approach to emotional and mental health support **(S1.20)**
- Continue to reduce the impact of adverse childhood experiences on children’s well-being by developing new ways to review and monitor progress and impact of the Family Gateway, Family Help and Cardiff Parenting teams by March 2022 **(S1.21)**
- Enable more children to be placed closer to home by ... Implementing the action plans arising from the Social Care Commissioning Strategy by December 2022 **(S1.22)**
- Continue to develop and support the Children’s Services workforce by implementing a recruitment and retention strategy and workforce plan by March 2022 **(S1.23)**
- Make use of community resources and work with partners to support families and better understand the impact of poverty on child protection. **(S1.24)**
- Implement the renewed Corporate Parenting Strategy 2021-24 action plan to improve outcomes and well-being for Children Looked After. **(S1.25)**
- Implement the ‘All Our Futures’ Youth Justice Strategy and Improvement Plan to strengthen governance, performance management and practice **(S1.26)**.

## **Well-being Objective 4: Safe, confident and empowered communities**

### ***Ensure children and adults are protected from risk of harm and abuse***

- Deliver excellent outcomes for individuals, families and communities through the continued embedding of strengths-based practice and Signs of Safety in our frontline social work and preventative teams **(S4.7)**
- Undertake a review of commissioned services, including a full review of commissioned activities, throughout 2021 **(S4.12)**
- Ensure children and adults are protected from risk of harm and abuse **(S4.13)**

### **b) Draft Budget Proposals and Capital Programme**

33. This section of the report provides the Committee with an opportunity to consider the draft Cabinet budget proposals and their alignment to the Children's Services section of the Corporate Plan 2021 - 2024, which relate to this Committee's terms of reference. Officers from the Social Services Directorate will present the budget savings and answer any questions Members may have. The proposals are contained in the five key documents which are detailed below:

- **Controllable Budget Analysis 2020/21 (Appendix 6)** - This financial information sheet provides the relationship between the Social Services 2020/21 detailed controllable budget lines and budget proposals for the 2021/22 budget.
- **Cabinet Budget Proposals Summary (Appendix 7)** –The table provides a detailed analysis of the budget saving proposed as well as showing the employees cost, external spend and income elements of the savings. To enable Members to identify those items falling within the terms of reference of this Committee the following lines have been identified as Children's Services – total proposed savings - £1,622,000 - **(Lines 63-66)**.

- **Financial Pressures, Commitments, Realignment & Capital Ambition Policy Growth 2021/22 (Appendix 3i, 3ii and 3iii)** – The appendices provide details of the Financial Pressures that have been identified for 2021/22, with Children’s Services highlighted in light green.
- **Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2025/26 – (Appendices 8i, 8ii, 8iii)** - The appendix extract provides the capital projects proposed over the next five years falling within the terms of reference of this Committee. **Appendix 8i - Lines 28, 29, 62, 112, 113.** These lines are highlighted in light green.

## **EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING**

### **a) Corporate Plan 2021 – 2024**

34. The *Corporate Plan* sets out the key issues, priorities, resources and most importantly outcomes for the Education and Lifelong Learning Directorate (attached as **Appendix 1**). Councillor Sarah Merry, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education, Employment and Skills, will make a short statement on the elements of the *Corporate Plan* relating to Education.

35. In order to achieve the above the Lead Cabinet Member for Education, Employment and Skills is committed to:

### **Well-being Objective 1: Cardiff is a great place to grow up** ***Supporting a Child Friendly Recovery***

- Promote and fulfil children’s rights by Achieving recognition as a Unicef Child Friendly City by December 2021; Increasing the number of Cardiff schools that are designated as Rights Respecting Schools  
**(S1.1)**

### ***Safely Reopen Schools and Regain Momentum***

- Ensure that all Cardiff schools are able to re-open safely and maintain safe learning environments for all pupils and staff, in line with the gradual lifting of Covid restrictions during 2021/22 **(S1.2)**
- Produce a Cardiff Schools Recovery Plan by May 2021 **(S1.3)**
- Develop and deliver a sustainable, quality approach to blended learning **(S1.4)**
- Support the health and well-being of the education workforce as schools re-open and work towards the implementation of a new Workforce Development Strategy by March 2022 **(S1.5)**
- Increase the level of support available to young people to help secure and maintain a positive destination in education, employment or training post-16, whilst also helping to mitigate the impact of the emerging economic crisis and the negative effects of disrupted education in examination years, by utilising the Cardiff Commitment partnership **(S1.6)**
- Introduce pre-16 mentoring capacity for Children Looked After to support education recovery and progression and continue to forge links with the Bright Start programme for care leavers **(S1.7)**

### ***Continuing to deliver the Cardiff 2030 Vision for Education & Learning***

- Deliver the new schemes in accordance with the Band B 21<sup>st</sup> Century School Programme of school investment between April 2019 and 2026 **(S1.8)**
- Begin to develop a strategic framework for the future prioritisation of 21st Century School and Local Development Plan investment **(S1.9)**
- Develop a ten-year Welsh Education Strategic Plan (WESP) in line with Cymraeg 2050: Welsh Language Strategy **(S1.10)**
- Deliver up to eight new primary schools and two new secondary schools by 2030 **(S1.11)**
- Deliver enhancements to the school estate **(S1.12)**

- Invest in digital infrastructure, equipment and new learning technologies for schools and learners in line with the Schools ICT strategy and Welsh Government digital best practice **(S1.13)**
- Improve outcomes for children and young people with additional learning needs through successful implementation of the Additional Learning Needs Transformation Programme by 2024 **(S1.14)**
- Support Cardiff schools to work towards the introduction of the Curriculum For Wales 2022, with implementation for nursery through to Year 7 by September 2022 and for all remaining year groups in the period up to 2026 **(S1.15)**
- Develop an interim Performance and Evaluation Framework for education in Cardiff that takes account of the national changes to School Accountability and Assessment arrangements, by September 2021 **(S1.16)**
- Continue to deliver the ambitions of the Cardiff Commitment to support children and young people to access careers and work-related experience **(S1.17)**
- Develop and embed an approach for Community-Focused Schools to enhance the relationship between schools and communities, with a focus on supporting the continued learning and well-being of vulnerable children and families **(S1.18)**
- Deliver the 'Passport to the City' model with the Children's University and Cardiff University to open up extra-curricular activities to all children and young people in Cardiff by September 2022 **(S1.19 – duplicate reference in document)**

***Protect the well-being of vulnerable children, young people and families***

- Support mental health and emotional well-being for children and young people by working in partnership to deliver an integrated approach to emotional and mental health support **(S1.20)**
- Continue to reduce the impact of adverse childhood experiences on children's well-being by developing new ways to review and monitor



progress and impact of the Family Gateway, Family Help and Cardiff Parenting teams by March 2022 **(S1.21)**

- Implement the renewed Corporate Parenting Strategy 2021-24 action plan **(S1.25)**

## **b) Draft Budget Proposals and Capital Programme**

36. This report provides the Committee with an opportunity to consider the draft Cabinet budget proposals and their alignment to the *Corporate Plan* 2021 - 2024, for the Education and Lifelong Learning Directorate, which relate to this Committee's terms of reference. Melanie Godfrey (Director of Education and Lifelong Learning) will present the budget savings and answer any questions Members may have. The proposals are contained in the six key documents which are detailed below:

- **Controllable Budget Analysis 2020/21 (Appendix 9)** - This financial information sheet provides the relationship between the Departmental 2020/21 controllable budget lines and budget proposals for the 2021/22 budget.
- **Cabinet Budget Proposals Summary (Appendix 7)** – This table provides a detailed analysis of the budget saving proposed, as well as showing the employees cost and the other spend element of the savings. To enable Members to identify those items falling within the terms of reference of this Committee – total proposed savings - £288,000 **(Lines 26 to 31)**, is highlighted in peach;
- **Financial Pressures, Commitments, Realignments & Capital Ambition Policy Growth (Appendix 3i, 3ii and 3iii)**. The appendices provide details of the Financial Pressures that have been identified for 2021/22, with Education & Lifelong Learning highlighted in peach.

- **Employee Implications (Appendix 4)** – The appendix extract provides details of the Employee implications for Education. In total two vacant posts will be lost, while 7 posts will be created. This makes a net gain of 5 posts.
- **Capital programme 2021/22 - 2025/26 – (Appendices 8i, 8ii, 8iii)** - The extract from the draft Capital Programme provides an analysis of the Directorate’s capital projects proposed over the next five years. The capital projects belonging to Education and falling within the terms of reference of this Committee are **Appendix 8i - Lines 5, 6, 22, 25, 28, 30-32, 59, 60, 63, 69, 70, 82-84, 98**. These lines are highlighted in peach.
- **Fees and Charges 2021 - 2022 (Appendix 10)** The appendix extract provides the changes to the fees and charges that have been identified for 2021/22 (**Lines 249 - 258, 296- 339 and 425 - 428**).

## CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

37. The *Changes for Cardiff* budget consultation on the Budget took place between 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021 and 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021. The consultation took place when the whole of Wales was at its highest alert level for the Coronavirus Pandemic, when people were only able to meet with members of their household or support bubble. This meant that face-to-face engagement could not take place, and that consultation was conducted electronically. The consultation received 2,870 responses. A copy of the consultation document is attached at Appendix 5.

38. As part of the consultation, citizens were given the opportunity to prioritise different areas of service delivery. The table below summarises their top three priorities and indicates how the 2021/22 Revenue Budget and Capital Programme 2021/22-2025/26 support these areas.

Priority	Features of Budget & Capital Programme
Leading an economic recovery through supporting businesses and workers and delivering our major regeneration schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £73m - Support for Cardiff Capital Region City Deal (CCRC) Projects</li> <li>• £22.5m – for delivery of the International Sports Village Master Plan</li> <li>• £24.3m direct capital contribution towards construction of a new indoor arena</li> <li>• £50,000 – revenue funding to provide direct policy support for the City Region, Great Western Gateway and other Strategic Partnerships</li> </ul>
Investing in our schools and improving educational attainment and supporting children and young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £251m - 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Band B investment programme</li> <li>• £54.7m - investment in the existing schools estate</li> <li>• £6.2m - net additional revenue support for Children’s Services</li> <li>• £6.3m - net additional revenue support for Schools</li> <li>• £0.2m - for Child Friendly City Initiatives - Children’s Universities and Innovation Labs</li> <li>• £0.5m - Summer engagement programme for Children &amp; Young People</li> <li>• £0.3m – funding to support the most vulnerable young people to be able to transition to Education Employment and Training (EET) and to re-engage those young people who have dropped out of EET during the pandemic.</li> </ul>

<p>Keeping our communities safe and tackling anti-social behaviour</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £0.2m to combat motorcycle nuisance</li> <li>• £0.5m to meet demand for additional alley-gating schemes</li> <li>• £2.1m - the COVID crisis has amplified the importance of local spaces, shopping and services for communities. This sum will support public realm and green space improvements, community safety measures and improved neighbourhood facilities to help communities to adapt and thrive.</li> <li>• £29.9m on wider neighbourhood regeneration initiatives</li> <li>• £3.2m - investment in Youth and Wellbeing Hubs</li> </ul>
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## Way Forward

39. Officers will make a presentation on the budget position, draft Cabinet proposals, financial pressures and capital items falling within the terms of reference of this Committee. The Cabinet Members and Officers will also be available to answer questions arising from their presentations and the attached papers.

40. Following consideration of the budget proposals, presentations and answers to Member questions, the Committee may wish to provide its comments, concerns and recommendations for the Cabinet at its business meeting on 25 February 2021. The Committee will also have the opportunity to have the letter considered at the Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee due to be held on 24 February 2021.

## Legal Implications

41. 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**

42. 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.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Committee is recommended to give consideration to the information received at this meeting, and to submit any recommendations or comments to the Cabinet prior to its consideration of the final budget proposals on 25 February 2021 and to the Chairman of the Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee for consideration at their meeting on 24 February 2021.

**Davina Fiore**

**Director of Governance and Legal Services**

**19 February 2021**