

**DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2024-27 and 2024/25 DRAFT CABINET
BUDGETARY PROPOSALS**

Purpose of Report

1. To provide Members with context for the scrutiny of the sections of the Council's draft Corporate Plan 2024 – 27 and draft Cabinet 2024/25 Budgetary Proposals that relate to the Portfolios and Directorates falling within the remit of this Committee.

Structure of the Meeting

2. 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;
 - Cllr Ash Lister, Cabinet Member for Social Services (Children's Services)
 - Sarah McGill, Corporate Director, People & Communities
 - Deborah Driffield, Director of Children's Services
 - Cllr Sarah Merry, Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Education
 - Melanie Godfrey, Director of Education & Lifelong Learning
 - Richard Portas, Director of Schools Organisation Planning
 - Cllr Peter Bradbury, Cabinet Member for Tackling Poverty & Supporting Young People

- Suzanne Scarlett, Operational Manager – Partnerships & Performance, Education & Lifelong Learning
 - Jennie Hughes, Senior Achievement Leader, Inclusion Services, Education & Lifelong Learning
 - Phil Norton, Achievement Leader- Targeted Support, Education & Lifelong Learning
3. At the start of the meeting, Cllr Weaver and finance officers will provide a short presentation providing a **corporate overview** of the 2024-25 budgetary proposals, after which they will be available to answer any general questions arising.
4. The meeting will then move on to consider the budget and corporate plan proposals relevant to this committee. Consideration of the proposals will be organised by Cabinet Member portfolios in the following order:
- Councillor Lister
 - Councillor Merry
 - Councillor Bradbury

Structure of the Papers

5. In addition to the information set out in this report, Members will find a range of Appendices as follows:

Appendix 1 – Extract from the draft Corporate Plan 2024-27

Appendix 2 – Scrutiny Performance Panel observations

Appendix 3 – Budget support for the Corporate Plan and Future Generations

Appendix 4 – Cross-authority Directorate Revenue Budget sheet

Appendix 5 – Budget proposals in relation to Children’s Services Directorate

Appendix 6 – Budget proposals in relation to Education & Lifelong Learning Directorate

Appendix 7 – Budget Overview in relation to the Delegated Schools budget

Appendix 8 – Earmarked Reserves General Fund

Appendix 9a – Capital Funding Overview

Appendix 9b – Capital Investment Programme 2024/25 – 2028/29

Appendix 10 - Budget Consultation Report

6. For Members information and to aid their understanding, below is a brief description of each Appendix:

Appendix 1: an extract of the Draft Corporate Plan 2024-2027 relevant to this Committee.

Appendix 2 sets out the observations of the Scrutiny Performance Panel and Cabinet response, arising from the meeting on the 15 February 2024 and included input from all 5 Scrutiny Chairs. The purpose of this meeting was for the Scrutiny Chairs to meet with the Leader, Cabinet Member for Finance, Modernisation and Performance; and a range of senior officers to consider the proposals set out in the draft Corporate Plan, including scrutinising priorities, commitments and targets.

Appendix 3 – Budget support for the Corporate Plan and Future Generations – sets out how the Revenue Budget and Capital Programme are consistent with the Council’s priorities, invest in the future of the city and support the five ways of working at the heart of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

Appendix 4 – a Directorate Revenue Budget sheet, providing a corporate picture of the budget across the Council.

Appendix 5 provides an overview of proposals in relation to Children's Services Directorate. This is further detailed with the following sub appendices:

- **5a** – Directorate Efficiency Proposals 2024/25
- **5b** – Service Change Proposals 2024/25

Appendix 6 provides an overview of proposals in relation to Education & Lifelong Learning Directorate. This is further detailed with the following sub appendices:

- **6a** – Directorate Efficiency Proposals 2024/25
- **6b** – Service Change Proposals 2024/25
- **6c** – Fees & Charges 2024/25

Appendix 7 provides details of proposals in relation to Education & Lifelong Directorate – Schools Delegated Budget Overview.

Appendix 8 – Earmarked Reserves General Fund - provides a summary, setting out allocations of money the Council has reserved for specific purposes.

Appendix 9a – is the Capital Funding Overview; and **Appendix 9b** are details of the Capital Investment Programme 2024/25 – 2028/29. See paragraphs 41 - 44 of this report for more details.

Appendix 10a is the Budget Consultation Report. See paragraphs 56 - 60 of this report for more details. **Appendix 10b** gives further information on how Consultation responses impacted the Budget 2024/25.

7. To assist Members, where appropriate, lines in some of the attached appendices have been colour coded as follows;

- Children's Services – deep orange
- Education & Lifelong Learning – lemon
- Education & Lifelong Learning (Supporting Young People) – pink
- Cross Portfolio or Directorate – bright yellow
- Other areas that have proposals also relevant to this scrutiny committee's terms of reference – bright green

Committee Members should take note of the colour coding as it is designed to assist them in directing their question to the relevant Cabinet Member in line with the structure of the meeting.

Lines highlighted in grey are not applicable to this Scrutiny Committee.

Scope of Scrutiny

8. The scope of the scrutiny is as follows:

- The relevant sections of the *Corporate Plan 2024-2027*, 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

Background and Context

SUMMARY AND OVERVIEW OF 2024/25 BUDGET PROPOSAL

Local Government Financial Settlement

9. The Local Government Financial Settlement is a key factor underpinning the construction of the draft budget. Due to the timing of the UK Autumn Statement, which took place in November 2023, the Provisional Settlement was not received until the 20th December 2023.
10. On 24th January 2024, the UK Government announced £600 million extra funding for English Local Authorities. On 7th February, the Minister for Finance and Local Government issued a statement on the resultant £25 million consequential funding for Wales ([Written Statement: Additional Funding for Local Government 2024-25](#)). It stated that this would be used to:
- Reverse a £10.6 million reduction to the Social Care Workforce Grant, that was announced in the Provisional Settlement.
 - Increase the Revenue Support Grant by £14.4 million.
11. The headlines of the 2024/25 Provisional Settlement, together with the impact of the consequential funding (indicative allocations have been provided by Welsh Government) are set out in the table below:

	Provisional	Plus Consequential
Wales Average AEF* increase	+3.1%	+3.3%
Range of AEF increases	+2% to +4.7%	+2.3% to +5%
Floor Protection**	At 2%	At 2.3%
Cardiff	+4.1%	+4.3%

* *Aggregate External Finance*

** *funded via additional £1.3 million funding at Provisional Settlement.*

12. In cash terms, Cardiff's initial 4.1% AEF increase equated to £25.353 million (including taxbase adjustments) and this increased to £26.972 million as a result of the consequential funding. Cardiff's above average settlement is largely due to distribution increases in respect of population and pupil numbers. These are partially offset by decreases in Cardiff's distribution for free school meals, tourism, and transport. Although Cardiff's AEF increase is slightly above average, it covers less than half of the pressures that the Local Authority faces in 2024/25.

13. The information on specific revenue grants that was included in the Provisional Settlement presented several challenges, including that information was only available at an All-Wales level, grants totalling more than £25 million were yet to be confirmed, and significant reductions were indicated in several key areas.

14. Several specific grants are expected to transfer into the RSG in 2024/25. It has been indicated that all transfers will be included within the Final Local Government Settlement, and Local Authorities have been formally notified of transfer sums.

Final Settlement Timing

15. The Final Local Government Settlement is expected to be published on the 27th February 2024 - after the publication date of the Cabinet Budget Report. Any changes to the level of AEF assumed are expected to be minimal and it is proposed that they are managed by a proportionate contribution to or from reserves. In the event of minor changes, if the published version of the report is not able to be amended, the recommendations to the Cabinet Budget Report authorise the Section 151 Officer to prepare an addendum to the 2024/25 Budget making the requisite technical adjustments for consideration by Council on 7th March 2024.

Unfunded Public Sector Pension Schemes

16. Recent fund valuations of unfunded public sector pension schemes, and notably changes to the SCAPE (Superannuation Contributions Adjusted for Past Experience) rate, mean that employer's superannuation contributions to these schemes will increase significantly from 1st April 2024. This affects the Teachers' Pension Scheme and the fire-fighters' Pension Scheme and the impact of both for the 2024/25 Budget is set out in paragraphs 17 – 19 below. Clear indications are that the UK Government will fund this issue (with a resultant Wales consequential) and the Minister for Finance and Local Government has confirmed that all funding received by Welsh Government will be passported to Local Authorities. However, confirmation may not be before the end of the 2023/24 financial year.

Teachers Pensions Contributions

17. The 2024/25 Budget Proposal reflects a net nil position in respect of the TPS issue outlined above, (estimated to be between £6 million and £7 million for Cardiff Council.) It is assumed that the requisite expenditure budget will be offset by specific grant income. The issue is therefore considered to be one of timing. Once received, funding will be fully allocated to schools but until that time the increased rate of pensions will become payable from 1st April 2024.
18. Should confirmation be received that no or limited funding will be available, then it is proposed that an urgent report is made to Council in respect of any budget policy framework requirements. This will include consideration of funding options and the impact of any in year requirements on both schools and wider council services. Members will continue to be updated on the position and subject to the funding agreement being received, the Council's July 2024 Budget Update Report will provide the next formal update on this issue.

South Wales Fire & Rescue Service Levy

19. Specific grant funding to cover increased contribution to fire-fighters pensions is expected to be payable to Local Authorities (rather than directly to the SWFRS), and levies have been issued on this basis. In budgetary terms, Cardiff's total increase in fire levy compared with 2023/24 is £1.943 million. Of this £0.306 million is estimated to be attributable to increased pension costs and it is therefore assumed that this will be met from specific grant, (although this may not be confirmed before the end of the 2023/24 financial year). It is proposed that in the event of no, or limited grant funding being available, the budgeted income stream will instead be met by a draw down from Strategic Budget Reserve. This differs to the proposed treatment for TPS outlined above, because the sum in question is much less.

Revenue Budget 2024/25

20. A summary of the 2024/25 Revenue Budget is set out below.

Resources Required	£000
Base Budget B/F	806,474
Pay Inflation	7,671
Price Inflation	12,574
Commitments (including Capital Financing)	5,292
Realignments	12,421
Demographic Pressures	6,773
Schools Pressures	12,804
Sub Total - Cost Pressures 2024/25	57,535
Resources Required	864,009

Resources Available	£000
Aggregate External Finance	623,158
Council Tax (2024/25 Tax Base at 2023/24 Council Tax Rate)	210,024
Earmarked Reserves	500
Resources Available	833,682

21. The difference between resources required and resources available is £30.327 million. The strategy to close this gap is set out below:

Strategy to address Budget Gap	£000
Efficiency & Income Savings	10,470
Corporate Savings & Measures including further use of Reserves	5,386
Service Change Proposals	4,052
A 6% Council Tax Increase (net effect after impact on CTRS)	10,419
TOTAL	30,327

22. After taking into account the relevant aspects of Budget Strategy set out in the above table, the net cash limit for 2024/25 is £849.284 million as summarised below:

	£000
Base Budget Brought Forward	806,474
Pressures	57,535
Savings	(16,908)
Impact on CTRS Budget of 6.0% council tax increase	2,183
Net Budgeted Expenditure 2024/25	849,284

Funded by:	£000
Aggregate External Finance (including anticipated grant transfer)	623,158
Council Tax (2024/25 Tax Base at 2024/25 Council Tax Rate)	222,626
Earmarked Reserves	3,500
Budget Funding 2024/25	849,284

Revenue Budget Savings

23. The 2024/25 Budget is predicated on the delivery of £10.470 million in directorate efficiency savings. Efficiency savings are defined as achieving the same output (or more) for less resource, with no significant impact on the resident / customer. The £10.470 million savings reflect savings across all non-schools directorates. Further details are available in Scrutiny papers, particularly **Appendices 5a and 6a**.

Nature of Saving	£000
Review of staffing arrangements	6,137
Reductions in external spend and premises costs	2,615
Increase in income and grant maximisation	1,718
TOTAL	10,470

Corporate Savings and Measures

24. The strategy to balance the 2024/25 Budget includes £5.386 million of Corporate Savings and measures. As well as a further £3.000 million use of reserves (over and above the baseline assumption of £0.5 million), this includes:

- Removal of the Council's £1.000 million General Contingency Budget
- A £0.500 million reduction to the Adult Services specific contingency budget (from £2.000 million to £1.500 million)

- A £0.150 million reduction to the Children's Services specific contingency budget (from £2.150 million to £2.000 million)
- £0.736 million cross-cutting savings, including in relation to car allowances, furniture, mobile phone, postage & hybrid mail costs, and early repayment of invest to save schemes.

25. The reductions to contingency are considered further in the section of the report on financial resilience.

Service Change Proposals

26. The 2024/25 Budget includes £4.052 million in service change proposals. These are distinct from efficiency savings in that they have an impact on existing levels of service. **Appendices 5b and 6b** summarises the service change proposals included in the budget together with the nature of the consultation undertaken. For some proposals, consultation involves a specific organisation or group of service users who are specifically affected by a proposal. Other proposals have been the subject of city-wide consultation. Some proposals, whilst internally facing, go beyond what can be classed as efficiency savings when taken together with proposals already put forward as part of the £10.470 million above and are therefore included on the service change list.

27. Cabinet have fully considered the outcomes of the consultation exercises undertaken and the service change proposals included in the Budget are consistent with consultation findings. Cabinet is proposing not to take forward some of the saving options that were consulted upon at this time. These include proposals totalling £1.019 million in relation to ward-based cleaning and focussed placement of public bins. In addition, other proposals will be taken forward, but at a lower level to that consulted upon. These include proposals in relation to Community Park Rangers, Community Hubs, Local Action Teams and proposed increases to some fees and charges.

Equalities Impact of Savings Proposals

28. All relevant budget proposals have been subject to a full Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA), the findings of which have informed the Council's consultation and engagement activity, thereby ensuring that the voice of those disproportionately impacted by any changes is heard in the budget setting process. The Council engages directly with the groups identified as being disproportionately impacted.

Council Tax

29. The proposed Council Tax increase to support delivery of the 2024/25 Revenue Budget Strategy is 6.0%, which generates net additional income of £10.419 million. Combined with savings and corporate measures totalling £19.908 million this will help to bridge the 2024/25 Budget Gap. The increase, which is higher than previously modelled, will enable some of the Council's key services to be protected. Those eligible, will receive support through the Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

Employee Implications of the 2024/25 Revenue Budget

30. The posts deleted or created as part of the budget are set out in the table below. For deleted posts, the table identifies the anticipated method of release.

Employee Implications of Budget	FTE
Voluntary Redundancy	25.55
Vacant Posts	89.75
Retirement / Flexi Retirement	1.05
TBC / Redeployment	62.10
Total FTE posts deleted	178.45
Total FTE posts created	(16.30)
Net FTE Reduction	162.15

Financial Resilience Mechanism

31. The Council currently has a £2.0 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 reduced or deleted if required, without affecting day-to-day services.

32. In 2023/24 the FRM was reduced by £1.8 million (to £2.0 million.) The reduction was linked to minimising the impact of energy price increases considered likely to be temporary in nature. The 2023/24 Budget Report noted an intention to reinstate the FRM over the medium term if energy prices decreased. However, despite the energy price reductions incorporated into the Budget for 2024/25, the FRM has been retained at the lower level of £2.0 million to avoid adding to the already extremely challenging Budget Gap for 2024/25.

33. For 2024/25, £1.0 million of the £2.0 million Financial Resilience Mechanism will be required to manage timing issues linked to the delivery of the £16.908 million savings included in the 2024/25 Budget. The

remaining £1.0 million will be used to provide one-off support to the areas set out in the table below:

£1 million FRM support for 2024/25		£000
Schools	An intervention fund to support addressing in year demand challenges and to pump prime agreed efficiency programmes.	600
Cardiff Commitment	High impact activities for young people, including further development of Careers and Work-Related Experiences, and progression pathways for our most vulnerable groups.	200
Waste Strategy	Funding to support the changes required in delivering the Waste Strategy for the City.	150
Sport Development Grant Scheme	A continuation of the focus towards supporting the transfer of Council facilities to local sporting clubs by providing funding to ensure facilities meet statutory compliance before transfer.	50
TOTAL		1,000

Earmarked Reserves

34. The 2024/25 Budget proposes to release a total of £3.500 million from earmarked reserves in support of budget commitments in 2024/25. Of this sum, £0.5 million is specifically linked to further energy price decreases anticipated in 2025/26, which will offset the fall-out of a one-off funding source. The remaining £3.0 million can be accommodated from the Council's Strategic Budget Reserve, which is set aside to support financial resilience and help manage budget reduction requirements.

35. **Appendix 8** to the scrutiny papers (*Appendix 6 to the Cabinet Budget Report*) outline the level and anticipated movements on each of the Council's General Fund earmarked reserves, in accordance with their purpose. The Council's balance sheet also includes school balances which represent the accumulated surpluses or deficits generated by individual schools.

36. Individual Schools have a responsibility to set a balanced budget and that remains the expectation and requirement. However, the financial pressures are such that it is very likely that in the short term the overall balances of schools will be an aggregated deficit for 2024/25. This will be through a combination of the need for redundancy costs to be incurred in 2024/25 that will deliver savings in the short and medium term, and the pressures of balancing individual school budgets whilst delivering educational outcomes. This overall deficit balance for schools will need to be carefully managed in order to ensure that there is no knock-on impact on the Council's financial resilience. It is therefore of paramount importance that all agreed deficit recovery plans are deliverable within the timescale set for each school.

Financial Resilience

37. **Specific Base-funded contingencies** - to ensure there is a resilience cover against areas that can be unpredictable or volatile, the 2024/25 budget proposals include specific contingencies. These reflect:
- The difficulty in modelling potential increases in the number and complexity of Looked After Children Placements (£2.000 million – reduced from £2.150 million.)
 - The difficulty in modelling demand in Adult Services (£1.500 million – reduced from £2.000 million)
 - Market volatility in respect of recycling materials (£0.350 million).
38. **General Contingency** - the 2024/25 Budget reflects removal of the Council's £1.000 million General Contingency Budget. In the past, this was specifically held to protect the Council against late or under-delivered savings, or emerging areas of in-year pressure. Given the size of the budget gap for 2024/25, to minimise any further impact on front line services, or on the level of Council Tax, the contingency has been removed. Whilst this presents a level of risk to the Council's financial

resilience moving forward, (particularly given increased saving requirements), the decision is considered reasonable in light of specific contingencies remaining available (albeit at a reduced level) for the most volatile areas of demand, and the degree of resilience currently available in earmarked reserves. Robust budget monitoring from the outset of the financial year will be more crucial than ever in 2024/25, to ensure that early corrective action can be taken where required.

Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP)

39. The Medium-Term Financial Plan identified a significant Budget Gap of £142.3 million over the period 2025/26 – 2028/29, of which £44.3 million relates to 2025/26. Whilst the WTFP is not considered by this Scrutiny Committee, it will be scrutinised by the Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee on the 28th February 2024.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

40. The 2024/25 Cabinet Budget Report also includes information to the Housing Revenue Account Budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan. Whilst the HRA not considered by this Scrutiny Committee, it will be scrutinised by the Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee on the 26 February 2024, and Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee on the 28th February 2024.

Draft Capital Programme 2023/24 to 2027/28

41. General Capital Funding (GCF) at an All-Wales level will be £180m for 2024/25, of which Cardiff's allocation is £18.188m, or just over 10%. GCF can be spent on capital expenditure of a Local Authority's own choosing and is not specific to a project or scheme. The allocation is made up of two elements - £9.215m of Cash Grant and £8.973m of Supported Borrowing

approval. The capital financing costs of the latter being re-imbursed as part of future years RSG.

42. There is no indication of Cardiff's GCF for 2025/26 or beyond. However, the current expectation is that it will fall to circa £15 million, as advised in previous indicative settlements - i.e. the current levels of GCF are assumed to be temporary.

43. Within the Provisional Settlement, there remains reference to a £20m Local Government De-Carbonisation allocation for 2023/24 and 2024/25. However, details of the allocation and approach for both years remain unclear. A list of specific capital grants for 2024/25 is identified on an all-Wales basis but as many of these will be on a bid basis, Cardiff-specific allocations are not yet known.

44. The proposed 2024/25 Budget outlines capital expenditure proposals of £1.633 billion for the financial years 2024/25 to 2028/29, of which £457.7 million is earmarked for 2024/25. Whilst the Capital Strategy is not considered by this Scrutiny Committee, it will be scrutinised by the Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee on the 28th February 2024.

SUMMARY OF DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2024 – 2027

(Appendix 1)

45. In February each year the Council approves a three-year **Corporate Plan**. The 2024-27 Corporate Plan translates the administration's priorities, as set out in its Policy Statement *Stronger, Fairer, Greener*, into the Council's policy framework.

46. In accordance with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 the Corporate Plan includes the **Steps** and **Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)** considered necessary to deliver and monitor progress made on delivering the Council's Well-being Objectives.

47. The draft Corporate Plan attached at **Appendix 1**, is structured around 7 Well-being Objectives:

- Cardiff is a great place to grow up
- Cardiff is a great place to grow older
- Supporting people out of poverty
- Safe, confident and empowered communities
- A capital city that works for Wales
- One Planet Cardiff
- Modernising and integrating our public services

48. **Appendix 1** to this report sets out the sections of the Corporate Plan 2024-27 that fall within this Committee's terms of reference. The extracts have also been colour coded in line with Cabinet Members portfolios - this has been done to aid Member's reference and facilitate the structure of the meeting.

49. Whilst much of this Committee's work falls under **WBO01**, relevant extracts from other WBOs are included in **Appendix 1** for Members' information, and colour coded accordingly.

50. To remind Members, where appropriate, parts of **Appendix 1** have been colour coded as follows:

- Children's Services – deep orange
- Education & Lifelong Learning – lemon
- Education & Lifelong Learning (Supporting Young People) – pink
- Cross Portfolio or Directorate – bright yellow

- Other areas that have proposals also relevant to this scrutiny committee's terms of reference – **bright green**

SPECIFIC BUDGETARY PROPOSALS WITHIN CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE'S TERMS OF REFERENCE

51. This report provides the Committee with an opportunity to consider the draft Cabinet budgetary proposals and their alignment to the Corporate Plan 2024 – 2027, 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)

52. 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 2024 - 2027, which relate to this Committee's terms of reference.

Budget Support for the Corporate Plan and Future Generations

Appendix 3

- **£10.8m** - Net additional revenue support for Children's Services
- **£4.8m** - Capital investment in Right Homes Right Support Strategy for children and investment in children's respite provision and gateway accommodation for young people

Directorate Efficiency Savings Proposals 2024/25

Appendix 5a

- **CHDE1 - CHDE11** in Appendix 5a sets out a range of savings proposals, **totalling £2,210,000**

Service Change Savings Proposals 2024/25

Appendix 5b

- **CHDSC1** – Children’s Services – Placements – **£250,000**

Capital Programme

Appendix 9b

Ongoing Schemes / Amendments to Ongoing Schemes

- **Line 27** - Children's Services Accommodation – Crosslands - **£229,000 in 2024/25**
- **Line 28** - Children's Respite Provision - **£36,000 in 2024/25**
- **Line 29** - Safer Accommodation – Displacement - **£485,000 in 2024/25**

Invest to Save - Subject to Business Case

- **Line 79** - Right Homes, Right Support Strategy - Residential Provision for Children Looked After - **£0.00 in 2024/25**
- **Line 80** - Young Persons Gateway Accommodation - **£178,000 in 2024/25**

EDUCATION & LIFELONG LEARNING

53. Please note that anything highlighted in pink falls within Cllr Bradbury’s portfolio.

Budget Support for the Corporate Plan and Future Generations

Appendix 3

- **£12.8m** - Net additional revenue support for Schools
- **£4.1m** – Net additional revenue support for retained Education budgets
- **£234.2m** - Investment in new schools
- **£41.2m** - Investment in the existing Schools estate
- The 2024/25 Budget maintains investment in Youth Services
- **£2.0m** - Capital investment in youth hubs (*also includes Cllr Thorne*)

Directorate Efficiency Savings Proposals 2024/25**Appendix 6a**

- **EDUE1 – EDUE10** in Appendix 6b sets out a range of savings proposals, *totalling £1,378,000.*

Service Change Savings Proposals 2024/25**Appendix 6b**

- **EDUSC1** - Education - Directorate-wide review of Service Delivery Model
- *£150,000*

Fees and Charges 2024/25**Appendix 6c**

- **Line 233** – Schools Catering (School Meals)
- **Lines 234– 237** – Music Service
- **Lines 238– 242** – Storey Arms

Earmarked Reserves**Appendix 8****General Fund**

- **Line 51** – Out of School Childcare
- **Line 57** - Schools Formula Funding
- **Line 58** - Schools Organisation Plan
- **Line 68** – Youth Service – *Cllr Bradbury*

Schools Reserves and Balances

- **Line 1** – Schools Reserves
- **Line 2** - Primary / Special School Repairs

Annual Sums Expenditure

- **Line 5** – Schools Property Asset Renewal- **£5,794,000 in 2024/25**

Ongoing Schemes / Amendments to Ongoing Schemes

- **Line 24** – City Centre Youth Hub - **£99,000 in 2024/25** (also includes Cllr Thorne)
- **Line 30** - 21st Century Schools Band B Council Contribution - **£10,000,000 in 2024/25**

New Capital Schemes/Annual Sums (Excluding Invest to Save)

- **Line 52** - Schools Property Asset Renewal - **£10,000,000 in 2024/25**
- **Line 53** - 21st Century Schools Band B - Council Contribution - **£0.00 in 2024/25**

Schemes funded by Grants and Contributions (Further grants subject to approval of bids)

- **Line 64** - 21st Century Schools Band B (WG) - **£80,745,000 in 2024/25**
- **Line 65** - 21st Century Schools Land Remediation Llanishen Site - **£7,115,000 in 2024/25**

Invest to Save - Subject to Business Case

- **Line 81** - 21st Century Schools - Band B Financial Model - **£6,084,000 in 2024/25**

OTHER DIRECTORATES

54. The following also fall within this Scrutiny Committee's Terms of Reference and may be part of Members' consideration at this meeting.

Directorate Efficiency Savings Proposals 2024/25

Housing & Communities Directorate

- **HACE08** - Grant fund the Bright Start project through Communities for Work+ grant - £112,000

HACE8	Grant fund the Bright Start project through Communities for Work+ grant Bright Start is a project that supports care-experienced young people who need one-to-one support to access Education, Employment and Training. It is proposed that this is funded via the Communities for Work+ grant rather than the general fund. This grant is agreed indicatively until March 2025.
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- **HACE12** – Early Help - £91,000

HACE12	Early Help Deletion of 2 x Grade 5 Family Gateway Contact Officers and 0.4 x Disability Index Officer.
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Performance & Partnerships

- **P&PE5** Child Friendly City - Embed Childs Rights Approach across the Council - **£10,000**

P&PE5	Child Friendly City - Embed Childs Rights Approach across the Council The saving will be achieved by combining the Child Friendly City resource, currently in Education, with the Corporate Performance and Partnerships Team, to enable best use of shared resources and create a more efficient and sustainable team. This will require the embedding of the Child friendly approach to service delivery and decision making across all Council working practices. (See also EDUE4)
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Fees and Charges 2024/25

Housing & Communities Directorate

- **Lines 277 - 297 – Childcare Workforce Development**

No.	Income Source	Current Charge	Proposed Price Change	% Change	Effective Date	Comment
277	Paediatric First Aid	£ 50.00	£ 4.00	8.00%	1 April 2024	The proposed new charge is £54.00
278	Food Hygiene (Classroom)	£ 35.00	£ 2.80	8.00%		The proposed new charge is £37.80
279	Emergency First Aid At Work	£ 35.00	£ 2.80	8.00%		The proposed new charge is £37.80
280	Basic Child Protection	£ 25.00	£ 2.00	8.00%		The proposed new charge is £27.00
281	Advanced Child Protection	£ 35.00	£ 2.80	8.00%		The proposed new charge is £37.80
282	Agored Food and Nutrition	£ 20.00	£ 1.60	8.00%		The proposed new charge is £21.60
283	Agored Refresher	£ 5.00	£ 0.40	8.00%		The proposed new charge is £5.40
284	Connection Before Correction	£ 20.00	£ 1.60	8.00%		The proposed new charge is £21.60
285	Rubicon Dance	£ 20.00	£ 1.60	8.00%		The proposed new charge is £21.60
286	Makaton Level 1	£ 35.00	£ 2.80	8.00%		The proposed new charge is £37.80
287	Makaton Level 2	£ 35.00	£ 2.80	8.00%		The proposed new charge is £37.80
288	Visual Strategies in Early Years	£ 20.00	£ 1.60	8.00%		The proposed new charge is £21.60
289	Introduction to Social Communication and Autism	£ 20.00	£ 1.60	8.00%		The proposed new charge is £21.60
290	Supporting the Development of Play	£ 20.00	£ 1.60	8.00%		The proposed new charge is £21.60
291	Expectations in the Early Years	£ 20.00	£ 1.60	8.00%		The proposed new charge is £21.60
292	Managing and Supporting Children Who Bite	£ 20.00	£ 1.60	8.00%		The proposed new charge is £21.60
293	Writing Risk Assessments in the Early Years	£ 20.00	£ 1.60	8.00%		The proposed new charge is £21.60
294	Digital Literacy	£ 20.00	£ 1.60	8.00%		The proposed new charge is £21.60
295	Sensory Experiences	£ 20.00	£ 1.60	8.00%		The proposed new charge is £21.60
296	WRAP Training	£ 5.00	£ 0.40	8.00%		The proposed new charge is £5.40
297	Childminding Course	£ 200.00	£ 16.00	8.00%	The proposed new charge is £216.00	

- **Lines 298 – 299** - Early Help Room Hire - The Conference Centre (*no proposed increases*)

Planning, Transport & Environment Directorate

- **Lines 473 - 478** – Transportation (School Transport)

No.	Income Source	Current Charge	Proposed Price Change	% Change	Effective Date	Comment
473	School Transport Bus Passes	£ 450.00	50	11.11%	01-Sep-24	The proposed new charge is £500.00
474	Replacement of School Bus Passes - Paper	£ 10.00	Nil	Nil		No proposed increase
475	Replacement of School Bus Passes - Digital	New Charge - See Comment				New charge for 2024/25. The proposed charge is £5.00
476	Disclosure Barring Service (DBS) check for School Transport)	£36.00 for charge £24.00 admin charge	Nil	Nil	01-Apr-24	No proposed increase
477	Hiring Out Vehicles to School Transport	Based on cost of vehicle plus 10% - administration fees				
478	Bus Service Publicity & Infrastructure	Based on cost of work plus 10% - administration fees				

55. In addition, Members are requested to note that the following will be considered in detail by other scrutiny committees but are also reflected in these papers to provide a complete picture.

Capital Programme

Appendix 9b

LEAD SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – ECONOMY & CULTURE

- **Line 18** – Parks Infrastructure - **£140,000 in 2024/25**
- **Line 19** – Play Equipment - **£176,000 in 2024/25**
- **Line 20** - Teen/Adult Informal Sport and Fitness Facilities - **£610,000 in 2024/25**

LEAD SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – POLICY REVIEW & PERFORMANCE

- **Line 54** - St Teilo's Pitches, Gymnasium and Car Parking – **£560,000 in 2024/25**

LEAD SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – ENVIRONMENTAL

- **Line 67** - Safe Routes in Communities (WG) - **£200,000 in 2024/25**
- **Line 70** - Active Travel Fund (WG) - **£5,000,000 in 2024/25**

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT – Appendices 10a and 10b

56. Consultation on the Council's budget proposals for 2024/25 was undertaken by the Cardiff Research Centre. The consultation ran from 8 January 2024 to 4 February 2024, following the budget announcement from the Welsh Government on 20 December 2023.

57. The survey was available online and in hard copy, in English, Welsh, Arabic, Polish and Bangla.

58. The Cardiff Research Centre worked closely with partnership organisations to ensure as representative a response as possible. In a bid to ensure the survey was promoted as widely as possible, the survey was promoted via:

- **Email** - Organisations known to work with less frequently heard groups; Cardiff's Citizen's Panel; Ward members in areas known to traditionally have a low response rate.
- **Internet/intranet** - hosted on the Council website, at www.cardiff.gov.uk/budget; and promoted to Council employees via DigiGov, Intranet and Staff Information. An accessible version of the survey (for use with screen readers) was made available alongside the main survey. The webpage received 7,440 views in total across both the English and Welsh versions, with 4,429 accessing the page from the scrolling bar on the homepage of the website.
- **Social media** - promoted on the Council's corporate Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Linked In accounts by the Corporate Communications Team throughout the consultation period (to a combined audience of around 185,000 followers). Targeted promotion

was facilitated via stakeholder's social media accounts and Facebook 'boosts' of paid advertising aimed at those less frequently heard i.e. under 25's, Minority Ethnic groups and those living in the 'Southern Arc' of the city. Fifty-four posts were published, which were viewed 67,671 times, with 1,358 clicks through to the Budget Consultation page.

- **Hard copies** - Hard copies of the survey were made available in Hubs, libraries and community buildings across the city from Monday 8th January; they were also provided to Members Services, for all councillors to distribute. Partner organisations were invited to request hard copies for distribution.
- **Youth Survey** - The Child Friendly Cardiff team created a modified version of the survey using less formal language and distributed this to Schools Admin and Headteachers newsletters for completion online between 11th January and 4^h February 2024.
- **Face to face interviews** - An assessment of results received was made approximately halfway through the survey window to understand the profile of respondents. Officers went out to areas with the lowest levels of response to gather views of residents about the budget proposals, particularly those belonging to under-represented groups. Areas identified were Adamsdown, Caerau, Cathays, Ely, Grangetown, Llanrumney, Rumney, Splott and St Mellons; interviews were also conducted in Central Library, capturing respondents for across the city.

59. Whilst respondents in some areas were very positive about being asked for their views and welcomed the opportunity to speak to a council officer about the issues raised, other areas saw poor engagement with little interest, which was hampered by poor weather affecting footfall.

60. After data cleansing to remove blank and duplicated responses, a total of **9,001 responses were received for the main survey, with a total of 103 responses to the Youth survey.** A total of 1,932 face-to-face contacts were undertaken. A copy of the consultation document is

attached at **Appendix 10a; and 10b** supplies more information on responses to the consultation.

Way Forward

61. Officers will make a presentation providing a corporate overview of the 2024/25 Budget Proposals. The relevant Cabinet Members and Officers will be available to answer Members' questions arising from the attached papers.
62. Members will then be able to decide what comments, observations or recommendations they wish to pass on to the Cabinet for consideration at its business meeting on 29 February 2024.

Legal Implications

63. 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

64. 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 29 February 2024 and to the Chairman of the Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee for consideration at their meeting on 28 February 2024.

Leanne Weston

Interim Deputy Monitoring Officer

21 February 2024