
**DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2024-27 and DRAFT CABINET BUDGET
PROPOSALS 2024-25**

Appendix 7 is exempt from publication because it contains information of the kind described in paragraphs 14 and 21 of parts 4 and 5 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

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 Cabinet Portfolios and Directorates falling within the remit of this Committee.
2. Members should note that **Appendix 7** is exempt from publication. Members are requested to keep this information confidential, in line with their responsibilities as set out in the Members Code of Conduct.

Structure of the Meeting

3. The following Cabinet Members and officers are due to attend committee:
 - Councillor Weaver, Cabinet Member - Finance, Modernisation and Performance
 - Councillor Burke, Cabinet Member – Culture, Parks, Events and Venues.
 - Councillor Goodway, Cabinet Member – Investment and Development
 - Councillor Thomas, Leader
 - Councillor Bradbury, Cabinet Member – Tackling Poverty and Supporting Young People
 - Councillor Thorne, Cabinet Member – Housing and Communities
 - Councillor Merry, Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Education

- Chris Lee - Corporate Director - Resources
- Ian Allwood - Head of Finance
- Helen Evans – Assistant Director, Housing and Communities
- Rebecca Hooper – Operational Manager, Neighbourhood Regeneration
- Suzanne Scarlett, Operational Manager – Partnerships and Performance (Education)
- Neil Hanratty – Director of Economic Development.
- Jon Day, Economic Policy Manager
- Jon Maidment, OM, Parks & Cardiff Harbour

4. At the start of the meeting, Councillor 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.

5. The meeting will then move on to consider the corporate plan and budgetary proposals **relevant to this committee**. Consideration of the proposals will be organised by Cabinet Member portfolios in the following order:

- Councillor Burke – all portfolio *except Storey Arms*.
- Councillor Goodway – all portfolio *except Facilities Management and Assets*
- Councillor Thomas – City Deal, Western Gateway
- Councillor Merry – Cardiff Commitment
- Councillor Bradbury – Into Work and Adult Community Learning
- Councillor Thorne – Local Regeneration, Hubs and Libraries

6. For the following Cabinet Member portfolios:

- Councillor Burke
- Councillor Goodway

A brief presentation has been requested to be delivered at the meeting; providing Members with an overview of the draft budget proposals.

7. If any Members have questions on the confidential information in **Appendix 7**, the Chair will propose that the meeting move into closed session, where members of the public will be excluded. The meeting will then be re-opened for the remainder of the meeting.

Structure of the Papers

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

Appendix 1 – Extracts from the draft Corporate Plan 2024-27 containing sections relevant to the Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee.

Appendix 2 – Scrutiny Performance Panel observations and Cabinet response

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

Appendix 4 – cross authority Directorate Revenue Budget sheet

Appendix 5 – Budget proposals - Housing and Communities Directorate

Appendix 6 – Budget proposals - Economic Development Directorate

Appendix 7 - Exempt Fees and Charges – **confidential**

Appendix 8 – Earmarked Reserves General Fund

Appendix 9a – Capital Funding Overview

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

Appendix 10a - Budget Consultation Report 2024/25

Appendix 10b - How Consultation responses impacted the Budget 2024/25

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

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

Appendix 2: On 15 February 2024, the Scrutiny Chairs met 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. This appendix captures the Scrutiny Chairs' recommendations and requests and provides the Cabinet's response to these.

Appendix 3: 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: provides a corporate picture of the revenue budget across the Council.

Appendix 5: provides an overview of the **Housing and Communities** Directorate, with the following sub appendices:

- **5a** – Efficiency Proposals 2024/25
- **5b** – Service Change Proposals 2024/25
- **5c** – Fees and Charges 2024/25

Appendix 6: provides an overview of the **Economic Development** Directorate, with the following sub appendices:

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

Appendix 7: sets out Fees and Charges, which are exempt from publication – this appendix is **confidential**.

Appendix 8: provides a summary, setting out allocations of money the Council has reserved for specific purposes.

Appendix 9a & 9b: provides a summary of the Capital Programme and its resources, along with an overview of its indicative spend 2024-29.

Appendix 10a and 10b: is the Budget Consultation Report

10. To assist Members, relevant lines in some of the attached appendices have been colour coded as follows:

- | |
|---|
| a. Shaded peach – Councillor Burke proposals. |
| b. Shaded green – Councillor Goodway proposals |
| c. Shaded yellow – Councillor Merry proposals |
| d. Shaded pink – Councillor Bradbury proposals |
| e. Shaded sky blue – Councillor Thorne proposals |
| f. Shaded blue – Councillor Thomas proposals |

Committee Members are asked to take note of the colour coding, which is designed to assist them in directing their question to the appropriate Cabinet Member in line with the structure of the meeting. **Lines highlighted in grey are not applicable to this Scrutiny Committee.**

Scope of Scrutiny

11. 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.

12. 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 programme.

13. Following the Scrutiny Committee meeting, the Chair will detail the Committee's key comments and recommendations in correspondence to the Cabinet, for their consideration, at their meeting on 29 Feb 2024. At that meeting the Cabinet will formally recommend their budget recommendations for consideration and adoption by Full Council, at its meeting on 7 March 2024.

SUMMARY AND OVERVIEW OF 2024/25 BUDGET PROPOSAL

Local Government Financial Settlement

14. 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.

15. 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:

- a. Reverse a £10.6 million reduction to the Social Care Workforce Grant, that was announced in the Provisional Settlement.
- b. Increase the Revenue Support Grant by £14.4 million.

16. 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.*

17. 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.

18. 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. Further information on specific grants is included in the 2024/25 Cabinet Budget Report at paragraph 29.

19. 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. Cardiff's transfers have been reflected in the AEF figures included within the 2024/25 Cabinet Budget Report.

Final Settlement Timing

20. 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

21. 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 9 - 11 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

22. 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.

23. 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

24. 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

25. 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

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

27. 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

27. 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

28. 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.

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

29. 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.

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

Service Change Proposals

31. 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 5 & 6 summarise 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.

32. 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

33. 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. Further information is available in paragraphs 51-55 of the Cabinet Budget Report.

Council Tax

34. 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

35. 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

36. 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.

37. 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.

38. 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

39. 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.
40. Appendix 6 to the Cabinet Budget Report outlines 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.
41. 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

42. **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 £1.500 million)
- Market volatility in respect of recycling materials (£0.350 million).

43. **General Contingency** - the 2024/25 Budget reflects removal of the Councils £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.

44. A snapshot is prepared which considers wider aspects of financial resilience and this is available as Appendix 7 (a) to the Cabinet Budget Report.

Medium-Term Financial Plan

45. 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. Further information is included in Annex 1 to the Cabinet Budget Report.

Housing Revenue Account

46. The 2024/25 Cabinet Budget Report also includes information to the Housing Revenue Account Budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan. This is contained in Annex 2 to the Cabinet Budget Report.

Draft Capital Programme 2023/24 to 2027/28

47. 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.

48. 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.

49. 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.

50. 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. The Capital Strategy is available as Annex 3 to the Cabinet Budget Report.

Summary Of Draft Corporate Plan 2023 – 2026 (Appendix 1)

51. Every 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 strategic policy framework.

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

53. 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.

54. **Appendix 1** to this report sets out the sections of the Corporate Plan 2023-26 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. Colour coding is as follows:

- a. **Shaded peach** – Councillor Burke proposals.
- b. **Shaded green** – Councillor Goodway proposals.
- c. **Shaded yellow** – Councillor Merry proposals.
- d. **Shaded pink** – Councillor Bradbury proposals.
- e. **Shaded sky blue** – Councillor Thorne proposals.
- f. **Shaded blue** – Councillor Thomas proposals.

SPECIFIC BUDGETARY PROPOSALS WITHIN ECONOMY & CULTURE TERMS OF REFERENCE

55. 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.

Culture, Parks, Events and Venues

56. Councillor Jennifer Burke, Cabinet Member for this Portfolio, and Neil Hanratty, Director of Economic Development, and Jon Maidment, Operational Manager - Parks Sports & Harbour Authority have been invited to answer Members’ questions on the draft Corporate Plan and budget proposals for this portfolio. The whole portfolio falls within this Committee’s terms of reference, apart from Storey Arms which is scrutinised by the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee.

57. Members are asked to refer to **Appendices 1** WBO 4 and WBO5, **shaded peach**, **6a**, **6b**, **6c**, **8**, **9** and **9b** in relation to the following budgetary proposals, **shaded peach**:

Economic Development Efficiency Savings – Appendix 6a

There are four savings lines - ECDE3, ECDE6 and ECDE9 **totalling £185,000**.

Economic Development Service Change Savings – Appendix 6b

ECDSC1 – Asset Transfer of Parks Outdoor Sport Facilities to Local Clubs

ECDSC2 – Event Management - Reduce Funding Support for Events

ECDSC3 - Reduction in Offer at Museum of Cardiff

ECDSC4 – Lease/Dispose of the Mansion House

ECDSC5 - Outdoor Sports Pitches

ECDSC6 - Community Park Ranger & Urban Park Ranger Reduced Provision

ECDSC7 - Introduce a phased recovery of the subsidy for the maintenance of Municipal Bowling Greens

ECDSC8 - Reduced Playground Management Service

ECDSC9 - Playground inspection

ECDSC10 - Arboriculture - Inspection

ECDSC11 - Introduce an annual charge for Bowls Clubs using Pavilions

ECDSC13 - Parks Apprenticeship/Traineeship Schemes

ECDSC14 - Protocol

Economic Development Fees & Changes – Appendix 6c

Lines 5-50 – Venues (*Cardiff Castle, Mansion House, Cardiff Caravan & Camping Park, Cardiff Story Museum*)

Lines 51 - 70 – Parks (*including Allotments*)

Lines 71 - 83 – Channel View Centre

Lines 84 – 129 – Cardiff Riding School

Lines 130 – 188 – Sailing and Water activities (*Sailing Centre, Activity Adventure Programme, Fishing, Slipway fees and charges, Rowing, Cardiff International White Water*)

Lines 189 – 197 – Harbour

Fees & Changes – Appendix 7 - Confidential

Line 58 – Members are reminded this information is confidential – please do not raise in the public section of the meeting.

Earmarked Reserves – Appendix 8

Line 7 – Bute Park Match Funding

Line 19 – Corporate Events & Cultural Services

Line 31 – Flatholm

Line 34 – Harbour Authority Projects and Contingency Fund

Line 49 – New Theatre Repairs

Capital Programme- Appendix 9b

Line 18 – Parks Infrastructure

Line 19 – Play Equipment

Line 20 – Teen/Adult Informal Sport & Fitness Facilities

Line 21 – Green Flag Park Infrastructure Renewal

Line 45 – Flatholm – NHLF Project

Line 46 – Roath Park Dam

Line 57 – Pentwyn Leisure Centre Redevelopment

Line 74 – Flatholm (Lottery)

Line 75 – Harbour Authority

Line 76 – Parks Tennis Project

Line 91 – GLL Leisure Centre Solar Panels

Investment & Development

58. Councillor Russell Goodway, Cabinet Member for this portfolio, and Neil Hanratty, Director of Economic Development, Donna Jones, Assistant Director, County Estates and Jon Day, Tourism & Investment Manager, have been invited to answer Members' questions on the draft Corporate Plan and budget proposals for this portfolio.

59. Members are asked to refer to **Appendices 1** WBO5, **shaded green**, **6a**, **6b**, **6c**, **8** and **9b** in relation to the following budgetary proposals, **shaded green**:

Economic Development Efficiency Savings – Appendix 6a

There are six savings lines - ECDE1, ECDE4, ECDE5, ECDE7, ECDE8, ECDE10 and ECDE11– **totalling £891,000**.

Economic Development Service Change Savings – Appendix 6b

ECDS12 – Land Management – Hard Infrastructure

ECDS15 – Reduced Business & Investment Service

Economic Development Fees & Changes – Appendix 6c

Line 1 – Filming in the city

Line 2 – Workshop Rents

Line 2 – Land & Building Rents

Earmarked Reserves – Appendix 8

Line 13 – Cardiff Enterprise Zone

Line 14 – Central Market Works

Line 16 – City Wide Management & Initiatives

Line 45 – Major Projects

Line 54 – Red Dragon Centre

Capital Programme- Appendix 9b

Line 41 – Arena enabling works contribution

Line 42 – East Cardiff Industrial & Regeneration Strategy

Line 43 – Cardiff Indoor Market Restoration

Line 59 – Transforming Towns Placemaking (WG)

Line 72 – Central Market (Lottery)

Line 73 – Central Market (WG)

Line 83 – Indoor Arena – land assembly and MSCP

Line 84 – Indoor Arena Direct Funding

Line 85 – International Sports Village – Phase 2

Line 89 – Central Market (WG)

Leader

60. Councillor Huw Thomas, Leader and Neil Hanratty, Director - Economic Development, have been invited to answer Members' questions on the draft Corporate Plan and budget proposals for this portfolio, relating to **Cardiff Capital Region City Deal** and **Western Gateway**.

61. Members are asked to refer to **Appendices 1** WBO5, shaded blue, **8** and **10b** in relation to the following budgetary proposal, shaded blue:

Earmarked Reserves – Appendix 8

Line 11 – Cardiff Capital Region City Deal

Capital Programme- Appendix 9b

Line 50 – Cardiff Capital Region City Deal.

Line 60 – Shared Prosperity Fund.

Education

62. Councillor Sarah Merry, Cabinet Member for this portfolio, and Suzanne Scarlett (Partnerships & Performance Manager) have been invited to this meeting to answer members questions however as there are no efficiencies or service changes proposed in relation to the **Cardiff Commitment**.

63. Members are asked to refer to **Appendix 1** for the section on Cardiff Commitment, shaded yellow, in WBO1,

Tackling Poverty & Supporting Young People

64. Councillor Peter Bradbury, Cabinet Member for this portfolio, Helen Evans Assistant Director – Housing & Communities and Suzanne Scarlett Partnerships & Performance Manager, have been invited to answer Members' questions on the draft Corporate Plan and budget proposals for **Into Work** and **Adult Community Learning**.

65. Members are asked to refer to **Appendices 1** WBO 3, shaded pink, and , **5c and** in relation to the following budgetary proposals, shaded pink:

Housing & Communities Efficiency Saving Proposals – Appendix 5a

HACE5 - Reduce contract to Cardiff and Vale Credit Union - £15,000

HACE11 – Advice & Benefits - £66,000 & £15,000

Housing & Communities Fees & Changes – Appendix 5c

Lines 261-276 – Adult Community Learning.

Housing & Communities

66. Councillor Lynda Thorne, Cabinet Member for this portfolio, Helen Evans Assistant Director – Housing & Communities and Rebecca Hooper Operational Manager – Neighbourhood Regeneration have been invited to answer Members' questions on the draft Corporate Plan and budget proposals for this portfolio for **local regeneration and libraries**.

67. Members are asked to refer to **Appendices 1** WBO4, shaded sky blue, **5a, 5b, 5c, and 8** in relation to the following budgetary proposals, shaded sky blue:

Housing & Communities Efficiency Saving Proposals – Appendix 5a

HACE1 - Review of Local Action Team Staffing - £69,000

HACE2 - Neighbourhood Regeneration - £138,000

HACE10 - Review of Hubs & Communities Staffing - £33,000

Housing & Communities Service Change Savings – Appendix 5b

HACSC2 - Local Action Team (LAT) Review -£173,000

HACSC3 - Amendment to Hub Opening and Closing Times - £120,000

HACSC4 – Streamline Mobile Library Service to focus on those residents who are housebound - £52,000

HACSC5 - Increase volunteers in Hubs £84,000

HACSC6 – Removal of paper newspapers and periodicals from libraries and hubs - £30,000

Housing & Communities Fees & Charges – Appendix 5c

Lines 245-260 – Libraries/ Hubs

68. Members are asked to refer to **Appendices 1 WBO5**, shaded sky blue, **8 and 10b** in relation to the following budgetary proposal, shaded sky blue:

Earmarked Reserves – Appendix 8

Line 18 – Community Initiatives

Capital Programme- Appendix 9b

Line 4 – Neighbourhood Renewal Schemes

Line 24 – City Centre Youth Hub

Line 25 – District and Local Centre Regeneration

Line 55 – The Marl – Channel View Redevelopment

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

69. 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.

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

71. 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 11 January and 4 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.

73. 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.

74. 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.**

Way Forward

75. 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.

76. Members will then be able to decide what comments, observations or recommendations they wish to pass on to the Cabinet for consideration at their business meeting on 29 February 2024.

Legal Implications

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

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 2 March 2023 and to the Chairman of the Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee for consideration at their meeting on 1 March 2023.

Leanne Weston

Interim Deputy Monitoring Officer

21 February 2024