
Report to: Corporate Scrutiny Committee

Date: 21 January 2022

Subject: **Budget and business planning**

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1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To provide further information on the budget position for the Combined Authority for 2022/23.

2. Information

- 2.1 The Corporate Scrutiny Committee met in a workshop session in December where it focussed on the budget being developed for consideration and approval at the Combined Authority meeting of 3 February. The Committee considered the budget paper that had been presented to the December meeting of the Combined Authority and officers provided further information and explanations to support the Committee's understanding of the underlying assumptions and challenges, and to understand what sits beneath the figures. A summary of the paper considered at that meeting is attached for information as **Appendix 1**. The revenue appendix to this paper has been updated to indicate which director is responsible for each directorate budget.
- 2.2 Members provided some useful and constructive feedback which will be incorporated into the budget paper currently being drafted for the 3 February meeting, including an expanded explanation of movements between years and further analysis of certain of the budget lines.
- 2.3 At the time of publication of these papers the budget and associated report are still undergoing final review and refinement, with work underway to close the funding gap and be able to present a balanced budget for approval. This is expected to be achieved by updating some of the income assumptions and consideration of use of reserves.
- 2.4 In addition to this the Committee asked for further specific information to consider at their next meeting and this is provided in the attached appendices:

1. **Appendix 1** – Summary of Budget & Business Planning report [*to Corporate Scrutiny Workshop (21.12.21) and Combined Authority (9.12.21) with appendices*]
2. **Appendix 2** – Draft business plan priorities 2022/23
3. **Appendix 3** – Draft capital budgets from 2021/22
4. **Appendix 4** – proposed 2022/23 budget by directorate
5. **Appendix 5** – summary proposed 2022/23 budget with comparatives
6. **Appendix 6** – transport levy by local authority
7. **Appendix 7** – gainshare approvals
8. **Appendix 8** – draft treasury management strategy and draft reserves policy

2.5 Officers will be in attendance at the meeting to talk through these appendices in more detail and answer any further questions the Committee may have.

3. **Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications**

3.1 The budget will include resource to support climate change activity.

4. **Inclusive Growth Implications**

4.1 The budget will include resource to support inclusive growth.

5. **Equality and Diversity Implications**

5.1 All services funded and delivered by the Combined Authority are required to consider diversity implications.

6. **Financial Implications**

6.1 The report covers budget information but there are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

7. **Legal Implications**

7.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

8. **Staffing Implications**

8.1 The budget will include the staffing costs for the approved establishment.

9. **External Consultees**

9.1 No external consultations have been undertaken.

10. **Recommendations**

10.1 That the Committee note the report and budget information and provide any comments.

11. Background Documents

None.

12. Appendices

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