

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD
26th November, 2015

Present:- Councillor Steele (in the Chair); Councillors Beck, Hamilton, Hughes, Mallinder, Sansome, Julie Turner and Whelbourn.

Also in attendance:- Commissioner S. Manzie, Advisory Cabinet Members : Councillors Read, Roche and Sims, together with Mrs D. Thomas (Centre for Public Scrutiny).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cowles, Pitchley and Wyatt.

52. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made at this meeting.

53. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

There were no questions from members of the public or the press.

54. PRESENTATION ON DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board received a presentation from Commissioner Manzie concerning the Council's draft Corporate Plan and Performance Management Framework. The presentation highlighted:-

- : the Council's overall vision, direction and priorities;
- : clarity and accountability;
- : strategic actions, service-related actions and performance indicators (eg: the caseload of individual social workers);
- : ensuring that the Council works in a modern, efficient way (including governance of the Council);
- : connecting all services, teams and individuals to the corporate priorities of the Council;
- : the importance of continuing scrutiny of the Council's Corporate Plan and Performance Management Framework;
- : measurement of Council service performance against national indicators and bench-marking processes.

Members discussed various salient issues, as follows:-

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- : the role of Elected Members in ensuring the implementation of the Council's Corporate Plan;
- : maintaining service performance in the light of budget pressures and in accordance with the Council's vision and priorities.

Resolved:- That the contents of the presentation be noted.

55. BUDGET UPDATE FROM THE COMMISSIONERS - BUDGET SAVINGS PROPOSALS

Further to Minute No. 124 of Commissioner Manzie's meeting held on 20th November, 2015, consideration was given to a report, presented by the Interim Strategic Director of Resources and Transformation, concerning additional budget savings proposals for the three financial years from 2016/17. Specifically, the report recommended that additional savings proposals should now be considered, totalling £5.833 millions, for the period 2016/17 to 2018/19. The proposals were listed in the submitted report according to the Advisory Cabinet Portfolios of the Leader, the Deputy Leader, Adult Social Care and Health and Housing and the Local Economy.

During discussion of this item, Members raised the following salient issues:-

- : the revenue budget for street services and community safety related services were being considered in detail and reports would be submitted to Commissioners and to Elected Members in the near future;
- : Rotherham Industrial Development Office – proposed restructuring; business rates; availability and use of external funding;
- : the Library Service and the role of libraries in supporting the delivery of other Council services; use of volunteers in libraries;
- : Rother Valley Country Park – car parking charges;
- : Rotherham Town Centre – Visitor Centre;
- : Public Health – year-on-year efficiency saving on the provider of the Integrated Sexual Health Service (TRFT); community dietetics;
- : Human Resources – shared service centre;
- : waste collection and recycling (including the recycling of plastic materials);
- : collection of household waste, including collections during the Christmas and New Year holiday period;

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- : off-road vehicle prevention budget (preventing unauthorised access onto land) – capitalisation;
- : Country Parks – staffing complement of rangers; maintenance of facilities and sites;
- : increasing the generation of income to the Council and the consequences of income targets not being achieved;
- : review of the Council's Internal Audit Service (review by Price, Waterhouse and Cooper, consultants);
- : Legal Services and business support;
- : the forecast savings across the three financial years 2016/17 to 2018/19 and further savings proposals being prepared for future consideration by Commissioners and by Elected Members during December 2015 and January 2016.

Resolved:- (1) That the report be received and its contents noted.

(2) That the revenue budget savings proposals, as now detailed in the submitted reports, be accepted and referred for further consideration by the Commissioners and by the Council.

(3) That the Commissioners be requested to clarify the budget setting time-frame and the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board shall arrange further meetings to consider the revenue budget savings proposals, during the weeks prior to the setting of the Council Tax by the Council at its meeting to be held on Wednesday, 2nd March 2016.

56. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30TH SEPTEMBER 2015

Further to Minute No. 123 of Commissioner Manzie's meeting held on 17th November, 2015, consideration was given to a report, presented by the Chief Finance Manager, containing details of progress on the delivery of the Council's current year Revenue Budget for 2015/16 based on performance to 30th September, 2015. The Revenue Budget currently forecast an outturn of £10.353m (+5.1%) above budget. The forecast outturn position had deteriorated by £0.906m since the August 2015 monitoring report.

Key pressures contributing to the forecast overspend (£10.353m) were:-

- The continuing service demand and agency staffing cost pressures for safeguarding vulnerable children across the Borough and the strengthening of Social Work and management capacity;
- Improvements made to Social Work staff terms and conditions of employment to help attract and retain good staff – this not only

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improves the possibility of greater stability for relations with the children supported leading to better outcomes, but also reduced costs overall through less reliance on more costly agency staff;

- Demand pressures for Direct Payments within Older People and Physical and Sensory Disability clients and clients with Mental Health needs; and
- The continuing budget pressures which may affect the use of the Council's balances and reserves.

Radical action and the continued close management of spending was required urgently if the Council was to deliver a balanced outturn for the 2015/16 financial year.

A number of 2016/17 budget savings proposals have already been agreed (some only requiring Officer approval through delegated powers) which would also contribute towards in-year savings in 2015/16. As these proposals materialised, their impact on the forecast outturn would be reflected in future revenue budget monitoring reports.

Additionally, the financial impact of any decisions to release staff through voluntary severance or voluntary early retirement would be factored in to future budget monitoring reports at the earliest opportunity. It was expected that these decisions would reduce the current forecast overspend.

Reference was also made to the Commissioners working with Central Government to ascertain whether specific financial assistance to support the delivery of the Council's Corporate Improvement Plan and its Children's Services Improvement Plan could be made available. Also, the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Autumn Statement in Parliament (25th November, 2015) had included the likely future permission for local authorities to use receipts from the sale of fixed assets for revenue purposes, linked to reform.

Discussion took place on the difficulties associated with the management of spending in respect of the budgets for Children and Young People's Services and for Adult Social Care.

Members also asked questions about the Education Support Grant, academies and free schools, school place planning, the costs of elections, the New Homes Bonus and the investment money which the Council has reclaimed from the Icelandic banks (a further, residual sum of money is still to be reclaimed).

Resolved:- (1) That the report be received and its contents noted.

(2) That the decisions affecting the revenue budget, taken by Commissioner Manzie at her meeting held on 17th November, 2015, be noted.

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(3) That, to enable the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board to continue its detailed monitoring of the Council's revenue budget:-

(a) revenue budget monitoring reports continue to be submitted to the Management Board at intervals of three months;

(b) monitoring reports on the revenue budget for Children and Young People's Services shall be submitted to the Management Board's meeting to be held on 22nd January, 2016 and every alternate month thereafter; and

(c) monitoring reports on the revenue budget for Adult Social Care shall be submitted to the Management Board's meeting to be held on 26th February, 2016 and every alternate month thereafter.

(4) That, further to resolution (3) above, the detailed monitoring of specific issues relating to the revenue budgets for Children and Young People's Services and for Adult Social Care shall be facilitated by reporting principally to the Improving Lives Select Commission and to other Select Commissions as appropriate.

57. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 23RD OCTOBER, 2015

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, held on 23rd October, 2015, be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

58. ISSUES REFERRED FROM THE AREA ASSEMBLIES

Reference was made to the impending restructuring of the Safer Neighbourhood Teams, currently under consideration by the Council and by the South Yorkshire Police.

59. YOUTH CABINET/YOUNG PEOPLE'S ISSUES

Members noted that, during the previous Children's Commissioner Day and at its meeting held on 27th February 2014, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board had received a presentation from members of the Youth Cabinet about the Youth Cabinet's study of self-harming amongst young people and the advice services available to people who are at risk of self-harm. Continuing that work, the next Children's Commissioner Day will concentrate upon the study of mental health issues affecting young people.

It was also noted that several workshops have already taken place, involving Youth Cabinet members and Councillors representing both the Health Select Commission and the Improving Lives Select Commission, to give initial consideration to the most important issues and to prioritise the key themes for this study of mental health.

A planning meeting of the Youth Cabinet is scheduled to take place during the evening of Monday, 14th December, 2015 and it was agreed that the representatives of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board at that planning meeting shall be the Chairman and Councillors Beck, Hamilton and Sansome.

60. WORK IN PROGRESS

Health Select Commission:-

The Chair reported on the recent activities of the Health Select Commission:-

- : Members' involvement in meetings of the communications engagement sub-group;
- : Members' attendance at an event for Rotherham GPs about Health Care;
- : Consideration of issues concerning quality care and also the Ambulance service;
- : The Select Commission's next meeting will include consideration of intermediate and locality care.

Improving Places Select Commission:-

The Chair reported on the recent activities of the Improving Places Select Commission:-

- : Waste and Environment Budget (including Streetpride Services) – consideration of revenue budget savings proposals;
- : Initial discussion about the health check of the Council's Waste services;
- : Task and Finish groups – (i) consideration of the report of the preliminary study of car parking issues affecting the Rotherham town centre; and (ii) a report about fly tipping and litter will be considered early in 2016;
- : Future consideration of the draft Rotherham town centre master plan.

Improving Lives Select Commission:-

The Chair reported on the recent activities of the Improving Lives Select Commission:-

- : Consideration of issues affecting children's residential homes (including the closure of the Woodview residential home, Kimberworth Park);
- : Consideration of the operation of the Early Help Service;
- : Future consideration of the report of the scrutiny review of domestic abuse and also of a report about the safeguarding of children;
- : Members have had meetings with some of the survivors of child sexual exploitation;

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- : Visit by Members to Birmingham City Council for discussion about the scrutiny of issues concerning child sexual exploitation.

Audit Committee:-

The Vice-Chair reported on the recent activities of the Audit Committee:-

- : Mid-Year Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators;
- : KPMG Annual Audit letter;
- : Corporate Improvement Plan – governance items;
- : External Audit and Inspection recommendations;
- : Finance and Corporate Services risk register;
- : A further joint working meeting is scheduled to take place during early December 2015.

61. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 3 and 4 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (information relating to financial or business affairs and labour relations matters).

62. BUDGET UPDATE FROM THE COMMISSIONERS - MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2016/17 TO 2018/19

Consideration was given to a report, presented by Interim Strategic Director of Resources and Transformation, containing the current draft of this Council's outline Medium Term Financial Strategy document, for the three years' period 2016/17 to 2018/19, which set out the framework for understanding the challenges faced by the Council and examined the options for meeting those challenges.

The report stated that the Medium Term Financial Strategy was expected to require further amendment when the final spending settlement for the Council from Central Government was confirmed in December 2015, with a finalised version of the Strategy due by the end of February 2016.

The following issues were highlighted during discussion:-

- : the continuing development of the Medium Term Financial Strategy to ensure that it is sustainable, in accordance with the improvement plan arising from the report about the Council by Louise Casey;
- : financial pressures arising from the Autumn 2015 Budget Statement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review (eg: the payment of the living wage and ensuring such payment is being made);

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- : the continuing strategic review of the Council's budget;
- : Central Government proposals for the localisation of business rates; the likelihood of appeal cases; ensuring a consistent approach by the local authorities of the Sheffield City Region;
- : the Council's budget priorities, value for money, the need for maximum productivity and the specific budgetary pressures of Children and Young People's Services and Adult Social Care;
- : service delivery either by the Council's own, in-house service, by joint/shared arrangements with other local authorities, or by private sector organisations or by organisations within the voluntary and community sector;
- : the management of employee sickness absence;
- : the dialogue with the private sector (eg: Chamber of Commerce and Trade) about the delivery of Council services.

Members were invited to inform both Commissioner Manzie and the Interim Strategic Director of Resources and Transformation of any comments they may have on the draft Medium Term Financial Strategy document.

Resolved:- (1) That the report be received and its contents noted.

(2) That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board notes in particular:-

(a) the update on the Council's budget setting process;

(b) the projected Budget Challenge facing the Council during the period of the Medium Term Financial Strategy, 2016/17 to 2018/19;

(c) the Objectives of the Medium Term Financial Strategy;

(d) the Financial Strategy planning assumptions, as now reported;

(e) the proposals for the delivery and monitoring of the Medium Term Financial Strategy; and

(f) that the Commissioners will finalise the contents of the Medium Term Financial Strategy document prior to the document being considered at the Council meeting to be held on Wednesday, 9th December, 2015.