

Financial Health Monitoring 2021/22 – October (Month 7)

Date: 26th January 2022

Report of: Head of Democratic Services

Report to: Scrutiny Board (Children and Families)

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

What is this report about?

Including how it contributes to the city's and council's ambitions

- The Chief Officer Financial Services submitted a report to the Executive Board on 15th December 2021 detailing the Council's projected financial health position for 2021/22 at the end of October (Month 7).
- The Scrutiny Board (Children and Families) is invited to also consider the report of the Chief Officer Financial Services and provide any comment in relation to those service areas that fall within the Board's remit.

Recommendations

That the Scrutiny Board considers the report of the Chief Officer Financial Services detailing the Council's projected financial health position for 2021/22 at Month 7 and provides any comment in relation to those service areas that fall within the Board's remit.

Why is the proposal being put forward?

1. Budget monitoring is a continuous process throughout the year and during its meeting on 15th December 2021, the Executive Board received a report from the Chief Officer Financial Services detailing the Council's projected financial health position for 2021/22 at the end of October (Month 7).
2. The Scrutiny Board (Children and Families) is invited to also consider the report of the Chief Officer Financial Services and provide any comment at this stage in relation to those service areas that fall within the Board's remit. A copy of this report is therefore provided in Appendix A.
3. During today's meeting, the Scrutiny Board will also be considering the initial budget proposals for 2022/23. These are presented elsewhere on the agenda.

What impact will this proposal have?

Wards affected: All

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

4. Public consultation on the 2021/22 Revenue Budget was carried out between December 2020 and January 2021 and is detailed in the 2021/22 Revenue Budget and Council Tax report presented to this Board in February 2021.
5. Relevant Executive Members and senior officers have been invited to attend today's meeting to discuss the appended report and to address any questions raised by the Scrutiny Board.

What are the resource implications?

6. The appended report is a revenue financial report and as such all resource implications are detailed within the report.

What are the legal implications?

7. There are no legal implications arising from the appended report.

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

8. The reported budget position is considered in the context of risk to both the in-year financial position and the potential impact on the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy. These risks are included on the Council's corporate risk register. Further information surrounding other associated risks is set out in the appended report.

Does this proposal support the council's three Key Pillars?

Inclusive Growth

Health and Wellbeing

Climate Emergency

9. The Best Council Plan is the Council's strategic plan which sets out its ambitions, outcomes and priorities for the City of Leeds and for the Local Authority. The Three Pillars of inclusive

growth, health and wellbeing and the climate change emergency underpin this vision, and these can only be delivered through a sound understanding of the organisation's longer-term financial sustainability which enables decisions to be made that balance the resource implications of the Council's policies against financial constraints. This is the primary purpose of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy which provides the framework for the determination of the Council's annual revenue budget.

10. The appended report is a factual report which needs to be seen in context of the requirement for the Council to be financially sustainable and deliver a balanced budget position in 2021/22 so that resources can continue to be targeted at the Council's priorities.

Appendices

11. Appendix A – Report of the Chief Officer Financial Services to Executive Board (15th December 2021) on Financial Health Monitoring 2021/22 – October (Month 7).

Background papers

12. None.