

APPENDIX B

CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - RECOMMENDATIONS MONITORING ACTION SHEET 2024-25

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome	Response
25 July 2024	Revenue Budget Outturn 2023-24	The Committee recommended that in addition to achieving substantial savings in revenue spending, consideration needed to be given to new controls on, and reprioritisation of, capital spending and whilst there might be value in introducing a moratorium on new capital projects, it was important not to lose opportunities for grant funding, the opportunity to invest in school projects, or funding necessary works.	Chief Officer - Finance, Housing and Change/ CCMB.	Circulating for response.	
25 July 2024	Revenue Budget Outturn 2023-24	The Committee recommended that given the sizeable deficit for Homelessness, consideration be given to a need for a different approach, including a counterintuitive injection of capital, to bring the budget back on track.	Chief Officer - Finance, Housing and Change/ CCMB.	Circulating for response.	
25 July 2024	Revenue Budget Outturn 2023-24	Members expressed concern regarding whether the Five Point Action Plan was an adequate response to the current situation and recommended that an update on the actions for the five points to	Chief Officer - Finance, Housing and Change/ CCMB.	Circulating for response.	

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		date be reported for scrutiny at a future meeting of COSC.			
25 July 2024	Revenue Budget Outturn 2023-24	<p>Members discussed that the budgetary situation required a careful evaluation of the reserves available to the Council and that whilst the Council had been prudent in building up reserves in the past, they are a finite resource in the current circumstances, and it was imperative to minimise the extent to which the Council is dependent on reserves to achieve a balanced budget this year.</p> <p>The Committee requested a breakdown of the current situation with the reserves from the Chief Officer - Finance, Housing and Change.</p>	Chief Officer - Finance, Housing and Change.	Circulating for response.	
25 July 2024	Revenue Budget Outturn 2023-24	<p>Members discussed that it was becoming more and more difficult to separate the revenue and capital budgets because there are pressures in both and a decision in one impacts the other.</p> <p>The Committee requested details of the current situation with capital</p>	Chief Officer - Finance, Housing and Change.	Circulating for response.	

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		projects from the Chief Officer - Finance, Housing and Change, including those that are contractually committed and therefore not available to be reprioritised.			
25 July 2024	Budget Monitoring 2024-25 - Quarter 1 Revenue Forecast	Given the budget outturn for 2023-24 and the emerging revenue forecast for 2024-25 the Committee recommended that there needed to be an urgent evaluation of the robustness of the current budget-setting process.	Chief Officer - Finance, Housing and Change/ CCMB.	Circulating for response.	
25 July 2024	Budget Monitoring 2024-25 - Quarter 1 Revenue Forecast	Given the imperative to avoid having to issue a Section 114 notice in the future, the Committee recommended that consideration be given to the appointment of 'internal commissioners' to manage budgets in particular directorates.	Chief Officer - Finance, Housing and Change/ CCMB.	Circulating for response.	
25 July 2024	Budget Monitoring 2024-25 - Quarter 1 Revenue Forecast	The budget deficits in schools - 75% are in deficit and the total amount is just over £5 million – are a corporate risk for the Council. As school governors are volunteers, and given their substantial responsibilities, there needed an enhancement of the support	Cabinet Member for Education and Youth Services/ Corporate Director - Education, Early	Circulating for response.	

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		<p>offered to them. As such, Members recommended the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. There was an urgent need to explore the required skill set and training needs of school governors.b. Whether ways could be found to enhance the support provided to school governors by utilising individuals who have had professional leadership roles in schools and therefore understand what can and cannot be done.c. That consideration should be given to extending an invitation to school governors to observe and on occasion contribute to meetings of SOSC 1.d. That the Corporate Director - Education, Early Years & Young People should provide a briefing to school governors (like that provided to head teachers) to help them understand the wider	Years & Young People		

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		context of their role in a difficult budgetary situation.			
25 July 2024	Budget Monitoring 2024-25 - Quarter 1 Revenue Forecast	Given the corporate risk associated with the budgetary situation in schools, the Committee recommended that there was an urgent need to consider the status of this issue as part of the Risk Register and whether the Regional Internal Audit Service (RIAS) should be requested to investigate it.	Cabinet Member for Education and Youth Services/ Chief Officer - Finance, Housing and Change/ Corporate Director – Education, Early Years and Young People	Circulating for response.	
25 July 2024	Budget Monitoring 2024-25 - Quarter 1 Revenue Forecast	Given the Council will receive at most a cash flat settlement (representing a 3% reduction in the revenue budget) from the Welsh Government this year, Members recommended that the Chair write to the Welsh Government to express their concerns about this and to request more information on their future approach to local government finance.	Chair/ Scrutiny	Being actioned	
25 July 2024	Budget Monitoring 2024-25 - Quarter 1	The Committee requested that case studies of the value of early intervention in adult and children's	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for	Circulating for response.	

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	Revenue Forecast	care be circulated to members of the Committee.	Social Services, Health and Wellbeing/ Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing		
25 July 2024	Budget Monitoring 2024-25 - Quarter 1 Revenue Forecast	The Committee requested an all-member briefing on Part 9 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 that requires local authorities to make arrangements to promote co-operation with their relevant partners and others, in relation to adults with needs for care and support, carers and children	Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing	Circulating for response.	
25 July 2024	Quarter 4 Year-End Performance 2023-24	The Committee recommended that in light of the serious budget situation, there was a need to consider as a matter of urgency the appropriate balance between achieving sustainable cost savings and performance.	Chief Officer - Finance, Housing and Change/ CCMB.	Circulating for response.	
25 July 2024	Quarter 4 Year-End Performance 2023-24	The Committee expressed that staff sickness, issues with recruitment and early retirement remained a risk for the Council,	Chief Executive/ CCMB.	Circulating for response.	

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		especially where lean staffing and sickness absence combine, and recommended that consideration be given to the combined impact of these in order to avoid leading to potentially serious service shortcomings.			
25 July 2024	Quarter 4 Year-End Performance 2023-24	The Committee recommended that there was a need to produce a positive narrative about performance where there is good news.	Chief Officer Legal and Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy/ CCMB.	Circulating for response.	
25 July 2024	Quarter 4 Year-End Performance 2023-24	The Committee recommended that there was an urgent need for the Cabinet and Senior Officers to carry out a deliberate, ruthless and strategic exercise to identify the most important priorities – while eliminating or postponing less important ones.	Chief Officer - Finance, Housing and Change/ CCMB.	Circulating for response.	
25 July 2024	Quarter 4 Year-End Performance 2023-24	The Committee recommended that the number of well-being objectives, and the associated performance indicators, needed to be revised and that there was a need for a very limited list of priorities to guide decision-making.	Chief Officer Legal and Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy/ CCMB.	Circulating for response.	

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25 July 2024	Self-Assessment 2023/24	Given that there were a number of performance indicators within the first well-being objective, Protecting our Most Vulnerable, for which performance is unsatisfactory or not very good, the Committee recommended that they needed to be addressed as a key priority.	Chief Officer Legal and Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy/ CCMB.	Circulating for response.	
25 July 2024	Self-Assessment 2023/24	The Committee recommended that given some of the PIs – in respect of homelessness, for example - came from the Welsh Government and were no longer fit for purpose due to legislative changes, that it would be appropriate for officers to approach the Welsh Government to consider if they could be revised, and the outcome should be shared with Members at a future meeting.	Chief Officer - Finance, Housing and Change.	Circulating for response.	
25 July 2024	Self-Assessment 2023/24	The Committee recommended that Cabinet Members be invited to the next meeting of the Committee on 9 September 2024, to provide an overview of their strategic approach and priorities for the coming year.	Scrutiny/ Cabinet.	Cabinet members attended COSC on 9 September 2024.	Actioned

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9 September 2024	Information Report - Corporate Plan Targets 2024/25	<p>The Committee recommended that any changes to the Corporate Plan, Targets or Priorities after the draft Plan had been scrutinised, should be reported to the Committee for consideration.</p> <p>In addition, Members agreed to send any queries about the report to the Scrutiny team to take forward with Officers.</p>	<p>Chief Officer Legal and Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy</p> <p>Scrutiny</p>	Circulating for response.	
9 September 2024	Director of Social Services Annual Report 2023/24	<p>The Committee recommended that all reports submitted to the Committee should include a strengthened and enhanced focus on the financial implications of service proposals and developments.</p>	CCMB	Circulating for response.	
9 September 2024	Director of Social Services Annual Report 2023/24	<p>A number of projects had been funded by the Shared Prosperity Fund and the Committee requested more detailed information, including the amount of funding that had been received and the potential impact on those areas within the social services part of the budget for pathways towards employment, education and training.</p>	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Social Services, Health and Wellbeing/ Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing/ Corporate	Circulating for response.	

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			Director - Communities		
9 September 2024	Director of Social Services Annual Report 2023/24	The Committee requested that the Community Resource Team Package of Care Delays (PoCD) report, to be considered by Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 on 23 September 2024, be circulated to Members of the Committee.	Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing/ Scrutiny.	Circulating for response.	
9 September 2024	Director of Social Services Annual Report 2023/24	The Committee requested that the Recovery Plan considered by the Social Services Improvement Board be circulated to Members of the Committee.	Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing/ Scrutiny.	Circulating for response.	
9 September 2024	Director of Social Services Annual Report 2023/24	Members discussed daytime opportunities for residents with learning disabilities and the prospect for using grants to support a new model for their delivery and the committee requested that the Review of Daytime Opportunities be reported to a future meeting of Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2.	Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing/ Scrutiny.	Circulating for response.	

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9 September 2024	Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23 & 2023/24	The Committee recommended that where reports cover issues that cross service boundaries, consideration is given to communicating with all Scrutiny Members regarding this so that they have the opportunity to engage via their fellow members sitting on the Committee and/or observe the meeting.	Scrutiny	To be actioned by Scrutiny, in conjunction with Scrutiny Chairs.	Ongoing
9 September 2024	Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23 & 2023/24	The Committee recommended that the Annual Report should include comparative data on the number of call ins in previous years.	Scrutiny	Included in the Scrutiny Annual Report. Agreed at Council on 25 September 2024.	Actioned
9 September 2024	Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23 & 2023/24	The Committee recommended that consideration be given to ensuring that more external representatives are invited to attend scrutiny meetings.	Chairs/ Scrutiny	The Scrutiny Annual Report was strengthened to include as a priority Scrutiny Committees will continue to strive to increase the number of external Invitees to Scrutiny Committees for related reports as part of their forward work programmes.	Ongoing

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9 September 2024	Forward Work Programme Update	The Committee recommended that consideration be given to the arrangements for the Scrutiny Committee meetings in January 2025 to consider the Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2025-26 - 2028-29, to ensure that Members are able to direct their questions to the appropriate Committee to contribute fully and avoid duplication.	Chairs / Scrutiny	To be actioned by Scrutiny, in conjunction with Scrutiny Chairs.	Ongoing