

TRAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to: Executive
Date: 16 February 2022
Report for: Decision
Report of: Executive Member for Finance and Governance and the Director of Finance and Systems

Report Title

Executive's Response to Scrutiny Committee's Recommendations to the Budget Proposals for 2022/23

Summary

At the Executive meeting on the 24 January 2022 a report was presented by the Scrutiny Committee chair, setting out the Scrutiny Committee's comments and findings from the review of the Executive's draft budget proposals for 2022/23.

The Executive values the contribution that the Scrutiny Committee makes to the budget process and is committed to working with Scrutiny Committee during the forthcoming year as part of their planned work programme.

This report contains a detailed response to each of the points raised by the Scrutiny Committee in their report.

Recommendation(s)

That the Executive's response to the Scrutiny Committee be approved.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Graeme Bentley
Extension: 4884

Background Papers: None

Relationship to Policy Framework/Corporate Priorities	The Scrutiny review of the budget is a requirement of the budget policy framework. It is relevant to all corporate priorities.
Relationship to GM Policy or Strategy Framework	Not Applicable
Financial	All financial implications are contained in the body of the report.
Legal Implications:	The Scrutiny review of the budget is a requirement of the Council's constitution.
Equality/Diversity Implications	There are none arising from this report.
Sustainability Implications	There are none arising from this report.

Carbon Reduction	There are none arising from this report.
Resource Implications e.g. Staffing / ICT / Assets	There are none arising from this report.
Risk Management Implications	There are none arising from this report.
Health and Wellbeing Implications	There are none arising from this report.
Health and Safety Implications	There are none arising from this report.

Other Options

Not Applicable

Consultation

Not applicable

Reasons for Recommendation

The report is in response to the review carried out by the Scrutiny Committee.

Key Decision

This is a key decision currently on the Forward Plan: No

Finance Officer Clearance ...GB.....

Legal Officer Clearance ...JL.....

G. Bentley

DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE

BUDGET SCRUTINY ACTION PLAN

Area	Scrutiny Recommendation	Executive Response
2021/22 Budget	That the Executive provide Scrutiny with an update on the in-year budget position, including suggested actions to address the gap and the impact on the Council's reserves to its March 2022 meeting.	The Executive note this request and confirm that an update will be provided as requested for the March meeting. In addition Executive will provide further updates throughout the year to support the work of the Committee. There will also be emphasis to make clear the distinction between reserves related to Covid impacts and general Council reserves.
2022/23 Budget	That Scrutiny be kept updated on the impact of economic risks and their impact on the budget position.	The Executive note this request and confirm that updates on both the in-year and medium-term financial position and risks will be provided to Scrutiny on a regular basis throughout the year.
Council Reserves	That the Executive provide Scrutiny with regular updates on the use of reserves at its meetings during 2022/23.	The Executive note this request and confirm that regular updates on the reserves position will be made available to keep the Committee informed of how the Council's reserves are being used and their projected balances over the medium term.
Children's External Placements	That the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee be updated on the reduction of external placements and receive updates on implementation.	The Executive note this request and confirm that regular updates on the strategies and innovations to reduce the use of external placements will be made available to Scrutiny.
Children's - Early Help Offer and Family Hubs	Scrutiny would like appropriate updates on funding applications and other developments.	The Executive note this request and will share appropriate updates on any funding applications and the progress of the development of Family Hubs in Trafford.
Adult and Children's Social Care	That recruitment and retention of social workers and foster carers, particularly regarding support provided by the Council, be a key priority for	The Executive note the concerns and are pleased that Adult social care have developed a Trafford Academy to support the workforce across the

	<p>the Council within the refreshed Corporate Plan. Scrutiny would like to be kept updated on workforce challenges within the sector.</p>	<p>sector.</p> <p>The Executive is committed to implementing the Ethical Care Charter, moving this year to pay the real living wage to home care staff on a contractual basis through the framework providers. The Executive is also committed to supporting “Care for a Career” recruitment programme launched by the Association of Directors of Social Services.</p> <p>The Executive will continue to update Scrutiny with regards to the recruitment and retention of social workers for children’s services, including the local and national challenges for the sector. This remains a key priority within the Ofsted improvement plan. Updates with regards to the recruitment and retention of foster carers and initiatives to enhance this position will be shared with Scrutiny.</p>
<p>Adult Social Care - Delayed Discharges/Information on the support offered to carers and outcomes of the review of the adaptations service.</p>	<p>Scrutiny would like appropriate updates on the position on a regular basis.</p>	<p>The Executive note the request and will provide updates regularly on each area highlighted.</p>
<p>Adult Social Care – Direct Payments</p>	<p>Scrutiny would like to consider a review to increase the level of direct payments in Trafford.</p>	<p>The Executive have committed as part of the budget plans in 2022/23 to increase the number of people in receipt of Direct payments by 50.</p>
<p>Scrutiny Workplan</p>	<p>That each Scrutiny Committee meet with the relevant Executive Members and Lead Officers at the start of the 2022/23 municipal year to schedule updates and work leading from the recommendations of the report.</p>	<p>The Executive and senior officer will support this request.</p>

