

Budget and Resources Scrutiny Committee

7th July meeting

Unfortunately, I wasn't able to chair the meeting, so thanks to Vice-Chair Cllr Rankine for stepping in.

There was a training session for members before the meeting, introducing LG finance for new members of the committee.

The meeting looked at 2 substantive items, the Annual Treasury Management Report 2020/21 and the Budget Outturn report 2020/21. Officers were thanked for all their tremendous hard work during what has been a difficult year.

Committee identified three areas from the Outturn report for further scrutiny and requested updates:

- That the Committee receives and update from the Head of Finance on the progress of the items in the Political Priorities Reserve (Annex W) and the Covid Recovery Plan.
- That the Schools Finance Team explores possible, creative ways not yet tried, to help those schools which are struggling financially.
- That the Committee receives a report on the performance of collection rates by the Council and whether these are showing an improvement as the country moves out of the pandemic.

Follow up notes on these items have already been circulated to members on points 2 and 3.

Planning group

The planning group met on 11th August to confirm September agenda and discuss the future work programme. The item on the impact of Brexit on local business will be moved to a later date as we feel the difficulty in separating the impact of COVID from the impact Brexit is very challenging and it will need more time to prepare.

The planning group also discussed the need for flexibility in the work programme as we are still working in very unusual times. Further decisions on which budget pressures to focus on in the October challenge meetings will be made once members have their say on the medium term financial plan at the September meeting (14th).

Cllr Anthony Brown

Chair, Budget and Resources Scrutiny Committee