2021/22 BUDGET SETTING - RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ADULTS AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AND THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

ADULTS AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 13 JANUARY 2021

Resolved to recommend to the General scrutiny committee:

The adults and wellbeing scrutiny committee recognises the extraordinary pressures for the council, and for the adults and communities directorate in particular, and acknowledges the significant work that has been undertaken and is ongoing in preparing the budget for 2021/22.

The committee recommends that:

- 1. A plain English narrative be prepared to explain the adult social care precept.
- 2. Clarifications be provided in subsequent budget meetings in terms of the reductions in the council tax base (paragraph 6), the money expected from central government (paragraph 7), how the measures identified in the Market Position Statement might help to address budget pressures (paragraph 8), and the level of public health grant (paragraph 10).
- 3. That the operational changes and proposals in terms of Learning Disability services, including the impacts on service users, be presented to the committee at the May 2021 meeting.
- 4. That opportunities be considered to inform service users about charging changes in advance and to stage increases incrementally.
- 5. That details of the alternative savings proposals for £330k be circulated to councillors as soon as possible, with a report presented to a future meeting of the committee.
- 6. That consideration be given to additional modelling around potential economic scenarios, including the cessation of the furlough scheme, and the consequential impacts such as the erosion of the council tax base, reduction in other income streams, and on the delivery of services.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 12 JANUARY 2021

Recommendations relating to the draft budget proposals for 2021-22 relating to Children and Families.

That the committee:

- Recognises improvements in the performance of the service and welcomes the additional funding to the base budget;
- Queries the feasibility of the stretch target for the recruitment of foster carers in the 2021/22 and 2022/23 financial years and recommends to the executive that the target in those next two years is reconsidered;
- Requests an update to a future meeting of the committee on funding available from government to address the mental health impacts of the pandemic on young people;
- Requests that in future years the scrutiny committee Chairpersons are consulted over the detail required in the report to the committees; and
- Acknowledges the efforts of members and officers in the work that has been undertaken to compile the budget for 2021/22.