

**COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT**

**REPORT TO: THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE JOINT  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (BUDGET MONITORING)**

**SUBJECT: JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (BUDGET  
MONITORING) - 23RD NOVEMBER, 2020**

**REPORT OF: DEMOCRATIC SUPPORT OFFICER**

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**PRESENT: COUNCILLOR S. HEALY (CHAIR)**

Councillors M. Cook (Vice-Chair)  
G. A. Davies  
P. Edwards  
L. Elias  
K. Hayden  
J. Hill  
W. Hodgins  
M. Holland  
J. Holt  
J. C. Morgan  
G. Paulsen  
K. Pritchard  
T. Smith  
B. Summers  
S. Thomas  
H. Trollope  
B. Willis  
L. Winnett

**WITH:** Managing Director  
Chief Officer Resources  
Corporate Director Regeneration & Community Services  
Corporate Director Education  
Chief Officer Commercial  
Head of Community Services  
Scrutiny & Democratic Officer/Advisor

ITEM	SUBJECT	ACTION
No. 1	<p><b><u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u></b></p> <p>It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.</p>	
No. 2	<p><b><u>APOLOGIES</u></b></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillors L. Parsons, D. Bevan, T. Sharrem, H. McCarthy, M. Cross, C. Meredith, T. Baxter (co-opted Member) and A. Williams (co-opted Member).</p>	
No. 3	<p><b><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></b></p> <p>The following declarations of interest were reported:</p> <p>Councillors J. Hill &amp; B. Summers - Item No. 4 Revenue Budget Monitoring - 2020/2021, Forecast Outturn to 31 March 2021 (as at 30 September 2020) – <i>(Silent Valley)</i></p> <p>Councillor W. Hodgins - Item No. 4 Revenue Budget Monitoring - 2020/2021, Forecast Outturn to 31 March 2021 (as at 30 September 2020) – <i>(Aneurin Leisure Trust)</i></p> <p>Councillor J.C. Morgan - Item No. 4 Revenue Budget Monitoring - 2020/2021, Forecast Outturn to 31 March 2021 (as at 30 September 2020) – <i>(Tredegar HLF)</i></p> <p>Councillor P. Edwards - Item No. 4 Revenue Budget Monitoring - 2020/2021, Forecast Outturn to 31 March 2021 (as at 30 September 2020) – <i>(Markets)</i></p>	
No. 4	<p><b><u>JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (BUDGET MONITORING)</u></b></p> <p>The Minutes of the Joint Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2020 were submitted.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the Minutes be accepted as a true record of proceedings.</p>	
No. 5	<p><b><u>ACTION SHEET - 28TH SEPTEMBER 2020</u></b></p>	

	<p>The action sheet arising from the Joint Scrutiny (Budget Monitoring) Committee held on 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2020 was submitted, whereupon:-</p> <p>The Committee AGREED, subject to the foregoing, that the Action Sheet be noted.</p>	
<p><b>No. 6</b></p>	<p><b><u>REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING -2020/2021, FORECAST OUTTURN TO 31 MARCH 2021 (AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2020)</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Chief Officer Resources.</p> <p>The Committee AGEED to recommend that the report be accepted and Members provide appropriate challenge to the financial outcomes in the report. (Option 1)</p>	
<p><b>No. 7</b></p>	<p><b><u>CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING, FORECAST FOR 2020/2021 FINANCIAL YEAR (AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2020)</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Chief Officer Resources.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED to recommend that the report be accepted and Members:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to provide appropriate challenge to the financial outcomes in the report; and</li> <li>• Note the budgetary control and monitoring procedures in place within the Capital Team, to safeguard Authority funding. (Option 1)</li> </ul>	
<p><b>No. 8</b></p>	<p><b><u>USE OF GENERAL AND EARMARKED RESERVES 2020/2021</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Chief Officer Resources.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED to recommend that the report be accepted and Members considered the use of general and earmarked reserves for 2020/21; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider the impact of the £0.248m adverse variance for 2020/2021 would have on the budgeted contribution to the General Reserve;</li> <li>• Note the forecast decrease of the General Reserve in</li> </ul>	

2020/2021 to £6.387m, being 4.72% of net revenue expenditure (above the 4% target level);

- Continue to challenge budget overspends and implement appropriate service Action Plans, where required.

Maintenance of general reserves at an adequate level is crucial to the Council being able to meet future liabilities arising from risks for which specific provision has not been made.