

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

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

**SUBJECT: JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (BUDGET
MONITORING) - 22ND NOVEMBER, 2021**

REPORT OF: DEMOCRATIC & COMMITTEE SUPPORT OFFICER

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR S. HEALY (CHAIR)

Councillors M. Cook (Vice-Chair)
D. Bevan
G. Collier
M. Cross
G. A. Davies
G. L. Davies
M. Day
P. Edwards
K. Hayden
J. Hill
W. Hodgins
J. Holt
H. McCarthy
C. Meredith
J. Millard
M. Moore
J. C. Morgan
J. P. Morgan
G. Paulsen
K. Rowson
T. Smith
B. Summers
S. Thomas
H. Trollope
B. Willis
L. Winnett

**WITH: Chief Officer Resources
Corporate Director Education
Corporate Director Social Services**

Head of Community Services
 Chief Officer Commercial & Customer
 Scrutiny & Democratic Officer/Advisor

ITEM	SUBJECT	ACTION
No. 1	<p><u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u></p> <p>It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.</p>	
No. 2	<p><u>APOLOGIES</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were reported for Councillors L. Parsons, L. Elias, T. Sharrem and Mr. T. Baxter.</p>	
No. 3	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></p> <p>The following declarations of interest were reported:-</p> <p>Councillors B. Summers & M. Cook declared an interest in any reference to Silent Valley Waste Services Limited.</p>	
No. 4	<p><u>JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (BUDGET MONITORING)</u></p> <p>The minutes of the Joint Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 27th September, 2021 was submitted.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the Minutes be accepted as a true record of proceedings.</p>	
No. 5	<p><u>ACTION SHEET - 27TH SEPTEMBER 2021</u></p> <p>The action sheet arising from the Joint Scrutiny (Budget Monitoring) Committee held on 27th September, 2021 was submitted.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED, subject to the foregoing, the Action Sheet be noted.</p>	

<p>No. 6</p>	<p><u>REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING -2021/2022, FORECAST OUTTURN TO 31 MARCH 2022 (AS AT 30TH SEPTEMBER 2021)</u></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 note the financial outcomes in the report and the virements detailed in paragraphs 5.1.4 to 5.1.6.</p>	
<p>No. 7</p>	<p><u>CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING, FORECAST FOR 2021/2022 FINANCIAL YEAR (AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2021)</u></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 continue to support appropriate financial control procedures agreed by Council; and note the budgetary control and monitoring procedures in place within the Capital Team, to safeguard Authority funding.</p>	
<p>No. 8</p>	<p><u>USE OF GENERAL AND EARMARKED RESERVES 2021/2022</u></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 note the forecast use of general and earmarked reserves for 2021/2022 and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the impact of the £2.814m favourable variance for 2021/2022 would have on the budgeted contribution to the General Reserve; • Note the forecast increase of the General Reserve in 2021/2022 to £10.567m, being 8.0% of net revenue expenditure, above the 4% target level; • Consider the need for ongoing prudent financial management given the potential for future public spending restrictions required to fund the impact of Covid-19; and 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue to challenge budget overspends and implement appropriate service Action Plans, where required. <p>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.</p>	
No. 9	<p><u>BRIDGING THE GAP (BTG) PROGRAMME 2021/2022 – PROGRESS UPDATE JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2021</u></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 provided appropriate challenge to the Bridging the Gap programme.</p>	