

**COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT**

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

**SUBJECT: JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (BUDGET  
MONITORING) - 7TH MARCH, 2022**

**REPORT OF: DEMOCRATIC & COMMITTEE SUPPORT OFFICER**

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

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

**WITH:** Managing Director  
Chief Officer Resources  
Corporate Director Education  
Corporate Director Social Services  
Chief Officer Commercial & Customer  
Head of Governance & Partnerships  
Head of Regeneration  
Service Manager Neighbourhood Services  
Team Manager Leisure & Streetscene

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 reported for Councillors M. Day, M. Cross, H. Trollope, L. Elias and Mr. T. Baxter (co-opted Member).</p>	
No. 3	<p><b><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></b></p> <p>Councillor B. Summers declared an interest in Silent Valley Waste Services Limited where referred to on the agenda.</p>	
No. 4	<p><b><u>JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (BUDGET MONITORING)</u></b></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2021 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 - 22ND NOVEMBER 2021</u></b></p> <p>The Action Sheeting arising from the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2021 was submitted.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the Action Sheet be noted.</p>	
No. 6	<p><b><u>JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (BUDGET MONITORING)</u></b></p> <p>The minutes of the special meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 were submitted.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the minutes be accepted as a true record of proceedings.</p>	

<p><b>No. 7</b></p>	<p><b><u>REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING -2021/2022, FORECAST OUTTURN TO 31 MARCH 2022 (AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 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 note the financial outcomes in the report. (Option 1)</p>	
<p><b>No. 8</b></p>	<p><b><u>CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING, FORECAST FOR 2021/2022 FINANCIAL YEAR (AS AT 31 DECEMBER 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to support appropriate financial control procedures agreed by Council; 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. 9</b></p>	<p><b><u>USE OF GENERAL AND EARMARKED RESERVES 2021/2022</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>• Consider the impact of the £4.649m favourable variance for 2021/2022 would have on the budgeted contribution to the General Reserve;</li> <li>• Note the forecast increase of the General Reserve in 2021/2022 to £12.402m, being 9.39% of net revenue expenditure, above the 4% target level;</li> <li>• Consider the need for ongoing prudent financial management to support the Medium Term Financial Strategy and the financial resilience of the Council; and</li> <li>• Continue to challenge budget overspends and implement appropriate service Action Plans, where required.</li> </ul> <p>Maintenance of general reserves at an adequate level is crucial to</p>	

	the Council being able to meet future liabilities arising from risks for which specific provision has not been made.	
<b>No. 10</b>	<b><u>BRIDGING THE GAP (BTG) PROGRAMME 2021/2022 - PROGRESS UPDATE OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2021</u></b>  Consideration was given to report of the Chief Officer Resources.  The Committee AGREED to recommend that the report be accepted and Members note progress of the Bridging the Gap programme. (Option 1)	