

**COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT**

**REPORT TO: THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE CORPORATE AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**SUBJECT: SPECIAL CORPORATE AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 21<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY, 2023**

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

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**PRESENT:** Councillor J. Wilkins (CHAIR)

Councillors J. Thomas (Vice-Chair)

M. Day

G. Humphreys

E. Jones

R. Leadbeater

C. Smith

T. Smith

**Cabinet Member – Corporate and Performance**

Councillor S. Thomas

**Members without Voting Rights**

Councillors P. Baldwin

S. Behr

D. Bevan

C. Cross

H. Cunningham

D. Davies

G.A. Davies

J. Gardener

J. Holt

J. Hill

W. Hodgins

J.C. Morgan

L. Parsons

G. Thomas

H. Trollope

D. Rowberry

L. Winnett

WITH:

- Interim Chief Executive
- Corporate Director Education
- Corporate Director Regeneration and Community Services
- Interim Corporate Director Social Services
- Head of Community Services
- Chief Officer Resources
- Service Manager - Accountancy
- Head of Organisational Development
- Head of Legal and Corporate Compliance
- Service Manager – Customer Experience & Transformation
- Chief Officer Customer and Commercial
- Head of Partnership and Governance
- Service Manager – Policy and Partnerships
- Communications, Marketing & Customer Access Manager
- Press Officer
- Scrutiny Officer

<b><u>ITEM</u></b>	<b><u>SUBJECT</u></b>
<b>No. 1</b>	<p><b><u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u></b></p> <p>It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.</p>
<b>No. 2</b>	<p><b><u>APOLOGIES</u></b></p> <p>The following apologies for absence were received from:-</p> <p>Councillor Carl Bainton; Councillor S. Edmunds; and Councillor D. Woods</p>
<b>No. 3</b>	<p><b><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></b></p> <p>No declarations of interest or dispensations were reported.</p>

**No. 4**

**REVENUE BUDGET 2023/2024**

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Officer Resources.

A Member proposed that sections 3.1.1 to 3.1.3 of Option 1 be accepted and recommended to Cabinet and Council and sections 3.1.4 to 3.1.8 of Option 1 be deferred pending further consideration at the Special Meeting of the Council scheduled to be held on Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2023. This proposal was Seconded.

The Committee thereupon AGREED, subject to the foregoing that the report be accepted and

- Members recommended to Council the 2023/24 revenue budget as detailed in the table in paragraph 5.1.15 of the report;
- provided comment on the outcomes within the overall provisional RSG Settlement and noted the potential for further change in the Final RSG Settlement (paragraphs 2.6 – 2.17);
- provided comment on the outcomes within the BGCBC provisional RSG Settlement and its impact upon the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (paragraphs 2.18 – 2.26);
- decisions related to the updated cost pressures and growth items (£3.22m in total) identified in Appendix 2 (paragraphs 5.1.10 – 5.1.16) be deferred for consideration at the Special Meeting of Council on 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2023;
- decisions related to an uplift of £1.5m which equates to 3% increase to the ISB (paragraphs 5.1.17 to 5.1.24) be deferred for consideration at the Special Meeting of Council on 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2023;
- decisions related to the Bridging the Gap proposals delivering £4.18m of financial efficiencies and budget cuts to towards the budget gap (paragraphs 5.1.25 to 5.1.32) be deferred for consideration at the Special Meeting of Council on 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2023;
- decisions related to the use of reserves of £2.5m to balance the budget for 2023/2024 (paragraphs 5.1.33 to 5.1.35) be deferred for

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consideration at the Special Meeting of Council on 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2023; and

- decisions related to a Council Tax increase of 4% for 2023/24 (paragraph 5.1.7) as per the MTFS assumptions be deferred for consideration at the Special Meeting of Council on 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2023.
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