

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

REPORT TO: THE PRESIDING MEMBER AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

SUBJECT: SPECIAL CORPORATE AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 21ST FEBRUARY, 2023

REPORT OF: DEMOCRATIC & COMMITTEE SUPPORT OFFICER

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

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>
No. 1	<p data-bbox="268 1227 849 1263"><u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u></p> <p data-bbox="268 1308 1473 1388">It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.</p>
No. 2	<p data-bbox="268 1442 494 1478"><u>APOLOGIES</u></p> <p data-bbox="268 1523 1222 1563">The following apologies for absence were received from:-</p> <p data-bbox="268 1608 737 1733">Councillor Carl Bainton; Councillor S. Edmunds; and Councillor D. Woods</p>
No. 3	<p data-bbox="268 1787 1235 1823"><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></p> <p data-bbox="268 1868 1241 1908">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, 23rd 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 23rd 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 23rd 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 23rd 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

consideration at the Special Meeting of Council on 23rd 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 23rd February, 2023.
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