

# Agenda

## Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board

**Tuesday, 8 February 2022 at 6.00 pm**  
**At Council Chamber - Sandwell Council House, Oldbury**

**This agenda gives notice of items to be considered in private as required by Regulations 5 (4) and (5) of The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.**

- 1 **Apologies for Absence**
- 2 **Declaration of Interest**
- 3 **Minutes** 7 - 14

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 1 December 2021.
- 4 **Additional Items of Business**

To determine whether there are any additional items of business to be considered as a matter of urgency.
- 5 **Budget Scrutiny Draft Budget 22-23 covering report** 15 - 42

For the Board to consider the draft budget proposals for 2022/23.



6      **Cabinet Forward Plan**      43 - 72

To consider the Cabinet Forward Plan

7      **Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management  
Board Work Programme 2021-22**      73 - 74

To consider and approve items for inclusion in the  
Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management  
Board Work Programme 2021-22.

**Kim Bromley-Derry**  
**Interim Chief Executive**  
Sandwell Council House  
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**Distribution**

Councillor L Giles (Chair)  
Councillors Anandou, E M Giles, Mabena, Moore and Shackleton

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## Minutes of Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board

**Wednesday, 1 December 2021 at 6.00 pm  
at Council Chamber - Sandwell Council House, Oldbury**

**Present:** Councillor Moore (Chair);  
Councillors E M Giles and Mabena.

**Also present:** Councillor Gavan.

**In attendance:** Simone Hines (Director of Finance, Rebecca Maher (Head of Finance), Sue Stanhope (Interim Director of Human Resources), Charlie Davey (Adults Business Partner), Steve Lilley (Finance Business Partner) Suky Suthi-Nagra (Democratic Services Manager), Matt Powis (Senior Democratic Services Officer) and Gabrielle Evans (Democratic Services Officer).

### **60/21 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Anandou, Bhullar, L Giles and Shackleton.

In the absence of the Chair, Councillor Luke Giles, Councillor Paul Moore was elected Chair of the meeting.

### **61/21 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made.



**62/21**

## **Minutes**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 2021 are approved as a correct record.

**63/21**

## **Additional Items of Business**

There were no additional items of business to consider.

**64/21**

## **Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on employee's productivity and well-being**

The Interim Director – HR provided the Board with an update in relation to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on employee's productivity and well-being.

Since the announcement of the first lockdown, the Government ordered people to stay at home and for a significant part of our workforce, this had meant that people had to work from home. There were also several employees providing essential services who continued to fulfil those roles. This meant that there was a significant change in the way that work was undertaken by all of our employees and the organisation had to adapt to that change.

To better understand the impact of the pandemic on employees, two surveys had been conducted in September 2020 and a pulse survey in May 2021. The response from staff was that they considered isolation from their work colleagues and mental health as the biggest barrier to working from home.

In respect of the September survey, the results revealed that stress and mental health had increased by 8.6% compared to the previous year.

The results of the pulse survey aimed to collect information on how employees felt about working from home. Overall, the results had shown that employees felt positive about working from home and would like to continue to work in this fashion for the foreseeable future.



There were no significant differences between responses made by part time and full-time staff, although employees would like to be engaged more about the council's future working arrangements/plans, particularly for those employees who did not manage staff and those employees who were aged between 16-34. The survey also revealed that the vast majority of employees would like to come occasionally into the office.

In relation to cumulative sickness figures for Q2 (2021), compared to the previous financial years data to see the impact of Covid-19 on overall absence levels, it was revealed that sickness absence levels currently were very similar to pre-pandemic levels which was felt was due to the positive impact that working from home had on absenteeism against the increase of Covid-19 cases and mental health and stress levels amongst employees.

In recognition of the feedback received from employees from the surveys, the Council had continued to develop support mechanisms such as creating the 'My Wellbeing Hub' which signposted employees to a range of mental health and wellbeing support interventions. Advice and guidance was shared weekly via staff communications, this included advice on physical wellbeing with our physiotherapist through virtual sessions, Talking Life (talking therapy sessions), EAP promotion and team Wellbeing presentations.

Surveys had also been conducted of managers about the way in which services were organised to understand how buildings would be utilised going forward. Feedback from employees who were currently working from home was gathered regarding attendance in buildings. The occupancy survey completed in April-June 2021 by service managers reported that across all the employees working from home, 102 colleagues had wellbeing needs which could benefit from either a hybrid or fuller return to working from an office rather than continued working from home.

To support this, the collaboration zone was opened earlier in October 2021, to offer an alternative to remote working and conduct face to face meetings. Agile fixed drop-down desks were also bookable with prioritisation offered to colleagues with Wellbeing requirements, to date, the take up of these had been low but it was still relatively new. Bookings for the collaboration zone had however steadily increased.

As the refurbishment of Oldbury Council House neared completion from March 2022, focal fixed home zones would be available to each Directorate further supporting hybrid ways of working by offering more choice for colleague's work-styles and therefore wellbeing.

The feedback from the surveys conducted suggested people were more engaged and preferred working from home especially as they could manage their work life balance needs better (so they were using their time more effectively) and this had made them more productive with outputs either increasing or remaining the same) while current sickness levels had remained the same as pre-pandemic levels.

In relation to questions raised by the Board, the Interim Director – HR confirmed that:-

- incidents of violence and aggression had decreased by 52% compared to the previous year and related to threats via social media etc due to not enough face to face contact with staff or not wearing PPE etc. This was continuing to be monitored by the Council;
- workers could get in touch with the Council's counselling service which was confidential, and a referral did not need to be made by the manager;
- the Council's Reset and Recovery Board were making decisions in relation to appropriate risk assessments being undertaken to ensure staff were safe to return to work. There were currently challenges with all staff returning back to the workplace due to the Council's property portfolio reducing since Covid-19 and customers using services changing during that time. The Council was continuing to bring back services in a managed way and not put staff at risk; whilst balancing the use of staffing resource in the best way possible;
- there continued to be support in managing staff remotely with one to ones and regular keeping in touch with staff;
- lessons had been learnt from 2020 to now including how resilient staff were.

The Board thanked the Director for the presentation and acknowledged the enormous contribution made by employees both during the height of the pandemic to now. Members noted the work being undertaken to manage a safe return to the workplace and looked forward to all frontline areas opening back up to respond to the needs of Sandwell residents.

**65/21**

## **Quarter 2 Budget Monitoring 2021/22**

At its meeting on 24 November 2021, the Cabinet referred the forecast budget position of individual directorates as at 30 September 2021 (Quarter 2 2021/22) to the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board for consideration.

Services were projecting an overspend of £10.337m against allocated budgets, however, after adjusting for reserves, corporate resources, revenue to fund capital costs (RCCO) and the application of centrally held Covid-19 grant funding, the adjusted projected outturn identified an underspend of £4.490m.

Services continued to experience the financial impact of Covid-19, most significantly a loss of income due to suspended or significantly reduced services. Pressures of £12.133m were expected to be managed through the centrally held Covid funding which was from the unused balance of grants received in 2020/21 and additional grants received or anticipated for part of 2021/22.

In addition to the Covid related issues, services were reporting a number of significant ongoing operational pressures which would need to be incorporated into the next refresh of the Corporate Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

The main change in budget position was noted in Adult Social Care budget, which had changed from a projected underspend of approximately £2m at Quarter 1 to a projected overspend of £0.409m. The main reason for this related to placements costs, in particular, placements for people with mental health concerns, which had shown a 4% increase (139 placements) between Q1 and Q6. Also, the number of older people homecare placement numbers had increased by over 3,115 hours per week since April 2021 and this was likely to generate an overspend at year-end.

These budget pressures were being offset by vacancies across the directorate along with brought forward balances from previous years. Staffing costs relating to Covid-19 were being offset by the use of Covid-19 grant income.

There were also cost pressures relating to Children's Services. Delays in implementing the Oracle Fusion project were also causing cost pressures but these were offset by the use of reserves.

Expenditure on the Council's Capital Programme was forecast to be £169,276m. There was a decrease of £1.103m in the Adults Social Care budget mainly in respect of slippage of Adult Social Care Grant resources into 2022/23. This slippage would now be used to fund improvements to the Walker Grange facility as agreed by Cabinet on 18 November 2021.

Approval was sought for the revised treatment of earmarked balances and earmarked reserves and the Treasury Management Mid-Year Review, which confirmed that the Council was meeting the requirements of the CIPFA Code of Practice and Treasury Management and the Prudential Code.

The Board sought clarity on what measures were being taken to protect the Council's reserves, including the consideration of bringing back some contracts in house.

In response, the Director of Finance reported that there was a current underspend in 2021 and Covid funding would also be used to mitigate against Covid budget pressures. In order to protect reserves, the Council would be utilising savings not reserves.

In relation to bringing contracts back in house, this may not be financially viable to the Council as the Council had higher salary costs, due to the pension scheme and terms and conditions in comparison to the private sector, and there was also the maintenance of vehicles, etc. The Council could however consider other options such as creating a trading arm, etc.

Whilst Covid money was currently being used to address Covid related pressures, as Government had announced there would be no more Covid funding available for local authorities next year, the Council would need to look at income levels returning and financial planning. Assurances measures had been put in place to ensure robust financial management such as monthly budget reports with Directors to hold them to account.

The Board recognised that there were additional costs related to the SEN transport contract due to increased demand in the service and extending the current contract due to procurement issues. In relation to the ongoing spend with the Sandwell Children's Trust, it was reported that the Council was working closely with the Trust to look at reducing costs and invest to save proposals.

In the meantime, Finance were continuing to launch the development of commercial activity across the Council in order to sell services and events to generate income as well as maximising treasury returns.

**Agreed** that the observations of the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board on Quarter 2 Budget Monitoring Report for 2021/22 be noted by the Cabinet.

#### **66/21 Cabinet Forward Plan**

The Scrutiny Management Board noted the Cabinet Forward Plan as at the time of the meeting.

#### **67/21 Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board Work Programme 2021-22**

The Scrutiny Management Board noted its work programme for the remainder of the 2021-22 municipal year.

Meeting ended at 7.00 pm

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## Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Board

8<sup>th</sup> February 2022

<b>Subject:</b>	Draft Budget Proposals 2022/23
<b>Director:</b>	Director of Finance – Simone Hines
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Rebecca Maher <a href="mailto:rebecca_maher@sandwell.gov.uk">rebecca_maher@sandwell.gov.uk</a>


### 1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Board consider the draft budget proposals for 2022/23 as attached at Appendix A
- 1.2 That the Board consider any feedback or recommendations it wishes to make to Cabinet to inform final budget proposals

### 2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 The Council must set a balanced, risk assessed budget each year and undertake appropriate consultation on draft budget proposals prior to approving the final budget and Council Tax precept.
- 2.2 The Board has an opportunity to consider the draft budget report in order to inform the final decision-making process.

### 3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

	The Council's financial position and financial management arrangements helps to achieve all aspects of the Council's Corporate Plan
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## 4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 Cabinet considered the draft budget proposals for 2022/23 at its meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021. This report set out the assumptions that had been made when producing the draft budget, including a number of spend pressures that have been identified as part of the budget process.
- 4.2 The draft budget report showed that savings in the region of £16m were required for 2022/23 to ensure a balanced and sustainable budget could be set whilst maintaining a prudent level of reserves.
- 4.3 Cabinet considered savings proposals in principle amounting to £14.6m, subject to appropriate consultation and Equality Impact Assessments, which left a budget gap remaining of approx. £1.4m.
- 4.4 A copy of the Cabinet report and appendices is attached at Appendix A for the Board's consideration.
- 4.5 Since the draft budget was approved by Cabinet the provisional Local Government Provisional Settlement has been released, which sets out the funding allocations for each local authority for 2022/23. A summary of the key points from the settlement are:
- The settlement is for a single year only, and further details on proposed funding reform and consultations are due to follow in the new year
  - The £1.6bn additional funding announced at the Spending Review has been distributed as follows:
    - £0.8bn to a 2022/23 Services Grant, distributed using the 2013/24 Settlement Funding Assessment formula. The statement highlights that this is a one-off grant, and will not be taken into consideration for transitional support when future system changes are made.
    - £0.7bn to social care, with additional Social Care Grant (£0.6bn, distributed using the Adult Social Care Relative Needs





Formula, with equalisation for the impact of the 1% social care precept) and an inflationary increase to the Improved Better Care Fund.

- £0.1bn to provide an inflationary increase to Revenue Support Grant.

- In addition, £162m has been allocated to local authorities from the funds raised in the National Insurance Health & Social Care levy.

- Authorities do not receive separately identified funding for the costs to them of the increase in National Insurance Contributions (the funding for this is assumed to be included in the new 2022/23 Services Grant).

- Referendum limits have been confirmed at 2% (or £5 for districts and fire authorities, where this is more than 2%). PCCs will be subject to a £10 referendum limit.

- An additional 1% social care precept for social care authorities (who will also be able to raise any balance of last year's 3% social care precept).

- The New Homes Bonus has been 'rolled over' for another year, with allocations made and the final 2019/20 legacy payment honoured.

- The lower tier services grant has been 'rolled over' at £111m nationally, and with a new cash terms funding floor.

- The compensation for under-indexing of the business rates multiplier will continue at RPI, though the settlement figures only include this at CPI.

- No detailed announcements were made on future funding reform

4.6 Whilst the Council has benefited from extra funding through the settlement, particularly from the new Services Grant 22/23 and increased Social Care grants, much of this is ring-fenced for specific purposes or to cover increased costs, such as the increase in the employers National Insurance Contribution rate from April 2022 which is



estimated to cost the Council £0.8m. The extremely high inflation rates in the UK have also meant that forecast costs for gas and electric have increased since the draft budget was prepared and there are also further inflationary increases on Adult Social Care and other large contracts.

- 4.7 The additional funding in the settlement has meant that the £1.4m gap remaining in the draft budget has been closed and no further savings will be required for 2022/23, assuming that the £14.6m of proposals that have already been identified are deliverable. However, as some of the funding streams for next year are one-off or time-limited, there is likely to be a need for additional savings to be found in 2023/24.
- 4.8 In terms of Council Tax, the draft budget included a 3.99% increase. This is based on a 2% 'core' increase and 1.99% Adult Social Care precept carried forward from 2021/22 as the Council chose not to take the full ASC precept allowable this year. The provisional settlement confirmed that a further 1% Adult Social Care precept is permitted under the referendum limits. If approved this would generate additional ongoing income of £1.1m for the Council. If the Council opts not to approve the additional 1%, the council tax income will be foregone on a permanent basis i.e council tax income in future years will be £1.1m lower. The impact of a 3.99% and 4.99% increase on a Band B property is shown in the table below:

<b>Increase</b>	<b>3.99%</b>	<b>4.99%</b>
Band B per annum	£46.58	£58.25
Band B per week	0.90p	£1.12

- 4.9 If approved, the additional 1% Council Tax income would be targeted towards Adult Social Care and would assist the Council in meeting the increased costs of placements and ensure the social care market locally remains sustainable. This may be particularly important in future years if the one-off funding from 2022/23 isn't continued in future settlements.
- 4.10 A final decision on Council Tax will need to be made by Cabinet at its meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> February in order to make recommendations to Council on 1<sup>st</sup> March.



4.11 At the time of writing this report, final adjustments were still being made to the budget proposals, in terms of confirming funding streams and any changes to spend and inflationary pressures. An addendum will be issued to the Board before the meeting with further information on the budgets for each Directorate.

## 5 Alternative Option

5.1 No alternative options are being presented but the Board may wish to make recommendations to Cabinet on alternative savings to be considered for 2022/23. The Board may also consider making a recommendation to Cabinet on the level of Council Tax to be approved.

## 6 Implications

<b>Resources:</b>	
<b>Legal and Governance:</b>	The Local Government Finance Act 1992 requires the Council to set a budget and Council Tax precept by 11 <sup>th</sup> March each year.
<b>Risk:</b>	The Council must set a risk assessed balanced budget each year and maintain a prudent level of reserves to mitigate the financial risks that it faces.
<b>Equality:</b>	Budget savings will be subject to an Equality Impact Assessment where appropriate
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>	No specific implications
<b>Social Value</b>	Considered when identifying potential savings options and budget priorities

## 7. Appendices

Appendix A – December 15<sup>th</sup> Cabinet report and appendices

## 8. Background Papers

None



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# Report to Cabinet

**15 December 2021**

<b>Subject:</b>	Draft General Fund Budget 2022/23
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Cllr Crompton – Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources
<b>Director:</b>	Simone Hines - Director of Finance
<b>Key Decision:</b>	Yes
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Rebecca Maher (Head of Finance) <a href="mailto:Rebecca_Maher@sandwell.gov.uk">Rebecca_Maher@sandwell.gov.uk</a>

## 1 Recommendations

### That Cabinet:

- 1.1 Note the draft budget position for 2022/23 and the savings required.
- 1.2 Approve the savings identified in para 4.13 onwards and Appendix B in principle for consultation and an Equality Impact Assessment where required.
- 1.3 That the Director of Finance submit a further report in February 2022 setting out the results of the consultation referred to in 1.2 above for Cabinet to consider prior to final budget proposals being approved.
- 1.4 That the draft budget and savings options be considered by the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board in January 2022.









## 2 Reasons for Recommendations

2.1 The Local Government Finance Act 1972 requires the Council to set a balanced, risk assessed budget each year and approve a Council Tax precept by 11<sup>th</sup> March.

### 3. How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

The Council's financial position helps to underpin the Council's Corporate Plan and the associated aspirations.

	Best start in life for children and young people
	People live well and age well
	Strong resilient communities
	Quality homes in thriving neighbourhoods
	A strong and inclusive economy
	A connected and accessible Sandwell

## 4 Context and Key Issues

4.1 The budget process for 2022/23 is particularly challenging due to the ongoing uncertainty around the long-term impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as uncertainty around the Spending Review and Settlement 2021 and plans for local government funding reform.

4.2 The initial budget deficit for 2022/23 set out in the current Medium-Term Financial Plan was estimated to be in the region of £9m, but this has increased substantially to a gap of £25m, or £21m after applying COVID funding for appropriate cost and income pressures.



4.3 The increase in the deficit for 2022/23 is largely due to additional spend pressures and income losses. There are further inflationary pressures, especially as inflation has now hit a decade high of 4.2% in October and the Council is also seeing demand pressures from key services such as Adult Social Care and SEND transport.

4.4 A summary of the current draft budget position is shown in the table below. This is based on current assumptions and is subject to change as the budget process progresses:

	<b>£m</b>
Draft budget including inflationary assumptions	267.529
Spend Pressures	14.857
Growth Items	1.558
<b>Total Net Budget</b>	<b>283.933</b>
Funded by:	
Business Rates	101.451
Business Rates top-up	41.771
Collection Fund deficit	-1.900
Council Tax	116.844
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>258.592</b>
<b>Budget gap</b>	<b>25.341</b>
One-off pressures funded from COVID grants	4.150
<b>Ongoing Budget Gap after one-off pressures/savings</b>	<b>21.191</b>
Ongoing Savings Identified	14.607
<b>Ongoing Budget Gap</b>	<b>6.583</b>
One-off funding 2022/23	5.126
<b>Remaining Ongoing Budget Gap after savings</b>	<b>1.457</b>

4.5 A summary of the spend pressures and growth items per Directorate are shown at Appendix A to the report.



- 4.6 The assumptions that have been applied when preparing the draft budget are:
- Inflation where contractual and unavoidable
  - Provision for an annual pay award
  - Pension contributions in line with the current triennial valuation
  - Business Rates income based on current trends and assuming there is not a re-set of business rates baselines or any change to the 100% pilot arrangements
  - 0.6% increase in the Council Tax Base, which is slightly lower than the 1% increase assumed in the Medium-Term Financial Plan.
  - 3.99% increase in Council Tax, made up of 1.99% 'core' increase and 2% Adult Social Care precept unused from 2021/22
- 4.7 The draft budget position does not yet include an estimate of the cost of the employers National Insurance Contribution rate which takes effect from April 2022. The government has confirmed that the cost for local government will be funded, and this is likely to come from the £1.6bn p.a. announced as part of the Spending Review (section 4.12 below) but there is no information on how this will be allocated. Further work is being carried out to understand what these costs are, but the government funding is only likely to extend to the Council's own pay bill and not that of its key contractors.
- 4.8 The spend pressure in relation to SEND Transport is partly due to increased demand and partly due to cost pressures linked to the extension of the current procurement arrangements. The Council is also seeing an increased demand for Adult Social Care, particularly in relation to Domiciliary Care. There are also some exceptionally high costs placements for specialist support. This is being monitored closely to identify mitigating actions to reduce the pressure or prevent any further increases.





- 4.9 The COVID-19 pandemic is still having an impact on Council finances, particularly in relation to income streams and levels of reserves and it is difficult to predict the speed of recovery at this stage. Income from services such as car parking and markets has not yet returned to pre-COVID levels and we are not anticipating any dividend from Birmingham airport for 2022/23. As these are short-term pressures as a result of the pandemic, these have been funded from COVID emergency grant funding carried forward from 2021/22. However, a longer-term view of these pressures will need to be considered in the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan as the COVID grant funding is limited and it may be that some of these pressures are reflective of more permanent changes in people's behaviour.
- 4.10 The Council Tax Base has not increased as much as in previous years, largely due to increased take up of Local Council Tax Support (LCTS). As this is linked to the economic impact of COVID, this gap will be funded by government funding aimed to support the increased cost of providing LCTS.
- 4.11 The funding assumptions are dependent on the announcement of the Local Government Finance Settlement. At the time of writing the report this was not available, but a verbal update will be given to Cabinet at the meeting.
- 4.12 **Spending Review 2021 – key points**
- 4.13 The Spending Review 2021 was announced on 27<sup>th</sup> October. The key points for Local Government were:
- Core referendum principle of 2%, a 1% Adult Social Care (ASC) precept, and a £10 Police precept.
  - confirms an additional £4.7 billion by 2024-25 for the core schools' budget in England. This is broadly equivalent to a cash increase of over £1,500 per pupil by 2024-25
  - Additional £1.6bn per year of funding through the Local Government Settlement for 'social care and other services'. We won't know how much Sandwell will receive until the Settlement in December.



- £3.6 billion will go directly to local government over the SR21 period to implement the cap on personal care costs and changes to the means test.
- To support businesses in the near term, the government has decided to freeze the business rates multiplier in 2022-23. Local authorities will be fully compensated for all measures announced in the review
- Business Rate Retention pilots will continue into 2022-23 and 2024-25. This means Sandwell will not lose any business rates growth in 22/23.
- Retail, hospitality and leisure properties will be eligible for a new, temporary £1.7 billion of business rates relief next year (funded by government).
- Government will maintain the Public Health Grant in real terms over the SR21 and it would continue to be ringfenced
- Business Rates and Fair Funding Reform – further information due in the settlement
- New Homes Bonus reform – further information due in the settlement
- No further COVID funding for local authorities

4.11 The reform to Fair Funding and Business Rates mentioned above refers to a national review of the way that funding is distributed across local government and the level of business rates that local government is able to keep. These reforms were due to be implemented in 2019 and are not likely to be implemented now until at least 2023, although this is still to be confirmed. This makes longer term financial planning very difficult.

4.12 Whilst the Spending Review sets out national government policy and the quantum of funding available for local government, the actual impact on Sandwell will not be known until the Local Government Finance Settlement is announced, which is usually in mid-December.

#### 4.13 Savings options

4.14 Cabinet and Leadership Team have been working closely on the draft budget for 2022/23 and have undertaken a Star Chamber exercise with all Directorates to challenge existing budgets and identify savings options. The Council has also made use of benchmarking data to compare our current costs against our nearest neighbours.



- 4.15 Given the extent of the budget challenge and the need to ensure a balanced and sustainable budget is set in March while maintaining an adequate level of reserves, Directorates were set a 10% target to either achieve savings or increase income in their services.
- 4.16 The initial savings proposals following this exercise are attached at Appendix B. These total £14.6m.
- 4.17 Some of the savings require consultation, either with employees or service users and this will be carried out early in 2022 subject to Cabinet approval and in line with Council policies on consultation.
- 4.18 Where required, Equality Impact Assessments will be as part of consultation processes.
- 4.19 The Council currently makes grants and contributions to various third sector organisations and has not currently applied any savings target to those budgets. The Council plans to undertake a comprehensive review of these arrangements to ensure that they are achieving outcomes in line with the Council's corporate priorities. The Council will follow the Voluntary Sector Compact to do this and will consult and carry out Equality Impact Assessments before any changes are made. A progress update on this will be included in the final budget report to Cabinet in February.
- 4.20 The Local Government Finance Act also requires Council's to consult with Business Ratepayers in its area. It is proposed that this report and the savings proposals are shared with the Black Country Chamber of Commerce and Business Ambassadors Group.
- 4.21 As mentioned at section 4.6 above, the draft budget currently assumes a 3.99% Council Tax increase, of which 2% is the Adult Social Care precept which wasn't applied in 2021/22 and can be carried forward. The Council could also apply a further 1% increase to the Adult Social Care precept, in line with the SR21 announcement. This would increase council tax income by approx. £1.1m compared to the current draft budget forecast. A 3.99% increase on a Band C property is £53.36 per year and a 4.99% increase on a Band C is £66.57 per year.
- 4.22 Subject to Cabinet agreeing the savings proposals at Appendix B in principle, officers will carry out the appropriate consultation and Equality Impact Assessments and report these back to Cabinet in February so final budget decisions can be made.



4.23 If all savings at Appendix B are approved following consultation, there would still be a gap of approx. £1.5m remaining for 2022/23, dependent on the Local Government Finance Settlement announcements. There is a Fees and Charges review underway which may give additional income generation options, and Cabinet and Leadership Team will need to give consideration to other options available to ensure a sustainable budget can be set for 2022/23.

#### 4.24 Reserves Position

4.25 The Council has two types of reserves – earmarked reserves which are for specific future projects, commitments or risks, and an unallocated reserve, which is to ensure the Council can manage unexpected financial challenges.

4.26 As part of the budget setting process the Council's earmarked and unallocated reserves position has been reviewed to ensure they are of a sufficient level to meet the financial commitments and risks that the authority is facing. The level of reserves the Council held at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 was £134m but this is projected to fall to £70m once COVID related funding has been used during this financial year.

4.27 The level of unallocated balances at the end of March 2022 was £8.4m, which is the lower end of a prudent level. Part of the budget strategy for 2022/23 is to restructure reserves to increase the level of unallocated balances and also create an Invest to Save reserve. This will allow transformational projects to be carried out to both improve the way the Council delivers services to its customers but also enable service to delivery to be done in a more efficient and effective way.

#### 4.28 Next Steps

4.29 The assumptions and estimates currently being used in the draft budget will be constantly monitored and the funding position will be revised if necessary once the Local Government Finance Settlement has been announced.

4.30 The review of Fees and Charges will be completed before Christmas and any options for income generation will be considered by Leadership Team and Cabinet in early January.



**4.31** The Council’s Medium-Term Financial Plan will be refreshed early in 2022 and work will begin on developing a Three-Year savings plan. This will be reported to Cabinet in February alongside the final budget report. Key to this will be any further announcements about government plans to progress with Fair Funding Reform and 75% Business Rates Retention as this may have significant impact for the Council and at this stage gives huge uncertainty about the Council’s financial position in the medium term.

**5 Alternative Options**

5.1 Cabinet could request that alternative savings options be proposed and agreed, although there is limited time to do this and still be able to carry out the appropriate consultation on alternative savings.

**6 Implications**

<b>Resources:</b>	Resource implications are contained within the main body of the report.
<b>Legal and Governance:</b>	No direct implications arising from the recommendations.
<b>Risk:</b>	This information is contained within the main body of this report.
<b>Equality:</b>	No direct implications arising from the recommendations.
<b>Health and Wellbeing:</b>	No direct implications arising from the recommendations.
<b>Social Value</b>	No direct implications arising from the recommendations.

**7. Appendices**

- A.) Spend Pressures and Growth items
- B.) Savings Options

**8. Background Papers**

None



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Appendix A

AREA OF BUDGET PRESSURE	GROWTH/P RESSURE	NET PRESSURE (£)	PRESSURE (£)	GROWTH (£)
<b>AGREED PRE-TEMPLATES</b>				
Equalities Commission	Pressure	430	430	
Graduate Programme	Pressure	350	350	
Human Rights Act Claims	Pressure	200	200	
General capital matchfunding/project/revenue costs	Growth	200		200
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1,180</b>	<b>980</b>	<b>200</b>
<b>LEGAL</b>				
Elections - Local Election Costs	Pressure	220	220	
Legal Services - Children's Trust Income for GDPR	Pressure	100	100	
Registration Services - new cemetery in West Bromwich	Pressure	2,225	2,225	
Governance Services	Growth	62		62
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>2,607</b>	<b>2,545</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>ADULTS</b>				
Projected contractual inflation on care costs 2022/23	Pressure	2,750	2,750	
Increase Dom Care Packages	Pressure	2,500	2,500	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>5,250</b>	<b>5,250</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>HR</b>				
Income pressures in relation to income from schools	Pressure	400	400	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>400</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>CHILDRENS</b>				
SEND Transport	Pressure	1,871	1,871	
RAA	Pressure	48	48	

<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1,919</b>	<b>1,919</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>CORPORATE</b>				
SHAPE Programme	Growth	125		125
SCT Contract Sum	Pressure	665	665	
Pay Award	Pressure	1,000	1,000	
Local Welfare Provision	Growth	275		275
Apprentice Pay	Growth	456		456
Support Partner - Oracle Fusion	Growth	90		90
Oracle Change Management Team	Growth	0		0
Business Rates Growth	Pressure	287	287	
Chief Executive salary increase	Pressure	25	25	
Reduction in CT Base	Pressure	426	426	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>3,349</b>	<b>2,403</b>	<b>946</b>
<b>FINANCE</b>				
Service Manager post to be reinstated	Pressure	100	100	
Additional Principal Accountant required	Growth	63		63
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>163</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>REGEN</b>				
Highways Maintenance - pressure re high priority works	Pressure	70	70	
Car Parking - Post COVID	Pressure	500	500	
Markets - unachievable income due to Covid for indoor and outdoor market	Pressure	150	150	
Dangerous Structures Reserve	Pressure	190	190	
Mark Drake -PMA programme of works	Pressure	220	220	
Mark Drake - Schools repairs account loss of contracts	Pressure	120	120	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1,250</b>	<b>1,250</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>BUSINESS STRATEGY &amp; TRANSFORMATION</b>				
Increase in Comms Team	Growth	287		287
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>287</b>		<b>287</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>16,405</b>	<b>14,847</b>	<b>1,558</b>



Adult Social Care Service	Proposal	Saving £m	Impact
Social Work and Therapy	Undertake strength based reviews of cases where weekly care costs are below £100 or above £2,200	£0.7	Reduction in payment to providers and reduction in commissioned support. May result in reduced support.
Social Work and Therapy	Develop an alternative approach to double handed care calls	£1.4	Reduction in the number of double handed care calls i.e. more calls dealt with by one carer rather than multiple. Will need investment in equipment.
Direct Services	Use vacant units at Walker Grange and Willow Gardens for placements of people with dementia to reduce external placement costs	£0.65	Using the Councils own properties rather than external placements. No impact on existing residents.
Meals on Wheels	Delete vacant posts	£0.03	No impact
Respite Service	Review policy on Respite Support to reduce from offering 56 days to 28	£0.1	This will reduce the level of service offered to some users
Commissioning	Fund Domestic Refuge services through use of New Burdens Grant	£0.5	Less funding to invest in extra commissioned services. No impact on existing service
Commissioning	De-Commission non-statutory Community Advocacy Services	£0.05	Service would not be available to residents. Alternatives are available through partners
Total		£3.5	

Service – Children’s and Education	Proposal	Saving £m	Impact
School improvement	Staffing reductions	0.09	Reduction in advisory support and more pressure on rest of the team. Linked to reduced DFE funding but subject to consultation
Early Years	Remove vacant post and reduce training budget	0.06	Workforce receive less training. Impact on the service will be monitored
Employment and Skills	Using staff in a different way to support employment fairs	0.02	Very little
Education Support	Restructure and remodelling of services	0.16	More efficient service and reduction in staff. Minimal impact.
Connexions	Various staffing reductions and increased income	0.25	Reduced staffing capacity
Post 16 Service	Delete Manager post	0.07	Reduced staffing capacity
Workforce Nursery	Review delivery model and charging structure to break even	0.06	May result in higher charges for users or different service being offered
<b>Total</b>		<b>0.7</b>	

Service – Public Health and Corporate	Proposal	Saving £m	Impact
Public Health	Fund Detached Youth Service, Air Quality and SHAPE from PH grant	0.4	None
Central – Waste Contract	Reduction in contract budget based on current trends	0.5	None – based on current costs
Central – Leisure	Reduction in fee paid to Sandwell Leisure Trust	0.2	Based on current forecasts. Dependent on negotiation with SLT
Central – technical changes	Use of COVID grant funding to cover airport dividend loss and reduced Collection Fund deficit	2.5	None
<b>Total</b>		<b>3.6</b>	

Service – Legal and Governance	Proposal	Saving £m	Impact
Legal	Staffing restructure	0.2	Reduction in staffing capacity but mitigated by improved processes
Legal	Increased income from providing services to others	0.02	None
Elections	Hand delivery of forms rather than postal and using tablets for canvassing	0.12	None – should have a positive impact on the service
Registration	Increase fees and charges by 4% above inflation.	0.16	Increased charges to customers. Options for charging structure being reviewed.
<b>Total</b>		<b>0.5</b>	

Service - Housing	Proposal	Saving £m	Impact
Housing Management	Increase Garage rents by 50%	0.4	Customers will need to pay more, but rents are low compared to others. May reduce demand.
Floating Support	Fund from Preventing Homelessness Grant	0.05	None
Communities	Reduce funding to SCVO	0.08	Relatively small proportion of total SCVO funding (£1.35m). Subject to consultation and Impact Assessment to understand full impact.
Housing Management	Staffing reduction and other minor savings	0.12	None – vacant post
Welfare Rights	Increase the HRA contribution towards this team.	0.14	None
Allocations	Charge providers for properties let through Choice Based Lettings	0.02	Minimal – charge based on current market rate
<b>Total</b>		<b>0.81</b>	

Service – Business Strategy and Change	Proposal	£m	Impact
HR	Reduce training, conferences, Management Development and professional training budgets	0.2	Reduced training for workforce. May impact on capability and recruitment and retention
HR – Graduate Scheme	Remove budget for graduate scheme and substitute with funding from vacant posts	0.17	None, assuming graduates are used for existing posts.
HR – staffing reductions	Senior HR Business Partners and Learning and Development Officer posts to be deleted	0.1	Reduced staffing capacity, likely to be voluntary under Planned Leavers
Contact Centre	Reduce staffing by 1.5 FTE and remove winter temporary workers budget	0.07	May impact on Contact Centre performance, but there will still be increased staffing due to additional 10 FTE recruited this year
Service Improvement	Minor staffing reductions	0.06	Minimal, but will reduce flexibility
ICT/Digital	Staffing reductions (Planned Leavers)	0.18	Less IT capacity to support the business
ICT/Digital	Various contract changes	0.32	None
<b>Total</b>		<b>1.1</b>	

Service – Finance	Proposal	Saving	Impact
Finance, Audit and Procurement	Staffing restructures	0.2	Less staffing capacity but more efficient to meet needs of the Council. Likely to involve redundancies.
Adult Social Care Charging	Review current policy for non-residential charging. Subject to consultation.	0.3	Consultation on options to increase the amount that people have to pay for their care. Currently 47% of income is taken into account. Many other authorities take 100% into account
Benefits	Fund Local Welfare Scheme from Council Tax Support Grant	0.3	None – funding service from government grant instead of Council budget. One-off saving
Council Tax	Increased the summons charge for Council Tax and Business Rates debts	0.17	Charge increased by £10 to £79. The amount the Council has to collect will increase.
Revenues and Benefits	Staffing reductions across the service	0.3	Mostly vacant posts so little impact. Possibly one redundancy but options for redeployment.
Cashiers	Review current provision and opening hours and consolidate service across the Council	0.05	Maintaining current reduced opening hours. Cashless Strategy is reducing the cash that the Council take and customers are paying by other means.
Total		1.3	

Service – Borough Economy	Proposal	Saving £m	Impact
Waste and Fleet	Charging for 2 <sup>nd</sup> Green Bin (£40)	0.17	Charges applied to residents 2 <sup>nd</sup> bin only, estimated 5,000 uptake, less admin costs
Waste and Fleet	Review Street Cleansing approach, review contract and move to bill of quantities	0.5	Depends on outcome of contract review
Libraries	Relocation of services and creation of hubs	0.2	Greater use of self-serve technology, relocation of some services and additional grant funding.
Museums	Review current Museum and Arts Service provision	0.1	Consolidation of services and rationalising management
Events, Sandwell Valley and Lightwood House	Review Business Plan and income targets with the aim of becoming cost neutral within 3 years	0.1	Increase number of events and charging structure for events and facilities
Corporate Fleet Review	Review current approach to fleet management	0.1	Minimal – savings should come from more efficient procurement and use of fleet
Pest Control	Review fees and charges to become cost neutral within 3 years	0.06	Increase in charges payable by customers
<b>Total</b>		<b>1.25</b>	

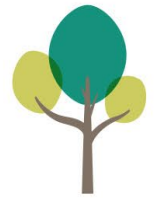


Service – Regeneration and Growth	Proposal	Saving	Impact
Strategic Assets and Facilities Management	Staffing restructures	0.06	Reduced staffing capacity
Strategic Assets	Reviewing property leases	0.6	Changes to property portfolio – combination of increased rental income and reduced rental costs
Building Control	Increase fees – between 10-20%	0.04	Increased charges to customers, may impact on demand
Planning	Introduce new pre-application charges	0.005	New charges for customers
Strategic Assets and Growth	Various staffing changes and reductions in supplies and service budgets	0.3	May reduce ability to carry out research for statutory service and reduced number of business events carried out
Strategic Assets	Capitalise some major repairs works	0.8	No impact on service – will fund from capital resources
<b>Total</b>		<b>1.8</b>	

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The following items set out key decisions to be taken by the Executive in public session:-

	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
1	<p><b>Re-commissioning Sandwell Drug &amp; Alcohol Adult Treatment Services</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Mary Bailey</p> <p>Director: Lisa McNally – Director of Public Health</p>	<p>Adults, Social Care and Health (Cllr Hartwell)</p>	<p>9 February 2022</p>		



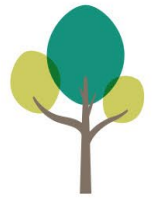
	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
2	<p><b>High Needs Block Funding Allocation</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Moira Tallents</p> <p>Director: Michael Jarrett – Director of Children and Education</p>	Children and Education (Cllr Simms)	9 February 2022	N/A	Report
3	<p><b>Appointment of a Director to Sandwell Children’s Trust Ltd</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Mandip S. Chahal</p> <p>Director: Michael Jarrett – Director of Children and Education</p>	Children and Education (Cllr Simms)	9 February 2022	N/A	



Title/Subject		Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
4	<p><b>Horticultural Products and Tools 2021 – 2025</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Tim Pitt</p> <p>Director: Alice Davey – Director of Borough Economy</p>	Culture and Tourism (Cllr Millard)	9 February 2022	N/A	
5	<p><b>Approval to proceed with Sandwell Urban Bike Park project</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Matthew Huggins</p> <p>Director: Alice Davey – Director of Borough Economy</p>	Culture and Tourism (Cllr Millard)	9 February 2022	No	<p>Cabinet report</p> <p>Project programme</p>



Title/Subject		Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
6	<p><b>SLT Business Plan 2021-24</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Gemma Ryan</p> <p>Director: Alice Davey – Director of Borough Economy</p>	Culture and Tourism (Cllr Millard)	9 February 2022 (private item)		<p>Cabinet report</p> <p>SLT Business Plan 2021-24</p>
7	<p><b>Approve use of Highway Surfacing and Associated Works Contract</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Robin Weare/Mathew Burling</p> <p>Director: Alice Davey – Director of Borough Economy</p>	Environment (Cllr Bostan)	9 February 2022	N/A	



	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
8	<p><b>Revocation of Highway Improvement Lines – A41 Birmingham Road, West Bromwich</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Andy Miller</p> <p>Director: Tony McGovern – Director of Regeneration and Growth</p>	Environment (Cllr Bostan)	9 February 2022		



Title/Subject		Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
9	<p><b>Provision of 18 new council homes at Beaver Road, Tipton</b></p> <p>Contact: Alan Martin</p> <p>Director: Tony McGovern – Director of Regeneration and Growth/Gillian Douglas – Director of Housing and Communities</p>	Housing (Cllr Ahmed)	9 February 2022		
10	<p><b>Use of commuted sums to deliver affordable housing for young people</b></p> <p>Contact: Nigel Collumbell</p> <p>Director – Gillian Douglas – Director of Housing and Communities</p>	Housing (Cllr Ahmed)	February 2022		





	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
11	<p><b>Provision of 15 new council homes at Hawes Lane, Rowley Regis</b></p> <p>Contact: Alan Martin</p> <p>Director: Tony McGovern – Director of Regeneration and Growth/Gillian Douglas – Director of Housing and Communities</p>	Housing (Cllr Ahmed)	February 2022		



	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
12	<p><b>West Bromwich Interim Planning Statement/Masterplan</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Jenna Langford/ Richard Reeve/Peter Simpson</p> <p>Director: Tony McGovern – Director of Regeneration &amp; Growth</p>	Regeneration and Growth (Cllr I Padda)	9 February 2022		West Bromwich Interim Planning Statement/Masterplan



	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
13	<p><b>Smethwick to Birmingham Area Framework and Grove Lane Masterplan</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Hayley Insley</p> <p>Director: Tony McGovern – Director of Regeneration and Growth</p>	Regeneration and Growth (Cllr I Padda)	9 February 2022		



	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
14	<p><b>Information Governance Records Retention</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Maria Price</p> <p>Director of Law and Governance – Surjit Tour</p>	<p>Leader (Cllr Carmichael)</p>	<p>23 February 2022</p>		<p>The Corporate Retention Policy</p> <p>Email Retention Policy</p> <p>Information Rights Policy</p>



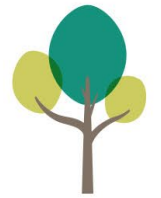
	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
15	<p><b>Sandwell Health Inequalities Programme: Grant funding for Sandwell Consortium CIC to deliver interventions to address health inequalities</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Anna Blennerhassett &amp; Suni Patel</p> <p>Director: Lisa McNally – Director of Public Health</p>	Leader (Cllr Carmichael)	23 February 2022		



	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
16	<p><b>Proposed new cemetery in West Bromwich and revised registration related fees and charges</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Mark Satchwell</p> <p>Director – Surjit Tour – Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer</p>	<p>Leader (Cllr Carmichael)</p>	<p>23 February 2022</p>		



	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
17	<p><b>Sandwell and Community Caring Trust Contract</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Christine Guest</p> <p>Director: Rashpal Bishop – Director of Adult Social Care</p>	Adults, Social Care and Health (Cllr Hartwell)	23 February 2022 (private item)		
18	<p><b>Small Sided Spaces Project</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Gemma Ryan/Rob Marlow</p> <p>Director: Alice Davey – Director of Borough Economy</p>	Culture and Tourism (Cllr Millard)	23 February 2022	N/A	<p>Cabinet Report</p> <p>Appendix re: Scheme background and process</p>



	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
19	<p><b>Direct Award of Microsoft Server Cloud Enrolment (SCE) License renewal using KCS framework agreement</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Richard Griffiths</p> <p>Director: Neil Cox – Director of Business Strategy and Change</p>	Finance and Resources (Cllr Crompton)	23 February 2022		





	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
20	<p><b>General Fund and HRA Budget, Capital Programme and Treasury Management Strategy 2022/23</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Simone Hines</p> <p>Director: Simone Hines – Director of Finance</p>	Finance and Resources (Cllr Crompton)	23 February 2022		
21	<p><b>Communications and Corporate Affairs Team</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Clair Norton</p> <p>Director: Neil Cox</p>	Finance and Resources (Cllr Crompton)	23 February 2022		



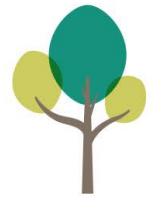
	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
22	<p><b>Direct Award of Contract for eCapture and Webcapture Services</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Ian Dunn</p> <p>Director: Simone Hines – Director of Finance</p>	Finance and Resources (Cllr Crompton)	23 February 2022		



	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
23	<p><b>Contract for the provision of a Revenues and Benefits application, a corporate document management solution and scanning and indexing services</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Sue Knowles</p> <p>Director: Simone Hines – Director of Finance</p>	Finance and Resources (Cllr Crompton)	23 February 2022		



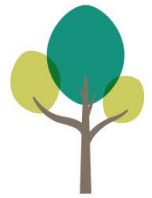
	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
24	<p><b>Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund – Wave 1</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: J Rawlins</p> <p>Director: Gillian Douglas – Director – Housing and Communities</p>	Housing (Cllr Ahmed)	23 February 2022		
25	<p><b>Adoption of revised Council Tenancy Conditions</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Neville Rowe</p> <p>Director: Gillian Douglas – Director of Housing</p>	Housing (Cllr Ahmed)	23 February 2022	Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board 9/12/2021	Report setting out the proposed changes to the Council's Tenancy Conditions



	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
26	<p><b>Statement of Community Involvement Update</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Zoe Wilson</p> <p>Director: Tony McGovern – Director of Regeneration and Growth</p>	Regeneration and Growth (Cllr I Padda)	23 February 2022		



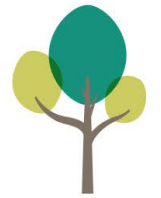
	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
27	<p><b>Appropriation of Grafton Lodge, Grafton Road, Oldbury from General Fund into Housing Revenue Account</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Lee Constable</p> <p>Director: Tony McGovern, Director – Regeneration and Growth</p>	Regeneration and Growth (Cllr I Padda)	23 February 2022		



	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
28	<p><b>Acquisition of Kings Square Shopping Centre</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Chris Hilton</p> <p>Director: Tony McGovern – Director of Regeneration and Growth</p>	<p>Regeneration and Growth (Cllr I Padda)</p>	<p>23 February 2022</p>		
29	<p><b>Temporary Accommodation Elm Tree Primary Academy at Connor Education Centre, West Bromwich</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Martyn Roberts</p> <p>Director: Michael Jarrett, Director of Children and Education</p>	<p>Children and Education (Cllr Simms)</p>	<p>23 March 2022</p>		

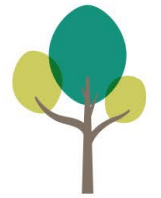


Title/Subject		Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
30	<p><b>School Organisation Plan 2021/22</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Martyn Roberts</p> <p>Director: Michael Jarrett – Director of Children and Education/Simone Hines – Director of Finance</p>	Children and Education (Cllr Simms)	23 March 2022	Tbc	<p>Report</p> <p>Appendices</p> <p>School Organisation Plan 2021/22</p>
31	<p><b>Ormiston Sandwell Community Academy – Proposed Expansion</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Martyn Roberts</p> <p>Director: Michael Jarrett – Director of Children and Education</p>	Children and Education (Cllr Simms)	23 March 2022		

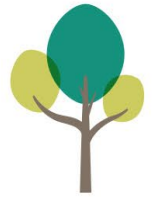




	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
32	<p><b>Children’s Social Care – Social Workers’ Pay</b></p> <p>Contact: Michael Jarrett</p> <p>Director of Children and Education, Michael Jarrett</p>	Children and Education (Cllr Simms)	23 March 2022		Report
33	<p><b>Domestic Abuse Strategy</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Maryrose Lappin</p> <p>Director: Alice Davey – Director of Borough Economy</p>	Community Safety (Cllr Piper)	23 March 2022		



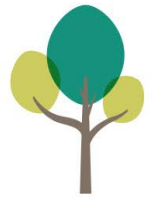
Title/Subject		Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
34	<p><b>City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement and Local Transport Capital Programme 2022/23</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Andy Miller</p> <p>Director: Tony McGovern – Director of Regeneration and Growth</p>	Environment (Cllr Bostan)	23 March 2022		
35	<p><b>Corporate Climate Change Action Plan</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Jo Miskin</p> <p>Director: Tony McGovern – Director of Regeneration and Growth</p>	Environment (Cllr Bostan)	23 March 2022		



	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
36	<p><b>Memorandum of Understanding between SMBC and Chance Heritage Trust re Heritage related regeneration in the Borough</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Tony McGovern</p> <p>Director: Tony McGovern – Director of Regeneration and Growth</p>	Regeneration and Growth (Cllr I Padda)	23 March 2022		



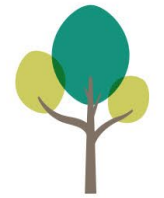
Title/Subject		Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
37	<p><b>Friar Park Residential Development</b></p> <p>Contact Officer – Chris Hilton</p> <p>Director: Tony McGovern – Director of Regeneration and Growth</p>	Regeneration and Growth (Cllr I Padda)	23 March 2022		<p>Site Appraisals and MasterPlan</p> <p>Funding approval for support</p> <p>Approval for informal public consultation</p>
38	<p><b>2022-23 Asset Management and Maintenance investment Programme</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: J. Rawlins</p> <p>Director: Gillian Douglas – Director – Housing and Communities</p>	Housing (Cllr Ahmed)	13 April 2022		Report



Title/Subject		Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
39	<p><b>Refurbishment of Thorne Close</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: J Rawlins</p> <p>Director: Gillian Douglas – Director – Housing and Communities</p>	<p>Housing (Cllr Ahmed)</p>	13 April 2022		Report
40	<p><b>Adult Social Care Contributions Policy - Review Proposals</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Kay Murphy</p> <p>Director of Finance – Simone Hines Director of Adult Social Care - Rashpal Bishop</p>	<p>Finance and Resources (Cllr Crompton)</p> <p>Adults, Social Care and Health (Cllr Hartwell)</p>	18 May 2022	N/A	<p>Joint report by</p> <p>Director of Finance and Director of Adult Social Care</p> <p>Appendices</p>



	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
41	<p><b>Street Naming, Renaming and Property Numbering Policy</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Robin Weare/Barry Ridgway</p> <p>Director: Alice Davey – Director of Borough Economy</p>	Environment (Cllr Bostan)	June 2022		



The following items set out key decisions to be taken by the Executive in private session:-

Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Reason for Exemption	List of documents to be considered
<p><b>Sandwell and Community Caring Trust Contract</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Christine Guest</p> <p>Director: Rashpal Bishop – Director of Adult Social Care</p>	<p>Adults, Social Care and Health (Cllr Hartwell)</p>	<p>23 February 2022</p>	<p>Commercial sensitivity</p>	
<p><b>SLT Business Plan 2021-24</b></p> <p>Contact: Gemma Ryan</p> <p>Director: Alice Davey – Director of Borough Economy</p>	<p>Culture and Tourism (Cllr Millard)</p>	<p>9 February 2022</p>	<p>Commercial sensitivity</p>	







## Work Programme 2021/22 Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board

Meeting Date	Item	Links with Strategic Aims	Notes (Director Lead)
21 July 2021	Outturn 2020/21		Details of 2020/21 financial outturn including reasons for variances against budget for each directorate
21 September 2021	Qtr 1 Budget Monitoring 2021/22  Draft Corporate Plan  Update on Senior Management Staffing		Projected outturn for 2021/22 and reasons for projected variances  Engagement and outcomes of refresh of Corporate Plan and consideration of draft plan ( <b>Neil Cox</b> )  Requested at meeting held on 21/7
17 November 2021	Update on Senior Management Staffing		<b>Sue Stanhope</b>
1 December 2021	Health and wellbeing of the workforce linked to productivity and engagement		<b>Sue Stanhope</b>
	Qtr 2 Budget Monitoring 2021/22		As Qtr 1

26 January 2022	Cancelled		
8 February 2022	Update on the aquatic centre (financial implications)  Budget 2022-23		Tony McGovern Chris Jones
16 March 2022	Q3 Budget Monitoring 2021/22  Development of the performance management framework		As Qtr 1  Kate Ashley

<b>Items to be scheduled</b>
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Digital platforms for council services linked with balancing the finance needed to invest in a new digital infrastructure and how the Council will measure the return on current communication platforms – Neil Cox
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<b>Scrutiny Review</b>
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