

REPORT OF Finance Manager and S.151 Officer

To: Community & Resources

Subject: 2020-21 Budget Monitoring

Date: 26th April 2021

Reference:

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

For Members to confirm their agreement to defer any decision regarding the projected 2020-21 surplus until the 2020-21 financial outturn is known.

1. INTRODUCTION

The quarterly budget report (QBR) for the period ending the 31st December 2020 was presented to Members of the Internal Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 16th March 2021. The projected surplus as at quarter 3 had improved by £443k compared to the projected surplus reported at Quarter 2.

2. REPORT

The financial year 2020/21 has been unprecedented in terms of financial volatility, due to a variety of factors:

- lost income due to the pandemic (most notably in Car Parking and Treasury deposit income),
- additional costs such as support to leisure, increased ICT costs to support remote working
- Additional Grant income from Central Government to compensate Council for the impact of Covid-19.

Members of Internal Overview and Scrutiny recognised that officers were operating in a financially volatile environment and that any decision upon the utilisation of the projected surplus was premature and should be deferred until the accounts for 2020-21 were closed. Internal Overview and Scrutiny recommended to Community and Resources that any decision on the allocation of the surplus from 2021-22 be deferred until the accounts for 2020-21 are closed,

3. IMPLICATIONS

Legal Implications

No specific legal implications

Financial Implications

Detailed in the report

Human Resources Implications

None

Sustainability/Biodiversity Implications

None



Equality/Diversity
Not applicable

Risk Management
Not applicable

Compliance with Policies and Strategies
This report is in compliance with the Council's Constitution

Data Protection (GDPR) Implications
Not applicable

Climate Change
Not applicable

Lead Member View

Councillor Hodson “ The recommendation from colleagues on Internal Overview and Scrutiny is eminently sensible, reasoned discussions regarding the allocation of any surplus would be best undertaken when full knowledge of the surplus from 2020-21 is known”.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members:

1: Members of Community and Resources defer any decision on the allocation of the 2020-21 surplus until the accounts for this year are closed.

