

SCHOOL BUDGET FORUM MEETING – 1ST FEBRUARY 2022

THE COUNCIL'S DRAFT 2022/23 REVENUE BUDGET STRATEGY – PHASE 2 CONSULTATION

Extract from the minutes

With the aid of a PowerPoint Presentation, the Service Director – Finance and Improvement Services provided Members with an update in respect of the Council's Budget Consultation 2022/23 and covered the following areas: Introduction – 2022/23 Draft Revenue Budget Strategy; Council's Current Financial Position (2021/22); Phase 1 Budget Consultation – Headlines; Provisional Local Government Settlement 2022/23 – Headlines/Implications for Rhondda Cynon Taf; Cabinet Proposed Budget Strategy 2022/23; and Next steps and key dates.

Following the overview by the Service Director, Forum Members were informed that their feedback would be considered by Cabinet, alongside feedback received from all other stakeholders, as part of Cabinet meeting later in February 2022 to finalise its recommended Budget Strategy.

Forum Members were requested to provide feedback on the following questions.

Council Tax

Forum Members fed back that they agreed with the proposed 1% Council Tax increase in order to help maintain as many services as possible at the current level.

Schools Budget

Forum Members agreed that the Council should fully fund schools for next year and requested that further information be provided on the estimated pay award for next year to aid budget planning. The Service Director indicated that further information would be provided to schools as part of budget setting preparations for the forthcoming year.

Efficiencies

Forum Members agreed with the approach to efficiency savings for next year and that the Council should continue to become more efficient going forward in future years.

Fees and Charges

Forum Members agreed with the standard increase of 2.5%, in the context of the current rate of inflation being 5.4%, and agreed with the proposals for a number of specific fees and charges areas to be frozen for next year.

Use of Reserves

Forum Members noted the use of reserves and agreed with the approach taken by the Council.

Proposed Targeted Additional Investments

Forum Members agreed with the proposed targeted additional investments and the approach being taken by the Council.

Following discussion, Forum Members **RESOLVED** to note the 2022/23 Budget Consultation and for their comments to be incorporated into the Phase 2 Consultation Report to be presented to Cabinet later in February 2022.