

COMMENTS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (PERFORMANCE AND GROWTH)

FINAL 2021/22 REVENUE BUDGET AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY (2022/23 TO 2025/26) INCLUDING CAPITAL PROGRAMME

- 6.1 The Panel discussed the Final 2021/22 Revenue Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy (2022/23 to 2025/26) including Capital Programme at its meeting on 3rd February 2021.
- 6.2 Members welcomed the proposed freeze in Council Tax for the year 2021/22.
- 6.3 The collaborative approach by Opposition Groups towards the 2021/22 budget, particularly after the challenging year the Council has faced, was welcomed by the Panel.
- 6.4 Concerns were raised about the unpredictable nature of some aspects of the budget and about the reliance of the budget on revenue which might not materialise. It was understood though, that Officers have been conservative with their estimates when producing the budget.
- 6.5 Members commented that it is prudent to use reserves after the challenging year that the Council has experienced with its finances. The change in the level of reserves deemed necessary was welcomed by the Panel.
- 6.6 Members sought assurance that the level of provision within the budget is sufficient for the Council to continue the good work done in many areas, such as homelessness. This assurance has been provided.
- 6.7 In conclusion, the Panel welcomed the budget and commented that, considering the challenges that had faced the Council's finances in the last year, it is a sound budget.