

**MINUTES of MEETING of ARGYLL AND BUTE HSCP FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE  
held BY SKYPE  
on FRIDAY, 11 DECEMBER 2020**

**Present:** Councillor Kieron Green (Chair)

Sarah Compton-Bishop  
Councillor Gary Mulvaney

Councillor Sandy Taylor  
Dr Boyd Robertson

**Attending:** Joanna MacDonald, Chief Officer, Argyll and Bute HSCP  
Judy Orr, Head of Finance and Transformation, Argyll and Bute HSCP  
Caroline Cherry, Head of Adult Services, Argyll and Bute HSCP  
Charlotte Craig, Business Improvement Manager, Argyll and Bute HSCP  
David Forshaw, Principal Accountant, Argyll and Bute Council  
Julie Lusk, Head of Adult Services, Argyll and Bute HSCP  
Linda Currie, Lead Allied Health Professional, Argyll and Bute HSCP  
Linda Skrastin, Locality Area Manager, Argyll and Bute HSCP (on behalf of Patricia Renfrew)  
Lynsey Innis, Senior Committee Assistant, Argyll and Bute Council  
George Morrison, Head of Finance, Argyll and Bute HSCP  
Dr Nicola Schinaia, Associate Director of Public Health, Argyll and Bute HSCP  
Stephen Whiston, Head of Strategic Planning and Performance, Argyll and Bute HSCP  
Alison McGrory, Health Improvement Principal, Argyll and Bute HSCP  
Donald Watt, Locality Manager MAKI, Argyll and Bute HSCP

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of:-

Fiona Broderick, Staffside, Argyll and Bute HSCP  
Jane Fowler, Head of Customer Support Services, Argyll and Bute Council  
Elizabeth Higgins, Lead Nurse, Argyll and Bute HSCP  
Patricia Renfrew, Consultant Nurse, Argyll and Bute HSCP

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Sarah Compton-Bishop declared a non-financial interest in relation to Option 3 – Jura Progressive Care Centre, within the Summary of Savings Proposals for Consideration, which is dealt with at item 7 (Proposed Savings 2021/2022) of this Minute, by virtue of having a family member resident within the Centre. .

**3. MINUTES**

The Minute of the previous meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee, held on 30 October 2020, was approved as a correct record.

#### **4. BUDGET MONITORING AS AT 31 OCTOBER 2020**

The Committee gave consideration to a report providing a summary of the financial position of the Health and Social Care Partnership as at 31 October 2020. The report noted the ongoing uncertainty around the financial impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Head of Finance and Transformation provided a verbal update on the financial position of the Health and Social Care Partnership as at 30 November 2020.

##### **Decision**

The Finance and Policy Committee –

1. Noted the forecast outturn position for 2020-21 is a forecast overspend of £2.118m as at 31 October 2020 and that there is a year to date overspend of £65k as at the same date.
2. Noted the above position excludes any provision for Scottish Government assistance with non-delivery of savings due to Covid-19. It also excludes any funding for loss of income for social care. It includes the Covid funding via NHS Highland announced at end of September.
3. Requested that a paper outlining the difficulties as a result of demand pressures within the area of Learning Disability be brought to the next meeting of the Argyll and Bute HSCP Finance and Policy Committee, scheduled for 22 January 2021.

(Reference: Report by Head of Finance and Transformation, dated 11 December 2020, submitted)

Stephen Whiston left the meeting at 2:00pm.

#### **5. COVID-19 RESPONSE AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Consideration was given to a report which provided an overview of the HSCP's Covid-19 mobilisation readiness and its future planning for living and operating with Covid-19. The report also provided a snapshot of the financial estimates of the costs of dealing with the Covid-19 response and noted that the cost estimates were updated on a regular basis and subject to considerable uncertainties.

##### **Decision**

The Finance and Policy Committee –

1. Noted the details provided in relation to Covid-19 response and associated mobilisation plan costing.
2. Acknowledged the uncertainties in the cost elements submitted.
3. Noted that the Scottish Government has in principle approved all mobilisation plans, but that approval for individual cost lines has not yet been received.

(Reference: Report by Head of Finance and Transformation, dated 11 December 2020, submitted)

## **6. BUDGET CONSULTATION**

The Committee gave consideration to a report presenting the proposed budget consultation for 2020/21 seeking the views of stakeholders on bridging the budget gap.

The Head of Finance and Transformation sought volunteers to assist in finalising the draft consultation, with the Chair, Vice Chair and Councillor Sandy Taylor agreeing to help.

### **Decision**

The Finance and Policy Committee considered the proposed budget consultation for 2020/21 and provided comment on the initial draft.

(Reference: Report by Head of Finance and Transformation, dated 11 December 2020, submitted)

## **7. PROPOSED SAVINGS 2021/2022**

Having noted that the budget gap for 2021/22 on a mid-range scenario is estimated at £7.018m, the Committee gave consideration to a report which put forward proposals aimed at meeting c£3.633m of that budget gap and identified other areas to help bridge the remaining gap.

### **Decision**

The Finance and Policy Committee –

1. Considered the proposed savings to meet part of the budget gap.
2. Discussed how the remaining budget gap should be bridged.

(Reference: Report by Head of Finance and Transformation, dated 11 December 2020, submitted)

## **8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was noted as Friday, 22 January 2021 at 1:30pm.