

Integration Joint Board

Date of Meeting: 27 January 2021

Title of Report: Budget consultation 2021/22

Presented by: Judy Orr, Head of Finance and Transformation

The Integration Joint Board is asked to:

- Note the budget consultation for 2021/22 went live on 22 January and runs until 19 February 2021
- Promote the consultation widely to maximise responses

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 The Finance & Policy Committee has approved the public consultation on the budget for 2021/22 seeking views of our stakeholder priorities for our services and where they would prefer to see savings targeted. The consultation runs from 22 January till 19 February 2021 and can be accessed on the Council website. The intention is to seek responses so public views can influence the final savings proposals due to be considered by IJB on 31 March 2021.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 The Scottish budget announcement will be on 28 January 2021. We need to plan in advance of that date for next year's budget. The current mid-range budget outlook scenario has been developed for this purpose and shows a need to develop savings proposals amounting to £7.2m. Savings of this level can only be achieved through a significant amount of transformation which will affect future services.

2.2 This paper presents the finalised public consultation on the budget for 2021/22 seeking views on our stakeholder priorities for our services and where they would prefer to see savings targeted. The consultation runs online until 19 February so public views can influence the final savings proposals due to be considered by IJB on 31 March 2021.

2.3 The IJB delegated authority to the Finance and Policy Committee to finalise the budget consultation at its meeting of 25 November 2020.

3. DETAIL OF REPORT

3.1 Context

3.1.1 The Integration Joint Board (IJB) is legally required to set a balanced budget for the Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) 2021/22 at its meeting on 31 March 2021. Normally, by now the IJB would have a clear idea of our funding from Argyll and Bute Council and NHS Highland. This year the Scottish Government has announced that it will set out its budget on 28 January 2021. This means that there is still considerable uncertainty about our budget. However, as of December 2020 we are predicting that we need to reduce our spending by in the region of £7.2m next year.

3.1.2 There are previously agreed new savings for next year of £570k. There are also some as yet undelivered savings from the current financial year still to be delivered on a recurring basis. These effectively add to the challenge for next financial year, increasing the total savings to be delivered to £11.797m.

3.2 Budget Consultation

3.2.1 Attached at Appendix 1 is an updated draft budget consultation document which has been agreed by Finance and Policy Committee at its meeting of 22 January. It has been uploaded onto the Council's website consultation pages and runs for a 4 week period, ending 19 February. It is accessible here: <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/forms/hscp-budget-consultation-survey-2021-22> It seeks views from the public on where savings should be targeted, along with views on the proposed policy savings areas and further suggestions.

3.2.2 This will be promoted via Community Planning Partnership and Council's Keep in the Loop subscriber service and a range of fora including staff partnership forum, internal management team meetings, Strategic Planning Group, locality planning groups, ADP, CPP area groups. It will be promoted via posters where members of the public are likely to see these, but there will be no option this year to complete paper copies because of the difficulties in handling this whilst working remotely and in enforcing social distancing. Paper copies were offered last year across a wide range of locations. Despite this, just 19 paper responses were received out of a total of 563 responses. Many of these were from members of staff who should all have access to be able to complete this online. Managers will be asked to ensure that staff are supported to be able to do this.

3.2.3 Members of the IJB are asked to promote the consultation widely.

4. RELEVANT DATA AND INDICATORS

4.1 Information is derived from the financial systems of NHS Highland and Argyll and Bute Council.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

5.1 The Integration Joint Board has a responsibility to set a budget which is aligned to the delivery of the Strategic Plan and to ensure the financial

decisions are in line with priorities and promote quality service delivery. This needs to be considered when assessing the proposed budget savings options which are needed to deliver a balanced budget for 2021/22.

6. GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Financial Impact – The budget gap for 2021/22 on a mid-range scenario is estimated at £6.604m after previously agreed savings of £570k. This paper advises on the arrangements for consultation which are aimed at meeting that budget gap for consideration and comment.
- 6.2 Staff Governance – It is probable that some of the savings will require reductions in staffing. These have still to be fully identified along with assessments of whether these can be accommodated through vacancies and natural turnover, or would involve potential redeployments / redundancies.
- 6.3 Clinical Governance – Heads of Service have been asked to consider any potential impacts on clinical care and governance in putting forward savings proposals and ensure that proposals are acceptable. Equality and Socio-Economic Impact Assessments (EQIAs) are still to be produced for the Policy related savings. The proposed consultation will inform these.

7. PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY

- 7.1 Professional Leads have been involved in savings proposals and will assist in completion of the EQIAs.

8. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Proposals to address the estimated budget gap will need to consider equalities impacts. As yet, equality and socio economic impact assessments have still to be prepared. These will be prepared as savings proposals are more fully worked up.

9. GENERAL DATA PROTECTION PRINCIPLES COMPLIANCE

- 9.1 None directly from this report.

10. RISK ASSESSMENT

- 10.1 The budget consultation will help inform an assessment of the risks associated with savings proposals.

11. PUBLIC AND USER INVOLVEMENT AND ENGAGEMENT

- 11.1 Budget consultation is now underway. In addition, significant transformational savings will require local stakeholder and community engagement separate to this broad based consultation.

12. CONCLUSIONS

- 12.1 The budget gap for 2021/22 on a mid-range scenario is estimated at £6.6m, and increases to £7.2m after excluding previously agreed new savings. This paper advises on the consultation now underway on the proposed savings and on bridging the remaining budget gap. The Board is asked to assist in promoting the consultation widely.

13. DIRECTIONS

Directions required to Council, NHS Board or both.	Directions to:	tick
	No Directions required	√
	Argyll & Bute Council	
	NHS Highland Health Board	
	Argyll & Bute Council and NHS Highland Health Board	

REPORT AUTHOR AND CONTACT DETAILS

Author Name: Judy Orr

Email: judy.orr@argyll-bute.gov.uk Tel: 01586-555280

Appendices:

1 Budget Consultation

Finalised Budget Consultation link: <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/forms/hscp-budget-consultation-survey-2021-22>

Word version for information only