

**MINUTES of MEETING of ARGYLL AND BUTE HSCP FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE
held BY SKYPE
on FRIDAY, 22 JANUARY 2021**

Present: Councillor Kieron Green (Chair)

Sarah Compton-Bishop
Elizabeth Higgins
Councillor Gary Mulvaney

Councillor Sandy Taylor
Dr Boyd Robertson

Attending: 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
Brian Reid, Senior Manager Operations, Argyll and Bute HSCP
Lynsey Innis, Senior Committee Assistant, Argyll and Bute Council
George Morrison, Head of Finance, Argyll and Bute HSCP
Fiona Broderick, Staffside, Argyll and Bute HSCP

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of:-

Jane Fowler, Head of Customer Support Services, Argyll and Bute Council
Patricia Renfrew, Acting Head of Service, Children, Families and Justice, Argyll and Bute HSCP

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Sarah Compton-Bishop declared a non-financial interest in relation to the Jura Progressive Care Centre, 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 11 December 2020, was approved as a correct record subject to amending Donald Watt's designation to read "Service Manager – Resources".

4. BUDGET MONITORING AS AT 30 NOVEMBER 2020

The Committee gave consideration to a report providing a summary of the financial position of the Health and Social Care Partnership as at 30 November 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 31 December 2020.

Decision

The Finance and Policy Committee –

1. Noted the verbal update by the Head of Finance and Transformation.
2. Noted the forecast outturn position for 2020-21 is a forecast overspend of £1.890m as at 30 November 2020 and that there is a year to date overspend of £67k as at the same date.
3. Noted that the above position excludes any provision for Scottish Government assistance with non-delivery of savings due to Covid-19. It includes the Covid funding via NHS Highland announced at end of September and November.

(Reference: Report by Head of Finance and Transformation, dated 22 January 2021, submitted)

5. COVID 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 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 22 January 2021, submitted)

6. 2021/22 SOCIAL WORK FEES AND CHARGES

Consideration was given to a report which set out the schedule of proposed fees and charges for Social Work services for the 2021/22 financial year.

Decision

The Finance and Policy Committee agreed to endorse the 2021/22 Social Work Fees and Charges proposals so that the proposals can be submitted to Argyll and Bute Council for ratification at its 2021/22 budget meeting.

(Reference: Report by Principal Accountant, dated 22 January 2021, submitted)

7. FINANCIAL RISKS

The Committee gave consideration to a report providing an update on the financial risks facing the organisation which were not reflected in the forecast of the financial outturn.

Decision

The Finance and Policy Committee –

1. Considered the updated financial risks identified for the Health and Social Care Partnership.
2. Noted there are continuing uncertainties around Covid costs and funding which are described in more detail in a separate report.
3. Noted that financial risks will continue to be reviewed and monitored on a two monthly basis and reported to the Board.

(Reference: Report by Head of Finance and Transformation, dated 22 January 2021, submitted)

8. BUDGET OUTLOOK 2021-22 TO 2023-24

Consideration was given to a report summarising the budget outlook covering the period 2020-21 to 2022-23. The outlook was based on three different scenarios, best case, worst case and mid-range and included 2 new cost and demand pressures.

Decision

The Finance and Policy Committee considered the current estimated budget outlook report for the period 2021-22 to 2023-24.

(Reference: Report by Head of Finance and Transformation, dated 22 January 2021, submitted)

9. BUDGET CONSULTATION UPDATE

The Committee gave consideration to a paper presenting an updated public consultation on the budget for 2021/22 seeking the views of stakeholder priorities for our services and where they would prefer to see them targeted.

Decision

The Finance and Policy Committee considered the proposed budget consultation for 2021/22 and approved the final draft.

(Reference: Report by Head of Finance and Transformation, dated 22 January 2021, submitted)

10. BUDGET PROPOSALS

Having noted the budget outlook in the mid-range scenario together with the best and worst case budget gap estimates, the Committee gave consideration to a report which put forward proposals aimed at meeting c£4.397m of the budget gap and identified other areas to help bridge the remaining gap in order to present a balanced budget to the IJB for consideration in March 2021. The Head of Finance and Transformation provided a verbal update advising that £255k of further efficiencies were to be added to the proposed savings in respect of the 4 hospital areas and that the removal of the Strachur Hub would remove £5k in savings.

Decision

The Finance and Policy Committee –

1. Noted the verbal update from the Head of Finance and Transformation.
2. Considered the revised proposed savings to meet part of the budget gap.
3. Discussed the proposals to bridge the remaining budget gap as set out in paragraph 3.6 of the report.

(Reference: Report by Head of Finance and Transformation, dated 22 January 2021, submitted)

11. PROGRESS UPDATE - LEARNING DISABILITY SAVINGS PROGRAMME

The Committee gave consideration to a report providing a summary of the Learning Disabilities services financial and savings position as at 31 December 2020. The report included information on the current challenges to delivery of savings and an overview of the planned actions to progress the outstanding savings.

Decision

The Finance and Policy Committee –

1. Noted the progress in respect of Learning Disability savings programme as at 31 December 2020.
2. Noted the ongoing challenges to achieving the savings proposals.
3. Noted the actions planned to recover the outstanding savings proposals.

(Reference: Report by Service Manager – Learning Disability/Autism, Physical Disability & Transitions, dated 22 January 2021, submitted)

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was noted as Friday, 26 February 2021 at 1:30pm.