

Integration Joint Board

Agenda item: 5

Date of Meeting: 16 June 2021

Title of Report: Finance & Policy Committee Annual Report 2020-21

Presented by: Kieron Green, Chair of Finance & Policy Committee

The Integration Joint Board is asked to:

- Note the annual report from the Chair of the Finance & Policy Committee

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 In line with sound governance principles, an Annual Report is submitted from the Finance & Policy Committee to the Integration Joint Board. This is undertaken to cover the financial year from April 2020 to March 2021.
- 1.2 The remit of the Committee was revised and signed off formally by IJB on 27 January 2021.
- 1.3 The Committee has met on 9 occasions throughout the year, with all minutes being submitted to the Integration Joint Board and published as part of those papers. In addition the business of the committee was handled by email in July. The Committee has been supported throughout the year by the Council's Committee services team and all papers and minutes have been published for members to access on Modern.Gov, the Council's committee management system.
- 1.4 The Committee conducted a self-assessment of its effectiveness on 23 April. The results of this are presented along with reflections from the Chair.

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This report provides an assessment of the work of the Finance & Policy Committee throughout the last financial year. This work was undertaken against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic. All meetings took place as scheduled, albeit on a remote basis using Skype for Business in line with the ongoing requirements to maintain social distancing.

3. DETAIL OF REPORT

- 3.1 The report is set out in three parts:
 - Report of activity

- Self-assessment April 2021
- Committee Membership and Remit
- Reflections of the Chair

3.2 **Report of activity**

This section sets out a short summary of the items of business considered at each of the 6 meetings of the Audit & Risk Committee held in the year.

3.2.1 13 May 2020

- 2019/20 Month 12 outturn budget monitoring
- Covid-19 costs as at 28 April 2020
- Updated budget outlook 2021/2 to 2023/4
- HR resourcing – additional resource for 23 months
- Update on negotiations with NHS GG&C

3.2.2 26 June 2020

- 2020/21 Month 2 budget monitoring
- Covid-19 costs as at 17 June 2020

3.2.3 17 July 2020 – business handled by email

- 2020/21 Month 3 budget monitoring
- Updated budget outlook 2021/2 to 2023/4
- Updated financial risks

3.2.4 28 August 2020

- 2020/21 Month 4 budget monitoring
- Covid-19 costs as at 14 August 2020
- Financial recovery plan
- Updated financial risks
- Updated budget outlook 2021/2 to 2023/4
- SSSC registration policy

3.2.5 25 September 2020

- 2020/21 Month 5 budget monitoring
- Covid-19 costs as at 16 September 2020

3.2.6 30 October 2020

- 2020/21 Month 6 budget monitoring
- Covid-19 costs as at 19 October 2020
- Budget savings timetable & process for 2021/22
- Report on transformation programme investment

3.2.7 11 December 2020

- 2020/21 Month 7 budget monitoring
- Covid-19 costs as at 30 November 2020
- Proposed Budget savings 2021/22
- Draft Budget consultation

3.2.8 22 January 2021

- 2020/21 Month 8 budget monitoring
- Covid-19 costs as at 15 January 2021

- Revised Budget savings 2021/22
- Updated Budget consultation for approval
- 2021/22 Social Work fees and charges for approval
- Deep dive – Learning Disability savings

3.2.9 26 February 2021

- 2020/21 Month 9 & 10 budget monitoring
- Covid-19 costs as at 16 February 2021
- Budget consultation interim findings
- Approval of EQIA publication for savings proposals

3.2.10 19 March 2021

- 2020/21 Month 11 budget monitoring
- Covid-19 costs – updated funding & future years expected costs
- Budget consultation final findings
- Summary EQIA for savings proposals
- Revised Budget savings 2021/22
- Care Homes & Housing update

3.3 Self-assessment April 2021

3.3.1 The self-assessment completed by the Committee on 23 April 2021 is attached at Appendix 1. A number of areas of weakness were noted which should be addressed next year including the following:

- Training for new/all members of the committee
- Committee to ensure that professional leads are involved and consulted where necessary
- To consider how to share best practice with other committees and IJB
- Action tracker required with RAG status
- More extended updates to IJB from the committee to be explored and/or publication of papers
- Workplan to be presented regularly to Committee and refreshed
- Committee to seek feedback from IJB and accountable officer

3.4 Committee Membership and Remit

3.4.1 The Committee membership consists of 6 IJB members, with only 5 places filled during the year under review plus a Professional advisory group representative. Graham Bell was appointed to the committee by the IJB on 31 March 2021 filling the vacancy from Prof Boyd Robertson whose last meeting of this committee was on 22 January. In addition there are 3 required attendees – the Chief Officer, Chief Financial Officer, and Staffside representative. Other officers attend as required.

3.4.2 The remit was revised during the year and finally signed off by the IJB on 27 January 2021 which included an amendment to the general provisions on reporting to the IJB.

3.5 Reflections of the Chair

3.5.1 Over the last year the committee has continued to grow into the role of

examining budgetary and risk reports in detail. The balance of skills and experience of members has assisted greatly in this, with officers responsive to questions and able to provide information necessary to give sufficient assurance.

The regularity of meetings has enabled timely responses to emerging situations – particularly regarding COVID-19 and the resulting service pressures, and the resolution of the negotiations around the Service Level Agreement with NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde.

With a more stabilised financial footing within the HSCP, work of the committee has also included consideration of policies and providing oversight over the development of transformation plans and proposals. From this work greater certainty is emerging that the HSCP will be able to deliver services to meet the needs of the population of Argyll and Bute over the coming years.

3.5.2 Actions from reports considered

There are a number of areas which the committee has highlighted as posing a risk to good governance for the IJB, and these will be followed up on in the year ahead to ensure that they have been addressed satisfactorily. These include:

- Re-introduction of an action tracker
- Workplan for the committee to be presented to future meetings

The committee has agreed to consider deep dives on savings areas on a regular 4 meeting cycle – covering learning disability and mental health; older adults; children & families; and corporate savings. This allows more in-depth consideration of these areas at the relevant meetings. In addition the committee expects to receive a quarterly update on the achievements of the SIO team in order for it to be assured that good value is being obtained from the investment in this temporary transformation resource.

3.5.3 I am pleased to commend the work of the Committee over this past year to the Board and the hard work of all concerned.

4. **RELEVANT DATA AND INDICATORS**

4.1 Minutes of Finance & Policy Committee meetings and related papers in 2020/21.

5. **CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

5.1 This document contributes to good governance of the Integration Joint Board.

6. **GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 Financial Impact – The Committee has considered a number of reports relating to the financial sustainability challenges faced by the IJB.

6.2 Staff Governance – None.

6.3 Clinical Governance – None.

7. PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY

7.1 Consideration should be given to this report.

8. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The committee ensures that EQIAs are completed for all policy proposals.

9. GENERAL DATA PROTECTION PRINCIPLES COMPLIANCE

9.1 No issues arising directly from this report.

10. RISK ASSESSMENT

10.1 The Committee reviews the key financial risks before these go to the IJB for further consideration.

11. PUBLIC AND USER INVOLVEMENT AND ENGAGEMENT

11.1 The committee ensures that there is an overall consultation on budget proposals, and that there is suitable consultation on all policy proposals considered in line with the IJB’s engagement framework.

12. CONCLUSIONS

12.1 The Integration Joint Board is asked to consider the report, and note the work of the Finance & Policy Committee in 2020-21.

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

Councillor Kieron Green, Chair of Finance & Policy Committee

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 – Committee self-assessment April 2021