

**MINUTES of MEETING of ARGYLL AND BUTE HSCP FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE
held BY MICROSOFT TEAMS
on FRIDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2022**

Present: Councillor Amanda Hampsey (Chair)

Kenny Mathieson
Graham Bell

Sarah Compton-Bishop

Attending: Fiona Davies, Chief Officer, Argyll and Bute HSCP
James Gow, Head of Finance and Transformation, Argyll and Bute HSCP
David Gibson, Chief Social Worker/Head of Children, Families and Justice,
Argyll and Bute HSCP
Caroline Cherry, Head of Adult Services – Health and Community Care, Argyll
and Bute HSCP
Stephen Whiston, Head of Planning, Performance and Technology, Argyll and
Bute HSCP
Fiona Broderick, Staffside, Argyll and Bute HSCP
Kevin McIntosh, Staffside, Argyll and Bute Council
Charlotte Craig, Business Improvement Manager, Argyll and Bute HSCP
Fiona Thomson, Lead Pharmacist, NHS Highland
Lorna Jordan, Senior Accountant, Argyll and Bute Council
Lynsey Innis, Senior Committee Assistant, Argyll and Bute Council

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor Gary Mulvaney and Elizabeth Higgins.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest intimated.

3. MINUTES

The Minute of the meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee, held on 28 October 2022 was approved as a correct record.

4. BUDGET MONITORING - 7 MONTHS TO 31 OCTOBER 2022

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 2022. The report also provided an update in respect of the year to date position and the forecast outturn.

Decision

The Finance and Policy Committee –

1. Noted that there is a relatively small forecast revenue overspend of £788k as at 31 October 2022 and that it is anticipated that the HSCP will be able to operate within available resources.
2. Noted that £3.5m in savings have been delivered, 58% of target.
3. Noted that earmarked reserves of £4.9m have been committed.
4. Noted that the Scottish Government are in the process of clawing back Covid Reserves (circa £2.5m) and have reduced the Primary Care Improvement allocations by £2.8m.

(Reference: Report by Head of Finance and Transformation, dated 25 November 2022, submitted)

5. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2023-2026

Consideration was given to a report which afforded the opportunity for Members to further review the medium term financial plan for 2023/24 to 2025/26. The report summarised the financial context facing the HSCP and aimed to ensure that it plans to operate on a financially sustainable basis. Further consideration was given to the following sections:

- Financial and Strategic Context
- Current Financial Position
- Revenue budget modelling and assumptions
- Budget Gap and Savings Target
- Transformation and Investment
- Reserves
- Scenarios and Risks

Decision

The Finance and Policy Committee –

1. Considered the draft Financial Plan and budget outlook for 2023-24 to 2025-26.
2. Noted the high level of risk and uncertainty.
3. Noted the forecast budget gap.
4. Noted the initial work on the saving plans and timetable, at Appendix 1 of the report.

(Reference: Report by Head of Finance and Transformation, dated 25 November 2022, submitted)

6. CORPORATE SAVINGS UPDATE

The Committee gave consideration to a report that provided a summary of the Corporate Services savings 2021/22 year end position, the 2022/23 position as at 31 October 2022, the current challenges to delivery of savings, and planned actions to progress outstanding savings.

Decision

The Finance and Policy –

1. Noted the year end position 2021/22 of the corporate savings programme.
2. Noted the progress in respect of the 2022/23 corporate savings programme.
3. Noted the challenges to achieving savings in 2022/23.

(Reference: Report by Head of Strategic Planning, Performance and Technology, dated 25 November 2025, submitted)

7. CONSULTATION TRACKER

The Committee gave consideration to the consultation tracker which provided information on the progress and deadlines of current Scottish Government consultations.

Decision

The Finance and Policy Committee noted the consultation tracker.

(Reference: Consultation Tracker, submitted)

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Finance and Policy Committee noted that their next meeting was scheduled to take place on Friday, 27 January 2023.