

MINUTES of MEETING of ARGYLL AND BUTE HSCP FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE held BY MICROSOFT TEAMS on FRIDAY, 26 JANUARY 2024

Present:

Councillor Amanda Hampsey (Chair)

Kenny Mathieson Fiona Thomson Graham Bell

Attending:Fiona Davies, Chief Officer, Argyll and Bute HSCP
James Gow, Head of Finance and Transformation, Argyll and Bute HSCP
Fiona Broderick, Staffside, Argyll and Bute HSCP
Alison McGrory, Associate Director of Public Health, Argyll and Bute HSCP
Kristin Gillies, Head of Strategic Planning, Performance and Technology,
Argyll and Bute HSCP
Charlotte Craig, Business Improvement Manager, Argyll and Bute HSCP
Geraldine Collier, People Partner, Argyll and Bute HSCP
Angela Tillery, Principal Accountant, Argyll and Bute Council
Lynsey Innis, Senior Committee Assistant, Argyll and Bute Council

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor Gary Mulvaney; Sarah Compton-Bishop and Kevin McIntosh.

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 24 November 2023, was approved as a correct record.

4. BUDGET MONITORING - 9 MONTHS TO 31 DECEMBER 2023

The Committee gave consideration to a report which provided a summary of the financial position of the HSCP as at 31 December 2023. The report also provided information in respect of the year to date position, the financial outturn, the progress with the savings plan and reserves spend.

Decision

The Finance and Policy Committee -

- 1. Noted that there was a relatively small forecast revenue overspend of £442k as at the end of month 9.
- 2. Noted that savings of £6.9m have been delivered, 78% of target.
- 3. Noted that reserves of £6.3m have been committed to date.
- 4. Noted that additional funding has been allocated totalling £2.3m and that NHS Highland have recovered this from IJB reserves.

(Reference: Report by Head of Finance and Transformation, dated 26 January 2024, submitted)

5. BUDGET OUTLOOK AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2024-2027

Consideration was given to a report which provided an updated medium term financial plan. The report summarised the context and aimed to ensure that the HSCP is operating in a financially responsible way in respect of the following areas:-

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

The Business Improvement Manager provided a short update on the progress of the public engagement and consultation process relating to the HSCP's financial planning. Information on the budget simulator was provided, with it being noted that responses to this consultation exercise would be fed back to the Integration Joint Board (IJB) at their meeting on 31 March 2024.

Decision

The Finance and Policy Committee -

- 1. Considered the budget outlook for 2024-25 to 2025-26 and noted the high level of risk and uncertainty.
- 2. Noted the forecast budget gap totalling £11.4m for 2024-25.
- 3. Noted that indicative savings targets have been allocated to services.
- 4. Noted that oversight of the budget process will continue to be undertaken by the Finance and Policy Committee with outline savings proposals to be considered at their meeting on 23 February 2024.
- 5. Noted that additional expenditure control measures are being put in place in partnership with NHS Highland as a response to the financial context.

(Reference: Report by Head of Finance and Transformation, dated 26 January 2024, submitted)

6. TRANSFORMATION BOARD REDESIGN

Having noted that the delivery of future service transformation would be required to change and adapt both decision making and governance within the context of overall spending and identification of spend against savings opportunities, consideration was given to a report which outlined the work undertaken to date with regards to redesigning the current Transformation Board and its outputs.

Decision

The Finance and Policy Committee –

- 1. Noted the intention to review the current Transformation Board format and reporting in line with budget and savings challenges for 2024-25.
- 2. Acknowledged the potential financial gap with regards to the indicative Health Board funding for 2024-25 and its impact on service transformation.
- 3. Noted the brief summary update with regards to current transformation projects.

(Reference: Report by Head of Strategic Planning, Performance and Technology, dated 26 January 2024, submitted)

7. TIREE & COLL PROJECT UPDATE

The Committee gave consideration to a report which outlined proposed infrastructure projects on Coll and Tiree which are close to final approval and highlighted the time critical nature of the Tiree project in particular due to the conditions associated with the Island Programme.

Decision

The Finance and Policy Committee –

- 1. Noted the current status of the projects on Coll and Tiree.
- 2. Noted that the HSCP and Council are in the process of identifying funding to enable the projects to proceed during 2024.
- 3. Noted that an urgent decision is required for Tiree to ensure that the Island Programme funding is received.

(Reference: Report by Head of Finance and Transformation, dated 26 January 2024, submitted)

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Finance and Policy Committee noted that their next meeting was scheduled to take place on Friday, 23 February 2024.