

Report of the Scrutiny for Policies and Place Committee on Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2018/19

Chair: Cllr Anna Groskop

Division and Local Member: All

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1. Summary

- 1.1. This report summarises the recommendations arising from the Scrutiny for Policies and Place Committee meeting on 11 September 2018 having considered the Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2018/19 and related in-year savings proposals.
- 1.2. The Committee have requested that the Interim Director of Finance provide a Revenue Budget Monitoring report or update at each of the Committee's meetings until the end of the current financial year.

2. Recommendations and comments from the Committee

- 2.1. Following public representation and lengthy debate, significant concern was raised regarding the proposal to reduce funding for Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB) services. It was widely recognised that the CAB provides a wide range of valuable services and that the relatively small investment by SCC enables huge benefits. Concern was raised that reducing funding now would create additional issues and expense in the future.

1. Proposed by Cllr L Leyshon, seconded by Cllr John Hunt

In relation to ASC 03, the Scrutiny for Policies and Place Committee recommends that the Cabinet considers the possibility of a stepped decrease in funding for CAB services to allow the opportunity for the CAB to undertake their own transformation.

- 2.2. Public representation and significant concern was also raised regarding the proposal to re-model support for Young Carers. Members were concerned that this would represent a false economy and could result in more young people being referred to Children's Services. Members also questioned the accuracy of the budget for this service.

2. Proposed by Cllr M Lewis, seconded by Cllr John Hunt

With regard to CAF 20, The Scrutiny for Policies and Place Committee recommends that the Cabinet reconsiders the Young Carers element of the savings proposals until a robust business case has been developed and put forward.

3. Consultation

- 3.1. The Committee Chair invited all Councillors to attend this Scrutiny meeting, specifically the members of the Adults and Health and Children and Families Scrutiny Committees, who were provided with specific briefings by the relevant Cabinet Member and Lead Commissioner and the Interim Director of Finance on 6th September. All Members present were provided with the opportunity to fully contribute at the meeting.

4. Implications

- 4.1. The Committee carefully considered the covering report and attachments, and asked for further information about the implications at the meeting. For further details of the reports considered by the Committee please contact the author of this report.

5. Background papers

- 5.1. Further information about the Committee including the agendas and reports from 11th September 2018 meeting are available via the Council's website. <http://democracy.somerset.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=184>

Note: For sight of individual background papers please contact the report author.