

**COUNCIL
5 DECEMBER 2019**

OVERVIEW OF EFFICIENCY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1. Since the last meeting of the Council, the following are the main areas of work the Efficiency and Resources Scrutiny Committee has undertaken.

**Project Position Statement and Capital Programme Monitoring – Quarter 2
2019/20**

2. We were requested to review the current position of the capital resource and commitment position of the Council's capital programme. The Council currently has 33 live projects being managed with an overall projected outturn value of £68.765 million.
3. All project managers are required to provide information for all projects over £75,000 and, although this information was presented to us, we did raise some concern about the level of information within the report to enable us to scrutinise the individual projects in detail. We were advised that some of the information was in summary form for ease of reporting, however, the Council was currently transitioning to a new project management system which would give a much more accurate and detailed representation of the current position.
4. As a Scrutiny Committee, we have previously had a training session on the Council's project management arrangements and a further session will be arranged if it is felt necessary.

Revenue Budget Monitoring 2019/20 – Quarter 2

5. We received the quarter 2 revenue budget outturn report prior to its consideration by Cabinet. The latest position shows an overall decline against the Medium-Term Financial Plan of £0.125 million, a decrease of £0.804 million from the position reported at quarter 1 and this is due to a significant decline in the Children's Services position of £1.822 million which comes from an increase in the numbers of children requiring support from the local authority.
6. We particularly discussed the pressures within the Children's Services budget and the possible reasons for that. We have asked Officers to arrange a joint briefing between our Scrutiny Committee and the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee so that we can better understand the current situation. We will then follow this up with an update on a project being undertaken in conjunctions with Leeds City Council and the Department for Education which aims to provide better outcomes for children as well as reducing those that come into the Council's care and reduce financial pressures.

Council Tax Support Scheme

7. As you will see from elsewhere on this agenda, the Council is required to approve a Council Tax Support (CTS) scheme each year and we were given the opportunity to review the draft scheme for 2020-21 prior to its consideration this evening.

Proposed Terms of Reference

8. Again, as Members will see elsewhere on this agenda, a number of changes to the Council's Scrutiny Committees have been proposed and we were given the opportunity to comment and recommend any changes on these. No specific comments were made by the Committee and we were in agreement with the proposed changes.

Councillor Scott Durham
Chair Efficiency and Resources Scrutiny Committee