

Agenda Item 5

EXECUTIVE

5 SEPTEMBER 2023

COMMISSIONING OF THE SOCIAL CARE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

STATEMENT FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

On 24 August 2023, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board agreed to support the recommendations to the Executive.

In response to a question on the impact of re-tendering the contract, the Board was advised that the existing contract provided a level of flexibility which was beneficial, for example there had been improvements during the current contract. Furthermore, the market for this type of activity was limited. Re-tendering would in event require a short extension to the contract, and if an alternative supplier were to be chosen, there would be a need to test compatibility with the existing partner systems, such as Mosaic, and the need to retrain all staff on a new system.

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EXECUTIVE

5 SEPTEMBER 2023

REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2023/24 (QUARTER 1)

STATEMENT FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

On 24 August 2023 the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board unanimously agreed to support the recommendation to the Executive.

As part of the Board's consideration of this item, the following information was confirmed:

- In relation to the £9.4M contingency funding set aside for education transport in the 2023/24 budget, it was confirmed that this should be more than sufficient to cover the full year cost. This figure was based on the volume of transactions and the costs for the contracts and inflation. It was highlighted that cost pressures were being seen on the Children's Services budget in relation to the transport of children and families for family time. The cost base would be reviewed when the 2024/25 budget was being set to ensure it was right for the following years.

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Agenda Item 8

EXECUTIVE

5 SEPTEMBER 2023

CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2023/24 (QUARTER 1)

STATEMENT FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

On 24 August 2023 the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board unanimously agreed to support the recommendation to the Executive.

The Board recommended that the Executive considers the potential for supplementing the funding for the drainage investigation and flood repairs capital project, either from the Development Fund or any unallocated funding streams, to allow further schemes to progress.

The Board also recommended that it may be useful to include in the two budget monitoring reports, specific examples of how small percentage changes in monetary value could have a big impact on the Council to demonstrate why the Council needs to hold the reserves and contingencies it does.

As part of the Board's consideration of this item, the following information was confirmed:

- In relation to the Children's Services investment block in Table 1 of Appendix A, the drop from £5,710,405 in 2023/24 to £50,000 in 2024/25 was likely due to the application of grant funding in the capital programme from the Department for Education for basic provision and maintenance of school buildings, and the completion of capital projects such as for the special school provision.

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EXECUTIVE

5 SEPTEMBER 2023

CORPORATE PLAN SUCCESS FRAMEWORK 2023-24 - QUARTER 1

STATEMENT FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

On 24 August 2023, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board agreed to support the recommendations to the Executive.

The following specific comments and clarifications arose during the Board's discussion:

- PI 36, PI 37, PI 38 and PI 39 – Household Waste – The Board welcomed that further research would be undertaken both locally and nationally on the reasons for the lower levels of waste. The reasons suggested for these lower levels of waste included changes in behaviours, such as increased use of reselling websites and other re-use options; and household budget constraints reducing consumption. The Board was advised that fly-tipping tended to relate more to commercial rather than household waste, so was less likely to be a cause. Referring to the most preferred options in the waste hierarchy, prevention and re-use, the Board accepted that statistics on these were difficult to compile.

The Board was assured that the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee regularly considered this topic and would continue to do so.

- PI 82 – Number of Businesses Supported – The Board was advised that the target of supporting 364 businesses during quarter one had been set using an assessment formula, and depending on the availability of resources the target could change for other quarters during the year.
- Contextual Indicator - Percentage of Schools Judged 'Good' or 'Outstanding' – Within to context of the limited powers and resources of Lincolnshire County Council for directly improving the performance in academies, the Board was advised that the County Council was providing as much support as it could, and also aimed to use its influence as much as possible. Individual cases were cited where the level of support provided to academies by the County Council's officers was praised.

The Board was assured that this topic was regularly considered at the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee.

- PI 15 Percentage of Children in Care Living within a Family Environment – In view of the impact unaccompanied asylum seeking children the number of non-family placements, the Board suggested that the number of asylum seeking children be reported separately from this indicator.

Further to the Board's discussion, it was reported that representatives from the Home Office had been attending invitation-only local meetings, but were not generally providing satisfactory answers to residents' questions. The Board recorded a view that the Home Office should provide funding for all activities of Lincolnshire County Council, arising from asylum seekers. For example, no funding was provided for age assessments, where up to eighty hours of County Council social worker time was required for each assessment, as well as the potential involvement of interpreters.