

**GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE DISCUSSION OF THE REPORT
'INTEGRATED RESOURCES AND PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR THE
PERIOD ENDING 30TH NOVEMBER 2014**

To: **Audit and Accounts Committee**
Date: **20TH January 2015**
From: **Rob Sanderson, Democratic Services**
Contact Details: **Telephone: 01223 699181**
E-mail: rob.sanderson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Purpose: This report should be taken at the same time as 10b). It provides Audit and Accounts Committee with details of the brief discussion from the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 6th January 2015 in relation to the Integrated Resources and Performance report to the end of December.

1. Background

1.1 Different meetings receive the same Integrated Resources and Performance Report for the following reasons:

- General Purposes Committee to make decisions and approve virements;
- **Audit and Accounts Committee role is limited to consider whether effective processes are in place for financial management.**

It was agreed during the last administration that Audit and Accounts Committee meetings where practicable and time allowed, should receive details of the discussion included in the minutes of the previous Cabinet meeting and the Performance and Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee who may have also considered the same report in advance of the Audit and Accounts Committee. The arrangement is now continuing with General Purposes Committee.

2. Extract of the draft Minutes from the General Purposes Committee 6th January. They will be formally agreed at their next meeting.

**INTEGRATED RESOURCES AND PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR
THE PERIOD ENDING 30TH NOVEMBER 2014**

The Committee received a report detailing the financial and performance information to assess progress in delivering the Council's Business Plan. It was noted that the overall revenue budget position was showing a forecast year end overspend of £0.9m, which was a decrease from the previous forecast for the last month. Children,

Families and Adults (CFA) had experienced an increase in the forecast overspend for Home to School Transport. Work was taking to place to consider how the portfolio could be managed in order to achieve better value for money. There was an underspend of £200,000 in the LGSS managed budget as a result of Section 188 savings identified in the previous year. The Capital Programme was showing a forecast year end underspend of -£52.6m, which was an increase on the previous figure.

During discussion, members made the following comments:

Home to School Transport

- suggested that Home to School Transport should be included as part of the remit of the Cambridgeshire Future Transport Member Steering Group following the decision of Council on 16 December 2014 to revive the Group for the purpose of actively promoting a coordinated, multi-disciplinary strategic approach to Community Transport.
- reported that the Children and Young People Committee (CYPC) had discussed the possibility of integrating Home to School Transport with other forms of transport but this had raised some security issues.
- queried the impact on the Home to School Transport budget of colleges specialising to provide courses to meet the needs of employers. The Chairwoman of CYPC informed the Committee that there were criteria for the provision of Home to School Transport. Pupils under the age of 16 did not receive free transport if their parents chose to send them to a different school. It was noted that the CYPC was no longer proposing to fund post-16 Home to School Transport. The first bullet point in Section 3.2.2 was therefore only applicable this year.
- queried the reasons why a further independent assessment had not taken place on the route between Babraham and Sawston Village College. The Chief Finance Officer agreed to investigate. **Action Required.**

Councillor McGuire proposed an amendment to invite the Member Led Group reviewing Cambridgeshire Future Transport to include home to school transport in its remit, seconded by Councillor Bates.

On being put to the vote, the amendment was carried.

Park and Ride Sites

- expressed concern about the potential patronage drop at Park and Ride sites. It was noted that Economy and Environment Committee (E&EC) had requested a report at its meeting in February to identify whether any action could be taken.

The proportion of pupils attending Cambridgeshire schools judged good or outstanding by Ofsted

- queried what remedial action could be carried out to increase the proportion of pupils attending Cambridgeshire schools judged good or outstanding by Ofsted. The Committee was informed that Cambridgeshire only had one secondary school which was not an academy, which meant that whilst the Council was responsible for achievement it had no power of intervention. Members were also advised that the CYPC had agreed to split the indicator to cover primary, secondary and special schools to avoid one large secondary school distorting overall performance. It was proposing to consider what remedial action it could take to address this indicator at its next meeting. It was queried whether the Council should remove this indicator if it had no power of intervention. In response, it was noted that achievement was a statutory duty for the Council.
- highlighted the different ways of taking remedial action by writing to Governors and parents.
- highlighted the impact of the removal of the Small Schools Protection Grant on primary schools in Cambridgeshire. It was suggested that these schools should be asked what they stood to lose and would therefore be unable to do in the future.

The number of people successfully quitting smoking with support from stop smoking services

- queried the need to review this indicator. There was concern that it did not cover proactive measures such as the Kick Ash programme. It was suggested that it should measure the percentage of people in the County who smoked. It was noted that there were figures available relating to smoking prevalence, which showed marked differences in the County, and global figures, which masked a lot of underlying information. The Chairman of the Health Committee reported that the Committee was reviewing the usefulness of this indicator particularly given the increase in the use of electronic cigarettes.
- highlighted the need to incentivise GPs to improve performance in GP practices.
- queried whether the drop from 92% to 72% locally in the stop smoking target was above or below national trends. **Action Required.**

Reduced proportion of Delayed Transfers of Care from Hospital, per 100,000 of population (aged 18+): April – December 2014

- highlighted the fact that the Council's performance was improving.

Grants

- queried the possibility of using the underspend in the Education Services Grant(ESG) to fund significant pressures in the Education Budget particularly in relation to young people not in education, employment or training. The Chief Finance Officer informed that the Committee that this was an unringfenced grant, it was the Council's policy to transfer any such additional income to corporate reserves at year end. Members queried whether Service Committees could then apply for funding from corporate reserves. The Chief Finance Officer drew attention to the significant office reserves detailed on page 38. He reported that there was a programme of utilisation of reserves, which could involve looking at proposals from Service Committees. One Member asked for a copy of the Council's policy on the use of reserves. **Action Required.**

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) Analyse resources and performance information and note the remedial action currently being taken and consider if any further remedial action was required.
- b) Invite the Member Led Group reviewing Cambridgeshire Future Transport to include home to school transport in its remit.