Resources Scrutiny Commission Agenda (budget consultation - part 1)

Date: Friday, 8 December 2023

Time: 2.30 pm

Venue: Council Chamber, City Hall

Distribution:

Councillors: Geoff Gollop (Chair), Heather Mack (Vice-Chair), Mark Bradshaw, Martin Fodor, Zoe Goodman, John Goulandris, Gary Hopkins, Tim Rippington and Patrick McAllister

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Date: 30 November 2023



Agenda (part 1 of meeting on 8 December 2023)

1. Welcome, Introductions and Safety Information

Pages 6-8

2. Apologies for absence and substitutions

3. Declarations of Interest

To note any declarations of interest from the Councillors. They are asked to indicate the relevant agenda item, the nature of the interest and in particular whether it is a **disclosable pecuniary interest**. Any declaration of interest made at the meeting which is not on the register of interests should be notified to the Monitoring Officer for inclusion.

4. Minutes of previous meeting

Pages 9 - 15

5. Chair's Business

6. Public Forum (up to 30 minutes)

Please note: this session will cover both Part 1 and Part 2 of this meeting of the Resources Scrutiny Commission, i.e. there will not be a separate public forum session for Part 2 of this meeting which is being held on 15 December.

Any member of the public or councillor may participate in Public Forum. The detailed arrangements for so doing are set out in the Public Information Sheet at the back of this agenda. Public Forum items should be emailed to scrutiny@bristol.gov.uk and please note that the following deadlines will apply in relation to this meeting:

Questions - Written questions must be received at least 3 clear working days prior to the meeting. For this meeting, this means that your question(s) must be received in this office at the latest by **5.00 pm on Monday 4 December 2023**

Petitions and Statements - Petitions or written statements must be received at latest by 12.00 noon on the working day prior to the meeting. For this meeting, this means that petitions or statements must be received in this office at the latest by 12.00 noon on Thursday 7 December 2023

Please note: questions, petitions and statements must relate to the remit of the Resources Scrutiny Commission.



7. Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2024/25 (approx. 45-60 mins)

The Resources Scrutiny Commission will discuss the report on the Council Tax Reduction Scheme, which is due to be submitted to the Cabinet on 5 December 2023 with a view to comments from the Commission being forwarded to the Full Council on 12 December 2023. The Cabinet report on this matter will be circulated to Resources Scrutiny members as soon as it is available.

8. Scrutiny of budget consultation/proposals (Part 1)

Pages 16 - 151

Key background documents for this item are:

a. Medium Term Financial Plan and Capital Strategy, as considered at the 31 October Full Council

ModernGov - bristol.gov.uk

b. Previous Resources Scrutiny/Finance Task Group comments as submitted to the 31 October Full Council

FTG submission for Full Council - 31 Oct 23.pdf (bristol.gov.uk)

c. Budget 2024-25 consultation as published on the Ask Bristol consultation and engagement hub

https://www.ask.bristol.gov.uk/budget-2024-25

In this session, the Resources Scrutiny Commission will consider the following issues:

a. Growth & Regeneration - clarification on CAZ income/utilisation (20 minutes) Budget proposal reference points:

 $\it GAP~043$ - Alternative investment in sustainable transport using net proceeds from CAZ - £6.3m $\it 24/25$

We would use net proceeds from Clean Air Zone charges to contribute to the amount of money we pay to the West of England Combined Authority for the annual Transport Levy, which supports the Local Transport Plan, funding concessionary fares and other public transport related services.

GAP 057 - Use Clean Air Zone funds to maintain and improve the highways network - £2.311m 24/25

We would use net proceeds from Clean Air Zone charges to carry out repairs and improvement works on the city's roads and footpaths. These works would support the Local Transport Plan by keeping our roads and footpaths safe for all users, encouraging walking and cycling and reducing traffic congestion.

Key questions/areas of scrutiny interest as identified in advance of this meeting by Resources Scrutiny members:

- 1. What is the position now in relation to CAZ income, and what are the future projections?
- 2. What other assumptions have been made in terms of the use of CAZ income?
- 3. When CAZ was introduced, a key part of the rationale/justification was that income would be used to secure cleaner air and environmental benefits for the



city, including, for example through direct investment in active travel. What is the justification (as per GAP 057) for utilising CAZ income to support what appear to be general repairs and improvement works?

b. Resources issues (20 minutes)

Key questions/areas of scrutiny interest as identified in advance of this meeting by Resources Scrutiny members:

1. **Contingency**: Are appropriate assumptions in place in terms of financial contingency provisions, given the ongoing factors of high levels of inflation/interest rates?

2. Fees and charges:

Budget proposal reference point:

GAP038 - Fees and charges budget review

Review and where appropriate revise the budgets for fees and charges across sources of income that have repeatedly outperformed their approved budgets in recent years, reflecting where we are already receiving greater levels of income.

Is the authority satisfied that this proposal should proceed without further equalities impact analysis?

c. Capital strategy (30 mins)

Key questions/areas of scrutiny interest as identified in advance of this meeting by Resources Scrutiny members:

- 1. Assurance/clarification is sought on the action and measures being taken in relation to the governance, management and delivery of the capital programme, particularly in relation to slippage within the programme and addressing any inflationary impact of slippage/delay.
- 2. Based on this and recent years' experience, what action will be taken to ensure closing the significant gap between 'intent to deliver' (as reflected in the capital programme budget) and actual delivery, so there is greater certainty on delivery?
- 3. Are external factors affecting capital programme delivery such as the impact of new environmental and planning requirements being appropriately factored into future forecasting?

Note: the meeting to be adjourned by 5.30 pm; Part 2 of the meeting is scheduled to take place at 9.30 am, Friday 15 December 2023.

