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To: The Chair and Members of the Children's  
Scrutiny Committee

County Hall  
Topsham Road  
Exeter  
Devon  
EX2 4QD

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Date: 18 January 2023

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### **CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Thursday, 26th January, 2023

A meeting of the Children's Scrutiny Committee is to be held on the above date at 10.30am at Committee Suite, County Hall, Exeter to consider the following matters.

Jan Spicer  
Interim Chief Executive

## **A G E N D A**

### **PART I - OPEN COMMITTEE**

1 Apologies

2 Items Requiring Urgent Attention

Items which in the opinion of the Chair should be considered at the meeting as matters of urgency.

3 Public Participation

Members of the public may make representations/presentations on any substantive matter listed in the published agenda for this meeting, as set out hereunder, relating to a specific matter or an examination of services or facilities provided or to be provided.

### **MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION OR REVIEW**

## **Overall Approach**

The 2023/24 budget proposals will be scrutinised with consideration of relevant service area budgets by Scrutiny Committees with the Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Scrutiny Committee considering both its own budget responsibilities as well as any issues raised by the Children’s Scrutiny Committee and the Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee, to produce an overarching set of recommendations.

This approach enables all Scrutiny Members to question and challenge the budget proposals across services, to better understand the implications of the budget proposals across the Council and to make effective recommendations to Cabinet and Council.

The proceedings of all Scrutiny Committees will be livestreamed and publicised through normal channels.

The Council must have full regard to and consider the impact of any proposals in relation to equalities prior to making any decisions, as set out in equality impact assessments, and any identified risks and mitigation action required.

## **Public Participation**

There will be an opportunity for members of the public to address each Scrutiny Committee meeting and make oral representations/presentations on any matter relating to the proposed budget, in line with the [public participation scheme](#).

## **This Meeting**

At this and other Scrutiny Committees in the current cycle, Members are asked to identify salient issues within each Committee’s areas of responsibility, to examine the general thrust of the budget and take an overview of priorities and prospects.

At this meeting Directors / Heads of Services will report on

- the Cabinet’s Target Budget for Services and likely implications of the 2023/24 target for individual areas of service (e.g. in percentage terms compared to current levels) and how those areas have been prioritised;
- any comparisons between the current year and next year’s proposals for the major service areas, to illustrate the scale of change within those activities and how the budget has been allocated across services in those years (to illustrate changes of emphasis or priority);
- any “alternative delivery models” or other initiatives contemplated for given services and how it is thought that these may reduce costs; and
- impact assessments undertaken in relation to the draft budget.

## **Report and Budget 2023/24 Impact Assessment**

Joint Report of the Director of Finance and Public Value and Chief Officer for Children's Services (DF/23/04) on the proposed budget for Children's Services for 2023/24, attached.

NB: An overview of the impact assessments for all service areas entitled [Budget 2023/24 Impact Assessment](#) has been made available to all Members of the Council so that Scrutiny Committees have access to all equality impact assessments undertaken as part of the budget's preparation. Members are asked to consider the contents and retain it for future meetings, accepting that individual assessments may be updated with time. Members must have full regard to and consider the impact of any proposals in relation to equalities for this (and other) budget meeting prior to making any decisions. Scrutiny Committees will no doubt wish to be assured that risk assessments and projections are adequate and that the evidence supports the assumptions made in the formulation of the budget.

### **PART II - ITEMS WHICH MAY BE TAKEN IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

Nil

## **MEETINGS INFORMATION AND NOTES FOR VISITORS**

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### **Membership of a Committee**

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### **Committee Terms of Reference**

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Members of the public may also use social media to report on proceedings.

### **Declarations of Interest for Members of the Council**

It is to be noted that Members of the Council must declare any interest they may have in any item to be considered at this meeting, prior to any discussion taking place on that item.

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**Induction Loop available**

