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## EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE HELD ON 7 DECEMBER 2020

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**EX.138/20    BUDGET 2021/22 – FEEDBACK FROM THE SCRUTINY PANELS ON THE DRAFT  
BUDGET REPORTS**  
(Key Decision – KD.25/20)

**Portfolio**     Finance, Governance and Resources

**Relevant Scrutiny Panel**     Health and Wellbeing; Economic Growth; Business and  
Transformation

**Subject Matter**

Speaking at the invitation of the Leader, the Deputy Leader indicated that the Scrutiny Panels had scrutinised the draft Budget Reports for 2021/22 considered by the Executive on 9 November 2020.

The Executive would now consider feedback from the Scrutiny Panels, as detailed within the Minutes of the undernoted Panel meetings, copies of which were submitted:

**(a)    Health and Wellbeing – 19 November 2020 (HWSP.67/20)**

The Deputy Leader advised that the substantive resolution from the Panel was that more detailed information be provided with regard to the policy which the City Council would pursue in relation to climate change.

The Deputy Leader reported that information had now been incorporated into the Executive's Budget Proposals, the most significant change being that any carbon reducing schemes would initially have to be funded from resources currently contained in the Council's existing revenue and capital budgets; with any new climate change initiatives following formal adoption and approval of the Local Environment (Climate Change) Strategy being supported by a robust business case and a cost benefit analysis provided.

The Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel had been invited to speak but was not in attendance today.

**(b)    Economic Growth – 26 November 2020 (EGSP.59/20)**

The Deputy Leader stated that, having scrutinised the Charges Review Report 2021/22 - Community Services, the Panel had resolved that a review of the parking permit scheme at Talkin Tarn be carried out.

He believed that the Executive would agree that consideration should be given to the strategy governing parking at Talkin Tarn in terms of the management of parking and income received therefrom. Accordingly, certain of those proposals would be reviewed.

The Chair of the Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel had been invited to address the Executive but was not present at the meeting.

### **(c) Business and Transformation – 1 December 2020 (BTSP.73/20)**

The Deputy Leader highlighted the Panel's request that the Executive give further consideration to the introduction of a pest control charge for dealing with rats and the impact upon households in the event that they could not meet the charge.

In response, the Deputy Leader could confirm that the Executive had taken that on board and that the Charges Review Report 2021/22 – Governance and Regulatory Services (GD.48/20) had been amended to ensure that the intended discount for senior citizens was available for domestic rat and mice treatments.

The Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder confirmed that he had nothing to add at this time.

The Vice-Chair of the Business and Transformation Scrutiny Panel was pleased to note that the Executive was looking to amend the pest control charges and discounts as alluded to by the Deputy Leader.

She explained that the Scrutiny Panel had also asked that the Executive look at introducing an element of flexibility for waste services charges to assist households that were struggling financially. The feeling at the meeting was that collections from households were increasing. A cost benefit analysis may therefore be useful since, if people were able to dispose of their waste, that may be beneficial from a fly tipping perspective.

The Vice-Chair concluded by questioning whether the Executive was also prepared to look at that issue.

The Deputy Leader replied that investigation into some of those charges would comprise a larger piece of work than could be undertaken within the timescales to date. He did not, however, think that the Executive was opposed to looking into the matter.

The Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder reported that he had discussed the issue with Officers. One alternative to bulky household waste collection was the County Council's household waste sites which took items free of charge. Clearly, however, not everyone could avail themselves of that service.

The Portfolio Holder added that work would be required to try to understand the manner by which a scheme could be put in place, and that the matter was under consideration.

The Vice-Chair thanked the Deputy Leader, and the Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder for their responses.

The Leader wished to place on record his thanks to the Scrutiny Panels for their consideration of the draft Budget Reports and for their comments and recommendations. He was also appreciative of the Vice-Chair's attendance today.

The Executive would give detailed consideration to the issues and recommendations raised prior to putting forward their draft Budget Proposals for consultation on 14 December 2020.

The Leader so moved and the Deputy Leader duly seconded.

**Summary of options rejected**    None

## **DECISION**

That the Scrutiny Panels be thanked for their scrutiny of the draft Budget reports; and their comments / recommendations, as detailed within the Minutes submitted, be taken into consideration as part of the Executive's deliberations on the 2021/22 Budget.

## **Reasons for Decision**

The views of the Scrutiny Panels be taken into consideration as part of the 2021/22 Budget process.