

IJB56. Budget Report 2022-2023

The Integration Joint Board considered a report by the Chief Finance Officer which provided an update to the Business Case that had been approved by the IJB in November 2021 and confirmed the opening budget for 2022/23. Following the confirmation of funding settlements and further negotiation with partners, the total opening budget proposed for 2022/23 was £255.922m.

All 2022/23 financial planning assumptions were updated to reflect the most recent position in terms of known inflationary pressures and a range of confirmed national policy commitments. As a result, a revised total funding gap of £5.155m was estimated for 2022/23. This represented an improvement compared to the £6.091m gap forecast in the original business case, largely due to the receipt of non-recurring funding that was provided by Falkirk Council.

Efficiency savings of £5.155m would need to be delivered to achieve financial balance. Savings proposals totalling £5.165m were identified and outlined in the report. Key themes related to residential care services, community hospitals, procurement and prescribing. However, it was recognised that just under half of the proposed schemes (48%) were considered as high risk in terms of deliverability.

It was noted that the ongoing financial impact of the Covid-19 pandemic was not included in the 2022/23 projections as this would continue to be dealt with separately, in line with Scottish Government guidance.

Decision

The Integration Joint Board:-

- (1) approved the opening budget for 2022/23;**
- (2) noted the budget gap of £5.155m and associated financial risk, and**
- (3) approved the efficiency savings plan to enable a balanced budget to be set for 2022/23.**