

Cabinet Briefing Note
COVID-19 Response Revenue Reserve – Finance Dashboard

Date: 9 April 2020

The attached Finance Dashboard shows the resources the Welsh Government currently has available to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic and the aggregate and detailed allocations made to date. The Dashboard also shows what potential financial pressures we are aware of which, if approved by the Star Chamber Process and Ministers, will become firm commitments.

The Dashboard only covers the Revenue resources which are available. We will be conducting a separate exercise on the potential realignment of Capital resources shortly.

The resources available total £2.413m, consisting of:

- consequentials received from HM Treasury. At the date of writing these stand at £1,877 million;
- £256 million from the reallocation process which Ministers recently undertook; and
- £280 million from the realignment of WEFO resources.

To date the Welsh Government has committed £1,981 million to respond to Covid-19. There are at least £223m of additional measures which are likely to be approved in the coming weeks and a number of potential commitments which are not yet quantifiable.

The figures exclude Covid-19 response allocations made within Main Expenditure Groups (for example support for buses).

The intention is that this Dashboard will be updated daily to assist with decision making and circulated to Cabinet each week.

As Ministers will see, there remain huge pressures on the budget and there is relatively little margin now for additional Covid 19 pressures which we know will be coming down the track: many of the interventions which have been funded are only for an initial period of two to three months. It will therefore almost certainly be necessary to undertake a further round of scrutiny to try to free up revenue resources from MEGs as well as an initial scrutiny of capital allocations. It will, of course, be essential to continue to ensure that any reductions in budgets are Ministerially-led and fully take into account the work which is being done to identify the priorities which the Government would wish to avoid being compromised.

These figures also highlight the importance of Ministers not entering into commitments which are not absolutely necessary, and of encouraging funded

organisations to take every opportunity to make use of the Job Retention Scheme, on which I am writing to colleagues separately.