

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**  
**27<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2017**

**COUNCIL'S REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT**

**Recommendations / key decisions required:**

That the Board receives the Budget Monitoring report and considers the budgetary position.

That Chief Officers and Heads of Service critically review their budgetary positions and implement appropriate actions to deliver their services within their allocated budgets.

**Reasons:**

To provide the Executive Board with an update on the latest budgetary position as at 31st December 2016, in respect of 2016/2017.

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted: NA

Exec Board Decision Required                      YES

Council Decision Required                          NO

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-**

Cllr. David Jenkins (Resources)

Directorate: Corporate  
Services

Name of Head of Service:  
Owen Bowen

Report Author:  
Owen Bowen

Designations:

Head of Financial Services

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

27TH MARCH 2017

### COUNCIL'S REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

The revenue budget monitoring reports for the period to 31st December 2016 are attached and indicate that:

#### COUNCIL FUND REVENUE ACCOUNT( Appendix A)

Overall, the monitoring report forecasts an end of year overspend of £833k on the Authority's net revenue budget with an overspend at departmental level of £2,350k.

#### Chief Executive's Department

The Chief Executive Department is anticipating an overspend at year end of £267k. In relation to the application of Standby, part year savings have already been identified and work is ongoing with the TIC teams in relation to delivering the full efficiencies identified.

The Regeneration, Policy and Property Division is anticipating an underspend of £89k at year end. There is an anticipated overspend on coroners of £23k and a £16k cost associated with implementing individual electoral registration. There are also overspends of £25k on the Beacon following essential R&M work and Un Sir Gar of £56k due to a shortfall in income. The Policy division is expecting to overspend by £125k due to an unfunded post and an unachievable income target. There is also an unachieved efficiency within marketing and media whilst an ongoing service realignment is reviewed of £52k. These overspends are offset by £281k of staff vacancies in the division and a net underspend of £34k in the Property division due to increased rental income from commercial properties and industrial premises, a lower than anticipated carbon reduction tax bill than originally estimated of £37k and other planned underspends on Business Services of £37k to offset the known Un Sir Gar overspend.

The Admin & Law division is expecting a £117k underspend despite a Local Duplicating Centre overspend of £31k due to the decrease in printing across the authority and the corresponding income generation potential being lost. The division has staff vacancies totalling £149k.

The People Management & Performance Division is underspent by £78k. This is due to £46k of vacant posts in year along with a saving on Business Support Supplies & Services costs of £32k.

## **Department for Education and Children**

The Department for Education and Children is projecting a net overspend of £1,767k at year end.

The main adverse budget variations relate to: new school based EVR and redundancy costs £952k; increasing age profile (15-25 year olds) of LAC requiring more costly support for longer £300k; increase in both Special Guardianship Orders to keep children with their families and Boarded Out Allowances £220k, rurality impact on Fostering staff and client travel £95k; School Modernisation short term transport for pupils from closed schools £70k, property decommissioning and cost of sales £161k (which includes £149k NNDR); Respite Units not achieving contribution from LHB £127k; increase in legal fees relating to care proceedings due to court process changes and additional cases £229k and increased Out of County residential care placements £70k.

These are partially offset by under-spends across the department in: staff vacancies and secondments -£346k and the reduction of an Out of County educational placement -£90k.

## **Corporate Services**

The Corporate Services Department is anticipating an underspend at year end of £505k. Both the Financial Services and the Audit, Risk and Procurement Divisions are anticipating underspends due largely to vacant posts of £218k and £68k respectively. The finance division is also anticipating an underspend on supplies and services of £34k and ICT is anticipating a break even position.

There is an anticipated underspend of £47k on audit fees due to a reduction in the number of grants being audited, along with a £34k underspend on subscriptions, £22k on Rent Allowances and £10k on our bank charges.

Corporate Services Training is also expecting to underspend by £51k.

## **Department for Communities**

The Department for Communities is forecasting an overspend of £452k for the year.

The Older People / Physical Disabilities division is forecasting an overspend of £240k. Whilst spend has reduced it is not currently meeting targets set last year for efficiency savings for Residential Care and Day Services which are projecting overspends of £835k and £97k respectively. This is offset by staff vacancies of £692k. The financial impact of demand, reviews of packages of care and income levels is being closely monitored through the winter period.

The Learning Disability / Mental Health Division and Support Services has a projected overspend of £151k. This is due to increased Direct Payments packages of £142k, a reduction in grant receivable for Workchoice £62k, and the continuing review into provision of services by Voluntary organisations to service users has a slippage of £90k for 2016-17, offset by the impact of the Accommodation and Efficiency strategy in reducing the costs of individual placements and staff vacancies £143k.

The Housing Services and Public Protection Division is forecasting coming in on budget.

The Leisure Services Division is forecasting an overspend of £60k mainly due to

underachievement of income £90k and delay in implementing mobile library services £50k offset by staff vacancies of £80k.

## **Environment**

The department is anticipating an overspend of £369k at year end which will be met from its departmental reserves.

The Highways and Transport division is anticipating a £15k underspend for the year overall.

The Property Division is anticipating an overall overspend of £165k. This is predominantly due to a reduction in work undertaken by Building Maintenance for the HRA, reducing the income projection (£231k). This is offset by underspends on Industrial Premises, County Farms and Livestock markets due to increased occupancy and rental income.

The Waste and Environmental division is anticipating an overspend of £90k at year end. This is due to a £77k overspend on cleansing where a proposed efficiency has not been met due to sustained demands on the service. There is also a £73k overspend on green waste due to the purchase of wheelie bins prior to start of the service in 2017. This is offset by a £44k underspend as a result of a vacant post.

The Business Support & Performance division is overspent by £129k mainly due to the admin review not being implemented to date so the proposed efficiencies have yet to be realised along with temporary additional pay costs to support implementation of the business support review.

The Planning Division expects to break even.

## **Capital Charges**

Reduced borrowing/interest savings, offset by Direct Revenue Financing provision.

## **HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (Appendix B)**

The HRA is forecasting to be on budget.

Supervision and Management costs are forecasted to be underspent by -£144k primarily due to lower staffing costs -£178k through vacancies ,premises costs -£145k , offset by increased spend on supplies and services £133k and reduction in rechargeable salaries £45k.

There is a forecasted underspend on Capital Financing costs -£170k due to opening debt being slightly lower than forecasted therefore giving rise to principal and interest payments being slightly lower than originally estimated.

Reduction in the provision required for debt write-offs , based on arrears levels and forecast movement in arrears to year end -£418k

Additional income from forecast HRA balances and other income -£36k

Rental income is forecasted to be -£275k higher due to lower level of Void loss. It is anticipated that there will also be an increase in Service charge income of -£81k.

Based on current activity data repairs and maintenance is predicted to be £701k over budget primarily on minor works (£569k) due to anticipated level of slow down not as expected and voids (£204k) to ensure properties are available to rent as quickly as possible. There has also been an additional direct revenue contribution of £423k to fund the capital programme for major void works.

Lists of the main variances are attached to this report.

<b>DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?</b>	<b>YES</b>
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## IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: Owen Bowen

Head of Financial Services

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>

### 1. Finance

#### Council Fund

Overall, the Authority is forecasting an overspend of £833k.

#### HRA

The HRA is forecasting that it will be within its approved budget at year end.

# CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: Owen Bowen

Head of Financial Services

1. Scrutiny Committee – Not applicable

2. Local Member(s) – Not applicable

3. Community / Town Council – Not applicable

4. Relevant Partners – Not applicable

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations – Not applicable

## Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information

List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

**THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW**

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
2016/17 Budget		Corporate Services Department, County Hall, Carmarthen