

**Executive Board
27th November 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 August 2017, in respect of 2017/2018.

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted: NA

Exec Board Decision Required YES

Council Decision Required NO

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Cllr. David Jenkins

Directorate: Corporate
Services

Name of Director:
Chris Moore

Report Author:
Chris Moore

Designations:

Director of Corporate Services

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Executive Board
27th November 2017

Council's Revenue Budget Monitoring Report

The revenue budget monitoring reports for the period to 31st August 2017 are attached and indicate that:

COUNCIL FUND REVENUE ACCOUNT(Appendix A)

Overall, the monitoring report forecasts an end of year overspend of £1,706k on the Authority's net revenue budget with an overspend at departmental level of £2,829k.

Chief Executive's Department

The Chief Executive Department is anticipating an overspend of £431k for the year.

In relation to the application of Standby and Health & Safety training, proposed savings have yet to be fully achieved £509k. Work is ongoing with the TIC teams in relation to delivering the full efficiencies identified.

The Regeneration, Policy and Property Division is anticipating breaking even for the year.

The Admin & Law division is showing an £18k underspend as a result of vacant posts of £50k. This is offset by a shortfall in meeting the income target in Land Charges of £13k as fees are set nationally and not increased with inflation, along with an increase in webcasting costs of £14k

The People Management & Performance Division is expected to underspend by £65k as a result of vacant posts during the year.

Department for Communities

The Department for Communities is forecasting an overspend of £994k for the year.

Services supporting Older People / Physical Disabilities are projecting an overspend of £377k; £77k on Residential Care, £90k on Domiciliary Care and £40k on Group Homes / Supported Living settings. The Careline service is showing an overspend of £168k due to a reduction in the number of connections provided to other local authorities.

Learning Disabilities is projecting £612k overspend; £223k on Residential Care, £227k on Supported Living / Group Homes and £161k on Day Services.

Support Services are anticipating an overspend of £4k; Leisure Services are expecting to break even and Housing & Public Protection Services are also predicting a nil variance

Corporate Services

The Corporate Services Department is projecting a £221k underspend for the year. This is as a result of staff vacancies of £189, a £60k reduction in grant audit fees and an £11k bank charges saving.

This is offset by an anticipated £29k charge for costs relating to sales of assets.

Department for Education and Children

The Department for Education and Children is forecasting a net overspend of £1,092k at year end.

The main adverse budget variations relate to: new school based EVR and redundancy costs £258k; Special Educational Needs statements £166k; School Modernisation property decommissioning and cost of sales £330k (which includes £256k NNDR); Special guardianship orders to keep children with their families and boarded out allowances £194k, rurality impact on fostering staffing and client travel £54k; increased number of cases entering the Legal system £198k; income from school meals lower than predicted £68K; increased staffing costs at Garreglwyd Residential Unit £60k; and a shortfall in the Music Service SLA income from schools £201k

These are partially offset by under-spends across the department in: staff vacancies and secondments -£475k and reduced numbers in Early years non maintained provision -£73k.

Environment

The department is anticipating an overspend of £533k for the year.

The Highways and Transport division is projecting a £238k overspend. This is due to a £274k overspend in car parks as a result of the non achievement of income targets and a £41k overspend on school transport following an initial assessment of demand. This is offset by underspends in Passenger transport of £41k due to tender efficiencies and a £38k underspend in Public rights of way due to vacant posts.

The Property Division anticipates an overall underspend of £98k. This is due to vacant posts (£39k) and currently high occupancy levels within industrial premises resulting in additional income

The Waste and Environmental Services are expecting to break even overall.

The Business Support & Performance division are also expecting to break even.

The Planning Division is anticipating a £392k overspend. This is due to a decrease in planning applications and the resultant loss of income £482k which is being offset by charging out staff time as a direct cost -£24k, release of prior year waste planning report underspend from reserve -16k and reduction in planning admin expenditure -£30k and additional street naming income -£10k

Capital Charges

Reduced borrowing/interest savings

The HRA is predicting a £21k underspend to the year end.
Repairs and maintenance is £18k over budget due to the responsive maintenance element of the budget.

Supervision and Management costs are forecasted to be overspent by £84k primarily due to premises related expenses energy costs £104k and increased spend on supplies and services £17k , offset by savings on travelling expenses -£10k and staffing costs/recharges -£27k due to vacancies.

Predicted increased costs on central recharges will result in £13k overspend on the budget.

Capital financing charges will be £137k greater than budgeted due to a slight increase in interest rates.

Reduction in the provision required for debt write-offs , based on arrears levels and age debt analysis to year end of - £248k

Rental income/service charges/other income is forecasted to be - £25k higher due primarily to a small variation in void predictions.

Lists of the main variances are attached to this report.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?	YES
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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: **Chris Moore**

Director of Corporate Services

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities NONE	Legal NONE	Finance YES	ICT NONE	Risk Management Issues NONE	Staffing Implications NONE	Physical Assets NONE
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1. Finance

Council Fund

Overall, the Authority is forecasting an overspend of £1,706k.

HRA

The HRA is forecasting that it will be £21k under its approved budget.

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: **Chris Moore**

Director of Corporate 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
2017/18 Budget		Corporate Services Department, County Hall, Carmarthen