

# EXECUTIVE BOARD

22<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER 2018

## COUNCIL'S REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

### Recommendations / key decisions required:

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

In light of the current forecast of a potential significant overspend which would utilise around a third of the council's general fund, that Chief Officers and Heads of Service critically review their budgetary positions and implement all necessary appropriate actions to deliver their services within their allocated budgets as a matter of urgency.

### Reasons:

To provide the Executive Board with an update on the latest budgetary position as at 30th June 2018, in respect of 2018/2019.

**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 Director:  
Chris Moore

Report Author:  
Chris Moore

Designations:

Director of Corporate Services

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

22<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER 2018

### COUNCIL'S REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

The revenue budget monitoring reports for the period to 30th June 2018 are attached and indicate that:

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

Overall, the monitoring report forecasts an end of year overspend of £3,016k on the Authority's net revenue budget with an overspend at departmental level of £3,918k. The most significant pressure points are within Education and Children's Services and the department needs to critically examine the current forecasted position.

#### **Chief Executive's Department**

The Chief Executive Department is anticipating an overspend of £613k for the year. This is made of up £580k overspend relating to Corporate Savings and £33k on operational budgets

Corporate Savings (£580k): Efficiencies in relation to Health & Safety are currently under review by the TIC team. The new standby rate was introduced in April and budgets will be vired during quarter 2 in respect of this, which will mitigate this overspend.

Operational budgets (£33k overspend): There is an anticipated £30k overspend in People Management as a result of an unfunded post, a £37k overspend in Policy as a result of ongoing running costs following the acquisition of the Guildhall, a £23k overspend in Electoral Services as a result of by-elections and an £18k overspend in Regeneration due to additional cleaning costs at The Beacon.

This is offset by an underspend in Property of £45k due to anticipated additional income generated from Opportunity Street and a £23k underspend in Legal and Admin as a result of vacant posts during the year.

#### **Department for Communities**

The Department for Communities is forecasting an overspend of £881k for the year.

Services supporting Older People and Physical Disabilities are projecting an overspend of £513k: £462k relating to packages of care namely £99k on residential care, £187k on Domiciliary Care and £176k on Direct Payments; £51k Day Services due to an undelivered efficiency.

Services supporting Learning Disabilities, Mental Health and Safeguarding are forecasting an overspend of £367k: £79k relating to Mental Health residential placements, £203k on Direct Payments and £77k due to a shortfall of income in Day Services, including the Catering provisions and £8k miscellaneous spend.

Leisure Services are predicting a nil variance.

Housing & Public Protection Services are predicting a nil variance.

#### Corporate Services

The Corporate Services Department is projecting a £105k underspend for the year.

This is due to £142k of vacant posts and £10k reduction in our new bank contract costs. This is offset by one off software and data cleansing costs in risk management of £44k.

#### Department for Education and Children

The Department for Education and Children is forecasting a net overspend of £1,899k at year end.

The main adverse budget variations relate to: increased demand for Special Educational Needs provision without any budget to allocate to this £437k ; within County & Out of County educational placements £330k (full year effect of new placements last year (£165k) & reduced income from other Local Authorities placing in Carmarthenshire (£175k)); school based EVR and redundancy costs £340k; School Meals service budget pressures, especially sickness cover, kitchens' maintenance and food price increases £72k ; Music Service running costs (mainly staff) exceeding the SLA income from schools by £210k; increased number of Children's Services cases entering the Legal system £202k; LHB not contributing fully to tripartite agreements for placements at Garreglwyd Residential Unit which also has staffing pressures £181k;

#### Environment

The department is anticipating an overspend of £630k for the new financial year due to continuing pressures with Planning and car parking income as reported during the previous financial year.

The Waste and Environmental Services division is projecting a £75k overspend. This is due to a £30k anticipated overspend on green waste collection, as it is not yet self-financing, along with a £42k overspend on Wernddu closed Landfill site as a result of essential remedial works following a pump failure.

Highways and Transportation are anticipating a £250k overspend for the year. This is largely down to a projected £282k shortfall in car park income as a result of parking fees not increasing in line with increasing income targets. This overspend is offset by vacant posts in the year within the division.

Planning Division is anticipating a £309k overspend for the year.

There is a projected £360k shortfall in development management income but this overspend is offset by vacant posts in the year within the division.

The Property and Business Support Divisions are expecting to break even for the year.

Capital Charges

Reduced borrowing/interest savings

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

The HRA is predicting a £98k underspend to the year end.

Repairs and maintenance is £21k over budget due to responsive repairs.

Supervision and Management costs are forecasted to be overspent by £36k due to savings on staffing costs (£17k), travelling expenses (£12k) and supplies and services (£10k) offset by overspends in premises related expenditure (£50k mainly maintenance costs) and staff recharges (£25k)

Capital financing charges will be £158k less than budgeted due to a slight reduction in interest rates.

There is a reduction in the provision required for debt write-offs, based on arrears levels and age debt analysis to year end of £264k

Rental income/service charges/other income is forecasted to be £175k lower due primarily to voids losses being higher than predicted.

Income for commission from the collection of water rates will also be reduced by £91k due to implementation of new scheme which benefits eligible tenants.

Lists of the main variances are attached to this report.

**DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?**

**YES:**

**Appendix A - COUNCIL FUND REVENUE ACCOUNT**

**Appendix B - HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT**

## **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	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 £3,016k.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

The HRA is forecasting that it will be £98k 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
2018/19 Budget		Corporate Services Department, County Hall, Carmarthen