

# EXECUTIVE BOARD

## 19th November 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, Chief Officers and Heads of Service continue to 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 31st August 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

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**  
**19th November 2018**

**Council's Revenue Budget Monitoring Report**

The revenue budget monitoring reports for the period to 31st August 2018 are attached and indicate that:

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

Overall, the monitoring report forecasts an end of year overspend of £2,237k on the Authority's net revenue budget with an overspend at departmental level of £3,432k. 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 £246k for the year. This is made of up a £278k overspend relating to Corporate Savings and £32k underspend on operational budgets.

Corporate Savings (£278k): Efficiencies in relation to Health & Safety are currently under review by the TIC team.

**Operational budgets (£32k underspend):**

There is an anticipated £14k overspend in People Management as a result of an unfunded post of £21k and unused Assessment Centre Credits of £31k. This is offset by additional external income generation of £44k from Employee Well Being;

Legal and Admin are anticipating a £54k underspend as a result of vacant posts during the year.

There is a £21k overspend in Policy as a result of ongoing running costs following the acquisition of the Guildhall of £46k, unfunded post of £29k and a £25k shortfall in income targets, this is offset by a £76k underspend on vacant posts;

There is a £14k overspend in Electoral Services as a result of by-elections.

Property is anticipating a £63k underspend due to anticipated additional income generated from Opportunity Street

Regeneration is anticipating a £23k overspend due to additional cleaning costs at the Beacon

## Department for Communities

The Department for Communities is forecasting an overspend of £794k for the year.

Services supporting Older People and Physical Disabilities are projecting an overspend of £461k: £595k relating to packages of care namely £206k on residential care, £171k on Domiciliary Care and £218k on Direct Payments; staffing and miscellaneous running expenses are underspent by £134k

Services supporting Learning Disabilities, Mental Health and Safeguarding are forecasting an overspend of £304k: £106k for Mental Health residential placements, £179k on Direct Payments and £40k due to a shortfall of income in Day Services, mainly the Catering provisions and an underspend of £21k on miscellaneous expenditure.

Support Services are forecasting an underspend of £22k relating to miscellaneous supplies and services and staffing.

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 £324k underspend for the year.

This is due to £354k 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 £30k.

## Department for Education and Children

The Department for Education and Children is forecasting a net overspend of £1,905k at year end.

The main adverse budget variations relate to: increased demand for Special Educational Needs provision £457k within County; Out of County educational placements £161k; school based EVR and redundancy costs £379k; School Meals service sickness cover and kitchens' maintenance £76k ; Music Service running costs (mainly staff) exceeding the SLA income from schools by £229k; Out of County residential care placements £206k; LHB not contributing fully to tripartite agreements for placements at Garreglwyd Residential Unit, which also has staffing pressures £93k; Direct payments to families of disabled children to purchase their own care £65k; School Modernisation property decommissioning costs £60k and Education Welfare £64k.

## Environment

The department is anticipating an overspend of £812k for the new financial year largely 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 £178k overspend. This is due to a £38k 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. The cleansing service is overspent by £79k, service reviews have commenced to look at ways to reduce costs within the service.

Highways and Transportation are anticipating a £223k overspend for the year. This is largely down to a projected £299k 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 £277k overspend for the year.

There is a projected £326k shortfall in development management income but this overspend is offset by vacant posts in the year within the division.

The Property division is anticipating a £60k underspend as a result of vacant posts and higher than anticipated occupancy levels at our industrial premises leading to additional income.

The Business Support Division is expecting an £18k overspend due to various small overspends within the various cost centres.

#### Capital Charges

Reduced borrowing/interest savings

#### HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT ( Appendix B)

The HRA is predicting a £237k overspend to the year end.

Supervision and Management costs are forecasted to be overspent by £55k due to savings on staffing costs (£29k) and travelling expenses (£3k) offset by overspends in supplies and services (£53k) premises related expenditure (£34k mainly maintenance costs). 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 £305k

Rental income/service charges/other income is forecasted to be £554k 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.

<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: Chris Moore

Director of Corporate Services

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

Council Fund

Overall, the Authority is forecasting an overspend of £2,237k.

HRA

The HRA is forecasting that it will be £237k over 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