

**Executive Board**  
**21<sup>ST</sup> January 2019**

**COUNCIL'S REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT**

**Recommendations / key decisions required:**

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

In light of the current forecast of a potential significant overspend, Chief Officers and Heads of Service continue to critically review their budgetary positions and implement appropriate mitigating 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 October 2018, in respect of 2018/2019.

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted: NA

Exec Board Decision Required	YES
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Council Decision Required	NO
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EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Cllr. David Jenkins

Directorate: Corporate Services

Name of Director:  
Chris Moore

Report Author:  
Randal Hemingway

Designations:

Director of Corporate Services

Head of Financial Services

Tel No. 01267 224886  
E Mail Addresses:

CMoore@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Rhemingway@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Executive Board

21<sup>ST</sup> January 2019

### COUNCIL'S REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

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

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

Overall, the monitoring report forecasts an end of year overspend of £1,255k on the Authority's net revenue budget with an overspend at departmental level of £2,760k. 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 underspend of £133k for the year. This is made of up a £305k overspend relating to Corporate Savings and £438k underspend on operational budgets.

Corporate Savings (£305k): Efficiency proposals in relation to Health & Safety are ongoing.

Operational budgets (£438k underspend):

There is an anticipated £9k underspend in People Management.

Legal and Admin are anticipating a £152k underspend. £145k of this relates to vacant posts and £29k is due to a reduction in printing and supplies and services costs. These are offset by a £21k overspend as a result of a reduction in external income generated from other organisations due to increased internal workloads.

There is a £221k underspend anticipated in the Policy section. This is made up of a net £228k underspend on salaries due to vacant posts and realignments that are in progress as well as a reduction in CCTV costs following transfer of responsibility back to the police of £23k. This is offset by an overspend of £23k due to increased costs associated with running various tourism events.

There is a £51k underspend in Electoral Services as a result of a £26k contribution from Welsh Government towards individual electoral registration costs and less expenditure on storage fees within coroners of £19k.

Property is anticipating an £8k underspend.

Regeneration is anticipating a break even position at year end.

### Department for Communities

The Department for Communities is forecasting an overspend of £889k for the year.

Services supporting Older People and Physical Disabilities are projecting an overspend of £497k: £769k relating to packages of care ( £328k on residential care, £242k on Domiciliary Care and £199k on Direct Payments); staffing and miscellaneous running expenses are underspent by £220k and Day Services are underspent by £52k.

Services supporting Learning Disabilities, Mental Health and Safeguarding are forecasting an overspend of £430k: £218k for Group Homes / Supported Living, £69k for Mental Health residential placements, and £215k on Direct Payments partially offset by a underspend of £72k on miscellaneous expenditure.

Support Services are forecasting an underspend of £38k 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 £446k underspend for the year.

This is due to £406k of vacant posts, a £10k reduction in our new bank contract costs and a £64k underspend in pre LGR pension costs. This is offset by one off software and data cleansing costs in risk management of £18k and a £17k under recovery of income on grant funded posts.

### Department for Education and Children

The Department for Education and Children is forecasting a net overspend of £1,672k at year end.

The main adverse budget variations relate to: increased demand for Special Educational Needs provision £346k within County; Out of County educational placements £214k; school based EVR and redundancy costs £327k; Education Other Than At School £83k; School Modernisation property decommissioning costs £67k; School Meals service sickness cover and kitchens' maintenance £63k ; Music Service running costs (mainly staff) exceeding the SLA income from schools by £205k; Out of County residential care placements £179k; LHB not contributing fully to tripartite agreements for placements at Garreglwyd Residential Unit, which also has staffing pressures £122k and Education Welfare £54k.

## Environment

The department is anticipating an overspend of £778k 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 £154k overspend. There is a £40k anticipated overspend on green waste collection, as it is not yet self-financing, along with a £10k overspend on Wernddu closed Landfill site as a result of essential remedial works following a pump failure. The cleansing service is overspent by £80k, service reviews have commenced to look at ways to reduce costs within the service.

Highways and Transportation are anticipating a £366k overspend for the year. This is largely down to a projected £362k shortfall in car park income as a result of parking fees not increasing in line with increasing income targets.

Planning Division is anticipating a £244k 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 to be £4k underspent for the year.

The Business Support Division is expecting an £19k overspend due to various small overspends within the various cost centres.

## HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (Appendix B)

The HRA is predicting a £269k 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 £99k 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 £219k

Rental income/service charges/other income is forecast to be £524k lower due to underachievement of rental income – void loss is currently forecast as 2.87% compared to a budget of 2.1%. The increased void loss is the result of a greater number of voids than predicted and increased time to turnaround revenue voids as a result of the increased number of major voids.

Income for commission from the collection of water rates will also be reduced by £97k due to implementation of new scheme which benefits eligible tenants. Settlement of insurance claims has resulted in receiving £89k of income.

Lists of the main variances are attached to this report.

**DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?**

**YES**

## 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 £1,255k.

HRA

The HRA is forecasting that it will be £269k 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
<b>2018/19 Budget</b>		<b>Corporate Services Department, County Hall, Carmarthen</b>