

Executive Board

1st April 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 at departmental level, 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 31st December 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:
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

1st April 2019

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

COUNCIL FUND REVENUE ACCOUNT(Appendix A)

Overall, the monitoring report forecasts an end of year overspend of £398k on the Authority's net revenue budget with an overspend at departmental level of £2,342k.

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 £264k for the year. This is made up of a £327k overspend relating to Corporate Savings and £591k underspend on operational budgets.

Corporate Savings (£327k): Efficiency proposals in relation to Health & Safety are ongoing.

Operational budgets (£591k underspend):

There is an anticipated £53k underspend in People Management. This is predominantly made up of vacant posts during the year as well as additional external income being generated by the Employee Well Being Section.

ICT services are anticipating a £100k underspend due to staff vacancies during the year.

There is a £246k underspend anticipated in the Policy section. This is made up of a net £261k 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 £34k due to the additional costs associated with the move to Parc y Rhun and £13k due to increased costs associated with running various tourism events.

Electoral Services is anticipating breaking even for the year.

Property is anticipating an £34k underspend due to high occupancy levels within Industrial Premises and Commercial Properties.

Regeneration is anticipating a break even position at year end.

Department for Communities

The Department for Communities is forecasting an overspend of £930k for the year.

Services supporting Older People and Physical Disabilities are projecting an overspend of £394k: £741k relating to packages of care (£383k on residential care, £194k on Domiciliary Care and £164k on Direct Payments); staffing and miscellaneous running expenses are underspent by £307k and Day Services are underspent by £40k.

Services supporting Learning Disabilities, Mental Health and Safeguarding are forecasting an overspend of £467k: £299k for Residential, Group Homes and Supported Living placements, £236k on Direct Payments partially offset by a underspend of £68k on miscellaneous expenditure.

Support Services are forecasting an underspend of £69k relating to professional fees linked to DoLS (Deprivation of Liberty Standards) assessments.

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 £543k underspend for the year.

This is due to £487k of vacant posts, a £9k reduction in our new bank contract costs, a £51k underspend in pre LGR pension costs, and a £35k underspend on grant audit fees This is offset by one off software and data cleansing costs in risk management of £23k and a £23k 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 £1,503k at year end.

The main adverse budget variations relate to: increased demand for Special Educational Needs provision £365k within County; Out of County educational placements £170k; school based EVR and redundancy costs £271k; Education Other Than At School £186k; School Modernisation property decommissioning costs £82k; School Meals service sickness cover and kitchens' maintenance £63k ; Music Service running costs (mainly staff) exceeding the SLA income from schools by £190k; Out of County residential care placements £141k and LHB not contributing fully to tripartite agreements for placements at Garreglwyd Residential Unit, which also has staffing pressures £133k.

This is partially offset by staff vacancies and the utilisation of additional grants to support core spend -£165.

Environment

The department is anticipating an overspend of £715k for the 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 £228k overspend. The Trade Waste transfer is not yet fully completed as CCC's operational requirements remain until April 2019 – this has resulted in a £46k overspend, in addition Clinical waste is showing a £50k overspend as a result of the service transfer postponement due to complexity of ensuring appropriate service for all users. There is a £40k anticipated overspend on green waste collection, as it is not yet self-financing. We did not anticipate breaking even this financial year, as per the original business plan, but we are on track with growing the service as anticipated, with a view to being break even in future years. 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 £293k overspend for the year. This is largely down to a projected £363k shortfall in car park income as a result of parking fees not increasing in line with increasing income targets.

Planning Division is anticipating a £241k overspend for the year.

There is a projected £355k shortfall in development management income but this overspend is partially offset by vacant posts in the year within the division.

The Property division is anticipating to be £48k underspent for the year.

The Business Support Division is expecting to break-even.

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (Appendix B)

The HRA is predicting to be on target for 2018/19.

Repairs and Maintenance is likely to be overspent by £246k mainly due to additional expenditure on empty properties. Supervision and Management costs are forecasted to be underspent by £64k due to savings on staffing costs of £87k and in supplies and services of £10k, offset by an overspend on premises related expenditure of £34k (mainly maintenance costs).

Capital financing charges will be £97k 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 £137k. The removal of the HRA borrowing cap will allow us to review our funding of the capital programme and reduce our revenue contribution to this programme by £333k.

Rental income/service charges is forecast to be £528k 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 £88k due to implementation of new scheme which benefits eligible tenants. Settlement of insurance claims and additional interest will result in receiving £229k of costs being recovered.

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

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

1. Finance

Council Fund

Overall, the Authority is forecasting an overspend of £398k.

HRA

The HRA is forecasting that it will be within budget for 2018-2019.

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 |