

POLICY & RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 16th MARCH 2016

Revenue & Capital Budget Monitoring Report 2015/16

To consider and comment on the following issues:

- That the scrutiny committee receives the Authority's Corporate Budget Monitoring Report and the Chief Executive's and Corporate Services departmental reports and considers the budgetary position.

Reasons:

- To provide the Committee with an update on the latest budgetary position, as at 31st December 2015, in respect of the 2015/16 financial year.

To be referred to the Executive Board for decision: NO

Executive Board Member Portfolio Holders:

- Cllr. David Jenkins (Resources)
- Cllr. Mair Stephens (Human Resources, Efficiencies & Collaboration)
- Cllr. Pam Palmer (Communities)

Directorate: Corporate Services	Designation:	Tel No. / E-Mail Address:
Name of Head of Service: Owen Bowen	Interim Head of Financial Services	01267 224886 obowen@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Report Author: Owen Bowen		

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

POLICY & RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 16th MARCH 2016

Revenue & Capital Budget Monitoring Report 2015/16

The monitoring exercise for the period to the 31st December 2015 is attached and indicates that:

Revenue Budgets

Corporate Revenue Budget (Appendix A)

Overall, the monitoring report forecasts an end of year underspend of £1,384k on the Authority's net revenue budget with an overspend at departmental level of £1,126k.

Department for Education & Children

The Education & Children's Services Department is currently forecasting an overspend of £1,269k at year end.

The main adverse budget variations relate to school based EVR and redundancy costs (+£1,072k); EOTAS (Education other than at School) (+£426k); Fostering services & support (+£169k); Adult & Community learning (+£154k); Respite Units (+£137k); Legal fees (+£108k); Out of Hours Service (+£94k); Music Service (+£70k); Garreglwyd Residential Accommodation (+£34k); Other Family Services incl Young Carers and ASD (+£34k) and Youth Service (+£20k).

These are partially offset by under-spends across the department in: Out of County educational placements (-£514k); Staff vacancies, secondments and maximising use of grant funding (-£345k); Centrally managed schools budget (-£66k); Children's Services management & support (-£66k); Governor Support (-£32k); Payments to private early years providers (-£22k) and Adoption Services (-£24k).

There is £967k available in departmental reserves leaving a forecasted shortfall of £302k at year end.

Department for Communities

The Department for Communities is forecasting an over spend of £385k for the year.

The Older People / Physical Disabilities Division has an overspend of £382k due to non achievement of efficiency savings re Older People Day Centres and an overspend on Private Residential Care of £724k; offset by an underspend (£990k) for Home Care.

The Learning Disability / Mental Health Division has an overspend on residential and supported living placements of £818k due to a slower than anticipated reduction required to meet efficiency savings which is currently being addressed and an overspend on additional packages for Direct Payments £157k.

The Departmental overspend is reduced by £663k due to staff vacancies.

The Housing Services and Public Protection Division is forecasting an underspend of £19k due to staff vacancies and supplies and services.

The Leisure Services Division is expected to break even at year end.

Environment Department

The department is showing an anticipated overspend of £113k at year end which will be met from its departmental reserves.

The Transport division is showing a net underspend of £64k for the year. Civil design is showing an overspend of £31k due to under recovery of income as a result of a vacant post, and the Park and Ride service is estimated to be overspent by £43k following a policy decision to remove funding. Public Transport is anticipating a £57k underspend following service adjustments to manage budget pressures elsewhere within the division. There is also expected to be a £66k underspend in Car Parks as a result of an increase in income banked.

The Property Services division has an overall anticipated overspend of £223k. Building Maintenance is expecting to be £212k overspent due to not achievement of their income target as a result of a reduction in the Carmarthenshire Housing Standard related work. Repairs & maintenance of Parks and PCs are overspent by £30k as asset transfers have not as yet taken place and pumping stations (£25k) and PAT testing (£19k) are overspent as there is no budget for these functions. Building Cleaning are anticipating an overspend of £41k due to an increase in overtime and superannuation costs. This is offset by a £112k underspend in the Grounds Maintenance section due to ongoing efficiency savings.

The Streetscene division is expecting an underspend of £2k at year end.

The Policy & Development division is anticipating a £69k overspend mainly due to £36k severance efficiencies not being delivered.

The Planning Division anticipates an underspend of £111k. This is as a result of a £89k saving on vacant posts within the division as well as 2 members of staff being charged out to an externally funded scheme (£52k) along with a planned reduction in admin costs of £24k. This is offset by an overspend in Development Management due to a reduction in planning fee income of £56k.

Chief Executive's and Corporate Services Revenue Budget (Appendix B)

The Chief Executive Department is showing a projected underspend at year end of £91k. Corporate Savings proposals of £400k on Standby Costs and £100k on Health & Safety provision have not yet been implemented although this will be partially offset due to a one off sale of old printers as part of the printer rationalisation programme (£60k) and an in year underspend of £278k as a result of energy budget rationalisation. The Translation Unit is projecting an overspend of £48k due to an increase in demand for the service and Fitness for Work a projected overspend of £17k due to sickness cover and market supplement. The Regeneration Business Unit is anticipating an overspend of £45k due to a previous year efficiency to sell the property at Nant y Ci which remains unsold. There are also overspends on Un Sir Gar due to increased staffing and maintenance (£10k), Policy due to non achievement of income target (£16k), CCTV (£17k) due to late decision to cease live monitoring and Customer Services (£16k) as a result of a contribution towards running costs of Un Sir Gar. WVEC are also overspent by £35k due to non achievement of targeted consultancy income. These overspends are offset by vacant posts across the department of £365k, increased Land Charges income (£19k), Admin and Business Support supplies & services of £24k and Llanelli Community recharging a staff member time to an externally funded scheme (£20k)

The Corporate Services Department is anticipating an underspend at year end of £550k due to a reduction in the cost of annual subscriptions (-£37k); Reduction in Council Tax benefit caseload (-£118k); Reduction in revenues due to reduced security and staffing cost along with an increase in court income (-£65k); Benefits Fraud saving as staff transferred to DWP mid year and funding not being recouped (-£66k). There are also vacant posts across the department of -£348k. The Corporate Property Division is anticipating a £100k overspend predominantly due to an efficiency proposal relating to charging the health board for office occupancy that is not yet in place.

Capital Budgets

Corporate Capital Programme Monitoring 2015/16 (Appendix C)

The total projected net expenditure for 2015/16 of **£43.893m** compared to the allocated net budget for the year of **£51.276m**, indicates a projected variance of **-£7.383m** (Under spend).

Chief Executive and Corporate Services Capital Programme Monitoring (Appendix D)

St David's Park -£430k. Owing to delay in procuring works

IT -£450k. As part of the Microsoft Enterprise Agreement this budget is allocated for a payment scheduled on 1st April 2016 and, therefore, needs to be carried over to 2016/17.

East Gate Development, Llanelli -£279k. Project delayed. Still at procurement stage.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES – A list of the main variances is attached to this report.

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: Owen Bowen Interim Head of Financial Services

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

3. Finance

Revenue – Overall, the Authority is forecasting an underspend of £1,384k.

Capital – The reported under spend of -£7.383m will be incorporated into the future years of the Capital Programme.

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: Owen Bowen Interim Head of Financial Services

1. Local Member(s) – N/A
2. Community / Town Council – N/A
3. Relevant Partners – N/A
4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations – N/A

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
2015/16 Budget	Corporate Services Department, County Hall, Carmarthen