

Executive Board
21st November 2016

COUNCIL'S REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

Recommendations / key decisions required:

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

That Chief Officers and Heads of Service critically review their budgetary positions and implement appropriate actions to deliver their services within their allocated budgets.

Reasons:

To provide the Executive Board with an update on the latest budgetary position as at 31st August 2016, in respect of 2016/2017.

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

Designations:

Tel No. 01267 224886

Name of Head of Service:
Owen Bowen

Head of Financial Services

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Report Author:
Owen Bowen

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Executive Board
21st November 2016

Council's Revenue Budget Monitoring Report

The revenue budget monitoring reports for the period to 31st August 2016 are attached and indicate that:

COUNCIL FUND REVENUE ACCOUNT(Appendix A)

Overall, the monitoring report forecasts an end of year overspend of £1,971k on the Authority's net revenue budget with an overspend at departmental level of £2,975k.

Chief Executive's Department

The Chief Executive Department is anticipating an overspend at year end of £514k. Corporate Savings proposals on Standby Costs and Health & Safety savings are yet to be implemented £547k.

The Regeneration, Policy and Property Division is anticipating an overspend of £93k at year end. There is an anticipated variance on coroners of £89k and a £20k cost associated with implementing individual electoral registration. There are also overspends of £29k within the Regeneration Business Unit due to a prior efficiency associated with selling the premises at Nant Y Ci not taking place and Un Sir Gar of £52k due to a shortfall in income. The Policy division is expecting to overspend by £25k due to an unachievable income target .These overspends are offset by £125k of staff vacancies in the division.

The Admin & Law division is expecting to break even despite a Local Duplicating Centre overspend of £31k due to the decrease in printing across the authority and the corresponding income generation potential being lost. This is largely offset by additional Land Charges income being collected.

The People Management & Performance Division is underspent by £114k. This is due to £93k of vacant posts in year along with a saving on Business Support Supplies & Services costs of £33k.

Department for Education and Children

The Department for Education and Children is projecting a net overspend of £1,550k at year end.

The main adverse budget variations relate to: new school based EVR and redundancy costs £845k; School Modernisation pressures relating to short term transport for pupils from closed schools £90k, property decommissioning and cost of sales £212k (which includes £175k NNDR); Fostering Services' more costly boarding out and residence orders £165k, rurality impact on staff & client travel £52k; Respite Units not achieving contribution from LHB £129k; Commissioning & Social Work staffing pressures £97k, Increased referrals during out of hours £60k; Staffing implications of clients of Garreglwyd Residential Accommodation having more complex needs £55k; Increasing age profile (15-25 year olds) of LAC requiring more costly support for longer £47k.

These are partially offset by under-spends across the department in: staff vacancies, secondments and maximising use of grant funding -£145k; reduction of an out of county placement -£59k.

Corporate Services

The Corporate Services Department is anticipating an underspend at year end of £263k.

Both the Financial Services and the Audit, Risk and Procurement Divisions are anticipating underspends due largely to vacant posts of £199k and £35k respectively .

ICT is anticipating an overspend of £70k due to long term sickness cover.

There is also an anticipated underspend of £47k on audit fees due to a reduction in the number of grants being audited, along with a £25k underspend on subscriptions and £11k on our bank charges.

Department for Communities

The Department for Communities is forecasting an overspend of £788k for the year.

The Older People / Physical Disabilities division is forecasting an overspend of £546k. Whilst spend has reduced it is not currently meeting targets set last year for efficiency savings in the areas of Residential Care and Domiciliary Care which are projecting overspends of £695k and £405k respectively. These overspends are offset by staff vacancies of £554k. It is early in the financial year to be clear about the year - end position and the financial impact of demand, reviews of packages of care and income levels.

The Learning Disability / Mental Health Division and Support Services has a projected overspend of £142k. This is due to increased Direct Payments packages of £175k, a reduction in grant receivable for Workchoice £125k and the non-achievement of efficiency savings re Grants to Voluntary organisations £92k. These are offset by reduced placement costs for Residential costs £128k due the impact of the Accommodation and Efficiency strategy in reducing the costs of individual placements and staff vacancies £122k.

The Housing Services and Public Protection Division is forecasting coming in on budget.

The Leisure Services Division is forecasting an overspend of £100k mainly due to underachievement of income £52k and delay in implementing mobile library services £48k.

Environment

The department is anticipating an overspend of £386k at year end which will be met from its departmental reserves.

The Highways and Transport division is anticipating a break even position for the year overall. Within the division there is a variance of £100k relating to a managed pool car efficiency exercise not being fully achieved. There is also a £44k overspend on Nant y Ci park and ride facility following a decision to withdraw funding. This is offset by an underspend of £124k in Parking Services where income figures are currently predicted to exceed budgeted figures.

The Property Division is anticipating an overall overspend of £172k. An on-going review of Building Maintenance expenditure and income will hopefully reduce the forecasted overspend by the year-end.

The Waste and Environmental division is anticipating an overspend of £53k at year end. This predominantly relates to a £91k overspend on cleansing where a proposed efficiency has not been met due to sustained demand on the service. This is offset by a £33k underspend on ground maintenance as a result of ongoing efficiency drives in the section.

The Business Support & Performance division is overspent by £121k mainly due to the admin review not being implemented to date so the proposed efficiencies have yet to be realised along with temporary additional pay costs to support implementation of the business support review.

The Planning Division expects to be overspent by £31k. This relates to £187k variance on Development Management due to a drop in planning fee income. This is offset by £89k of vacant posts and also two posts being charged out to projects as a direct cost resulting in a £48k underspend. There is also a £16k on general supplies and services in the division.

Capital Charges

Reduced borrowing/interest savings, offset by Direct Revenue Financing provision.

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (Appendix B)

The HRA is forecasting an underspend of £667k.

Supervision and Management costs are forecasted to be underspent by £27k primarily due to lower staffing costs in relation to the Affordable Homes Plan commencing later than planned.

There is a forecasted underspend on Capital Financing costs £191k due to a reduction in the MRP payment and interest payments.

Reduction in the provision required for debt write-offs , based on arrears levels and forecast movement in arrears to year end £385k

Additional income from forecast HRA balances and other income £37k

Rental income is forecasted to be £155k higher due to lower level of Void loss. It is anticipated that there will also be an increase in Service charge income of £79k.

Based on current activity data repairs and maintenance is predicted to be £208k over budget

Lists of the main variances are attached to this report.

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|----------------------------|-----|
| DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ? | YES |
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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: Owen Bowen

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 |

1. Finance

Council Fund

Overall, the Authority is forecasting an overspend of £1,971k.

HRA

The HRA is forecasting that it will be £667k under its approved budget.

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: Owen Bowen

Head of Financial 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 |
|-------------------|--------------|---|
| 2016/17 Budget | | Corporate Services Department, County Hall, Carmarthen |