

CORPORATE PERFORMANCE & RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 18th OCTOBER 2023

Revenue & Capital Budget Monitoring Report 2023/24

THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE IS ASKED TO:

- Receive the Authority's Corporate Budget Monitoring Report, the Chief Executive and Corporate Services departmental reports and the Savings Monitoring report and considers the budgetary position.

Reasons:

- To provide Scrutiny with an update on the latest budgetary position, as at 30th June 2023, in respect of 2023/24.

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDERS:

- Cllr. Darren Price (Leader)
- Cllr. Alun Lenny (Resources)
- Cllr. Phillip Hughes (Organisation and Workforce)

Directorate: Corporate Services	Designation:	Tel No. / E-Mail Address:
Name of Director of Service: Chris Moore	Director of Corporate Services	01267 224120 CMoore@cararthenshire.gov.uk
Report Author: Chris Moore		

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CORPORATE PERFORMANCE & RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 18th OCTOBER 2023

Revenue & Capital Budget Monitoring Report 2023/24

The Financial Monitoring report is presented as follows:

Revenue Budgets

Appendix A – Authority Corporate Budget Monitoring Report

The revenue budget monitoring reports as at 30th June 2023 are attached and indicate that:

COUNCIL FUND REVENUE ACCOUNT (Appendix A)

Overall, the monitoring report forecasts an overspend for the year at departmental level of £7,399k, with a forecast overspend on the Authority's net revenue budget of £4,504k.

At a high level this is due to a combination of:

- ongoing inflationary pressures across a range of service areas
- persistent overspends in service areas where budget reductions have been implemented, but challenges in delivery have made it impossible to keep pace with the level of savings required
- Significant overspends in Childrens Services driven by increased levels of demand combined with complexity, not seen before the pandemic, which has required both a higher number and increased cost of placements

These are partially offset by capital financing underspends due to scheme delays, a reduced need to borrow and increased interest earned on positive cash balances.

The April NJC pay award remains unsettled. As part of the 2023/24 budget setting process the Authority has agreed a £1.5m in year contingency budget which is currently held centrally which provides a partial offset to any costs above the 5% allowed for in the budget.

The full year forecast reflects the impact which includes known financial positions at the point of preparation. As such the forecast does not contain the full impact of any additional in-year and grant adjustments. In line with our existing policies, forecast departmental overspends are met out of departmental reserves, where available. In line with our existing policies, forecast departmental overspends are met out of departmental reserves, where available.

Appendix B

Chief Executive and Corporate Services detailed variances for information purposes only.

Capital Budgets

Corporate Capital Programme Monitoring 2023/24

The current capital programme is based on information available as at the end of June 2023.

Appendix C shows a forecasted net spend of £85,865k compared with a working net budget of £145,604k, giving a -£59,739k variance (-£60,832k General Fund and £1,093k HRA).

The net budget includes the original H.R.A. and General Fund capital programmes approved by Council on 1st March and slippage from 2022/23. Some of the budgets have also been amended to account for differences in actual grant allocations compared with the anticipated allocations at the time the programme was approved, and new grant awards received during the year to date.

Appendix D

Details the main variances within each department.

New Projects and virements to note and approve for the current year:

H.R.A Public Sector Housing: £5,548k displaced funding from Welsh Government for the purchase of private dwellings for housing stock.

Private Housing: £368k award of ENABLE grant to support independent living.

Place and Infrastructure: £129k awarded for small scale flood defence works which will be match funded by a revenue contribution of £17k.

New funding of £105,364k for Rights of Way and Access improvement.

New awards for Transport projects: Safe Routes in Communities at Ponthenri, £495k, and at Tumble, £391k. Road Safety £280k. 20mph Speed Limits £2,180k. Bus Infrastructure £932k. Active Travel Projects £1,472k. Coastal Belt Improvements, 100k. Electric Vehicle Infrastructure, 264k which will be match funded by a revenue contribution of £46k. Resilient Roads Fund £500k match funded by £68k revenue contribution.

Education and Children: The balances of displaced funding from 2022/23 from the following projects: £2,254k for capital works associated with the Rollout of Free School Meal in Primary Schools, £3,211k for School Building Maintenance grant, £821k for Community Focused Schools grant.

In additional new funding for Community Focused Schools: Amman Centre Development £150k, Amman Valley Changing Facilities £300k, QE High Community Centre £150k, Ysgol Coedcae Mountain Bike Centre £100k, Ysgol Coedcae Changing Facilities £95k, Glanymor Changing Rooms £200k.

Regeneration: Removal of external funding from the Rural Employment Spaces JV project budget £1,000k. The external funding will be made directly by third parties and not through the authority.

Appendix E

Details a full list of Chief Executive and Regeneration schemes, respectively. There are no Corporate Services schemes.

Savings Report

Appendix F

The Savings Monitoring report.

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: **Chris Moore** **Director of Corporate Services**

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

3. Finance

Revenue

Overall, the Authority is forecasting an overspend of £4,504k at this point in time. Corporate Performance & Resources Services are projecting to be under the approved budget by £733k.

Capital

The capital programme shows a variance of -£59,739k against the 2023/24 approved budget.

Savings Report

The expectation is that at year end £832k of Managerial savings against a target of £992k are forecast to be delivered. There were no Policy savings put forward.

7. Physical Assets

The expenditure on the capital programme will result in the addition of new assets or enhancement to existing assets on the authority's asset register.

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE / CONSULTED? YES	(Include any observations here)
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
2023/24 Budget	Corporate Services Department, County Hall, Carmarthen
2023-28 Capital Programme	Online via corporate website – Minutes of County Council Meeting 1 st March 2023.