

# CORPORATE PERFORMANCE & RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 17<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2024

## 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 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023, in respect of 2023/24.

### CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDERS:

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

<b>Directorate:</b> Corporate Services	<b>Designation:</b>	<b>Tel No. / E-Mail Address:</b>
<b>Name of Director of Service:</b> Chris Moore	Director of Corporate Services	01267 224120 <a href="mailto:CMoore@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">CMoore@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>
<b>Report Author:</b> Chris Moore		

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**CORPORATE PERFORMANCE & RESOURCES  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
17<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2024**

**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 31<sup>st</sup> December 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 £10,183k, with a forecast overspend on the Authority's net revenue budget of £4,782k.

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

- Increased expenditure in adult social care to meet pent up demand as recruitment pressures have begun to ease a little across the sector.
- 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. Monitoring indicates £3.4m of savings undelivered for 2023/24 and a further £0.6m carried forward from the previous year.
- Significant overspends in Childrens Services, driven by increased levels of demand combined with complexity, not seen before the pandemic. There has

been a higher number an increased cost of residential placements, increased agency costs and increased support for children with disabilities.

In addition to the departmental overspends, schools are expecting to spend £8.6m more than delegated budgets, meaning balances currently standing at £11.1m would reduce to £2.5m.

The capital financing underspend forecast at £3m is due to scheme delays, a reduced need to borrow and increased interest earned on positive cash balances, partially offset by in year direct revenue funding for a small number of projects.

The April NJC pay award has now finally been settled, with all staff having received backpay in full. The cost of this has now been built into departmental projections, with the £1.5m contingency budget shown explicitly as a partial offset.

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 adjustment, although it should be noted that the WG budget position is such that these are much less likely than in previous years. 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 December 2023.

**Appendix C** shows a forecasted net spend of £70,752k compared with a working net budget of £139,013k, giving a -£68,261k variance (-£62,340k General Fund and -£5,921k HRA).

The net budget includes the original H.R.A. and General Fund capital programmes approved by Council on 1<sup>st</sup> 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:**

#### **Private Housing:**

A new award of £193k of Housing Care Fund (HCF) grant funding has been received from the Regional Health Partnership.

To approve a revenue contribution of £15k to fund the Care & Repair - Small Repairs Scheme

#### **Leisure:**

To approve a virement of £7k from the Pembrey Cycling Hub to the Carmarthen Leisure Centre Running Track to pay for a retention of this project.

#### **Place and Infrastructure:**

The funding amounts listed below have been built into the proposed new five-year capital programme, therefore, the budget needs to be slipped/ removed from the current year delivery cycle.

- £418k – Fleet Replacement.
- £4,730k – Replacement of Waste Recycling Collection Vehicles.

£33k revenue contribution for Road Safety grant funded projects.

Additional costs associated with the Cross Hands Economic Distributor Road, approved by Cabinet, are now reflected in the budget of the same and funded by a combination of reserves and capital receipts.

**Regeneration:**

A revenue contribution of £12.5k for the installation of signage on the new cabins in Chapel Steet, Carmarthen. (Part of the Jackson's Lane Project).

**Additional Costs:**

Expenditure relating to additional costs incurred by contractors on some projects are reflected in the projected outturns of some departments and will be funded by Welsh Government Grant and capital receipts.

**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 for 2023/24. This includes detail on the 2022/23 savings proposals that were undelivered as at 31st March 2023.

**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	Biodiversity & Climate Change
<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NONE</b>

### **3. Finance**

#### **Revenue**

Overall, the Authority is forecasting an overspend of £4,782k at this point in time. Corporate Performance & Resources Services are projecting to be under the approved budget by £1,649k.

#### **Capital**

The capital programme shows a variance of -£68,261k against the 2023/24 approved budget.

#### **Savings Report**

The expectation is that at year end £886k of Managerial savings against a target of £1,046k 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.

### **8. Biodiversity and Climate Change**

Some schemes within the Capital Programme relate to decarbonisation measures to help reduce our carbon footprint. Buildings are designed to the latest energy efficiency standards. All major projects include ecology surveys.

<b>CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE / CONSULTED?</b> YES	(Include any observations here)
<b>Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information</b>  <b>List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW:</b>	
<b>Title of Document</b>	<b>File Ref No. / Locations that the papers are available for public inspection</b>
2023/24 Budget	Corporate Services Department, County Hall, Carmarthen
2023-28 Capital Programme	Online via corporate website – Minutes of County Council Meeting 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2023.