

CORPORATE PERFORMANCE & RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 31st JANUARY 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 31st October 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
31st JANUARY 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 31st October 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 £10,900k, with a forecast overspend on the Authority's net revenue budget of £5,312k.

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 £3.3m 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.

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 as set out in the capital programme update.

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 adjustments. 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 October 2023.

Appendix C shows a forecasted net spend of £89,434k compared with a working net budget of £142,641k, giving a -£53,207k variance (-£48,173k General Fund and -£5,034k 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.

It should be noted that following a department reorganisation, the property services projects which have previously been reported as part of the Department of Place and Infrastructure are now reported as part of the Chief Executive Department portfolio.

Appendix D

Details the main variances within each department.

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

Leisure:

Projects supported from funds from the Development Fund
£195k for Pembrey Country Park Electrical Infrastructure Upgrade
£150k for Pendine Miniature Golf Course.

There is an additional £5k for Burry Port Car Park Development funded from Revenue.

Place and Infrastructure:

New grant awarded from the WG for Flood Defence Works of £16k for Pen Y Fan, Llanelli.

Approved £45k to be slipped from the 2023-24 decarbonisation budget, to match fund the 2024-25 grant relating to installation of Heat Source Pumps in schools.

Education:

A virement of £25k from the deferred grant funding for the provision of feminine hygiene hardware to the capital maintenance – education budget for eligible works undertaken at Ysgol Gyfun Emlyn (which sits under the Chief Executive budget).

Chief Executive:

A virement of £25k from Provision of Feminine Hygiene Hardware (from Education) to the Capital maintenance budget for NCE School works.

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
NONE	NONE	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE	YES	NONE

3. Finance Revenue

Overall, the Authority is forecasting an overspend of £5,312k at this point in time. Corporate Performance & Resources Services are projecting to be under the approved budget by £1,194k.

Capital

The capital programme shows a variance of -£53,207k 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.

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.