



Report of: Executive Member for Finance, Performance and Community Safety

Meeting of:	Date	Ward(s)
Executive	6 September 2018	All

FINANCIAL MONITORING 2018-19 MONTH 4

1. SYNOPSIS

- 1.1 This report presents the forecast outturn position for 2018-19 as at 31st July 2018. Overall, there is a forecast gross General Fund overspend of £1.3m, before taking into account the ongoing corporate contingency budget of £2m.
- 1.2 The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is forecast to break-even over the year.
- 1.3 It is forecast that £151.2m of capital expenditure will be delivered in 2018-19.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. To note the forecast revenue outturn for the General Fund (**Table 1**) of a gross overspend of £1.3m, before taking into account the ongoing corporate contingency budget of £2m. (**Paragraph 3.1**)
- 2.2. To note the breakdown of the forecast General Fund outturn by individual variance at **Appendix 1** and by service area at **Appendix 2**.
- 2.3. To note that the HRA forecast is a net break-even position. (**Section 5, Table 1**)
- 2.4. To improve the Council's overall financial resilience by allocating one-off contingency funding: to replenish the Council's General Fund balances back to the previous level of 5% of the net budget requirement over the medium term; and to provide capital contingency funding for known budget pressures and risks in the agreed capital programme. (**Paragraph 3.3**)
- 2.5. To note the latest capital position with forecast capital expenditure of £151.2m in 2018-19 and agree the re-profiling of capital resources between 2018-19 and future financial years. (**Paragraphs 6.1-6.4, Table 2, and Appendix 3**)

- 2.6. To note the summary of the latest Section 106 and Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) balances by ward at **Appendix 4**.

3. REVENUE POSITION: SUMMARY

- 3.1. A summary position of the General Fund and HRA is shown in **Table 1**, a breakdown by individual General Fund variance in **Appendix 1** and a breakdown by General Fund and HRA service area in **Appendix 2**.

Table 1: 2018-19 General Fund and HRA Month 4 Forecast

	Forecast Over/(Under) Spend (£000)
<u>GENERAL FUND</u>	
Resources	(585)
Chief Executive's Department	(47)
Children's, Employment and Skills (excluding DSG)	0
Environment and Regeneration	1,945
Housing and Adult Social Services	38
Public Health	0
DIRECTORATE TOTAL	1,351
Corporate Items	(37)
GROSS OVER/(UNDER) SPEND	1,314
<u>HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT</u>	
NET (SURPLUS)/DEFICIT	0

- 3.2. Any overspend at year-end would be covered by drawing down from the ongoing corporate contingency budget of £2.0m. However, in the first instance, departments with significant overspends must continue to implement management actions to bring their in-year budgets into balance.
- 3.3. In addition to the ongoing corporate contingency budget, the Council has one-off contingency funding of £6.086m. In order to improve the Council's overall financial resilience over the medium term, it is recommended that this one-off contingency funding is allocated as follows:
- 3.3.1. To replenish the Council's General Fund balances (excluding schools balances) back to the previous level of 5% of the net budget requirement (excluding schools expenditure) over the course of the medium-term financial strategy (£2.0m).
- 3.3.2. To transfer to the earmarked capital reserve as capital contingency funding for known budget pressures and risks in the agreed capital programme (£4.086m).

4. GENERAL FUND

Resources Department (-£0.6m)

- 4.1. The Resources Department is forecasting an underspend of (-£0.6m) over the financial year with the key variances detailed in **Appendix 1**.

Chief Executive's Department (Break-Even)

- 4.2. The Chief Executive's Department is forecasting a break-even position with key variances set out in **Appendix 1**.

Children's, Employment and Skills - General Fund (Break-Even), Schools (Break-Even)

- 4.3. The Children's, Employment and Skills directorate is forecasting a break-even position with key variances set out in **Appendix 1**.
- 4.4. The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is forecast to break-even with no significant variances from budget.

Environment and Regeneration (+£1.9m)

- 4.5. The Environment and Regeneration Department is forecasting a (+£1.9m) overspend. The key variances behind this net overspend are set out in **Appendix 1**.
- 4.6. The management actions being taken to control these pressures are:
- 4.6.1. Regular monitoring of spend and income trends across the department to enable effective decisions to be taken;
 - 4.6.2. Extensive work being undertaken within Street Environmental Services to control and monitor staff related spend and HR data;
 - 4.6.3. Vacancy and recruitment management to control and reduce costs; and
 - 4.6.4. Ongoing work to drive through service changes to deliver delayed savings.

Housing and Adult Social Services (Break-Even)

- 4.7. Housing and Adult Social Services is forecasting a break-even position with key variances set out in **Appendix 1**.

Public Health (Break-Even)

- 4.8. Public Health is funded via a ring-fenced grant and forecast to break-even.

Corporate Items (Break-Even)

- 4.9. The forecast for corporate items, before any call on corporate contingency budgets, is a break-even position with key variances set out in **Appendix 1**.

5. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

- 5.1. The forecast net variance for the Housing Revenue Account is a break-even position.

6. **CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

- 6.1. It is forecast that £151.2m of capital investment will be delivered in 2018-19. This is set out by directorate in **Table 2** below and detailed in **Appendix 3**.

Table 2: 2018-19 Capital Programme Month 4 Forecast

Directorate	2018-19 Capital Budget £m	2018-19 Capital Forecast £m	Forecast Re-profiling (to) Future Years £m
Children's, Employment and Skills	25.8	14.1	(11.7)
Environment and Regeneration	17.7	20.4	2.7
Housing and Adult Social Services	116.7	116.7	0.0
Total	160.2	151.2	(9.0)

- 6.2. Under the Council's financial regulations, the re-profiling of capital budgets between financial years over £1m on an individual capital scheme is a function of the Executive.

Children's Employment and Skills

- 6.3. The capital forecast for the Children's, Employment and Skills directorate reflects a re-profiling of the budget from 2018-19 to future years to match latest project milestones and cash flows. The Children's, Employment and Skills capital programme remains on time and on budget. This includes the following re-profiling over £1m from 2018-19 to future years:

6.3.1. Tufnell Park School (£4.3m)

6.3.2. Highbury Grove School (£1.0m)

6.3.3. Central Foundation School (£2.7m)

6.3.4. School capital contingency budget and external funding to be allocated (£2.5m)

Environment and Regeneration

- 6.4. The Environment and Regeneration capital forecast requires re-profiling of resources from future years of the agreed capital programme to 2018-19 in order to accelerate spend on fleet across the Council. This will help to deliver savings on vehicle maintenance and hire costs and to ensure compliance with the Low Emission Zone (LEZ) and Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) in London.

Section 106 and Neighbourhood CIL Balances

- 6.5. A summary of the latest Section 106 and Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) balances by ward is provided at **Appendix 4**.

7. **IMPLICATIONS**

Financial Implications

- 7.1. These are included in the main body of the report.

Legal Implications

- 7.2. The law requires that the Council must plan to balance its spending plans against resources to avoid a deficit occurring in any year. Members need to be reasonably satisfied that expenditure is being contained within budget and that the savings for the financial year will be achieved, to ensure that income and expenditure balance.

Environmental Implications

- 7.3. This report does not have any direct environmental implications.

Resident Impact Assessment


- 7.4. The Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The Council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The Council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.
- 7.5. A resident impact assessment (RIA) was carried out for the 2018-19 Budget Report approved by Full Council. This report notes the financial performance to date but does not have direct policy implications, so a separate RIA is not required for this report.

Appendices:

- Appendix 1 – General Fund Revenue Monitoring by Individual Variance
Appendix 2 – Revenue Monitoring by Service Area
Appendix 3 – Capital Monitoring
Appendix 4 – Summary of Section 106 and Neighbourhood CIL Balances by Ward

Background papers: None

Final report clearance:

Signed by:		23 August 2018
	Executive Member for Finance, Performance and Community Safety	Date

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