



Report to Policy Committee

Author/Lead Officer of Report: Ryan Keyworth,
Director of Finance and Commercial Services

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Report of: *Ryan Keyworth*
Report to: *Housing Committee*
Date of Decision: *9 June 2022*
Subject: *Month 1 Monitoring, Financial Position and Budget Timetable*

Has an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) been undertaken?	Yes		No	X	
Has appropriate consultation taken place?	Yes		No	X	
Has a Climate Impact Assessment (CIA) been undertaken?	Yes		No	X	
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	Yes		No	X	

Purpose of Report:

This report brings the Committee up to date with the Council's financial position as at Month 1 2022/23. The report also reports the proposed budget timetable for the development of the 2023/24 budget.

Recommendations:

The Committee is recommended to:

1. Note the Council's challenging financial position and the Month 1 position.
2. Note the budget timetable set out in this report including the requirement for the Committee to plan to develop budget proposals over the course of the summer
3. Note that the Strategy and Resources Committee was recommended at its 31 May 2022 meeting to "require any Policy Committee that is forecasting an overspend on their budget to develop an action plan to address the overspend in-year and ask the Finance Sub-Committee to monitor both the development of any required action plans and delivery against them"
4. Commission work from Officers to develop and implement plans to mitigate the overspend in the Housing Revenue Account and deliver stalled savings plans to bring forecast outturn back in line with budget

Background Papers:

[2022/23 Revenue Budget](#)

Lead Officer to complete:-		
1	I have consulted the relevant departments in respect of any relevant implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist, and comments have been incorporated / additional forms completed / EIA completed, where required.	Finance: <i>Ryan Keyworth, Director of Finance and Commercial Services</i>
		Legal: <i>David Hollis, Assistant Director, Legal and Governance</i>
		Equalities & Consultation: <i>James Henderson, Director of Policy, Performance and Communications</i>
		Climate: n/a
<i>Legal, financial/commercial and equalities implications must be included within the report and the name of the officer consulted must be included above.</i>		
2	SLB member who approved submission:	<i>Ryan Keyworth</i>
3	Committee Chair consulted:	<i>Cllr Terry Fox</i>
4	I confirm that all necessary approval has been obtained in respect of the implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist and that the report has been approved for submission to the Committee by the SLB member indicated at 2. In addition, any additional forms have been completed and signed off as required at 1.	
	Lead Officer Name: <i>Ryan Keyworth</i>	Job Title: <i>Director of Finance and Commercial Services</i>
	Date: <i>26 May 2022</i>	

1. PROPOSAL

1.1 Context

1.1.1 The Council is facing a challenging financial position. It is critical that all Committees stay within the budgets that have been allocated to them by Full Council

1.1.2 A specific recommendation to Council in the [March 2022 budget report](#) supports this:

“d) To note that, if overspends against the agreed budgets emerge, then Executive Directors and Directors will be required to develop and implement plans to mitigate fully any overspend, within 2022/23, in consultation with elected Members;”

1.1.3 This recommendation was further reinforced by an [amendment](#) to the [report establishing the new Committee](#) system approved at Council on 23 March proposed by Cllr Cate McDonald (Executive Member for Finance and Resources), seconded by Cllr Sioned-Mair Richards (Chair of Audit and Standards Committee).

“49. It is the responsibility of each Committee to work within the budget framework agreed by Council. This includes taking timely action to address any overspend within the services for which the Committee is responsible.”

1.2 Background – 2021/22 Out-turn and 2022/23 Budget

1.2.1 The Council finished the 2021/22 financial year with a £20m overspend – helped by one-off income from the NHS.

£m	FY Outturn	FY Budget	FY Variance
People	286.7	264.3	22.4
Place	131.2	135.1	(3.8)
PPC	3.1	3.4	(0.4)
Resources	10.5	8.8	1.7
Corporate	(411.7)	(411.6)	(0.1)
Total	19.8	0.0	19.8

1.2.2 Balancing the 2022/23 Budget required significant savings and a use of reserves. On 2 March 2022, Council approved the 2022/23 budget. That budget required almost £53m of savings proposal and the use of £15m of the Council's one-off reserves to balance it.

£m 22/23	Approved Savings
People	37.7
Place	7.1
PPC	1.2
Resources	6.7
Total	52.7

The Council has also earmarked £25m of reserves to manage the delivery (ie can the saving be realised) and timing risks (ie when can the full saving be delivered) associated with the £52.7m savings.

1.2.3 The Council allocated a total of £70m Reserves to support the Budget from 2021/22

These one-off reserves have been used, or are earmarked as follows:

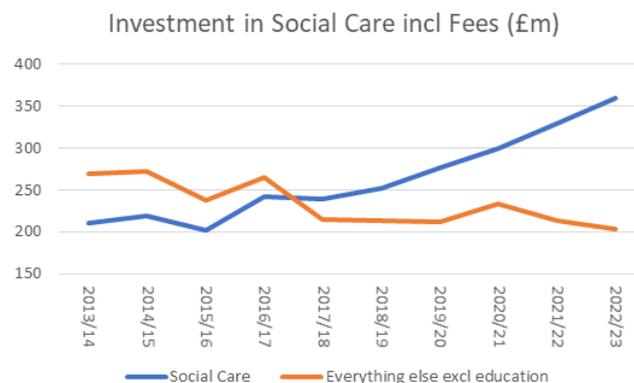
Reserves Usage	£m
2021/22 Overspend	20
2022/23 Budget Balancing	15
2022/23 Current Overspend	19
<i>Unallocated</i>	<i>16</i>
Total	70

1.2.4 The 2022/23 budget, consistent with the Council’s long-term priority, protected investment in key front-line services and in particular social care.

The table below shows how budgets changed from 2021/22 to 2022/23. Effectively, the 2021/22 overspend in People as shown above has been built into the 2022/23 budget. There have been some reallocations between portfolios (eg Libraries) but the message is unaltered:

£m Budget Comparison	2021/22	2022/23	Change
City Futures		43.8	
Operational Services		112.3	
Sub-Total	135.1	156.1	21.0
People	264.3	291.9	27.7
Policy, Performance And Comms	3.4	2.8	(0.6)
Resources	8.8	6.6	(2.2)
Corporate (Incl Use Of Reserves)	(411.6)	(457.4)	
Total	0.0	(0.0)	45.8

1.2.5 Over the longer term and including fee income, this chart shows how the Council has continued to invest in Social Care services with increases of 6% per year for last 10 years and 8% per year for the last 5 years.



1.2.6 The use of reserves can only be one-off. A series of Reviews were commissioned as part of the 2022/23 budget that are designed to save money over the longer term whilst protecting vital services:

Early Intervention & Prevention including Financial Support	Review and consolidation of the Council's early intervention and prevention services including services provided by Children and Families, Housing, Communities, Adult Health and Social Care. Review of the Council's approach to providing financial support / hardships support including the funding and administration of schemes. Including Council Tax support / hardship, s17 payments, No Recourse to Public Funds, Local Assistance Scheme etc
Libraries	Review the Council's Libraries offer, including the remaining 11 Council-run libraries to determine whether any more should become volunteer run libraries.
Accommodation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. City Centre e.g Moorfoot, Howden, Town Hall 2. Locality buildings 3. Depots / operational type bases 4. Community buildings, including all parks/libraries 5. Service tenancies 6. Commercial Estate and leased out
Apprenticeships	Review to explore further opportunities to grow our apprenticeship cohort, saving money and providing opportunities at the same time.
Customer Service	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Communication 2. Access to Services 3. Quality and Timeliness 4. Digital and Self-Service

1.3 Council Portfolio Month 1 2022/23

1.3.1 The Council is forecasting an £18.7m overspend against the 2022/23 budget

Full Year £m	Outturn	Budget Variance	
Corporate	(457.0)	(457.1)	0.1
City Futures	44.6	43.8	0.8
Operational Services	111.9	112.0	(0.1)
People	308.2	291.9	16.3
Policy, Performance Comms	2.9	2.8	0.1
Resources	8.1	6.6	1.5
Total	18.7	0.0	18.7

1.3.2 This overspend is due to a combination of agreed Budget Implementation Plans ("BIPs") not being fully implemented and ongoing cost / demand pressures that are partially offset by one-off saving.

Full Year £m	One-off	BIPs	Trend Variance	
Corporate	-	-	0.1	0.1
City Futures	-	-	0.8	0.8
Operational Services	(3.2)	1.3	1.8	(0.1)
People	(1.2)	15.4	2.1	16.3
Policy, Performance Comms	-	0.1	-	0.1
Resources	-	1.4	0.1	1.5
Total	(4.4)	18.2	4.9	18.7

1.4 Committee Financial Position

1.4.1 Overall Position

The Council is forecasting a £18.7m overspend at Month 1

Within this, there is a £11.6m overspend in Adult Health and Social Care Committee and a £4.7m overspend in Education, Children and Families	Full Year Forecast £m @ Month 1	Outturn	Budget	Variance
Adult Health & Social Care		162.1	150.5	11.6
Education, Children & Families		133.9	129.2	4.7
Housing		8.8	8.8	-
Transport, Regeneration & Climate		41.6	39.9	1.7
Economic Development & Skills		5.8	5.8	-
Waste & Street Scene		53.7	54.2	(0.5)
Communities Parks and Leisure		39.3	39.8	(0.5)
Strategy & Resources		(426.5)	(428.2)	1.7
Total		18.7	0.0	18.7

The majority of the overspend is attributable to forecast shortfall in Business Improvement Plans (BIPs) delivery	Variance Analysis £m @ Month 1	One-off	BIPs	Trend
Adult Health & Social Care		-	9.2	2.4
Education, Children & Families		-	6.3	(1.6)
Housing		-	-	-
Transport, Regeneration & Climate		(0.1)	1.2	0.6
Economic Development & Skills		-	-	-
Waste & Street Scene		(3.0)	-	2.5
Communities Parks and Leisure		(1.4)	-	0.9
Strategy & Resources		-	1.5	0.2
Total		(4.5)	18.2	5.0

£4.5m of one-off savings are mitigating part of the ongoing overspend

Contributions from provisions for energy and waste inflation mitigate the in-year impact of rising baseline costs. These are one-off contributions that will not help our position in 23/23 as the trend continues.

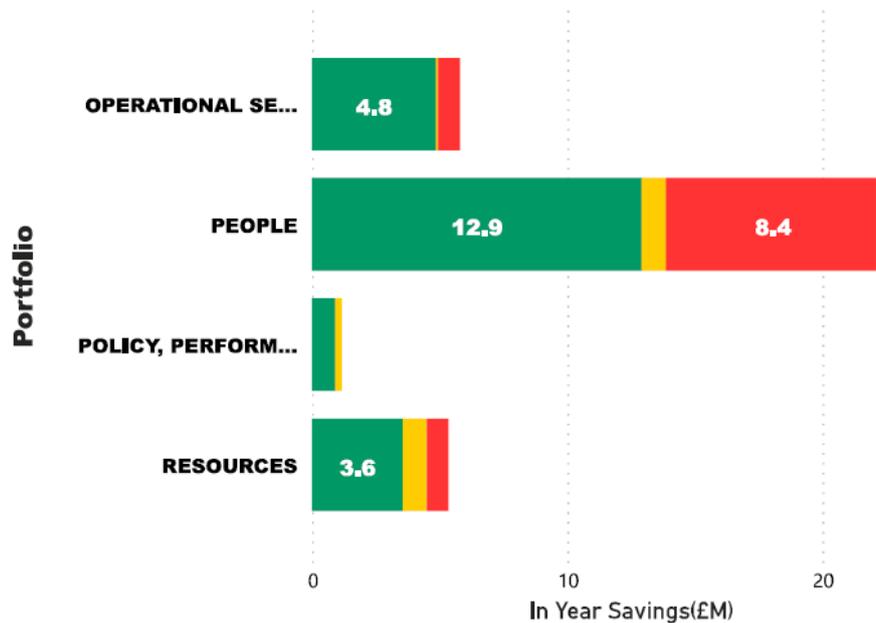
Balancing the 22/23 budget was only possible with £53m of BIPs, £34m are reported as deliverable in year	£m Portfolio	Total Savings 22/23	Deliverable in year	FY Variance
	People	37.7	22.3	15.4
	Operational Services	7.1	5.8	1.3
	PPC	1.2	1.1	0.1
	Resources	6.7	5.3	1.4
	Total	52.7	34.5	18.2

Focus has to be on delivering BIPs in 22/23 and preventing the budget gap from getting any wider

Of the £34m BIPs forecast as being deliverable, £10m are rated Red, which indicates high risk of increased overspending.

£34M Deliverable

Financial RAG ● Green ● Amber ● Red



Adult Health and Social Care are forecast to overspend by £11.6m

The high cost of packages of care put in place during covid has increased our baseline costs into 22/23. Work is underway as part of an investment plan with additional resource to tackle the underlying issues although recruitment issues are impacting our ability to deliver the required savings.

Education, Children and Families are forecast to overspend by £4.7m

Forecast under-delivery of budget implementation plans in the service are the main cause of overspends; plans to reduce staffing and increase income from Health are looking unlikely and the residential children's home strategy requires further work on capital business cases in order to progress. The service needs to provide mitigations to bring overspends back in line with budgets.

1.4.2 Housing Committee - balance in the General Fund but overspend of £6.4m in the Housing Revenue Account at Month 1

The Housing General fund is forecast to be broadly in line with budget.	Full Year Forecast £m @ Month 1	Outturn	Budget	Variance
	Housing General Fund	8.7	8.7	-
	Housing Growth	0.1	0.1	-
	Total	8.8	8.8	-
The Housing Revenue Account is forecast to overspend by £6.4m.	Full Year Forecast £m @ Month 1	Outturn	Budget	Variance
	Net Income – Dwellings	(148.9)	(152.6)	3.7
	Other income	(6.3)	(6.2)	(0.1)
	Repairs & Maintenance	41.4	41.4	-
	Tenant Services	51.9	51.1	0.7
	Council Tax and Repairs Policy and Investment	5.5	3.4	2.1
	Interest on borrowing	13.6	13.6	-
	Contribution to Capital Programme	17.7	24.1	(6.4)
	Total	-	-	-
Vacant properties are resulting in a forecast loss of £3.7m in rent.	<p>The loss of rental income is forecast to be £3.7m for the year largely due to the speed of turnaround in the repairs and maintenance service resulting in vacant properties.</p> <p>The Business Plan assumes a voids rate of 1.84%, but the current rate of voids is significantly higher. Although plans are in place to reduce this in 2022/23, the current void rate is more like 3.5%.</p>			
Vacant properties also result in £2m of additional forecast cost.	<p>The current forecast includes a £1m of additional costs for council tax on empty properties, and a further £1m extra costs for legal fees from increasing disrepair claims.</p>			
Tenant Services	<p>£1m of costs for furnished accommodation due to increased demand.</p>			
High inflation poses a risk to the business plan.	<p>The HRA Business Plan assumes rental income to increase by CPI +1%. CPI is currently running at a higher rate than originally assumed at 2%. 22/23 CPI is 7.4% latest business planning assumptions forecast the position to stabilise back to 2% by 24/25 but remain high in 23/24. This needs further consideration in the business plan.</p> <p>Energy inflation at around 100% is forecast to add an additional cost pressure of around £1.8m in 22/23. This cost is forecast to be offset this year from specific earmarked reserves, but clearly this not sustainable.</p>			
The Housing Repairs Service is forecast to outturn to budget which requires a £5m reduction to spend	<p>There is an underlying risk in the repairs service forecast cost of c£5m. The current assumption is that spend is to budget, but this requires a reduction of around £0.5m per month on current spend rates to be identified and implemented.</p>			
The community heating account is forecast to	Full Year Forecast £m @ Month 1	Outturn	Budget	Variance
	Income	(3.2)	(3.3)	0.1

overspend by £800k due to rising energy prices	Expenditure	3.9	3.2	0.7
	Total	0.7	(0.1)	0.8

Overspends in the HRA impact the capital programme Without significant savings in revenue budgets, the current capital programme is not affordable. The month 1 outturn position shows a negative contribution to the programme

1.5 Outlook for 2023/24 and Beyond

1.5.1 We do not expect to receive additional core funding – the trend in government is to support specific initiatives rather than general funding uplifts. In any case, the Local Government finance settlement is normally issued just before Christmas – far too late to support a budget process.

The best we can hope for is that the government will recognise and provide funding to cover the current high rates of inflation, although there are no indications from government on this and we would not expect to get any confirmation until the Autumn Statement at the earliest.

1.5.2 We are working on the Medium Term Financial Analysis which will provide our best estimate of the Council's overall financial position for the next few years. We normally produce this over the summer for publication in the early Autumn, but this year, we are bringing it forward to July because of the Council's difficult financial position.

1.5.3 There is likely to be a significant budget gap to bridge for 2023/24

Possible 2023/24 Budget Gap	£m
Use of Reserves in 2022/23 Budget	15
Current 2022/23 Forecast Overspend	19
One-offs being used in 2022/23	4
Ball-park inflationary / demand pressures	?45?
Expected Grant / Council Tax Increase	(15)
Potential Budget Gap	68

1.6 2023/24 Budget Timetable

1.6.1 The high-level timetable for the 2023/24 budget has been structured around the Committee timetable. This timetable will require significant work from Policy Committees over the summer and will mean that budget proposals from Committees will be reported during September.

Throughout June 2022	Budget Monitoring and timetable Reports to Policy Committees at Month 1 2022/23.
5 July 2022	Medium Term Financial Analysis to Strategy and Resources Committee . Strategy and Resources Committee sets Policy Committee budget targets.
July – September 2022	Policy Committees develop Revenue and Capital budget proposals to address any cost or demand pressures within the budget allocated by Strategy and Resources Committee.

Throughout September 2022	Policy Committee meetings to formally set out how they are going to deliver their budget – reporting the results of the work done over the summer.
12 October 2022	Consolidated budget report based on individual Policy Committee work to Strategy and Resources Committee .
Throughout November 2022	Policy Committee meetings formally to sign-off budgets after any changes from Strategy and Resources Committee in October
5 December 2022	Overall budget formally signed off by Strategy and Resources including the Housing Revenue Account Rent setting report as part of the Housing Policy Committee's budget.
24 January 2023	Budget report formally approved by Strategy and Resources with recommendations to Full Council
1st February 2023	Housing Revenue Account budget approved at Full Council , together with the Rent Setting decision
1st March 2023	2023/24 Revenue and Capital Budgets to Full Council

2. HOW DOES THIS DECISION CONTRIBUTE?

- 2.1 The recommendations in this report will ensure that the Council has a robust budget process for 2023/24 and will ensure that each Policy Committee undertakes any work required to both balance their 2022/23 budget and prepare for the 2023/24 budget.

3. HAS THERE BEEN ANY CONSULTATION?

- 3.1 There has been no consultation on this report, however, it is anticipated that the budget process itself will involve significant consultation as the Policy Committees develop their budget proposals

4. RISK ANALYSIS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

4.1 Equality Implications

- 4.1.1 There are no direct equality implications arising from this report. It is expected that individual Committees will use equality impact analyses as a basis for the development of their budget proposals in due course.

4.2 Financial and Commercial Implications

- 4.2.1 There are no direct financial implications from this report.

4.3 Legal Implications

- 4.3.1 Under section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003, the Chief Finance Officer of an authority is required to report on the following matters:

- the robustness of the estimates made for the purposes of determining its budget requirement for the forthcoming year; and
- the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves.

- 4.3.2 There is also a requirement for the authority to have regard to the report of the Chief Finance Officer when making decisions on its budget requirement and level of financial reserves.

4.3.3 By the law the Council must set and deliver a balanced budget, which is a financial plan based on sound assumptions which shows how income will equal spend over the short- and medium-term. This can take into account deliverable cost savings and/or local income growth strategies as well as useable reserves. However, a budget will not be balanced where it reduces reserves to unacceptably low levels and regard must be had to any report of the Chief Finance Officer on the required level of reserves under section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003, which sets obligations of adequacy on controlled reserves.

4.4 Climate Implications

4.4.1 There are no direct equality implications arising from this report. It is expected that individual Committees will consider climate implications as they develop their budget proposals in due course.

4.4 Other Implications

4.4.1 No direct implication

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 The Council is required to both set a balance budget and to ensure that in-year income and expenditure are balanced. No other alternatives were considered.

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