

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE

Date of Meeting: 7 July 2020

REPORT TO COUNCIL

Date of Meeting: 21 July 2020

Report of: Chief Finance Officer

Title: Overview of General Fund Revenue Budget 2019/20

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Is this an Executive or Council Function?

Council

1. What is the report about?

To advise Members of the overall financial position of the General Fund Revenue Budgets for the 2019/20 financial year and to seek approval for the General Fund working balance, a number of supplementary budgets and the creation of a new earmarked reserve.

2. Recommendations:

It is recommended that Members of the Executive note the report and Council notes and approves (where applicable):

- i. That the net transfer of £717,309 from Earmarked Reserves as detailed in paragraph 8.11 is approved
- ii. The supplementary budgets of £1,198,960 and budget transfers as detailed in paragraph 8.13;
- iii. That the Earmarked Reserves at 31 March 2020 be noted
- iv. That the Council Tax account and collection rate be noted
- v. That the outstanding sundry debt, aged debt analysis and debt write-off figures be noted
- vi. The creditors payment be noted
- vii. By taking into account the overall financial position of the Council, the General Fund working balance at 31 March 2020, be approved at £5,856,249;

3. Reasons for the recommendation:

To formally approve the Council's end of year financial position and carry forward any budgets that were not spent but where the funding is still required.

4. What are the resource implications including non financial resources.

The impact on the General Fund working balance is set out in sections 8.12.

5. Section 151 Officer comments:

The report needs to be read in the context of the Council's current financial position, which is the subject of the emergency budget report later on the agenda. Local Authorities are facing unprecedented financial challenges as a result of Covid-19. The Finance team have taken decisions to put the Council in the best possible financial position to address the financial difficulties faced. Decisions to offset the statutory repayment of debt against prior year overpayments and to refinance the capital programme using capital receipts rather than capital contributions are not taken lightly.

Members should note the difficult choices being taken, such as postponing £332,000 of supplementary budgets (Appendix 4). The Council faces continued financial challenges and will have a significant savings target over the medium term financial plan.

6. What are the legal aspects?

The Local Government Finance Act 1992 places a legal requirement on Council to approve not only the budget but also any changes to the budget proposed during the year. Council has a legal duty to ensure that the budget is balanced and that any changes to the budget are fully funded.

7. Monitoring Officer's comments:

This report raises no issues for the Monitoring Officer.

8. Report details:

Overview of General Fund Revenue Budget 2019/20

8.1 Financial Summary

FUND	Planned Transfer To / (From) Working Balance	Outturn Transfer To / (From) Working Balance	Outturn Variance
	£	£	£
General Fund	(849,250)	1,461,225	2,310,475

The outturn position of General Fund Revenue has enabled £1,461,225 to be transferred to the Working Balance at the end of the financial year, taking it from £4,395,024 to £5,856,249. Please also refer to para. 8.12.

8.2 General Fund (Appendix 1 & Appendix 2)

The Service Committees show an overall underspend of £2,158,845 against a revised budget of £24,332,110. Variances of more than +/- £30,000 are detailed below:

8.3 Chief Executive & Growth Director

Budget Heading	Over / (Underspend)
IT Services	(£172,255)
<p>Responsible Officer: Corporate Manager, Executive Support</p> <p>The refunds from Strata to shareholders were higher than anticipated.</p>	
Strategic Management	(£32,642)
<p>Responsible Officer: Chief Executive & Growth Director</p> <p>Work on the Commercialisation Website commenced in 2019/20 but has not yet finished, a supplementary budget will be requested for 2020/21. This project is being funded from the Transformation Reserve.</p>	

8.4 Communities, Health, Well Being & Leisure

Budget Heading	Over / (Underspend)
Active & Healthy People	(£187,503)
<p>Responsible Officer: Active & Healthy People Programme Lead</p> <p>£80,000 staff costs that were erroneously included within the ECC budget have now been correctly transferred to the budget that relates to the grant funding from Sport England for the Local Delivery Pilot.</p> <p>The three year Exeter Voluntary and Community Support Sector Service Contract commenced in December 2019 instead of September 2019; this budget is funded by Neighbourhood CIL contributions and so the 2019/20 underspend will be re-allocated over the three years of the contract.</p>	
St Sidwells Point	(£122,428)
<p>Responsible Officer: Director</p> <p>Works are still progressing on the project and a supplementary budget will be requested for 2020/21.</p>	
Grants and Social Inclusion	(£429,079)
<p>Responsible Officer: Active & Healthy People Programme Lead</p> <p>The new Exeter Grants Programme funded by Neighbourhood CIL and New Homes Bonus was introduced in September, this has resulted in a one-off in year underspend against plan of £61k. £368k of the new grants funding available was not allocated in this financial year, but the funding will be available to re-allocate in future years.</p>	

8.5 Strategic Housing, City Development, Housing Needs & Homelessness, Customer Services, Welfare Reform, Revenues, Benefits & Business Rates and Democratic Services

Budget Heading	Over / (Underspend)
Housing Needs & Homelessness	(£35,522)
<p>Responsible Officer: Service Lead, Housing Needs & Homelessness</p> <p>The Devon Home Choice budget included an allowance for new IT software including significant installation costs, however, the tender was won by the existing provider so the additional expenditure was not required. The Devon Home Choice budget is funded by members of the scheme through funds held in a reserve.</p>	
General Fund Housing - Property	£99,618
<p>Responsible Officer: Service Lead – Housing Tenancy Services & Service Lead – Housing Assets</p> <p>The Housing Needs team reassessed and re-banded a large number of households in Private Sector Leased (PSL) properties in order to create some move-on out of temporary accommodation. This provided an opportunity to handback some PSL properties with financially onerous lease agreements, this led to a rise in handback costs alongside a reduction in rental income. Although this represents an in-year overspend, it will achieve future revenue savings due to ending leases with favourable terms to the landlord.</p>	
Planning Services	(£333,813)
<p>Responsible Officer: City Development Manager</p> <p>Planning fee income has been higher than anticipated this year due to a number of major planning applications. Fee income attributable to the 20% fee uplift introduced in 2018 can only be used to improve the Planning service, there was a surplus of £109k of unspent fee uplift income at year end and this will be transferred to an earmarked reserve, the remaining additional income will increase the ECC general fund working balance.</p> <p>A £75k budget requested to pay consultants to review the Community Infrastructure Levy charging schedule remains fully unspent, a supplementary budget for 2020/21 will be requested. This budget will be fully funded from CIL contributions.</p> <p>£38k of Habitats Mitigation contributions has been collected from developers, this will also be transferred into an earmarked reserve.</p>	
Revenues, Benefits & Customer Access	£344,397
<p>Responsible Officer: System Lead Revenues, Benefits & Customer Access</p> <p>It has been necessary to review the Council's loss allowances (formerly bad debt provisions) for a range of outstanding debts, in order to ensure prudent provision is made for non-recovery. The calculation needs to reflect both historical payment patterns and also future expectations of recovery. Therefore, the Covid19 pandemic must be taken into account when making this assessment, which has unfortunately impacted on recovery rates and risk of default across most Council debts.</p>	

The recovery of overpaid housing benefits has been reviewed and resulted in an increase in the loss allowance of £189k. This does not reflect a significant change in the level of arrears at 31/3/2020, it is an estimate of credit risk and the estimated impact of Covid19. This is a necessary accounting cost rather than a reflection of service performance.

£13k has been spent on Welfare Support, this expenditure is all funded from an earmarked reserve.

There is a £142k variance against the housing benefits and subsidy budgets, this represents a variance of 0.4% against the £36m budget. Due to the introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act the use of Bed & Breakfast accommodation has increased in 2019/20. Exeter City Council has to pay the full cost of the accommodation to the provider but the subsidy that can be claimed for this class of accommodation is capped at £121.15 per week.

Liveable Exeter Garden City	(£604,562)
------------------------------------	-------------------

Responsible Officer: Project Director – Liveable Exeter

Work has commenced on the project. A supplementary budget will be requested for 2020/21, all expenditure is funded from an earmarked reserve.

8.6 Communication, Tourism & Culture

Budget Heading	Over / (Underspend)
Culture	(£45,568)

Responsible Officer: Service Lead Communications, Tourism & Culture

The Service has brought in an unbudgeted £50,000 for the 2019 Exeter Festival (mainly events and sponsorship) with other grants plus sales and sponsorship. These offset part of the costs of the events, giving the net underspend of £45,570.

Markets & Halls	(£129,845)
----------------------------	-------------------

Responsible Officer: Facilities & Markets Manager

As in previous years, the Markets and Halls team actively look for income-generating opportunities and have again increased their contribution to better than budget. This year car boot sales, street markets, and events at Matford were down (due to general economic pressures) but this was more than made up-for by invoiced income from the livestock auctioneer's commission ('Markets') £101,950 better than budget while ticket sales for Corn Exchange events ('Halls') were £27,895 better than budget.

Museum Service	(£596,760)
<p>Responsible Officer: Service Lead, Museums</p> <p>The Council is currently awaiting the results of the Valuation Tribunal Service considering the Museum's reduced business-rates (NDR) valuation and has incurred £85,770 legal costs, offset by a £70,000 contribution towards those costs that the Service Lead has obtained on behalf of other museums who will be affected by the rates-appeal decision. If the Council is successful, the revised valuation will be confirmed and RAMM will see its annual rates bill fall from around £375,000 a year to around £65,000 at most. It is proposed that the 2019/20 rates underspend of £315,758 be transferred to an earmarked reserve in case we are required to repay.</p> <p>A credit balance of £251,098 has built up from residual ACE funding. This element of ACE external funding is a contribution to full cost recovery and the ongoing infrastructure costs that will require management in the eventuality RAMM exits the programme. It is proposed that this is transferred into an earmarked reserve and utilisation of the funding will focus on funding projects and initiatives that enhance the sustainability of RAMM and its services in these circumstances.</p> <p>The main operational variances include £14,250 more income from events, £5,590 more from casual lettings and £8,235 more from lessons and courses than had been budgeted, and a £16,800 saving in CCTV camera maintenance as the contract had been cancelled pending other arrangements. The Service is requesting that the £16,800 CCTV saving be carried-forward into 2020/21 ready to meet RAMM's costs of the City Council's overall revised CCTV facilities.</p> <p>As in previous years, the RAMM Shop achieved good margins on its sales but, because footfall in the Shop is significantly restricted by the lack of space available, was unable to make enough sales to meet its contribution target (this year falling short by £19,360).</p>	
Visitor Facilities	£41,867
<p>Responsible Officer: Facilities & Markets Manager</p> <p>Temporary staff have provided cover for long-term sickness and for Quay Words events, there has been a reduction in commission received from ticket sales as more and more people buy directly on-line and not from EVIT. A small amount of lettings income was foregone as space was made available to Quay Words.</p>	

8.7 Environment and City Management

Budget Heading	Over / (Underspend)
Public Safety	(£30,071)
<p>Responsible Officer: Community Safety & Enforcement Service Manager</p> <p>A £30,000 budget that was to be funded from the Transformation Fund for CCTV modernisation was not utilised.</p>	

Parks and Green Spaces	(£204,345)
<p>Responsible Officer: Public & Green Space Operations Manager</p> <p>Long term sickness within the team prevented the planned works on children's play equipment from being completed, leading to an underspend of £152,000 on these works. A request for a supplementary budget for 2020/21 will be put forward.</p> <p>Vehicle and plant sales generated additional income of £15,000. Rents received exceeded the budget by £18,000</p> <p>Other net savings of £19,000 arose throughout the service.</p>	
Street Cleaning	(£67,873)
<p>Responsible Officer: Public & Green Space Operations Manager</p> <p>Staff costs were £39,000 less than the budget.</p> <p>Fuel costs for fleet vehicles and plant were £23,000 less than the budget.</p> <p>Vehicle and plant sales generated additional income of £6,000</p>	
Cleansing Chargeable Services	£330,488
<p>Responsible Officer: Service Lead, Cleansing and Fleet</p> <p>The new on-campus contract for the University of Exeter and the strong performance of the Garden Waste subscription service in attracting new subscribers have significantly contributed to the year-end outturn, and at Quarter 3 were expected to indicate an outturn better than budget. However, in the last quarter of the year it became apparent that disposing of unrecyclable trade waste would cost £124,000 more than budgeted, and purchasing new bins (including 400 for the University contract) cost £104,000 more than budgeted; future bin replacement budgets will be set on a rolling three-year cycle, to allow for ups and downs in the requirements. Agency staff required to maintain service levels cost £49,000 more than budgeted. These areas will be very closely monitored during 2020/21.</p>	
Exton Road Overheads and Fleet	£74,872
<p>Responsible Officer: Service Lead, Cleansing and Fleet</p> <p>The regular contracted clearing of Oakwood House drains now required after washing street-cleaners and other vehicles is costing around £25,000 a year more than budgeted; electricity cost £9,625 more than budgeted. Purchases of routine PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) during the year have cost £10,600 more than budgeted, but this is an irregular cost. £12,415 was spent on minor fleet improvements and subscriptions for GPS services essential for efficient fleet management, with short-term hire costing £7,180.</p>	
Recycling	£559,408
<p>Responsible Officer: Service Lead, Cleansing and Fleet</p> <p>Previous reports have noted the volatility and unpredictability of the global recycling market. This area has been under worsening pressure all year, with</p>	

- global recyclates prices collapsing - card sorted for recycling used to bring in £88 per ton and the price obtainable has fallen as low as £12 per ton, paper has dropped from £103 to £68, and glass has been unsaleable for some time.
- breakdowns with the MRF (Materials Recycling Facility) both increasing costs and stopping income generation (material that would be sorted for recycling and then sold instead has to be sent to other facilities who charge for disposal) - the Service is confident that the approved investment in kerbside recycling from 2021 will eliminate this barrier to recycling rates and saleability of recovered material
- significant extra pay costs covering long-term sickness absence and additional processing of material for recycling.

As a result, the total costs of recycling activities have gone up while income has gone down, and with a Service cost-base of £1,417,110 before income, changes quickly have material impact on full-year outturn. Recyclate sales income is £228,950 worse than budget and recycling credits are £92,790 worse than budget. Processing materials at other MRFs cost £117,000 more than budgeted and breakdowns cost an unbudgeted £54,000.

The reasons for the full 2019/20 results have been reviewed in depth and savings opportunities and areas for priority control have been identified. While little can be done about sale prices achievable, the Service is already making changes in practices that will reduce costs - these are medium term measures until the MRF and kerbside recycling capital investment is implemented in 2021/22.

Corporate Property - Estates

(£477,024)

Responsible Officer: City Surveyor

Additional rental and other income of £483,000 arose in this service. This was mainly as a result of rental income from Senate Court and 1, Emperor Way, partially offset by reduced rental income from the Guildhall shop.

Income from electricity generated by solar panels on various properties exceeded the budget by £6,000

The £60,000 budget for the Corporate Asset Challenge was not spent, and a request to carry this budget into 2020/21 will be put forward.

Empty property rates costs were £21,000 less than the budget. Expenditure on supplies and services throughout the service were £7,000 less than the budget. Staff vacancies resulted in a £7,000 reduction in pay costs.

Net Internal Recharges borne by this service were £66,000 less than the budget. £52,000 of this is offset by reduced income in Corporate Property – Assets (below)

Following a review of bad debt provisions across the Council, an increase of £40,000 was made in this service reflecting the impact of Covid 19 on expected recovery levels

Additional costs of £73,000 arose as a result of lease requirements at several properties including the Civic Centre, Paris Street Cafe, Swan Yard Workshop, 78 Birchy Barton Hill and Bradninch Place. These are offset by savings in the Corporate Property – Assets unit (below)

Parking Services	£218,357
<p>Responsible Officer: Community Safety & Enforcement Service Manager</p> <p>The impact of the lockdown due to Covid19 resulted in greatly reduced income in the final weeks of the year; overall income from parking was £317,000 less than budgeted.</p> <p>Additional net costs of £44,000 are arose mainly in respect of increased charges for pay by phone and card payments and security costs, partially offset by lower utility and insurance costs.</p> <p>Backdated refunds of National Non Domestic Rates (NNDR) for three car parks have resulted in a saving of £113,000</p> <p>Staffing vacancies resulted in pay savings of £30,000</p>	
Growth & Commercialisation	(£36,483)
<p>Responsible Officer: Growth and Commercialisation Manager</p> <p>This Service is involved in many external and partnership initiatives. A number of growth projects scheduled for 2019/20 have been put on hold to determine partners and purpose; the Service had originally requested unapplied project funds totalling £45,100 be carried-forward into 2020/21 as a supplementary budget, and has now withdrawn that request as a contribution to the Covid19 impact savings. The Service will seek to meet the growth project objectives through other means.</p>	
Engineering Services	(£36,664)
<p>Responsible Officer: Public & Green Space Operations Manager</p> <p>Pay costs were £17,000 less than the budget mainly due to an officer taking flexible retirement.</p> <p>Works expected to cost £13,000 were delayed by the lockdown due to Covid19; a request will be made for a supplementary budget in 2020/21 to enable these works to be completed.</p> <p>Further net savings of £7,000 arose across the service.</p>	
Major Projects	(£285,950)
<p>Responsible Officer: City Surveyor</p> <p>A supplementary budget of £265,400 was approved at Council on 23 July 2019 in connection with the Bus Station Wider Options. As at 31 March 2020 only £101,141 had been spent; a £164,259 supplementary budget will be requested in 2020/21 to enable this work to continue.</p> <p>A supplementary budget of £112,000 was approved at Council on 23 July 2019 in connection with the demolition of Clifton Hill, and a further £4,640 budgets were vired from Leisure for ongoing revenue costs. As at 31 March 2020 only £33,702 had been spent; a £82,941 supplementary budget will be requested in 2020/21 to enable this work to continue.</p> <p>The contingency budget in this unit of £38,750 was not spent.</p>	

Corporate Property - Assets	(£148,460)
<p>Responsible Officer: City Surveyor</p> <p>Savings on asset improvement and maintenance costs were £101,000 less than the budget, partially offset by the £73,000 overspend in Corporate Property - Estates</p> <p>An £18,000 European Regional Development Fund grant has been received reducing net costs in this service.</p> <p>Pay costs were £27,000 less than the budget due to a vacant post.</p> <p>Internal income from recharges to other services was £52,000 less than the budget; this is offset by savings on internal charges in Corporate Property – Estates.</p> <p>Net additional costs of £6,000 arose across the unit</p>	
Corporate Property - Energy	(£55,048)
<p>Responsible Officer: City Surveyor</p> <p>A £54,000 European Regional Development Fund grant has been received reducing net costs in this service.</p> <p>Maintenance costs were £12,000 less than the budget.</p> <p>Internal income from recharges to other services was £11,000 less than the budget</p>	

8.8 Chief Finance Officer

Budget Heading	Over / (Underspend)
Corporate	£31,924
<p>Responsible Officer: Chief Finance Officer</p> <p>The overspend in this unit relates to Bank Charges in excess of the budget and administration fees incurred on new loans from the Public Works Loans Board.</p>	
Unapportionable Overheads	£71,941
<p>Responsible Officer: Chief Finance Officer</p> <p>The overspend in this unit arises from pension Strain Costs.</p>	
Financial Services	(£43,572)
<p>Responsible Officer: Deputy Chief Finance Officer</p> <p>Delays recruiting to the new Financial Services Team structure have resulted in reduced pay costs. In addition, income was received from Exeter City Living for provision of financial services. These savings were partially offset by additional IT and consultancy costs for the finance software systems.</p>	

Procurement	£89,885
<p>Responsible Officer: Service Lead - Commercial and Procurement</p> <p>The procurement department is still undertaking work to improve and firm up the council's procurement processes. This work is designed to identify and achieve efficiency savings however, the forecast position means that this remains an area of uncertainty. At present, areas benefiting from the service's work may reflect reduced costs in awarding contracts. These savings by the department have not been reflected in the outturn position for the 2019/20 year as had been projected.</p>	

8.9 City Solicitor

Budget Heading	Over / (Underspend)
Legal Services	£169,350
<p>Responsible Officer: Service Lead – HR</p> <p>Costs totalling £231,000 have been incurred regarding the long-running dispute over building work at RAMM; these will be covered by transfer from the earmarked reserve.</p> <p>Pay costs across the service were less than the budget, and income from recovery of legal costs, charges for services provided for Exeter City Living and internal recharges for other council departments exceeded the budget.</p>	

8.10 Other Financial Variations

Budget Heading	Over / (Underspend)
Net Interest	(£312,996)
<p>Interest paid was lower than expected due to the timing of borrowings in the year, loans were agreed at a time when rates were very favourable; this will result in significantly less interest being paid by the Council over the term of the loans than originally anticipated.</p> <p>Interest earned was higher than expected as the Council had more surplus cash than anticipated during the year, largely due to delays across the capital programme and the timing of borrowing. This surplus cash was put into temporary investments which resulted in higher than anticipated returns.</p>	
Minimum/Voluntary Revenue Provision	(£1,627,240)
<p>The Council is setting aside a prudent provision for repayment of debt, however it is taking advantage of paragraph 26 of the statutory guidance issued by MHCLG to offset that prudent provision against prior year voluntary overpayments. The balance relates to the lease element of the new fleet contract, which it is prudent to account for in the year to which it relates.</p>	

Business Rates	(£697,642)
<p>A better than budgeted performance from the Devon Business Rates pool is anticipated. Alongside this, the performance of Exeter means that the Collection Fund relating to Business Rates is in surplus and therefore, there will be a positive contribution to the 2020/21 budget.</p>	

8.11 Earmarked Reserves

During 2019/20 there has been an overall net transfer from Earmarked Reserves of £717,309. The details of all Earmarked Reserve movements are shown in Appendix 3.

Movement	2019/20
Opening Balance, as at 01/04/19	£9,247,185
Net transfer	(£717,309)
Balance, as at 31/03/20	£8,529,876

8.12 General Fund Balance

During 2019/20 there has been an overall net contribution to the General Fund Balance of £1,461,225. The minimum requirement for the General Fund working balance was approved by Council in February 2019 at £3 million.

Movement	2019/20
Opening Balance, as at 01/04/19	£4,395,024
Transfer To Working Balance	£1,461,225
Balance as at 31/03/20	£5,856,249

8.13 Supplementary Budgets & Budget Transfers

There is a requirement for some supplementary budgets in 2020/21 as the Council has identified at the end of the year a number of revenue budgets that have not been spent but where a commitment is required in the following financial year.

It is therefore proposed that supplementary budgets totalling £1,198,960 identified in Appendix 4 are approved and added to the 2020/21 budget. Existing grants budgets that were to be funded from Neighbourhood CIL are to be reduced to enable the funding to be utilised elsewhere, this will be reviewed throughout the year. The remainder of the supplementary budgets will be financed from Earmarked Reserves (£1,143,440), CIL Admin (£75k) and the General Fund working balance (£118,520).

The impact on the projected General Fund working balance will be to reduce it to £5,737,729, which is above the minimum required for the Council.

Members must also note the supplementary budgets requested in Appendix 4, which it is not proposed to take forward at this stage. These total £331,670 and will be held pending certainty over the Council's future financial position.

Appendix 4 also lists proposed budget transfers which have been identified where budgets need to be transferred from one service area to another.

8.14 Council Tax

As at 1 April 2019, arrears amounted to £4.114m, the movements during 2019/20 were as follows:

	£m	£m
Arrears as at 1 April 2019		4.114
Add:		
2019/20 debits raised net of discounts	69.504	
Less:		
Payments received	(69.802)	
Refunds and change in pre-payments	0.962	
Write-offs	(0.268)	
Arrears as at 31 March 2020		4.510

Against the arrears of £4.510m, a bad and doubtful debt provision of £1.770m has been provided, calculated in accordance with the appropriate accounting guidelines.

The 'In-Year' collection rate has increased in comparison with the previous year. The collection rate for 2019/20 was 96.9% compared with 97.1% in 2018/19.

8.15 Outstanding Sundry Debt

An aged debt analysis of the Council's sundry debts is shown in the table below.

Age of Debt	March 2019	March 2020
Up to 29 days (current)	£1,356,559	£2,399,454
30 days – 1 Year	£1,613,514	£1,530,103
1 – 2 years	£647,966	£451,358
2 – 3 years	£617,436	£550,482
3 – 4 years	£511,466	£276,837
4 – 5 years	£275,815	£417,580
5 + years	£583,089	£752,772
Total	£5,605,845	£6,378,586

8.16 Debt Write-Offs

The following amounts have been written-off during 2019/20:

	2018/19 Total	2019/20
• Council Tax	£351,917	£268,615
• Business Rates	£73,387	£1,924,524
• Sundry Debt	£52,786	£36,552
• Housing Rents	£65,824	£74,727
• Non-HRA Rents	£167,125	£91,418
• HB Overpayments	£195,758	£153,310

8.17 Creditor Payments Performance

Creditors' payments continue to be monitored in spite of the withdrawal of statutory performance indicator BVPI8. The percentage paid within 30 days was 94.51% for 2019/20 compared with 94.47% for 2018/19.

9. How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan?

This is a statement of the projected financial position to the end of the 2019/20.

10. What risks are there and how can they be reduced?

The risks relate to overspending the Council budget and are mitigated by regular reporting to the Strategic Management Board and Members.

11. Equality Act 2010 (The Act)

11.1 Under the Act's Public Sector Equalities Duty, decision makers are required to consider the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other prohibited conduct;
- advance equality by encouraging participation, removing disadvantage, taking account of disabilities and meeting people's needs; and
- foster good relations between people by tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

11.2 In order to comply with the general duty authorities must assess the impact on equality of decisions, policies and practices. These duties do not prevent the authority from reducing services where necessary, but they offer a way of developing proposals that consider the impacts on all members of the community.

11.3 In making decisions the authority must take into account the potential impact of that decision in relation to age, disability, race/ethnicity (includes Gypsies and Travellers), sex and gender, gender identity, religion and belief, sexual orientation, pregnant women and new and breastfeeding mothers, marriage and civil partnership status in coming to a decision.

11.4 In recommending this proposal no potential impact has been identified on people with protected characteristics as determined by the Act because: because

11.4.1 There are no significant equality and diversity impacts associated with this decision.

12. Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

There are no direct carbon/environmental impacts arising from the recommendations.

13. Are there any other options?

Not applicable.

Dave Hodgson, Chief Finance Officer

Author: Nicola Matthews-Morley, Michelle White, Sally Reeve, Adrian Rutter and Rajah Mukwiri

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972 (as amended)

Background papers used in compiling this report:-
None

Contact for enquires:
Democratic Services (Committees)
Room 4.36
01392 265275