

Cabinet
19 February 2014

12.30 pm

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REVENUE MONITORING REPORT - PERIOD 9 2013/14

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1. Summary

The report sets out the Revenue forecast for 2013/14 as at Period 9 and identifies management actions being undertaken to ensure a balanced budget at the end of this financial year.

The projected overspend at Period 9 has reduced by £0.698m since Period 6 as a result of additional savings within Children's Services and Resources & Support. These have been offset by further increases in the Adult Social Care overspend since Period 6. The Council has introduced a spending freeze which is anticipated to deliver £0.893m of savings in the remaining three months.

The key issues highlighted by this report are that:

- The projected outturn is an overspend of £1.941m.
- The projected General Fund Balance as at 31 March 2014 is £12.055m.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that Members:

- A. Note that at the end of Period 9 (27 December 2013), the full year forecast is a potential overspend of £1.941m;
- B. Consider the impact of this on the Council's General Fund Balance.

REPORT

3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

3.1. Details of the potential risks affecting the balances and financial health of the Council are detailed within the report. Each projection is also RAG rated to confirm the level of risk to the Council's balances.

4. Financial Implications

4.1. This report considers the projected outturn position for the 2013/14 revenue budget and the implications on the level of general fund balances of any overspends or spending pressures.

5. Background

- 5.1. Revenue budget monitors are produced to report on the period from June (Period 3) to February (Period 11) of each financial year and show the anticipated year end projection.
- 5.2. The reports track progress against the agreed budget decisions, forecast any significant variances to the budget, and enable corrective action to be taken to ensure a balanced budget at year end.
- 5.3. Variances are reported on an exceptions basis depending on the total variance from budget, and the percentage change in projection in any one period.

Green Variance +/- 1% (or £50k if budget less than £5m)

Amber Overspend between 1%-2% (or £50k-£100k if budget less than £5m)

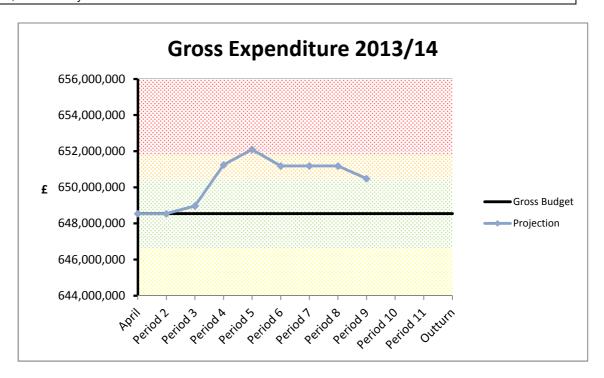
Red Variance over 2% (or £100k if budget less than £5m)

Yellow Underspend more than 1% (or £50k if budget less than £5m)

Variances categorised as red will be reported within every report whilst they remain in this category, to monitor management action taken to address the budgetary pressure. Pressures highlighted as amber or yellow will be reported when the variance first commences, and then will only be re-reported when the reported position changes by more than 1% (or £50k if budget less than £5m). Variances categorised as green will not be highlighted in the monitoring reports.

6. Monitoring 2013/14 Budget - Overall Position

- 6.1. The projected revenue forecast for the year, at Period 9, shows a potential overspend of £1.941m (0.30%) on a gross budget of £648m (net £232m) for the full year. The forecast year end position for the whole council will be revised each month and reported using the graph below. The area of the graph banded green shows the extent of variance from the budget that would be seen as reasonable given the size and complexity of the Council's budget. At Period 9 the projected year end overspend of £1.941m is falling within the amber banding, which has improved since Period 6. The net reduction of £0.698m consists of the following changes in projections:
 - increased cost pressures within Adult Social Care (£1.788m),
 - net transport savings within Children's Services (-£0.395m)
 - additional savings identified within Resources & Support (-£1.189m)
 - savings to be generated from the spending freeze (-£0.893m).



6.2 The table below reflects the approved virements processed up to and including Period 9:

Table 1: 2013/14 Budget Amendments Analysed by Service Area

Service Area	Original	Net	Revised
	Budget	Virements	Budget
	£'000	£000	£000
Gross Expenditure			
Commissioning	125,744	(2,153)	123,591
Adult Services	91,826	6,197	98,023
Childrens Services	268,045	(6,751)	261,294
Public Health	9,760	(54)	9,706
Resources & Support	158,484	(2,554)	155,930
	653,859	(5,315)	648,544
Gross Income			
Commissioning	(28,119)	317	(27,802)
Adult Services	(28,548)	(90)	(28,638)
Childrens Services	(206,111)	5,882	(200,229)
Public Health	(9,333)	32	(9,301)
Resources & Support	(150,216)	(826)	(151,042)
	(422,327)	5,315	(417,092)
Net Expenditure			
Commissioning	97,625	(1,836)	95,789
Adult Services	63,278	6,107	69,385
Children's Services	61,934	(869)	61,065
Public Health	427	(21)	406
Resources & Support	8,268	(3,381)	4,887
TOTAL	231,532	0	231,532

6.3 Following the Period 6 monitoring report, the Council was notified of a reduction in the level of Dedicated School Grant due to the Council due to the recoupment of Academies. This was a total of £27m which has reduced the gross expenditure and income budgets within Children's Services.

6.4 The projected overspend of £1.941m for 2013/14 is presented below and analysed in more detail at Appendix 1.

Table 2: 2013/14 Projected Budget Variations Analysed by Service Area

Service Area	Revised Budget £'000	Forecast Outturn £'000	(Under) / Overspend £'000	RAGY Classification
Commissioning	95,789	94,902	(887)	Υ
Adult Services	69,385	74,031	4,646	R
Childrens Services	61,065	60,973	(92)	Υ
Public Health	406	364	(42)	Υ
Resources & Support	4,887	3,203	(1,684)	Y
TOTAL	231,532	233,473	1,941	Α

- 6.4. The projected overspend at Period 9 has reduced by £0.698m since Period 6 as a result of additional savings within Children's Services and Resources & Support. These have been offset by further increases in the Adult Social Care overspend since Period 6.
- 6.5. The budget pressures highlighted at Period 6 within the Adult Social Care budget resulted in specific resources being focussed on this area. In terms of care costs, the average overall cost per client has remained stable since Period 6; however there has been a net increase in the number of permanent placements to date. Actions to reduce the cost pressure in the remaining three months of the year have identified two distinct areas which can potentially yield savings of £0.600m. These areas include recovery work on Direct Payments and Health funding. Significant focus has been placed on improving and expediting the work of the Care Audit team in order to identify and clawback surplus direct payment funds and increasing efficiency in the service for the longer term. In terms of health funding the service is actively reviewing all of the authority's high cost cases to ensure that health funding is contributing as appropriate. Practise is also being reviewed across the service to ensure that Adult Social Care is not 'making up' for any shortfall in health provision within the community.

7. Spending Freeze

7.1 In response to the overspend pressures within the Revenue Budget, a spending freeze has been introduced across the Council. Managers have reviewed all uncommitted expenditure budgets and identified the following potential savings that can be delivered within the spending freeze.

Table 3: Spending Freeze Savings

Service Area	Spending Freeze Savings (£'000)
Commissioning	(560)
Adult Services	(37)
Childrens Services	(77)
Public Health	, , ,
Resources & Support	(219)
TOTAL	(893)

7.2 The savings identified above are mainly being generated from premises, transport and supplies and services budgets where budgets currently uncommitted, will not be spent in the final 3 months of the year. Decisions are also being taken in services to delay activities previously planned, such as non-essential repairs and maintenance works at Leisure Facilities.

8. **Summary Financial Implications**

8.1. The effect on the Council's Reserves of the forecast is detailed below. The Council's policy on balances is to have a general fund balance (excluding schools balances) of between 0.5% and 2% of the gross revenue budget. For 2013/14 the minimum balance required is £3.270m. The Financial Strategy, agreed by Council on 28 February 2013, anticipates a level of reserves by year end of £10.930m. The projected general fund balance as at 31 March 2014 is shown in Table 4 below:

Table 4: Projected General Fund Balance As At 31 March 2014

Projected Balance at 31 March 2014	12,055
This report – projected outturn (overspend)	(1,941)
Shortfall in budgetary savings Release of earmarked reserves	(282) 864
Budgeted contribution to General Fund Balance Repayment of Overspend (County Training Yr3) Repayment of Redundancies provided for in 2012/13	5,909 417 268
General Fund Balances as at 31 March 2013	(£'000) 6,820

8.2 The projected General Fund Balance at 31 March is above the level anticipated within the Financial Strategy. However the risk based target for 2013/14 has recently been recalculated to be £15.547m, and the current projected balance is below this figure. Any improvement in the year end outturn as a result of management actions such as the Spending Freeze can bring the General Fund Balance more in line with the risk based target.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

Revenue & Capital Budget 2012/13

Financial Rules

Revenue Monitoring Report - Period 3 2013/14

Revenue Monitoring Report – Period 4 2013/14

Revenue Monitoring Report – Period 5 2013/14

Revenue Monitoring Report - Period 6 2013/14

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Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

Keith Barrow - Leader

Local Member

ΑII

Appendices

- 1 Service Area Pressures and Actions 2013/14
- 2 Amendments to Original Budget 2013/14

Appendix 1

Service Area Pressures and Actions 2013/14

Summary

		Full year				
	Budget	Forecast	Variance			
	£	£	£			
Commissioning	95,789,360	94,902,223	(887,137)	Υ		
Adult Services	69,384,810	74,030,577	4,645,767	R		
Children Services	61,065,360	60,973,094	(92,266)	Υ		
Public Health	405,510	363,586	(41,924)	Υ		
Resources & Support	4,887,140	3,203,338	(1,683,802)	Y		
Total	231,532,180	233,472,818	1,940,638	Α		

Detail

COMMISSIONING			Full year		RAGY
		Budget	Forecast	Variance	
		£	£	£	
Total		95,789,360	94,902,223	(887,137)	Υ
Director of Commissioning	Portfolio Holder Business	306,770	331,704	24,934	G
Director of Commissioning	Growth	300,770	331,704	24,934	G
Includes £25,000 one-off grant pallocated to service areas within 0	ayment not budgeted for within Co	mmissioning. \	/R savings hav	e now been	
Director of Commissioner Total		306,770	331,704	24,934	G
Local Commissioning	Portfolio Holder Business	253,250	277,240	23,990	G
-	Growth	·		·	J
,	unded by underspends in the Centr				
Director of Commissioner Total		253,250	277,240	23,990	G
Area Commissioner North – Positive Activities	Deputy Leader of the Council; Portfolio Holder Children's Services Transformation and Safeguarding	1,266,820	1,296,677	29,857	G
In Activities for Young People the redundancy costs not budgeted for	ere is a projected overspend on pr	remises costs,	supplies and	services and	
Area Commissioner North – Community Action	Portfolio Holder Growth, Profitability and IP&E	1,646,970	1,622,195	(24,775)	Υ
Underspend of £16,000 on Broa costs.	dplaces due to savings on staffing	, and £5,000	underspend or	LJC admin	
Area Commissioner North - Libraries	Portfolio Holder Leisure, Libraries, Culture, Commissioning	4,257,050	4,283,993	26,943	G
£23,720 to meet. Small undersp this target. A potential underspen	ngs of £143,630 applied this year ends at most libraries plus a reduc id on the IT budget could help to red	tion to the boo	ok fund has he bend.	ped to meet	
Area Commissioner North - Markets	Portfolio Holder Business Growth	124,230	163,516	39,286	G
Staff costs and various premises	related costs not budgeted for. Sign	nificant one-off	repairs and ma	aintenance	

COMMISSIONING			Full year		RAGY
		Budget	Forecast	Variance	
		£	£	£	
Area Commissioner North - Waste	Portfolio Holder Business Growth	26,932,120	26,801,331	(130,789)	Y
projections. Waste contract co provision against 1% increase in £20,000 has been paid to termin	function should be offset by forthouse to the forthouse to be £67,000 to tonnage at year end that may neate a lease this year in order to nance and repairs and maintenance.	overspent but ot be required.	t this includes In Bereavem	a £300,000 nent Services	
Area Commissioner North	Portfolio Holder Business Growth	175,400	173,624	(1,776)	Y
Minor variation projected from bu	L				
Area Commissioner North Tota	al .	34,402,590	34,341,336	(61,254)	Υ
Area Commissioner South – Environmental Maintenance	Portfolio Holder Highways Transport Commissioning	25,400,650	25,657,071	256,421	Α
have yet to be identified.	avings has been limited and so th	e overspend po	osition reflects	savings that	
Area Commissioner South – Highways & Transport	Portfolio Holder Highways Transport Commissioning	6,046,200	5,638,864	(407,336)	Y
Reduced expenditure on Transpilinghways closures.	ort Initiatives and Concessionary F	ares, together	with increased	income from	
Area Commissioner South – Passenger Transport	Portfolio Holder Highways Transport Commissioning	782,730	803,028	20,298	G
There are revisions to the structu	re, however, the redundancy costs	negate the 'in-y	ear' saving.		
Area Commissioner South – Arts	Portfolio Holder Leisure, Libraries, Culture, Commissioning	302,470	301,560	(910)	Y
Minor variation projected from bu		-			
Area Commissioner South – Sports	Portfolio Holder Leisure, Libraries, Culture, Commissioning	377,740	377,032	(708)	Y
Minor variation projected from bu					
Area Commissioner South – Leisure	Portfolio Holder Leisure, Libraries, Culture, Commissioning	4,516,770	4,485,948	(30,822)	Y
	cy costs that will be incurred this yoons that will take place over the co		d be offset by	reductions to	
Area Commissioner South	Portfolio Holder Leisure, Libraries, Culture, Commissioning	219,770	216,903	(2,867)	Y
Minor variation projected from bu		07.040.000	07.400.400	(405.004)	V
Area Commissioner South Total	al Transfer of the second of t	37,646,330	37,480,406	(165,924)	Y
Public Protection & Enforcement – Healthier People & Communities	Portfolio Holder Business Growth	1,764,080	1,754,182	(9,898)	Υ
Savings resulting from restructure	e of service and VR savings.				
Public Protection & Enforcement – Healthier & Sustainable Environment	Portfolio Holder Business Growth	1,249,540	1,144,416	(105,124)	Y
Savings resulting from restructure	e of service and VR savings.	1			

COMMISSIONING			Full year		RAGY
		Budget	Forecast	Variance	
		£	£	£	
Public Protection & Enforcement – Safer & Stronger Communities	Portfolio Holder Business Growth	1,206,390	1,152,852	(53,538)	G
Savings resulting from restructure	e of service and VR savings.				
Public Protection & Enforcement – Public Protection Management	Portfolio Holder Business Growth	921,030	1,013,593	92,563	Α
Slight overspend within supplies the service in order to realise sav	and services along with projection c ings for 2014/15.	of redundancy of	costs which wil	l be a cost to	
Public Protection – Housing Health	Portfolio Holder Built Environment: Strategic Planning, Planning, Housing - Local Commissioner	6,873,110	6,376,172	(496,938)	Y
Underspend within salaries due to	o vacancies within the services.				
Public Protection – Joint Commissioning Unit	Portfolio Holder Business Growth	152,540	124,556	(27,984)	Υ
Staffing savings against budget.					
Public Protection & Enforceme	nt Total	12,166,690	11,565,771	(600,919)	Υ
Business Growth & Prosperity - Enterprise & Business	Portfolio Holder Growth, Profitability and IP&E	1,060,120	934,833	(125,287)	Y
There are planned vacancies wi 'Infrastructure and Growth' (pleas	thin the service in order to mitigate e see below).	e additional co	sts and reduce	ed income in	
Business Growth & Prosperity - Visitor Economy	Portfolio Holder Business Growth	2,547,760	2,546,096	(1,664)	Y
Minor variation projected from bu	dget as at Month 9.				
Business Growth & Prosperity - Outdoor Recreation	Portfolio Holder Leisure, Libraries, Culture, Commissioning	2,701,420	2,631,396	(70,024)	Υ
Net staffing savings					
Business Growth & Prosperity - Theatre Severn	Portfolio Holder Leisure, Libraries, Culture, Commissioning	680,230	689,270	9,040	G
Minor variation projected from bu	•		<u></u>		
Business Growth & Prosperity - Infrastructure & Growth	Portfolio Holder Growth, Profitability and IP&E	58,410	190,485	132,075	R
	expenditure on Repair and Mainten Enterprise and Business' (please se		d reduced inco	ome. This is	
Business Growth & Prosperity - Sustainability	Portfolio Holder Built Environment: Strategic Planning, Planning, Housing - Local Commissioner	1,657,780	1,794,557	136,777	R
This includes abortive capital c increased income.	osts of £89,361 partially offset by	staff savings,	reduced exp	enditure and	

COMMISSIONING		Full year			RAGY
		Budget	Forecast	Variance	
		£	£	£	
Business Growth & Prosperity - Development Management	Portfolio Holder Built Environment: Strategic Planning, Planning, Housing - Local Commissioner	1,034,660	857,998	(176,662)	Y
Increased Planning Application	ee income (increased activity)				
Business Growth & Prosperity - Planning Policy	Portfolio Holder Built Environment: Strategic Planning, Planning, Housing - Local Commissioner	884,640	877,529	(7,111)	Y
Minor variation projected from b	udget as at Month 9.				
Business Growth & Prosperity – Management	Portfolio Holder Built Environment: Strategic Planning, Planning, Housing - Local Commissioner	388,710	383,602	(5,108)	Y
Minor variation projected from b	udget as at Month 9.				
Business Growth & Prosperity	/ Total	11,013,730	10,905,766	(107,964)	Υ

		Full year		RAGY
	Budget	Forecast	Variance	
	£	£	£	
Total	69,384,810	74,030,577	4,645,767	R
	1			
Social Care Operations Portfolio Holder Adult Services Transformation and Safeguarding	d 54,120,080	58,089,406	3,969,326	R

resources are now focussed more intensively towards reducing the pressure in the remaining three months of the year. There are areas which have credible potential to yield savings in the period remaining and at this point we cautiously estimate these to be in the region of £600,000. Social Care Efficiency & **Portfolio Holder Adult** 14,237,520 14,902,628 665,108 R **Approval Services Transformation and** Safeguarding A large in year savings target applied here is currently offset by underspends in Mental Health and significant savings due to Day Services transformation. **Adult Services Management Portfolio Holder Adult** 1,027,210 1,038,543 11,333 G

	Safeguarding		
Overspend on staffing budgets.			

CHILDRENS SERVICES			Full year		RAGY
		Budget	Forecast	Variance	
		£	£	£	
Total 61,065,360 61,446		61,446,115	380,755	R	
Learning & Skills	Deputy Leader of the Council; Portfolio Holder Children's Services Transformation and Safeguarding	34,020,050	33,537,523	(482,527)	Y
	en updated to reflect anticipated saving forecast income and the addition of				
Children's Safeguarding	Deputy Leader of the Council; Portfolio Holder Children's Services Transformation and Safeguarding	27,045,310	27,435,571	390,261	A
Overspend of £2.6m covered b	y £1.5m EIG c/fwds, £200,000 YOS re	eserve, £500,0	00 Adoption R	eform Grant.	

£	£	Variance £	
~		£	
05 510			
103,310	363,586	(41,924)	Y
05,510	363,586	(41,924)	Υ
	·	,	405,510 363,586 (41,924) Inding such as Emergency Planning

RESOURCES & SUPPORT			RAGY		
		Budget	Forecast	Variance	
		£	£	£	
Total		4,887,140	3,203,338	(1,683,802)	Υ
		1			
Strategy, Research &	Portfolio Holder Resources,	481,570	380,178	(101,392)	Y

Strategy, Research & Performance	Portfolio Holder Resources, Finance, and Support	481,570	380,178	(101,392)	Y	
Additional income (£49,000) has been received within the services due to employee secondments. Further staffing savings, including those from the VR programme, have delivered a further underspend against the budget.						
Legal & Democratic	Portfolio Holder Resources, Finance, and Support	986,390	657,212	(329,178)	Y	
Overspend in legal services due to legal disbursements of £127,000 offset by saving of £300,000 on elections, £66,000 staffing savings and £12,000 for members printing. Additional savings across teams from various small savings due to travel, print and equipment budgets not being spent.						

RESOURCES & SUPPORT Full year					RAGY	
		Budget	Forecast	Variance		
		£	£	£		
Programme Management, Systems & Transition	Portfolio Holder Resources, Finance, and Support	618,030	760,925	142,895	R	
The overspend in this service consists of pressures within IT due to the costs of the schools broadband service (£250,000), additional spend on Microsoft licences (£189,000). These pressures have been partially offset by VR savings and vacancies not being filled across the service.						
Human Resources	Portfolio Holder Resources, Finance, and Support	(65,740)	(319,488)	(253,748)	Y	
Staffing savings have been achi HR services.	eved which includes those from the	e VR programi	me and a rest	ructure of the		
Service Support, Marketing & Engagement	Leader of the Council (Reputation Management and Communications)	(47,130)	(251,682)	(204,552)	Y	
Overspend on Print unit reducing due to service restructure, now forecast to be £148,000. Savings on staffing in Customer Care of £115,000 (unfilled vacancies and VR), Business Design of £83,000, Communication of £37,000 and £56,000 from the Web Team due to the VR programme. Other small savings across all teams on general items such as travel and equipment.						
Customer Care and Support Services	Portfolio Holder Resources, Finance, and Support	6,832,740	6,906,168	73,428	Α	
Property Services have a £450,000 savings target which cannot be achieved. This has been partially offset by VR savings of £289,000 in this service. Other pressures are being experienced on Shirehall running costs and this is no longer being offset by staffing savings within Customer Contact and Business Support teams as these have transferred to Service Support, Marketing and Engagement. Additionally a further pressure of £200,000 has been identified in relation to accommodation rationalisation which cannot be achieved in 2013/14. These pressures have been offset by a saving against the Benefit Subsidy budget of £608,000, however this assumes that the Council will lose funding through subsidy overpayments being higher than the upper threshold allowed within the subsidy calculation. The calculations surrounding benefit overpayments will be reviewed over the remainder of the year to establish whether this funding will be lost, or whether an additional saving of £305,000 can be delivered.						
Finance, Governance & Assurance	Portfolio Holder Resources, Finance, and Support	(3,918,720)	(4,929,975)	(1,011,255)	Y	
The projection for Period 9 incl	8,000 have been delivered across Fudes the profit share of £450,000 orporate budgets for transformation	received from	West Mercia			

Appendix 2

Amendments to Original Budget 2013/14

	Total £'000	Commiss ioning £'000	Adult Services £'000	Childrens Services £'000	Public Health £'000	Resources & Support £'000
Original Budget as agreed by Council Period 3	231,532	97,626	63,278	61,933	427	8,268
In Year Savings	0	(2,336)	5,777	(556)	(10)	(2,875)
Period 4 Minor budget variations Period 5	0	2	0	(10)	0	8
Minor budget variations including structure changes	0	107	330	(302)	(11)	(123)
Period 6 Structure Change Period 9		240				(240)
Structure Change		150				(150)
Revised Budget	231,532	95,789	69,385	61,065	406	4,887