

36 Revenue Budget Monitoring Report Q2

Councillor Peter Wilson, Executive Member for Resources presented the report of the Director of Finance which set out the council's revenue and reserves forecast for 2023/24, based on the position as at 30 September 2023.

In summary, there was a forecast overspend of £423,000, however due to the 2023/24 pay award negotiation, there was an unfunded budget pressure of £146,000, which revised the forecast outturn overspend of £569,000. The council would continue to work to contain net costs within the available budget and reduce overspend in the upcoming months.

Within the council's medium term financial strategy, it was reported that the funding reserves should be maintained at £4,000,000 to protect the council against future financial risks. It was forecast that at 31 March 2024, the General Fund Reserve should be £4,202,000

It was noted that Strawberry Meadow lettings were slightly behind, but progress was ongoing.

Decision

1. To note the 2023/24 forecast outturn for revenue and the level of reserves, based on the position at 30th September 2023.
2. To note the virements made to and from the revenue budget during the period, as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report.

Reasons for recommendations

To ensure the Council's budgetary targets are achieved.

Other options considered and rejected

None.

37 Capital and Balance Sheet Monitoring Report Q2

Councillor Peter Wilson, Executive Member for Resources presented the report of the Director of Finance which reported the outturn financial position of the Council in respect of the capital programme as of 30 September 2023. The report highlighted key issues, explained key variances and provided an overview of the Council's balance sheet as of 30 September 2023.

The capital budget for 2023/24 was set at £21,103,000 in February 2023, this was increased following the approval of the 2022/23 outturn to £22,998,000, which was further amended in the Capital Monitoring Report as at 31 July 2023 to £18,190,000.

Decision:

1. To approve the revised capital programme as attached at Appendix A, which includes an amendment to the programme of £190k, as detailed at point 11 of this report.
2. To note the variations to the programme (which are detailed by scheme at Appendix B and referenced within the body of the report);
3. To note the position in the Balance Sheet monitoring section of the report, in respect of cash, investment and loan balances and debtors, at 30th September 2023.

Reasons for recommendation

To ensure the Council's Capital Programme is monitored effectively.

Other options considered and rejected

None.

38 Chorley Quarter Two Performance Monitoring Report 2023-24

Councillor Peter Wilson, Executive Member for Resources presented the report of the Chief Executive which set out the performance against the delivery of the Corporate Strategy and key performance indicators during the second quarter of 2023/24, the period covered 1 July to 30 September 2023.

Overall performance of the Corporate Strategy projects was considered excellent with 17 (90%) rated green, and on schedule. One (5%) project was rated amber, which was a project that had warning signs of delay and one (5%) project was rated red. Action plans had been created for the red and amber projects. Performance of the Corporate Strategy indicators and key service delivery measures continued to be closely monitored, with 79% of Corporate Strategy measures and 100% of key service delivery measures performing on or above target, or within 5% threshold.

It was highlighted that the red project was the Local Plan, it was not where it was hoped to be at this point. Issues were raised with staffing, and the added complexity of working with two other local authorities. The amber project was for the improvement to council buildings. An accommodation working group had been established to coordinate the year, progress was to be reported back.

The standout figure raised was the employment rate, with Chorley's significantly below the regional average of 73.8% at 64.1%. The age within the figure was between the age of 16 and 64. Work was to be undertaken to explore the measure of economic inactivity to provide a greater understanding before any conclusions could be made.

Decision:

- 1. That the report be noted.**

Reasons for recommendations

To ensure the effective performance monitoring of the Corporate Strategy and safeguard its delivery across 2023/24

Other options considered and rejected

No other options have been considered or rejected. This is because the report does not present any items for decision.

39 Property Valuation Services Procurement

Councillor Peter Wilson, Executive Member for Resources presented the report of the Director of Finance which sought approval to undertake a procurement exercise with South Ribble Borough Council and Blackburn with Darwen Council for the renewal of the property valuation services.

The current contract was due to expire December 2024, and a new, long-term agreement would create more interest and competition in the procurement exercise which would lead to preferential pricing. The tender exercise would be undertaken in compliance with Contract Procedure Rules and Procurement Guidance. With the annual cost of the valuations considered across the three councils, the multi-year contract would be a high value procurement.

Decision:

1. **That Members agree to the procurement with South Ribble Council and Blackburn with Darwen Council, being a collaborative exercise.**
2. **To delegate authority to the Executive Member (Resources) to agree the route to contract (eg full tender, framework) and to agree the scoring methodology and scoring matrix.**

Reasons for recommendations

The procurement will result in a separate contract for each council's valuation requirement, however running the procurement process together will create efficiencies in officer time and cost.

Other options considered and rejected

Tendering for this procurement without the benefit of the joint exercise would lead to additional officer resource to deliver the tender, for the same or less competitive results.

40 Chorley Council Sustainable Building Policy - Approval of Policy

Councillor Adrian Lowe, Executive Member for Customer, Streetscene and Environment presented the report of the Interim Chief Executive which highlighted the council's Sustainable Building Policy to ensure feasibility and promote sustainable development across the buildings owned, and controlled by the council, in addition to all new council owned developments.

It was highlighted that specific policies for new developments in the borough could be recommended and encouraged within the new Local Plan, however, policies within the Local Plan would not supersede national planning policy.

Decision:

1. To approve the adoption of the Chorley Council Sustainable Building Policy.

Reasons for recommendations

The Council declared a climate emergency in 2019, and as part of this set the ambitious goal to be net zero by 2030 for both the borough and the council. The integration of low carbon and sustainable measures into all existing and new developments is a key factor in progressing the Council to reach its goal of net zero by 2030.

Other options considered and rejected

To reject the proposal of the policy and to continue retrofitting and development with existing practices.

Chair

Date