

Cherwell District Council

Executive

7 September 2020

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| <p>Monthly Performance, Risk and Finance Monitoring Report – July 2020</p> |
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**Report of: Director of Finance, and
Head of Insight and Corporate Programmes**

This report is public

Purpose of report

This report summarises the Council's Performance, Risk and Finance monitoring position as at the end of the first quarter.

1.0 Recommendations

The meeting is recommended:

- 1.1 To note the monthly Performance, Risk and Finance Monitoring Report.

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 The Council is committed to performance, risk and budget management and reviews progress against its corporate priorities on a monthly basis.
- 2.2 This report provides an update on progress made during July 2020 to deliver the Council's priorities through reporting on Performance, the Leadership Risk Register and providing an update on the financial position.
- 2.3 The Council's performance management framework sets out the key actions, projects and programmes of work that contribute to the delivery of the 2020-21 business plan and the priorities of the Council. These measures and key performance indicators are reported on a monthly basis to highlight progress, identify areas of good performance and actions that have been taken to address underperformance or delays.
- 2.4 As part of monthly reporting the Insight Team provides the Senior Management Team with a corporate complaints report, complaints received during the month are monitor and analysed. The mandatory lessons learned data have been implemented for more than a year now and we are starting to see a decrease in the number of upheld complaints. Lessons learned are reported to CEDR (Chief Executive Direct Reports) and progress is monitored to ensure actions are implemented to avoid the same complaint being reported.

2.5 The Council maintains a Leadership Risk Register that is reviewed on a monthly basis. The latest available version of the risk register at the date this report is published is included in this report.

2.6 The Report details section is split into three parts:

- Performance Update
- Leadership Risk Register Update
- Finance Update

2.7 There are three appendices to this report:

- Appendix 1 - 2020/21 Business Plan
- Appendix 2 - Monthly Performance Report
- Appendix 3 - Leadership Risk Register
- Appendix 4 - Finance

3.0 Report Details




Performance Update

3.1 The Council's performance management framework sets out the key actions, projects and programmes of work that contribute to the delivery of the 2020-21 business plan (see Appendix 1) and the priorities of the Council.

3.2 The 2020-21 business plan set out four strategic priorities:

- Housing that meets your needs.
- Leading in environmental sustainability.
- An enterprising economy with strong and vibrant local centres.
- Healthy, resilient and engaged communities.

3.3 This report provides a summary of the Council's performance in delivering against each strategic priority. To measure performance a 'traffic light' system is used. Where performance is on or ahead of target it is rated green, where performance is slightly behind the target it is rated amber. A red rating indicated performance is off target.

| Colour | Symbol | Meaning for Business Plan Measures | Meaning for Key Performance Measures (KPIs) |
|--------|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| Red |  | Significantly behind schedule | Worse than target by more than 10%. |
| Amber |  | Slightly behind schedule | Worse than target by up to 10%. |
| Green |  | Delivering to plan / Ahead of target | Delivering to target or ahead of it. |

Priority: Housing that meets your needs.

3.4 The Council is committed to deliver affordable housing, raising the standard of rented housing and find new and innovative ways to prevent homelessness. Also, to promote innovative housing schemes, deliver the local plan and supporting the most vulnerable people in the District.

3.5 Overview of our performance against this strategic priority:

Number of Homeless Households living in Temporary Accommodation is reporting Amber for July and Red for Year to Date (36 against the target of 35). The number in emergency and temporary accommodation remain high, due to the number of single clients placed as a response to the COVID19 emergency. The housing team have worked hard to limit the number of clients in short-term hotel accommodation and to move as many clients on to more settled accommodation; 30 single clients have been moved on from emergency placement to date. Plans are in place to secure further move on options.

Number of people helped to live independently through use of DFG & other grants/loans is reporting Green for July and Year to Date. Although COVID19 restrictions and anxieties on the part of some older and vulnerable clients is still limiting work on site, the situation is improving. This month's total is made up of 33 smaller cases, 13 larger adaptations and 2 essential repairs grant.



Number of affordable homes delivered including CDC and Growth Deal targets is reporting Red for July and Year to Date (19 against a target of 25). There were 19 Affordable Housing completions in July 2020. Comprising 15 Affordable Rent tenure and 4 Shared Ownership Tenure. There were no Growth Deal funded units completed as these units are not expected until later in 2020/21. Delivery on some schemes has been delayed due to the impact of the COVID19 lockdown.



Homelessness Prevention is reporting Amber for July and Green for Year to Date. The pressure on the Housing Team to respond to those presenting in crisis and at risk for rough sleeping due to COVID19, continues. This is impacting on our ability to prioritise prevention casework and may impact on the number of households who will present once lockdown eases and the courts resume eviction cases (from 24th August).

Homes improved through enforcement action is reporting Green for July and Year to Date. Our interventions have resulted in 14 homes being improved this month, 12 of which involved energy efficiency improvements.

% of Non-Major applications overturned at appeal is reporting Red for July and Year to Date (33% against a target of 10%). One Non-Major Planning Application Appeal was overturned by the Planning Inspectorate during July 2020. Three Non-Major Planning Appeals were determined during July, but 105 Non-Major Planning Applications were determined, giving less than 1% overturned at Planning Appeal.

Maintain 5 Year Land Supply is reporting Red for July and Year to Date (4.40 against a target of 5). The 2019 Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) reports a dip below 5 years (to 4.4 years). However, confirmed housing delivery in 2019/20 (1,159) was higher than our annualised plan requirement (1,142) and the Government has provided the Oxfordshire authorities with a 3-year flexibility while the Oxfordshire Plan is produced. Note: Final quarterly completions for the year 2019/20 (1,159 against a target of 1,142): Q1 – 395, Q2 – 312, Q3 – 223, Q4 – 229.



Deliver Innovative and Effective Housing Schemes

is reporting Amber for July and Year to Date. One of the sales at Hope Close anticipated to completed at the end of June was delayed due to COVID19 due to survey delays on the property the buyer was selling. The other is proceeding but was also delayed due to COVID19 issues.

Average time taken to process Housing Benefit New Claims is reporting Green for July and Year to Date (10.54 days against a target of 15). In July 20 the average time taken to assess new claims for benefit was 10.54 days against a local target of 15 days. This is much improved from June when the average was 14.05 days. During the COVID19 crisis we saw a sharp increase in the number of new claims received and, although this has now stabilised, with the end of the furlough scheme.

Priority: Leading in environmental sustainability

3.6 The Council is committed to deliver on our commitment to be carbon neutral by 2030, to promote the Green Economy and increase recycling across the district. This priority includes the protection of our natural environment and our built heritage, working in partnership to improve air quality in the district and the reduction of environmental crime.

3.7 Overview of our performance against this strategic priority:

Reduction of fuel consumption used by fleet is reporting Amber for July and Year to Date (40,422 against a target of 37,619). More refuse vehicles being used compared to last year as tonnage collected still high. This reflects extra tonnages which have been collected this period.

% Waste Recycled & Composted is reporting Green for July and Year to Date. Recycling rate is currently 59.1%. An increase in total waste and recycling of over 3000 tonnes in the first four months, compared to last year, this is a 14% increase

Protect the Built Heritage is reporting Amber for July and Year to Date. The Team continues Continue to work closely with Development Management on cases of heritage interest and the on- going Conservation Area Appraisal programme. Nine Conservation Area Appraisals are in progress. Eight have been subject to public consultation and another is being drafted. Several heritage guidance notes are also being prepared. The team intends to complete as many as possible as soon

as possible while maintaining its service to Development Management in the current remote working situation.

Reduce Environmental Crime is reporting Green for July and Year to Date. Since the COVID19 lockdown commenced the Environmental Enforcement Team has continued to investigate fly tips, the increasing litter issues around PPE, waste accumulations and dog fouling complaints.

Priority: An enterprising economy with strong and vibrant local centres.

- 3.8 The Council is committed to support business retention and growth, developing skills and generating enterprise; also, securing infrastructure to support growth in the district and securing investment in our town centres. This priority also contributes towards making communities thrive and businesses grow promoting the district as a visitor destination, committing to work with businesses to ensure compliance and promote best practice.
- 3.9 Overview of our performance against this strategic priority:



% of Council Tax collected, increase Council Tax Base is reporting Amber for July and Year to Date. The Team has achieved a cumulative collection rate of 37.45% against a target of 39.00%, with targets amended from last year to take into account the increased number of 12 monthly payers; whilst just over 1.5% short of our target, we are only just over 1% behind the same period last year. There are 3 main factors that affected collection rates this year; the increased number of 12 monthly payers, an increase in the number of Council Tax Support claimants and those Council tax payers who won't pay unless reminded to do so.

Support Business Enterprise, Retention, Growth and Promote Inward Investment is reporting Green for July and Year to Date. The Team Supported CDC's implementation of the COVID19 Government grant schemes (Small Business Grant Fund; Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund; and Discretionary Grant Fund) given to local businesses. One-to-one advice and detailed support was provided to 16 businesses in July 2020, plus, guidance in July 2020 on grants given to other businesses. Also, provided additional support to potential inward investors and Property developers.

% of Business Rates collected, increasing NNDR Base is reporting Red for July and Year to Date. The Team has achieved collection rates of 35.97% at end of July against the target of 40%. The amount of business rates collected this year have dramatically decreased due to the awarded extended retail rate relief scheme, with an amount due to be collected standing at £48.5m. However, this figure decreases on a daily basis with more and more companies applying and awarded the relief. We are proactively chasing debts by phone and by email, however, formal recovery will not commence until mid-August 2020.

Develop a Cherwell Industrial Strategy is reporting Amber for Quarter 1. Work on the Cherwell Industrial Strategy was paused to create capacity to support local businesses in response to COVID-19. The next step is to review the priorities of the emerging Cherwell Industrial



Strategy to address post COVID-19 economic recovery.

Develop our Town Centres is reporting Green for July and Year to Date. The team maintained a close working stream with officer groups and partners to ensure continued safety, regarding the reopening of high streets within the district. During this period the team has engaged with stakeholders regarding the Reopening of the High Streets Safely Fund.



Deliver the Growth Deal is reporting Amber for July and Year to Date. A draft strategy consultation was planned for Summer 2020 but paused, because of the need of staff to engage with the business community in response to COVID19. An economic research has been commissioned in July 2020 to inform the review of the LIS and preparation of CIS, to take account of the impact of COVID19 on the Oxfordshire and Cherwell economies.

Priority: Healthy, resilient and engaged communities

3.10 The Council is committed to enable all residents to lead an active life, improving and developing the quality of local sports and leisure facilities, promoting health and wellbeing in our communities. Also, supporting community and cultural development; working with our partners to address the causes of health inequalities and deprivation, and to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.

3.11 Overview of our performance against this strategic priority:

Enhanced Community Resilience is reporting Green for July and Year to Date. Liaison continues with partners, through the local resilience forum, to coordinate work relating to COVID19, with the emphasis now moved from response to recovery. Plans are being established with partners to support the management of local outbreaks, with a specific focus on the different settings in which outbreaks could arise and the support for people affected by the outbreak. Partners are also liaising closely on forthcoming events in the county and how the risks arising from these events will be managed.

Promote Healthy Place Making is reporting Green for July and Year to Date. The Inception meeting was held for evaluation of the wayfinding scheme in Kidlington with the consultancy State of Life Grant agreement signed with Sport England for the Wayfinding project in Kidlington. Also, the team has provided on-going place-based advice into road reallocation teams to promote safe cycling and walking.



Support and Safeguard Vulnerable People is reporting Green for July and Year to Date. The time taken to assess both new claims and change events for benefits is very good for the month of July so offering support to our more vulnerable residents. The team continues to award discretionary housing payments in a timely way, also, continues to work closely with colleagues in Housing to support residents. There is an increase in safeguarding referrals with concerns over exploitation and slavery and work is underway to put a campaign together to raise awareness.

Summary of Performance

- 3.12 The Council reports on performance against 40 Business Plan Measures, with 22 Programme Measures and 18 Key Performance Indicators. The full details, including commentary against each measure and key performance indicator can be found in Appendix 2.

| Programme Measures and Key Performance Indicators (40) | | | | | |
|--|---------------------|------|-----|-----|-----|
| Status | Description | July | % | DoT | YTD |
| Green | On target | 27 | 68% | ↑ | 26 |
| Amber | Slightly off target | 7 | 17% | ↑ | 6 |
| Red | Off target | 4 | 10% | ↓ | 6 |
| | No data | 2 | 5% | NA | 2 |

Please note 2 KPI measures haven't been able to report anything as a consequence of COVID-19 lockdown measures please check Appendix 2 for more information.

Risk Update

- 3.13 The Council maintains a Leadership Risk Register that is reviewed on a monthly basis. The latest available version of the risk register at the date this report is published is included in this report.
- 3.14 The heat map below shows the overall position of all risks contained within the Leadership Risk Register.

| Risk Scorecard – Residual Risks | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| | | Probability | | | | |
| | | 1 - Remote | 2 - Unlikely | 3 - Possible | 4 - Probable | 5 - Highly Probable |
| Impact | 5 - Catastrophic | | | L09 | | |
| | 4 - Major | | | L04, L07, L11, L12 & L17 | L01 & L19 | |
| | 3 - Moderate | | L16 | L02, L05, L14, L18 & L21 | L08, L15, L20 | |
| | 2 - Minor | | | | L10 | |
| | 1 - Insignificant | | | | | |

3.15 The table below provides an overview of changes made to the Leadership Risk Register during the past month. Any significant changes since the publication of the report will be reported verbally at the meeting.

| Leadership Risk | Score | Direction | Latest Update |
|---|----------------|-----------|--|
| L01 Financial Resilience | 16 High risk | ↔ | Risk reviewed 13/08 – No changes |
| L02 Statutory functions | 9 Low risk | ↔ | Risk Reviewed 17/08 – Risk manager updated. |
| L04 CDC Local Plan | 12 Medium risk | ↔ | Risk Reviewed 11/08 – No changes |
| L05 Business Continuity | 9 Low risk | ↔ | Risk Reviewed 10/08 – Comments updated |
| L07 Emergency Planning | 12 Medium risk | ↔ | Risk Reviewed 10/08 – Comments updated |
| L08 Health & Safety | 12 Medium risk | ↔ | Risk Reviewed 14/08 – No changes |
| L09 Cyber Security | 15 Medium risk | ↔ | Risk Reviewed 10/08- Control assessment and mitigation actions updated. |
| L10 Safeguarding the Vulnerable | 8 Low risk | ↔ | Risk Reviewed 13/08 – No changes |
| L11 Sustainability of Council owned companies and delivery of planned financial and other objectives. | 12 Medium risk | ↔ | Risk Reviewed 13/08 – Comments updated. |
| L12 Financial sustainability of third-party suppliers including contractors and other partners | 12 Medium risk | ↔ | Risk Reviewed 11/08 – Risk description, potential impact, mitigating actions and comments updated. |
| L14 Corporate Governance | 9 Low risk | ↔ | Risk Reviewed 13/08 – No changes. |
| L15 Oxfordshire Growth Deal | 12 Medium risk | ↔ | Risk Reviewed 10/08 – No changes |
| L16 Joint Working – New Risk | 6 Low risk | ↔ | Risk Reviewed 20/08 – No changes |
| L17 Separation – New Risk | 12 Medium risk | ↔ | Risk Reviewed 20/08 – No changes |
| L18 Workforce Strategy | 9 Low risk | ↔ | Risk Reviewed 24/08 – No changes. |
| L19 Covid19 Community and Customers | 16 High risk | ↔ | Risk Reviewed 31/07 – Mitigating actions and commentary updated. |
| L20 Covid19 Business Continuity | 12 Medium risk | ↓ | Risk Reviewed 20/08 – Scores decreased, controls and comments updated. |
| L21 Post Covid19 Recovery | 9 Low Risk | ↔ | Risk Reviewed 20/08 – Comments updated |

During July the leadership risk had one score change, L20 “Covid19 Business Continuity” has decreased the residual score. (review Appendix 3 for details).

Finance Update

3.16 Revenue Position

The Council's forecast financial position up to the end of July, is set out in the table below following a review across the Council's service areas. Overall, for the financial year 2020/21 Cherwell District Council is projecting an overspend of £5.099m across the directorates. The gross Covid-19 impact for the year is estimated to be £6.928m with Directorate budgets identifying underspends of £2.070m. This is an improvement from last month of £1.0m. The Council continues to benefit from beneficial interest rates which are forecasting an underspend of £0.540 for the year.

3.17 For more detail on the movements across all budgets please see Table 1 showing the main reasons for the variances in 2020/21.

3.18 In order to allow CDC to complete forecast in year spending returns for the MHCLG and estimate the financial impact of Covid-19 the following assumptions have been applied:

- Assumed phased restart of economy from June to August based on Government decisions to mid-June (e.g. re-opening of high streets)
- Assumed full restart of the economy from September (e.g. opening of leisure centres)
- Assumption that full economic rebound does not happen before end of financial year
- Assumption that support to some providers will continue to the end of October in line with the new Procurement Policy Notice (PPN 04/20).

3.19 Applying these assumptions generates a forecast pressure from Covid-19 of £6.9m for 2020/21. This is a combination of additional costs and loss of income arising from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on Council services. This is partially met by Covid-19 LA support grant funding available in 2020/21 of £1.8m and a potential further grant of £1.34m to partially meet irrecoverable income losses. This reduces the in-year pressure to £3.8m.

3.20 CDC has identified options for how it will meet any funding shortfall that may remain for 2020/21 which were considered by the Executive on 20th August and will be considered by Council on 7th September.

3.21 There are further risks to the forecasts for service delivery such as the possibility of a second period of lockdown, either nationally or locally, to respond to a second peak in Covid-19 cases. This scenario is difficult to model as this would impact different services to different degrees with some services forecasting higher costs in the recovery phase than the response phase.

3.22 Report Details

Table 1: Forecast Revenue Outturn

| Revenue Monitoring | Budget £m | Forecast Outturn £m | Current Month Variances £m | Covid Related Costs £m | Variance Excl. Covid £m | Prior Month Variances £m | Movement from last month | Proposed Virement £m | Adj. Forecast Variances £m |
|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Communities | 6.429 | 7.988 | 1.559 | 1.364 | 0.195 | 0.146 | 0.049 | 1.508 | 0.051 |
| Place and Growth | 3.506 | 3.882 | 0.376 | 0.632 | -0.257 | -0.111 | -0.145 | 0.400 | -0.024 |
| Customers and Org. Dev. | 3.901 | 3.777 | -0.125 | 0.186 | -0.311 | -0.045 | -0.265 | -0.099 | -0.026 |
| Adults and Housing Services | 2.932 | 3.022 | 0.090 | 0.389 | -0.299 | -0.114 | -0.185 | 0.092 | -0.002 |
| Public Health and Wellbeing | 3.066 | 4.408 | 1.342 | 1.794 | -0.452 | -0.529 | 0.077 | -0.158 | 1.500 |
| Comm. Dev. Assets and Inv. | 2.208 | 4.065 | 1.857 | 2.562 | -0.705 | -0.241 | -0.464 | 1.923 | -0.066 |
| Corporate | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 1.163 | -1.163 |
| Total Directorates | 22.042 | 27.141 | 5.099 | 6.928 | -1.829 | -0.895 | -0.934 | 4.829 | 0.271 |
| Executive Matters | 3.563 | 1.841 | -1.722 | 0.000 | -1.722 | -1.654 | -0.068 | -1.654 | -0.068 |
| Total Cost of Services | 25.604 | 28.982 | 3.378 | 6.928 | -3.551 | -2.549 | -1.002 | 3.175 | 0.203 |
| Total Income | -25.604 | -28.752 | -3.148 | -3.148 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | -3.175 | 0.027 |
| (Surplus)/Deficit | 0.000 | 0.230 | 0.230 | 3.781 | -3.551 | -2.549 | -1.002 | 0.000 | 0.230 |

Please note: The proposed virements and the use of £1.182m of reserves are subject to council approval anticipated on 7th September.

Communities

Communities predicts an overspend of £1.559m against a budget of £6.429m (24.2%).

Environmental Services

Variation

£1.544m
overspend

Last Month

£1.564m
overspend

Of the forecast, the most significant element is the anticipated loss of car parking income, estimated to be £1.0m equating to approximately half the level expected.

Also included is an anticipated reduction in income of £0.042m, additional spending of £0.356m related to waste activities, such as recycling and increased tonnage, a £0.079m increase in National Non-Domestic Rates & Business Improvement District charges, £0.072m increase in management variable fees and in year savings that have been identified.

Regulatory Services

Variation

£0.015m
overspend

Last Month

£0.025m
underspend

The spending and loss of income related to Covid-19, including the decision to waive the first quarter's Street Traders licences and costs related to the Local Outbreak Control system, will be offset by salary savings due to vacancies, reduced travel costs and joint working with Oxfordshire County Council.

Place and Growth

Place and Growth predict an overspend of £0.376m against a budget of £3.506m (10.7%).

Planning & Development

Variation

£0.606m
overspend

Last month

£0.814m
overspend

As at end of July, there is a significant forecast of £0.702m reduction in income from Planning Application fees and Building Regulation income of which £0.506m is related to Covid-19. Budget savings due to reviewing vacancies and other areas has reduced expected overspend by £0.208m from last month's forecast.

Growth & Economy

Variation

£0.230m
underspend

Last Month

£0.275m
underspend

A recent review of vacant positions has identified a number of posts that will now not be filled this year or until later this financial year. This and reviewing working efficiencies have resulted in an increase in potential savings for this year. In addition, there has been higher than anticipated rental income in Build.

Customers and Organisational Development

Customers & Organisational Development predict an underspend of £0.125m against a budget of £3.901m (-3.2%).

Customers & Organisational Dev.

Variation

£0.125m
underspend

Last Month

£0.157m
overspend

Due to the impact of Covid-19, there is a decline in house sales impacting on Land Charges income, resulting in an under recovery against the budget, this has been offset and further savings identified after reviewing current vacancies and other service areas costs.

Adults and Housing Services

Adults and Housing Services predict an overspend of £0.090m against a budget of £2.932m, (3.1%).

Housing & Social Care

Variation

£0.90m
overspend

Last Month

£0.250m
overspend

The overspend can be predominately attributed to the impact of Covid-19, which includes costs of temporary accommodation plus associated 'move-on' costs post lock down. Offsetting the overspend are salary savings as a result of reviewing posts that have been vacant for the first part of the year and other costs resulting in an estimated £0.160m reduction in overspend for the year.

Public Health & Wellbeing

Public Health & Wellbeing predict an overspend of £1.342m against a budget of £3.066m (43.8%).

Wellbeing

Variation

£1.408m
overspend

Last Month

£1.104m
overspend

The forecast overspend of £1.4m is predominately due to the Covid impact of £1.8m. This includes the loss of income from holiday hubs and hiring of sports facilities during closure as a result of Covid-19 alongside the expectation that contributions may not be received from external parties towards the costs of leisure facilities. Furthermore, in order to support the leisure centres during closure as a result of Covid-19, CDC has provided financial support in addition to the contractual management fees. Offsetting these costs are savings of £0.4m identified from reviewing existing costs and vacancies and funding for compensatory payments for a leisure provider linked to access restrictions which is no longer required.

Healthy Place Shaping

Variation

£0.066m
underspend

Last Month

£0.050m
underspend

Savings are forecast to be made on salaries due to vacant posts.

Commercial Development, Assets and Investments

Comm. Dev. Assets and Invests. predicts an overspend of £1.857m against a budget of £2.208m (84.1%).

| | |
|--|--|
| Property | Significant reductions in commercial rent from commercial properties are currently forecast as a result of Covid-19. In addition, there is the potential that CDC may incur dilapidation costs for failed businesses. Reviewing expenditure plans has however provided potential savings to slightly offset some of this impact by £0.200m for the year. |
| Variation £1.873m overspend | |
| Last Month £2.1m overspend | |

| | |
|---|---|
| Finance | This is made up largely by supporting the additional work related to Covid-19, such as the business grant schemes and additional support with the extension in the completion of the Statement of Accounts. Additional government support through the New Burdens grant funding may be made available later in the year to help further offset some of this cost. |
| Variation £0.120m overspend | |
| Last Month £0.248m overspend | |

| | |
|---|--|
| Law and Governance | It is anticipated that there will be a slight underspend in this area this year. |
| Variation £0.120m underspend | |
| Last Month Nil | |

Executive Matters

Executive Matters predicts an underspend of £0.540m against the budget of £3.563m (-15.2%).

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Interest Costs | Reduced borrowing costs and lower rates are creating a positive variance against budget for 2020/21. £433k |
| Loan Interest | £108k savings due to additional borrowing requirements by Graven Hill (indirectly Covid related) |

3. 23 Capital

There is a forecast in-year underspend of £12.305m, of which £11.570m is anticipated to be reprofiled in future years. There is an overall forecast reduction in the total cost of schemes of £0.734m. A review of the capital programme will be undertaken as part of the budget process to consider what schemes the Council will progress in the future

| Directorate | Budget £000 | Outturn £000 | Re-profiled beyond 2020/21 £000 | Current Period Variances £000 | Prior Period Variances £000 |
|---|----------------|-----------------|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| Wellbeing, Housing & Environmental Services | 4,907 | 3,344 | 828 | (735) | |
| Place & Growth | 31,249 | 20,506 | 10,742 | (0) | |
| Customers & Service Development | 696 | 703 | 0 | 7 | |
| Finance Services | 66,254 | 66,248 | 0 | (6) | |
| Total | 103,106 | 90,801 | 11,570 | (734) | 0 |

Current Period Variances

Wellbeing, Housing & Environmental Services:

Housing: are forecasting (£0.429m) underspend due to significantly reduced activity with regards to Disabled Facilities Grant (£0.375m) and Discretionary grants works (£0.050m) as a result of COVID.

Environmental Services: Slippage (£0.306m). The Vehicle replacement programme is currently under review, anticipating vehicle purchases to be slipped in to 21/22 as a result of purchasing delays and delivery lead times (£175k). Delays in purchasing and progression of Bicester Country Parks (£55k) and slippage required for Thorpe Lane Depot Capacity - should food and garden waste be implemented in 21/22, redesign of yard requirements would be required (£75k)

Place and Growth: No variance as budget overlaps into 21/22 and will be reprofiled.

Re-profile beyond 2020/21

Wellbeing, Housing & Environmental Services:

£183k North Oxfordshire Academy Astroturf

£43k Energy Efficiency schemes at leisure centres

£82k Bicester Leisure Centre extension

£30k Spiceball Leisure Centre bridge resurfacing

£490k Better Care Funding in relation to DFGs

Place & Growth:

£849k Phase 1b Bicester Library and Admiral Holland

£9,893k Phase 2 majority of works to commence in 20/21 but continue beyond 20/21

4.0 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

4.1 It is recommended that the contents of this report are noted.

5.0 Consultation

5.1 This report sets out performance, risk and budgetary information for the first quarter of this financial year and as such no formal consultation on the content or recommendations is required.

6.0 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

6.1 The following alternative options have been identified and rejected for the reasons as set out below.

Option 1: This report illustrates the Council's performance against the 2020-21 business plan. As this is a monitoring report, no further options have been considered. However, members may wish to request that officers provide additional information.

7.0 Implications

Financial and Resource Implications

7.1 Financial implications are detailed within section 3.16 to 3.25 of this report.

Comments checked by:

Lorna Baxter, Executive Director Finance
Lorna.Baxter@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Legal Implications

7.2 There are no legal implications from this report.

Comments checked by:

Sukdave Ghuman, Head of Legal and Deputy Monitoring Officer
Sukdave.Ghuman@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Risk management

7.3 This report contains a full update with regards to the Council's risk position at the end of the first quarter. A risk management strategy is in place and the risk register has been fully reviewed.

Comments checked by:

Celia Prado-Teeling, Performance Team Leader
01295 221556
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8.0 Decision Information

Key Decision

Financial Threshold Met: No

Community Impact Threshold Met: No

Wards Affected

All

Links to Corporate Plan and Policy Framework

All

Lead Councillors –

Councillor Richard Mould – Lead member for Performance Management

Councillor Tony Ilott – Lead member for Finance and Governance

Document Information

| Appendix No | Title |
|---------------------|---|
| Appendix 1 | 2020/21 Business Plan |
| Appendix 2 | Monthly Performance Report |
| Appendix 3 | Leadership Risk Register |
| Appendix 4 | Capital Budget Monitoring |
| Background Papers | |
| None | |
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