

Finance Sub-Committee

22 March 2017

Present: Councillor A McMullen (Chair)
Councillors D Cox, K Lee, L Miller, F Weetman

F57/03/17 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors J O'Shea.

F58/03/17 Substitute Members

There were no substitute members.

F59/03/17 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

There were no declarations of interest or dispensations reported for this meeting.

F60/03/17 Minutes

Resolved that the Minutes of the meeting held on 22 February 2017 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

F61/03/17 2016-17 Financial Management Report to 31 January 2017

The Sub-Committee considered a report which set out the budget monitoring position as at 31 January 2017, including the forecast outturn positions for 2016/17 for the General Fund, the Housing Revenue Account, School finances and the Investment Plan, including a summary of projects to be delivered during 2016/17.

The sub-committee noted that this was the fifth and final interim monitoring report of the year, and was showing that the forecast overall pressure has reduced to £2.648m (from £3.817 reported in the November report). The sub-committee was informed that the main areas of spending pressures remain as previously reported and reflect pressures arising from demand in Adult and Children's Social Care Services, the impact of additional unfunded burdens such as the Living Wage on care providers, and the delivery of some aspects of the Creating a Brighter Future Programme.

It was noted that all services continue to develop and deliver actions to mitigate these financial pressures and the out-turn forecast is expected to continue to improve in the run up to the year end. It was noted that additional measures have been put in place to minimise non essential spend, alongside ongoing reviews of demand-led projections in order to reduce the over-commitment. Careful consideration has also been given to the impact of these spend pressures as part of the financial planning for 2017-20.

The sub-committee was informed that the most significant area of pressure across the authority is within Health, Education, Care and Safeguarding which is reporting a forecast over spend of £7.830m which has increased by £0.527m from the reported position of £7.303 in November.

There was some discussion about the current Ofsted inspection of Children's Services. It was noted that there was a national issue in relation to the recruitment of social workers and this had contributed to an additional pressure arising from the need to use agency staff to cover vacancies within social work teams and senior management.

It was noted that there had been an under spend on central items of £5.123m which has improved by £1.238m since the report on the November position. This largely related to interest charges reflecting 2015/16 reprogramming, the level of temporary borrowing currently held, and the continuation of internal borrowing.

Members considered the appendices to the report in more detail.

In relation to the Investment Plan position statement, the sub-committee requested an update be provided on progress in relation to ICT Works – BDUK (broadband).

It was **AGREED** that the report be noted.

F62/03/17 Exclusion Resolution

Resolved that under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and having applied a public interest test as defined in Part 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

F63/03/17 Business and Technical Partnerships Risks

The sub-committee considered this report which set out the latest monitoring update on risks which are rated high within the strategic and operational risk registers of the Business and Technical Partnerships with ENGIE and CAPITA respectively.

The Sub-committee noted that there were 2 new risks included in the report.

The sub-committee was also informed of some minor updates in relation to two risk areas that had become available since the report was published and circulated.

It was **AGREED** that the report be noted.

Signed by: _____

Date: _____

Cllr A McMullen, Chair of the Finance Sub-committee