

Public Document Pack

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To: Cllr Clive Carver (Chairman)

Councillors: Haydn Bateman, Sean Bibby, Geoff Collett, Mared Eastwood,
Patrick Heesom, Richard Jones, Richard Lloyd, Kevin Rush, Paul Shotton,
Andy Williams and Arnold Woolley

8 October 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

NOTICE OF REMOTE MEETING
CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, 14TH OCTOBER, 2021 at 10.00 AM

Yours faithfully

Robert Robins
Democratic Services Manager

Please note: This will be a remote meeting and 'attendance' will be restricted to Committee Members and those Members of Council who have asked the Head of Democratic Services for an invitation. Such attendees may only speak at the Chair's discretion.

The meeting will be live streamed onto the Council's website. A recording of the meeting will also be available, shortly after the meeting at <https://flintshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

If you have any queries regarding this, please contact a member of the Democratic Services Team on 01352 702345.

A G E N D A

1 APOLOGIES

Purpose: To receive any apologies.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (INCLUDING WHIPPING DECLARATIONS)

Purpose: To receive any Declarations and advise Members accordingly.

3 MINUTES (Pages 5 - 12)

Purpose: To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting on 16 September 2021.

4 ACTION TRACKING (Pages 13 - 16)

Report of Head of Democratic Services -

Purpose: To inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.

5 FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 17 - 22)

Report of Head of Democratic Services -

Purpose: To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

6 WORK OF THE CORONER'S OFFICE (Pages 23 - 26)

Report of Chief Officer (Governance) - Deputy Leader of the Council (Governance) and Cabinet Member for Corporate Management and Assets

Purpose: To receive a presentation from John Gittins on the work of the Coroner's Office.

7 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY / BUDGET 2022/23 - STAGE 2 - OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY RESPONSES (Pages 27 - 30)

Report of Corporate Finance Manager, Chief Executive, Head of Democratic Services - Cabinet Member for Finance, Social Value and Procurement

Purpose: To receive the feedback from the Overview & Scrutiny Committees on Stage 2 of the 2022/23 budget setting process.

8 REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2021/22 (MONTH 5) (Pages 31 - 58)

Report of Corporate Finance Manager - Cabinet Member for Finance, Social Value and Procurement

Purpose: This regular monthly report provides the latest revenue budget monitoring position for 2021/22 for the Council Fund and Housing Revenue Account. The position is based on actual income and expenditure as at Month 5, and projects forward to year-end.

Please note that there may be a 10 minute adjournment of this meeting if it lasts longer than two hours

Procedural Note on the conduct of meetings

The Chair will open the meeting and introduce themselves.

The meeting will be attended by a number of Councillors. Officers will also be in attendance to present reports, with Democratic Services officers acting as hosts of the meeting.

All attendees are asked to ensure their mobile phones are switched off and that any background noise is kept to a minimum.

All microphones are to be kept muted during the meeting and should only be unmuted when invited to speak by the Chair. When invitees have finished speaking they should go back on mute.

To indicate to speak, Councillors will use the chat facility or use the electronic raise hand function. The chat function may also be used for questions, relevant comments and officer advice and updates.

The Chair will call the speakers, with elected Members addressed as 'Councillor' and officers addressed by their job title e.g. Chief Executive' or name. From time to time, the officer advising the Chair will explain procedural points or suggest alternative wording for proposals, to assist the Committee.

If and when a vote is taken, the Chair will explain that only those who oppose the proposal(s), or who wish to abstain will need to indicate, using the chat function. The officer advising the Chair will indicate whether the proposals are carried.

If a more formal vote is needed, this will be by roll call – where each Councillor will be asked in turn (alphabetically) how s/he wishes to vote

At County Council and Planning Committee meetings speaker's times are limited. A bell will be sounded to alert that the speaker has one minute remaining

The meeting will be live streamed onto the Council's website. A recording of the meeting will also be available, shortly after the meeting at <https://flintshire.public-tv/core/portal/home>

CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE **16 SEPTEMBER 2021**

Minutes of the remote attendance meeting of the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee of Flintshire County Council held on Thursday, 16 September 2021

PRESENT: Councillor Clive Carver (Chairman)

Councillors: Haydn Bateman, Sean Bibby, Geoff Collett, Mared Eastwood, Patrick Heesom, Richard Jones, Richard Lloyd, Kevin Rush and Andy Williams

APOLOGIES: Councillors Paul Shotton and Arnold Woolley

CONTRIBUTORS: Councillor Ian Roberts - Leader and Cabinet Member for Education, Councillor Billy Mullin - Deputy Leader (Governance) and Cabinet Member for Corporate Management and Assets, Councillor Christine Jones - Deputy Leader (Partnerships) and Cabinet Member for Social Services, Councillor Paul Johnson - Cabinet Member for Finance, Social Value & Procurement, Councillor Dave Hughes - Cabinet Member for Housing, Chief Executive, Chief Officer (Governance), Chief Officer (Housing and Assets), Chief Officer (Streetscene & Transportation), Corporate Finance Manager, Senior Manager for Human Resources & Organisational Development, Enterprise & Regeneration Manager, Strategic Finance Managers and Finance Manager

For minute number 26

Community and Business Protection Manager (Siân Jones), Community Safety Team Leader (Richard Powell) and Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Co-ordinator (Rhiannon Edwards)

Gwilym Bury and Matt Edwards from Audit Wales

IN ATTENDANCE: Head of Democratic Services, Democratic Services Team Leader and Democratic Services Officer

23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

24. MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 8 and 29 July 2021 were approved, as moved and seconded by Councillors Haydn Bateman and Geoff Collett.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be approved as a correct record.

25. VARIATION IN ORDER OF BUSINESS

There was a change in the order of business to enable the contributors to present their reports first.

26. COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT

The Chief Executive introduced the annual overview of activities and progress of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) over the past 12 months, which was a statutory requirement. As reported previously, governance arrangements for the CSP had been delegated to the Public Service Board and its duties discharged through the 'People are Safe' Board whose work was underpinned by the local delivery plan.

A joint presentation by the Community and Business Protection Manager (Siân Jones), Community Safety Team Leader (Richard Powell) and Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Co-ordinator (Rhiannon Edwards) covered the following:

- Context
- Community Safety Delivery Groups
- Local Priorities for 2021/22:
 - Priority 1 - Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
 - Priority 2 - Protecting Vulnerable Adults
 - Priority 3 - Protecting Vulnerable Young People
 - Priority 4 - Protecting our Communities
- Crime & Disorder in Flintshire - current position (compared with previous year)
- Regional Partnerships

In welcoming the report and presentation, Councillor Heesom moved the recommendation and was seconded by Councillor Haydn Bateman. The presentation slides would be shared with Members following the meeting.

The Chairman thanked the contributors for their attendance.

RESOLVED:

That the Community Safety Partnership Annual Report be noted and supported.

27. NORTH WALES ECONOMIC AMBITION BOARD - ANNUAL REPORT

The Chief Executive introduced the North Wales Economic Ambition Board (NWEAB) Portfolio Management Office Annual Report for 2020-21. The requirement to report annually on progress formed part of the Final Deal Agreement for the North Wales Growth Deal signed in December 2020.

The Enterprise & Regeneration Manager gave a presentation summarising the work of the Programme Office over the past 12 months covering:

- The Growth Deal Portfolio
- The Programmes
 - Digital
 - Land and Property
 - Low Carbon Energy
 - Innovation in High Value Manufacturing
 - Agri-food and Tourism
- Annual Report

The recommendation was moved and seconded by Councillors Geoff Collett and Patrick Heesom.

RESOLVED:

That the North Wales Economic Ambition Board Portfolio Management Office Annual Report for 2020-21 be noted.

28. MERSEY DEE ALLIANCE (MDA) ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE

The Enterprise & Regeneration Manager presented a report on the background and content of the Mersey Dee Alliance (MDA) Economic Stimulus Package which represented a bid to UK and Welsh Governments for funding to deliver on five investment priorities for the sub-region. The next steps were to refine and prioritise the investment projects within the package prior to engaging with both Governments. Significant work had been carried out to ensure that the package and the Agreement for the North Wales Economic Ambition Board complemented each other without duplication.

Councillor Patrick Heesom asked that future reports include more information on the implications of the 'HyNet' scheme and carbon discharge management for Flintshire. He moved the recommendation and was seconded by Councillor Geoff Collett.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee notes the content of the Fiscal Stimulus Package and supports its refinement and submission to the relevant Governments.

29. BUDGET 2022/23 - STAGE 2 INCLUDING OVERVIEW

The Chief Executive introduced a report on the overall budget process for the 2022/23 financial year on which the Committee had oversight. Following a robust baseline of cost pressures established at Stage 1 of developing the budget in July, Overview & Scrutiny Committees were now invited to rigorously review pressures making up the budget requirement in their respective portfolios. At the start of this Stage 2 process, a separate report on the agenda set out the cost pressures within Corporate Services and Corporate Financing under the remit of the Committee.

The Chief Executive, Chief Officer (Governance), Corporate Finance Manager and Senior Manager for Human Resources & Organisational Development gave a detailed presentation covering:

- Purpose and Background
- Summary Totals of Cost Pressures
- Corporate Cost Pressures
 - Governance
 - People and Resources
 - Corporate Finance
- Strategic Solutions
- Update on Efficiencies
- Budget Timelines

Copies of the presentation slides would be shared with Members following the meeting.

Whilst the summary of pressures projected a minimum additional budget requirement of £16.749m of revenue resources in 2022/23, this was subject to change pending the outcome of national resolution pressures currently under negotiation. At this stage, it was projected that £1.250m of efficiencies could be achieved. The strategic funding solutions to reach a legal and balanced budget were mainly dependent on an annual uplift in Revenue Support Grant.

In response to a question from Councillor Haydn Bateman, further information was shared on the benefits of increasing capacity in Occupational Health to meet demand and provide rapid access physiotherapy.

Councillor Ian Roberts said that a collective approach was underway on national funding requirements from Welsh Government.

Councillor Paul Johnson spoke about the changing national position which contributed to the challenges.

The recommendations were moved and seconded by Councillors Patrick Heesom and Haydn Bateman.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee:

- (a) Notes the report and supports the approach for the individual Overview & Scrutiny Committees;
- (b) Accepts the Corporate Services and Corporate Financing cost pressures; and
- (c) Advises that there are no areas of cost efficiencies which it believes should be explored further.

30. FLINTSHIRE FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT FINAL REPORT

The Chief Executive introduced the report on the findings of the Council's Financial Sustainability Assessment by Audit Wales following a review of all Councils across Wales. A formal response was not required as the report presented a fair reflection of the Council's financial position with no new issues to report. The item was received for information in line with the protocol for regulatory reports.

In presenting the findings, the Corporate Finance Manager welcomed recognition of the Council's 'clear, well communicated financial strategy', past performance on the achievement of efficiencies and spend compared to budget. He highlighted comments on the Welsh Government Hardship Fund to help recover lost income and the Council's use of reserves.

Matt Edwards said that the report concluded the second phase of financial sustainability assessment work by Audit Wales during 2020-21 following the baseline assessment of the initial impact of the pandemic in 2019-20.

Gwilym Bury advised that all national reports were being published on the Audit Wales website, with a national summary report to be published later in the year.

It was noted that the Council's projected funding gap for 2022-23 reflected the position at the time of the review and had since increased as reported earlier in the meeting.

Councillor Geoff Collett thanked the officers for the positive report as did Councillor Paul Johnson who was pleased to note there were no new recommendations for the Council.

The recommendation was moved and seconded by Councillors Andy Williams and Kevin Rush.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee notes the report and confirms that there are no issues to be brought to the attention of Cabinet.

31. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2021/22 (MONTH 4) AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING 2021/22 (MONTH 4)

The Strategic Finance Manager and Finance Manager presented their reports on the 2021/22 Month 4 position for Revenue Budget Monitoring and Capital Programme Monitoring prior to consideration by Cabinet.

Revenue Budget Monitoring

The report took into account the latest position on claims made to the Welsh Government (WG) Hardship fund which had proved critical throughout the emergency period.

On the Council Fund, the projected year-end position - without new actions to reduce cost pressures and/or improve the financial return on efficiency planning and cost control - was an operating deficit of £0.739m (excluding the impact of the pay award to be met from reserves). This position would leave a contingency reserve balance of £5.057m at year-end. The reasons for this projected position were set out in the report and included significant variances in Children's Services, Out of County Placements and Streetscene & Transportation.

An update was given on the key financial risks (including an improved position on Council Tax collection rates), achievement of planned in-year efficiencies, and the position on reserves and balances as detailed in the report. On un-earmarked reserves, it was reported that £2.1m of Covid-19 emergency funding currently remained following the allocation of £0.900m for ineligible Covid-19 related grant claims. Information was currently awaited on WG Social Care Recovery Funding which could offset some of the existing cost pressures within that portfolio. An update would be provided in the report for Month 5.

On the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), a projected overspend of £0.495m would leave a closing un-earmarked balance of £3.978m, which was above the recommended guidelines on spend.

In response to questions from Councillor Haydn Bateman, officers provided clarification on Income Loss funding criteria for car park charges.

Councillor Geoff Collett requested a further breakdown of the £1.008m overspend in Children's Services and an understanding on whether those pressures were expected to continue. The Finance Manager agreed to liaise with colleagues in Social Care to provide a response to the Committee.

The recommendation was moved and seconded by Councillors Geoff Collett and Haydn Bateman.

Capital Programme

The revised programme for 2021/22 was £77.136m taking into account all carry forward sums, changes during the period and savings transferred back to the programme. Changes during the last quarter were mainly due to the introduction of grant funding streams across portfolios.

The projected outturn position was £72.837m resulting in an underspend of £4.299m on the Council Fund which was recommended to be carried forward for the completion of schemes in 2022/23. Additional allocations and savings identified in this quarter were also summarised along with the overall projected surplus funding position of £2.795m for the three year programme prior to the

realisation of additional capital receipts or funding sources identified during the year.

The recommendation was moved and seconded by Councillors Haydn Bateman and Andy Williams.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That having considered the Revenue Budget Monitoring 2021/22 (Month 4) report, the Committee confirms that there are no specific issues to be raised with Cabinet; and
- (b) That having considered the Capital Programme Monitoring 2021/22 (Month 4) report, the Committee confirms that there are no specific issues to be raised with Cabinet.

32. EMPLOYMENT AND WORKFORCE QUARTERLY UPDATE

The Senior Manager, Human Resources and Organisational Development presented a report on workforce statistics and their analysis for the first quarter of 2021/22.

In summarising the key areas, the Senior Manager drew attention to the impact of changing employment trends as a result of the pandemic which were being closely monitored. The update also include plans to refresh the appraisal model for 2022 to give more focus to values and well-being and the recruitment campaign underway in Streetscene & Transportation which was expected to reduce agency worker spend in the next quarter. Information was also shared on the successful launch of the apprenticeship programme for 2021/22.

The recommendation was moved and seconded by Councillors Haydn Bateman and Geoff Collett.

RESOLVED:

That the Workforce Information Report for Quarter 1 of 2021/22 to 30 June 2021 be noted.

33. ACTION TRACKING

The Head of Democratic Services presented the update report on progress with actions arising from previous meetings.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee notes the progress which has been made.

34. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Head of Democratic Services presented the current forward work programme for consideration and noted the following changes:

- Feedback from Overview & Scrutiny Committees on the Budget 2022/23 - October meeting
- Capital Programme - November meeting

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Forward Work Programme be approved, as varied at the meeting; and
- (b) That the Head of Democratic Services, in consultation with the Committee Chairman, be authorised to vary the Forward Work Programme between meetings, as the need arises.

35. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS IN ATTENDANCE

There were no members of the press in attendance.

(The meeting started at 10am and ended at 12 noon)

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Chairman



CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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| Date of Meeting | Thursday, 14 October 2021 |
| Report Subject | Action Tracking |
| Report Author | Head of Democratic Services |
| Type of Report | Operational |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The report shows the action points from previous meetings of the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the progress made in completing them. The majority of the requested actions have been completed. Any outstanding will be reported back to the next monthly meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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| 1 | That the committee notes the progress which has been made. |
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REPORT DETAILS

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| 1.00 | EXPLAINING THE ACTION TRACKING REPORT |
| 1.01 | In previous meetings, requests for information, reports or actions have been made. These have been summarised as action points. Following the meeting of the committee in July 2018, it was recognised that there was a need to formalise such reporting back, as 'Matters Arising' is not an item which can feature on an agenda. |

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| 1.02 | <p>This paper summarises those points and where appropriate provides an update on the actions resulting from them.</p> <p>The Action Tracking details are attached in appendix A.</p> |
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| 2.00 | RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS |
| 2.01 | The creation of the Action Tracking report increases work flow but should provide greater understanding and efficiency. |

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| 3.00 | CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT |
| 3.01 | In some cases, action owners have been contacted to provide an update on their actions. |

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| 4.00 | RISK MANAGEMENT |
| 4.01 | Not applicable. |

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| 5.00 | APPENDICES |
| 5.01 | Appendix A – CRO&SC Action Points |

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| 6.00 | LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS |
| 6.01 | <p>Minutes of previous meetings of the committee as identified in the report.</p> <p>Contact Officer: Robert Robins, Head of Democratic Services Telephone: 01352 702320 E-mail: robert.robins@flintshire.gov.uk</p> |

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| 7.00 | GLOSSARY OF TERMS |
| 7.01 | None. |

Action Tracking Appendix for October 2021 CRO&SC

| Meeting | Agenda item | Action Required | Action taken and timescale |
|----------|---|---|-------------------------------|
| 16.09.21 | 6. Community Safety Partnership Annual Report | Slides to be circulated by RJR | Circulated during the meeting |
| 16.09.21 | 12. RMB 2021/22 M4 and Capital Programme 2021/22 M4 | Dave Ledsham to liaise with Social Services to provide a breakdown of the £1.008m overspend in Children's Services and info on whether those pressures were expected to continue. | Update to be circulated. |

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CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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| Date of Meeting | Thursday, 14 October 2021 |
| Report Subject | Forward Work Programme |
| Report Author | Head of Democratic Services |
| Type of Report | Operational |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overview & Scrutiny presents a unique opportunity for Members to determine the Forward Work programme of the Committee of which they are Members. By reviewing and prioritising the Forward Work Programme Members are able to ensure it is Member-led and includes the right issues. A copy of the Forward Work Programme is attached at Appendix 1 for Members' consideration which has been updated following the last meeting.

The Committee is asked to consider, and amend where necessary, the Forward Work Programme for the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

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| 1 | That the Committee considers the draft Forward Work Programme and approve/amend as necessary. |
| 2 | That the Head of Democratic Services, in consultation with the Chair of the Committee be authorised to vary the Forward Work Programme between meetings, as the need arises. |

REPORT DETAILS

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| 1.00 | EXPLAINING THE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME |
| 1.01 | Items feed into a Committee's Forward Work Programme from a number of sources. Members can suggest topics for review by Overview & Scrutiny Committees, members of the public can suggest topics, items can be referred by the Cabinet for consultation purposes, or by County Council or Chief Officers. Other possible items are identified from the Cabinet Work Programme and the Improvement Plan. |
| 1.02 | <p>In identifying topics for future consideration, it is useful for a 'test of significance' to be applied. This can be achieved by asking a range of questions as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Will the review contribute to the Council's priorities and/or objectives?2. Is it an area of major change or risk?3. Are there issues of concern in performance?4. Is there new Government guidance of legislation?5. Is it prompted by the work carried out by Regulators/Internal Audit?6. Is the issue of public or Member concern? |

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| 2.00 | RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS |
| 2.01 | None as a result of this report. |

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| 3.00 | CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT |
| 3.01 | Publication of this report constitutes consultation. |

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| 4.00 | RISK MANAGEMENT |
| 4.01 | None as a result of this report. |

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| 5.00 | APPENDICES |
| 5.01 | Appendix 1 – Draft Forward Work Programme |

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| 6.00 | LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS |
| 6.01 | <p>None.</p> <p>Contact Officer: Robert Robins Head of Democratic Services</p> <p>Telephone: 01352 702320</p> <p>E-mail: robert.robins@flintshire.gov.uk</p> |

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| 7.00 | GLOSSARY OF TERMS |
| 7.01 | Improvement Plan: the document which sets out the annual priorities of the Council. It is a requirement of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 to set Improvement Objectives and publish an Improvement Plan. |

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Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme 2021- 2022

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| DATE | ISSUE | O&S FOCUS / PURPOSE | REPORT(S) FROM |
|--|---|---------------------|---|
| Thursday 11th November 10.00 | Employment & Workforce Monitoring Quarter 2 | Monitoring | Sharon Carney/ Andrew Adams |
| | People Strategy Review and Returning to Work | Monitoring | Sharon Carney |
| | Annual Improvement Letter from the Auditor General for Wales and Annual Audit Summary | Assurance | Jay Davies |
| | NWC-REPS Annual Report | Assurance | Helen Kilgannon |
| | North Wales Fire and Rescue Service – A Personal Perspective from the new Chief Fire Officer | Assurance | Robert Robins |
| | Capital Strategy 2022/23 – 2024/25 | Consultation | Chris Taylor |
| | Capital Programme 2022/23 – 2024/25 | Consultation | Chris Taylor |
| | Revenue budget monitoring (Month 6) Capital Programme monitoring (Quarter 2) | Monitoring | Dave Ledsham Neal Cockerton/ Chris Taylor |
| Thursday 9th December 10.00 | MTFS & Budget 2022/2 Consultation | Consultation | Gary Ferguson |

Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme 2021- 2022

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| | Revenue budget monitoring (month 7) | Monitoring | Dave Ledsham |
| | Mid-Year Council Plan Monitoring (to include Poverty Theme update) | Monitoring | Jay Davies |
| | Public Service Ombudsman for Wales Annual Report for 202/21 | Monitoring & Assurance | Rebecca Jones |
| | Complaints | Monitoring | Rebecca Jones |
| Thursday 13th January 2022 10.00 | Budget 2022/23 consultation? | | |
| | Revenue Budget monitoring (Month 8) | Monitoring | Dave Ledsham |
| Thursday 10th February 10.00 | Revenue Budget monitoring (Month 9) Capital Programme Monitoring (Third quarter) | Monitoring | Dave Ledsham |
| | Asset Strategy Review | Update | Lisa McLellan |
| | Legacy items for after the elections | Opportunity for the committee to consider items to commend to its post election successor. | |



CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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| Date of Meeting | Thursday, 14 October 2021 |
| Report Subject | Work of the Coroner's Office |
| Cabinet Member | Deputy Leader of the Council (Governance) and Cabinet Member for Corporate Management and Assets |
| Report Author | Chief Officer (Governance) |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The position of coroner dates back to at least the 12th century. Its role is to hold inquests into the cause and manner of certain deaths within an area. Coroners are judicial office holders appointed locally subject to national scrutiny. Policy and coronial law are controlled by the Ministry of Justice but operational and financial responsibility sit with the local authority.

The role of the coroner is to establish the identity of a deceased person and the time, manner and cause of their death. They have investigatory powers including the powers to summon witnesses, and hold special court hearings call inquests.

The coroner's district of north east Wales covers the areas of Conwy, Denbighshire, and Flintshire and Wrexham councils. The coroner, John Gittins, and his office are hosted by Denbighshire County Council on behalf of the other 3 Councils. We contribute to the cost of the office on a per capita basis.

The coroner will give a presentation to the Committee on his work on behalf of the 4 councils.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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| 1 | That the Committee thanks the Coroner for his work and receives further reports on an annual basis. |
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REPORT DETAILS

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| 1.00 | EXPLAINING THE ROLE OF CORONER |
| 1.01 | The office of coroner is one of the oldest judicial appointments in England and Wales dating back to at least the 12 th century and possibly the 11 th century (to just after the Norman Conquest in 1066). The role has evolved over the intervening 800+ years but its core function is still to identify the cause and manner of certain deaths within its coronial area (called a “coroner’s district”). |
| 1.02 | The office of coroner fulfils an important societal function in establishing the cause of death, and can lead to recommendations on how to prevent other deaths occurring in the future. At a personal level, it is also an important service for families and friends who want to understand the loss of a loved one. |
| 1.03 | Responsibility for coroners is split between national and local government. The Ministry of Justice sets coronial law and policy, including, deciding on the size and extent of coroners’ districts. Recruitment is a local function subject to scrutiny and approval of the selected candidate at a national level. Operational and financial responsibility sits with the local authority. The coroner also receives support from the Police. |
| 1.04 | The North East Wales coroner’s district covers the 4 Councils of Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham. The Councils share the costs of the office on a per capita basis. Denbighshire County Council hosts the coroner on behalf of the other three Councils, and employs a small office to provide administration etc. It has recently constructed a coroner’s court within the Shire Hall buildings at Ruthin. This suite of rooms contains modern facilities for bereaved families and witnesses attending inquests. |
| 1.05 | The majority of deaths are not investigated by the coroner. The coroner will not investigate where the deceased has been under medical care, or has been seen by a doctor within 14 days of death. However, if the deceased died without being seen by a doctor, or if the doctor is unwilling to make a determination, the coroner will investigate the cause and manner of death. The coroner will also investigate when a death is deemed violent or unnatural, where the cause is unknown, where a death is the result of poisoning or industrial injury, or if it occurred in police custody or prison. |
| 1.06 | The coroner holds hearings called inquests which receive evidence on the identity of the deceased (if not known), the time, manner and cause of death. The coroner has power to summons witnesses and to direct that investigations such as a physical post mortem or toxicology report are carried out. The coroner is assisted in these enquiries by the Police and his office. |
| 1.07 | A coroner’s investigation is different from a criminal investigation. If a coroner investigates, it does not mean there is suspicion of a criminal act or of any wrong-doing. The coroner’s findings may be critical of what |

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| | <p>happened but the coroner cannot blame individuals or organisations or find them responsible for the death. That will be for the criminal or civil courts.</p> <p>The coroner can also write a report to help prevent future deaths. They will send this report to the organisations involved in the death for them to take action on the recommendations.</p> |
| 1.08 | There is published guidance on the role of the coroner and the process of investigating a death (here). There are expected standards of performance for coroners (e.g. how long it takes to conclude an inquest). Accountability for those standards is to the Ministry of Justice. |
| 1.09 | The coroner works with the local authorities within his district, and the Executive Office acts as the point of liaison. Inevitably during the pandemic he has been closely involved with regional planning for the associated increase in mortality. |
| 1.10 | The coroner, John Gittins, will give a presentation to the Committee explaining his role and work over the recent period. Future reports are anticipated on an annual basis. |

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| 2.00 | RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS |
| 2.01 | Our contribution towards the budget for the service for Quarters 1 and 2 is £105,971.41 representing 31.00%. |

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| 3.00 | IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT |
| 3.01 | The role of coroner is statutory. The work of the coroner's office, amongst other things, helps to identify potential hazards that might lead to further deaths. It thereby helps to make society safer. |

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| 4.00 | CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT |
| 4.01 | None required. |

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| 5.00 | APPENDICES |
| 5.01 | None. |

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| 6.00 | LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS |
| 6.01 | None. |

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| 7.00 | CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS |
| 7.01 | Contact Officer: Gareth Owens, Chief Officer (Governance) Telephone: 01352 702344 E-mail: Gareth.legal@flintshire.gov.uk |

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| 8.00 | GLOSSARY OF TERMS |
| 8.01 | None. |



CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Date of Meeting | Thursday 14 th October 2021 |
| Report Subject | Medium Term Financial Strategy / Budget 2022/23 – Stage 2 -Overview & Scrutiny Responses |
| Cabinet Member | Cabinet Member for Finance, Procurement and Social Value |
| Report Author | Corporate Finance Manager, Chief Executive, & Head of Democratic Services |
| Type of Report | Strategic |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the Cabinet meeting on 13th July, a report on the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Budget 2022/23 was considered. This was the first stage of developing our budget for 2022/23. It explained that during September and October, the Overview and Scrutiny Committees would be reviewing the costs pressures, and the opportunities for cost control and efficiency under their respective terms of reference.

As shown in the report below, this sequence of consultation commenced with this committee, to consider corporate services on 16th September. Consultation ends with this meeting.

By carrying out this budget consultation, the Cabinet is fulfilling its constitutional requirements.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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| 1 | That the Committee considers the result of consultation on the 2022/2023 budget proposals from the Overview & Scrutiny function and responds to the Cabinet accordingly. |
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REPORT DETAILS

| 1.00 | OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY RESPONSES TO BUDGET CONSULTATION | | | |
|------|---|---------------------|---|--|
| 1.01 | At the Cabinet meeting on 13 th July, a report on the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Budget 2022/23 was considered. This was the first stage of developing our budget for 2022/23. It explained that during September and October, the Overview and Scrutiny Committees would be reviewing the costs pressures, and the opportunities for cost control and efficiency under their respective terms of reference. | | | |
| 1.02 | <p>During each of the consultation items, Members were reminded of the announcement on 7th September 2021) that, from April 2022, a new health and social care tax would be introduced across the UK to fund reforms to the care sector and NHS funding in England. The tax would begin as a 1.25% increase in National Insurance paid by employees, the self-employed and by employers. The Chief Executive commented on the direct and indirect impacts for the council: direct impacts on the Council; indirect would be on our partners/contractors which will fuel fee and contract inflation.</p> <p>It was emphasised that there would be ‘consequential’ payments to the Welsh Government as a result of this decision. However, as a major employer, it would also have a significant impact on the Council’s budget.</p> | | | |
| 1.03 | Overview & Scrutiny Committee | Meeting date | Resolutions | |
| | Corporate Resources – Corporate Services review | 16/09/21 | <p>That the Committee:</p> <p>(a) Notes the report and supports the approach for the individual Overview & Scrutiny Committees;</p> <p>(b) Accepts the Corporate Services and Corporate Financing cost pressures; and</p> <p>(c) Advises that there are no areas of cost efficiencies which it believes should be explored further.</p> | |
| | Education, Youth & Culture | 16/09/21 | <p>(a) That the Committee supports the Education and Youth Portfolio cost pressures;</p> <p>(b) That no further cost efficiency areas be proposed by the Committee to be explored further; and</p> <p>(c) That further information on how the proposed £1M</p> | |

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| | | | | Investment in Delegated School Budgets is disseminated to Schools be provided to the Committee. |
| | | Social & Health | 30/09/21 | (a) That the Committee supports the Social Services portfolio cost pressures (b) That there are no further cost efficiency areas identified by the Committee to be explored further (c) That the Committee's concerns around the unknown areas, including the arrangements going forward for services currently supported by the Integrated Care Fund and increases in National Insurance contributions be fed back to the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee. |
| | | Environment & Economy | 12/10/21 | The response of this committee will be reported verbally: it met after this agenda was published |
| | | Community, Housing & Assets | 13/10/21 | The response of this committee will be reported verbally: it met after this agenda was published |

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| 2.00 | RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS |
| 2.01 | None anticipated. |

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| 3.00 | RISK MANAGEMENT |
| 3.01 | Not applicable. |

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| 4.00 | CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/ CARRIED OUT |
| 4.01 | None. |

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| 5.00 | APPENDICES |
| 5.01 | None. |

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| 6.00 | LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS |
| 6.01 | None at this juncture. |

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| 7.00 | CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS |
| 7.01 | Contact Officer: Robert Robins, Head of Democratic Services Telephone: 01352 702320 E-mail: robert.robins@flintshire.gov.uk |

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| 8.00 | GLOSSARY OF TERMS |
| | None |



CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Date of Meeting | Thursday 14th October, 2021 |
| Report Subject | Revenue Budget Monitoring 2021/22 Month 5 |
| Cabinet Member | Cabinet Member for Finance, Social Value and Procurement |
| Report Author | Corporate Finance Manager |
| Type of Report | Operational |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with the Revenue Budget Monitoring 2021/22 (Month 5).

RECOMMENDATIONS

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| 1 | That the committee considers and comments on the Revenue Budget Monitoring 2021/22 (Month 5) report. Any specific matters for attention will be noted and reported back to the Cabinet when it considers the report. |
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REPORT DETAILS

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| 1.00 | EXPLAINING THE REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING POSITION 2021/22 (MONTH 5) |
| 1.01 | The Revenue Budget Monitoring 2021/22 (Month 5) report will be presented to Cabinet on Tuesday 19 th October, 2021. A copy of the report is attached as Appendix A to this report. |

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| 2.00 | RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS |
| 2.01 | As set out in Appendix A; Revenue Budget Monitoring 2021/22 (Month 5). |

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| 3.00 | IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT |
| 3.01 | As set out in Appendix A; Revenue Budget Monitoring 2021/22 (Month 5). |

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| 4.00 | CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT |
| 4.01 | None required. |

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| 5.00 | APPENDICES |
| 5.01 | Appendix A; Revenue Budget Monitoring 2021/22 (Month 5) |

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| 6.00 | LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS |
| 6.01 | None required. |

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| 7.00 | CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS |
| 7.01 | Contact Officer: Dave Ledsham, Finance Manager Telephone: 01352 704503 E-mail: dave.ledsham@flintshire.gov.uk |

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|-------------|---|
| 8.00 | GLOSSARY OF TERMS |
| 8.01 | <p>Revenue: a term used to describe the day to day costs of running Council services and income deriving from those services. It also includes charges for the repayment of debt, including interest, and may include direct financing of capital expenditure.</p> <p>Budget: a statement expressing the Council's policies and service levels in financial terms for a particular financial year. In its broadest sense it includes both the revenue budget and capital programme and any authorised amendments to them.</p> <p>Capital Programme: The Council's financial plan covering capital schemes and expenditure proposals for the current year and a number of future years. It also includes estimates of the capital resources available to finance the programme.</p> |

CABINET

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Date of Meeting | Tuesday, 19 th October 2021 |
| Report Subject | Revenue Budget Monitoring 2021/22 (Month 5) |
| Cabinet Member | Cabinet Member for Finance, Social Value and Procurement |
| Report Author | Corporate Finance Manager |
| Type of Report | Operational |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This monthly report provides the latest detailed revenue budget monitoring position in 2021/22 for the Council Fund and Housing Revenue Account for the financial year and presents the position, based on actual income and expenditure, as at Month 5.

This report projects how the budget would stand at the close of the financial year, without new actions to reduce cost pressures and/or improve the financial return on efficiency planning and cost control is:

Council Fund

- An operating surplus of (£0.182m) (excluding the impact of the pay award which will be met by reserves), which is a favourable movement of £0.921m from the deficit figure of £0.739m reported at Month 4.
- A projected contingency reserve balance as at 31st March, 2022 of £5.875m

Housing Revenue Account

- Net in-year revenue expenditure forecast to be £0.633m higher than budget
- A projected closing balance as at 31st March, 2022 of £3.839m

To assist with managing risks and mitigating the overall projected overspend, the review of non-essential spend and a vacancy management process continues.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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| 1 | To note the report and the estimated financial impact on the 2021/22 budget. |
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| 2 | To approve the change of use for a Planning Environment & Economy service balance (para 1.20 refers). |
| 3 | To recommend the release of £0.585m of unused balances and reserves back to the general reserve (para 1.21 refers) |

REPORT DETAILS

| 1.00 | EXPLAINING THE REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2021/22 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|---|------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|--|----|----|----|-----------------|--------|--------|-------|--------------------------|--------|--------|-------|-------------------|-------|-------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------|------------------------------|--------|--------|-------|------------------------|-------|-------|---------|--------------------|-------|-------|---------|
| 1.01 | <p>Council Fund Projected Position</p> <p>The projected year end position, without mitigation to reduce cost pressures and improve the yield on efficiency planning, is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An operating surplus of £0.182m (excluding the impact of the pay award which will be met by reserves)• A projected contingency reserve available balance as at 31 March 2022 of £5.875m. <p>To assist with managing risks and mitigating the overall projected overspend, the review of non-essential spend and a vacancy management process continues.</p> <p>Our ability to mitigate financial risks arising from the pandemic largely depends on the continuation of funds for hardship and income loss by Welsh Government which is now confirmed to March, 2022, but with some changes to eligibility criteria.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.02 | <p>Table 1. Projected Position by Portfolio</p> <p>The table below shows the projected position by portfolio:</p> <table><tr><th>Portfolio/Service Area</th><th>Approved Budget</th><th>Projected Outturn</th><th>In-Year Over / (Under) spend</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>£m</td><td>£m</td><td>£m</td></tr><tr><td>Social Services</td><td>70.627</td><td>70.825</td><td>0.197</td></tr><tr><td>Out of County Placements</td><td>12.921</td><td>13.601</td><td>0.680</td></tr><tr><td>Education & Youth</td><td>9.030</td><td>8.701</td><td>(0.328)</td></tr><tr><td>Schools</td><td>101.937</td><td>101.937</td><td>0.000</td></tr><tr><td>Streetscene & Transportation</td><td>31.466</td><td>32.105</td><td>0.639</td></tr><tr><td>Planning Env & Economy</td><td>6.160</td><td>6.119</td><td>(0.041)</td></tr><tr><td>People & Resources</td><td>4.631</td><td>4.415</td><td>(0.216)</td></tr></table> | Portfolio/Service Area | Approved Budget | Projected Outturn | In-Year Over / (Under) spend | | £m | £m | £m | Social Services | 70.627 | 70.825 | 0.197 | Out of County Placements | 12.921 | 13.601 | 0.680 | Education & Youth | 9.030 | 8.701 | (0.328) | Schools | 101.937 | 101.937 | 0.000 | Streetscene & Transportation | 31.466 | 32.105 | 0.639 | Planning Env & Economy | 6.160 | 6.119 | (0.041) | People & Resources | 4.631 | 4.415 | (0.216) |
| Portfolio/Service Area | Approved Budget | Projected Outturn | In-Year Over / (Under) spend | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | £m | £m | £m | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Social Services | 70.627 | 70.825 | 0.197 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Out of County Placements | 12.921 | 13.601 | 0.680 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Education & Youth | 9.030 | 8.701 | (0.328) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Schools | 101.937 | 101.937 | 0.000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Streetscene & Transportation | 31.466 | 32.105 | 0.639 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Planning Env & Economy | 6.160 | 6.119 | (0.041) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| People & Resources | 4.631 | 4.415 | (0.216) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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|-----------------------------|---|----------------|----------------|-------|---------|----------------------|-------|-------|---------|------------------|--------|--------|---------|-----------------|-------|-------|---------|-----------------------------|--------|--------|---------|--|--|--|--|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | <table><tr><td>Governance</td><td>10.196</td><td>9.655</td><td>(0.541)</td></tr><tr><td>Strategic Programmes</td><td>4.648</td><td>4.642</td><td>(0.006)</td></tr><tr><td>Housing & Assets</td><td>17.172</td><td>16.886</td><td>(0.287)</td></tr><tr><td>Chief Executive</td><td>2.377</td><td>2.290</td><td>(0.087)</td></tr><tr><td>Central & Corporate Finance</td><td>26.292</td><td>26.100</td><td>(0.192)</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>297.457</td><td>297.275</td><td>(0.182)</td></tr></table> | Governance | 10.196 | 9.655 | (0.541) | Strategic Programmes | 4.648 | 4.642 | (0.006) | Housing & Assets | 17.172 | 16.886 | (0.287) | Chief Executive | 2.377 | 2.290 | (0.087) | Central & Corporate Finance | 26.292 | 26.100 | (0.192) | | | | | Total | 297.457 | 297.275 | (0.182) |
| Governance | 10.196 | 9.655 | (0.541) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Strategic Programmes | 4.648 | 4.642 | (0.006) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Housing & Assets | 17.172 | 16.886 | (0.287) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Chief Executive | 2.377 | 2.290 | (0.087) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Central & Corporate Finance | 26.292 | 26.100 | (0.192) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 297.457 | 297.275 | (0.182) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.03 | The reasons for the projected variances are summarised within Appendix 1 and shows the detail of all variances over £0.050m and a summary of minor variances for each portfolio. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Significant Movements from Month 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.04 | Social Services (£0.591m) The favourable movement in the projected overspend is as a result of a number of factors : <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Adult Social Care - Older People (£0.260m)</u> The Social Care Recovery Fund grant has been allocated to fund both the cost of commissioned Home Care and In-House provided Home Care, net of any increase in Home Care demand.• <u>Adult Social Care - Adults of Working Age (£0.250m)</u> The Social Care Recovery Fund grant has been allocated to support the increased staffing capacity required due to an increase in case-loads and to mitigate adoption costs placed outside of the North Wales Adoption Service due to current shortages of locally available adoptees.• <u>Safeguarding and Commissioning (£0.029m)</u> Additional in year Grants received.• Minor movements across the Portfolio account for the remainder (£0.052m) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.05 | Out of County Placements (£0.217m) <u>Children's Services (£0.225m)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social Care Recovery Fund grant of £0.500m has offset the increased costs of new placements and known changes to existing ones £0.275m <u>Education & Youth £0.008m</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minor increase in placements costs. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.06 | Streetscene & Transportation £0.083m | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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| | <p><u>Service Delivery £0.055m</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adverse movement resulting from Plant hire and repairs incurring an additional £0.050m due to deterioration of ageing plant and equipment. Minor movements £0.005m <p>Minor favourable movements across the Portfolio account for the remaining movement of £0.028m.</p> |
| 1.07 | <p>Housing & Assets (£0.117m)</p> <p><u>Centralised Costs (£0.125m)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due to a continuation of reduced consumption for Gas and Electricity. <p>Minor favourable variances across the Portfolio account for the remainder of £0.008m.</p> |
| 1.08 | <p>People & Resources (£0.122m)</p> <p>The favourable movement is due to the agreed income recharge from the Track and Trace Project (TTP) for hosting the service on behalf of the region for the period April to September, and forecast to March, 2022 (£0.116m).</p> <p>Minor movements across the service account for the remainder (£0.006m).</p> |
| 1.09 | <p>Tracking of In-Year Risks and Emerging Issues</p> <p>Members were made aware when setting the budget that there were a number of open risks that would need to be kept under close review. An update on these is provided below.</p> |
| 1.10 | <p>Council Tax Income</p> <p>The projected Council Tax collection figures at quarter 2 are 57.10%. When compared to the same period last year of 56.39% this equates to an increase in collections of 0.71% or £0.710m in cash terms.</p> <p>Recovery processes continue for residents who fail to maintain their payments and do not engage with the Council.</p> <p>Whilst collection rates are steadily improving, they currently remain 0.66% lower than pre-pandemic levels. Collection levels, along with write off levels, will continue to be tracked on a monthly basis to assess the longer term financial impacts and risks.</p> |
| 1.11 | <p>Pay Award (Teacher and Non Teacher)</p> <p>Based on the UK Government position on public sector pay no general provision was included in the 2021/22 budget other than funding to reflect the intention to provide for those staff earning less than £0.024m.</p> <p><u>NJC (Green Book)</u></p> |

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| | <p>National negotiations are ongoing and the initial offer by Employers of a 1.5% uplift would add a minimum further £0.160m to the pay bill for schools and £0.799m for non-schools. In the absence of any further funding being made available this will need to be met from the Contingency Reserve and built into the base budget from 2022/23. This offer has been increased to 1.75% which will further increase the impact on reserves.</p> <p><u>Teachers</u></p> <p>The September 2021 national pay award for Teachers has now been confirmed at 1.75% which adds a further £0.736m to the pay bill for schools in 2021/22, with the full year impact in 2022/23 being £1.282m. The Minister for Education in announcing the pay award, also confirmed additional funding of £6.4m across Wales to support the cost of the pay award in schools. The Council has not been notified of its share of the additional funding as yet. The additional funding announced will only fund the pay award in part and as in previous years the Council will share the shortfall in costs in 2021/22 equally with schools.</p> <p>.</p> |
| 1.12 | <p>Council Tax Reduction Scheme</p> <p>Based on current demand, costs are currently projected to be within budget although there is potential for a surge in demand from October when the UK Government furlough scheme ends.</p> <p>No additional funding is currently anticipated from Welsh Government in 2021/22 although this is expected to be subject to review in the event of significant pressures emerging across Wales in the second half of the year.</p> |
| 1.13 | <p>Other Tracked Risks</p> <p>In addition, there are a number of risks being tracked that may be subject to change and these are summarised below:</p> |
| 1.14 | <p>Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) Impact</p> <p>Stage 1 of the Budget Process 2022/23 was concluded in July and an additional budget requirement of £16.750m was reported to Cabinet and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This is expected to rise significantly due to the recent announcement of increases to National Insurance employer contributions.</p> <p>Stage 2 of the budget process was undertaken through September and October and feedback from all Overview and Scrutiny Committees is also included on this agenda.</p> <p>All Portfolios will continue to consider their financial position, the risks within their service and the impacts over the Medium Term on a monthly basis as part of their Portfolio Management Team meetings.</p> |
| 1.15 | <p>Out of County Placements</p> |

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| | <p>There continues to be significant pressure on this volatile budget arising from the full year impacts of new placements made during 2020/21, including several new high cost placements which were agreed in March after the budget for 2021/22 had been set.</p> <p>A contribution of £0.500m has been made from the Social Care Recovery Fund which leaves a projected overspend of £0.680m for the remainder of the year. However, this is likely to increase with another 7 months of the year remaining.</p> |
| 1.16 | <p>Homelessness</p> <p>There is a risk that demands on the service will continue to increase with the impacts of removal of restrictions on landlords to seek reposessions.</p> <p>In addition, the economic impacts on residents in the rented sector and owner occupiers following the end of the furlough scheme at the end of September continue to cause concern.</p> <p>There is additional support in place with strategic use of the increased Housing Support Grant funding, but this may still not be sufficient.</p> |
| 1.17 | <p>Achievement of Planned In-Year Efficiencies</p> <p>The 2021/22 budget contains £2.363m of specific efficiencies which are tracked and monitored throughout the year. In 2020/21 the level of efficiency achievement was 100% which was an improvement on the 90% achieved during the previous year. The Council aims to achieve a 95% rate in 2021/22 as reflected in the MTFS KPI's.</p> <p>The current assessment of the efficiencies to be achieved in 2021/22 shows that 100% of the efficiencies will be achieved. The risk remains that any under-achievement of efficiencies will have a negative impact on the 2021/22 budget. Further details on the current status on efficiencies can be seen in Appendix 2.</p> |
| 1.18 | <p>Emergency Funding</p> <p>The Local Government Hardship fund was initially allocated £206.6m to support local government for the first six months of 2021-22 in the Welsh Government Final Budget 2021-22. In addition £23.3m was allocated to support free school meals during the school holidays.</p> <p>A further £97.5m has subsequently been allocated until the end of the financial year based on spend patterns to date, any changes to policy approaches (for example tapering of social care uplifts and void payments) and the current alert level.</p> <p>The Principles and Guidance for the Hardship Fund have just been revised by WG from 1st October with changes impacting on eligibility for various service areas including schools costs, additional waste tonnages (reduced to 50%) and vehicle costs due to social distancing being removed from eligibility altogether. Costs for additional cover where staff are off sick due to COVID or self-isolating are eligible until October, pending further review.</p> |

| | <p>The potential significant impacts of this will be reflected in future reports although where able mitigating actions will be put in place.</p> <p>During 2021/22 to date, additional cost claims for April to August have totalled £4.220m and Quarter 1 Income Loss claims were £0.465m.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|--|------------------|-----------|-----------|---------|---------------------------|---------|--------|-------|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|---------|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|---------|------------------|---------|---------|---------|------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|----------------------|---------|---------|---------|----------------|--------|--------|---|-------------|---------|---------|---|--------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1.19 | <p>Unearmarked Reserves</p> <p>The final level of Council Fund Contingency Reserve brought forward into 2021/22 was £5.973m as detailed in the 2020/21 outturn report. However, this increased to £6.444m when taking account of the budgeted contribution to Reserves in the 2021/22 budget. This is the amount available for general purposes following the set-aside of £3.0m for a COVID-19 Emergency Funding.</p> <p>However, there will be a requirement to meet the unfunded impacts of the pay awards from the Contingency Reserve as detailed in para 1.12 following the outcome of the national pay award negotiations.</p> <p>Taking into account the projected in-year position and previously agreed allocations the amount remaining within the Contingency Reserve is £5.875m (prior to the impact of pay awards) (Appendix 4).</p> <p>The £3m emergency ring-fenced fund would have an amount of £2.143m remaining after allowing for currently known ineligible items. However, there are still a number of holding items and income loss claims still being considered by the Grants Panel. In addition, the impacts of the grant eligibility criteria changing from the 1st October will need to be factored in.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.20 | <p>Earmarked Reserves</p> <p>The table below gives a summary of earmarked reserves as at 1 April 2021 and an estimate of projected balances as at the end of the current financial year.</p> <p>Council Fund Earmarked Reserves 2021/22</p> <p>Monitoring Summary Month 5</p> <table><tr><th>Reserve Type</th><th>Balance as at 01/04/21</th><th>Balance as at Month 5</th><th>Estimated Balance as at 31/03/22</th></tr><tr><td>Service Balances</td><td>3,698,164</td><td>2,618,926</td><td>826,882</td></tr><tr><td>Specific Service Balances</td><td>442,004</td><td>15,032</td><td>5,032</td></tr><tr><td>Single Status/Equal Pay</td><td>1,042,570</td><td>1,042,570</td><td>989,350</td></tr><tr><td>Investment in Organisational Change</td><td>1,464,329</td><td>1,411,654</td><td>673,910</td></tr><tr><td>County Elections</td><td>235,913</td><td>235,913</td><td>235,913</td></tr><tr><td>Local Development Plan (LDP)</td><td>242,360</td><td>242,360</td><td>242,360</td></tr><tr><td>Warm Homes Admin Fee</td><td>322,068</td><td>322,068</td><td>242,068</td></tr><tr><td>Waste Disposal</td><td>23,360</td><td>23,360</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Design Fees</td><td>170,000</td><td>170,000</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Winter Maintenance</td><td>250,000</td><td>250,000</td><td>250,000</td></tr></table> | Reserve Type | Balance as at 01/04/21 | Balance as at Month 5 | Estimated Balance as at 31/03/22 | Service Balances | 3,698,164 | 2,618,926 | 826,882 | Specific Service Balances | 442,004 | 15,032 | 5,032 | Single Status/Equal Pay | 1,042,570 | 1,042,570 | 989,350 | Investment in Organisational Change | 1,464,329 | 1,411,654 | 673,910 | County Elections | 235,913 | 235,913 | 235,913 | Local Development Plan (LDP) | 242,360 | 242,360 | 242,360 | Warm Homes Admin Fee | 322,068 | 322,068 | 242,068 | Waste Disposal | 23,360 | 23,360 | 0 | Design Fees | 170,000 | 170,000 | 0 | Winter Maintenance | 250,000 | 250,000 | 250,000 |
| Reserve Type | Balance as at 01/04/21 | Balance as at Month 5 | Estimated Balance as at 31/03/22 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Service Balances | 3,698,164 | 2,618,926 | 826,882 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Specific Service Balances | 442,004 | 15,032 | 5,032 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Single Status/Equal Pay | 1,042,570 | 1,042,570 | 989,350 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Investment in Organisational Change | 1,464,329 | 1,411,654 | 673,910 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| County Elections | 235,913 | 235,913 | 235,913 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Local Development Plan (LDP) | 242,360 | 242,360 | 242,360 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Warm Homes Admin Fee | 322,068 | 322,068 | 242,068 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Waste Disposal | 23,360 | 23,360 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Design Fees | 170,000 | 170,000 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Winter Maintenance | 250,000 | 250,000 | 250,000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Car Parking | 45,403 | 45,403 | 0 |
| Insurance Reserves | 2,224,462 | 2,224,462 | 2,354,231 |
| Cash Receipting Review | 3,595 | 3,595 | 0 |
| Flintshire Trainees | 612,843 | 612,843 | 612,843 |
| Rent Income Shortfall | 30,979 | 30,979 | 0 |
| Customer Service Strategy | 22,468 | 22,468 | 0 |
| Capita One | 18,827 | 18,827 | 0 |
| Supervision Fees | 48,798 | 48,798 | 48,798 |
| LMS Curriculum | 427,268 | 418,518 | 300,000 |
| Organisational Change/ADM | 33,500 | 33,500 | 0 |
| NWEAB | 92,319 | 92,319 | 0 |
| Employment Claims | 124,846 | 124,846 | 0 |
| Community Benefit Fund NWRWTP | 229,792 | 229,792 | 229,792 |
| Total B823 Balances | 8,107,703 | 7,619,306 | 6,184,296 |
| Schools Balances | 6,902,451 | 6,902,451 | 3,000,000 |
| Grants & Contributions | 5,730,074 | 3,787,631 | 1,861,013 |
| TOTAL | 24,438,392 | 20,928,314 | 11,872,191 |

It is recommended that the previously held balance of £0.037m to support Trading Standards and Community Safety Teams with potential Legal fees, is now utilised to procure additional fixed term temporary capacity due to the unforeseen long term absence of a team member. This will enable the Team to continue supporting the Council's Covid response work as and when required until the end of March 2022.

1.21 **Review of Reserves and Balances**

An update on the budget for 2022/23 was considered by Cabinet and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CROSC) in July where a request was made by CROSC for all service reserves and balances be reviewed to ensure that they were still required for their original purpose, and to see if any pressures could be met or eased from the release of any to the general reserve.

Throughout the summer further challenge has been made to reserves and service balances as well as a detailed review of historic grant balances and in total £0.585m has been identified as recommended to be moved from the earmarked reserves into the general (contingency) reserve (See Appendix 6)

There are still some areas under review which are more complex due to the conditions and timeframes (e.g. Section 106 balances) and work will continue on these with any further release reported in future updates.

It should be noted that as reserves are one off in nature, any use of them to assist the budget position should only be used for one-off and time limited cost pressures.

The overall position on reserves and the 2022/23 budget will be considered as part of stage 3 of the budget process.

| | |
|------|--|
| 1.22 | Housing Revenue Account The 2020/21 Outturn Report to Cabinet on 13 July 2021 showed an un-earmarked closing balance at the end of 2020/21 of £5.039m and a closing balance of earmarked reserves of £1.869m. |
| 1.23 | The 2021/22 budget for the HRA is £37.825m which includes a movement of £0.566m to reserves. |
| 1.24 | The adverse movement this month of £0.139m is as a result of increased insurance premium costs £0.144m, mitigated by other minor variances (£0.005m). |
| 1.25 | The monitoring for the HRA is projecting in year expenditure to be £0.633m higher than budget and a closing un-earmarked balance as at 31 March 2022 of £3.839m, which at 10.7% of total expenditure satisfies the prudent approach of ensuring a minimum level of 3%. Appendix 5 provides further detail. |
| 1.26 | The budget contribution towards capital expenditure (CERA) is £13.442m. |

| | |
|-------------|-------------------------------|
| 2.00 | RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS |
| 2.01 | As set out within the report. |

| | |
|-------------|--|
| 3.00 | IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT |
| 3.01 | The Revenue Budget Monitoring Report reflects the three categories of risks covered in the main section of the report. These are in-year risks and emerging issues, achievement of planned in-year efficiencies and other tracked risks. These risks are included from paragraph 1.04 to 1.17. |

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 4.00 | CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT |
| 4.01 | None specific. |

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 5.00 | APPENDICES |
| 5.01 | Appendix 1: Council Fund – Movement in Variances from Month 4 Appendix 2: Council Fund – Budget Variances Appendix 3: Council Fund – Programme of Efficiencies Appendix 4: Council Fund – Movement on Un-earmarked Reserves Appendix 5: Housing Revenue Account Variances Appendix 6: Challenge on Reserves and Service Balances |

| | |
|-------------|--|
| 6.00 | LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS |
| 6.01 | Various budget records. |

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 7.00 | CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS |
| 7.01 | Contact Officer: Dave Ledsham Strategic Finance Manager Telephone: 01352 704503 E-mail: dave.ledsham@flintshire.gov.uk |

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 8.00 | GLOSSARY OF TERMS |
| | <p>Budget: a statement expressing the Council's policies and service levels in financial terms for a particular financial year. In its broadest sense it includes both the revenue budget and capital programme and any authorised amendments to them.</p> <p>Council Fund: the fund to which all the Council's revenue expenditure is charged.</p> <p>Financial Year: the period of twelve months commencing on 1 April.</p> <p>Housing Revenue Account: the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is a local authority account showing current income and expenditure on housing services related to its own housing stock. The account is separate from the Council Fund and trading accounts and is funded primarily from rents and government subsidy.</p> <p>Intermediate Care Fund: Funding provided by Welsh Government to encourage integrated working between local authorities, health and housing.</p> <p>Projected Outturn: projection of the expenditure to the end of the financial year, made on the basis of actual expenditure incurred to date.</p> <p>Reserves: these are balances in hand that have accumulated over previous years and are held for defined (earmarked reserves) and general (general reserves) purposes. Councils are required to regularly review the level and purpose of their reserves and to take account of the advice of the Chief Finance Officer.</p> <p>Revenue: a term used to describe the day-to-day costs of running Council services and income deriving from those services. It also includes charges for the repayment of debt, including interest, and may include direct financing of capital expenditure.</p> <p>Variance: difference between latest budget and actual income or expenditure. Can be to date if reflecting the current or most up to date position or projected, for example projected to the end of the month or financial year.</p> |

| | |
|--|--|
| | <p>Virement: the transfer of budget provision from one budget head to another. Virement decisions apply to both revenue and capital expenditure heads, and between expenditure and income, and may include transfers from contingency provisions. Virements may not however be approved between capital and revenue budget heads.</p> |
|--|--|

Budget Monitoring Report
Council Fund Variances

MONTH 5 - SUMMARY

| Service | Movement between Periods (£m) | Narrative for Movement between Periods greater than £0.025m |
|---|-------------------------------|--|
| Social Services | | |
| Older People | | |
| Localities | -0.106 | Contribution towards commissioned homecare costs from the Covid recovery fund |
| Resources & Regulated Services | -0.154 | Contribution from Covid recovery fund to in-house provided homecare net of increased homecare demand |
| Adults of Working Age | | |
| Resources & Regulated Services | 0.084 | Net increased changes to service user care packages. |
| Residential Placements | -0.051 | Net decrease in costs resulting from changes to service user care packages. |
| Family Support | -0.079 | £0.050m new grant funding. £0.050m temporary in-year virement from Childrens Residential Service to mitigate in-year increased demand |
| Residential Placements | 0.046 | £0.050 temporary virement to Family Support |
| Professional Support | -0.250 | Contribution from Covid recovery fund to support increased staffing capacity required due to increased case loads, and to mitigate adoption costs placed outside of the North Wales Adoption Service due to current shortages of locally available adoptees. |
| Safeguarding & Commissioning | | |
| Good Health | -0.029 | Additional small amounts from in-year grants |
| Total Social Services (excl Out of County) | -0.591 | |
| | | |
| Out of County | | |
| Children's Services | -0.225 | Increased costs of new placements and other changes (+£0.275m), offset by allocation of -0.500m from the Welsh Government one-off funding by way of the Social Care Recovery Fund grant. |
| Total Out of County | -0.217 | |
| | | |
| Education & Youth | | |
| Total Education & Youth | 0.009 | |
| | | |
| Schools | 0.000 | |
| | | |
| Streetscene & Transportation | | |
| Service Delivery | 0.055 | Plant hire and repairs incurring additional costs of £0.050m, which is attributable to ageing plant and equipment |
| Highways Network | 0.037 | Cumulative minor variances across the service, including some staff recharges. |
| Total Streetscene & Transportation | 0.083 | |
| | | |
| Planning, Environment & Economy | | |
| Total Planning & Environment | 0.013 | |
| | | |
| People & Resources | | |

| | | |
|--|---------------|--|
| HR & OD | -0.116 | The favourable movement is due to the income from the agreed recharge for overheads claimed for the TTP project for hosting the service on behalf of the region for the period April to September, and forecast to March, 2022 |
| Total People & Resources | -0.122 | |
| | | |
| Governance | | |
| Total Governance | -0.003 | |
| | | |
| Strategic Programmes | | |
| Total Strategic Programmes | -0.016 | |
| | | |
| Housing & Assets | | |
| Centralised Costs | -0.125 | £(0.125)m underspend on Gas and Electric due to continued reduced consumption. |
| Housing Programmes | 0.044 | Provision for site development costs at Queensferry Traveller site to enable possible future grant funded site development |
| Total Housing & Assets | -0.117 | |
| | | |
| Chief Executive's | 0.043 | The adverse movement this month follows the backdated transfer of staffing costs from Strategic Programmes for the new Strategic Executive Officer post based within the service, and projected forward to March, 2022. |
| | | |
| Central & Corporate Finance | -0.004 | |
| | | |
| Grand Total | -0.921 | |

Budget Monitoring Report
Council Fund Variances

MONTH 5 - SUMMARY

| Service | Approved Budget (£m) | Projected Outturn (£m) | Annual Variance (£m) | Impact of Covid-19 (£m) | Last Month Variance (£m) | Cause of Major Variances greater than £0.050m | Action Required |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--|-----------------|
| Social Services | | | | | | | |
| Older People | | | | | | | |
| Localities | 19.316 | 19.178 | -0.138 | | -0.032 | The net cost of residential care is reporting an overspend of £0.032m. This includes the cost of residential care placements net of the incomerecieved for this service, such as property charges and contributions from health. Day care is £0.023m under budget and will not resume until safe to do so, this is currentlyassumed to beat the beggining of January 2022. Domiciliary and Direct Payments are reporting a combined underspend of £0.032m, demand is increasing and current costs are being supported using the Covid recovery fund. The locality staff budget is underspent by £0.071m due to temporary vacancies and not all staff are currently paid to of grade. The Minor Adaptations budget is £0.041m underspent due to curent demand | |
| Resources & Regulated Services | 8.627 | 8.296 | -0.330 | | -0.177 | The Councils in-house care provision is projected to underspend by £0.330m. Day care is underspent by £0.015m, day centres are closed and will only reopen once it is safe to do so. The day centre staff are being deployed to residential care to assst in delivering the service, however the staff costs are still recorded against the day care budget. Homecare is £0.016m underspent, demand is increasing and this increase in demand is being financialy supported from the Covid Social Care Recovery Fund. Residential care is expected to underspend by £0.237m although there is an assumption that ICF slippage and Winter Pressure funding will occur this year and contributions from these are included within the financial projections. Extra care is underspent by £0.062m due to the level of demand. | |

Budget Monitoring Report
Council Fund Variances

MONTH 5 - SUMMARY

| Service | Approved Budget (£m) | Projected Outturn (£m) | Annual Variance (£m) | Impact of Covid-19 (£m) | Last Month Variance (£m) | Cause of Major Variances greater than £0.050m | Action Required |
|---|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|-----------------|
| Minor Variances | 1.235 | 1.223 | -0.011 | | -0.022 | | |
| Adults of Working Age | | | | | | | |
| Resources & Regulated Services | 26.875 | 26.979 | 0.104 | | 0.020 | The overspend is the cost of social care for people with learning disabilities or physical disabilities. These costs include nursing and residential care, domiciliary care and Direct payments which are required to meet their care needs. | |
| Professional and Administrative Support | 0.339 | 0.277 | -0.062 | | -0.060 | Not all staff are currently paid at top of grade and there are also some staff who have been seconded from this service. | |
| Residential Placements | 1.791 | 2.143 | 0.353 | | 0.404 | The overspend is the cost of social care for people within the Mental Health service. These costs include Direct Payments, supported living and domiciliary care as well as residential and nursing placements. | |
| Minor Variances | 4.038 | 3.961 | -0.077 | | -0.073 | | |
| Children's Services | | | | | | | |
| Family Placement | 2.700 | 2.829 | 0.129 | | 0.153 | The overspend is due to service demand from the number of foster placements. In some instances these avoid having to make expensive Out of County placements. The main pressures are payments to foster carers and special guardianship payments. | |
| Grants | 0.268 | 0.209 | -0.059 | | -0.055 | There is an assumption that the Welsh Government will allow for a flexible approach in the use of grants as occurred in 2020/21 which would result in some costs within this service to be grant funded. | |
| Legal & Third Party | 0.210 | 0.559 | 0.349 | | 0.371 | Legal costs are overspent due to the number of cases going through the courts and use of some external legal professionals. Direct Payments have also increased in demand. | |

Budget Monitoring Report
Council Fund Variances

MONTH 5 - SUMMARY

| Service | Approved Budget (£m) | Projected Outturn (£m) | Annual Variance (£m) | Impact of Covid-19 (£m) | Last Month Variance (£m) | Cause of Major Variances greater than £0.050m | Action Required |
|---|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|-----------------|
| Residential Placements | 0.599 | 0.495 | -0.104 | | -0.150 | This is an in-year overspend associated with the opening of a registered Childrens Home within Flintshire, in-year grant funding from the Young People and Childrens Services Transformation Fund is being used to offset start up costs. | |
| Professional Support | 5.387 | 5.713 | 0.325 | | 0.576 | To support adequate levels of child protection, the established staffing structure needs to be at a sufficient level to meet mandatory safeguarding standards. Vacancies are therefore minimised and additional temporary posts are sometimes necessary. | |
| Minor Variances | 0.793 | 0.806 | 0.013 | | 0.113 | | |
| Safeguarding & Commissioning | | | | | | | |
| Impact of Covid-19 | 0.000 | -0.300 | -0.300 | -0.300 | -0.300 | Welsh Government is providing financial assistance through the hardship funding for the Councils in-house residential, supported living, homecare and extra care services. Most additional costs incurred due to Covid are staff costs which are reported within their respective service areas. | |
| Minor Variances | -1.552 | -1.543 | 0.009 | | 0.023 | | |
| Total Social Services (excl Out of County) | 70.627 | 70.825 | 0.197 | -0.300 | 0.788 | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Out of County | | | | | | | |

Budget Monitoring Report
Council Fund Variances

MONTH 5 - SUMMARY

| Service | Approved Budget (£m) | Projected Outturn (£m) | Annual Variance (£m) | Impact of Covid-19 (£m) | Last Month Variance (£m) | Cause of Major Variances greater than £0.050m | Action Required |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|-----------------|
| Children's Services | 8.417 | 9.112 | 0.695 | | 0.921 | The pressure reflects the current cohort of placements which includes 18 new placements made in the year to date. The pressure is also still influenced by full year impacts in 2021/22 of significant numbers of new placements made in the second half of 2020/21. The total pressure has been partly mitigated by an allocation of £0.500m has been made from the Councils total allocation of one-off support funding provided by Welsh Government through the Social Care Recovery Fund. | |
| Education & Youth | 4.504 | 4.488 | -0.015 | | -0.024 | | |
| Total Out of County | 12.921 | 13.601 | 0.680 | 0.000 | 0.897 | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Education & Youth | | | | | | | |
| Inclusion & Progression | 4.462 | 4.391 | -0.071 | | -0.072 | In year efficiencies have been identified in the MEAG service of £40k and the Ed Psychs service £20k. The MEAG service received more in grant funding for 21-22 which has been used to recruit temporary posts, resulting in core budget being underspent. The Education Psychologist service have recruited 3 Asst EPs. The in year saving has arisen due to posts not being a full year cost. In addition, there are minor variances across all of the Inclusion service. | |
| Integrated Youth Provision | 1.018 | 0.960 | -0.059 | | -0.058 | Savings on Building Cleaning costs in Youth Centres due to the ongoing closures during the COVID-19 pandemic, | |

Budget Monitoring Report
Council Fund Variances

MONTH 5 - SUMMARY

| Service | Approved Budget (£m) | Projected Outturn (£m) | Annual Variance (£m) | Impact of Covid-19 (£m) | Last Month Variance (£m) | Cause of Major Variances greater than £0.050m | Action Required |
|---|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|---|-----------------|
| School Improvement Systems | 1.823 | 1.669 | -0.155 | | -0.155 | The underspend in Early Entitlement includes the maximisation of the EYPDG by badging already existing staff against the grant - £18,500. An efficiency of £100k has been identified in relation to WG top-up funding for non-maintained settings, releasing core budget of £95k and setting resources mitigated by using EYPDG/RRRS £5k. A £50k contingency has been left within the budget to cover any increased Spring Term 22 costs. | |
| Minor Variances | 1.726 | 1.682 | -0.044 | | -0.053 | | |
| Total Education & Youth | 9.030 | 8.701 | -0.328 | 0.000 | -0.337 | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Schools | 101.937 | 101.937 | 0.000 | | -0.000 | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Streetscene & Transportation | | | | | | | |
| Service Delivery | 8.696 | 8.709 | 0.013 | | -0.042 | The service has a recurring revenue pressure of £0.050m for security costs following vandalism at the Household Recycling Centres. Plant hire and repairs incurring additional costs of £0.050m, which is attributable to aging plant and equipment. Street lighting is also incurring a £0.120m revenue pressure on the Community Council Income Budget. However, this has largely been offset by workforce agency costs, which have been recovered through Covid hardship funding claims. | |
| Highways Network | 7.847 | 7.949 | 0.101 | | 0.064 | Highways service area incurred overspend in excess of £0.050m in staff costs relating to flooding and drainage costs. There are also cumulative minor variances totalling £0.037m across the service, including some additional staff recharges. | |

Budget Monitoring Report
Council Fund Variances

MONTH 5 - SUMMARY

| Service | Approved Budget (£m) | Projected Outturn (£m) | Annual Variance (£m) | Impact of Covid-19 (£m) | Last Month Variance (£m) | Cause of Major Variances greater than £0.050m | Action Required |
|---|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|-----------------|
| Transportation | 9.750 | 9.882 | 0.132 | | 0.129 | Local bus services incurred a revenue pressure of: £0.100m as a result of the Service 5 repurchase and £0.115m implementation of the Deeside Shuttle Bus Service at the new DIP Park and Ride. Also, additional costs incurred of £0.049m due to the increased number of school days, 7 days as opposed to budgeted 5 additional school days. The total additional costs have been partially offset by projected Underspend of (£0.144) in Social Services Transport has offset some of the overspend as not all services have returned to full operation following the pandemic. However, this underspend could significantly reduce once services start to resume. | |
| Regulatory Services | 5.173 | 5.246 | 0.073 | | 0.085 | Car parking income currently reflects a projected loss of £0.220m, through maximising eligible funding from the WG Income Loss fund. This has been largely offset by savings in recruitment and maintenance costs of cash machines. | |
| Impact of Covid-19 | 0.000 | 0.320 | 0.320 | 0.320 | 0.320 | Service Delivery has a recurring revenue pressure of £0.050m for additional cleaning and maintenance costs in Alltami depot as a result of the pandemic. Waste operations are showing additional costs of £0.090m in receptacles due to higher demand in waste collections as an effect of people working from home. This service area is also experiencing additional an revenue pressure of £0.090m in plant hire, maintenance and repairs. Additional costs of £0.090m incurred in contractors spend and Traffic Management, as the service was unable to provide the required training and has also faced recruitment delays during the Covid-19 Pandemic. | |
| Total Streetscene & Transportation | 31.466 | 32.105 | 0.639 | 0.320 | 0.556 | | |
| | | | | | | | |

Budget Monitoring Report
Council Fund Variances

MONTH 5 - SUMMARY

| Service | Approved Budget (£m) | Projected Outturn (£m) | Annual Variance (£m) | Impact of Covid-19 (£m) | Last Month Variance (£m) | Cause of Major Variances greater than £0.050m | Action Required |
|--|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|-----------------|
| Planning, Environment & Economy | | | | | | | |
| Community | 0.883 | 0.977 | 0.093 | | 0.095 | Overspend is as a result of fee income shortfalls in both Licensing and Pest Control. | |
| Management & Strategy | 1.311 | 1.200 | -0.111 | | -0.123 | Vacant posts across the Service | |
| Minor Variances | 3.966 | 3.942 | -0.024 | | -0.027 | | |
| Total Planning & Environment | 6.160 | 6.119 | -0.041 | 0.000 | -0.055 | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| People & Resources | | | | | | | |
| HR & OD | 2.465 | 2.339 | -0.126 | | -0.009 | Favourable variance is due to the projected income from the agreed recharge for overheads claimed for the Track and Trace Project for hosting the service on behalf of the region to March, 2022. | |
| Corporate Finance | 2.166 | 2.076 | -0.090 | | -0.084 | Staff Savings due to vacant posts | |
| Total People & Resources | 4.631 | 4.415 | -0.216 | 0.000 | -0.093 | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Governance | | | | | | | |
| Democratic Services | 2.125 | 2.027 | -0.098 | 0.002 | -0.092 | The underspend in the main follows the reduced take up of Members Allowances and savings from travelling expenses due to remote meetings, together with commitment challenge across the service | |
| Customer Services | 0.998 | 0.934 | -0.063 | | -0.063 | Favourable variance is due to higher than anticipated fee income levels resulting from the resumption of Ceremonies following the relaxation of the majority of COVID restrictions. | |
| Revenues | 0.475 | 0.198 | -0.277 | | -0.275 | Favourable variance as a result of the potential projected surplus on the Council Tax Collection Fund £(0.193m), Welsh Government Lockdown Grant Admin grant and minor variances across the service | |
| Minor Variances | 6.599 | 6.496 | -0.103 | 0.020 | -0.107 | | |
| Total Governance | 10.196 | 9.655 | -0.541 | 0.022 | -0.538 | | |

Budget Monitoring Report
Council Fund Variances

MONTH 5 - SUMMARY

| Service | Approved Budget (£m) | Projected Outturn (£m) | Annual Variance (£m) | Impact of Covid-19 (£m) | Last Month Variance (£m) | Cause of Major Variances greater than £0.050m | Action Required |
|--|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|-----------------|
| Strategic Programmes | | | | | | | |
| Minor Variances | 4.648 | 4.642 | -0.006 | | 0.010 | | |
| Total Strategic Programmes | 4.648 | 4.642 | -0.006 | 0.000 | 0.010 | | |
| Housing & Assets | | | | | | | |
| Property Asset And Development | 0.435 | 0.380 | -0.055 | | -0.041 | Staffing savings due to vacant posts | |
| Caretaking & Security | 0.262 | 0.205 | -0.057 | | -0.063 | Staffing savings due to vacant posts | |
| Industrial Units | -1.237 | -1.467 | -0.230 | | -0.230 | Income from new lease at powwer generation site | |
| Centralised Costs | 2.783 | 2.657 | -0.125 | | 0.000 | £(0.125)m underspend on Gas and Electric due to continued reduced consumption. | |
| Benefits | 12.850 | 12.932 | 0.082 | | 0.099 | Pressures due to provision for bad debts on recovery of overpayments partly offset by income from WG Hardship Fund in respect of additional staffing costs | |
| Minor Variances | 2.079 | 2.177 | 0.098 | | 0.065 | | |
| Total Housing & Assets | 17.172 | 16.886 | -0.287 | 0.000 | -0.170 | | |
| Chief Executive's | 2.377 | 2.290 | -0.087 | | -0.130 | Vacant Posts | |
| Central & Corporate Finance | 26.292 | 26.100 | -0.192 | | -0.188 | Over recovery of planned pension contributions recoupment against actuarial projections based on the level of contributions received during the year. Projected outturn on Matrix rebates, and inflation pressures anticipated but not required to date. | |
| Grand Total | 297.457 | 297.275 | -0.182 | 0.042 | 0.739 | | |

2021/22 Efficiencies Outturn Tracker - M5

| Efficiency Description | | Accountable Officer | Efficiency Target | Projected Efficiency | (Under)/Over Achievement | Efficiency Open/Closed (O/C) | Confidence in Achievement of Efficiency Based on (see below) R = High Assumption A = Medium Assumption G = Figures Confirmed |
|--|-------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Portfolio | | | 2021/22 £m | 2021/22 £m | 2021/22 £m | | |
| Corporate | | | | | | | |
| Employer Pension Contributions | Reduced requirement due to recovery | Rachel Parry Jones | 0.300 | 0.300 | 0.000 | C | G |
| Workforce - Vacant Post | Reduction of Post | Rachel Parry Jones | 0.030 | 0.030 | 0.000 | C | G |
| Remote Working Impacts | Reduced Operating Costs | Rachel Parry Jones | 0.070 | 0.070 | 0.000 | C | G |
| Remote Working Impacts | Reduced Travel | All | 0.200 | 0.200 | 0.000 | C | G |
| Price Inflation | Removal of Price Inflation | Rachel Parry Jones | 0.113 | 0.113 | 0.000 | C | G |
| Total Corporate Services | | | 0.713 | 0.713 | 0.000 | | |
| Housing & Assets | | | | | | | |
| Property Savings (inc Demolition of Phases 3&4; utility savings) | | Neal Cockerton | 0.450 | 0.450 | 0.000 | C | G |
| NDR Inflationary Savings | | Neal Cockerton | 0.120 | 0.120 | 0.000 | C | G |
| Climate Change Levy | | Neal Cockerton | 0.295 | 0.295 | 0.000 | C | G |
| Total Housing & Assets | | | 0.865 | 0.865 | 0.000 | | |
| Social Services | | | | | | | |
| Vacancy Management Saving | Appropriate Vacancy Management | Neil Ayling | 0.030 | 0.030 | 0.000 | O | G |
| Strategic Use of Grant Funding | Core Funding Replacement Solution | Neil Ayling | 0.060 | 0.060 | 0.000 | O | G |
| Social Care Workforce Grant | | Neil Ayling | 0.430 | 0.430 | 0.000 | O | G |
| Total Social Services | | | 0.520 | 0.520 | 0.000 | | |
| Education & Youth | | | | | | | |
| Integrated Youth Provision | Youth Centres - Premises | Claire Homard | 0.020 | 0.020 | 0.000 | O | G |
| Total Education & Youth | | | 0.020 | 0.020 | 0.000 | | |
| Streetscene & Transportation | | | | | | | |
| Discretionary Transport Review - Post 16 Transport | Joint with Education | Steve O Jones | 0.200 | 0.200 | 0.000 | O | R |
| Total Streetscene & Transportation | | | 0.200 | 0.200 | 0.000 | | |
| Planning, Environment & Economy | | | | | | | |
| Planning Policy | Reduction of Post | Andy Roberts | 0.045 | 0.045 | 0.000 | C | G |
| Total Planning, Environment & Economy | | | 0.045 | 0.045 | 0.000 | | |
| Total 2021/22 Budget Efficiencies | | | 2.363 | 2.363 | 0.000 | | |

| | | |
|---|------------|--------------|
| | % | £ |
| Total 2021/22 Budget Efficiencies | 100 | 2.363 |
| Total Projected 2021/22 Budget Efficiencies Underachieved | 0 | 0.000 |
| Total Projected 2021/22 Budget Efficiencies Achieved | 100 | 2.363 |
| Total 2021/22 Budget Efficiencies (Less Previously agreed Decisions) | | |
| | 100 | 0.000 |
| Total Projected 2021/22 Budget Efficiencies Underachieved | 0 | 0.000 |
| Total Projected 2021/22 Budget Efficiencies Achieved | 0 | 0.000 |

Corporate Efficiencies Remaining from Previous Years

| | | |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| Income Target Remaining | | |
| Income Target Efficiency remaining from Previous Years | All Portfolios | 0.051 |
| Total Income Efficiency Remaining | 0.051 | (0.051) |

Movements on Council Fund Unearmarked Reserves

| | £m | £m |
|--|---------|--------------|
| Total Reserves as at 1 April 2021 | 14.061 | |
| Less - Base Level | (5.769) | |
| Total Reserves above base level available for delegation to Cabinet | | 8.292 |
| Add - Transfer to Reserve Budget 2021/22 | | 0.471 |
| Less - COVID-19 Emergency Funding Allocation* | | (2.317) |
| Less - Investment in Change (approved Month 2) | | 0.400 |
| Less - Severe Weather (approved Month 2) | | 0.250 |
| Less - Organisational Capacity Estimate (Sep Report) | | 0.103 |
| Add - Month 5 projected outturn | | (0.182) |
| Less - projected national pay award increase | | |
| Total Contingency Reserve available for use | | 5.875 |

Budget Monitoring Report
Housing Revenue Account Variances

MONTH 5 - SUMMARY

| Service | Revised Budget (£m) | Projected Outturn (£m) | Variance (£m) | Last Month Variance (£m) | Cause of Major Variance | Action Required |
|---|---------------------|------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|---|--|
| Housing Revenue Account | | | | | | |
| Income | (37.259) | (36.759) | 0.500 | 0.489 | We are currently projecting a pressure of £0.410m due to loss of income in relation to vacant properties. Of this, £0.292m relates to void properties, £0.046m relates to the utilities charges on void properties and £0.072m relates to void garages. There is also a pressure of £0.105m relating to an assumed reduction in rental income on new build properties which were included in the Business Plan. There are other minor variances of £0.015m. | |
| Capital Financing - Loan Charges | 8.047 | 8.047 | | | | |
| Estate Management | 1.931 | 1.903 | (0.028) | (0.004) | Minor variances | |
| Landlord Service Costs | 1.469 | 1.505 | 0.036 | 0.032 | Minor variances | |
| Repairs & Maintenance | 10.431 | 10.411 | (0.020) | (0.017) | Minor variances | Early indications from our supplier suggest an increase in the costs of some sourced Materials, this will be monitored closely over the next couple of months. |
| Management & Support Services | 2.658 | 2.802 | 0.145 | (0.005) | Efficiency in respect of salary costs of (£0.058m). Additional cost of the IT project work £0.050m. Pressure in relation to insurance costs of £0.144m. Other minor variances of £0.009m. | |
| Capital Expenditure From Revenue (CERA) | 13.442 | 13.442 | | | | |
| HRA Projects | (0.153) | (0.152) | 0.001 | (0.001) | Minor variances | |
| Contribution To / (From) Reserves | (0.566) | (0.566) | | | | |
| Total Housing Revenue Account | (0.000) | 0.633 | 0.633 | 0.495 | | |

Challenge on Reserves and Service Balances – Amounts identified for Release

| Reserve/Grant Details | Justification of Release | Amount to be Released £ |
|---------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Event & Log Management | Confirmed by Service Manager no longer required | 22,044.00 |
| Telephone & System Upgrade | Confirmed by Service Manager no longer required | 8,526.00 |
| Internal Audit | Confirmed by Service Manager no longer required | 31,000.00 |
| PEE - Directorate supporting Training | Confirmed by Service Manager no longer required | 5,550.00 |
| Reserve - Milk Quotas | No movement on Balance Sheet since 2015 - no planned use of this reserve | 2,000.00 |
| Purple Party Room | Confirmed by accountant and service balance no longer required - this was for renovation work for Newydd and work has now finished | 2,957.99 |
| Capita One | Confirmed by Service Manager that the balance can be released - ICT Regional Service delivery - no movement since 2017 | 18,827.03 |
| Civil Contingencies | Unused grant from Emergency Planning windfall in 2005/06 - Grant no longer in existence | 14,285.00 |
| Tidy Towns (Gregory Bros) | Confirmed for release by Service Manager - no longer required | 12,000.00 |
| Tidy Towns (Essential Funding) | Confirmed for release by Service Manager - no longer required | 2,115.21 |
| Tidy Towns | Confirmed for release by Service Manager - no longer required | 1,000.00 |
| Tidy Towns | Confirmed for release by Service Manager - no longer required | 2,785.00 |
| Tidy Towns | Confirmed for release by Service Manager - no longer required | 33,780.70 |
| Cheque Book Schools | Confirmed for release by Finance Manager - no longer required | 3,594.50 |
| WG Supporting People | Service has confirmed WG will not be clawing back any surplus amounts this far back - confirmed by Chief Officer for release - no movement since 2015 | 250,519.13 |
| WG Supporting People | Service has confirmed WG will not be clawing back any surplus amounts this far back - confirmed by Chief Officer for release - no movement since 2013 | 130,863.76 |
| Ewloe Offices Upgrade | No longer required as confirmed by Service Manager | 43,545.34 |

| | | |
|--|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| | TOTAL TO BE RELEASED | 585,393.66 |
|--|-----------------------------|-------------------|