

CABINET MEETING

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 15 December 2015
Report Subject	Revenue Budget Monitoring 2015/16 (Month 6)
Cabinet Member	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance
Report Author	Corporate Finance Manager
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This regular monthly report provides the latest revenue budget monitoring position for 2015/16 for the Council Fund and Housing Revenue Account. The position is based on actual income and expenditure as at Month 6, and projects forward to year-end.

The projected year end position, as estimated at Month 6 is as follows:

Council Fund

- Net in year expenditure forecast to be £0.291m higher than budget
- Projected contingency reserve balance at 31 March 2016 of £4.245m

Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

- Net in year expenditure forecast to be £0.147m lower than budget
- Projected closing balance as at 31 March 2016 of £1.384m

RECOMMENDATIONS		
1	Note the overall report and the projected Council Fund contingency sum as at 31st March 2016.	
2	Note the projected final level of balances on the Housing Revenue Account.	

REPORT DETAILS

1.00 EXPLAINING THE REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING POSITION FOR MONTH 6 - 2015/16

1.01 | Council Fund Latest In Year Forecast

The table below shows the projected position by portfolio.

TOTAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME	Original Budget	Revised Budget	Projected Outturn	In-Year Over/ (Under) spend
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Social Services	59.696	59.687	59.635	(0.052)
Community & Enterprise	12.598	12.719	12.530	(0.189)
Streetscene &				
Transportation	27.782	27.770	28.812	1.042
Planning & Environment	4.887	5.331	5.508	0.177
Education & Youth	13.760	13.528	13.518	(0.010)
Schools	82.670	83.193	83.193	0.000
People & Resources	4.595	4.665	4.626	(0.039)
Governance	8.689	8.715	8.870	0.155
Organisational Change	9.569	9.619	9.432	(0.187)
Chief Executive	3.296	3.177	3.052	(0.125)
Central & Corporate				,
Finance	23.915	23.053	22.572	(0.481)
Total	251.457	251.457	251.748	0.291

1.02 The reasons for the projected variances occurring to date are summarised within appendix 2 with movements between periods summarised in appendix 1.

1.03 Significant budget movements between original and revised budget

There were no significant budget changes between portfolios in month 6.

1.04 | Streetscene and Transportation

The overall overspend within Streetscene & Transportation has decreased from a projected £1.108m at Month 5 to £1.042m. The projected overspend within the service is due in part to the delay in the implementation of a number of efficiencies as reported to the Programme Board. In addition fluctuations in recycle sales due to a volatile market has led to an increased pressure on income projections which have resulted in a shortfall of £0.397m. Full details of movements are explained in Appendix 1. As requested at the last Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Chief Officer will be in attendance at the next meeting.

	Programme of Efficiencies	
1.05	The 2015/16 budget contains £12.874m of specific efficiencies which are being tracked through the relevant programme board.	
1.06	Appendix 3 provides detail on the latest position where there is a variation to the level of efficiency achievable compared to the budget.	
1.07	This shows that it is currently projected that £10.770m (84%) will be achieved resulting in a net underachievement of £2.104m. The position will continue to be monitored and reported throughout the monthly monitoring process.	
	Inflation	
1.08	Included within the 2015/16 budget are provisions for pay (£1.304m), targeted price inflation (£0.421m), non-standard inflation (£0.102m) and income (£0.254m).	
1.09	For 2015/16 the amounts for non-standard inflation (NSI) include an allocation for food (£0.064m) and an allocation for Non Domestic Rates (£0.038m).	
1.10	There is also an amount of £0.240m remaining from 2014/15 which is currently also being held centrally. Areas subject to NSI increases will be monitored throughout the year and allocations made to portfolio areas only where a critical funding need is evidenced.	
	Reserves and Balances	
	Unearmarked Reserves	
1.11	The 2014/15 outturn reported to Cabinet on 14 th July 2015 showed unearmarked reserves at 31 March 2015 (above the base level of £5.769m) of £4.746m.	
1.12	Taking into account the current overspend at Month 6 the balance on the contingency reserve at 31st March 2016 is projected to be £4.245m.	
1.13	This includes the expenditure of £0.210m approved at Month 3 for the costs of the Speed Limit Review.	
	Earmarked Reserves	
1.14	The Council has developed a reserves protocol which was considered by Audit Committee and approved by County Council on 24 th September 2015. This sets out the principles around how the council will determine, manage and review the level of its reserves and includes reference to regular reporting of the latest position to Cabinet and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee.	

1.15	The table below gives a summary of earmarked reserves as at 1st April 2015
	and also provides an estimate of projected balances as at the end of the
	financial year.

Reserve Type	Actual 31/03/2015 as per Final Accounts £	Estimated at Month 6 31/03/2016
Schools	3,540,315	1,046,555
Specific Reserves:		
Single Status/Equal Pay	12,864,332	7,337,269
General Reserve - Review of Reserves	4,666,025	3,871,630
General Reserve - Investment in Organisational Change	855,391	C
Self Insurance Funds	813,486	794,486
Benefits Equalisation Reserve	213,044	104,740
Supporting People Reserve	1,511,083	469,083
County Elections	154,310	154,310
North East Wales Community Equipment Service	178,991	(
Winter Maintenance	250,000	250,000
Waste Disposal Sites	367,475	217,47
Car Park Reserve	217,494	(
Building Control Trading	97,697	97,697
Countryside Services	190,510	190,510
Flintshire Enterprise Reserve	96,932	96,932
Design Fees	120,000	120,000
Other Specific Reserves of less than £0.025m	64,965	60,886
Service Balances	4,047,376	1,111,35
Total	30,249,425	15,922,928

Housing Revenue Account

- 1.17 On 17 February 2015 the Council approved a Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget for 2015/16 of £30.776m.
- 1.18 The budget provided for a closing balance of £1.396m which at 4.5% of total expenditure, satisfies the prudent approach of ensuring a minimum level of 3%.
- 1.19 The 2014/15 Outturn Report to Cabinet on 14th July 2015 showed a closing balance at the end of 2014/15 of £1.510m.
- 1.20 The Month 6 monitoring report for the HRA is projecting in year expenditure to be £0.147m lower than budget and a projected closing balance as at 31 March 2016 of £1.384m.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	The Budget Monitoring Report reflects the planned use of the financial resources of the Council for the current financial year and details the variations occurring to date.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	None Required.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT	
4.01	Municipal Mutual Insurance (MMI) MMI was the predominant insurer of public sector bodies prior to 1992 when it failed. To ensure an orderly "run off" Flintshire, along with other local authorities, was required to pay a levy of 15% of its share of claims paid previously and of any future claims. MMI's administrator has recently published their 2015 accounts which shows that due to an increase in the number of claims generally, there will be a need to increase the levy in the future, affecting claims paid previously and future claims. Options are currently being considered for meeting the potential liability. Status: unstable/red risk	
4.02	Recycling The recycling market (paper in particular) is going through a volatile period with fluctuating re-cycle sale values. This will impact on 2015/16 recycling income levels for the Council. The current impact is reflected in the Month 6 projections and will continue to be monitored throughout the year. Status: unstable/amber risk.	
4.03	Car Parking Due to car parking charges being introduced in some Flintshire towns later than anticipated during 2015/16, it is likely that there will be an increased shortfall in achieving the increased car park income targets. Therefore, work is currently ongoing to take account of the revised implementation dates and the subsequent effect this will have on revised income projections, the updated outturn position is reflected in the Month 6 projections. Status: unstable/amber risk.	
4.04	Out of County Placements The risk is the volatility in demand and the impacts on service costs which cannot be predicted with any certainty. Therefore there is always a risk of significant variances occurring although this area will continue to be closely monitored. Status: unstable/amber risk.	
4.05	Former Euticals Site Monthly costs for ongoing security and maintenance of the site are in the region of £0.030m and will accumulate throughout the financial year until site	

	disposal. Status: unstable/amber risk.
4.06	In Year Reductions in Specific Government Grants This is a generic risk associated with the risk of some Government grants reducing in year. Whilst these are being managed and mitigated where known, they can add to cumulative cost pressures. Status: unstable/amber risk.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Council Fund – Movement in Variances from Month 5 – Appendix 1 Council Fund – Budget Variances – Appendix 2 Council Fund – Programme of Efficiencies – Appendix 3 Council Fund – Movement on unearmarked reserves – Appendix 4 Housing Revenue Account Variances – Appendix 5

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS		
6.01	None required		
	Contact Officer:	Sara Dulson Finance Manager	
	Telephone: E-mail:	01352 702287 sara.dulson@flintshire.gov.uk	

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	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.
7.02	Council Fund: the fund to which all the Council's revenue expenditure is charged.
7.03	Financial Year: the period of twelve months commencing on 1 April.
7.04	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.
7.05	Projected Outturn: projection of the expenditure to the end of the financial year, made on the basis of actual expenditure incurred to date.
7.06	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.
7.07	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.
7.08	Underspend: when referring to expenditure the actual expenditure incurred is less than budget. Shown as a –ve. When referring to income the actual income achieved exceeds the budget. Shown as a –ve.
7.09	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.
7.10	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.