



Committee Report

PURPOSE: Final Decision Report

KEY OR NON-KEY DECISION: Non-key decision

COMMITTEE: Environment and Sustainability Committee

DATE: 26 September 2024

TITLE: 2024/25 Period 4 Finance Forecast Report – Environment and Sustainability Committee

Ward(s): City Wide

Officer presenting the report: Peter Anderson

Job title: Director Property, Assets and Infrastructure

Committee Chair: Cllr Martin Fodor

Executive Director lead: John Smith: Executive Director for Growth & Regeneration

Proposal origin: BCC Staff

Purpose of Report:

1. The Council Revenue and Capital budget for 2024/25 was agreed by Full Council on 21 February 2023. This report presents to the Environment and Sustainability Committee the financial forecast at Period 4 (P4) against the budget as at the end of July 2024. As the Period 3 and Period 4 reports were completed on an exception basis, this report has not changed since Period 2.

Evidence Base:

1. The relevant budgets for the Environment and Sustainability Committee include Sustainable City and Climate Change, Waste and Energy teams. The Sustainable City and Climate Change team are part of the Economy of Place division while the Waste and Energy teams are part of the Property, Assets and Infrastructure division.

2. General Fund

Revenue

- 2.1. The revenue budgets for these areas are shown in the table below.

Table 1 Summary Position

| 2024/25 Environment and Sustainability Revenue | Budget £'000 | Forecast £'000 | Variance £'000 | Expenditure To Date £'000 |
|---|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| 511 – Sustainable City and Climate Change | 743 | 743 | 0 | 471 |
| 311 – Waste | 43,196 | 43,196 | 0 | 10,330 |
| 531 – Energy Programme Manager | 3,614 | 3,614 | 0 | 1,042 |
| Total | 47,553 | 47,553 | 0 | 11,843 |

2.2. While the current forecast in those budgets above, aligned to Environment and Sustainability are projected in line with budget, at P4 there is an overall forecast a £5.4 million overspend for Growth and Regeneration. The directorate-wide overspend is driven by the costs of providing accommodation to those experiencing homelessness. The budgets referred to above will be required to deliver more in order to achieve a balanced budget across the Directorate cash limit.

Revenue Risks and Opportunities

2.3. The largest revenue challenge within these teams is delivering increasing income targets. The Council Revenue and Capital budget for 2024/25 included policy that income targets would, in general, be increased by 6.7% (representing the 2023/24 rate of inflation). In particular, the Waste team oversees several income budgets and where possible the charges have been increased, in some cases above 6.7%, in order to contribute to these higher targets.

2.4. There is also risk within these budget areas relating to the higher cost of energy following the conflict in the Ukraine. However, as part of the budget setting for 2024/25 the Council increased the budget by £1.55m to allow for these costs and, at present, the pressure is expected to be maintained within that budgetary uplift in 2024/25.

2.5. The Bristol Waste Contract has been affected by high levels of inflation over the past two years especially with the waste treatment contracts. In 2023/24, £1.3m worth of service reductions were implemented alongside a £700k increase in fees and charges.

Capital

2.6. The capital budgets for these areas are shown in the table below.

Table 2 Environment and Sustainability Capital Budgets 2024/25

| 2024/25 Environment and Sustainability Capital | Budget £'000 | Forecast £'000 | Variance £'000 |
|---|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Council Corporate Decarbonisation Delivery Programme | 6,000 | 6,000 | 0 |
| Third Household Waste Recycling and Reuse Centre | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Energy Services – Renewable Energy Investment Scheme | 4,990 | 4,858 | (133) |
| Total | 10,995 | 10,863 | (133) |

2.7. The Decarbonisation Delivery Programme will be delivered through the City Leap Client Team. The variance is due to the Residential Chargepoint Scheme that is currently forecasting an £133k underspend due to match funding no longer being required. These costs will now be met through the Green Recovery Fund and the Council will consider options to redistribute this funding.

Officer Recommendations

3. That the Committee notes the contents of report on the P4 forecast for Environment and Sustainability.

Corporate Strategy alignment:

1. The Corporate Strategy underpins the council's budget

City Benefits:

1. Cross priority report that covers whole of the council's business

Consultation Details:

1. N/A

Background Documents:

[Budget Report 2024/25](#)

APPENDICES

Appendix A – Further essential background information and detail

NO