



Committee Report

PURPOSE: Final Decision Report

Key or non-key decision: Key decision affects 2 or more wards

COMMITTEE: Strategy and Resources Committee

DATE: 17 March 2025

TITLE: P10 Finance Outturn Report 2024/25

Ward(s) City Wide

Officer presenting the report: Andy Rothery

Job title: S151 Officer

Committee Chair: Cllr Tony Dyer

Executive Director lead: Nick Hibberd: Chief Executive Officer

Proposal origin: Other

Purpose of Report:

1. The council's Revenue and Capital budget for 2024/25 was agreed by Full Council on 28 February 2024. This report presents information and analysis to the Strategy and Resources Committee on the council's financial performance against that approved budget and its forecast use of resources for the financial year 2024/25.
2. Detailed finance reports are presented to the Strategy and Resources Committee on a quarterly basis. These quarters typically occur at periods 2, 5, 8 and 12. Other periods constitute exception reporting periods which means that detail is provided by exception where a significant movement in forecast is predicted.
3. Period 10 represents the final formal forecast for the current financial year and it is against this forecast that the full year outturn at the close of P12 (March) will be assessed.
4. In addition, this report informs the Strategy and Resources Committee on the delivery of planned savings for the financial year 2024/25.
5. This report also serves as a mechanism for any finance approvals or adjustments that are required on the council's approved budget.

Evidence Base:

1. The council's annual revenue and capital budget is managed across a number of areas and at Period 10 the 2024/25 full year financial position is forecast as follows:

1.1. General Fund Revenue Budget

The original Revenue budget for 2024/25 as agreed by Full Council was £533.7 million. The Period

10 total forecast service variation from its part of the original budget is £34.0 million. It continues to be expected that this service variation will be partially offset by £16.2 million of forecast contingent budget for inflation and optimism bias currently held corporately so that the total net forecast revenue overspend at P10 is £17.8 million (3.3% of original approved budget). There is an ongoing expectation that directorates take measures to reduce the financial pressure this year and ongoing.

1.2. **General Fund Savings**

£34.0 million of savings were approved and planned for delivery within the 2024/25 budget. In addition, there are £11.2 million of savings undelivered in 2023/24 which carry forward in to 2024/25 for delivery. These combine with an additional £2.6 million of savings identified and committed as part of business case approvals to date and the reversal of £1.7 million prior year non-recurrent savings to produce an overall savings plan target for 2024/25 of £49.5 million. Of these savings, £39.6 million (80%) are currently forecast to be delivered with £9.9 million (20%) at risk of non-delivery in year.

1.3. **General Fund Risk and Opportunities**

An underlying additional £1.8 million of weighted net risk is assessed across the directorates' logs of outstanding risks and opportunities. These are a combination of costs, savings delivery, income generation and other funding opportunities.

1.4. **Housing Revenue Account**

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) gross expenditure budget of £151.0 million is reporting a net outturn overspend of £12.1 million (8.0%). This reflects an improvement in position of £(1.1) million since Period 8.

1.5. **Dedicated Schools Grant**

The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) revised budget, including amounts recouped by the Education and Skills Funding Agency for Academies, is £491.7 million.

The forecast outturn position has deteriorated by £1.5 million since Period 8. This brings the current in-year overspend to £33.0 million against the revised gross budget which, following application of the Safety Valve combined with contribution from the General Fund, brings the forecast net deficit at the close of 2024/25 to £17.6 million (3.6% of revised gross budget).

The unmitigated total carry forward deficit is £91.6 million. Mitigated, this equates to a net £54.7 million.

1.6. **Public Health**

The Public Health (PH) budget is £36.4 million and no variance to budget is forecast.

1.7. **Bristol Harbour Authority**

The Bristol Harbour Authority budget is £0.6 million and no variance to budget is forecast.

1.8. **Capital Programme**

The Capital Programme forecast outturn is £280 million against the revised budget for 2024/25 of £306.3 million (including Corporate Contingency budget of £10m). This forecast reflects a net underspend of £(26.3) million (8.6%) and is comprised of £(20.7) million underspend on the General Fund and £(5.6) million underspend on the HRA.

2. This report also includes the following:

- I. Finance key decision no. 41 (21 February 2025) to accept and spend Holiday Activity and

- Food Programme grant funding of £1.8 million for 2025/26 (see Appendix A5)
- II. Finance key decision no.40 (19 February 2025) to accept and spend Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Improvement Grant (DATRIG) of up to £6.7 million for 2025/26 (see Appendix A6).

Officer Recommendations:

That the Committee notes:

1. The council’s General Fund forecast outturn revenue overspend of £17.8 million at P10 2024/25 against the council approved budget of £533.7 million.
2. The performance on delivery of savings (Appendix A1, Section 3, Tables 3a and 3b).
3. The additional weighted net risk of £1.8 million per the risks and opportunities register (Appendix A1, Section 4, Tables 4a and 4b)
4. The council’s outturn position of £12.1 million overspend within the Housing Revenue Account to be transferred to the HRA general reserve at the year end (Appendix A1a, Section 5.3).
5. The council’s outturn position of a £33 million overspend (net £17.6m) in the Dedicated Schools Grant and that this brings the carry forward deficit to £91.6 million. Following the application of the DfE’s 24/25 Safety Valve combined with contribution from the General Fund a total £54.7 million is forecast to be carried forward at the year end in the DSG deficit reserve (Appendix A1, Section 5.4).
6. The breakeven position on Public Health services (Appendix A1, Section 5.5).
7. The breakeven position on the Bristol Harbour Fund. (Appendix A1, Section 5.6).
8. The council’s forecast underspend of £26.3 million against the Capital Programme revised budget 2024/25, comprised of £20.7 million underspend on the General Fund and £5.6million underspend on the HRA. (Appendix A1, Section 6).
9. The finance key decision (no. 41 – 21 February 2025) to accept and spend £1.8m Holiday Activity and Food Programme grant funding for 2025/26.
10. The finance key decision (no.40 – 19 February 2025) to accept and spend up to £6.7 million DATRIG for 2025/26.

Corporate Strategy alignment:

1. The Corporate Strategy underpins the council’s budget.

City Benefits:

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

Consultation Details:

1. N/A

Background Documents:

[Agenda Document for Full Council, 28/02/2024](#), pages 33-344

Revenue Cost	See Above	Source of Revenue Funding	Various
Capital Cost	See Above	Source of Capital Funding	Various
One off cost <input type="checkbox"/>	Ongoing cost <input type="checkbox"/>	Saving Proposal <input type="checkbox"/>	Income generation proposal <input type="checkbox"/>

Professional comments section:

1. Finance Advice: Resource and financial implications are as set out on this report.

Finance Business Partner:

Jemma Prince, FBP Planning, Reporting and Strategy, 20 February 2025

2. Legal Advice: The report, including the detail set out in the Appendices, will assist the Committee to monitor the budget position with a view to meeting the Council's legal obligation to deliver a balanced budget.

Legal Team Leader: Nancy Rollason, Head of Legal Service, 20 February 2025.

3. Implications on IT: Whilst the process of financial monitoring has no IT implications itself, the council continues to carry business continuity and cyber-security risks and the council's overall financial position (and its capacity for change management) makes it likely that this will continue in-year.

IT Team Leader: Tim Borrett, Director: Policy, Strategy and Digital, 20 February 2005

4. HR Advice: Any measures to address overspends that impact on the Council's workforce will be handled in line with its Managing Change Policy.

HR Partner: James Brereton, Head of Human Resources, 18 February 2025

APPENDICES

Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal Appendices A1-A6	YES
Appendix B – Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)	NO
Appendix C – Environmental Impact Assessment	NO
Appendix D – Risk assessment	NO
Appendix E – Exempt Information	NO
Appendix F – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external	NO