

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. This report provides information and analysis on the Council's financial performance and use of resources to the end of the financial year 2020/21, in comparison to the budget set by Council on 25 February 2020, whereas prior reports have focussed on the movements since the previous report.
- 1.2. It is a management report which precedes the production of the Council's formal Statement of Accounts. This year's annual accounts publication has been delayed as a result of the impact of covid-19.
- 1.3. As is the case with every year-end report there are a number of changes that result as balance sheet activities are reviewed and finalised and although the Outturn Report and Statement of Accounts reconcile to one another, it is the statutory Statement of Accounts on which the audit opinion is formed and accounting regulations drives some of the final movements reported.
- 1.4. The key areas covered in this report are revenue, capital, core funding, debt management, reserves and savings. For the purpose of this report, an 'underspend' is the difference when comparing budgeted allowance to actual expenditure incurred and a 'cash surplus' is additional cash in-flows to which no budgeted expenditure has yet been agreed.
- 1.5. The impact of the covid-19 pandemic and social distancing activities has had a significant impact on the financial position of the Council. Throughout the year the financial impact on the Council caused by Covid-19 on additional expenditure incurred, disruption to the delivery of planned efficiencies, and reduced income has been reported separately and this report summarises the final impact of the pandemic throughout 2020/21. The Council's approach to managing the financial impact of the pandemic as a one-off challenge across the medium term and ensuring it is able to respond accordingly as the external context and environment changes.
- 1.6. The net General Fund outturn is £450.6 million and in the context of the original budget /funding set in February 2020 (£395.7 million) presents an in-year overspend of £54.9 million. This takes into account the gross Covid-19 pressures of £74.7 million and a surplus on non-covid activities of £19.7 million at year-end.
- 1.7. The Capital Programme is reporting an outturn of £166.4 million, this is an underspend of £33.0 million (17%) compared to the revised programme position reported in February however an underspend of £128.7 million (44%) when compared to the original budget of £295.1 million set in February 2020. This is largely due to external factors, delays, and variances to schemes with spend profiles that span a number of financial years.
- 1.8. As a result of the positive outturn position, our finances are in a better place to meet the ongoing Covid-19 challenges over the medium term, ensure the continued delivery of organisational priorities, as well as increasing financial resilience in 2021/22 and beyond. Aligned with the above retention of an appropriate level of general reserves will be essential to mitigate risk, including future funding uncertainties and will be utilised as a key indicator of sound financial governance

2. Revenue Budget Summary

General Fund Summary

- 2.1. The net General Fund outturn is £450.6 million and in the context of the original budget set in February 2020 (£395.7 million) presents an in-year overspend of £54.9 million. This takes into account the gross Covid-19 pressures of £74.7 million and a surplus on non-covid activities of £19.7 million at year-end.

2.2. The impact of Covid-19 was fully mitigated by receipt of various additional funding received during the year as detailed in section 2.8, with a balance carried forward of £8.1 million of non-ringfenced funding and £14.4 million of ringfenced funding to manage the impact of the pandemic over the medium term and meet future commitments.

2.3. Table below provides a summary of how each directorate performed against the 2020/21 budget including a breakdown of the costs and lost income associated with the pandemic. A more detailed financial performance by directorate is outlined under later sections of this report.

General Fund Expenditure

General Fund	2020/21 - Full Year			Outturn Variance	
	Revised Budget	P12 Outturn	Variance	Gross COVID Impact	Non-COVID
	£000s			£000s	
People					
Adult Social Care	148,370	169,884	21,514	25,963	(4,449)
Children and Families Services	64,060	68,711	4,651	4,852	(201)
Educational Improvement	12,334	13,963	1,629	1,818	(189)
Public Health - General Fund	(8,693)	(5,753)	2,940	2,546	394
Total People	216,071	246,804	30,734	35,179	(4,445)
Resources					
Digital Transformation	19,181	19,498	318	1,213	(895)
Legal and Democratic Services	8,218	8,354	136	954	(818)
Finance	3,305	11,229	7,924	9,189	(1,265)
HR, Workplace & Organisational Design	14,722	17,408	2,686	1,384	1,302
Policy, Strategy & Partnerships	3,714	3,663	(50)	60	(110)
Total Resources	49,140	60,153	11,013	12,800	(1,787)
Growth & Regeneration					
Housing & Landlord Services	15,935	23,111	7,176	6,330	846
Development of Place	1,587	2,263	676	901	(225)
Economy of Place	4,414	8,632	4,219	3,943	276
Management of Place	34,863	48,645	13,782	13,781	1
Total Growth & Regeneration	56,799	82,651	25,852	24,955	897
SERVICE NET EXPENDITURE	322,009	389,609	67,599	72,934	(5,334)
Levies	10,118	10,312	194	0	194
Corporate Expenditure	12,009	8,118	(3,891)	1,569	(5,460)
Capital Financing	13,999	5,043	(8,956)	150	(9,106)
Movement in Reserves	38,674	38,674	0	0	0
TOTAL REVENUE NET EXPENDITURE	396,809	451,756	54,946	74,653	(19,706)
			13.8%		-5.0%

2.4. The primary explanations for the outturn variations are identified in the sections below.

Movement to previous forecast

2.5. Since the previous full forecast as at the end of December the position has changed significantly. This had been anticipated and a high-level summary was reported to Cabinet in March of movements to the previous forecast.

General Fund	COVID	Non-COVID	Total Movement
	£000s		
People			
Adult Social Care	(1,940)	(11,675)	(13,615)
Children and Families Services	467	(30)	437
Educational Improvement	706	(564)	142
Public Health - General Fund	(9,531)	398	(9,133)
Total People	(10,299)	(11,870)	(22,168)
Resources			
Digital Transformation	308	(96)	212
Legal and Democratic Services	(106)	(413)	(519)
Finance	3,677	(510)	3,167
HR, Workplace & Organisational Design	(52)	(361)	(413)
Policy, Strategy & Partnerships	0	0	0
Total Resources	3,827	(1,380)	2,447
Growth & Regeneration			
Housing & Landlord Services	1,796	282	2,078
Development of Place	(267)	151	(116)
Economy of Place	(2,966)	(1,127)	(4,093)
Management of Place	(1,859)	1,022	(837)
Total Growth & Regeneration	(3,296)	328	(2,968)
SERVICE NET EXPENDITURE	(9,768)	(12,922)	(22,689)
Levies	0	194	194
Corporate Expenditure	(114)	(6,098)	(6,212)
Capital Financing	0	(6,573)	(6,573)
Movement in Reserves	0	0	0
TOTAL REVENUE NET EXPENDITURE	(9,882)	(25,398)	(35,280)

Covid-19

2.6. The financial impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the Council's General Fund budget in 20/21 (i.e. excluding Housing Revenue Account, DSG and collection of Council tax or Business Rates income) is £74.7 million for the year. This was made up of £50.6 million additional expenditure and the inability to deliver planned savings, as well as £24.1 million reduction in income from sales, fees and charges.

2.7. The gross Covid impact however has reduced by £10 million since January, predominantly due to anticipated timing differences between funding received, and the cost incurring for Outbreak Management which will be spent after the end of financial year 2020/21. In addition, income losses towards the end of financial year had seen higher than anticipated level of recovery comparing to the January forecast before lockdown ended, which reflects the local economic recovery trend.

2.8. A proportion of the loss of income is covered by Ministry for Housing and Local Government (MHCLG) Fee and Charges Compensation Scheme, therefore the grant income level would also reduce accordingly.

	P09 Forecast £m	Outturn £m
Additional Expenditure/Delay in Savings	55.443	50.589
Loss of sales, fees and charges	29.091	24.064
Total Covid Impact	84.534	74.653

2.9. The £74.7 million cost is funded by a mixture of specific and general funding provided by Government departments as well as local mitigations as outlined in the table below.

	Outturn £m
Total Covid Impact	74.653
Infection Control Round 1	4.025
Infection Control Round 2	3.653
Rapid Testing Grant	0.970
Workforce Capacity Funding	1.014
Homelessness Grant	1.936
Housing Benefit	2.542
Public Health Covid grants applied in year	1.784
Revenues and Benefits support grants	4.171
Service specific grants/mitigations sub-total	20.095
Covid-19 Emergency Funding - First Tranche	12.994
Covid-19 Emergency Funding - Second Tranche	12.906
Covid-19 Emergency Funding - Third Tranche	4.580
Covid-19 Emergency Funding - Fourth Tranche	11.128
Hardship fund	5.005
Sales, Fees & Charge Income Grant	14.092
Furlough Scheme	1.953
Total	62.658
Balance Carried forward	8.100

Specific Covid Grants

2.10. In addition to the un-ringfenced funding above specific ring-fenced grants relating to Covid were also received and some have committed spend in 2021/22 and have been carried forward as shown in the table below.

	Grant Received £m	Applied/Spent 20/21 £m	Carry Forward £m
Test and Trace Support	3.033	0.744	2.289
Contain Outbreak Management Fund	11.420	0.482	10.938
Community Testing	0.684	0.000	0.684
Compliant and Enforcement Fund	0.283	0.231	0.052
Clinically Extremely Vulnerable Fund	0.418	0.327	0.090
Reopening High Streets Safely	0.416	0.110	0.306
Total	16.253	1.894	14.359

People

Adult Social Care

2.11. The outturn position is £21.5 million overspend on an approved budget of £148.4 million which reflects the significant Covid-19 related expenditure incurred (£26.0 million) during the year and that 2020/21 was a particularly challenging year for social care.

2.12. Adult Social Care was on the front line of the pandemic responding to the challenges of providing care and support to communities and worked closely with care providers and NHS organisations to

help support timely hospital discharges, as pressure on hospitals rose due to growing numbers of people affected by Covid-19. It was particularly challenging in the areas faced with infection control, shortages of personal protective equipment, workforce capacity issues and financial pressures experienced by care providers.

- 2.13. Reflecting the need to maximise hospital capacity for those being treated for coronavirus and to support the social care sector to help support and deliver this, the government provided significant Covid grant funding and support for the care sector. Bristol allocated £9.5 million in relation to grants to fund infection control, testing and workforce capacity measures, particularly in relation to care homes. This was deployed at pace to urgently support providers with the challenges they faced.
- 2.14. Covid-19 also impacted ASC's ability to deliver on its £6 million savings and efficiencies target originally planned.
- 2.15. Significant NHS funding c£10 million was also received towards the end of the year as part of the national Hospital Discharge Programme to help people return home safely and quickly with the care and support they needed. The receipt of this funding for follow on care and support cost and post discharge support, significantly assisted the improvement of the Adult Social Care outturn position compared to previously forecasted in January.

Children's and Family Service

- 2.16. The outturn for Children's and Family Service was £4.6 million overspend on a revised budget of £64.1 million. This was fully offset by allocated Covid-19 funding from un-ringfenced government grant c£4.6 million.
- 2.17. Internal & external placements overspend accounted for £4.8 million. The division was unable to achieve the budgeted Strengthening Families savings of £1.7m due to the significant impact of Covid-19. In addition, expenditure increased by £2.6m when compared to 2019/20 outturn principally due to the increased number of children being placed in various settings, their longer stay in these settings due to Covid-19 and the significant increases in the cost of service provision due to Covid-19 pressures and the increase in demand. Of the £4.8m overspend, £0.4m relates to children's homes with the remaining £4.4m being attributed to other internal and external placements provisions.
- 2.18. Other areas of overspend includes Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC), primarily due to moving users into Covid-19 compliant accommodation, the inability to move them on quickly to other agencies and staffing pressure in the Area teams. These pressures have been partly mitigated by savings in travel expenses as well as supplies and services.
- 2.19. The outturn compared to Period 9 forecast (£4.2 million) has worsened by £0.4 million due to the following:
 - £0.4 million increase in Internal & External placements arising from £0.16 million increases in in-house children's homes costs and £0.25 million increase in placement costs.
 - £0.27 million increase in UASC costs (primarily on accommodation, ex-gratia payments and additional staffing costs)
 - The above increases were partly mitigated by reduction in Targeted support (of £0.22 million) as a result of reduction in contract commitment (of £0.1m), additional contribution from Housing and Destination Bristol (of £0.075m), with the remainder as a result of reduction in use of agency staff.

Education and Skills

2.20. The outturn for Education and Skills general fund position is £1.6 million overspend. After taking into account the allocation grant to offset the loss of income c£1.6 million and other Covid expenditure pressure (£0.3 million) the net position was a £0.2 million underspend due to in-year mitigations over and above. It is noteworthy that this result was achieved also by utilising one-off education transformation reserve (approved by Cabinet in Sept 2019) at £1.03 million.

2.21. The main areas of overspend and underspend along with accompanying commentary are as shown in the table below:

	Revised Budget £'000	Outturn £'000	Variance £'000	Comments
Home to School Transport (HTST) & commissioning	5,720	6,355	635	There had been continued pressure within the HTST budgets, the outturn overspend is 649k and broadly in line with 2019/20. During the 1st lockdown it was agreed that payments to travel companies would be funded at 100% and in the 2 nd lockdown at 60% however for those routes running, due to the requirement for social distancing – use of escorts, and routes, there had been no reduction in spend. There had been continued data analytical issues with the new transport system and route planning, assurances have been provided by the service that this will be addressed in 2021/22.
Accessible City	2,469	2,973	504	Covid-19 loss of income in Education Psychology Service as well as increased staffing costs in Staffing costs team.
Trading with Schools	(484)	(88)	395	Mainly due to Covid-19 loss of income.
Inclusive City	290	436	146	Loss of income in Education Welfare Service (Covid-19)
Learning City for All	680	802	122	Inability to offer CPD training to schools in the year leading to loss of income (Covid-19) and increased software costs necessitating move to another supplier in Sept. 2021.
Education Management	3,617	3,384	(232)	Reduced Education property charge in 2020/21, reduced School's Staff pension charge and Avon Pension strain cost. Underspend reduced by pressure in records management service charges.
Others	71	130	59	
Total	12,364	13,993	1,629	Note £1.03 million earmarked reserve for education transformation was also utilised to achieve this overall position

2.22. There was an adverse moment of £0.142m from the report presented in in Period 9. The impact of Covid-19 loss of income described above was partly mitigated by use of one-off reserves. HTST and Accessible City experienced the most pressure whilst Education Management underspend increased significantly.

Resources

2.23. The full year outturn for the Resources Directorate shows a net overspend of £11.0 million against the £49.1 million budget however this presents an improved position (£1.8 million) compared to the Period 9 Forecast.

2.24. Within the net overspend position, £8.6 million was attributable to the pandemic, either through increase in costs or decrease in income. This is offset by a (£1.8m) non-Covid related in-year mitigations across the directorate's divisions.

2.25. Digital Transformation service was impacted by the pandemic and incurred £1.2 million of additional costs during the year. £0.9 million of this related to increased phone provision and

usage to enable colleagues to work remotely, delays to the original deployment plan for Windows 10 laptops which led to temporary extensions of Windows 7 licences, delays to the timeframes of the IT transformation programme that consequently led to the increase in the programme's resource costs. In addition, the division had seen £0.3 million income loss against its Translation and Interpretation service due to the reduction in demand during the pandemic. The adverse impact of Covid-19 on this area was largely offset by (£0.9 million) of in-year one-off mitigations such as rebate relating to prior years' overpayments.

- 2.26. Legal and Democratic division incurred £0.9 million of additional costs principally due to Covid measures requiring additional temporary mortuary service provision. This additional expenditure was largely offset by reduced activity and in-year mitigations within the Electoral Services, Statutory Registration and Democratic Services which delivered £0.8 million overall mitigation and offset the Covid impact and overspend to £0.1m at year-end.
- 2.27. Finance division closed the year with a net £3.7 million overspend. This division had incurred £5.0 million additional cost due to the pandemic which reflects the administrative burden seen within the Revenues and Benefits services equipped with additional resources to ensure that the communities and businesses received the government emergency grant and support they needed. It also reflects additional Local Crisis Prevention Fund expenditure, free school meals expenditure, lost court summons income and shortfalls in overpayment / debt recovery. This position was partially offset by a (£1.3 million) non-Covid mitigations and reductions in other business-as-usual activities during the year.
- 2.28. HR, Workplace and Organisational Design reported a net £2.7 million overspend against the full year budget. Covid-19 led to an additional pressure of £1.4 million. This was comprised of £0.6 million delayed Facilities Management savings and £0.8 million lost income due to restrictions in room hire, cleaning and cash in transit services under Facilities Management. Other factors such as the reduced uptake in the Council's General Fund Annual Leave Top Up scheme (its staff holiday purchase scheme) at £0.2 million, the non-achievement of £0.5 million of budgeted Commercialisation savings, £0.4 million of non-achieved budgeted income and variations in internal recharges across HR and Change Services all combined to result in a further £1.3m overspend against budget.

Growth and Regeneration

- 2.29. The Growth & Regeneration Directorate reported a £21.4 million overspend against a net expenditure budget of £58.8m. The overspend was mainly due to the impact of the pandemic which had significantly affected several of the directorate's fee generating services, and increased costs responding to the pandemic. The most notable income generating services impacted by the pandemic were Highways and transport (£11.3 million), Culture Services (£1 million) and Property Management (£1.9 million). In addition, significant expenses had been incurred as a result of response to the pandemic in Housing and Homelessness services (£1.8 million) and the Waste service (£1.5 million).
- 2.30. The net variance to budget had improved by £7.4 million comparing to Period 9 Forecast. This was due to three drivers:
- the impact and recovery from the easing of the third lockdown was better than expected, and as a result parking income was substantially better than previously forecasted (£1.9 million) reflecting local economic recovery;

- improvement in Housing services as a result of movement in central government income (£2.4 million) to support housing provision for the homeless ; and
- the reclassification of the forecast bad debt relating to property from G&R to corporate finance (£2.7 million but no net movement for the Council as a whole).

Housing & Landlord Services

2.31. The service had reported an overspend of £7.2 million (before taking into account the allocation of specific covid funding) against a revised budget of £15.9 million (a reduction in overspend of £2.4 million comparing to Period 9 forecast). Main movements and variances are as follows:

- The MHCLG Next Steps Accommodation Programme funding of £1.9 million was received for 2020/21. Netted off against this income are additional costs incurred as a result of the second and third lockdowns and the provision of housing to the homeless and rough sleepers.
- £1m additional budget had been funded from reserves drawn down.
- The Move-on Project Board has continued to recommend following the principle of continuing to accommodate and provide move on options to avoid rough sleepers returning to the streets, including people with no recourse to public funds.
- The overspend against Housing Benefit subsidy loss had seen a slight increase by £0.3 million to £1.3 million against the Period 9 forecast.

Development of Place

2.32. The division outturn is £0.7 million overspend against a revised budget of £1.6 million. The forecast has improved by £0.1 million comparing to the previous forecast at Period 9. The drivers for these variances are:

- Variance to budget - significant reductions in income have been experienced across the planning development and building control services during the pandemic. Some developments and work are simply put on pause and which will create a small amount of “catch-up”. However there is only a limited capacity within the market to progress developments, planning applications, searches etc. therefore it is anticipated that majority of the losses will not be recoverable and that it will take several months for the service to return to usual activities.
- Movement from Period 9 – minor uplift (£0.1 million) in fee income and cost base improvement, spread across development management and housing delivery services.

Economy of Place

2.33. The division outturn is £4.2 million overspend. The forecast has improved by 4.1 million against Period 9 outturn. The drivers for these variances are:

- £1m reduction in invoiced income for markets and licenses, as a result of the pandemic. Due to the uncertain economic outlook it is uncertain the speed with which these income losses can be recovered, and it could present a pressure into 21/22.
- Under-recovery of £0.7 million relating to income budgets for ad hoc use of our land and loss of income from Temple Street Office rental.
- The remaining variance is driven by the net loss of income from museums, libraries and other event services taking into account furlough support schemes. These activities may take a long time to return to pre-pandemic levels as demand and capacity will be reduced for the foreseeable future due to infection control and social distancing measures.
- Movement from Period 9 – Please note bad debt provision had been recognised in the corporate budget instead at year-end therefore a significant moment in the division comparing to Period 9 forecast (£2.3 million). In addition, the economic development service had received additional

grant income (£0.4 million) and there had been some mitigations in third party spend (£0.3 million) and improvement in maintenance costs within local transport (£0.3 million).

Management of Place

2.34. The division outturn is a £13.8 million overspend against a revised budget of £34.8 million. The forecast has improved by £0.8 million against Period 9 forecast. The main drivers for these variances are:

- Significant reductions in income have been experienced across our car parks including off-Street parking, on street parking, resident parking schemes, parking charge notices etc. Occupancy has reduced significantly during the pandemic (£11.3 million).
- Waste management services also experienced additional cost pressures (£1.5 million) due to increases in residential residual waste and recycling volumes, market price volatility for waste disposal, and additional measure introduced for social distancing.
- Energy Services income had reported a pressures of £1.5 million includes lower than anticipated income from other energy assets due to delay in capital project delivery.
- The Movement from Period 9 is driven by the improvement in outturn from parking comparing to previous forecast reflecting the local economic recovery after the third lockdown. Bus lane enforcement income continue to be above the budgeted level due to new bus lanes introduced recently.

Corporate Expenditure

Capital Financing

2.35. The capital financing budget has seen significant underspend at the end of the financial year, the majority of this has been forecast since early in the year. The slippage of expenditure in 2019/20 and further during the pandemic in 2020/21 has had compounding impact of reducing capital financing costs and has been used primarily to offset costs of Covid-19. £6 million underspend was forecast early in the year and has been held in abeyance to offset costs related to Covid, however at the end of the financial year with additional funding for Covid this was no longer required.

2.36. Other categories within corporate budgets which have underspent are contingencies for inflation and non-delivery of savings. Where delivery of savings was affected by Covid-19 this has been reported as a “cost” of impact of Covid in the above figures, meaning the £1 million contingency for savings delivery was not required as other savings were mitigated in full via other means.

3. Savings Programme

3.1. The savings programme agreed by Council in 2018 included savings totalling £8.650 million for 2020/21. In addition, £7.05 million of savings were carried forward previous years which still requires recurrent delivery and mitigation. The total savings delivery target for 2020/21 is £15.7 million.

Summary of Delivery of Savings by Directorate

Directorate	Target 2020/21 Savings £m	2020/21 Savings reported as delivered (or mitigated recurring basis)	2020/21 Savings reported as undelivered & mitigated on one-off basis	
		£m	£m	%
People	8.895	0.813	8.082	91%
Resources & Cross-Cutting	3.416	1.968	1.448	42%
Growth and Regeneration	3.392	1.360	2.032	60%
Total	15.703	4.141	11.562	74%

3.2. The overall underspend shows that the Council's savings during 2020/21 exceeded those required for a balanced budget however at outturn only £4.141 million of the savings have been on achieved on a recurrent basis with £11.562 million mitigated only on a one-off basis. Of this £6.892 million has been written off and replaced by new savings in the 2021/22 budget, however £4.290 million will be required to be delivered on a recurrent basis to achieve a balanced budget. Full details on savings delivery is provided in Appendix B.

4. Ring-Fenced Accounts

Housing Revenue Account

- 4.1. For the financial year 2020/21 the Housing Revenue Account has reported a surplus of £10.9 million. This surplus will be transferred to the HRA reserves. The main reasons for the surplus against budget are set out below.
- 4.2. Salaries and overheads: There were in-year savings of £0.3 million against these budget including insurances, as well as a transfer of £0.3 million from the Moving Forward Together (MFT) programme to BAU activities. In addition, spend against the Police and Crime Support Officer (PCSO) contribution and Crime Reduction funding was £0.2 million lower than forecast. However, this was offset by increased spend on PPE, computer equipment and increased comms with tenants, leading to an overall overspend of £0.3 million.
- 4.3. A Responsive Repairs underspend against budget of £0.8 million can be attributed to the delay of activities as result of the pandemic and lockdown measures. Due to the nature of the service, access to people's homes is required, which was severely restricted during 2020/21. It is a similar reason with Planned Programmes where there was a £1.7 million underspend, which includes an element of salary savings, as recruitment to vacant posts was also impacted by the pandemic.
- 4.4. The rent accounting period for 2020/21 was greater than the budgeted 365 days, resulting in increased rental income of £2 million, as well as a further £0.2million additional Housing Benefit income in relation to supported housing due to the Covid-19 homelessness response. Vacant posts and the delay of the MFT program led to a further £1.1 million one-off delay in spend. Overheads and Estate Repairs also saw a £0.6 million reduction against budget.
- 4.5. As highlighted above, the delivery of the Planned Program of works to homes has been adversely impacted by the Pandemic. In addition, Development Sites delivering new homes were closed for some months, with schemes delayed beyond the end of the year. These spending reductions had resulted in the capital financing requirement being £5.4 million lower than originally anticipated.
- 4.6. Other small miscellaneous variances across the HRA amount to additional costs of £2.0 million.

Dedicated Schools Grant

4.7. The DSG is a ring-fenced grant which is allocated in four blocks. The Schools Block funds the Individual Schools' Budgets of Academies and Authority schools. The Early Years Block funds the provision of education for children from age 3 up to age 5 and for qualifying two-year olds. The High Needs Block funds the place budgets at special schools, Enhanced Resource schools and Pupil Referral Units within the Council's geographical boundary and other expenditure required to support children and young people with additional educational needs. The Central School Services Block funds limited central expenditure on behalf of all schools and academies plus historic commitments that have been agreed by the Schools Forum.

4.8. The in-year forecast deficit on the DSG has decreased slightly by £1.5 million to £7.1 million comparing to Period 9 forecast, which when added to the brought forward balance will give a total deficit to carry forward at the end of the year of £10.0 million. The main area for concern continues to be the High Needs block which is forecasting an overspend in-year of £9.1 million. The underspend in Transformation Fund, Early Years and Schools blocks, of £0.8 million, £0.6 million, and £0.4 million respectively, has helped to slightly mitigate this pressure.

4.9. In 2020/21 grant income was £374.3 million, whilst expenditure was £381.4 million giving an in-year overspend of £7.1 million, added to brought forward deficit balances of £2.9 million, resulting in a net deficit of £10.0 million to carry forward. The variances in the main blocks are outlined below.

High Needs Block (HNB)

4.10. Within the High Needs Block, the biggest area of funding pressure is top-ups to payments to Special and mainstream schools, as well as payments to other local authorities, Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) and resource bases, where overspend of £7.5 million were recorded. Whilst this is similar to Period 9 forecast, it is £6.8m more than the overspend in 19/20. There is significant increase in number of pupils coming to panel for top-up funding. This is as a result of increased number of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) being completed.

Early Years (EY)

4.11. The Early Year's block underspend is due to changes (announced by government early January 2021) to revert to participation led funding for Early Years providers. This led to reduction in Spring term funding. In addition, there were reduction in pupil premium claim arising from lower claims in Spring term returns. Underspend in School's block is, in the main, due to growth fund underspend.

Education Transformation Programme

4.12. Following agreement of Schools Forum, the amount transferred from the Schools Block in 2020/21 is being used to contribute towards the Education Transformation Programme. We initially forecast that that all this funding will be spent in 2020/21. Due to the pandemic however, the programme was underspent (by £0.8 million) and this had been carried forward to 2021/22 to continue the support on initiatives in the programme. The Education Transformation Programme is primarily concerned with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) and is expected to drive improvement in SEND practices as well as increase local provisions. This has led to increased number of pupils accessing the service (with impact on the HNB) and will in the longer term led to improved outcomes and more sustainable costs.

4.13. Nationally High Needs continues to be challenging due in the main to SEND reforms introduced in 2014 and remain unfunded and in Bristol, this has been exacerbated by work to clear the backlog of EHCP. Further detailed activity review & analysis will need to be undertaken to ensure planning is robust and sufficient resources are available to meet needs, and we will continue to lobby government for a more sustainable funding settlement.

Covid-19

4.14. During the pandemic, most schools remained open to provide education to children of Key Workers and vulnerable pupils. Any additional costs incurred by schools during this time were able to be reclaimed from Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). The funding into the DSG was unaffected by Covid, and also the amounts paid to schools continued at pre-Covid levels following DfE guidance.

Communities and Public Health

4.15. During the year the service continued the financial review of all services which commenced in 2018/19 to ensure that delivery is brought within this reducing budget envelope, reflecting key

priorities and in line with framework of expenditure agreed with Public Health England (PHE) finance.

- 4.16. The total Public Health expenditure in 2020/21 was £37.676 million. This has been financed by the £33.142 million in-year public health grant and £4.5 million joint commissioned funding.
- 4.17. For Leisure Service Provision £0.911 million was drawn down from the from the Hengrove PFI ring-fenced reserves to meet the costs of this contract.
- 4.18. As a result of the Covid-19 Pandemic, Bristol City Council received various grants allocations in respect Covid-19 from government departments which include Test and Trace – Local Outbreak Management Plan (LOMP), Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF), Local Authority Compliance and Enforcement Grant (LACE), Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV), Community Testing Programme funding totalling the sum of £15.380 million. These grants were received during the latter part of the financial year and are be available for the continuous covid-19 programmes in 2021/22. During 2020/21 expenditure was £1.784 million, with the majority of commitments falling in 2021/22. These extended commitments include additional environmental health, outbreak management, enforcement civil protection and communication expertise, investment in volunteering support, surge capacity and isolation support. All outbreak management funding is committed up to end of March 2022 with COMF grant ring fenced against the plan to ensure the council had sufficient capacity to manage throughout the year. The delivery of the outbreak management plan is reliant on that budget and that posts across the council are in place.

5. Capital Programme and Investments

- 5.1. The capital programme changed during the year as the phasing of schemes was reviewed and approvals for additional schemes and resourcing were agreed. The original capital programme set in February 2020 totaling £295.1 million (including £83.0 million within HRA) and approvals were sought in subsequent budget monitoring reports to revise the 2020/21 programme to a budget of £199.4 million.
- 5.2. Table below sets out the Capital Outturn position by Directorate (Full breakdown is available in Appendix A3)

Capital Outturn Summary

5.3. The actual capital outturn achieved for 2020/21 is £166.4 million, which includes £39.0 million

Approved Budget Council £m	Directorate	Revised Budget £m	Outturn £m	Outturn Variance £m
32.3	People	32.0	29.6	(2.3)
14.3	Resources	17.3	15.7	(1.6)
163.3	Growth and Regeneration	99.9	82.0	(17.9)
1.5	Corporate	0	0	0
79.7	Housing Revenue Account	50.2	39.0	(11.1)
291.9	Total	199.4	166.4	(33.0)
	<i>Financed By:</i>			
71.6	Prudential Borrowing		28.8	
113.1	Capital Grants		79.4	
25.2	Capital Receipts		15.4	
79.7	HRA		39.0	
2.2	Revenue Contributions		3.8	
291.9	Total		166.4	

attributed to the HRA and overall indicates c.56% delivery when compared to the originally agreed programme.

5.4. The delays can be attributed to a range of factors both internal such as capacity and external such as pandemic, planning, and other environmental factors. The level of actual prudential borrowing required to finance this reduced programme is £28.8 million, which is £57.2 million lower than when the budget was agreed. This has had an impact on the revenue accounts with a reduction in the capital financing costs associated to the debt for the programme as outlined above.

5.5. At the end of the financial year the slippage is requested to be reprofiled into future years with a small underspend on completed projects to be removed from the programme.

5.6. The People Directorate reported a net underspend of (£2.3m) with the main variance relating to the schools expansion programme with a reported underspend of (£1.9m). Education and Skills were reporting slippage in completing Service Level Agreements (SLA's) with school operators and this resulted in not being able to start on site for a number of projects and slippage in spend. Education now have a full time resource working to complete SLA's with the schools to progress this.

5.7. Within Resources Directorate the Building Practice Service reported a net (£0.6m) underspend against full year budget. This materialised in the final quarter of the year and reflected slippages to timescales e.g. the relaying of City Hall ramp asphalt was rescheduled in to 21/22 in order not to coincide with the local elections. The Vehicle Fleet Replacement Programme spent (£0.2m) less than budget due to delays in the delivery of new electric vans, originally scheduled for February 2021. The ICT Refresh Programme underspent by (£0.7m) due to revision of timings on spend and delivery of new laptops. The I.T. Transformation Programme was (£0.1m) underspent against the full year budget due to slippage in the planned timescales for delivery of services through its Data Delivery Partner.

5.8. Growth and Regeneration reported a net underspend of (17.9m) against a revised budget of £99.9m

(82% delivery). The key drivers of the variance to budget are:

- Economy Development - GR01 (5.2m) – delay in purchase of Grovesnor hotel as part of Temple Meads development
- Economy Development - GR03 - ASEA 2 Flood Defences (4.4m) – project in collaboration with other UAs, and budget spend reliant on project delivery by South Gloucester. Other UAs have not mobilised project in line with budget expectation.
- Economy Development - PL05 - Sustainable Transport (2.4m) – COVID related slippage on projects
- Housing Delivery PL30 (3.2m) – delays in payments of RP grants

5.9. The main reasons for the £11.1m underspend on the HRA Capital Programme are:

- Planned Programme – underspend of £1.4m due to limited access to homes under Covid restrictions for prolonged periods has led to a further reduction in planned activity for the year.
- New Build and Land Enabling – underspend £10.2m due to delays across a number of schemes. At Oakhanger the start on site has been delayed due to the discovery of slowworms which cannot be translocated during hibernation, and there were delays in obtaining planning consent on the Brentry and Brunel Ford schemes.
- Building Maintenance and Improvement – The overspend of £0.6m due to additional work on lifts in blocks.
- HRA Infrastructure – underspend of £0.1m due to not needing to proceed with an update in the software for the scheduling system.

Investments

5.10. The authority has commercial investments which are expected to generate both a commercial and social return. For social investments their primary purposes are to provide service benefits / social impact while the generation of yield and liquidity is secondary. These are commonly known as impact investments. The investments made in 2020/21 are summarised below:

Investments made during 2020/21

Investment	Total Budget £m	2020/21 Investment £m	Total Investment to date £m
Avon Mutual Community Bank	0.300	0.100	0.200
Bristol Waste Company Loan	12.000	1.560	11.310
Goram Homes	10.000	0.680	1.479
City Funds LP	5.000	0.253	1.039

5.11. **Bristol Waste** – The provision of a loan to Bristol Waste to support the vehicle repayment programme repayable in full by 2027/28. An additional loan for £1.560 million was made during the year bringing the total loans to £11.310 million. During the year repayments from Bristol Waste Company totalling £1.186 million were made resulting in year-end balance outstanding of £9.770

million.

- 5.12. **Goram Homes** – During the year working capital loan of £0.680 million has been paid to Goram Homes bringing the total loan to £1.479 million.
- 5.13. **City Funds LP** – The fund of £10 million, of which £5 million is invested by the Council for a minimum duration of 10 years to support the provision of loans to local communities. During the year a further £0.253 million has been invested by the Council bringing the total to £1.039 million
- 5.14. **Avon Community Bank** – A further investment of £100k was made during the year to support the development phase of the regional bank rooted in and owned by the community and with a mission and business model to help tackle inequalities and build a new sustainable and inclusive economy for the region.

6. Core Local Income

Council Tax

- 6.1. Budgeted Council Tax for the year totalled £224.4 million, this assumed forecast growth in number of homes and anticipated changes in demands for Council Tax Reduction Scheme, discounts and exemptions. It assumed an in-year collection rate of 96.8% and collection of previous years arrears.

Council Tax Income Collection

- 6.2. Table below shows the level of Council Tax and Non-Domestic rates collected by the Council, for 2020/21, as at 31 March 2021 and the comparable performance for 2019/20.

	Council Tax		
	2020/21	2019/20	Trend
Collectable Debit	265.2	256.1	
Collected	252.4	247.8	↓
Percentage	95.2%	96.76%	

- 6.3. The target for Council Tax collection was adjusted downward to 93.57% as the impact of the pandemic was difficult to predict. Final outturn, as at 31 March 2021 exceeded this revised target by 1.63% or £4.3 million. The outturn “collectable debit” above reflects the total Council Tax which was due after taking into account all discounts, exemptions, growth during the year and also includes precepts of Avon Police and Crime Commissioner and Avon Fire and Rescue.

Business Rate Income Collection

	Business Rates		
	2020/21	2019/20	Trend
Collectable Debit	148.5	232.4	
Collected	136.9	228.6	↓
Percentage	92.24	98.34%	

- 6.4. The target for NDR collection was adjusted downward to 91.77%. Final outturn, as at 31 March 2021 exceeded the revised target by 0.47% or £0.692m.

6.5. The local taxation income included in the 2020/21 budget for these areas is fixed and therefore the actual variances will impact in future financial year. Arrears associated to these local income streams will continue to be collected and the ultimate collection rate will be higher.

Government grants

6.6. During 2020/21 £512.6 million of grant income was used to fund revenue expenditure. This is an increase of £91 million from 2019/20, this increase predominantly relates to Covid-19 grant income as outlined above.

7. Debt Management

7.1. During the year the Council collects core locally retained funding and income from various areas to fund the services provided. A breakdown of the main sources of debt outstanding at 31 March 2021 is outlined in the table below.

Opening and closing balances of outstanding debt

Type of Debt	Opening Balance (01/04/2020) £m	Movement £m	Closing Balance (31/03/2021) £m
Sundry Debt	49.684	29.307	78.991
Council Tax Arrears	14.579	8.221	22.800
Business Rates Arrears	4.195	11.568	15.763
HRA Housing Arrears	12.485	0.306	12.791
Overpaid Housing Benefits	17.740	0.610	18.350

7.2. Of the £78.991 million, £59.411 million (75%) of the debt is less than a year old, the majority of this (£37.54m / 63% of £59 million) relates to invoices less than 30 days overdue and therefore weren't payable until after 31/03/2021. This is not directly comparable with council tax or business rates. In addition, debt management activities were cut back during 2020/21 as a result of covid-19 restrictions.

7.3. Any write offs of aged debt are reported annual to Cabinet. During the year £0.208 million of aged debt was written off in line with scheme of delegation, of which £0.099 million related to legacy Adult Social Care debt.

8. Reserves

8.1. The following section sets out the impact of the outturn on the reserves held by the Council and use or movement in reserves during the year.

General Reserve

8.2. The opening balance on general reserve is £17.0 million, the 20/21 budget provided for an additional £6.1 million to reinstate the balance to between 5 and 6% of the Council's net revenue budget, which brought the total to £23.1 million representing 5.8% of the Council's net revenue budget.

8.3. During the year up to £3.1million from this reserve was approved by Cabinet for expenditure in relation to Covid-19 if required. At the end of the year this drawdown has not been required as other grants and mitigations have been sufficient to fund the additional cost related to Covid-19.

8.4. In February as part of setting the 2021/22 budget Full Council approved drawdown of up to £3.9 million from the general reserve to balance the 2020/21 Adult Social Care overspend, this was not required. The overall outturn after recommendations set out below for earmarked reserves will increase the general reserve by a further £12 million to £35.1 million. This represents 9.0% of the base on-going net revenue budget, higher than the minimum level of 5%-6% estimated in the budget agreed in February, however closer to a 10% post Covid view of appropriate levels of general reserves now being explicitly expressed by some external auditors.

Earmarked Reserves

8.5. The 2020/21 opening balance of Earmarked Reserve was £97.390 million. The normal operation of council business includes movements on earmarked reserves, including spending existing reserves or placing new funding aside for use in future years.

8.6. Contributions to earmarked reserves are from a mixture of sources, they are either planned as part of the budget setting process, or from an underspend on a ring-fenced grant or budget where expenditure has slipped into a future year.

8.7. During the year over £109 million was moved to reserves relating to Covid-19. A significant proportion of this relates to grants for business grants for businesses to be paid in 2021/22 and business rate relief which was given during 2020/21. Accounting requirements of the collection fund for this relief requires a reserve to be established with an offsetting deficit on the business rates income for 2020/21 – this is offset in 2021/22.

Table 9: Summary of Contributions to revenue reserves during 2020/21

Contributions To	£m
Adult Social Care Innovation Fund	2.100
Bear Pit	0.350
Capital Investment Reserve	4.093
City Deal Pooling Reserve	3.194
Climate Change Reserve	3.000
Counter Fraud Hub Development	0.110
Covid 19 Business Rate Relief Grant	90.172
Covid 19 Business Grants	5.648
Covid 19 Public Health Grants	13.596
Covid Collection Fund Grant	1.420
Docks Dredging	0.095
Energy Investment Reserve	0.303
Future Risk	0.397
Goram Homes Investment	6.000
Housing Delivery Enabling Fees	0.468
Grants with no conditions	0.051
Insurance Fund B/S	0.056
Operational Reserve - Resources	0.379
PFI (Phase 1 & BSF) Schools	0.662
Property Asset Management Plan	0.500
Public Health	0.293
Resilience Reserve	3.000
Streetworks Permit	0.073
Tackling Digital Poverty	0.030

Total	135.989
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8.8. In building resilience, we can contribute to reserves to help manage risks and address the challenges over the period covered by the MTFP. Reserves and contingencies have been reviewed and noting the general future financial turbulence over the medium term from the 2020/21 cash surpluses, we are proposing to contribute to and establish the reserves set out below.:

- To contribute to tackling two inextricably linked crises: the climate emergency and the steady decline of nature
 - Climate Reserve £1m - Additional contribution towards the delivery of the long term goals within the 'Climate Strategy' aimed at being carbon neutral and climate resilient.
 - Ecological Reserve £1m - Contribution to the delivery of the four key strategic goals in the 'Ecological Emergency Strategy' aimed at reversing the decline in wildlife and restoring the natural systems on which we all depend.
- Community Asset Refurbishment £1.000 million – additional funding for community asset support minor works required to community assets to facilitate transfer and delivery.
- Bristol Legacy Community Repair Fund - £0.250 million fund to support the delivery of a range of sustainable projects that seek to acknowledge & repair the impact of the Transatlantic trafficking of enslaved Africans on the communities of Bristol, with funding bids (including Partnership bids) led by African Heritage Communities.
- Waste Management £1.000 million – funding to support innovative proposals to transform waste management and support the goals of the One City Climate Strategy.
- Transformation Fund £1.000 million – additional funding to transform services to ensure they continue to provide value for money and change to meet the need of Bristol Citizens.
- Digital / Cyber Transformation £1.000 million – to help reduce the increasing risk of cyber security and transform our digital platform.
- Corporate Landlord / Estate £0.500 million – to make changes to the Council's estate reduce building costs and respond to changing work environment because of Covid.
- Resilience Reserve £1.000 million – reform of local government funding has been delayed by Covid but still presents a significant risk as fair funding review, business rates reform and Spending Review will have impact on the Council's finances.
- General Reserve - This leaves £12.0 million contribution to the General reserve and represents a key element of financial resilience and a mark of the success of our financial strategy that we can increase our reserves despite the pandemic.

8.9. During the year there was £8.501 million drawdown from ear-marked reserves as outlined in the table below.

Table: Summary of drawdowns from revenue reserves during 2020/21

Use	£
Air Quality Pledge / Clean Air	0.031
Avon Mutual - Regional Community Bank	0.100
Bear Pit	0.034
Business Transformation Reserve	0.147
Capital Investment Reserve	1.389
City Centre Revitalisation	0.032
Clean Streets proposal	0.588
Climate Change Reserve	0.207
Downs	0.238
Early Years – Bristol Standard Reserve	0.031
ERDF	0.026
Flood & Water Management	0.076
Future City Demonstrator	0.515
Future Risk	0.485
Hengrove PFI Credit Sinking Fund	0.912
High Needs	0.022
Housing Delivery Enabling Fees	0.108
ICT Cyber Security	0.445
IFRS - Grants with no conditions	1.089
Key Line of Business Systems	0.651
Learning City	0.057
Libraries for the Future	0.115
Licencing (Ring fenced)	0.190
Local Development Plan	0.027
Mayoral Commissions/City Director	0.144
Planning	0.063
Serious violence, contextual safeguarding and community tension	0.556
Stoke Park Dowry	0.021
Strengthening Families	0.121
Troubled Families	1.323
Covid Response	4.894
Total	14.638

HRA Reserves

8.10. The 2020/21 opening balance on the HRA Reserves was £91.2 million. This has been increased by £18.6million in the year which is made up of: £10.9 million underspend on the HRA, £7.6 million net contribution to the major repairs reserve and £0.1 million contribution to the CCTV reserve.

8.11. This leaves a total balance of £109.7 million as at the end of the financial year 2020/21. The balances on the HRA Reserves are ring-fenced and must be retained for use within the HRA and for which there is a long term business plan, subject to regular review.

School Reserves

8.12. The opening balance on the DSG reserve was £2.9 million. The in-year overspend results in a net £7.112 million drawdown from reserves, resulting in a carry forward deficit balance of £10 million

Summary of Movement of Reserves during 2020/21 and balances as at 31 March 2021

8.13. The below table summarises the overall contributions and drawdowns as outlined above reflecting the additional reserves subject to Cabinet approval.

Reserve Type	Opening Balance 31.03.20	Contributions	Drawdown	Closing Balance 31.03.2021
Earmarked Reserves	(97.390)	(140.989)	14.638	(226.491)
General Reserve	(17.001)	(18.100)	-	(35.100)
Housing Revenue Account	(91.132)	(40.247)	21.642	(109.737)
Schools				
Trading with Schools	(1.284)	-	0.936	(0.348)
Schools Balances	(8.910)	-	1.729	(7.180)
Capital Reserves	(2.684)	-	-	(2.684)
Total Schools Reserves	(12.887)	0	2.665	(10.212)
Schools & De-delegated	(0.637)	(0.535)		(1.172)
Early Year	0.020	(0.641)		(0.621)
High Needs Block	3.509		9.100	12.609
HNB Transformation	-	(0.812)		(0.812)
Total DSG Reserves	2.892	(1.988)	9.100	10.004

Flexible use of Capital Receipts for Transformation

8.14. During the year £3.4 million of capital receipts were used to fund costs related to the delivering the savings and transformation programme including IT Transformation Programme and Strengthening Families in line with strategy set by Full Council as set out below:

	£m
Strengthening Families	0.059
IT Transformation	3.203
Project Management Capacity	0.120
Total	3.383

9. Treasury Management

9.1. The following summarises the treasury management position as at 31 March 2021. A full report on treasury management performance and prudential indicators for 2020/21 will follow to Audit Committee.

Borrowing as at 31 March 2021

9.2. The treasury management strategy for 2020/21 identified a borrowing requirement of £75m to finance the planned capital programme, however due to slippage in the capital programme and significant additional grants provided by Government which are yet to be fully spent, no additional borrowing was required during 2020/21.

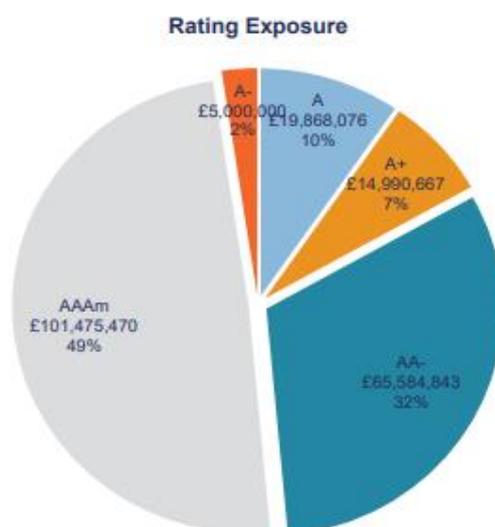
Summary of External Borrowing

	31 March 2020		31 March 2021	
	£m	Average Rate %	£m	Average Rate %
Long Term Debt (fixed rates) - PWLB	341	4.74	341	4.74
Long Term Debt (fixed rates) – LOBOS	70	4.09	70	4.09
Long Term Debt (fixed rates) – Market	50	4.04	50	4.04
Short Term Borrowing	-	-	-	-
Total borrowing	461	4.56	461	4.56

Treasury Investments as at 31 March 2021

9.3. Summary of treasury investments is provided as per below:

	As at 31 March 2020 £m	As at 31 March 2021 £m
UK Local Authorities	58.800	45.000
UK Banks	20.000	10.000
UK Building Societies	0	10.000
Money Market Funds	70.918	141.919
Total	149.742	206.919



10. Decisions Taken under Delegated Authority

Decision in Relation to COVID

10.1. Decisions taken under delegated authority in relation to Covid-19 have been reported to Cabinet through the monthly finance report. Since the last report in April the following decisions have been taken by officers in conjunction with the relevant Cabinet Members and Cabinet are asked to note the details summarised below and where relevant appended.

COVID-19: Adult Social Care Infection Control and Testing Fund

10.2. The Adult Social Care Infection Control Fund was first introduced in May 2020. It was extended in October 2020 for infection prevention and control (IPC). The Rapid Testing Fund was introduced in January 2021 to support additional rapid lateral flow testing of staff in care homes, and enable indoors, close contact visiting where possible. These funding streams have been consolidated and extended until June 2021. An additional allocation of £2,270,788 has been received and decisions on mandatory and discretionary use of this funding are set out in the key decision reports appended to this report (see Appendix A5 and A6).

Business Grants

10.3. The revised Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) policy, effective from 1 April 2021, provides for one-off grants for previous recipients of ARG funding and for new applicants. The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) announced additional funding (indicative amount of £3.495m) on 1 April 2021 for the Council under the ARG scheme but this will only be released once the existing funds have been completely exhausted.

10.4. A decision was taken to release funds on account of £2,267,500 in order to get critical funds to businesses previously funded via prior ARG cohorts at the earliest possible opportunity an advance draw down of funds will be required. Full detail is appended to this report (see Appendix A5 and A7).

Test and Trace Self Isolation Policy

10.5. In administering the test and trace support payments to those on low income required to self isolate, the Council, working with the other West of England unitary authorities (Bath & North East Somerset Council, and South Gloucestershire Council) and North Somerset Council developed a regional policy to provide consistency across the wider region. The full policy is shown in Appendix A8.

Other Decisions impacting on 2021/22 Budget

10.6. The library service had successfully bid for a grant award from the British Library Board to establish a Business and Intellectual Property Centre in Bristol Central Library (BIPC) and in three branch libraries. The total value of the awarded grant is £0.395m, allocated over two years. The BIPCs will form part of a network of business support centres, supported and funded by the British Library. BCC are working with WECA Growth Hub and the economic regeneration team to ensure small and medium sized businesses, start-ups and entrepreneurs can access the support they may need through the network of libraries in Bristol. Approval is sought to accept the funding, incorporate into the budget and enable expenditure to be incurred as outlined above.

10.7. In May 2019 Cabinet approved a budget of £3.7m to deliver the Rugby Club project. Identified funding sources agreed at the time was £3.18m of this: £2.68m from a One Public Estate Land

Release Fund grant award (OPE6 LRF), and £0.5m from prudential borrowing. This left £0.520m for which a funding source had not been identified at the time. After exploring options to attract external funding, the Housing delivery team have proposed to use the Housing Enabling Funds Budget.

- 10.8. As reported to Cabinet (25 February 2021) Bristol City Council, in partnership with 1625 Independent People and South Gloucestershire, North Somerset and Bath and North East Somerset Councils applied to the West of England Combined Authority for £0.720m to extend the Reboot West project focussed on supporting care leavers across those local authorities into education, training and employment. This was successful and the funding agreement was signed on 7 May.