

REPORT TO BUSINESS SERVICES COMMITTEE – 11 JANUARY 2024

BUSINESS SERVICES FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AS AT 30 NOVEMBER 2023

1 Executive Summary/Recommendations

1.1 This report provides an update on the forecast financial performance pertaining to the services which fall under the remit of the Business Services Committee for the financial year 2023/24 as at 30 November 2023.

1.2 The Committee is recommended to:

1.2.1 Consider and comment on the Revenue and Capital forecast position pertaining to this Committee for 2023/24 as set out in Appendix A;

1.2.2 Consider and comment on the progress of Budget Savings associated with these budgets;

1.2.3 Consider and comment on the Earmarked Reserves associated with this Committee and their use; and

1.2.4 Note the approved revenue budget virements as detailed in Appendix B.

2 Decision Making Route

2.1 Business Services Committee has responsibility for monitoring, reviewing and scrutinising of Council's policy and making decisions on matters relating to the functions which fall under the Committee's remit. This report sets out the financial information for these services to enable this process.

3 Discussion

3.1 Council approved the 2023/24 Revenue and Capital budgets on 9 March 2023 as part of agreeing the wider Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). The report in **Appendix A** sets out the forecast position in relation to these budgets as at 30 November 2023.

3.2 The forecast revenue financial position as at 30 November 2023 is £0.700m less than budget as shown in paragraph 2.1 of **Appendix A**. Whilst the Service is currently projecting an underspend position at the end of the financial year, careful consideration continues to be applied to vacancy management and discretionary spend to help alleviate pressures on the Council as a whole.

4 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

4.1 The work and outcomes delivered through the various services reporting to Business Services Committee helps in the delivery of the following Council priorities:

Pillar	Priority
Our People	Learning for Life Health & Wellbeing
Our Environment	Climate Change Resilient Communities
Our Economy	Economic Growth Infrastructure and public assets

4.2 This report helps deliver all six of the Council's Strategic Priorities and the key principle that underpins them of responsible financial planning.

4.3 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendations are agreed.

Subject	Yes	No	N/A
Financial	X		
Staffing		X	
Equalities and Fairer Duty Scotland			X
Children and Young People's Rights and Wellbeing			X
Climate Change and Sustainability			X
Health and Wellbeing			X
Town Centre First			X

4.4 The financial implications are inherent in the report. There are no direct staffing implications.

4.5 The screening section as part of Stage One of the Integrated Impact Assessment process has not identified the requirement for any further detailed assessments to be undertaken. The report deals with the monitoring of expenditure against budgets which have been approved previously. There will be no differential impact as a result of the report on people with protected characteristics.

4.6 The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level:

- Budget Pressures ([Corporate Risk Register](#)) – the Council's budget will be under increasing pressure due to rising inflation, energy prices and the ongoing pandemic recovery. This risk has been mitigated during the budget setting process by consultation with directorates to identify and incorporate pressures into the proposed budget to ensure services are adequately funded. This will be monitored throughout the year, with regular reporting to policy committees and

Council. This will enable any in year pressure to be identified timeously to ensure action can be taken at an early stage.

4.7 The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Strategic Level:

- We live within our means and use public money to maximise outcomes for our communities ([Business Services Directorate Risk Register](#)). This budget sets out the means to which the Council can deliver its services. The deliverability of the budget will be monitored regularly as detailed above.
- Our assets, property and land are managed to the best financial effect, supporting delivery of our priorities and service ambition in the medium to long term ([Business Services Directorate Risk Register](#)). This will be monitored throughout the year, with regular reporting to policy committees and to Council.

5 Scheme of Governance

5.1 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and had no comments to make and are satisfied that the report complies with the [Scheme of Governance](#) and relevant legislation.

5.2 The Committee is able to consider and take a decision on this item in terms of Sections C1.1 and 2 of the [List of Committee Powers in Part 2A](#) of the Scheme of Governance as it relates to the scrutiny of financial performance information in respect of functions that have been delegated to the Committee.

Rob Simpson
Director of Business Services

Report prepared by Shirley-Ann Gordon, Finance Business Partner
Date: 7 December 2023

List of Appendices:

Appendix A - Financial Performance 2023/24
Appendix A1 - Budget Risk Register 2023/24
Appendix A2 - Revenue Budget Savings
Appendix A3 - Reserves at 30 November 2023
Appendix A4 - Capital Budget Forecast at 30 November 2023
Appendix B - Revenue Budget Virements