

## Month 9 Revenue Budget Monitoring

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Cabinet Member: Mandy Chilcott, Cabinet Member for Resources

Division and Local Member: All

### 1. Summary

- 1.1. In the month 8 report, Cabinet learned that an underspend, of just under £1m, was being projected for the first time in 2018/19. This quarter 3 report, based upon actual spending to the end of December 2018, now shows a continuation of that trend, with an underspend of £1.067m being projected. This is a 0.3% variance on a revenue budget of £317.882m
- 1.2. In addition to this projected underspend, opportunity has been taken to make a further contribution to reserves and to release some pressure on the need to use Capital Receipts Flexibilities to support the revenue budget. Both of these adjustments will further improve the resilience of the Council and the robustness of the accounts.
- 1.3. In addition to the strong grip on the revenue budget and the consistent delivery of planned savings, the most significant improvements to the revenue account between month 8 and month 9 are the introduction to the monitoring projection of the refund of the Government levy money (£1.031m mentioned in the month 8 report), a range of favourable service forecasts totalling £1.646m (as detailed later in the report) and the release of nearly £0.800m from the contingency. With regard to the latter, it is judged that only £2.000m needs to remain in the contingency for the rest of the financial year to underwrite unexpected financial challenges.

### 2. Issues for consideration / Recommendations

- 2.1. The Committee is asked to comment on the projected revenue outturn for 2018/19, whether there are any suggestions for additional management actions or alternative options that they would like to recommend to the Cabinet.
- 2.2. The Committee is asked to consider any issues or information they would like to be addressed or included in future reports.

### 3. Background

- 3.1. The Cabinet report at Appendix A shows that there is a projected underspend of £1.067m, compared to the recently reported projected overspend.
- 3.2. The Cabinet report at Appendix A provides further detail on the budget monitoring for comment by Scrutiny Members

#### **4. Consultations undertaken**

4.1. See Appendix A

#### **5. Implications**

5.1. There are significant financial implications and these are identified throughout the report in Appendix A.

5.2. There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

#### **6. Background papers**

6.1. Month 9 Budget Monitoring Report to Cabinet 11<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

**Note** For sight of individual background papers please contact the report author