

Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee
14-12-2022

Report Title:	Quarter Two 2022-23 Financial Forecast Update
Lead Officer:	Head of Finance

Key Issues in the report highlighted by Lead Officer

The report provides an update on the forecast financial outturn (both revenue and capital) for the 2022-23 financial year based on the updated position at quarter two (September)

The report explains the changes from quarter one, covering how well we are achieving our savings targets, what reserves we may have to use to balance the outturn, what grants have been received and whether any budget virements need to be approved.

The report allows the Service Heads to provide an update about their financial position and challenges in Appendix B

Key Feeders (tick all that apply)

Strategic Risk		Cabinet Work Plan	
Director / Head of Service Key Issue		External / Internal Inspection	
Existing Commitment / Annual Report		Performance / Finance Issue	X
Suggestion from Public		Referral from Council / Committee	
Corporate Improvement Plan	X	Impacting Public / other services	
Service Integrated Business Plan	X		
Suggestion from Members			
Partnerships			

Scrutiny Impact (tick all that apply)

Policy Review		Performance	X
Informing Policy Development – Financial Regulation compliance	X	Evidence Gathering	
Risk		Corporate Improvement Plan	X
Service Integrated Business Plan	X	Partnerships	
Pre-Decision Scrutiny		Finance / Budget	X

Other (please specify)

Not applicable

Suggested scrutiny activity - Committee's Role:

1. Questioning and analysing service levels and costs (use of public money) and ensuring the Council remains within the budget it has set (raising areas of concern to be sure issues being investigated)

a) In Appendix B have the Heads of Service provided clear explanation about their financial position and set out what they may have to do to mitigate any overspends (cutting cost, raising income etc)

b) Is the way they will cut spend to manage their overspend realistic? Does the narrative provided give assurance that their proposals can be delivered and make a difference to the financial position

c) If the information is not clear ask the head to explain further so you are satisfied

d) Are there changes to the budget plan that require virements (moving budgets around to comply with financial regulations), do any of these budget plans require use of reserves, if so what is the impact?

e) Are you clear why savings are not being achieved and are alternative means of delivery proposed

f) Will overspends have an impact on budget setting next year

2. Monitoring capital projects – Are these projects on track to be delivered as planned, do heads envisage further slippage in timescales or changes in cost and if so what are the implications

3. Does the financial position in revenue and capital ensure that the services is delivering its objectives – or create a dip in delivery of the service provided ?

4. Is the commentary written in clear, plain and understandable language?

5. Is the content and quality of reporting appropriate and sufficient to provide the organisation (particularly Scrutiny themselves as well as the responsible Heads of Service, Directors, and Portfolio Holder) with assurance about the work being undertaken?

6. Any other comments

On what specific elements of the report would scrutiny comment add value

As noted above.