

Business & Transformation Scrutiny Panel

Agenda Item: **A.3** (h) (i

Meeting Date:	5 th December 2017
Portfolio:	Finance, Governance and Resources
Key Decision:	No
Within Policy and	
Budget Framework	YES
Public / Private	Public
Title:	REVENUE BUDGET OVERVIEW & MONITORING REPORT:
	APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 2017
Report of:	CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER
Report Number:	RD 28/17

Purpose / Summary: This report provides an overview of the Council's General Fund revenue budgetary position for the period April to September 2017 and was considered by the Executive on 20th November 2017.

Questions for / input required from Scrutiny:

Members are asked to note the variances contained within this report.

Recommendations:

The Members of the Business & Transformation Scrutiny Panel are asked to note the overall budgetary position for the period April to September 2017.

Tracking

Executive:	20 th November 2017
Scrutiny:	5 th December 2017
Council:	n/a



Report to Executive

Meeting Date:	20 th November 2017
Portfolio:	Finance, Governance and Resources
Key Decision: Within Policy and	No
Budget Framework	YES
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Public / Private	Public
Title:	REVENUE BUDGET OVERVIEW & MONITORING REPORT:
The.	APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 2017
Report of:	CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER
Report Number:	RD 28/17
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Purpose / Summary: This report provides an overview of the Council's overall budgetary position for the period April to September 2017 for revenue schemes only. The revenue report includes details of balance sheet management issues, bad debts written off in the period and progress against the transformation savings is also provided.

Recommendations:

The Executive is asked to:

- (i) Note the budgetary performance position of the Council to September 2017;
- (ii) Note the action by the Chief Finance Officer to write-off bad debts as detailed in paragraph 6;
- (iii) Note the virements and release of reserves as set out in paragraph 2.1 and Appendix A.

Tracking

Executive:	20 th November 2017
Scrutiny:	5 th December 2017
Council:	n/a

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND OPTIONS

- 1.1 In accordance with the City Council's Financial Procedure Rules, the Chief Finance Officer is required to report to the Executive on the overall budget position, the monitoring and control of expenditure against budget allocations and the exercise of virement on a regular basis. Further details of virements processed can be found in Appendix A. It is the responsibility of individual Chief Officers to control income and expenditure within their service areas and to monitor performance, taking account of financial information provided by the Chief Finance Officer.
- 1.2 All Managers currently receive a monthly budget monitoring report covering their areas of responsibility. Information is collated from the main accounting system and then adjusted to correct any known budget profiling trends, timing differences and commitments. The report has been developed in line with the need to provide sound financial management information to inform the decision making process.
- 1.3 Please note that throughout this report:
 - (i) the use of a bracket represents a favourable position i.e. either an underspend or additional income received,
 - (ii) the term 'underspend' is taken to include both reduced expenditure and/or increased income,
 - (iii) the term 'overspend' includes both spending above budget and/or reduced income levels.

2. REVENUE BUDGET OVERVIEW

2.1 The following statement shows the total annual revenue budget as at September 2017:

2017/18 Revenue Budget	£
Approved Budget (Council resolution – February 2017)	11,038,000
Carry forward requests (2016/17 in-year)	97,000
Carry forward requests (2016/17 out-turn)	393,000
Council Resolution 2017/18	11,528,000
Non-Recurring Transfers to/(From) Reserves:	
IT Renewals Reserve (Enterprise Licences & IT Strategy)	214,200
Leisure Reserve	30,900
Revenue Grants Reserve	96,300
Cremator Replacement Reserve (Environmental Surcharge Income)	(41,100)
Building Control Reserve (Admin Support)	31,700
GLL Reserve	69,000
Promoting Carlisle Reserve	10,000
General Carry Forward Reserve	50,300
Updated Budget 2017/18	11,989,300

3. 2017/18 BUDGET MONITORING

3.1 The summarised budgetary position as at September 2017 is shown below:

Directorate / Appendix			Net Budget		Adjusted
		Budget	to date	to date	Variance
		(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)
Community Services	B1	9,179,400	4,257,140	3,880,343	(376,797)
Corporate Support & Resource	B2	3,004,400	796,576	746,530	(50,046)
Economic Development	B3	1,321,200	413,502	190,861	(222,641)
Governance & Regulatory	B4	510,100	310,783	265,247	(45,536)
Corporate ⁽¹⁾	B5	(2,025,800)	(658,412)	(128,288)	530,124
Sub Total		11,989,300	5,119,589	4,954,693	(164,896)
Flood Expenditure (net) (2)	B6	0	0	117,079	117,079
Total		11,989,300	5,119,589	5,071,772	(47,817)
%age of budget (excluding flood)			42.7%	41.3%	

Note 1: Corporate underspends include Salary Turnover Savings, Budget Savings, Inflation Savings, Direct Revenue Financing, Non-Distributed (Pension) costs and corporate management costs (which include bank and audit charges).

Note 2: Net Flooding expenditure relates to costs incurred as a result of the flood, some of which will be able to be claimed back through insurance claims. Non-insured costs will be funded from the

£500,000 flood reserve unless the expenditure can be funded from underspends on base budgets. The overspend to date reflects the current funding required from the flood reserve.

- 3.2 Further details for each directorate can be found in **Appendices B1 B6**. Each appendix shows a breakdown of the variance for the Directorate, with comments and a note of any performance issues.
- 3.3 The main income and expenditure variances are summarised below:

Under achieved Income

- Underachieved investment income of £25,500.
- Shortfall on income of £194,900 at John Street Accomodation due to closure from flood damage. Discussions are ongoing with the Council's insurance provider to agree the level of income that can be recovered as part of our insurance claim.
- Shortfall on income from Lanes of £37,800.

Over achieved Income/Grants & Contributions

- Improved levels of car parking income from PCNs, tickets and contract income of £41,100.
- Improved income levels from Recycling of £16,800 and Bring Sites of £26,800.
- Improved levels of income from property rent reviews of £157,000. These are in advance of the £1m additional income from the Council's assets to be achieved from 2018/19 onwards. This is partly offset by contractual costs in relation to Chancerygate of £79,600.
- Improved levels of Development Control income of £100,400.
- Improved levels of Building Control income of £104,000.
- Improved levels of Licensing income of £34,300.

Under budget Expenditure

- Underspend on Councillors' small scale community schemes of £20,600.
- Additional in year savings from Rethinking Waste of £152,800.
- Underspend on Minimum Revenue Provision of £39,600 due to a lower Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) at 31st March 2017.
- Additional salary turnover saving achieved of £104,400.
- Savings on previous year inflation of £16,700.
- Net underspend on Revenues and Benefits of £61,700.
- NNDR costs underspent by £104,000 following appeals against properties to be demolished.

Over budget Expenditure

- Overspend of £44,100 in relation to the ICT Strategy costs. A review of ICT Strategy costs is in progress to realign the profiles of expenditure budgets with revised implementation plans.
- Overspend of £117,100 in relation to flood recovery costs not covered by insurance settlements which may be funded from the £500,000 flood reserve.
- Shortfall on Base Budget Review savings of £108,100 against annual target of £403,000; work is in progress with the aim of achieving this target in full.
- Shortfall on recurring transformation savings of £572,000 mainly in relation to Rethinking Waste (£400,000) and VR/ER savings.

A subjective analysis of the summarised budgetary position excluding flood related items as at September is shown below:

Subjective Analysis	Annual	Budget to	Actual to	Adjusted
	Budget	date	date	Variance
	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)
Employee Related ⁽¹⁾	14,748,600	7,447,717	7,995,948	548,231
Premises Related	3,837,700	2,584,754	2,447,758	(136,996)
Transport Related	1,382,900	744,743	717,423	(27,320)
Supplies and Services	5,465,300	3,652,162	3,121,249	(530,913)
Third Party Payments	2,685,300	1,174,958	1,322,473	147,515
Other e.g. Housing Benefits	25,860,500	12,035,198	12,224,567	189,369
Total Expenditure	53,980,300	27,639,532	27,829,418	189,886
Grants and Contributions	(4,905,900)	(3,072,484)	(3,201,465)	(128,981)
Specific Grants e.g. Housing Benefits	(25,739,900)	(13,568,504)	(13,573,790)	(5,286)
Customer & Client Receipts	(11,074,000)	(5,739,403)	(5,971,822)	(232,419)
Other Income	(271,200)	(139,552)	(127,648)	11,904
Total Income	(41,991,000)	(22,519,943)	(22,874,725)	(354,782)
Total	11,989,300	5,119,589	4,954,693	(164,896)

Note 1: the adjusted variance in Employee Related costs include the underachieved transformation savings to date.

3.4 The following table shows the position as at September 2017 of savings achieved against the transformation savings targets to date.

Savings Target	Target	Achieved	(Overachieved) /Outstanding
	(£)	(£)	(£)
Up to & including 2014/15		44,400	(44,400)
2015/16	1,211,000	1,127,600	83,400
2016/17	1,201,000	1,217,000	(16,000)
2017/18 Target	795,000	395,000	400,000
2017/18 Base Budget Review	403,000	294,900	108,100
Net Position 2017/18	3,610,000	3,078,900	531,100
2017/18 Base Budget Review	0	300	(300)
2018/19 Current Target	1,479,000	453,600	1,025,400
Net Recurring position	5,089,000	3,532,800	1,556,200

4. FORECAST OUTTURN POSITION 2017/18

- 4.1 The Council's financial position is affected by a number of external factors that have a financial impact during the course of the year and ultimately at the year end. These include:
 - The general effect of local economic activity on the Council's income streams e.g. car parking, tourism and leisure activities.
 - Fuel prices, energy costs and other inflationary issues.
 - The effects of the housing market and property prices, especially with regard to income from land charges, rents and building and development control.
- 4.2 The Council's financial position along with budget profiling will continue to be closely monitored and likely year end position will be reported more fully in the Quarter 3 report to the end of December 2017. It will be important to maintain a prudent approach so as to ensure a sustainable budget position for future years to avoid any significant variance at the year end.
- 4.3 The areas of significant variance noted in this report will also be scrutinised fully and incorporated into the 2018/19 budget process if the position is deemed to be recurring in nature.

5. BALANCE SHEET MANAGEMENT

5.1 In line with CIPFA guidance and good practice, information relating to significant items on the Council's balance sheet is shown below. The information concentrates on those items that may have a material impact on the Council if not reviewed on a regular basis.

Balance Sheet item	Balance at 31/03/2017	Balance at Sep 2017	Note
Investments	£14.7m	£16.0m	(i)
Loans	£15.0m	£15.0m	(ii)
Debtors	£1.32m	£1.33m	(iii)
Creditors	£0.004m	£0.188m	

- The anticipated annual return on these investments is estimated at £262,400 for 2017/18 with current forecasts anticipated to be below these projections.
- (ii) The cost of managing this debt, in terms of interest payable, is budgeted at £1,319,700 in 2017/18 with costs currently on target.
- (iii) There may be a significant impact on the cash flow of the Council if outstanding debts are not received. Any debts deemed to be irrecoverable are written off against a bad debt provision set up specifically for this purpose. Other significant debts relate to Council Tax, NNDR, and Housing Benefit overpayments.
- (iv) The Council's VAT partial exemption calculation for the period ending September 2017 has been calculated and is well below the 5% limit set by HMRC at 1.43%. However, this will increase as expenditure is incurred on the capital programme especially on VAT exempt activities i.e. Civic Centre reinstatement.

6. BAD DEBT WRITE-OFFS

6.1 The Chief Finance Officer has delegated authority for the write-off of outstanding debts for NNDR, Council Tax and Debtors (including Penalty Charge Notices). In accordance with this, the Executive is asked to note that debts totalling £53,124.22 have been written off during Quarter 2 to the end of September 2017. A summary of bad debts is given in Table 1, **Appendix C** of this report and these costs will fall against the following:

	£
General Fund	17,377.03
Council Tax (Collection Fund)	11,440.18
NNDR	24,307.01
Total Write-offs	53,124.22

6.2 The "write-ons" itemised in Table 2, **Appendix C**, totalling £4,313.18, are in respect of balances originally written off that have since been paid. The write-ons will be credited as follows:

	£
General Fund	2.27
Council Tax (Collection Fund)	196.62
NNDR	4,114.29
Total Write-ons	4,313.18

- 6.3 In the case of the General Fund, the write-offs will be charged against provisions for bad debts. However VAT, which has been identified separately, will be recouped in future VAT returns. Any write-off/write-on of Council Tax/NNDR will fall against the provisions within the Collection Fund. Any Council Tax court costs written off will be charged against the Bad Debt Provision within the General Fund.
- 6.4 At this stage of the year, the level of bad debts is broadly in line with expectations and at this level will be within the scope of the current provisions to fund the bad debts. However, this situation is continuously under review and any major deviations will be the subject of future reports.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Consultation to date.SMT and JMT have considered the issues raised in this report.
- 7.2 Consultation Proposed
 Business and Transformation Scrutiny Panel will consider the report on 5th
 December 2017.

8. CONCLUSION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 The Executive is asked to:
 - (i) Note the budgetary performance position of the Council to September;
 - (ii) Note the action by the Chief Finance Officer to write-off bad debts as detailed in paragraph 6;
 - (iii) Note the virements and release of reserves as set out in paragraph 2.1 and Appendix A.

9. CONTRIBUTION TO THE CARLISLE PLAN PRIORITIES

9.1 The Council's revenue budget is set in accordance with the priorities of the Carlisle Plan and the position for the second quarter of 2017/18 shows the delivery of these priorities within budget.

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Appendices A, B1 to B6, C. attached to report:

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers:

None

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS/RISKS: SMT and JMT have been involved in the preparation of this report. Risks to budgets and development of ongoing impact of issues identified are monitored carefully and appropriate action taken.

Community Services – N/A

Corporate Support & Resources – Financial implications are contained within the main body of the report.

Economic Development – N/A

Governance & Regulatory Services – The Council has a fiduciary duty to manage its finances properly and the proper reporting of budget monitoring is part of this process.

VIREMENTS PROCESSED FOR PERIOD JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2017

		Permanent/		
Date	Virement Details	Temporary	Value	Authorised By
Requested	by Officers (under £35,000 or delegated authority)			
-	Revenue contribution to Cycle Track Capital Project	Temporary	34,900	Deputy Chief Executive/ Contracts & Community
22/08/2017	Release of £10,000 from the Promoting Carlisle Reserve to support the Roman archaeological dig at	Temporary	10,000	Services Manager PH.010/17 Leader of the Council
08/09/2017	Carlisle Cricket Club Release of funds from Leisure Reserve to fund Design Team & Employers Agent for Sands Redevelopment	Temporary	9,200	PH.011/17 Culture, Heritage & Leisure
Various Various	(up to £47,500) Release of funding held in Revenue Grants Reserve Release of funding from General Carry Forward	Temporary Temporary	24,300 39,600	Portfolio Holder Chief Finance Officer Chief Finance Officer
21/12/2015	Reserve Appointment of Leisure Contract Retender Advisor (up to £125,000)	Temporary	11,400	OD 184/15 Deputy Chief Executive
Approved b	oy Executive (£35,000 to £70,000)			
none				
Approved b	y Council (over £70,000)			
none				

COMMUNITY SERVICES	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Recharges	Total
Position as at 29the September 2017	£	£	£	£
Annual Budget	17,425,800	(5,590,800)	(2,655,600)	9,179,400
Budget to date Total Actual	8,663,320 8,506,171	(3,077,836) (3,291,696)		
Variance	(157,149)	(213,860)	(5,788)	(376,797)
Carry Forwards/Reserves & Provisions				0
Adjusted Variance	(157,149)	(213,860)	(5,788)	(376,797)

Analysis of Variances		Expenditure Variance	Income Variance	Recharges Variance	Adjusted Variance
Service	Note	£	£	£	£
Bereavement Services	1	(21,429)	(30,979)	53	(52,355)
Small Scale Community Schemes	2	(20,569)	0	0	(20,569)
Green Spaces	3	11,182	(65,349)	86	(54,082)
Parking	4	(17,379)	(41,073)	14	(58,438)
Waste Services	5	(81,586)	(88,098)	137	(169,548)
Miscellaneous	6	(27,367)	11,640	(6,078)	(21,805)
Total Variance to date		(157,149)	(213,860)	(5,788)	(376,797)

Note Community Services - Comments

- 1. Various minor underspends including energy costs; increased cremation fee & interment income.
- 2. Under budget on Councillors' small scale community schemes.
- 3. Various minor overspends & additional income across the service.
- 4. Under budget on supplies and services; additional PCN income received to date
 5. Over budget employee & transport costs offset by savings achieved in advance of target; surplus income from Recycling & Bring Sites.
- 6. Various minor underspends & shortfall in income across the service.

CORPORATE SUPPORT AND RESOURCE	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Recharges	Adjusted Total
Position as at 29th September 2017	£	£	£	£
Annual Budget	36,589,400	(27,027,400)	(6,557,600)	3,004,400
Budget to date Total Actual	18,915,966 18,886,957	· · · · /		
Variance	(29,009)	(31,643)	10,606	(50,046)
Carry Forwards/Reserves & Provisions				0
Adjusted Variance	(29,009)	(31,643)	10,606	(50,046)

Analysis of Variances		Expenditure Variance	Income Variance	Recharges Variance	Adjusted Variance
Service	Note	£	£	£	£
ICT Services Treasury and Debt Management Revenues & Benefits	1 2 3	35,771 (40,815) (18,145)	25,497	9,540 0 120	(15,319)
Miscellaneous	4	(5,820)	170	946	(4,703)
Total Variance to date		(29,009)	(31,643)	10,606	(50,046)

Note Corporate Support & Resources - Comments

1. Overspend in relation to ICT Strategy expenditure.

2. Under budget on Minimum Revenue Provision, under achieved market deposit investment interest.

3. Various minor underspends; additional grant income & court cost income received to date.

4. Various minor underspends across the service.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Recharges	Adjusted Total
Position as at 29th September 2017	£	£	£	£
Annual Budget	3,137,000	(1,354,900)	(460,900)	1,321,200
Budget to date Total Actual	1,418,772 1,450,137	· · · /	,	
Variance	31,365	(254,101)	95	(222,641)
Carry Forwards/Reserves & Provisions				0
Adjusted Variance	31,365	(254,101)	95	(222,641)

Analysis of Variances		Expenditure Variance	Income Variance	Recharges Variance	Adjusted Variance
Service	Note	£	£	£	£
Development Control Building Control	1 2	(2,112) 9,041	(100,376) (103,984)		(102,488) (94,944)
Miscellaneous	3	24,436	(49,741)	95	(25,210)
Total Variance to date		31,365	(254,101)	95	(222,641)

Note Economic Development - Comments

- 1. Improved levels of income from fees and charges.
- Various minor overspends; surplus fee income received to date.
 Various net minor overspends and surplus income across the service.

GOVERNANCE AND REGULATORY	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Recharges	Adjusted Total
Position as at 29th September 2017	£	£	£	£
Annual Budget	9,734,600	(6,144,700)	(3,079,800)	510,100
Budget to date Total Actual	5,102,594 4,909,024	(3,251,276) (3,100,801)	. ,	310,783 265,247
Variance	(193,570)	150,475	(2,441)	(45,536)
Carry Forwards/Reserves & Provisions				0
Adjusted Variance	(193,570)	150,475	(2,441)	(45,536)

Analysis of Variances		Expenditure Variance	Income Variance	Recharges Variance	Adjusted Variance
Service	Note	£	£	£	£
Homeless Accommodation Civic Centre The Lanes Industrial Estates Asset Review Income Property Services	1 2 3 4 5 6	(9,736) (24,532) (2) (86,695) (157,000) 93,176	177,182 (7,330) 37,835 (789) 0 (4,861)	168	167,446 (31,694) 37,833 (87,484) (157,000) 88,387
Miscellaneous	7	(8,781)	(51,563)	(2,680)	(63,024)
Total Variance to date		(193,570)	150,475	(2,441)	(45,536)

Note Governance & Regulatory Services - Comments

1. Lower expenditure levels & shortfall in income due to temporary closure of John Street.

2. Underspend on premises related expenditure; additional income received.

3. Shortfall in rent income for 2017/18.

4. NNDR refunds received.

5. Additional income generated from rent reviews being set aside as savings in advance of a future year's saving target.

6. Contractual costs incurred on Chancerygate.

7. Various net minor underspends and surplus income across the service.

CORPORATE MANAGEMENT	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Recharges	Adjusted Total
Position as at 29th September 2017	£	£	£	£
Annual Budget	201,000	(2,226,800)	0	(2,025,800)
Budget to date Total Actual	449,853 996,244			(658,412) (128,288)
Variance	546,391	(16,267)	0	530,124
Carry Forwards/Reserves & Provisions				0
Adjusted Variance	546,391	(16,267)	0	530,124

Analysis of Variances		Expenditure Variance	Income Variance	Recharges Variance	Adjusted Variance
Service	Note	£	£	£	£
Other Financial Costs	1	557,789	(16,266)	0	541,523
Miscellaneous	2	(11,398)	(1)	0	(11,399)
Total Variance to date		546,391	(16,267)	0	530,124

Note Corporate - Comments

1. Improvements in savings for Salary Turnover (£104,400) & Inflation savings (£16,700). Shortfall on base budget review savings (£108,100) & transformation savings (£572,000); additional grant income received.

2. Various minor underspends.

REVENUE FLOOD RECOVERY	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Recharges	Adjusted Total
Position as at 29th September 2017	£	£	£	£
Annual Budget	713,500	(713,500)	0	0
Budget to date Total Actual	0 2,866,673	0 (2,749,594)	0	0 117,079
Variance	2,866,673	(2,749,594)	0	117,079
Carry Forwards/Reserves & Provisions				0
Adjusted Variance	2,866,673	(2,749,594)	0	117,079

Analysis of Variances		Expenditure Variance	Income Variance	Recharges Variance	Adjusted Variance
Service	Note	£	£	£	£
Flood Damage Recovery Flood Government Grant	1 2	274,524 2,592,149			117,079 0
Total Variance to date		2,866,673	(2,749,594)	0	117,079

Note	Flood - Comments
	Additional costs incurred as a result of the floods which will be recoverable through Insurance in full or in part. Variance shown is the balance required to be funded from revenue reserves as this is not covered by insurance. Flood grants paid out; fully recoverable through government grants.

BAD DEBT PROVISION

TABLE 1 Type of Debt	Write-Offs September 2017		
	No.	£	Comments
	11	24 207 04	01/07/17 to 20/00/17
NNDR (General)	11	24,307.01	01/07/17 to 30/09/17
Council Tax	25	11,440.18	01/07/17 to 30/09/17
Debtors:			
Private Tenants	0	0.00	01/07/17 to 30/09/17
Housing Benefit Overpayments	38	10,236.81	01/07/17 to 30/09/17
General Fund	11	723.72	01/07/17 to 30/09/17
Penalty Charge Notices:			
On Street	40	3,676.50	01/07/17 to 30/09/17
Off Street	33	2,740.00	01/07/17 to 30/09/17
TOTAL	158	53,124.22	

TABLE 2 Type of Debt	Write-Ons September 2017		
		£	Comments
NNDR (General) Council Tax Debtors: Private Tenants Housing Benefit Overpayments General Fund	14 4 0 0 3	4,114.29 196.62 0.00 0.00 2.27	01/07/17 to 30/09/17 01/07/17 to 30/09/17 01/07/17 to 30/09/17 01/07/17 to 30/09/17 01/07/17 to 30/09/17
TOTAL	21	4,313.18	