

Title of report: 2023/24 Quarter 4 Budget Outturn Report

Meeting: Scrutiny Management Board

Meeting date: Tuesday 10 September 2024

Report by: Director of Finance

Classification

Open

Decision type

This is not an executive decision

Wards affected

(All Wards);

Purpose

To present the financial outturn position for 2023/24 for revenue and capital budgets, subject to external audit, as reported to Cabinet at the meeting in May 2024.

Recommendation(s)

That:

- a) **That the Cabinet report and outturn position for 2023/24 be noted.**

Alternative options

1. None proposed.

Key considerations

2. The report included at Appendix A presents the outturn position for 2023/24 of £8.7 million (4.5% of budget) after the use of reserves and recovery plan actions implemented by management during the year. Detailed explanations for variances from budget are set out in Appendix B, by Directorate and Service Area.
3. This report was presented at the Cabinet meeting on 16 May 2024.

Community impact

4. In accordance with the accepted code of corporate governance, the council must ensure that it has an effective financial control framework to support delivery of services within the agreed budget. The council is accountable for how it uses the resources under its stewardship, including accountability for outputs and outcomes achieved. In addition the council has an overarching responsibility to serve the public interest in adhering to the requirements of legislation and government policies.

Environmental Impact

5. The council provides and purchases a wide range of services for the people of Herefordshire. Together with partner organisations in the private, public and voluntary sectors we share a strong commitment to improving our environmental sustainability, achieving carbon neutrality and to protect and enhance Herefordshire's outstanding natural environment.
6. This report is to review the financial outturn at Quarter 4 of 2023/24 so will have minimal environmental impacts, however consideration has been made to minimise waste and resource use in line with the council's Environmental Policy.

Equality duty

7. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:
A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to –
 - a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
 - b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
8. The public sector equality duty (specific duty) requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations, and demonstrate that we are paying 'due regard' in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services. Whilst this paper is not seeking any project specific decisions, in determining the council's budget allocation, the council is working towards its equality objectives. In addition, projects identified within the delivery plan, where relevant, will be subject to an Equality Impact Assessment to ensure appropriate attention is given to our Equality Duty.

Resource implications

9. This report has no direct financial implications, however the Board may wish to consider how money is utilised in order to meet the council's objectives.

Legal implications

10. There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

Risk management

11. The risks associated with the council's business are recorded on the relevant service risk register and escalated in accordance with the council's Performance Management Framework and Risk Management Plan. The highest risks, i.e. those scoring greater than 16 after controls, are escalated to the council's Corporate Risk Register.

Consultees

12. None in relation to this report.

Appendices

- Appendix A - Quarter 4 Budget Report (Cabinet 16 May 2024)
- Appendix B - Revenue outturn
- Appendix C - Capital outturn
- Appendix D - Treasury management outturn
- Appendix E - Savings delivery
- Appendix F - Earmarked reserves.

Background papers

None identified.

Report Reviewers Used for appraising this report:

Please note this section must be completed before the report can be published		
Governance	Simon Cann	Date 02/09/2024
Finance	Click or tap here to enter text.	Date Click or tap to enter a date.
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