

FINANCE MONITORING REPORT – AUGUST 2019

To: **Communities and Partnership Committee**

Meeting Date: **10th October 2019**

From: **Executive Director: People and Communities
Chief Finance Officer**

Electoral division(s): **All**

Forward Plan ref: **Not applicable** *Key decision:* **No**

Purpose: **To provide the Committee with the August 2019-20
Finance Monitoring report for People and Communities
(P&C).**

**The report is presented to provide the Committee with the
opportunity to comment on the financial position as at the
end of August 2019.**

Recommendations: **Committee are asked to:**

Review and comment on the report.

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1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1** A Finance Monitoring report for People and Communities (P&C) is produced monthly and the most recent available report is presented to the Committee when it meets.
- 1.2** The report is presented to provide the Committee with the opportunity to comment on the financial and performance position of the services for which the Committee has responsibility.
- 1.3** This report is for the whole of the P&C Service, and as such, not all of the budgets contained within it are the responsibility of this Committee. Members are requested to restrict their attention to the budget lines for which this Committee is responsible, the table below provides a summary of the budget totals relating to C&P Committee:

Directorate	Budget 2019/20 £000	Actual August 2019 £000	Forecast Outturn Variance £000
Strategic Management - Communities & Safety	15	57	0
Safer Communities Partnership	880	547	0
Strengthening Communities	495	177	0
Adult Learning and Skills	2,438	463	0
Total Community & Safety	3,828	1,244	0
Strategic Management – Cultural & Community Services	163	68	-0
Public Library Services	3,409	1,403	0
Cultural Services	107	-33	0
Archives	440	174	0
Registration & Citizenship Services	-516	-304	-57
Coroners	1,117	604	235
Total Cultural & Community Services	4,721	1,912	178
Total Expenditure	8,549	3,156	178
Grant Funding	-2,334	-1,168	0
Total	6,215	1,988	178

From 1st April 2019 Cultural & Community services fall under the responsibility of C&P Committee.

1.4 Financial Context

The major savings agenda continues with £75m of savings required across the Council between 2019 and 2024.

Although significant savings have been made across P&C in recent years, the directorate continues to face demand pressures, particularly:

- In Children's Services related to the rising number of children in care
- Those related to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
- In Older People's services where prices have risen well above inflation for residential and nursing care
- In Learning Disability services, where the needs of a relatively static number of service-users have continued to increase

2.0 MAIN ISSUES IN THE AUGUST 2019 P&C FINANCE & PERFORMANCE REPORT

2.1 Revenue

The August 2019 Finance Monitoring report is attached at **Appendix 1**. At the end of August the P&C forecast overspend has a revised position of £2,972k. This includes additional budget allocations as agreed by GPC in July.

Communities & Safety are forecasting an overspend of £178k, made up of a £235k overspend on Coroner Services and a £57k over-recovery of income in the Registration Service

Coroners is forecasting a pressure of £235k. This is due to the increasing complexity of cases being referred to the coroner that require inquest and take time to conclude, requiring more specialist reports and advice and the recruitment of additional staff to complete investigations and prevent backlogs of cases building up. The cost of essential contracts for body storage, pathology, histology and toxicology has also increased.

The Registration & Citizenship Service is forecasting an over-recovery of income of £57k, due to a combination of increased charges for certificates and staff vacancies.

Due to the cross-cutting nature of C&P Committee a brief summary of the other key variances forecast within P&C is provided below:

- Budgets relating to care provision for Adults and Older People are anticipated to overspend by £1.1m due to increases in both unit costs and demand. This pressure is inclusive of grant funding mitigating the position in line with the condition of the grant.
- Budgets relating to Children's Services are forecasting an overspend of £1.4m with pressures on the Children in Care Placements budget (£650k), the Legal Proceeding Budget (£400k) and the Children in Care budget (£350k).
- The Home to School Transport – Special budget within Education is forecasting an overspend of £300k.
- A pressure of £7m is currently anticipated on the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)

Further details of these variances will be reported to the relevant service committees (CYP and Adults) and can be found in the main Finance Monitoring Report (**Appendix 1**)

2.2 Capital

The Capital Programme Board recommend that services include a variation budgets to account for likely slippage in the capital programme, as it is sometimes difficult to allocate this to individual schemes in advance. The allocation for P&C's negative budget has been calculated as below, updated for the transfer of Cultural and Community Services. Slippage and underspends expected in 2019/20 are currently resulting in £6.51m of the capital variations budget being utilised, £226k of which is due to slippage in C&CS schemes.

2019/20					
Service	Capital Programme Variations Budget £000	Forecast Outturn Variance (Aug 2019) £000	Capital Programme Variations Budget Used £000	Capital Programme Variations Budget Used %	Revised Outturn Variance (Aug 2019) £000
P&C	-13,399	-6,511	6,511	48.6%	0
Total Spending	-13,399	-6,511	6,511	48.6%	0

2.0 ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

2.1 Developing the local economy for the benefit of all

2.1.1 There are no significant implications for this priority.

2.2 Helping people live healthy and independent lives

2.2.1 There are no significant implications for this priority

2.3 Supporting and protecting vulnerable people

2.3.1 There are no significant implications for this priority

3.0 SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Resource Implications

3.1.1 This report sets out details of the overall financial position of the P&C Service.

3.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

3.2.1 There are no significant implications within this category.

3.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

3.3.1 There are no significant implications within this category.

3.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

3.4.1 There are no significant implications within this category.

3.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

3.5.1 There are no significant implications within this category.

3.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

3.6.1 There are no significant implications within this category.

3.7 Public Health Implications

3.7.1 There are no significant implications within this category.

Source Documents	Location
As well as presentation of the FMR to the Committee when it meets, the report is made available online each month.	https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/finance-and-budget/finance-&-performance-reports/