

FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE REPORT – JANUARY 2019

To: Communities and Partnership Committee

Meeting Date: 7th March 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 January 2019 Finance and Performance report for People And Communities Services (P&C).

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

Recommendations: The Committee is asked to review and comment on the report.

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1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 A Finance & Performance 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:

Forecast Variance Outturn (December) £000	Directorate	Budget 2018/19 £000	Actual January 2019 £000	Forecast Outturn Variance £000
0	Strategic Management - Communities & Safety	-38	112	-90
0	Safer Communities Partnership	947	806	0
0	Strengthening Communities	521	550	-26
0	Adult Learning and Skills	2,598	2,153	0
0	Total Expenditure	4,029	3,620	-116
0	Grant Funding	-2,495	-2,484	0
0	Total	1,534	1,136	-116

1.4 Financial Context

The major savings agenda continues with £99.2m of savings required across the Council between 2017 and 2022. The planned savings for P&C in the 2018/19 financial year total £21,287k, of which those that are directly attributable to C&P total £0k. However the workstreams within C&P are integral to the overall delivery of many of the savings proposals.

Although significant savings have been made across P&C, the directorate continues to face demand pressures, particularly in children's services related to the rising number of looked after children.

CYP Committee have previously received reports confirming the medium term approach to managing demand on the looked after children's placement budget as well as outlining the major change and restructuring programme underway in the service. The changes are evidence based and respond to a series of reviews over the past twelve months by Oxford Brooks University, OFSTED, and LGA peers. The outcome of the changes will be easier referrals into the council's contact centre, social work teams based in districts led by non- case holding team managers who can provide more support and challenge, lower caseloads for social workers overall, with more resilience built in to larger teams., two dedicated teams focussed on adolescents, and more Child Practitioners focussed on working with children in need and able to undertake more sustained and in depth work.

It is acknowledged that these changes, and resulting budgetary improvements, will take time to embed and it is increasingly recognised that it will not be possible to fully address and reduce the pressures through offsetting savings and mitigating actions within P&C during 2018-19. General Purposes Committee have now approved the allocation of the £3.413m smoothing fund to support Children's Services pressures, as recommended by CYP Committee, which has now been reflected in the latest reported position

The continuing increase in the number of pupils with SEND and the overall complexity of need has resulted in significant pressures on both the High Needs Block element of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), and core Local Authority budget. Work is ongoing with key stakeholders, including Schools Forum, to reduce costs and deliver a recovery plan of the current deficit.

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

2.1 The January 2019 Finance and Performance report is attached at **Appendix 1**. At the end of January the P&C forecast overspend has reduced to £4,382k. Of this forecast overspend £-116k underspend is attributable to C&P budget lines.

2.2 Revenue

The main changes to the revenue forecast variances within C&P Committees areas of responsibility since the previous report are as follows:

- Strategic Management - Communities & Safety forecasting a -£90k underspend due to vacancy saving exceeding the £55k target.
- Strengthening Communities forecasting a -£26k underspend due to in year sundry underspends.

The main changes to the revenue forecast variances for P&C since the previous report are as follows:

- LAC Transport is now forecasting a balanced position at year-end £300k improvement. This follows a detailed review of current commitments and significant reductions in costs due to the introduction of more efficient routes, including the utilisation of existing services wherever possible.
- The Adoption Allowance forecast has increased by £125k to £337k overspend since last month due to a rise in the Adoption/SGO allowances and provision of a further two external inter agency placements.
- Strategic Management – Children and Safeguarding. This budget is now forecasting a £500k pressure as a result of under-achievement of vacancy savings. Given the pressures across the service the level of realised vacancies has not been as high as in the previous year and in the Safeguarding teams, agency use has been necessary to fulfil our statutory safeguarding responsibilities by covering vacant posts. In the recent Ofsted inspection, inspectors said that one of the most important issues for us to tackle was that of caseloads which are too high in some parts of the service. High caseloads is partly the result of vacancies. We therefore need to assess the extent to which vacancy savings are realistic within children's services.
- Pressures on SEND Specialist Services (0-25yrs) continue to increase reflecting the system wide pressures on SEND due to a continuing rise in overall numbers and

complexity of need. The current overspend is forecast at £9.3m. There was a net increase of 500 Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) over the course of the 2017/18 academic year (13%) and an average of 10 additional EHCPs a week throughout the 2018/19 academic year to date. Despite additional funding of £1.4m from the DfE, announced in December, approximately £8m of this pressure relates to the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and will be carried forward as part of the overall DSG deficit into 2019/20. Work is ongoing with Schools Forum to develop options to reduce expenditure and produce a sustainable system within the available High Needs Block. £1.2m of the pressure within this area is base budget and therefore impacts on the Council's bottom line.

- The 0-19 Organisation & Planning service is forecasting a revised underspend of £200k, a £110k improvement from the previous position. This is due to a combination of over-achievement of income and vacancy savings targets.
- Home to School / College Transport - Mainstream is expected to overspend by £300k, an increase of £100k. This is primarily as a result of quotes being received at a higher cost than that expected based on previous years costs. In addition, there has been a higher than usual number of in-year admissions requests where the local school is full. These situations require us to provide transport to schools further away, outside statutory walking distance.

2.3 Performance

There are four new C&P Performance Indicators, these have no target and are therefore not RAG-rated. The new performance indicators being reported are;

- Number of young first time entrants into the criminal justice system, per 10,000 of population compared to statistical neighbours
 - Victim-based crime per 1,000 of population compared to statistical neighbours (hate crime)
 - Proportion of new apprentices per 1,000 of population, compared to national figures
 - Engagement with learners from deprived wards as a proportion of the total learners engaged
- 1.

3.0 2018-19 SAVINGS TRACKER

3.1 As previously reported the "tracker" report – a tool for summarising delivery of savings – will be made available for Members on a quarterly basis.

3.2 Where a shortfall is currently forecast this is being reflected in the overall bottom line, but it is also important to note the relationship with the reported pressures within the detailed F&PR.

4.1 Developing the local economy for the benefit of all

4.1.1 There are no significant implications for this priority.

4.2 Helping people live healthy and independent lives

4.2.1 There are no significant implications for this priority

4.3 Supporting and protecting vulnerable people

4.3.1 There are no significant implications for this priority

5.0 SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Resource Implications

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

5.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

5.2.1 There are no significant implications within this category.

5.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

5.3.1 There are no significant implications within this category.

5.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

5.4.1 There are no significant implications within this category.

5.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

5.5.1 There are no significant implications within this category.

5.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

5.6.1 There are no significant implications within this category.

5.7 Public Health Implications

6.7.1 There are no significant implications within this category.

Source Documents	Location
As well as presentation of the F&PR 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/