

## Finance Monitoring Report – January 2021

To: Communities and Partnership Committee

Meeting Date: 4 March 2021

From: Executive Director: People and Communities, Wendi Ogle-Welbourn  
Chief Finance Officer, Chris Malyon

Electoral division(s): All

Key decision: No

Outcome: To provide the Committee with the January 2021 Finance Monitoring Report for People and Communities Services (P&C).

The report is presented to provide the Committee with the opportunity to comment on the financial position as at the end of January 2021.

Recommendation: The Communities and Partnership Committee is asked to:

Review and comment on the report.

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## 1. Background

- 1.1 Under the current Virtual Meetings Protocol it has been agreed that the revised Finance Monitoring Report will now be presented at all scheduled substantive Committee meetings (but not reserve dates) to provide the Committee with the opportunity to comment on the financial position of the services for which the Committee has responsibility.
- 1.2 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, which are detailed below

Forecast Variance Outturn (Previous) £000	Directorate	Budget 2020/21 £000	Actual 2020 January £000	Forecast Outturn Variance £000
-23	Strategic Management - Communities & Partnerships	231	112	-27
100	Public Library Services	3,698	2,770	66
-18	Cambridgeshire Skills	2,383	-1,103	-18
-24	Archives	355	276	-24
-6	Cultural Services	314	191	-6
550	Registration & Citizenship Services	-651	-195	660
176	Coroners	1,537	1,138	159
60	Trading Standards	694	572	60
-5	Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Service	822	639	-21
1,443	Think Communities	3,178	2,295	1,331
<b>2,252</b>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>12,560</b>	<b>6,697</b>	<b>2,180</b>
0	Grant Funding	-5,670	-3,622	0
<b>2,252</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>6,889</b>	<b>3,075</b>	<b>2,180</b>

## 2. Main Issues – Revenue

- 2.1 The January 2021 Finance Monitoring report is attached at Appendix 1. Sections which do not apply to CYP Committee have been highlighted in grey. At the end of January 2021, the overall P&C position shows a revised overspend of £7,656k; around 2.8% of budget. The majority of the reported forecast pressures are as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. As referenced previously the estimated financial impact on the Council has been submitted to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) at regular intervals during the pandemic. As numbers of Covid-19 cases continue to rise these figures remain indicative contingent on the length of disruption into the first quarter of 2021 and the subsequent impact on activity levels, and as such these estimates will continue to be refined as the position becomes clearer.

A summary of the current significant revenue over and underspends within C&P can be seen below:

- 2.1.1 Think Communities (previously Strengthening Communities) is forecasting a £1,331k overspend in 2020/21. £210k of this is due to costs incurred by the Covid-19 co-ordination and distribution hub including food parcels, and the running costs of the distribution centre in Alconbury, along with a £175k contribution to the Cambridgeshire Coronavirus Fund. The remainder is the financial impact of staff redeployment to the Covid-19 response to the end of September, predominantly supporting those who were shielding. This adjustment is net-neutral across the council, reducing spend showing in other budget areas.
- 2.1.2 The Registration & Citizenship service is forecasting a £550k under recovery of income, relating predominantly to reduction in marriage notice fees, marriage certificates and ceremony fees.
- 2.1.3 The Coroners service is forecasting £176k overspend. This is Covid-19 related and in the main due to the increased cost of post-mortems where Covid-19 is suspected.
- 2.1.4 Lost Sales, Fees & Charges Compensation – A new policy line has been added within the Executive Director section of the FMR to reflect the grant made available from the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to compensate for lost sales, fees and charges income relating to the pandemic. Local authorities are expected to absorb losses up to 5% of budgeted sales, fees, and charges income, after which the government will reimburse 75p in every pound of relevant losses. P&C have seen significant income losses, particularly in certain Education services, and, as noted above, the Registration service in Communities. Based on the latest forecasts P&C are anticipating compensation of £2.8m to be received.

## 2.3 Capital

- 2.3.1 The Capital Programme Board recommended that services include a variations budget 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 revised and calculated using the revised budget for 2020/21 as below. At this stage of the year the level of slippage is not expected to exceed the revised capital variation budget of £6.5m so to show the impact of overall forecast pressure, the capital variations budget is shown fully utilised.

Service	Capital Programme Variations Budget £000	Forecast Outturn Variance (Jan) £000	Capital Programme Variations Budget Used £000	Capital Programme Variations Budget Used %	Revised Outturn Variance (Jan) £000
P&C	-6,523	6,523	5,853	89.7%	-670
Total Spending	-6,523	6,523	5,853	89.7%	-670

### 3. Alignment with corporate priorities

- 3.1 A good quality of life for everyone  
There are no significant implications for this priority.
- 3.2 Thriving places for people to live  
There are no significant implications for this priority.
- 3.3 The best start for Cambridgeshire's children  
There are no significant implications for this priority.
- 3.4 Net zero carbon emissions for Cambridgeshire by 2050  
There are no significant implications for this priority.

### 4. Significant Implications

- 4.1 Resource Implications  
This report sets out details of the overall financial position of the P&C Service.
- 4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications  
There are no significant implications within this category.
- 4.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications  
There are no significant implications within this category.
- 4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications  
There are no significant implications within this category.
- 4.5 Engagement and Communications Implications  
There are no significant implications within this category.
- 4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement  
There are no significant implications within this category.
- 4.7 Public Health Implications  
There are no significant implications within this category.

### 5. Source documents

#### 5.1 Source documents

As well as presentation of the FMR to the Committee the report is made available online each month.

#### 5.2 Location

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/finance-and-budget/finance-&-performance-reports/>