

FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE REPORT – NOVEMBER 2018

To: **Communities & Partnership Committee**

Meeting Date: **17th January 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 November 2018
Finance and Performance report for Communities And
Partnership Services (C&P).**

**The report is presented to provide the Committee with the
opportunity to comment on the financial and performance
position as at the end of November 2018.**

Recommendations: **The Committee is asked to:**

- a) 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 proposed budget lines for which this Committee is responsible for. These are detailed below;

Forecast Variance Outturn (Previous) £000	Directorate	Budget 2018/19 £000	Actual Nov 2018 £000	Forecast Outturn Variance £000
0	Strategic Management - Communities & Safety	-38	89	0
0	Safer Communities Partnership	947	678	0
0	Strengthening Communities	521	410	0
0	Adult Learning and Skills	2,494	1,968	0
0	Total Expenditure	3,925	3,146	0
0	Grant Funding (including Dedicated Schools Grant etc.)	-2,391	-2,209	0
0	Total	1,534	937	0

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.

2.0 MAIN ISSUES IN THE NOVEMBER 2018 P&C FINANCE & PERFORMANCE REPORT

2.1 The November 2018 Finance and Performance report is attached at **Appendix 1**. At the end of November, P&C forecast overspend has increased from £2,671k to £4,382k. Of this forecast overspend £0k is attributable to C&P budget lines.

2.2 Significant Issues.

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

- Home to School Transport – Special. The forecast overspend has increased by £750k to £1,500k. The increase is due to a review of expected commitments now that the majority of routes for the 2018/19 academic year have been agreed, as well as further growth in SEND pupil numbers for the new academic year.
- LAC Transport is anticipated to be £300k over budget, as a result of an overall increase in Looked after Children, meaning that more children are requiring Home to School Transport. Many of these children are placed out of county and/or at a significant distance away from their schools leading to high transport costs
- SEND Specialist Services (0-25yrs) are forecasting a £7.4m overspend. £6.6m of this pressure is Dedicated Schools Grant expenditure which will be managed within the overall DSG resources and carried forward as a deficit balance into 2019/20. £800k of this is a base budget pressure on the Council's bottom line. We saw a net increase of 500 Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) over the course of the 2017/18 academic year (13%) and have been averaging an additional 9 EHCPs a week during September and October 2018. This increase in numbers, as well as an increase in complexity of need, has caused pressures across all elements of the SEN budget. Further details can be found in **Appendix 1**, note 13.
- Home to School/ College Transport - Mainstream are expected to overspend by £200k 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

3.0 2018-19 SAVINGS TRACKER

- 3.1 As previously reported the “tracker” report – a tool for summarising delivery of savings – will be updated throughout the year and the overall position reported to members on a quarterly basis.

4.0 ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

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, Risk and Legal 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 Consultation 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

- 5.7.1 There are no significant implications within this category.

Source Documents	Location
The report is made available online each month and presented to the Committee.	https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/finance-and-budget/finance-&-performance-reports/