

Financial Outturn 2018/19: Budget Monitoring – Quarter 4

General Fund

The original General Fund Budget anticipated a transfer to reserves of £nil, however at quarter three this had increased to a projected transfer to reserves of £405,000 prior to Business Rate retentions. The actual transfer to reserves was £425,000.

The main areas of movement from Quarter 3 are as follows:

The Homelessness Reduction Act had anticipated additional costs which have been mitigated, to some extent, by changes made to the Council's allocations policy and unexpected grant funding which came in at the end of the year in respect of Homelessness support. Transfers to reserves were made in respect of Homelessness.

Additional Government Grant in respect of the management of Universal Credit transfer to the DWP was received late in the financial year. In addition there were more overpaid benefit cases raised and recovered.

There was increased income from car park management fees and the issue of licences of £75,000 as well as staff savings in the regeneration of the shrub beds and delays in the budgeted expenditure in respect of the landings at the Snell Hatch Cemetery accounted for a further £80,000.

The above mentioned surpluses were offset by the reduction in planning income, due mostly to the uncertainty surrounding Brexit, and the delay in settling a number of rent reviews and lease renewals by the year end.

Housing Revenue Account

For the Housing Revenue Account the actual outturn was a surplus of £401,000 compared to a projected surplus of £397,000 at Quarter 3.

Additional employee savings in Quarter 4 were the result of vacancies in the Lifeline and Leasehold departments. Savings were also made in the areas of reduced agency costs and general reductions in expenditure in Sheltered Housing and Policy and Engagement.

Repairs and Maintenance is over spent by a further £77,000 compared to Quarter 3 projections, mainly due to increased expenditure on asbestos surveys and external redecorations.

Capital

In terms of capital spending, £45m has been spent in the year 2018/2019.

Major variations to the programme in Quarter 4 were as follows:

Queens Square

There is slippage on the Queens Square Improvement project, this sum will be used for the future maintenance of the square.

Flooding

The flooding budgets are being reviewed by the Capital Project Assurance Group (CPAG) with a view to reprioritising the programme.

Crawley Growth Programme

This includes the Queensway and Pavement which is ahead of the agreed programme and expected to be delivered on time and budget. The Manor Royal and Town Centre improvements design has been completed. The Station Gateway detailed designs are being worked on and are expected to be finalised in the autumn of 2019.

Vehicle Replacement Programme

The Council have taken early delivery of replacement vehicles requiring £131,000 to be brought forward from the 2019/20 budget.

Revealing the Tree – The Crawley Museum scheme agreed with the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has resulted in a saving of £136,000 due to the main contractor absorbing some of the budgeted items as well as contingency items not being required.

Crawley Homes

There have been a higher level of kitchen and bathroom installations due to the ageing condition of the stock. There was additional expenditure of £65,000 due to the passenger lift failing in Carey House.

Bridgefield House

Cash flow projections have been revised resulting in slippage to 2019/20.

Forge Wood Phase 3

Phase 3 has been delivered ahead of schedule enabling more units to be made available earlier than predicted.

The full report can be found in the [Financial Outturn 2018/19 – FIN/472](#)

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