

Financial Outturn 2017/18: 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 £796,000 prior to Business Rate retentions. The actual transfer to reserves was £923,482.

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

The Data Centre overspend had increased from £47,000 at Quarter 3 to £100,753. This has been caused by failures by our telecoms provider that has led to a contractual dispute. There have also been delays due to the loss of key members of the infrastructure team. Steps have been taken to address this shortfall through the use of external consultancy staff, but this has resulted in additional costs.

Additional income of £60,000 from recycling of materials. However, there is uncertainty around this income, so future budgets have not been amended at this time.

The homelessness service underspent by £306,000 compared to £208,000 at Quarter 3, as a result of the amendments to the Allocations Policy which has resulted in moving applicants through temporary accommodation more efficiently.

Benefit overpayments recovered has seen a significant underspend during the year due to data matching with the HMRC. However, there were fewer referrals in the final quarter leading to a reduction in underspend from £464,000 projected at Quarter 3 to £320,000.

Housing Revenue Account

For the Housing Revenue Account the actual outturn was a surplus of £810,000 compared to a projected surplus of £266,000 at Quarter 3.

Rental income is above projections by £168,000 more than anticipated at Quarter 3. This is due to more properties being let at target rents.

Repairs and Maintenance is under-spent by a further £234,000 compared to Quarter 3 projections, mainly due to fewer emergency call outs due to the weather such as fencing and roofing. Although the winter was bad, there were not the high winds that have been seen in the past.

Due to the high collection rates of Crawley Homes, the transfer to the provision for bad debts was less than required. This will be reviewed over the coming years with the introduction of Universal Credit.

Capital

In terms of capital spending, £29m has been spent in the year 2016/2017 equivalent to 97% of the latest budget.

Major variations to the programme were as follows:

Queens Square

£72,000 slipped into 2018/19 for the restoration and relocation of the bandstand in Memorial Gardens, street cleaning equipment and a digital sign.

Queensway

Delays in the planning process resulted in £70,000 being slipped to 2018/19.

Signage & Wayfinding

£180,000 slipped due additional unforeseen stakeholders' consultation on designs.

College Car park site

A supplementary estimate of £250,000 is requested for additional units and to provide a sprinkler system to the apartments.

83-87 Three Bridges Rd

Demolition slower as delays by the statutory undertaker in completing the disconnection of the utility supplies. £96,000 slipped.

Dobbins Place

£120,500 slipped due to contract negotiations.

Forge Wood Phases 2 & 3

Progress on the construction works for Phase 2D have been slower than originally forecast by the contractor. £208,000 slipped.

The full report can be found in the [Financial Outturn 2017/18 – FIN/443](#)

For further information, please contact Karen Hayes Head of Finance, Revenues and Benefits, 01293 438263.