
OVERVIEW OF EFFICIENCY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1. Since the last meeting of the Council, the following are the main areas of work the Efficiency and Resources Scrutiny Committee has undertaken.

Revenue Budget Monitoring 2018-19 – Quarter 2

2. We received the Quarter 2 forecast of the 2018-19 revenue budget outturn. The latest projections show an overall improvement against the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) of £1.116 million, an increase of £0.161 million from the Quarter 1 position. The Children and Adult Services Group is reporting an overspend of £0.432 million which is being offset by an underspend on the financing costs budget of £0.591 million.
3. We particularly discussed the overspend in Children's Services which was mainly due to an increase in costs in relation to the adoption and placement budget as a result of a large spike in the number of children being brought into care and which, due to local capacity, had required further use of both independent fostering and independent residential placements and the continuing pressures on School Transport.
4. We were pleased to note the improved position in relation to financing costs and commended the work Officers have undertaken in relation to investments and borrowing in accordance with the Council's Treasury Management Strategy.
5. We did discuss some specific variances within Departmental budget headings and we were given an explanation as to the possible reasons for those variances. Members did consider whether they should be supplied with more detailed information in respect of those larger variances in budgets, in addition to the narrative given in the covering report, however, we were reassured by the explanation of the processes involved in budget monitoring and management by Officers.
6. In addition to continuing to monitor the position, we have also asked for further information in relation to a number of specific areas which I will pursue as Chair

Councillor Ian Haszeldine
Chair Efficiency and Resources Scrutiny Committee