
Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committee

10 September 2020

End of June (Qtr1) Total Performance Monitor – Focus for Scrutiny Report by Director of Law and Assurance

Summary

The Total Performance Monitor (TPM) by the Director of Finance and Support Services is the Council's monitoring and reporting mechanism for finance performance (revenue and capital), savings delivery, and business performance. It is regularly scrutinised by the Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committee.

The TPM report attached reflects the position as at the end of June 2020 and includes an update on the high level implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on the County Council. The Council has received £41.4m (excluding specific ring-fenced grants) to date from the Government to fund the COVID-19 emergency response.

Overall, the forecast year-end revenue position, as at the end of June 2020, is a projected £16.529m overspend. £5.779m of this projected overspend relates to normal County Council service pressures and £10.750m is the estimated shortfall between the cost of the pandemic and the funding supplied from central government. This forecast overspending excludes the £6.832m Contingency Budget currently unallocated.

If additional funding is not received from the government to cover the estimated shortfall in COVID-19 spend and if the general overspend is not addressed in year, it is likely that the Budget Management Reserve will need to be used to balance the budget.

A report is to be submitted to Council in September which will detail the COVID-19 costs incurred to date. The report will also detail the required in-year budget amendments to allocate the government grant to specific portfolio areas where additional pandemic costs have been sustained.

There have been changes to the performance reporting measures due to the impact of COVID-19 on the Council's priorities and activities. The 67 measures of success contained within the West Sussex Plan have been categorised into 'active', 'amend', or 'suspended' groupings. In some circumstances new measures are being considered and included where it is useful to track priority service activities through to the end of 2020-21.

Of the remaining 39 'active' performance measures, 66% of measures are reporting as 'green', 24% as 'amber' and 10% as 'red'.

The TPM includes an update of the Children First and Fire and Rescue Improvement Plans which have continued to be a priority.

At the request of the Committee the latest Risk Register is also included to give a holistic understanding of the Council's current performance reflecting the need to manage risk proactively.

Focus for scrutiny

The Committee is asked to scrutinise the TPM (as set out in the Annex report attached). Key areas for scrutiny include:

1. The impact of the COVID-19 emergency situation on the Council's financial resilience and performance;
2. The effectiveness of measures taken to manage the Council's financial position and the non-delivery of identified savings;
3. Consideration of the update to the 2020/21 performance indicators and the amended targets;
4. Any areas of concern in relation to the workforce indicators;
5. Any issues reported through the Risk Register;
6. Any issues raised by other Scrutiny Committees (through the Chairmen of these Committees); and
7. Identification of:
 - a) Any specific areas for action or response by the relevant Cabinet Member,
 - b) Any issues for further scrutiny by this Committee (or by one of the other scrutiny committees, as appropriate).

The Chairman will summarise the output of the debate for consideration by the Committee.

1. Background and context

- 1.1 The background and context to this item for scrutiny are set out in the attached appendices (listed below). As it is a report dealing with internal or procedural matters only the Equality, Human Rights, Social Value, Sustainability, and Crime and Disorder Reduction Assessments are not required.

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Appendices

Annex Total Performance Monitor Report Quarter 1 as at 30 June 2020

- Appendix 1 Revenue Budget Monitor to the end of June 2020
- Appendix 2 COVID-19 Grant Funding allocated to WSCC - as at 21 July
- Appendix 3 Medium Term Financial Planning – July 2020
- Appendix 4 Children First Improvement Plan – June 2020 Update
- Appendix 5 Fire Improvement Plan – June 2020 Update
- Appendix 6 2020/21 Savings - As at June 2020
- Appendix 7 Capital Narrative – Quarter One (April to June) 2020
- Appendix 8 Workforce Key Performance Indicators – 2020/21 Q1
- Appendix 9 Quarterly Review of the Corporate Risk Register - June 2020

Background Papers

None