
Report to Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committee

11 March 2021

End of December 2020 (Quarter 3) Quarterly Performance Monitor – Focus for Scrutiny

Report by Director of Law and Assurance

Summary

The Quarterly Performance Monitor (QPM) 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 QPM report attached reflects the position as at the end of December 2020 and includes an update on the high-level implications of the Covid-19 pandemic on the County Council. The estimated cost of the pandemic is in the region of £83.8m which is likely to vary due to changing resource requirements. To the end of December £45.9m of non-ring fenced grants have been received from Government towards the costs associated with the virus. Other specific grants have also been received, as shown in graph 1 in the attached Annex document.

Overall, the forecast year-end revenue position, as at the end of December 2020, is a projected £0.296m underspend which is a decrease of £5.776m from the overspend reported at the end of September.

Of the 47 performance measures, 66% of measures are reporting as 'green', 21% as 'amber' and 13% as 'red'.

The QPM includes an update of the Children First and Fire and Rescue Improvement Plans which continue 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 QPM (as set out in the Annex report attached). Key areas for scrutiny include:

- 1) The on-going 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 2020/21 performance indicators and targets;

- 4) Any areas of concern in relation to the workforce indicators or Risk Register;
- 5) Using all the information presented the Committee is asked to identify any issues needing further scrutiny relevant to the committee's portfolio area of responsibility;
- 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, or
 - b) Any issues for further scrutiny 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.

Tony Kershaw

Director of Law and Assurance

Contact Officer

Susanne Sanger, Senior Advisor (Democratic Services), 033 022 22550

Appendices

- Annex Quarterly Performance Monitor - December 2020
- Appendix 1 Revenue Budget Monitor and Useable Reserves as at end of Dec 2020
- Appendix 2 Covid Grant Funding allocated to West Sussex County Council - as at January 2021
- Appendix 3 Savings Monitor - as at Dec 2020
- Appendix 4 Children First Improvement Plan Update - as at December 2020
- Appendix 5 Fire Improvement Plan Update - as at December 2020
- Appendix 6 Capital Programme Budget Monitor - as at December 2020
- Appendix 7 Workforce Key Performance Indicators – as at December 2020
- Appendix 8 Corporate Risk Register – as at February 2021

Background Papers

None