

Report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting 22nd March 2021

By Director of Corporate Resources

INFORMATION REPORT

Not exempt



**Horsham
District
Council**

REPORT ON THE COUNCIL'S FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE IN 2020/21

Executive Summary

This report gives the Overview and Scrutiny Committee information to help it carry out its role of monitoring the internal and external delivery of services. The Council uses corporate performance indicators, financial reporting, monitoring of corporate plan actions and review of progress against key corporate projects to show progress.

An analysis of performance indicators shows 64% within target and 13% close to target, and 23% below target. The continued impact of COVID-19 can be seen in a number of those KPIs where targets have not been met, especially those related to Leisure and Culture and Parking.

The financial performance is forecast at Month 10 of the 2020/21 financial year. Officers currently forecast a year-end revenue deficit of £5.4m.

Income remains significantly reduced by the impact of Covid-19, with parking particularly affected. This together with the contractual expenditure obligations in leisure services make up around three quarters of the forecast overspend. The one-off Government grants for additional Covid-19 expenditure and income loss, together with the actions taken by officers to reduce expenditure, including the restructure, mean that the overall funding position of the Council is currently on course to be a small surplus for 2020/21.

Capital expenditure at Month 10 was £4.5m (50%) of the £8.9m capital programme. By comparison, spend on capital was £6.9m (32%) of the £21.7m programme at same period in 2019/20, which ended the year at £9.8m (45%). An outturn of £5.7m or 64% is forecast by officers. The impact of Covid-19 continues to subdue some capital expenditure and officers remain generally over-optimistic on delivery of the capital programme during the year.

Work still continues on key tracked projects and Corporate Plan actions. There are currently 14 Corporate Plan actions are currently on hold due to the impact of Covid-19 but 7 have now been completed which includes the adoption of the local cycling and walking plan. Of the 56 Corporate Plan actions progressing includes a programme of support for the retail sector in our market towns and high streets with funding of 80K awarded from the Strategic Investment Fund for a training and grants package; work on the launch of kerbside collections of WEEE, textiles and batteries in the summer of 2022. The Green agenda is continuing to make good progress, five grants were awarded in November to local groups the second round of grants will be considered in March 2021.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Members note the contents of this report.

Reasons for Recommendations

To enable Overview and Scrutiny to carry out its Constitutional role of monitoring the delivery of internal and external services and scrutinise any part of the Council's work.

Consultation: Senior Leadership Team, Cabinet Members. Director of Corporate Resources

Wards affected: All

Contact: Jane Eaton, Corporate Director of Resources. 01403 215302

Background Papers:

Appendix A: Key performance indicators Q3

Appendix B: Budget monitoring and forecast outturn summary April 2020 to January 2021

Appendix C: Capital budget monitoring and forecast outturn at M10

Appendix D: Revenue budget monitoring and forecast outturn at M10

Appendix E: Corporate Plan update Q3

