

# Report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting 21 March 2022

By Director of Corporate Resources

## INFORMATION REPORT

Not exempt



**Horsham  
District  
Council**

### REPORT ON THE COUNCIL'S FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE IN 2021/22

#### 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 and review of progress against key corporate projects to show progress.

The financial performance is forecast at Month 10 of the 2021/22 financial year. Officers currently forecast an operational surplus of £2.1m. £0.9m of the forecast underspend is on leisure facilities with current performance and activities ahead of Place's Leisure (cautious) budget estimate. The remainder is the net of £2m underspends; mostly across investment and interest income and additional grant income in Housing to help with homelessness, and £0.8m overspend mostly from property expenses. The forecast outturn reflects the fact that the budget was set in a challenging time during a lock-down and a lot of caution was built into the figure that has not materialised, with some income returning faster than anticipated, and some expenditure thankfully not required in the case of the £0.25m community recovery fund.

Debt over 90 days is aging and the risk associated is building, albeit being closely monitored by Property and Facilities.

Capital expenditure at Month 10 was £3.9m (47%) of the £8.3m capital programme. By comparison, spend on capital was £4.5m (50%) of the £8.5m programme at same period in 2020/21. An outturn of £5.5m or 66% is forecast by officers. In 2020/21, the outturn was £5.4m (60%). Officers are generally over-optimistic on delivery of the capital programme during the year. The impact of Covid-19 continues to subdue some capital expenditure.

An analysis of performance indicators shows 21 on or above target with 4 just outside of target and 3 below target. Two of those that have not met their target are related to the higher numbers of people in temporary housing and bed and breakfast accommodation as a result of the eviction ban lifting. The third shows attendance at the museum which is now open but with reduced opening hours and some galleries and areas still closed, including the gift shop.

Work on the Corporate Plan actions continued through quarter three of 2021. There are seven completed actions. Four Corporate Plan actions are currently paused which includes three related to the delay in progressing the Local Plan due to water neutrality issues. The fourth is the development of the Cultural Strategy, where work is planned for 2022/23. Two actions that were paused previously are now progressing; the promotion of events to attract people into our town centres and support to businesses in their plans for designating the town centre.

There are sixty-seven Corporate Plan actions progressing. This includes the completion of the desilting works at Horsham Park Pond; that there are now 277 groups and individual volunteers signed up to the Adopt a Street programme, working to ensure that their local area is kept clear of litter and rubbish; that 2.7 tonnes of food waste was collected during

the 1-2-3 trial at an average of 3kg per household per week and a second affordable housing site in Slinfold has been acquired by Horsham District Housing and is now tenanted.

## **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.

**Wards affected:** All

**Contact:** Dominic Bradley, Head of Finance and Performance 01403 215302

## **Background Papers:**

Appendix A: Key Performance Indicators Q3

Appendix B: Budget Monitoring and Forecast Outturn summary April 2021 to February 2022

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