



POLICY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 1ST OCTOBER 2013

**SUBJECT: CORPORATE SERVICES & MISCELLANEOUS FINANCE 2013/14
BUDGET MONITORING REPORT (PERIOD 4)**

**REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES & SECTION 151
OFFICER**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of projected revenue expenditure for the Directorate of Corporate Services and Miscellaneous Finance for the 2013/14 financial year.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The report projects the anticipated final outturn for the Directorate of Corporate Services and Miscellaneous Finance based upon expenditure and income trends for the first four months of the financial year.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The contents of this report are in accordance with the Budget Strategy agreed by Council at its meeting on 27th February 2013.

4. THE REPORT

4.1 Corporate Services

- 4.1.1 The Directorate of Corporate Services is currently forecasting an underspend of £776k for the 2013/14 financial year, full details of which are provided in Appendix 1.
- 4.1.2 The anticipated underspend of £393k in Corporate Finance and Procurement relates in the main to delays in appointing to vacant posts.
- 4.1.3 Legal & Governance is projecting a net underspend of £17k after allowing for the following to be ring-fenced and transferred to earmarked reserves: -
- Projected underspend on Members related expenditure of £30k.
 - Projected underspend of £33k on Electoral Services.
- 4.1.4 There is a projected underspend of £66k on Housing services. Within General Fund Housing there is a projected underspend of £30k, which is due in the main to contributions to the Caerphilly Safeguarding Children Board (CSCB) Co-ordinator post no longer being required. Private Housing is anticipated to underspend by £36k due to a reduction in working hours for some staff.

- 4.1.5 There is an anticipated underspend of £58k in Information and Citizens Engagement, the majority of which is due to a delay in appointing to the new Customer First posts in Caerphilly Library.
- 4.1.6 For Performance and Property there is a projected underspend of £173k, consisting of the following: -
- Performance Management Unit - £16k underspend on staffing.
 - Corporate Property Services - £31k underspend due to vacancy management.
 - Corporate Buildings - £63k underspend mainly due to projected energy savings. Energy budgets will be subject to review in the autumn, when new contract prices are known.
 - Asset Management and Facilities – Projected £58k underspend due to vacancy management pending a restructure.
 - Building Consultancy – Projected underspend of £5k arising from additional fee income.
- 4.1.7 The projected underspends of £27k for Human Resources and £41k for Health & Safety are due to in-year vacancy savings.

4.2 Miscellaneous Finance

- 4.2.1 There is a projected underspend of £473k in Miscellaneous Finance due to the following currently uncommitted budgets: -
- Additional Pupil Demographic Savings - £105k
 - Budget Pressures - £100k
 - Unapplied Growth (Landfill Tax) – £268k
- 4.2.2 No other variations against budgets within Miscellaneous Finance have been identified at this time.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report is for information purposes, so the Council's Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) process does not need to be applied.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 As detailed throughout the report.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no direct personnel implications arising from this report.

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 There are no consultation responses that have not been reflected in this report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 Members are requested to note the contents of the report.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 To ensure that Members are informed of the projected financial position for the Directorate of Corporate Services and Miscellaneous Finance.

11. STATUTORY POWER.

11.1 Local Government Acts 1972 and 2003 and the Council's Financial Regulations.

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Nadeem Akthar, Group Accountant, Revenue Advice & Support
Cheryl Jeremic, Senior Accountant, Environment Finance
Cllr Keith Reynolds, Deputy Leader/Cabinet Member for Corporate Services

Appendices:
Appendix 1 Corporate Services & Miscellaneous Finance 2013/14 Budget Monitoring Report
(Period 4)