



**POLICY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –
21ST JANUARY 2014**

**SUBJECT: CORPORATE SERVICES AND MISCELLANEOUS FINANCE 2013/14
REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT (PERIOD 7)**

**REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES AND 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 revenue budget outturn for the Directorate of Corporate Services and Miscellaneous Finance based upon expenditure and income trends for the first seven 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 £1,019k for the 2013/14 financial year, full details of which are provided in Appendix 1.

4.1.2 The anticipated underspend of £485k in Corporate Finance and Procurement relates in the main to delays in appointing to vacant posts. Some of these posts have been put forward as proposed savings for the 2014/15 financial year.

4.1.3 Legal and Governance is projecting a net underspend of £34k after allowing for a projected underspend of £30k for Electoral Services being ringfenced and transferred to an earmarked reserve.

4.1.4 There is a projected underspend of £68k on Housing Services. Within General Fund Housing there is a projected underspend of £27k, which is due in the main to contributions to the Caerphilly Safeguarding Children Board (CSCB) Co-ordinator post no longer being required and some salary savings. Private Housing is anticipated to underspend by £41k due to a reduction in working hours for some staff.

- 4.1.5 There is an anticipated underspend of £64k 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 £293k, consisting of the following:-
- Performance Management Unit - £21k underspend on staffing.
 - Corporate Property Services - £31k underspend due to vacancy management.
 - Corporate Premises - £124k underspend mainly due to the part vacation of Enterprise House and projected energy savings.
 - Asset Management and Facilities – Projected £73k underspend due to vacancy management pending a restructure and a new maintenance contract to schools.
 - Building Consultancy – Projected underspend of £44k arising from additional fee income.
- 4.1.7 There is a small projected overspend of £3k for Human Resources and a projected underspend of £78k for Health & Safety, which is due to in-year vacancy savings.

4.2 Miscellaneous Finance

- 4.2.1 There is a projected underspend of £897k in Miscellaneous Finance of which £473k is due to the following currently uncommitted budgets:-
- Additional Pupil Demographic Savings - £105k
 - Budget Pressures - £100k
 - Unapplied Growth (Landfill Tax) – £268k
- 4.2.2 At its meeting on the 23rd July 2013, Council agreed that the Additional Pupil Demographic Savings budget of £105k should be set-aside to fund borrowing costs for 21st Century Schools. The £100k Budget Pressures and £268k Unapplied Growth (Landfill Tax) budgets have been identified as potential savings for 2014/15.
- 4.2.3 There is a projected underspend of £424k in Capital Financing, which is due to delayed borrowing requirements.

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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Appendices:

Appendix 1: Corporate Services & Miscellaneous Finance 2013/14 Budget Monitoring Report
(Period 7)