

<b>7 July 2021</b>		<b>ITEM: 11</b>
<b>Decision: 110567</b>		
<b>Cabinet</b>		
<b>2020/21 Financial Outturn Report</b>		
<b>Wards and communities affected:</b>	<b>Key Decision:</b>	
All	No	
<b>Report of:</b> Councillor Shane Hebb, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance		
<b>Accountable Assistant Director:</b> Jonathan Wilson, Assistant Director of Finance		
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Sean Clark, Corporate Director of Resources and Place Delivery		
<b>This report is Public</b>		

## Executive Summary

The 2020/21 financial year required the Council to deliver front line services alongside responsive measures to address the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. This is reflected in the financial outturn of the Council which reflects the use of core funding alongside emergency funding provided to address the pressures arising from the pandemic. The Covid-19 grant funding from Central Government has been fully utilised to ensure the financial impact of the pandemic has not adversely affected individual service positions.

In summary, for the financial year 2020/21, expenditure has largely been achieved within the overall budget envelope for the general fund and an increase in balances to the HRA. Where Covid-19 pressures were identified through the regular budget monitoring process mitigations included:

- General Covid-19 grant allocations from central government;
- Income losses offset by the income compensation scheme;
- Hospital Discharge Initiative reimbursements from Thurrock CCG and NHS England;
- Use of the Job retention scheme grant (furlough); Reducing levels of expenditure elsewhere within the service;
- Savings achieved through the pause to all non-essential recruitment;
- Utilisation of the previously-budgeted surplus; and
- Increases in some revenue streams (particularly related to the Fraud Investigation Team's external contracts).

Children's Services also continued to manage high levels of demand for placements, in particular those young people placed as sibling groups with independent fostering agencies.

While the in-year impacts of the pandemic have been managed through the support mechanisms available there remains concern over the medium to longer term impacts of the pandemic – particularly in respect of the robustness of both local tax sources and commercial revenues and the possibility of significant additional financial pressures relating to children's social care, adult social care and homelessness. There is some further support from central government in place for 2021/22 and the balance between this funding and the anticipated additional pressures continues to be monitored.

Over the course of the 2020/21 financial year, the Council maintained the General Fund Balance at £11.000m. The Housing Revenue Account Balance has been maintained at £2.175m.

Members should note that these balances remain the most important reserves a Council holds as they are set aside for unplanned impacts on the budget which are now being felt through the ongoing impact of the pandemic. There are some additional reserves which provide further financial resilience and support the forecast outturn for 2021/22. The wider central government funding review of local government in response to Covid-19 for 2021/22 remains under assessment.

At the Council meeting in February 2021, Council agreed to reduce borrowing windows by £350m and to desist from further investment activity. Whilst the overall portfolio continued to perform and earn interest receivable, and in spite of an international, once-in-a-century crisis, Members should by now recognise that by not taking out new investments, or replacing maturing investments, there will be a year on year reduction going forward in net receivable income available to support front line services, and to provide services above the statutory minimum, and the headspace to reform services at a more considered pace.

This report provides a summary of the financial outturn for 2020/21 for the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account. A summary of the capital and treasury management outturn positions are also included.

## **1. Recommendations**

**That the Cabinet:**

- 1.1 Note that the General Fund net expenditure has been met within the overall budget envelope and the General Fund Balance has been maintained at £11.000m;**
- 1.2 Note that the balance on the Housing Revenue Account Reserve has been maintained at £2.175m; and**

**1.3 Note that there was a total of £92.195m in capital expenditure and some of the key projects have been set out in section 5.**

## **2. Introduction and Background**

2.1 Members received financial reports throughout the year and the quarter 3 report showed that the Council planned to deliver a breakeven position.

2.2 This includes the application of the Covid-19 support grant to the value of £14.242m which addressed specific pressures relating to the pandemic and supported the delivery of the overall breakeven position on the general fund. Income losses were addressed via the income compensation scheme to the value of £1.07m. Other specific grants have been applied to activities within the scope of the grant conditions such as Test and Trace and the Control Outbreak Management Fund which continue to support the public health response to the pandemic in the forthcoming year.

2.3 The table below summarises the outturn position in line with financial reporting requirements, including the movement in reserves, and the prior year position to allow year on year comparison. This excludes Covid funding that is available to support expenditure in 2021/22.

2.4 The financial accounts are not due to be published until 31 July 2021 and hence there maybe final changes to the position presented. These are expected to be non-material and the final position will be published on the website by 31 July and are then subject to external audit.

## Net expenditure chargeable to the GF and HRA balances

31-Mar-20	Directorate	31-Mar-21
£'000		£'000
43,086	Adults, Housing and Health	44,805
41,021	Children's Services	40,954
769	Commercial Services	602
-2,952	Corporate Costs	-4,983
22,724	Environment and Highways	24,177
18,144	Finance, Governance & Property*	13,049
3,927	HR, OD and Transformation	3,796
3,665	Place	2,942
347	Schools	0
2,985	Strategy, Communications & Customer Services**	2,554
<b>133,716</b>	<b>General Fund Total</b>	<b>127,898</b>
5,521	Housing Revenue Account	-2,589
-142,241	Other Income and Expenditure	-128,070
<b>-3,004</b>	<b>(Surplus) / Deficit</b>	<b>-2,761</b>
-35,217	Opening General Fund and HRA Balance at 31 March	-38,221
-3,004	Add surplus on General Fund and HRA Balance in Year	-2,761
<b>-38,221</b>	<b>Closing General Fund and HRA Balance at 31 March</b>	<b>-40,982</b>

- 2.5 The table above shows the opening and closing usable reserves of the Council. It must be stressed that a number of reserves are held for specific purposes (usually called “earmarked” reserves) and also include those relating to maintained schools end of year balances. It should also be noted that reserves that are not held for specific purposes, such as the General Fund Balance, can provide a one-time form of mitigation and not replace budget deficits on an on-going basis.

2.6 The table below sets out the Council's reserves by category:

31-Mar-20 £'000	Reserve Category	31-Mar-21 £'000
-11,000	General Fund Balance	-11,000
-5,852	HRA Related	-8,441
949	Education and Schools	1,151
-463	Adults, Community and Health	-4,250
-10,421	Other Earmarked Reserves	-9,426
-5,272	Transformation Reserve	-4,016
-6,162	Financial Resilience Reserve	-5,000
<b>-38,221</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>-40,982</b>

2.7 Notes to the reserves:

- Education and Schools – This includes individual schools' balances and Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) which are ring-fenced for specific use. The movement on this reserve reflects the outturn DSG position;
- Adults, Community and Health – This includes carry forward funding from the Public Health Grant and the Better Care Fund – these are also ring-fenced for specific use;
- Grants carried forward – ring-fenced grant allocations for specific use in accordance with grant conditions;
- Other earmarked reserves – This captures all other earmarked reserves including ring-fenced accounts such as building control and planning;
- Transformation Reserve – This includes the surplus funding and balances set aside to enable specific transformation projects and manage the funding and delivery of these between financial periods;
- Financial Resilience Reserve – This reserve was primarily established to manage any funding implications associated with the fair funding review, transition into the new system of business rates retention and investment reserves. This reserve enables wider financial resilience to offset any wider impacts which may emerge;
- The General Fund Balance – the balance has been maintained to protect the Council from unmitigated budget pressures; and
- HRA Related – a balance of £2.175m to protect the council from unmitigated budget pressures. The remaining balance represent the capital reserves supporting existing Council programmes.

### **3. Front Line Service Commentary**

#### **3.1 Adults, Housing & Health**

Delivered under budget

The department were able to manage service pressures (which were not as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic) within the overall service budget allocations. These costs relate to the running of front line social care and safeguarding activities.

There remained pressure within the Commissioning & Service Delivery function due to a delay in the planned implementation of service changes as a result of the response required to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic. This impacted on the associated planned cost savings.

Funds held within the pooled Better Care Fund further supported the directorate in their efforts to stabilise the domiciliary and residential care market but this area remains a high risk with providers experiencing ongoing issues with recruitment and retention of staff. Additional resilience funding was provided from the core Covid-19 funding in 2020/21.

Support to care homes to implement Covid-secure working practices was funded through the Infection Control Grant and further supported by the core Covid-19 from central government.

As noted government grant funding was allocated to community care providers in the form of financial resilience payments. This enabled providers to respond to increased levels of demand, implementation of measures to address the increased risk arising from Covid-19, higher levels of staff sickness and absenteeism and the overall volatility within the marketplace.

To reduce pressure on acute services during the height of the pandemic, the Government made changes to hospital discharge requirements and agreed to fully fund the cost of the associated new or extended health and social care support packages over agreed timescales. This funding was claimed through Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group from NHS England and therefore further reduced pressures on existing social care budgets.

#### **3.2 Housing General Fund**

Delivered within budget

The initial response to Covid-19 required Local Authorities to take measures to address rough sleeping and homelessness. This required additional accommodation to be purchased locally and was funded through the Covid-19 funding.

Furthermore the Coronavirus Act 2020 provided protection to social and private tenants during the pandemic by delaying when landlords could evict tenants and by increasing the notice periods required before seeking possession of a residential property.

The ban on bailiff enforcement included mortgage repossessions. No action to enforce repossession should commence until at least 1 June 2021 unless the homeowner agrees to a voluntary repossession.

These measures, alongside the funding, enabled the service were able to contain costs within their existing resources. The concern remains that when the measures in place are removed there may be a significant increase in the demand for rough sleeping and homelessness services.

### **3.3 Children's Services**

Delivered under budget

Covid-19 restricted the placements market in-year with limited settings and movement available. The service experienced an increased demand for sibling group placements which required young people to be matched with foster carers supplied by external agencies. As in previous years there was significant pressure on this budget and the profiling of placements remained the key issue (limited capacity within our in-house service and the need for more expensive externally provided placements).

There remains significant financial risk in 2021/22 particularly in light of the impacts of Covid-19 on children in the borough. There is the potential for significant increased demand for services as Covid-19 restrictions are removed. This continues to be monitored.

The service have successfully recruited when social workers leave even through the difficulties presented by the pandemic. However, there remains a reliance on agency personnel across the social work teams.

The Learning & Universal Outcomes service restricted non-essential spend, held posts vacant and claimed funding through the Job Retention Scheme to offset pressures within the wider directorate.

A number of educational services were significantly impacted by the national restrictions (e.g. Grangewaters Outdoor Education Centre and Nurseries) the associated loss of income for these functions were mitigated by the Income Compensation scheme and associated reductions in expenditure.

### **3.4 Environment and Highways**

Delivered under budget

Despite the logistical challenges posed by the Central Government restrictions in response to the pandemic, the directorate continued to deliver key front line services to the borough throughout the financial year. Street cleansing and essential grounds maintenance functions were carried out, occasionally at reduced frequencies.

Waste services dealt with increased demand due to the 'stay at home' guidance and these additional costs were appropriately allocated against the additional government funding. Fluctuations within the waste disposal contracts were mitigated by the control of costs elsewhere within the service.

A mild winter and the use of the Thurrock-based weather station allowed for more accurate local forecasting and a lower need for gritting services to be charged against the winter maintenance budget.

Additional income was generated from the external works secured by the Fraud Investigation Team with MHCLG to review the financial support that was awarded to local businesses during the lockdown period.

Wider losses of fees and charges income was mitigated through a combination of reduced expenditure elsewhere within the service and the use of the income compensation scheme which prevented an adverse impact on the core budget position.

### **3.5 Finance, Governance & Property**

Delivered under budget

Significant levels of resource were redirected to responding to the pandemic and administering the allocation of funding to local businesses through a number of schemes across the whole financial year.

The directorate offset service pressures arising from Covid-19 through use of core funding to address specific impacts and managing core service budgets in response to the pandemic. This included the management of vacant posts.

The Corporate Landlord function was able to utilise appropriate capital funding for works where appropriate. In addition many operational assets were utilised to significantly lower levels in 2020/21 while wider planned works were paused pending a wider reassessment of Council assets. This meant inherent cost pressures could be managed within existing budgets. Furthermore, despite initial concerns over the impact of Covid-19, income generated from commercial property remained resilient.

Careful management of staff within the Revenues & Benefits Team enabled the delivery of the budget within this area. Grant funding supported the

administration of the Covid-19 support to businesses and ensured there was no adverse impact on the service position.

Where appropriate ICT licences are capitalised and additional costs incurred as a result of the move towards agile working were funded through the Covid-19 support grant, this included software upgrades, hardware purchases and additional staff capacity.

### **3.6 HR, OD & Transformation**

Delivered under budget

Non-essential spend was tightly controlled across the directorate; a number of learning and development events were moved to online platforms whilst still delivering a diverse programme of courses (including additional wellbeing support to staff throughout the pandemic). Staff training funded through the apprentice levy was maximised therefore reducing the level of spend allocated against the central training budget.

Staff vacancies were managed across the service to reduce the budgetary impact in 2020/21.

The costs associated with the continued development of Oracle Cloud were capitalised and other transformation linked costs were funded from capital where appropriate.

### **3.7 Place**

Balanced within budget

The directorate was significantly impacted by loss of income following the restrictive measures placed on public movement throughout the borough and the closure of services such as the Thameside Theatre. The income compensation scheme, job retention scheme (furlough) and a reduction in expenditure across the service areas mitigated these pressures.

Where appropriate staff time specific to delivering regeneration projects was charged against the relevant capital budgets. Additional staffing resource required to support the wider Place delivery service was funded through vacant post slippage and a tight control over costs.

All project work budgets and non-essential spend were reviewed in-year to ensure the directorate were able to absorb pressures within their allocated resources.

### **3.8 Strategy, Communications & Customer Services**

Delivered under budget

All vacancies were reviewed to ensure that only essential recruitment took place during the year and all non-essential spend halted across the directorate.

Due to the national restrictions as a result of the COVID pandemic, the Civic Offices were closed to the public and therefore the face-to-face customer services function was delivered remotely. Residents were able to continue to access services online and contact the council by telephone through the contact centre and email. Face-to-face staff were redeployed to support with the increased volume of calls and more complex enquiries.

The Registrars service had significant restrictions placed on them throughout the year which affected their income recovery levels particularly in relation to wedding ceremonies, however, corresponding reductions in expenditure and the income compensation scheme mitigated this.

### **3.9 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)**

Delivered within budget

Nationally, all local authorities and the education system have struggled to meet the additional demand for payments in support of children with Education Health and Care plans (EHCP); for out of borough placements, independent special school residential placements and for special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) top up payments.

The high needs block remained a significant issue for Thurrock, with the number of EHCP's increasing by 9%, in 2020/21. This has required both additional top up funding to be paid to Schools and Academies and an increase in demand for specialist placements.

The DSG has a carried forward deficit of £1.883m. This is a decrease of £0.095m from 2019/20. Discussions continue with the ESFA and the Schools Forum on options available to reduce demand for EHCP's and to increase Thurrock's Local Offer. A meeting is scheduled with ESFA in July to discuss Thurrock's DSG Management Plan.

### **3.10 Other Income and Expenditure**

The overall breakeven position reflects a pause to the investment strategy, including investment income relating to the subsidiary company - Thurrock Regeneration Ltd. Members should by now recognise that with the council no longer taking out new investments, or replacing maturing investments, there will be a year on year reduction going forward in net income available to support front line services and to provide services above the statutory minimum, and the headspace to reform services at a more considered pace.

The investment approach contributed a net income of £23.7m in 2020/21 and in total has contributed £116.7m since implementation in 2016/17 and continues to support the delivery of Council priorities.

The Council also undertook action to stabilise cashflow in-year in light of increased demands arising from the response to the pandemic and react to the reduction in funding from other local authorities and funding bodies. The Council refinanced capital investment through increased fixed term borrowing in 2020/21 which was at a higher interest rate than borrowing previously available in the local authority market thus reducing the net income still further. It is expected that, in 2021/22, a further proportion of the Council's overall debt will also be refinanced.

### **3.11 Housing Revenue Account**

Delivered within Budget

The HRA was successful in delivering the overall financial outturn within budget, and manage the level of general reserves in line with the HRA business plan. While across the service expenditure was contained within budget, there were some pressures within the Rent and Income service as a result of under recovery of affordable rents due to delays in the expected completions of new build properties.

In addition, there was a requirement to increase bad debt provision arising from an increase in rent arrears of current tenants impacted by the pandemic, as well as the ongoing roll out of Universal Credit and reduction of direct Housing Benefit payments. This situation will continue to be monitored closely as the longer term impacts of the pandemic become clear. These pressures were mitigated by underspends on the Repairs and Maintenance budgets, staff vacancies which were managed throughout the year, legal fees and project costs delayed by the pandemic.

It is essential going forward that the HRA continues to manage income streams in order to sustain the levels of service provided, and to meet the further demands arising as a result of changes in legislation and stock maintenance requirements.

## **4. Capital Programme**

- 4.1 Total capital expenditure for 2020/21 amounted to £92.195m. A summary of this expenditure analysed by service, is set out below along with the associated sources of financing.

<b>Directorate</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Total Spend</b>	<b>Variance</b>
	£m	£m	£m
Adults, Housing and Health	3.255	1.923	(1.332)
Children's Services	11.635	9.247	(2.388)
Environment and Highways	13.031	8.400	(4.631)
Finance, Governance and Property	8.006	4.963	(3.043)
Housing Revenue Account	19.492	18.933	(0.559)
HR, OD & Transformation	6.843	5.419	(1.424)
Strategy, Communications & Customer Services	0.249	0.156	(0.093)
Place	44.826	43.154	(1.672)
<b>Total</b>	<b>107.337</b>	<b>92.195</b>	<b>(15.142)</b>

<b>Source of Finance</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Total Spend</b>	<b>Variance</b>
	£m	£m	£m
Prudential Borrowing	33.084	21.600	(11.484)
Usable Capital Receipts	0.082	0.071	(0.011)
Earmarked Usable Capital Receipts	4.898	4.780	(0.118)
Major Repairs Reserve	10.378	10.540	0.162
Grants	18.384	14.208	(4.176)
Other Grants	37.025	37.898	0.873
Developers Contributions	3.415	2.684	(0.731)
Housing Zones Funding	0.071	0.414	0.343
<b>Total</b>	<b>107.337</b>	<b>92.195</b>	<b>(15,142)</b>

4.2 The capital outturn position includes expenditure supporting the delivery of the following major projects in 2020/21:

Highways Infrastructure:

A combined total of £45.8m spent has been spent on:

- Highways improvements including major drainage and bridge construction costs for the widening of the A13 between the Orsett Cock and Manorway interchanges;
- Works to the Stanford le Hope rail interchange;
- Road safety works to Lodge Lane, Grays;
- Highways improvements to Stonehouse Lane; and
- Dock Road Tilbury remedial works.

The widening of the A13 continues to face significant cost pressures and was impacted by Covid-19 in the early stage of the pandemic. Progress in the early part of 2021 has been positive and the project is expected to be delivered by the end of the 2021/22 financial year. The project costs remain under close assessment and the Council continues to work with SELEP and wider partners to seek financial support for additional costs incurred.

The Stanford le Hope rail interchange project plan has been subject to a review to develop an improved solution with greater accessibility; made possible by the acquisition of land adjacent to the site. A revised design and updated cost forecast will be brought forward in 2021/22.

#### Housing:

HRA new build schemes to the value of £5.7m have been delivered in the financial year. This included the completion of the Claudian Way (Heathlyn Close) development and the further development of the Calcutta Road site.

£13.3m has been spent on the continued transformation of council homes, which includes the replacement of kitchens, bathrooms, electrics, boilers, windows and roofs.

#### Other Services

- £7.2m has been spent on Schools including improvements as part of the St Clere's school expansion, additional classrooms at Harris and Benyon Academies and nursery provision at Corringham Academy;
  - £1.1m was spent on Headstart housing, purchasing properties to add to the housing stock and enable the reduction of homelessness in the borough; and
  - £0.9m spend on environmental improvements including works to Grays Beach Riverside Park, improvements to burial grounds and open spaces.
- 4.3 As at 31 March 2021, the Council had authorised expenditure in future years of £15.1m. In addition a further £208m had been previously authorised for use in 2021/22 to 2023/24, giving a total future years' commitment of £223.1m.

This includes:

- £50.2m on East Facing access roads to the A13 from Lakeside;
- £2.6m on housing new build developments;
- £31.4m on widening of the A13;
- £12.6m on the Purfleet redevelopment;
- £7.1m on improvements to Stanford Le Hope rail/bus interchange;
- £10.3m on school expansions;
- £7.8m on a 21st Century Care Home;

- £23.1m on improvements to Grays South; and
- £1.8m School access improvement at Treetops Academy

## 5. Treasury Management

5.1 This section is prepared in accordance with the requirements of the CIPFA Prudential Code and presents details of treasury management activity for the year to 31 March 2021.

### **Borrowing**

5.2 The Council's borrowing position as at 31 March 2021 is summarised in the table below:-

<b>Source of Loan</b>	<b>£m</b>
Long Term Market Loans	29.0
Long Term Market Loans re Investments	95.0
Long Term PWLB	535.9
Temporary Market Loans Re Investments	598.0
Other Temporary Market Loans	95.5
<b>Total Debt</b>	<b>1,353.4</b>
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>(1,054.0)</b>
<b>Total Net Indebtedness</b>	<b>299.4</b>

- 5.3 The net indebtedness (borrowing less repayable investments) of the council is £299.4m, made up of £160.9m of PWLB long term debt relating to the HRA and £138.5m of long and short term debt relating to current/historic capital funding.
- 5.4 The Council continues to fund the £84.0m ex-PWLB debt on a temporary basis. Interest rates fell to 0.10% in March 2020 due to the pandemic and forecasts predict that the rate will remain at this level for the time being. This remains under review.
- 5.5 This forecast would suggest that further interest savings should still be accrued for future years compared with the costs of borrowing longer term debt. However predictions for the bank base rate are open to change depending on government responses to market events and developments and continue to be closely monitored by officers with appropriate action taken as necessary.

- 5.6 The council's PWLB debt portfolio currently consists of four elements: £160.9m of loans taken out with regards to the HRA settlement undertaken on 28 March 2012; £50m of loans at 1.89% taken out in March 2020 to assist with funding to support the response to the pandemic (£100m borrowed initially with £50m subsequently repaid); to replace temporary market debt, with a loan of £125m at 1.77% taken out in October 2020; and a further £200m taken out in January 2021 at 0.68% to also replace temporary market debt. All new PWLB loans have been taken out on a two year equal instalment principle (EIP) basis
- 5.7 Officers continue to assess the council's LOBO loans for any early repayment opportunities but the premia involved of approximately £29m and the high refinancing costs continue to make it unfavourable to undertake any rescheduling. Officers will continue to monitor the council's debt portfolio for any rescheduling opportunities.

### **Investments**

- 5.8 The corresponding figures for investments are set out in the table below:-

<b>Source of Investment</b>	<b>Balance at 31/3/21 £m</b>
Overnight Cash Investments	20.0
Short Term Cash Investments (2 to 365 days)	1.0
Repayable Capital Investments	929.0
Fund Manager Investments- Repayable on demand	104.0
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>1,054.0</b>

- 5.9 A proportion of the internally managed investments are held for very short time periods in order to meet day to day cash requirements.
- 5.10 The Council maintains its investment in the CCLA Property Fund and has only increased its capital/non-capital investments during the year in line with pre-agreed commitments only as previously reported to the Standards and Audit Committee. There are no further commitments and no further investments, new or replacements, will take place whilst guidance remains as it is.
- 5.11 No attempt was made to meet the budgeted target for new investment income for 2020/21 and, with the review of the role of Thurrock Regeneration Ltd. in housing delivery in a post-Covid world, contributes to the adverse budget versus outturn Treasury position for the financial year.

- 5.12 Internally held balances currently stand at £21m and are mainly held with Banks and Building Societies on a fixed term basis ranging from overnight to 3 months in duration.
- 5.13 All investments made have been with organisations included on the "List of Acceptable Counterparties and Credit Limits" within the 2020/21 Annual Treasury Management Strategy and the total sums invested with individual institutions have been contained within the limits specified therein.

## **6. Reasons for Recommendation**

- 6.1 The report presents the financial outturn position for 2020/21. The position will inform the preparation of the financial statements.

## **7. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)**

- 7.1 There has been no consultation on this report. The figures and positions set out are a matter of fact.

## **8. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact**

- 8.1 This report presents the financial outturn for 2020/21 which supported delivery of the council's priorities.

## **9. Implications**

### **9.1 Financial**

Implications verified by: **Jo Freeman**  
**Finance Manager**

Council officers have a legal responsibility to ensure that the Council can contain spend within its available resources. Regular budget monitoring reports will continue to come to Cabinet and be considered by the Directors' Board and management teams in order to maintain effective controls on expenditure.

### **9.2 Legal**

Implications verified by: **Tim Hallam**  
**Deputy Head of Legal and Deputy Monitoring Officer**

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. This report provides an update and allows members to review the financial outturn in

2020/21.

### 9.3 **Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by: **Natalie Smith**  
**Community Development and Equalities**  
**Manager**

There are no specific diversity and equalities implications as a result of this report.

### 9.4 **Other implications** (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder)

- NA

### 10. **Background papers used in preparing the report**

- N/A

### 11. **Appendices to the report**

- NA

### **Report Author**

Jo Freeman

Finance Manager

Management Accounting

Corporate Finance