



**REPORT of  
CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**

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**to  
STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
12 JUNE 2025**

**PROVISIONAL OUTTURN 2024 / 25**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide Members of the Committee with the Provisional Outturn position for the revenue and capital budgets for the year ended 31 March 2025.
- 1.2 To inform Members of movements in relation to the Council's General Fund and Earmarked Reserves and request carry forward of revenue and capital commitments into 2025 / 26.
- 1.3 This matter is brought forward for consideration with the agreement of the Chairman as the Council needs certainty on the available budgets for 2025 / 26 to be able to carry out its operations in a timely manner.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (i) That
  - (a) the Provisional Outturn position for the 2024 / 25 revenue budget as detailed at **APPENDIX 1** be noted along with reasons for significant variances;
  - (b) the £853k surplus be transferred to Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) (£500k) and Transformation (£353k) Reserves;
  - (c) the Chief Executive be granted delegated authority in consultation with the Chairperson of this Committee to apply funds from the Reserves detailed in (c) above, with any such decisions then being openly communicated to the Strategy and Resources Committee (S&R) through routine reporting at the earliest opportunity.
- (ii) That the revenue commitments detailed in **APPENDIX 2** be approved to be brought forward into 2025 / 26;
- (iii) That the movements in earmarked reserves in **APPENDIX 3** be approved;
- (iv) That the Provisional Outturn position for the 2024 / 25 capital budget in **APPENDIX 4** be noted and the proposed capital commitments be approved to be brought forward into 2025 / 26;
- (v) That the requests for 2025 / 26 capital and revenue budgets be updated with proposed amendments in **APPENDIX 5**, to be funded via various sources of fund.

### 3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

3.1 The Provisional Outturn report provides financial results for the Council for the year ending 31 March 2025. It shows performance against the original budget agreed by the Council in February 2024 including subsequent approved amendments and is used for management purposes. The annual Statement of Accounts is prepared for statutory reporting purposes.

3.2 The statutory deadline for the publication of the draft Statement of Accounts 2024 / 25 is 30 June. However, this Council is keen to get back to the usual cycle of publishing its draft accounts promptly and has published the Statement of Accounts 2024 / 25 on 30 May 2025. The figures set out in this 2024 / 25 Provisional Outturn report are therefore subject to audit.

#### 3.3 2024 / 25 Final Budget

3.3.1 The final revised service budget for 2024 / 25 was £12.900m. This was based on the original budget approved by the Council in February 2024 and subsequent approved amendments, as summarised in Table 1 below.

*Table 1 – 2024 / 25 Budget Movement Reconciliation*

Description	Amount £'000
Original 2024 / 25 Service Budget	12,453
Revenue Commitments brought forward from 2023/24	816
Approved Supplementary estimates (S&R Report on 13 March 2025)	(760)
Approved Use of Earmarked Reserves	391
<b>Final 2024 / 25 Service Budget</b>	<b>12,900</b>

#### 3.4 2023 / 24 Provisional Outturn

3.4.1 The outturn against budget is marked as 'provisional' as it is subject to the review of the 2024 / 25 Statement of Accounts by the external auditor. It is possible that some recommendations yet to be made by the auditor may impact the outturn position. If that happens, a revised report will be provided to the Committee. Currently, no material changes are anticipated.

3.4.2 Table 2 below is an overview of the 2024 / 25 provisional outturn position. After the proposed revenue commitments to be carried forward into 2025 / 26 and the proposed movements in earmarked reserves, the net outturn of £853k will go towards Earmarked Reserves.

3.4.3 The outturn position will be reviewed by officers and any necessary changes to the 2025 / 26 budget arising from this will be brought to a future meeting of S&R.

*Table 2 – 2024 / 25 Provisional Outturn*

	Final Budget £'000	Provisional Actuals £'000	Provisional Variance £'000
<b>Net Cost of Services</b>	<b>12,900</b>	<b>12,680</b>	<b>(220)</b>
Investment Income	(1,000)	(1,338)	(338)
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,900</b>	<b>11,342</b>	<b>(558)</b>
Less Funding and Transfers from Reserves	(12,403)	(12,698)	(295)
<b>Net outturn</b>	<b>(503)</b>	<b>(1,356)</b>	<b>(853)</b>

- 3.4.4 Detail of the variances attributed to the £853k underspend are detailed in **APPENDIX 1**.
- 3.4.5 The outturn position takes into account revenue commitments, where underspends in year have occurred but need to be carried forward into the next financial year to fund expenditure commitments. These are shown in **APPENDIX 2**.
- 3.4.6 The impact on the general fund balance as a result of the provisional 2024 / 25 outturn is shown in Table 3 below.

*Table 3 – General Fund Balance*

	<b>£'000</b>
<b>Opening General Fund Balance</b>	<b>7,260</b>
Budgeted transfer	503
Transfer from Earmarked Reserves	873
<b>Closing General Fund Balance</b>	<b>8,636</b>

- 3.4.7 Table 3 shows that the general fund balance remains above the minimum recommended level of £2.6m. A minimum level of general reserves is set to ensure the Council has the financial resilience to respond to emergencies and unforeseen events such as the current pandemic. However, if it did fall below the minimum level it would need to be replenished in future years.

#### **4. EARMARKED RESERVES**

- 4.1 The Council holds a number of earmarked reserves for specific purposes. Movements on these reserves during 2024 / 25 are detailed in **APPENDIX 3**. Drawdowns totalled £1.405m during 2024 / 25, with transfers into the reserves of £3.915m. There is a total transfer of £0.873m to the General Fund. Earmarked Reserves balances as at 31 March 2025 are £6.570m. This is a net increase of £1.637m from 1 April 2024.

#### **5. 2024 / 25 PROVISIONAL CAPITAL OUTTURN**

- 5.1 The Council's approved revised budget for capital programme was £8.158m in 2024 / 25. During the year £6.913m was spent, leaving a net capital programme underspend of £1.244m. Of this, a total carry forward into 2025 / 26 of £1.132m is requested. Projects that overspent were either funded through additional grant or offset by underspending projects.
- 5.2 The capital programme outturn with requested carry forwards is detailed in **APPENDIX 4**, alongside reasons for the slippage during 2024 / 25.

#### **6. IMPACT ON PRIORITIES AS SET OUT IN THE CORPORATE PLAN 2025 - 2028**

##### **6.1 Delivering good quality services.**

- 6.1.1 Regular reporting and monitoring of the Council's financial position is a key control in ensuring the Council makes the best use of its resources and is able to make informed decisions to support our residents.

## 7. IMPLICATIONS

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – None directly.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – None directly.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk (including Fraud implications)** – This is an outturn report stating the provisional financial position for 2024 / 25. There is a risk that these figures may change once the 2024 / 25 accounts are finalised and audited.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – There was a surplus of £853k against the final budget in 2024 / 25 leaving the general fund balance standing at £8.636m, which is above the agreed minimum level of £2.6m.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – None directly.
- (vi) **Impact on Devolution / Local Government Reorganisation** – None.

Background Papers: None.

Enquiries to: Ben Jay, Chief Finance Officer.