

Audit Committee – 26 June 2017

Financial Health Indicators 2016/17

1. Summary of report

This report details the financial health indicators for the year ending 31 March 2017 as shown at Appendix 1, including the pre-audit year end outturn position for both revenue and capital.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Audit Committee is requested to note the financial health indicators.

3. Governance

- 3.1 Financial health indicators are reported on a quarterly basis to Corporate Management Team (CMT) and Audit Committee, and they are published on the council's website for transparency.
- 3.2 Treasury management activity and performance is reported at the start, middle and end of the year to Audit Committee, Cabinet and Council. Corporate financial performance is reported to Cabinet throughout the financial year. Scrutiny panels also receive updates on the financial position for services within their remit. Where overspends are reported, these are required to be managed in year wherever possible. Corrective actions plans are drawn up and reported to CMT, senior management teams and members.
- 3.3 The primary purpose of this report is to advise Audit Committee of the current financial health of the authority in order to provide assurance to the Audit Committee in their role, and the mechanisms and controls by which the council is managing a challenging national and local financial position.

4. Resource and legal considerations

- 4.1 The indicators set out in Appendix 1 cover a number of areas as follows:

4.2 Treasury Management

The indicators show the actual borrowing and investment rates for 2015/16 and the actual for 2016/17 against set targets. Most indicators were achieved with positive variances with the exception of investment rates, which are 0.21% below the target of 1.10% due to current market conditions.

4.3 Balance Sheet

This details ratios for the last 4 financial years 2012/13, 2013/14, 2014/15, 2015/16 and pre-audit figures for 2016/17 which show the liquidity of the authority. The increase in Current Assets: Current Liabilities is as a result of financing decisions taken to ensure that sufficient cash was available in April 2017 to make an upfront payment for 3 years to the pension fund. The increase in Useable Reserves: General Revenue Expenditure is mainly as a result of reduced losses on the disposal of fixed assets compared to 2015/16.

4.4 Revenue performance

This section shows collection rates for council tax and business rates, the average number of days to collect sundry debt and the number of days to process creditor payments for 2015/16 and the performance against profile for 2016/17. Sundry debt collection has exceeded the profile by 3 days with the number of days to process creditor payments exceeded by 1 day. Council tax collection is in line with profile with business rates collection rates showing 0.8% below profile.

4.5 Corporate financial performance - revenue

This section details the actual outturn position for 2015/16 (post audit) and pre-audit year end outturn 2016/17 for revenue as at 31 March 2017. The revenue outturn for 2016/17 is an underspend of £448k (0.07% of gross expenditure) net of recommended carry forwards of £425k

4.6 Corporate financial performance – capital

Mainstream capital (funded from the council's own resources) is under budget by £1.68m, with a further £6.25m of projects re-phased into 2017/18. The underspend will be utilised to fund the 2017/18 capital programme. Capital receipts are expected to under achieve by £1.09m due to the sale of some assets now being realised in 2017/18.

6. **Performance and risk management issues**

- 6.1 Managers are required to deliver service and improvement targets on time, to standard and within budget. The performance management system uses a red, amber, green (RAG) indicator to show the current status. The current position is Green (to reflect an underspend position) due to the revenue outturn.
- 6.2 Risk management is embedded in budget preparation, monitoring and forecasting to enable variances and risks to be identified early and addressed.

7. **Equality implications**

- 7.1 None directly associated with this report.

8. **Consultation**

- 8.1 The report is prepared in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer, relevant managers and executive directors.

9. **Background papers**

- 9.1 Various financial performance, treasury management and budget monitoring reports.



James T. Walsh, Chief Finance Officer, 12 June 2017

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Financial Health Indicators –2016/17

Treasury Management	2015/16 Actual	2016/17 Target	2016/17 Actual
Average Interest Rate (Borrowing)			
- Excluding OLA	4.43%	4.61%	3.80%
- Including OLA	4.54%	4.72%	3.94%
Gearing Effect on Capital Financing Estimates	3.5%	5.0%	1.8%
Net Borrowing Costs / Council Tax Requirement and NNDR contribution	10.67%	13.5%	10.88%
Capital Financing Requirement (£m)	328.019	325.077	335.150
Authorised limit for external Debt (£m)	357.585	360.965	360.965
Investment Rate Average	1.08%	1.10%	0.89%

Balance Sheet Ratios	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17 (Draft)
Current Assets : Current Liabilities	2.70	2.75	2.44	1.77	1.86
Useable Reserves : General Revenue Expenditure	0.58	0.53	0.66	0.57	0.63
Long Term Borrowing : Tax Revenue (Using both council tax and NNDR for tax revenue)	1.13	1.71	1.69	1.45	1.41
Long Term Assets : Long Term Borrowing	1.84	1.98	2.10	2.29	2.34
Total School Reserves : Dedicated School Grant	0.08	0.09	0.09	0.07	0.05

Revenues Performance % collected for financial year	2014/15 Actual Collected in total @ 31.03.17	2015/16 Actual Collected in total @ 31.03.17	2016/17	
			Profiled 2016/17	Actual 2016/17
Council tax %	98.20%	96.90%	94.40%	94.60%
Total Council Tax collected (£m)	97,503,317	104,959,217	108,160,000	108,379,010
National Non Domestic Rate %	98.60%	98.40%	97.50%	97.20%
Total NNDR collected (£m)	67,031,703	69,139,228	70,445,000	70,234,711

Debtors and Creditors Performance	2015/16 Actual	2016/17	
		Profiled Qtr	Actual Qtr
Sundry Debtors Collection – Average number of days to collect debt	21 days	30 days	27 days
Average number of days to process creditor payments*	15 days	12 days	11 days

Management of Resources	Pre-Audit 2016/17 Actual		
Service Analysis	Target	Actual	Variance
Children's Services	50,384,893	50,731,394	346,501
Economy and Environment	46,738,475	46,441,584	(296,891)
Adult Social Care	72,754,136	70,349,870	(2,404,266)
Change and Governance	15,837,731	14,658,879	(1,178,852)
Council Wide	24,767,589	27,852,988	3,085,399
RSG/NNDR	(109,491,931)	(109,491,931)	0
Total	100,990,893	100,542,784	(448,109)
General Reserves	Minimum £6.2m Maximum £12.4m	N/A	N/A
Council Funded Capital Expenditure	21,394,512	13,463,467	(7,931,046)
External Funded Capital Expenditure	76,732,202	64,768,242	(11,963,960)
Total Capital Expenditure	98,126,714	78,231,709	(19,895,006)
Capital Receipts	2,770,000	1,673,099	1,096,901

Management of Resources	Actual 2015/16		
Service Analysis	Target	Actual	Variance
Children's Services	53,698,003	53,742,526	44,523
Economy and Environment	55,355,991	54,051,088	(1,304,903)
Adult Social Care	58,673,335	60,405,244	1,731,909
Change and Governance	19,551,989	19,772,647	220,658
Council Wide	29,912,582	28,519,505	(1,393,077)
RSG/NNDR	(123,488,933)	(123,488,933)	0
Total	93,702,967	93,022,077	(700,890)
General Reserves	Minimum £6.3m Maximum £12.5m	£14.131m	N/A
Council Funded Capital Expenditure	36,714,302	29,189,507	(7,524,795)
External Funded Capital Expenditure	67,015,433	56,620,208	(10,395,225)
Prudential Expenditure	19,162,959	18,811,350	(351,609)
Total Capital Expenditure	103,729,735	85,809,715	(17,920,020)
Capital Receipts	1,475,000	197,727	1,277,273

What this tells us

Treasury Management	
Average Interest Rate (Borrowing)	The average interest rate we are paying on the money we have borrowed compared to our target.
Gearing Effect on Capital Financing Estimates	Shows how a 1% increase in interest rates on borrowing would affect the total interest cost to the council.
Net Borrowing Costs / Tax Requirement	Borrowing not financed by a grant from government, as a proportion of our Net Revenue Expenditure
Capital Financing Requirement (£m)	How much money we currently borrow to finance our capital programme.
Authorised limit for external Debt (£m)	The maximum amount of debt we should have at any one time
Investment Rate Average	The average interest rate we are receiving on the money we have invested.

Balance Sheet Ratios	
Current Assets : Current Liabilities	Our ability to meet our liabilities
Useable Reserves : General Revenue Expenditure	If our reserves are adequate to meet potential future variations.
Long Term Borrowing : Tax Revenue Using only council tax for tax revenue Using both council tax and NNDR for tax revenue	The effect of long term borrowing on our budget.
Long Term Borrowing : Long Term Assets	This allows us to understand the relationship between the money we borrow and the assets we have as they both change over time.
Total School Reserves : Dedicated School Grant	If schools reserves are at an appropriate level.

Revenues Performance	
% Collected for Financial Year	As a percentage the amount of council tax we collected during the financial year that runs from 1 April – 31 March. We collect council tax after the year that its related to, but this won't be included in this figure
Council Tax (%)	
National Non Domestic Rate (%)	As a percentage the amount of Business rates we collected during the financial year that runs from 1 April – 31 March. We collect council tax after the year that it related to.
Total Council Tax Collected (£m)	This tells us the amount of council tax we collected during the financial year that runs from 1 April – 31 March. We collect council tax after the year that it relates to, but this won't be included in this figure.
Total NNDR Collected (£m)	This tells us the amount of Business Rates we collected during the financial year that runs from 1 April – 31 March. We collect council tax after the year that it relates to, but this won't be included in this figure.
Sundry Debtors Collection Average number of days to collect debt	How long on average it takes us to collect money owed to us.
Average number of days to process creditors payments	How long on average it takes to pay our bills.

Management of Resources	
Service Analysis	
Children's Services Economy and Environment Adult Social Care Change and Governance Council Wide	Shows our forecast for how much we will spend on these services compared to what we planned and compared to how much we spent in the previous year.
General Reserves	Our forecast year end position on reserves against our opening balance.
Contingency	How much we have set aside and for unplanned expenditure, and how much we have left to spend.
Capital Expenditure	Forecast of our spend on capital programmes against our target
Capital Receipts	Forecast of how much money we expect to receive from selling some of our assets, against our target