# Business, employment and the local economy Scrutiny and Performance Panel

Agenda Item No. 5

10 MARCH, 2015

### **Quarter 3 Financial Monitoring Position for 2014/15**

Ward(s): All

#### Portfolios:

Councillor Nazir – Regeneration

#### **Executive Summary:**

This report summarises the forecast revenue and capital financial position for 2014/15, based on the performance of Quarter 3 (April to December 2014), for services within the remit of the Business, employment and the local economy Scrutiny and Performance Panel.

### Reason for scrutiny:

To inform the panel of the forecast financial position for 2014/15 within the remit of the Business, employment and the local economy Scrutiny and Performance Panel.

#### Recommendations:

To note that the forecast 2014/15 year end financial position for services under the remit of this Panel is as follows:

- 1. A revenue **break-even position**, net of the use of and transfer to earmarked reserves.
- 2. A capital **underspend of £3.292m**, of which the majority (£3.291m) will be requested to be carried forward into the next financial year with the remaining £0.01m being true under-spend.

#### Resource and legal considerations:

The council is required to set and operate within a balanced budget, requiring all services to operate within their approved budget. Any variances are required to be managed. The revenue and capital financial monitoring is reported quarterly to scrutiny along with corrective action plans when variances arise. All accounting entries are undertaken in line with the required corporate and statutory accounting guidance and standards.

### Citizen impact:

The budget is aligned to deliver priority services to customers in accordance with the Council's corporate plan.

# **Environmental impact**:

Services within the remit of this panel have a direct influence and impact on the environment.

#### **Performance management:**

Financial performance is considered alongside service activity. Managers are required to deliver their service within budget. Plans are required to be put in place to mitigate overspends within the directorate.

## **Equality Implications:**

Services consider equality issues in setting budgets and delivering services. Irrespective of budgetary pressures the council must fulfil equal opportunities obligations.

#### Consultation:

The budget is aligned to deliver priority services to customers in accordance with the Council's corporate plan. Senior managers within the services have been consulted and have signed off the forecast as accurate.

#### **Contact Officer:**

### **Background papers:**

Various financial working papers.

Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 reports to Scrutiny Panel for 2014/15.
2014/15 Budget Books on Council's Internet and Intranet.

#### Signed:

Date: 2 March 2015

# 1. Forecast Revenue Outturn 2014/15

- 1.1 The forecast revenue outturn for 2014/15 for the services under the remit of this Panel is a **break-even position** (net of the use of earmarked reserves). The outturn shown is based on actual information from the Oracle system, and discussions with managers regarding year-end forecast and achievement of approved savings.
- 1.2 The forecast outturn only includes areas where there is a high degree of certainty about predicted under/overspends. Where overspends are predicted, managers are tasked to identify remedial action that can be made within the service and to report as part of a directorate action plan. All options will continue to be explored throughout the financial year so as to minimise any forecast overspends within the service and to manage additional risks as they arise.
- 1.3 The forecast includes the use of reserves of £5.317m where approval was given by cabinet for additional funds for specific services, and also transfers to reserves of £0.207m. See Appendix 4 for analysis of reserves by service.
- **Table 1** below provides a summary by service, and a full analysis of the material variances is shown in **Appendix 1**.
- 1.5 Within the services associated with the panel there are a number of risks around uncontrollable demand which is calculated at £0.210m. At this stage the risks are not certainties and as such are not included in the monitoring as overspends. If the risks become more certain then alternative action will need to be identified. A summary of the risk assessment is attached as **Appendix 2**.
- 1.6 The budget for 2014/15 included approved savings of £0.886m, of which £0.801m has been achieved. A full breakdown of investment and savings can be found in the 2014/15 budget book. Where savings are not able to be achieved in full in the year, directorate management teams are required to identify and manage alternative savings in liaison with the relevant portfolio holder.

	Table 1 – Forecast Revenue Outturn 2014/15									
Service Area	Annual Budget £	Profiled Budget £	Year to Date Actual £	Profiled Variance £	Year End Forecast £	Year End Variance £	Action Plans	Use of Reserves £	Transfer to Reserves £	Adjusted Variance £
Development & Delivery	703,755	566,689	1,061,641	494,952	1,744,739	1,040,984	0	-905,334	12,598	148,248
Planning & Building Control	441,854	330,928	-18,439	-349,367	205,462	-236,392	0	-33,752	194,633	-75,511
Property Services	4,628,879	3,792,524	5,719,773	1,927,249	5,147,718	518,839	0	-518,839		0
Regeneration Management	304,344	228,267	208,476	-19,791	329,552	25,208	0	-54,000	0	-28,792
Smarter Workplaces	219,273	163,222	359,293	196,071	559,351	340,078	0	-340,078	0	0
Strategic Regeneration	499,313	374,447	1,170,915	796,468	3,963,802	3,464,489	-43,746	-3,464,690	0	-43,947
TOTAL REGENERATION							·			
KESENENATION	6,797,418	5,456,077	8,501,659	3,045,582	11,950,623	5,153,205	-43,746	-5,316,693	207,231	0

# 2. Capital Outturn 2014/15

2.1 The forecast capital outturn for 2014/15 for the schemes under the remit of this panel is an underspend of £3.292m against budget, of which £0.001m is a true underspend of budget and £3.291m will be requested to be carried forward into 2015/16. Table 2 provides a summary of the Capital variance by service, and a detailed financial analysis by scheme is shown in Appendix 3.

Table 2 - Forecast Capital Outturn 2014/15							
Service Area	Total Budget £	Spend To Date £	Year-end Forecast £	Forecast Variance £			
Mainstream Resources							
Property Services	2,102,803	579,879	1,721,586	-381,216			
Planning & Building Control	113,700	37,545	113,700	0			
Development & Delivery	7,330,200	3,213,084	7,170,039	-160,161			
Smarter Workplaces	607,423	133,199	541,326	-66,097			
Sub Total	10,154,126	3,963,707	9,546,652	-607,474			
Non Mainstream Resources							
Development & Delivery	919,666	252,723	414,897	-504,769			
Strategic Regeneration	7,713,639	2,484,121	5,533,514	-2,180,125			
Sub Total	8,633,305	2,736,844	5,948,411	-2,684,894			
Total Regeneration	18,787,431	6,700,551	15,495,062	-3,292,368			

# Appendix 1 – Analysis of variances

Service	Explanation for Variance	Variance £
Markets	Expected income shortfall of £191k due to Walsall market move offset by vacant posts (£36k) and underspends on stalls equipment and cleaning costs (£9k).	148,248
Development & Delivery to		148,248
Building Control	Overspend on supplies & services within building control revenue account.	2,310
Development Management	Planning application fees are forecast to be £45k below budget. Vacant post (£32k) offset by overspends in supplies and services.	45,596
Planning Services	Underspend on centralised stationery budget (£54k), vacant post (£45k) and over-recovery of land charges income (£6k).	(105,202
Planning Policy	Vacant post	(18,215
Planning and Building Cor	ntrol total	(75,511)
Asset Management	Over-recovery of rental income for shops (£76k) and	(60,139
	underspend on rent payments (£46k), partially offset by dilapidation on Unit 1 Access Point of £45k.  Under-spend on vacant posts and agency staff (£77k) partially offset by overspend on supplies and services and professional fees of £95k (including £50k Rushall Olympic Survey).	,
Building Services	Underspends within staffing costs (including vacant Head of Service post) of £58k, centralised energy (£220k), and statues and memorials (£6k). These are partially offset by an overspend on the centralised maintenance budget (£39k), backdated energy bills on redundant buildings (£35) and a fee income shortfall	(157,929
	(£53k).	
Cleaning and Caretaking	(£53k).  Caretaking is forecast to overspend by £73k due to staff and management costs. Cleaning is forecast to overspend by £119k due to recharges on internal contracts being less than cost of running service.	191,666
Cleaning and Caretaking  Design and Project Management	Caretaking is forecast to overspend by £73k due to staff and management costs. Cleaning is forecast to	
Design and Project	Caretaking is forecast to overspend by £73k due to staff and management costs. Cleaning is forecast to overspend by £119k due to recharges on internal contracts being less than cost of running service.  Shortfall against income target (£257k) offset by vacant	191,666 117,223 (90,821)

Economic Regeneration	As part of directorate action plan, source of staff funding amended from mainstream revenue to various	(43,947)
	reserves.	
Strategic Regeneration		(43,947)
Regeneration Management	Reduced Black Country Consortium subscriptions	(28,792)
Regeneration Management		(28,792)
TOTAL		0

# Appendix 2 – Financial Risks

POTENTIAL RISK	LOWEST COST	HIGHEST COST	ASSESSMENT OF RISK	TOTAL FINANCIAL EXPOSURE TO RISK
	£000	£000		£000
Property Services - Shortfall of DPM fees	0	200	High	120
Property Services - Risk of overspend on centralised maintenance budget due to large one of items	0	30	High	18
Property Services - Backdated energy costs	0	20	Medium	8
Development & Delivery – shortfall on Market Stall Income	0	50	Medium	20
Property Service – Non achievement of Building Services fee income due to delayed capital projects	0	100	Medium	40
Property Services - Increase in energy costs due to weather conditions	0	20	Low	4
Total Regeneration	0	420		210

# Appendix 3 – Capital by scheme

Scheme and service area	Total Budget	Spend to Date	Forecast Spend	Forecast Variance	Reasons for variances
Mainstream Resources	£	£	£	£	
Asbestos Removal	62,478	55,535	62,478	0	
Safe water supplies	136,810	83,738	136,810	0	
Demolition of redundant buildings	159,122	91,913	159,122	0	
Fire risk assessment	69,264	66,875	69,264	0	
Freer Street structural works	9,854	4,107	9,854	0	
Planned property maintenance	159,598	62,087	159,598	0	
Shop maintenance	153,137	42,911	108,171	-44,966	Remaining maintenance planned for next year.
Statutory Testing	146,165	77,435	146,165	0	
Civic Centre essential maintenance	376,171	0	376,171	0	
Walsall Council House	95,279	95,279	95,279	0	
Kings Hill Park outdoor gym	1,250	0	0	-1,250	Project complete and budget no longer required
Replace heating & ventilation system in First Stop Shop	100,000	0	100,000	0	
Replace heating & ventilation system within link block	100,000	0	100,000	0	
Solar Photovoltaic Panels	425,000	0	90,000	-335,000	Tenders returned and under review, although anticipated that most of the work will be completed in next financial year.
Collingwood Centre Roof	108,675	0	108,675	0	Emergency budget, all spend will be in last quarter.
Property Services	2,102,803	579,879	1,721,586	-381,216	
Replacement ICT system	113,700	37,545	113,700	0	
Planning & Building Control	113,700	37,545	113,700	0	
Regenerating Walsall	319,453	10,823	254,292	-65,161	Programme spans more than one financial year

Enabling works to office					Second phase infrastructure works may commence on
development (Gigaport)	470,126	342,804	395,126	-75,000	site 2014/15 but won't complete until 2015/16
New Homes Bonus	334,952	31,080	334,952	0	
Walsall market	20,000	0	0	-20,000	Planning Application submitted Dec 2014, with decision expected in March 2015. Phase 2 consultants will be appointed in early 2015/16. Therefore no capital expenditure in 2014/15.
Acquisition of Wolverhampton Street ("Lex")	280,000	0	280,000	0	
Bentley Lane site investigation	50,000	0	50,000	0	
Old Square Redevelopment	5,855,669	2,828,377	5,855,669	0	
Development & Delivery	7,330,200	3,213,084	7,170,039	-160,161	
Smarter Workplaces - Workplace Solutions	88,422	73,189	88,422	0	
Smarter Workplaces - Property	519,001	60,010	452,904	-66,097	Due to programme spanning more than one financial year, and current model under review.
Smarter Workplaces	607,423	133,199	541,326	-66,097	
	10,154,126	3,963,707	9,546,652	-607,474	
External Resources				0	
Willenhall THI – Heritage Lottery Fund	285,997	109,389	176,090	-109,907	Scheme demand is slowing down, although the Council has approval from funding provider to continue the scheme until October 2015.
Willenhall THI – VIEW				100,007	Scheme until October 2015.
VVIII OIII IIII VILV	139,007	109,389	139,007	0	Scheme until October 2015.
Black Country Business Property Investment Programme ("BCBPIP")	139,007 379,645	109,389 13,283	·	·	Now unlikely that any grants will be awarded and paid out by March 2015. Forecast is for potential Technical Assistance fees.
Black Country Business Property Investment Programme ("BCBPIP")	379,645	13,283	139,007 21,783	-357,862	Now unlikely that any grants will be awarded and paid out by March 2015. Forecast is for potential Technical Assistance fees.  There is potential to carry forward unutilised funding although this is still to be confirmed with the funding
Black Country Business Property Investment Programme ("BCBPIP")  Black Country Enterprise Zone	379,645 115,017	13,283	139,007 21,783 78,017	-357,862 -37,000	Now unlikely that any grants will be awarded and paid out by March 2015. Forecast is for potential Technical Assistance fees.  There is potential to carry forward unutilised funding
Black Country Business Property Investment Programme ("BCBPIP")	379,645	13,283	139,007 21,783	-357,862	Now unlikely that any grants will be awarded and paid out by March 2015. Forecast is for potential Technical Assistance fees.  There is potential to carry forward unutilised funding although this is still to be confirmed with the funding

Local Sustainable Transport Fund	237,000	108,075	237,000	0	
Local Transport Plan	1,507,846	395,046	1,301,463	-206,383	Slippage on the following projects: 1) Darlaston bus interchange (£69k), the scheme needs to operate in conjuction with Asda's proposal for a petrol station which won't be finalised in 14/15. 2) Caldmore traffic improvements (£90k), more design work needed before project can commence. Also the following 3 projects are for access improvements, phase 2 of this delayed till 15/16: Hatherton Rd bus stop (£17k), Reservoir Place (£9k), Aldridge Station (£25k)
Strategic Regeneration	7,713,639	2,484,121	5,533,514	-2,180,125	
	8,633,305	2,736,844	5,948,411	-2,684,894	

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THI – Townscape Heritage Initiative VIEW - Visionary Investment Enhancing Walsall SDA – Strategic Development Area

# Appendix 4 – Reserves by Service

Division Of Service	Reserve Details	Allocated Reserve	Reserve Used To Date	Reserve Expected To Be Used By 31 March 2015	Transfer To Reserves	Balance Of Reserve Not Utilised 2014/15
		£	£	£	£	£
Asset Management	Asset Management system	63,954	0	-24,490	0	39,464
Asset Management	Pleck Boxing Club	118,790	-13,381	-17,841	0	100,949
Asset Management	Bryntysilio Dilapidation	250,000	-250,000	-250,000	0	0
Building Services	Resource to support savings	216,443	0	-216,443	0	0
Building Services	Redundancy costs - 14/15 savings	7,029	-7,029	-7,029	0	0
Facilities Management	Fire risk assessment	3,036	-3036	-3,036	0	0
<b>Property Services</b>		659,252	-273,446	-518,839	0	140,413
Smarter Workplaces	Smarter workplaces	589,081	-127,726	-328,139	0	260,942
Smarter Workplaces	Redundancy costs	11,939	-11,939	-11,939	0	0
Smarter Workplaces	Smarter workplaces	601,020	-139,665	-340,078	0	260,942
Economic Regeneration	LABGI	236,896	0	0	0	236,896
Economic Regeneration	Walsall Works	1,465,779	-570,257	-1,162,884	0	302,895
Strategic Regeneration	SEED/GOLD	32,734	0	0	0	32,734
Strategic Regeneration	Black Country Invest team	38,088	0	-38,088	0	0
Strategic Regeneration	LEP - Hestletine funding	244,000	0	-244,000	0	0
Strategic Regeneration	LEP - Core funding	248,681	0	-248,681	0	0
Strategic Regeneration	City Deal - Welfare Pilot Technical Assistance ('TA') ERDF	1,750,000	0	-1,750,000	0	0
Strategic Regeneration	Partnership Contributions	13,328	-7,694	-11,886	0	1,442
Strategic Regeneration	ERDF TA – Walsall contribution	9,151	-9,151	-9,151	0	0
Strategic Regeneration		4,038,657	-587,102	-3,464,690	0	573,967
Building Control	Building control fees	33,752	-33,752	-33,752	0	0

Building Control	Planned partnership inspections	9,823	2,085	0	5,150	14,973
Development	Black country core strategy	130,000	0	0	0	130,000
Management Development	Black country core strategy	130,000	U	U	U	130,000
Management	S106 planning	190,451	189,483	0	189,483	379,934
Development	3	,	,			,
Management	Legal fees Waverley Mast	68,412	0	0	0	68,412
Planning Services	Planning Fees	5,718	0	0	0	5,718
Planning Services	Severn Trent	9,129	0	0	0	9,129
	Housing and Planning Delivery Grant -					
Planning Policy	salary cost	44,055	0	0	0	44,055
Planning & Building Con	trol	491,340	157,816	-33,752	194,633	652,221
Development & Delivery	New Homes Bonus	1,709,470	-87,441	-264,820	1,086	1,445,736
Development & Delivery	LABGI - Town Centre Management	51,352	0	-4,392	0	46,960
Development & Delivery	Uncapitalised expenditure	200,000	-98,933	-192,651	0	7,349
Development & Delivery	S106 Grant	63,877	8,307	-5,000	11,512	70,389
Development & Delivery	New Habitats burdens grant	38,025	0	0	0	38,025
Development & Delivery	New Habitats burdens grant	53,174	0	0	0	53,174
Development & Delivery	Heritage & Biodiversity	7,201	-389	-389	0	6,812
Development & Delivery	High St Innovation	30,398	-1,174	-1,974	0	28,424
Development & Delivery	Town Team Partners	10,000	0	0	0	10,000
Development & Delivery	Enterprise Zone	73,772	-19,003	-58,753	0	15,019
Development & Delivery	Phoenix 10	238,971	-22,966	-72,471	0	166,500
Development & Delivery	BCBPIP Revenue	53,952	-3,119	-24,884	0	29,068
Development & Delivery	LEX revenue contribution	280,000	-280,000	-280,000	0	0
Development & Delivery		2,810,192	-504,718	-905,334	12,598	1,917,456
Regeneration						
Management	Black Country transport director	90,000	0	-54,000	0	36,000
		8,690,461	-1,347,115	-5,316,693	207,231	3,580,999

LABGI - Local Authority Business Growth Incentives

LEP - Local Enterprise Partnership
ERDF - European Regional Development Funding
SEED - Supporting Employment & Enterprise Development
GOLD - Growth Opportunities: Local Delivery