Scrutiny Overview Committee

28 September 2021

Pre-Audit Outturn 2020/21

Ward(s) All

Portfolios: All - specifically in relation to Resources and Transformation -

Cllr M Bird - Leader of the Council

Cllr A Andrew – Regeneration (Customer - Money Home Job)

Cllr G Perry – Resilient Communities (Partnerships)

Cllr M Statham - Internal Services

1. Aim

1.1 To inform the committee of the pre-audit financial position for 2020/21, to allow the scrutiny of the financial performance of the council and the services within the committee's remit.

2. Recommendations:

The Committee are requested to:

- 2.1 Note the pre-audit outturn 2020/21 for the council as a whole a revenue underspend of £0.45m, and net capital break even position net of £38.87m council funded carry forwards into 2021/22.
- 2.2 Note the pre-audit outturn 2020/21 for services within the remit of this committee a revenue underspend of £2.20m, and net capital break even position net of £27.64m carry forwards into 2021/22.

3. Report detail - Know

3.1 This report summarises the forecast revenue and capital pre-audit outturn position for 2020/21, both for the council as a whole, and for services within the remit of the Scrutiny Overview Committee, as reported to Cabinet on 16 June 2021. The full Cabinet report can be accessed by the following link:

Pre-Audit Outturn 2020-21 - Cabinet 16 June 2021

Council wide position

3.2 A number of significant risks and pressures emerged during 2020/21 that required action to be taken to limit the council's exposure, mainly as a result of Covid-19, and demand pressures within Adult Social Care and Children's Services. The financial impact of the council's response to Covid-19 is regularly monitored and reported to Cabinet, with all related pressures expected to be funded from specific grants specifically identified. With regards other directorate pressures, these were managed

via a combination of one-off actions (use of earmarked reserves, use of one-off grant) and ongoing actions (review of existing budgets and realignments where feasible). After corrective action the council as a whole reported an underspend of £0.45m, as reported to Cabinet on 16 June 2021, with the detail shown at **Appendix 1**. Significant investment has been included within the 2021/22 budget to manage the identified demand pressures within Adult Social Care and Looked after Children.

3.3 The capital pre-audit outturn 2020/21 is a break even position for the council as a whole, net of council funded carry forwards of £38.87m. Summary provided at **Appendix 1**, with details by scheme at **Appendix 2 & 3**.

Position for services within the remit of this committee

- 3.4 The revenue pre-audit outturn position for services within the remit of this committee, is an underspend of £2.20m against budget, net of the use of reserves. Further details are shown in **Appendix 4**.
- 3.5 The total capital programme for schemes within the remit of this committee is £41.47m. The capital pre-audit outturn position is £13.83m, leaving an underspend of £27.64m to be carried forward into 2021/22. Those schemes relating to the remit of this committee are highlighted red in **Appendix 2 & 3.**

Resource and legal considerations:

3.6 This report represents the pre-audit revenue and capital outturn 2020/21 as reported to Cabinet on 16 June 2021.

Reducing inequalities:

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

4. Decide

4.1 This Committee is asked to note the pre-audit revenue and capital outturn for 2020/21.

5. Respond

5.1 This report is for noting by the Committee as above, and therefore no formal response is required.

6. Review

6.1 This report is for noting and review by the Committee as above, and therefore no formal response is required.

Background papers:

- Various financial working papers.
- Corporate Budget Plan 2019/20 to 2022/23, Treasury Management and Investment Strategy 2020/21 Onwards, as reported to Council on 27 February 2020.
- Pre-Audit Outturn 2020/21 and Covid-19 update, as reported to Cabinet on 16 June 2021.

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Pre-Audit Outturn 2020/21 - Walsall Council

Revenue

The council wide pre-audit revenue outturn is an underspend of £0.45m, and summarised by directorate in **Table 1** below.

Table 1: Pre-audit Revenue Outturn 2020/21					
Directorate	Budget £m	Year end Forecast £m	Year end forecast - variance to budget (under) / over £m		
Adult Social Care and Public Health	68.04	67.01	(1.03)		
Children's Services					
- Children's and Education	78.11	78.07	(0.04)		
- Customer Engagement	6.48	5.00	(1.48)		
Economy, Environment and Communities	55.28	54.86	(0.43)		
Resources and Transformation	34.16	33.53	(0.63)		
Services position	242.08	238.47	(3.60)		
Capital Financing	(24.11)	(24.11)	0.00		
Central budgets / Covid-19 corporate grants	(90.40)	(87.25)	3.15		
Total council tax requirement	127.56	127.11	(0.45)		

A robust risk assessment of the 2020/21 budget was undertaken prior to the budget being set in February 2020. Action was taken corporately in year to address ongoing demand and cost pressures with services, mainly within Children's Services and Adult Social Care. Significant investment has been included within the 2021/22 budget to manage the identified demand pressures within Adult Social Care and Looked after Children.

The report to Cabinet on 16 June 2021 outlines the main reasons for the variances as shown above, impact on reserves, and a review of the impact of Covid-19.

The 2020/21 budget was predicated on delivery of £8.77m from the Proud Programme to be delivered from adopting new ways of working across the council, significantly enhancing our enabling technology capabilities, and improving our service efficiency and performance. Planned activities within the Walsall Proud Programme (WPP) were reviewed in order to determine those activities which could continue and those which would be delayed as the council focused on responding to the Covid-19 situation. As the year progressed, it became clearer that the refocus of programme resource into managing the council's Covid-19 response: an inability to generate fee and charge increases due to facility closures, and an inability to commence consultation on a number of organisational redesigns would significantly impact the programme and as such, plans were made to ensure that undelivered financial savings of £8.60m would be rolled into the 2021/22 budget setting process.

Capital

Table 2 summarises the pre-audit 2020/21 capital programme and the re-phasing of projects into 2021/22. The pre-audit position is split between council funded schemes and external funded schemes, full details by scheme are shown in **Appendix 2 and 3**.

Table 2 : Pre-audit Capital Outturn 2020/21							
Funding	Budget £m	Outturn £m	Variance £m	Re-Profiling / Carry Forward to 2021/22 £m	Underspend £m		
Council Funded	64.05	25.18	(38.87)	38.87	0		
Externally Funded	153.13	77.79	(75.34)	75.34	0		
Total	217.18	102.97	(114.21)	114.21	0		

In year reprofiling, leading to carry forwards into the following year, is a routine and normal practice. Capital carry forward is defined as a means to carry capital resources from one year to another to cover identifiable commitments that have moved from one year to another, or for where a project spans more than one year. In any large organisation dealing with construction projects, procurement regulations, etc, a level of carry forward is expected and built into resourcing assumptions. It is recognised that capital projects can cross over years and it is often difficult to be accurate in the estimation of which year the expenditure will be incurred.

As shown in **table 2**, 65.8% or £75.34m of the total relate to grant funded schemes. Of these, £33.12m relates to schools/children's, £35.86m to major regeneration schemes, £0.23m for leisure / parks schemes, £5.94m to transport / highways schemes, and £0.19m for other schemes. These schemes tend to require carry forward due to the timing of the receipt of the grant versus the actual spend, which in school's is often during the summer of the next financial year.

Appendix 2 – Pre-audit Capital Outturn by Scheme 2020/21 – council funded schemes

COUNCIL FUNDED SCHEMES	2020/21 Budget £	2020/21 Outturn £	Variance £	Carry forward to 2021/22 £	(Underspend)/ overspend £
CHILDREN'S SERVICES					
Schools capital using DSG	1,764,764	1,764,764	0	0	0
2 year old (RCCO)	13,078	13,078	0	0	0
School temporary classrooms	249,136	249,136	0	0	0
School estate condition survey	250,000	79,300	(170,700)	170,700	0
Looked after children out of borough placements	239,022	34,672	(204,350)	204,350	0
Children's services locality project	73,000	7,732	(65,268)	65,268	0
Aids and adaptations (statutory element)	526,920	105,283	(421,637)	421,637	0
Health through warmth and related retro fit schemes	102,679	89,501	(13,178)	13,178	0
CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL FUNDED TOTAL	3,218,599	2,343,466	(875,133)	875,133	0
ECONOMY, ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITIES					
New homes bonus	76,999	0	(76,999)	76,999	0
Regenerating Walsall	230,006	6,800	(223,206)	223,206	0
Town and district centres public realm	770,500	0	(770,500)	770,500	0
Walsall market	40,516	0	(40,516)	40,516	0
Town centre masterplan	250,000	0	(250,000)	250,000	0
Broadway west playing fields (council)	92,000	0	(92,000)	92,000	0
Open water	5,000	4,875	(125)	125	0
St Peter church repairs to surrounding wall	32,784	0	(32,784)	32,784	0
Walsall arboretum car park	4,896	0	(4,896)	4,896	0
Walsall arboretum restoration programme - illuminated park proposals	5,242	0	(5,242)	5,242	0
Willenhall memorial park	3,076	0	(3,076)	3,076	0
Workshop breakdown vehicle	66,991	0	(66,991)	66,991	0
Bentley greenway footpath improvements	147,895	101,405	(46,490)	46,490	0

COUNCIL FUNDED SCHEMES	2020/21 Budget £	2020/21 Outturn £	Variance £	Carry forward to 2021/22 £	(Underspend)/ overspend £
Headstone safety in cemeteries (RCCO)	32,035	32,035	0	0	0
Installation of air conditioning & refurb of public toilets	120,581	120,581	0	0	0
Willenhall lawn cemetery extension & land development	682,134	542,961	(139,173)	139,173	0
Replacement cemeteries administration system	75,000	0	(75,000)	75,000	0
Oak park car park	0	84,745	84,745	(84,745)	0
Darlaston swimming pool-arrest system	10,289	10,289	0	0	0
North Walsall cemetery flooding	258,000	72,215	(185,785)	185,785	0
Oak park CCTV	7,032	7,032	0	0	0
Community dropped crossings	34,228	32,557	(1,671)	1,671	0
District town centre's public realm improvements	736,580	377,842	(358,738)	358,738	0
Highways maintenance	2,800,000	2,800,000	(0)	0	0
Hatherton road car park	225,187	13,731	(211,456)	211,456	0
Promotion of community health & safety	360,000	201,662	(158,338)	158,338	0
Replacement of obsolete analogue weather stations	30,000	0	(30,000)	30,000	0
Replacement of obsolete traffic signal control equipment	200,000	200,000	0	0	0
Replacement of speed enforcement camera	145,316	145,316	0	0	0
Hatherton road MSCP structural maintenance	200,000	0	(200,000)	200,000	0
Replacement partisol units	56,886	56,886	0	0	0
DSDA	9,801	0	(9,801)	9,801	0
Walsall town centre public realm improvements	229,500	7,727	(221,773)	221,773	0
Town and district centres public realm	227,706	87,398	(140,308)	140,308	0
Resurfacing of church road car park (RCCO)	48,168	48,168	0	0	0
Transit site	30,789	30,789	(0)	0	0
CCTV	432,000	402,792	(29,208)	29,208	0
Enterprise zones	4,185,088	300,000	(3,885,088)	3,885,088	0
Library redesign - Lichfield street hub	41,862	41,862	0	0	0
Single library management system	39,757	0	(39,757)	39,757	0

COUNCIL FUNDED SCHEMES	2020/21 Budget £	2020/21 Outturn £	Variance £	Carry forward to 2021/22 £	(Underspend)/ overspend £
Darlaston Library Integration	78,542	0	(78,542)	78,542	0
Replacement PC's	34,000	0	(34,000)	34,000	0
RFID self-issue	93,000	0	(93,000)	93,000	0
Regional materials recycling facility	2,782,381	533,324	(2,249,057)	2,249,057	0
Middlemore lane HWRC	8,545,500	6,600,816	(1,944,684)	1,944,684	0
ECONOMY, ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITIES COUNCIL FUNDED TOTAL	24,477,267	12,863,808	(11,613,458)	11,613,458	0
RESOURCES AND TRANSFORMATION					
Procurement system for (HRMS) and oracle EBS financials	3,365,539	3,207,490	(158,049)	158,049	0
Asbestos removal	1,978	1,978	0	0	0
Planned property maintenance	437,714	187,714	(250,000)	250,000	0
Safe water supplies	100,235	100,235	0	0	0
Statutory testing	214,135	214,135	0	0	0
Civic centre heating	1,146,646	0	(1,146,646)	1,146,646	0
Council house rewiring	972,794	807,053	(165,741)	165,741	0
Council house smoke & heat detection fire alarm	326,920	0	(326,920)	326,920	0
Council house general heating	1,091,360	2,800	(1,088,560)	1,088,560	0
Operation repair & maintenance of council buildings	376,138	40,061	(336,077)	336,077	0
Fire risk assessment	211,633	211,633	0	0	0
Schools project	159,419	60,452	(98,967)	98,967	0
Walsall council house-modern secure reception	26,228	0	(26,228)	26,228	0
Cotag replacement	1,705	1,705	0	0	0
Council house internal decoration	55,500	11,058	(44,442)	44,442	0
Willenhall lane travellers site pumping station	44,400	0	(44,400)	44,400	0
One Source Archiving	334,356	0	(334,356)	334,356	0
Security arrangements for corporate buildings	125,000	0	(125,000)	125,000	0

COUNCIL FUNDED SCHEMES	2020/21 Budget £	2020/21 Outturn £	Variance £	Carry forward to 2021/22 £	(Underspend)/ overspend £
Rushall Olympic football club	5,833	0	(5,833)	5,833	0
Challenge block	85,000	51,786	(33,214)	33,214	0
Town centre strategic acquisition for third sector hub	2,476,483	13,140	(2,463,343)	2,463,343	0
Council chamber refurbishment	187,002	37,110	(149,892)	149,892	0
MYCMIS	29,500	2,500	(27,000)	27,000	0
Data backup system replacement	50,000	0	(50,000)	50,000	0
Essential Microsoft upgrades & foundation for office 365	145,830	87,409	(58,421)	58,421	0
ICT-safe and secure environment	3,402,645	946,500	(2,456,145)	2,456,145	0
Single mobile devices for use within the new in-tune platform	34,820	0	(34,820)	34,820	0
Resource & consultancy to upgrade win2008 server	200,000	192,292	(7,708)	7,708	0
Proud - ICT	200,000	87,026	(112,974)	112,974	0
Enabling Technology	11,700,000	399,924	(11,300,076)	11,300,076	0
Microsoft azure cloud usage	570,381	570,381	0	0	0
Maintaining a safe and secure environment	99,118	99,118	0	0	0
Telephony cloud based system	500,000	822	(499,178)	499,178	0
Proud card payments digital website	500,000	0	(500,000)	500,000	0
Flexible use of Capital Receipts	4,000,000	0	(4,000,000)	4,000,000	0
Health & Safety - Central Scheme	34,305	0	(34,305)	34,305	0
Capital Contingency	79,883	0	(79,883)	79,883	0
Leasing	2,557,613	2,557,613	(0)	0	0
Saddlers centre shopping centre	468,444	83250	(385,194)	385,194	0
RESOURCES AND TRANSFORMATION COUNCIL FUNDED	36,318,557	9,975,184	(26,343,373)	26,343,373	0
ADULT SOCIAL CARE					
All age disability hub	36,869	2,028	(34,841)	34,841	0
ADULT SOCIAL CARE COUNCIL FUNDED TOTAL	36,869	2,028	(34,841)	34,841	0
TOTAL COUNCIL FUNDED SCHEMES	64,051,292	25,184,486	(38,866,805)	38,866,805	0

Schemes highlighted RED relate to the services within the remit of the Scrutiny Overview Committee.

Appendix 3 – Pre-audit Capital Outturn by Scheme 2020/21 – externally funded schemes

EXTERNALLY FUNDED SCHEMES	2020/21 Budget £	2020/21 Outturn £	Variance £	Carry forward to 2021/22 £	(Underspend)/ overspend £
CHILDREN'S SERVICES					
Academies	346,130	0	(346,130)	346,130	0
Basic need	30,838,665	4,330,956	(26,507,709)	26,507,709	0
Capital maintenance	4,227,341	2,252,915	(1,974,426)	1,974,426	0
Devolved formula capital	2,158,585	669,789	(1,488,796)	1,488,796	0
Healthy pupils capital fund	63,704	63,704	0	0	0
Section 106	381,270	36,902	(344,368)	344,368	0
Special provision fund	1,625,840	0	(1,625,840)	1,625,840	0
Universal infant free school meals	9,610	0	(9,610)	9,610	0
Purchase of dispersed temporary accommodation	255,000	0	(255,000)	255,000	0
Warm homes	737,728	437,005	(300,723)	300,723	0
Disabled facilities grant	2,816,396	2,816,396	0	0	0
Off gas scheme	285,373	13,320	(272,053)	272,053	0
CHILDREN'S SERVICES EXTERNALLY FUNDED TOTAL	43,745,642	10,620,986	(33,124,656)	33,124,656	0
ECONOMY, ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITIES					
Regenerating Walsall - private contributions	8,746	0	(8,746)	8,746	0
Broadway west playing fields (external)	150,000	0	(150,000)	150,000	0
Waste infrastructure capital grant	226,980	41,888	(185,092)	185,092	0
Pelsall memorial garden	5,369	857	(4,512)	4,512	0
Fibbersley LNR-Enovert	828	0	(828)	828	0
Rethinking parks	119,000	61,773	(57,227)	57,227	0
Black country blue network- ERDF	43,435	27,134	(16,301)	16,301	0
Additional highway maintenance pothole funding	225,499	225,499	0	0	0
Development of highways asset management plan	2,774	2,774	0	0	0
LTP including bridge strengthening 2010/11	221,417	221,312	(105)	105	0
LTP Yorks bridge	35,904	35,904	0	0	0

EXTERNALLY FUNDED SCHEMES	2020/21 Budget £	2020/21 Outturn £	Variance £	Carry forward to 2021/22 £	(Underspend)/ overspend £
Capital block DFT fund	2,258,473	2,258,473	(0)	0	0
Emergency active travel - tranche 1	209,000	207,961	(1,039)	1,039	0
Challenge fund	3,237,294	3,237,293	(1)	0	0
Replacement footbridge Coalpool lane	491,568	353,703	(137,865)	137,865	0
M6 junction 10 highway improvements	23,609,178	19,022,255	(4,586,923)	4,586,923	0
National productivity investment fund	390,143	390,144	1	0	0
Zebra crossing	54,560	49,786	(4,774)	4,774	0
M6 j10 designated funds	18,323	7,115	(11,208)	11,208	0
West midlands strategic transport plan (STP) 'movement for growth'	2,399,522	1,198,164	(1,201,358)	1,201,358	0
ECONOMY, ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITIES EXTERNALLY FUNDED	33,708,013	27,342,036	(6,365,977)	6,365,977	0
RESOURCES AND TRANSFORMATION					
Growth deal	32,948,081	27,499,895	(5,448,186)	5,448,186	0
LPIF	29,765,878	355,627	(29,410,251)	29,410,251	0
Getting building fund	9,789,825	9,786,405	(3,421)	3,421	0
BCLEP reinvestment digital fund	781,318	250,000	(531,318)	531,318	0
Towns fund accelerated funding	1,500,000	1,046,629	(453,371)	453,371	0
RESOURCES AND TRANSFORMATION EXTERNALLY FUNDED TOTAL	74,785,102	38,938,555	(35,846,547)	35,846,547	0
ADULT SOCIAL CARE					
Integrated Community Equipment	888,000	888,000	0	0	0
ADULT SOCIAL CARE EXTERNALLY FUNDED TOTAL	888,000	888,000	0	0	0
TOTAL EXTERNALLY FUNDED SCHEMES	153,126,757	77,789,577	(75,337,180)	75,337,180	0

Schemes highlighted RED relate to the services within the remit of the Scrutiny Overview Committee.

<u>Pre-Audit Outturn 2020/21 –</u> <u>Services within the remit of the Overview Scrutiny Committee</u>

Revenue

The 2020/21 pre-audit revenue outturn for services within the remit of this Committee is an underspend of £2.20m, as shown in **table 3** below:

Table 3: Pre-audit outturn 2020/21 by service						
SERVICE	ANNUAL BUDGET	DRAFT OUTTURN AFTER USE OF AND TRANSFER TO EARMARKED RESERVES	VARIANCE TO BUDGET			
	£	£	£			
Economy, Environment & Communities		/				
Communities and Partnerships	2,697,743	2,505,609	(192,134)			
Children Services						
Customer Engagement	6,485,189	5,006,868	(1,478,321)			
Adult Social Care						
Print & Design / Communications	(5,586)	(5,586)	(0)			
Resources and Transformation						
Democratic Services	1,633,610	1,583,075	(50,535)			
Legal	(208,094)	(112,356)	95,738			
Electoral Services	782,698	848,372	65,674			
Finance /	1,979,786	1,805,571	(174,215)			
Corporate Assurance	(134,122)	(152,210)	(18,088)			
Human Resources	315,430	145,695	(169,735)			
Corporate Landlord	9,281,292	9,031,322	(249,970)			
Payroll & Pensions	(139,714)	(87,734)	51,980			
Procurement	(75,695)	(46,322)	29,373			
Transformation & Digital	1,682,015	1,571,896	(110,119)			
TOTAL	24,294,552	22,094,200	(2,200,352)			

The main variances are summarised in **Table 4** below.

Table 4 – Reasons for revenue outturn variance						
Service	Variance £m	Explanation of Year End Outturn				
Communities & Partnership	(0.19)	Underspend mainly due to staff costs allocated to grants				
Money Home Job / Housing Standards	(1.48)	Underspent on: Salaries (£434k), Income (£98k) (surplus rent (£169k), overpayments (£378k) and shortfall court income £449k), HB Subsidy (£516k) and supplies (£436k) (inc (£150k) recovery costs, temporary accommodation (£364k). HS&I bad debt provision £8k				
Print & Design / Communications	0					
Democratic Services	(0.05)	Underspends on salaries (£21k) and supplies and services (£30k)				
Legal	0.09	Agency over spend of £464k and transfer to reserves of £182k, offset by UoR (£380k), salaries (£164k) and general (£6k)				
Electoral Services	0.07	Transfer to reserves £256k and under recovery on income £12k, offset by savings on supplies and services (£200k) and salaries (£2k)				
Finance	(0.17)	Underspend on salaries (£224k), audit contract (£21k) over recovery of income (£287k) and UoR (£276k), offset by overspend on agency £415k and supplies and services £220k				
Corporate Assurance	(0.02)	Underspends on salaries (£13k) and supplies and services (£5k)				
Human Resources	(0.17)	Underspends on salaries (£232k) and supplies and services (£88k) plus use of reserves (£70k), offset by under recovery of income £204k and transfer to reserves £17k				
Corporate Landlord	(0.25)	Asset Management (£65k) mainly rental income, Hard IFM (£156k) vacant posts, Crossings (£82k) vacant posts, Catering (£42k) covid funding, Cleaning (£11k) vacant posts, Post Room (£3k), under recovery of income in Box Office £42k and Caretaking £67k				
Payroll & Pensions	0.05	Under recovery of income £29k, and overspends on agency staff £11k, salaries £8k, and general £4k				
Procurement	0.03	Over spends on agency staff £172k and supplies and services £20k offset by under spend on salaries (£163k)				
Transformation & Digital	(0.11)	Underspend on salaries (£290k), offset by under recovery of income £49k, overspend on supplies and services £63k and transfer to reserves £68k				
Services within remit of this Committee	(2.20)					

Capital

The net capital pre-audit outturn 2020/21 for the services within the remit of this Committee was a net break even position, net of carry forwards of £27.64m to be utilised in 2021/22. Those capital schemes relating to the remit of this committee are highlighted red in **Appendix 2 & 3.**