

Cabinet

29 July 2025

Revenue Budget Monitoring – Round 1 2025/26

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Vince Maple, Leader of the Council

Report from: Phil Watts, Chief Operating Officer (S151 Officer)

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Summary

This report presents the results of the first round of the Council's revenue budget monitoring process for 2025/26. The Council's summary position is presented in section 5, with sections 6-10 providing the detail for each service area.

1. Recommendations

- 1.1. The Cabinet is asked to note the results of the first round of revenue budget monitoring for 2025/26.
- 1.2. The Cabinet is asked to instruct the Corporate Management Team to implement urgent actions to bring expenditure back within the budget agreed by Full Council.

2. Suggested reasons for decision(s)

- 2.1. Full Council is responsible for agreeing a balanced budget in advance of each financial year. Cabinet is responsible for ensuring that income and expenditure remain within the approved budget, including instructing corrective action to prevent any forecast overspend from materialising.

3. Budget and policy framework

- 3.1. The Cabinet is responsible for ensuring that income and expenditure remain within the budget approved by Council. Budget virements are subject to the financial limits contained in part 5 of chapter 3 of the Council's Constitution.

4. Background

- 4.1. At its meeting on 27 February 2025, the Council set a total budget requirement of £496.441million for 2025/26. Since then additional grant funding has been confirmed, primarily the Household Support Fund. The net impact of these amendments takes the Round 1 budget requirement to a total of £500.659million.

- 4.2. This report presents the results of the first round of revenue budget monitoring based on returns submitted by individual budget managers. In preparing these forecasts, budget managers have taken account of last year's outturn, items of growth or savings agreed as part of the budget build, actual income and expenditure for the year to date, and most importantly, their knowledge of commitments and service requirements anticipated for the remainder of the financial year.

5. Summary Revenue Budget Forecast Position 2025/26

- 5.1. The forecast outturn for 2025/26 represents a pressure of £10.948million.

Directorate	2024/25 Outturn £000's	2025/26 R1 Budget £000's	2025/26 R1 Forecast £000's	2025/26 R1 Variance £000's
<i>Budget requirement:</i>				
Children and Adult Services	347,954	380,946	391,528	10,582
Regeneration, Culture and Environment	68,601	83,836	84,559	723
Business Support Department	8,687	8,942	8,569	(373)
Business Support Centralised Services:				
Interest & Financing	16,583	18,107	18,107	0
Corporate Management	4,217	4,841	4,857	16
Additional Government Support Grant Expenditure	5,264	3,988	3,988	0
Budget Requirement	451,307	500,659	511,607	10,948
<i>Funded by:</i>				
Council Tax	(158,462)	(170,516)	(170,516)	0
Retained Business Rates & Baseline Need Funding	(74,904)	(76,806)	(76,806)	0
Government Grants - Non Ringfenced	(8,129)	(13,192)	(13,192)	0
New Homes Bonus	(1,573)	(1,311)	(1,311)	0
Dedicated Schools Grant	(123,841)	(139,614)	(139,614)	0
Other School Grants	(4,662)	(5,260)	(5,260)	0
Adult Social Care Grants	(32,151)	(35,251)	(35,251)	0
CSC Grants	(503)	(3,828)	(3,828)	0
Public Health Grant	(19,186)	(20,347)	(20,347)	0
Extended Producer Responsibility	0	(4,873)	(4,873)	0
Housing Related Grants	0	(4,862)	(4,862)	0
Use of Reserves	0	(50)	(50)	0
Additional Government Support Ringfenced Grant Income	(7,658)	(6,563)	(6,563)	0
Exceptional Financial support	(14,742)	(18,184)	(18,184)	0
Total Available Funding	(445,810)	(500,659)	(500,659)	0
Net Forecast Variance	5,497	0	10,948	10,948

6. Children and Adults

6.1. The Directorate forecast is a pressure of £10.582million, with details of the forecasts in each service area in the Directorate set out in the tables below.

Adult Social Care	2024/25 Outturn £000's	2025/26 R1 Budget £000's	2025/26 R1 Forecast £000's	2025/26 R1 Variance £000's
AD ASC	1,379	1,553	2,262	709
Service Provision	96,142	85,367	92,138	6,772
Business Operations & Provider Services	4,391	6,485	5,531	(954)
Specialist Services, Safeguarding and PSW	1,447	5,476	6,099	623
Transformation & Improvement	1,372	2,403	2,321	(83)
Locality Services - Staffing	8,473	11,560	10,005	(1,555)
ASC Partnership Commissioning	(4,041)	657	1,184	526
Total	109,161	113,502	119,539	6,038

The Adult Social Care forecast is an overall pressure of £6.038million.

The division continues to experience difficulties with recruiting permanent staff, with many vacancies in safeguarding, Early Help & Prevention and in the Long-Term Care & Support teams being covered by locums. There are approximately 59 locums in place at present, with a forecast cost of over £4million. This is covered by part year slippage in salary costs, with an anticipation that permanent staff will be recruited before the end of the year.

Pressure continues in respect of Supported Living for people who have a Learning Disability and/or are autistic. The pressure is inflated, in some part, by challenges related to health funding. We continue to refer to care providers in Medway for older people who accept our band prices, however we are paying higher costs for people with complex dementia or for people discharged from hospital into health funded beds who then transfer to Adult Social Care. Additionally, the ongoing increase in safeguarding concerns results in people requiring new or increases in care packages. Adult Social Care continues to focus on 'prevent, reduce, delay' however residents who are eligible for care and support, must be provided with a service.

Work is ongoing to deliver the savings targets agreed in the budget and later rounds of monitoring will reflect the impact of this work as savings are delivered.

Children's Services	2024/25 Outturn £000's	2025/26 R1 Budget £000's	2025/26 R1 Forecast £000's	2025/26 R1 Variance £000's
Head Of Safeguarding & Quality Assurance	3,487	3,620	4,210	590
Childrens Care Improvement	1,258	337	661	325
Childrens Social Work Team	7,055	7,796	8,480	684
Business Support	1,600	2,201	2,109	(92)
Family SOL, Youth, MASH & ADOL	8,377	10,559	11,299	740
Childrens Legal	3,428	3,222	3,268	46
Childrens Social Care Management	(725)	63	(394)	(457)
Client Support Packages	5,975	4,840	5,986	1,145
Corporate Parenting	5,233	5,812	6,141	328
Placements	34,253	36,298	35,312	(986)
Provider Services	7,362	8,507	9,367	859

Childrens Commissioning	551	812	840	28
Total	77,852	84,068	87,278	3,210

The Children's Services forecast is an overspend of £3.210million.

There is a net overspend on staffing cover across the service of c£1.8million. This is driven by a combination of three key factors;

- market premia payments not being budgeted in 2025/26 on the assumption that the MedPay review would have corrected pay and largely negated the requirement for market premia payments. This will need to be corrected through the use of the MedPay allowance currently held in the directorate management team.
- a significant proportion of staff are being paid at the top of their respective pay bands, while the budget has been built on the guided distribution, and
- agency cover for vacant posts.

There is a forecast overspend on client support packages to stabilise placements and to help stop children coming into care which is resulting in an underspend on placement costs.

In provider services there are also overspends relating to equipment and materials, on Expert assessments and independent social worker costs.

Directorate Management Team	2024/25 Outturn £000's	2025/26 R1 Budget £000's	2025/26 R1 Forecast £000's	2025/26 R1 Variance £000's
Directorate Management Team	729	2,873	2,895	22
Total	729	2,873	2,895	22

The People Directorate contribution to Child-Friendly Medway is £35k. Work continues to identify additional funding sources. This is partially offset by an underspend on staffing costs.

Education	2024/25 Outturn £000's	2025/26 R1 Budget £000's	2025/26 R1 Forecast £000's	2025/26 R1 Variance £000's
Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Transport	12,084	14,009	13,974	(36)
Education Management Team	694	865	871	5
SEND & Inclusion - Client & Providers	43,881	46,850	46,850	0
Early Years	32,308	43,994	43,994	0
SEND & Inclusion - Council Services	5,542	3,799	5,148	1,349
Medway Virtual School	624	847	847	0
Education, Planning & Access	3,140	3,692	3,712	21
School Effectiveness & Attendance	299	581	481	(99)
Total	98,573	114,638	115,878	1,240

Education is forecast to overspend by £1.240million.

The main areas of projected overspend for the general fund are an overspend on the SEN Team due to the extension of the Assessment team agency staff between July and January 2026. There is also an overspend in the Educational Psychology Team due to the cost of additional agency staff required to process assessments being required above the capacity within the team. Since May the Volume of EHC needs assessment requests has doubled. this is a national issue triggered as a reaction to the expected SEND reforms. The increasing demand is also causing a reduction in predicted traded income for the in house Education psychology team, due to the capacity of the team to deliver the traded work.

As at 31st March 2025 the DSG reserve was reporting a £16.398million deficit; this is forecast to increase to £19.347million by March 2026 when the projected in year overspend of £2.949million is transferred into the reserve. Work is being undertaken to increase the savings delivery in line with the plan. The statutory override which allows Local Authorities to

keep the DSG reserve separate was expected to end on 31 March 2026 but has been extended to 31 March 2028.

Public Health	2024/25 Outturn £000's	2025/26 R1 Budget £000's	2025/26 R1 Forecast £000's	2025/26 R1 Variance £000's
Public Health Management	1,938	2,492	2,995	503
Health Improvement Programmes	3,834	4,516	4,523	7
Stop Smoking Services	826	970	866	(105)
Supporting Healthy Weight	1,525	1,806	1,745	(61)
Substance Misuse	2,137	2,350	2,257	(93)
Child Health	5,291	5,747	5,495	(252)
Total	15,551	17,880	17,880	0

Public Health services are forecast to budget. Contracted Services continue to come under increasing cost pressures due to NHS uplifts not being funded through increase to Public Health Grant. Planning is continuing to fully spend the grant available in 2025/26 to achieve the optimum outcome for the prevention agenda, and to improve the public health of the community of Medway.

Partnership Commissioning & Additional Government Grants	2024/25 Outturn Variance £000's	2025/26 R1 Budget £000's	2025/26 R1 Forecast £000's	2025/26 R1 Variance £000's
Partnership Commissioning and C&A Intelligence	1,677	1,760	1,817	57
Start 4 Life Funding	1,232	1,415	1,415	0
Holiday Activity Fund	1,162	1,161	1,161	0
Health Determinants Research Collaboration	0	0	0	0
Total	4,071	4,335	4,392	57

Funding for the above grant funded schemes have been secured for the financial year 2025/26, but it is not yet clear whether funding will continue beyond March 2026.

The overspend on is in relation to a possible reduction in contributions from health towards the Homestart program. There is also a minor underspend on the C&A intelligence staffing budget.

Schools Retained Funding & Grants	2024/25 Outturn Variance £000's	2025/26 R1 Budget £000's	2025/26 R1 Forecast £000's	2025/26 R1 Variance £000's
Finance Provisions	761	1,021	1,021	0
Hr Provisions	676	740	740	0
School Grants	40,580	41,889	41,902	14
Total	42,017	43,650	43,664	14

Schools Retained Funding & Grants is forecasting an overspend of £14,000. Most of these services are funded by the DSG or ring-fenced grants with any under or overspend on these services being transferred into the DSG reserve at the end of the year.

7. Regeneration, Culture and Environment

7.1. The Directorate forecast is an overspend of £723,000. Details of the forecasts in each service area are set out in the tables below.

Culture & Community	2024/25 Outturn £000's	2025/26 R1 Budget £000's	2025/26 R1 Forecast £000's	2025/26 R1 Variance £000's
Sport and Leisure	2,554	3,859	3,773	(86)
Culture	3,151	3,813	3,796	(17)
Greenspaces	6,048	6,096	6,130	34
Planning	1,717	2,929	2,316	(613)
South Thames Gateway Partnership	142	281	310	29
Strategic Housing	7,854	12,559	12,728	169
Libraries & Community Hubs	4,768	5,574	5,535	(39)
Culture & Community Support	88	90	150	60
Total	26,321	35,201	34,738	(463)

The Culture & Community division forecast is a net underspend of £463,000.

There is a projected underspend of £86,000 on Sport and Leisure largely due to additional income and underspends on staffing.

There is a £613,000 forecast underspend on the Planning service due to additional planning fee income, vacancies across the service and due to the receipt of central government funding to help Councils deliver the Local Plan. However, as we move from Reg 19 to submission stage, we will need to appoint various staff (Local Plan Officer/Council and specialist consultants) to guide us through the Examination in Public (EIP).

There is a £169,000 pressure projected on Temporary Accommodation. The creation of a move-on team (within existing resources) has had a positive impact on move-on, however there has still been significant numbers approaching for housing advice, which result in a homelessness application and interim/temporary accommodation placements. Kingsley House has now opened to allow for face-to-face housing advice. Work is taking place to implement a temporary accommodation procurement framework to ensure value for money on all ongoing nightly paid placements. Two large scale Temporary Accommodation acquisitions are expected to exchange before the end of June, with occupation expected during the second quarter of the financial year and this will support the on-going reduction in nightly paid accommodation.

Director's Office	2024/25 Outturn £000's	2025/26 R1 Budget £000's	2025/26 R1 Forecast £000's	2025/26 R1 Variance £000's
Director's Office	325	811	803	(9)
Total	325	811	803	(9)

The Director's Office is forecast to underspend by £9,000 due to vacancy savings.

Front Line Services	2024/25 Outturn £000's	2025/26 R1 Budget £000's	2025/26 R1 Forecast £000's	2025/26 R1 Variance £000's
Front Line Services Support	832	925	803	(122)
Highways	5,917	6,977	7,009	31
Parking Services	(6,470)	(7,781)	(6,156)	1,626
Environmental Services	31,105	33,102	33,180	78
Integrated Transport	7,487	7,890	8,058	167
Regulatory Services	2,310	3,442	3,408	(34)
Total	41,181	44,556	46,302	1,746

The Front Line Services division is forecast to overspend by £1.746million.

Front Line Services Support is forecast to underspend by £122,000 due to a number of vacant posts across the service.

Parking Services is forecasting a net overspend of £1.626million. There is lower than anticipated income from Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) issued in respect of the Safer, Healthier Streets programme for Red Routes although income from Moving Traffic offences and School Streets are in line with projected levels. The schemes have a 6 month warning period and delays associated with increased levels of challenge have also delayed implementation. There are additional costs associated with the operation of enforcement relating to legal fees, postage, DVLA costs, camera maintenance and support, and clip reviews to identify offences that progress to the PCN stage.

The Environmental Services forecast is an overspend of £78,000, due to disposal costs, with an anticipated overspend in respect of the residual waste contract budget lines (Energy from Waste & Landfill). However, this is partially offset by underspends across other waste disposal budget lines.

The integrated Transport forecast is an overspend of £167,000, there is a pressure on the salaries/consultancy budgets due to unsuccessful attempts to recruit to the Principal Transport Planner post resulting in the use of a transport consultant to carry out this statutory function. There are also pressures on the Concessionary Fares budget and the Subsidised Bus Services budget.

Regeneration	2024/25 Outturn £000's	2025/26 R1 Budget £000's	2025/26 R1 Forecast £000's	2025/26 R1 Variance £000's
Medway Norse	250	0	0	0
Property & Capital Projects	1,439	1,932	1,836	(96)
Regeneration Delivery	1,022	1,255	1,244	(12)
Valuation & Asset Management	(1,763)	(1,448)	(2,017)	(569)
Economic Development	466	1,074	1,065	(9)
Skills & Employability	327	724	858	135
Total	1,741	3,537	2,986	(551)

The Regeneration division forecast is an underspend of £551,000.

The Property & Capital Projects forecast is an underspend of £96,000 due to some small underspends on the cost of maintain corporate assets and some underspends on staff budgets.

There is a pressure on the Asset & Property Management budget. Though current projections for the operation of the Pentagon show a £664,000 underspend against budget, this has been slightly offset by a £44,000 maintenance pressure to the areas outside the fabric of the building. Elsewhere across the service there are some historical income targets which are not projected to be achievable.

There is a forecast pressure of £136,000 in Skill & Employability which relates to a reduction in income from the Department for Education, alongside the completion of the Multiply programme. Activity is underway to assess options for the reduction in budget.

Medway Norse Profit Share	2024/25 Outturn £000's	2025/26 R1 Budget £000's	2025/26 R1 Forecast £000's	2025/26 R1 Variance £000's
Medway Norse Profit Share	(967)	(269)	(269)	0
Total	(967)	(269)	(269)	0

The Medway Norse profit share is currently forecast to budget.

8. Housing Revenue Account

Housing Revenue Account	2024/25 Outturn £000's	2025/26 R1 Budget £000's	2025/26 R1 Forecast £000's	2025/26 R1 Variance £000's
Housing Revenue Account	317	(0)	(7)	(7)
Total	317	(0)	(7)	(7)
The forecast outturn for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is a small underspend of £7,000. Pressures forecast against communal cleaning and play area maintenance have been balanced by forecasted utilities savings on homes for independent living.				

9. Business Support & Centralised Services

- 9.1. The Business Support Services forecast is an underspend of £373,000, while the Centralised Services forecast is an overspend of £16,000, bringing the overall forecast to an underspend of £357,000. The details of the forecasts in each service area are set out in the tables below.

Communications & Marketing	2024/25 Outturn £000's	2025/26 R1 Budget £000's	2025/26 R1 Forecast £000's	2025/26 R1 Variance £000's
Communications & Marketing	330	323	324	1
Total	330	323	324	1
The service is forecasting a minor underspend of £1,000 due to a small forecast shortfall in budgeted income.				

Divisional Management Team	2024/25 Outturn £000's	2025/26 R1 Budget £000's	2025/26 R1 Forecast £000's	2025/26 R1 Variance £000's
Divisional Management Team	39	0	(55)	(55)
Total	39	0	(55)	(55)
There is a reported underspend on staffing of £55,000 due to a vacant post and maternity leave.				

Finance & Business Improvement	2024/25 Outturn £000's	2025/26 R1 Budget £000's	2025/26 R1 Forecast £000's	2025/26 R1 Variance £000's
Internal Audit & Counter Fraud	(30)	0	(133)	(133)
FBI Divisional Management Team	8	0	0	0
FBI - Finance	4,252	4,358	4,503	145
FBI - Information	952	1,298	956	(342)
FBI - Organisational Culture	282	(108)	(160)	(52)
Policy Unit	0	450	450	0
Total	5,464	5,998	5,617	(381)
<p>The Finance & Business Improvement division forecast is an underspend of £381,000.</p> <p>There is a reported underspend of £133,000 in Internal Audit & Counter Fraud which is a combination of savings on staffing due to vacancies and from additional income from the shared service arrangement with Gravesham.</p> <p>The Finance forecast (which includes Accountancy, Revenues, Benefits and Debt) is an overspend of £145,000. There is a forecast overspend of £351,000 on the Benefits and Financial Welfare service relating to the projected increase in the level of shortfall in benefits subsidy as the final stages of the migration to Universal Credit with the process expected to</p>				

be complete by the end of 2025/26. This process is seeing all cases that are 100% funded by the benefits subsidy transferred to the DWP, leaving local authorities with only caseloads that do not attract full subsidy. This is offset by staffing underspends across accountancy, revenues and debt teams.

The Information forecast (which includes Technology, Customer Experience and Digital) is an underspend of £342,000. There is a pressure on software budgets of £103,000. That overspend is offset by an underspend on Customer & Business Support (CABS) of £258,000 a combination of vacancies and due to the make-up of the team being below that of the MedPay guided distribution along with vacancy savings across a number of other teams.

The Organisational Culture forecast (which includes HR, Payroll and Council Plan service areas) is an underspend of £52,000. This is due to a mixture of income targets not being achieved offset by savings on staffing teams and additional income from agencies.

Legal & Governance	2024/25 Outturn £000's	2025/26 R1 Budget £000's	2025/26 R1 Forecast £000's	2025/26 R1 Variance £000's
Democratic Services	614	743	739	(4)
Members & Elections	2,119	2,404	2,384	(19)
Category Management	(75)	0	0	0
Legal, Land Charges & Licensing	197	(75)	10	85
Total	2,854	3,071	3,133	62

The divisional forecast is an overspend of £62,000.

There is a forecast overspend of £306,000 on Counsel/Process Servers. The service is engaging agency staff and third-party solicitors to reduce the need to use highly expensive Counsel for all but the most complex cases, and using email and internal staff to deliver legal documents to reduce the need to pay third party process servers for all cases except where there is a security risk to staff for serving.

In Legal there is a forecast £721,000 underspend on permanent staff as new posts agreed in the budget are not yet all in post, offset by an overspend of £517,000 on agency staffing to deliver the caseload.

Centralised Services	2024/25 Outturn £000's	2025/26 R1 Budget £000's	2025/26 R1 Forecast £000's	2025/26 R1 Variance £000's
Interest & Financing	16,583	18,107	18,107	0
Levies	1,833	1,996	1,977	(19)
Corporate Management	2,385	2,844	2,880	35
Total	20,801	22,948	22,964	16

Collectively, Centralised Services are forecast to overspend of £16,000.

The Corporate Management position is an overspend of £35,000 due to valuer fees and additional lump sum pension payments. An underspend of £19,000 on Levies arises as the budget included an allowance to reflect the rate increases however the Kent County Council Coroners Service rate had not been confirmed and is lower than the budgeted expected.

10. Additional Government Support

Additional Government Support Expenditure	2024/25 Outturn £000's	2025/26 R1 Budget £000's	2025/26 R1 Forecast £000's	2025/26 R1 Variance £000's
Household Support Grant	4,525	3,988	3,988	0
Afghan Relocation Support	0	0	0	0
Homes for Ukraine	739	0	0	0
Total	5,264	3,988	3,988	0
All additional government support grants are currently forecast to be fully spent.				

11. Conclusions

11.1. The first round of revenue budget monitoring for 2025/26 projects an overspend of £10.948million.

12. Risk management

Risk	Description	Action to avoid or mitigate risk	Risk rating
The Council overspends against the agreed budget	Overspends on budget would need to be met from the Council's limited reserves.	The revenue monitoring process is designed to identify and facilitate management action to mitigate the risk of overspending against the agreed budget.	AI
Impact on service delivery	An overspend that cannot be funded from reserves could result in a diminution of the scale and quality of services that the Council is able to deliver.	Ensuring investment is prioritised to statutory services and key priorities, reviewing and reducing non-essential spend and maximising income.	All
Reputational damage	The challenging financial position of the Council, driven by increased demand for statutory services beyond available funding, could be misconstrued or reported as poor management or leadership, reducing the trust and confidence of residents, partners and regulators.	Clear communications with all interested parties on the cause of the financial position, lobbying the government for an improved funding settlement for local government, including implementation of the fair funding review.	BII
Demographic Growth	Further demographic pressures may surface across our social care services above those assumed in the budget.	Close monitoring of demand for service to identify pressures early, robust budget monitoring.	All

Risk	Description	Action to avoid or mitigate risk	Risk rating
Special Educational Needs and Disabilities	Further increases in the number of children requiring support, and in the complexity of needs may surface. Failure to deliver the recovery plan would risk the Council needing to use the £3million reserve created to fund any shortfall.	Close monitoring of demand for service to identify pressures early, robust budget monitoring.	All
Likelihood		Impact:	
A Very likely		I Catastrophic	
B Likely		II Major	
C Unlikely		III Moderate	
D Rare		IV Minor	

13. Financial implications

- 13.1. The first round of revenue budget monitoring for 2025/26 projects an overspend of £10.948million. As reported to the Cabinet in June in the Capital and Revenue Budget Outturn for 2024/25, the Council's general reserves currently stand at £10.012million. The Council would not therefore be in a position to fund an overspend on the scale of that currently projected.
- 13.2. It will now be necessary for the Council's senior managers and elected Members to implement urgent actions to bring expenditure back within the budget agreed by Full Council or as a minimum to within that which can be funded from general reserves.

14. Legal implications

- 14.1. The Cabinet has the responsibility to ensure effective budgetary control to contain expenditure within the approved limits set by Council. It is unlawful to set a budget that is not balanced or incur expenditure which results in the budget no longer being balanced.
- 14.2. Under section 114 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, the Council's statutory Section 151 Officer, is required to produce a report, commonly known as a S114 report, "if it appears to him that the expenditure of the authority is likely to exceed the resources (including sums borrowed) available to it to meet that expenditure."
- 14.3. The Council's Financial Procedure Rules state at Chapter 4, Part 6, the following paragraph references:
- 4.1 Approval by the Council of the overall revenue budget authorises the Cabinet and Chief Executive and directors to incur the expenditure in

accordance with the scheme of delegation, the budget and policy framework rules and these rules.

4.4 The Chief Operating Officer shall be responsible for monitoring the Council's overall expenditure and income and for reporting to the Cabinet and Council significant variations between the approved estimates and actual expenditure.

4.6 There may be occasion in exceptional circumstances where additional expenditure is essential and therefore unavoidable. Requests for supplementary revenue estimates must be referred to Council for approval. Such referrals would only occur where proposals are incapable of being financed from within approved budgets and where it is not possible to defer the expenditure to a later year.

14.4. The Cabinet and officers may only spend within allocated budgets. If the budget is likely to be exceeded, the Council is required to consider if it wishes revise to the revenue budget or require mitigating action to be taken.

14.5. Article 7 of the Council's constitution states:

7.2 The Cabinet (meaning the Leader and such other Members of the Council as the Leader may appoint) will carry out all the authority's functions which are not the responsibility of any other part of the Council, whether by law or under this Constitution

14.6. Officers are mandated to deliver services within agreed performance standards and agreed policies. Subject to the scheme delegation officers do not have authority to vary policies or performance standards.

14.7. If the Council is not minded to agree a supplementary revenue estimate, then the Cabinet is required to operate with the approved estimate. If that necessitates revisions of policies or service standards, then unless those matters are delegated to officers, it is matter for Cabinet to determine those matters.

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Appendices

None

Background papers

None