

<b>Notice of:</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE</b>
<b>Decision Number:</b>	EX60/2021
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Steve Thompson, Director of Resources
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Lynn Williams, Leader of the Council
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	8 November 2021

## FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE MONITORING AS AT MONTH 5 2021/22

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To report the level of spending and exposure against the Council's Revenue budgets and reserves and balances for the first 5 months to 31 August 2021.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To note the report.

- 2.2 To require the respective directors and Director of Resources to continue to closely monitor and manage service financial and operational performances, specifically Growth and Prosperity, Children's Services, Strategic Leisure Assets and Adult Services.

- 2.3 To prompt the Scrutiny Leadership Board to continue to independently review the financial and operational performances of the services listed in 2.2.

- 2.4 To continue to lobby central government (HM Treasury, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (formerly the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government), Department for Health and Social Care, Department for Transport, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and Department for Education in particular) along with local authority peers and networks and the Local Government Association for the funding necessary to cope with the demands and new burdens presenting as a result of both Covid and within Children's Services.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 To ensure financial performance against the Council's Revenue Budget and its reserves and balances is kept under timely review by members.

- 3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council?

No

3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

None.

**5.0 Council Priority:**

5.1 The relevant Council Priority is: "The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool".

**6.0 Background Information**

6.1 See reports and appendices circulated to members under separate cover.

6.2 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

**7.0 List of Appendices:**

Report

Appendix 1 - Revenue Summary

Appendix 2 - Schedule of Service forecast overspendings

Appendix 3a - Chief Executive

Appendix 3b - Governance and Partnership Services

Appendices 3b/c - Ward Budgets

Appendix 3d - Resources

Appendix 3e – Communications and Regeneration

Appendix 3f - Strategic Leisure Assets

Appendix 3g – Growth and Prosperity

Appendix 3h - Community and Environmental Services

Appendix 3i - Adult Services

Appendix 3j - Children's Services

Appendix 3k - Public Health

Appendix 3l - Budgets Outside the Cash Limit

Appendix 3m – Wholly-owned companies

Appendix 4 – Covid-19 Funding

Appendix 5 – Budget Savings performance

Appendix 6 - Capital Monitoring

Appendix 7 - Cash Flow Summary

Appendix 8 - General Fund Balance Sheet Summary

All circulated to members under separate cover

**8.0 Financial considerations:**

8.1 See reports and appendices circulated to Members under separate cover.

**9.0 Legal considerations:**

9.1 None.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 Impact of financial performance against approved Revenue budgets and upon Council reserves and balances.

**11.0 Equalities considerations:**

11.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment was produced as a part of the budget-setting process and remains relevant.

**12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:**

12.1 None directly from this report.

**13.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

13.1 None.

**14.0 Background papers:**

14.1 None.

**15.0 Key decision information:**

15.1 Is this a key decision? No

15.2 If so, Forward Plan reference number:

15.3 If a key decision, is the decision required in less than five days? N/A

15.4 If **yes**, please describe the reason for urgency:

**16.0 Call-in information:**

16.1 Are there any grounds for urgency, which would cause this decision to be exempt from the call-in process? No

16.2 If **yes**, please give reason:

**TO BE COMPLETED BY THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE**

**17.0 Scrutiny Committee Chairman (where appropriate):**

Date informed: N/A Date approved: N/A

**18.0 Declarations of interest (if applicable):**

18.1 None.

**19.0 Summary of Discussion:**

19.1 Mr Steve Thompson, Director of Resources, presented the report to the Executive for the level of spending and exposure against the Council's Revenue Budgets and reserves for the first 5 months of financial year 2021/22. Mr Thompson highlighted that the areas of overspend were included in the recommendation at 2.2 for further monitoring. In response to questions from the Executive, Mr Thompson highlighted the impact of the increase of National Insurance rates on the staffing costs and commissioned service cost and that officers would continue act conservatively regarding the potential impact of non-pay inflation particularly in energy costs.

**20.0 Executive decision:**

20.1 The Executive agreed the recommendations as outlined above namely:

1. To note the report.
2. To require the respective directors and Director of Resources to continue to closely monitor and manage service financial and operational performances, specifically Growth and Prosperity, Children's Services, Strategic Leisure Assets and Adult Services.
3. To prompt the Scrutiny Leadership Board to continue to independently review the financial and operational performances of the services listed in 2.

4. To continue to lobby central government (HM Treasury, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (formerly the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government), Department for Health and Social Care, Department for Transport, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and Department for Education in particular) along with local authority peers and networks and the Local Government Association for the funding necessary to cope with the demands and new burdens presenting as a result of both Covid and within Children's Services.

**21.0 Date of Decision:**

21.1 8 November 2021

**22.0 Reason(s) for decision:**

22.1 To ensure financial performance against the Council's Revenue Budget and its reserves and balances is kept under timely review by members.

**23.0 Date Decision published:**

23.1 9 November 2021

**24.0 Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:**

24.1 The Executive noted that there were no alternative options for consideration.

**25.0 Executive Members present:**

25.1 Councillor L Williams

Councillor Benson, Campbell, Farrell, Hobson, Hugo, Smith and Taylor.

**26.0 Call-in:**

26.1

**27.0 Notes:**

27.1 The following non-Executive member was in attendance: Councillor Hunter.