

<b>Notice of :</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE</b>
<b>Decision Number:</b>	EX64/2021
<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>	6 December 2021

## **FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE MONITORING AS AT MONTH 7 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 7 months to 31 October 2021.

### **2.0 Recommendation(s):**

2.1 To note the report.

2.2 To agree to transition out the Growth and Prosperity net revenue budget target over a 2-year period, 2022/23-23/24, with any proceeds subsequently realised from the existing work programme being directed to bolstering reserves and any new proceeds being retained by Growth and Prosperity for their re-investment [para 3.4 of the report].

2.3 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.

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

2.5 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 2a - Chief Executive

Appendix 2b - Governance and Partnership Services

Appendices 2b/c - Ward Budgets

Appendix 2d - Resources

Appendix 2e – Communications and Regeneration

Appendix 2f - Strategic Leisure Assets

Appendix 2g – Growth and Prosperity

Appendix 2h - Community and Environmental Services

Appendix 2i - Adult Services

Appendix 2j - Children's Services

Appendix 2k - Public Health

Appendix 2l - Budgets Outside the Cash Limit  
Appendix 2m – Wholly-owned companies  
Appendix 3 – Covid-19 Funding  
Appendix 4 – Budget Savings performance  
Appendix 5 - Capital Monitoring  
Appendix 6 - Cash Flow Summary  
Appendix 7 - 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 specifically highlighting the changes in position since the month 5 monitoring report had been presented to the 8 November 2021 meeting. In response to question Mr Thompson explained that without further information on any extension to government Covid grants, the Council must work under the assumption that no further grants would be made available by central government. Mr Thompson also explained the steps being undertaken to maximise the collection rate for Non-Domestic Rates.

**20.0 Executive decision:**

20.1 The Executive agreed the recommendations as outlined above namely:

1. To note the report.

2. To agree to transition out the Growth and Prosperity net revenue budget target over a 2-year period, 2022/23-23/24, with any proceeds subsequently realised from the existing work programme being directed to bolstering reserves and any new proceeds being retained by Growth and Prosperity for their re-investment [para 3.4 of the report].
3. 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.
4. To prompt the Scrutiny Leadership Board to continue to independently review the financial and operational performances of the services listed in decision 3.
5. 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:**

21.0 6 December 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 7 December 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 in attendance:**

25.1 Councillor L Williams

Councillor Brookes, Farrell, Hobson, Smith and Taylor.

**26.0 Call-in:**

26.1

**27.0 Notes:**

27.1