

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR FINANCE, INFRASTRUCTURE & IMPROVEMENT

COMMUNITIES AND PLACE PERFORMANCE AND FINANCE REPORT FOR QUARTER 1 PLACE CORE DATA SET

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide the Committee with an update of finance and information for Communities and Place for quarter 1 2020/21 (1 April 2020 to 30 June 2020).

Background

2. The Council's Planning and Performance Framework establishes the approach that the Council takes to planning and managing its performance to deliver effective and responsive services.
3. The Council agreed that the key measures of its performance will be defined through a number of core data sets which are detailed in its Council Plan and each of its Departmental Strategies. Performance against these core data sets is reported to committee every three months (quarterly) to support the performance management of the delivery of services.
4. Due to the disruption and uncertainty caused by COVID-19, performance against our key measures has been significantly impacted as the majority of our services were suspended and/or have been operating differently. In light of this, a piece of work is being undertaken to review the performance framework and annual targets to ensure that measuring of our services during the year is meaningful. The outcome of the review will be reported to a future Committee for Members consideration.

Financial Performance

5. The 2020/21 revenue budget for the Communities and Place Committee is £128.102 million. As at period 3 the forecast outturn against this budget is £136.292 million resulting in a forecast overspend of £8.190 million. The majority of the forecast overspend, £7.999 million, is due to COVID-19 and £191,000 due to other factors.
6. A summary of the Community and Place financial performance is included as Appendix B. The main reasons for the forecast overspend are set out below.

7. Highways is forecasting on overspend of £1.214 million. Most of the forecast overspend is due to a loss of s38/s278 income arising from reduced planning applications (£625,000), on-going expenditure and reduced income in relation to the Civil Parking Unit (£433,000) and reduced income from searches and TTROs (£61,000).
8. Transport is forecasting an overspend of £2.527 million. The major contributing variances are:-
 - SEND Home to School (HtS) costs are forecast to be overspent by £1 million caused by an increase in the number of pupils requiring transport. This is driven by the upturn in EHCP (educational health care plans) of which 47% are then assessed for SEN transport.
 - There is an overspend on mainstream HtS transport of £500,000 due to the increase in pupil numbers and capacity limits at the closest designated school, necessitating transport to alternative educational establishments either by bus or taxi.
 - There is a forecast overspend of £300,000 in Post-16 transport due to reduced income from grants and passes due to schools being closed from March.
 - Other additional expenditure and income losses within transport due to COVID-19 total £363,000 and include loss of bus lane enforcement fines, £220,000, reduced departure charges from bus stations, £122,000, and a delay to the staff reorganisation at Mansfield Bus Station, £13,000.
9. Transport overspends - not as a result of COVID-19 - are £75k on local bus services, caused by the cost of services including covering some by fleet. Some of the overspend has been offset by salary savings of £30k, resulting in a net overspend of £45k.
10. An overspend of £1 million is being forecast in respect of the National Water Sports Centre. The centre is managed by Serco Leisure Ltd and has been severely affected by the closure of the leisure facilities as a result of both the COVID 19 pandemic and from flooding in November 19 and February 20. The Council has agreed to make additional monthly payments to compensate for trading/income losses arising from closures due to COVID-19, forecast £900,000, and uninsured losses resulting from the flooding of £100,000.
11. An overspend of £1.759 million is being forecast on the County Council's budget for the Coroner's service. This forecast overspend is largely due to the council's contribution of £1.67 million to the estimated additional cost of creating a temporary body storage capacity commensurate with the government's reasonable worst-case scenario for Covid-19 related deaths in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. There is also a forecast increase in the annual cost of mortuary services of £90,000 of which £80,000 is COVID-19 related.

Other Options Considered

12. This report is provided as part of the Committee's constitutional requirement to consider performance of all areas within its terms of reference on a quarterly basis. The

departmental strategy was agreed on 24 January 2018 and the format and frequency of performance reporting were agreed by Improvement and Change Sub Committee on 12 March 2018. Due to the nature of the report no other options were considered appropriate.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

13. This report is provided as part of the Committee's constitutional requirement to consider performance of areas within its terms of reference on a quarterly basis.

Statutory and Policy Implications

14. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) That Committee considers whether there are any actions it requires in relation to the financial information on the Council's services for communities and place for the period 1 April 2020 to 30 June 2020.
- 2) That Committee give approval to bring revised performance framework to a future meeting accounting for the impact of COVID-19.

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Constitutional Comments (SS 24/08/2020)

1. The Communities and Place Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of the report. If Committee resolves that any actions are required, it must be satisfied that such actions are within the Committee's terms of reference.

Financial Comments (RWK 03/08/2020)

2. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from the report. The financial performance of the Communities and Place Committee up to the end of Q1 is set out in paragraphs 5 to 12 and Appendix A.

Background Papers and Published Documents

None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All