

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

12 DECEMBER 2022

1. MONITORING OF FINANCES

Report of the Treasurer.

RECOMMENDED

- 1.1 THAT the report be noted.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 This report deals with the monitoring of the finances of the Authority in the current financial year and covers revenue expenditure and the Capital Programme.
- 2.2 Expenditure is compared with a profile of the Authority's budget.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Revenue Expenditure

- 3.1.1 The Authority's 2022/2023 Council Tax requirement is £49.405 million and the revenue budget is £108.303 million.
- 3.1.2 Appendix A compares the revenue budgeted to the end of October 2022 with the actuals to that date. Devolved budgets are managed by the Section responsible for incurring the expenditure as opposed to corporate budgets, which are managed by the named Section on behalf of the Brigade as a whole.
- 3.1.3 Actual spend to October 2022, including commitments, was £62.860 million compared to a projected budget of £62.684 million, an overall adverse variance of £0.176 million.

3.1.4 As part of the Authority's 2023/24 budget setting process, the current year's budget is being fundamentally reviewed to address the net overspend position.

3.1.5 In addition, the commentary above and information contained within Appendix A does not reflect the revenue budget pressures anticipated to arise from pay awards in the current year. This matter was considered at the Fire Authority meeting on 10 October 2022, with any additional costs above the 2% budget assumption being met from reserves.

3.1.6 Appendix B provides statistical data relating to the Firefighters' Pension Scheme.

3.2 **Capital Expenditure**

3.2.1 The Authority's approved capital programme for 2022/2023 is £6.569 million. A scheme analysis is shown on Appendix C. Expenditure to the end of October 2022 is shown as £2.224 million.

3.2.2 The main forecast variances within the capital programme relate to:

- Vehicle Replacement Programme slippage
 - o 3 * Brigade Response Vehicles
 - o 2 * Welfare Vans
 - o 1 * Trailer
- the deferral of an additional burn room and welfare facility at Coventry Fire Station along with several other drill tower refurbishments.

4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

4.1 In preparing this report, an initial Equality Impact Assessment is not required and has not been carried out because the matters contained in this report do not relate to a policy change.

5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The course of action recommended in this report does not raise issues which should be drawn to the attention of the Authority's Monitoring Officer.

6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 These are contained in the body of the report and the attached Appendices.

7. **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 There are no financial implications.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Authority's Budget and Precept Report – February 2022
- Pay Award Update and Associated Budgetary Pressures – October 2022
- Finance Office Budget Monitoring Files

The contact officer for this report is Gary Taylor, Assistant Chief Fire Officer, telephone number 0121 380 6906.

MIKE GRIFFITHS
TREASURER

REVENUE MONITORING SUMMARY TO OCTOBER 2022

	BUDGET 2022/2023 £'000	PROFILED BUDGET £'000	ACTUALS + COMMIT -MENTS £'000	VARIANCE TO PROFILED BUDGET £'000
DEVOLVED BUDGETS				
Corporate Management	1,126	632	636	4
Corporate Charges	0	0	7	7
Portfolio & Organisational Intelligence	1,696	1,018	1,003	-15
Operations	2,475	1,623	1,711	88
Fire Control & Business Continuity	1,760	994	939	-55
Prevention	2,219	1,284	1,135	-149
Protection	4,923	2,916	2,935	19
Response, Policy & Organisational Assurance	1,503	874	945	71
Resourcing	6,048	3,857	3,936	79
Digital & Data	7,087	5,035	5,058	23
Communications & Engagement	909	535	552	17
People Support Services	620	363	377	14
Employee Relations	154	108	134	26
Organisational Development	58	34	36	2
Organisational Learning & People Development	4,221	2,668	2,678	10
Health, Safety & Wellbeing	2,588	1,784	1,799	15
CORPORATE BUDGETS				
Prevention	24	14	13	-1
Protection	-31	-46	-68	-22
Response, Policy & Organisational Assurance	-116	-53	-36	-17
Resourcing	18,390	7,950	7,900	-50
Digital & Data	132	2	0	-2
People Support Services	2,315	1,565	1,597	32
Employee Relations	130	73	92	19
Organisational Learning & People Development	125	73	87	14
Health, Safety & Wellbeing	48,508	28,573	28,582	9
Other Income & Expenditure	1,439	808	812	4

OFFICIAL

Appropriation to Reserves	-	-	-	-
TOTAL (NET BUDGET REQUIREMENT)	108,303	62,684	62,860	176
Core Funding	-58,898	-34,630	-34,630	0
TOTAL (COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENT)	49,405	28,054	28,230	176

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FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION SCHEMES

NON-FINANCIAL INFORMATION	2022/23 PROJECTION				ACTUAL POSITION AS AT OCTOBER 2022			
	1992 FPS	2006 FPS	2015 FPS	TOTAL	1992 FPS	2006 FPS	2015 FPS	TOTAL
Members of FPS at 1st April 2022	-	-	1,243	1,243	-	-	1,243	1,243
New Members	-	-	70	70	-	-	23	23
Opt-In (including net auto-enrolment)	-	-	12	12	-	-	48	48
Transitional Members during year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers from Other Pension Schemes	-	-	5	5	-	-	-	-
Transfers to Other Pension Schemes	-	-	-2	-2	-	-	-	-
Retirements	-	-	-55	-55	-	-	-37	-37
Opt-Out	-	-	-12	-12	-	-	-17	-17
Leavers	-	-	-12	-12	-	-	-1	-1
Ill-Health Retirements	-	-	-3	-3	-	-	-1	-1
Members of the Fire Pension Schemes as at 31st October 2022	-	-			-	-	1,258	1,258

CAPITAL MONITORING STATEMENT 2022/23

Scheme	Year 2022/23	Latest Budget £'000	Actuals October 2022 £'000	Forecast £'000	Variance £'000
<u>LAND & BUILDINGS</u>					
Boiler Replacement Programme	Ongoing	15	-	-	-15
Roof Replacements	Ongoing	1,091	150	1,091	-
Windows/Door Replacement	Ongoing	683	11	669	-14
Rewires	Ongoing	175	-	175	-
Drill Tower and Burn Facility	5 of 5	635	73	195	-440
Other Building Modifications	3 of 3	11	10	10	-1
Security Works	4 of 4	47	-	47	-
HQ Alterations	2 of 2	109	29	109	-
OHW Works	4 of 4	17	7	12	-5
Aston Fire Station	8 of 8	61	54	61	-
<u>VEHICLES</u>					
Vehicle Replacement Programme	Ongoing	3,576	1,865	3,086	-490
<u>ICT & EQUIPMENT</u>					
C&C Upgrade-Vision 4/ESMCP	5 of 5	149	25	149	-
Grand Total		6,569	2,224	5,604	-965
<u>Funded By</u>					
Prudential Borrowing		0		0	-
Capital Grants/Contributions		74		74	-
Capital Receipts to be Applied		0		0	-
Revenue Financing/Earmarked Reserves		6,495		5,530	-965
TOTAL		6,569		5,604	-965
SURPLUS(-)/DEFICIT(+)					