

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

4 OCTOBER 2021

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 2020/2021 Council Tax requirement is £45.038 million and the revenue budget is £101.749 million.

3.1.2 Appendix A compares the revenue budgeted to the end of August 2021 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 August 2021, including commitments, was £42.597 million compared to a projected budget of £42.825 million, an overall favourable variance of £0.228 million.

3.1.4 The most significant variances relate to an overall adverse variance within Organisational Learning & People Development due to

additional posts. This is offset by an overall favourable variance within Community Safety and Children & Young People due to vacancies and on the Operational pay budget.

3.1.5 The monitoring statement includes the 1.5% pay award for Grey Book staff which was applicable from 1st July 2021. The pay award for Green Book staff remains outstanding and therefore the impact is not reflected in the monitoring statement.

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 2021/2022 is £8.100 million. A scheme analysis is shown on Appendix C. Expenditure to the end of August 2021 is shown as £2.258 million.

3.2.2 The main forecast variance within the capital programme relates to:

- Vehicle Replacement Programme – delayed purchase to 2022/23 of the:
 - Command Support Vehicle,
 - Water Units,
 - Toilet Trailers,
 - Demountable Lounge Fire Unit (Community Fire Safety demonstration unit),
 - Toolcat.
- Roof replacement at Transport Engineering Workshops has been delayed due to the need to retender.

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.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Authority's Budget and Precept Report – February 2021
Finance Office Budget Monitoring Files

The contact officer for this report is Wayne Brown, Deputy Chief Fire Officer, telephone number 0121 380 6907.

MIKE GRIFFITHS
TREASURER

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| REVENUE MONITORING SUMMARY TO AUGUST 2021 |
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| | LATEST BUDGET 2021/2022 £'000 | PROFILED BUDGET £'000 | ACTUALS + COMMIT -MENTS £'000 | VARIANCE TO PROFILED BUDGET £'000 |
|--|--|-----------------------------|--|--|
| DEVOLVED BUDGETS | | | | |
| Corporate Management | 1,135 | 482 | 459 | -23 |
| Strategic Hub | 598 | 252 | 237 | -15 |
| Portfolio & Organisational Intelligence | 1,035 | 469 | 459 | -10 |
| Ops North, Preparedness & Response | 2,159 | 777 | 730 | -47 |
| Ops South & Fire Control | 2,466 | 1,015 | 946 | -69 |
| Prevention | 6,368 | 2,560 | 2,424 | -136 |
| Protection | 478 | 211 | 235 | 24 |
| Resourcing | 5,738 | 2,402 | 2,439 | 37 |
| Digital & Data | 5,484 | 2,530 | 2,507 | -23 |
| Policy & Organisational Assurance | 770 | 352 | 342 | -10 |
| Communications & Engagement | 1,014 | 448 | 452 | 4 |
| People Support Services | 525 | 216 | 215 | -1 |
| Employee Relations | 246 | 132 | 152 | 20 |
| Organisational Development | 58 | 24 | 25 | 1 |
| Organisational Learning & People Development | 4,200 | 1,784 | 1,903 | 119 |
| Health, Safety & Wellbeing | 2,518 | 1,231 | 1,196 | -35 |
| CORPORATE BUDGETS | | | | |
| Ops North, Preparedness & Response | -116 | 20 | 29 | 9 |
| Prevention | 24 | 10 | 6 | -4 |
| Protection | 28 | -57 | -59 | -2 |
| Resourcing | 15,848 | 6,745 | 6,776 | 31 |
| Digital & Data | 132 | 82 | 83 | 1 |
| People Support Services | 2,230 | 988 | 1,007 | 19 |
| Employee Relations | 105 | 45 | 41 | -4 |
| Organisational Learning & People Development | 106 | 48 | 46 | -2 |
| Health, Safety & Wellbeing | 47,001 | 19,603 | 19,492 | -111 |
| Other Income & Expenditure | 1,599 | 456 | 455 | -1 |

OFFICIAL

| | | | | |
|--|----------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| Appropriation to Reserves | - | - | - | - |
| TOTAL (NET BUDGET REQUIREMENT) | 101,749 | 42,825 | 42,597 | -228 |
| Core Funding | -56,711 | -27,674 | -27,674 | - |
| TOTAL (COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENT) | 45,038 | 15,151 | 14,923 | -228 |

OFFICIAL

FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION SCHEMES

| NON-FINANCIAL INFORMATION | 2021/22 PROJECTION | | | | ACTUAL POSITION AS AT AUGUST 2021 | | | |
|--|--------------------|----------|----------|-------|-----------------------------------|----------|----------|-------|
| | 1992 FPS | 2006 FPS | 2015 FPS | TOTAL | 1992 FPS | 2006 FPS | 2015 FPS | TOTAL |
| Members of FPS at 1 st April 2021 | 76 | 6 | 1,169 | 1,251 | 76 | 6 | 1,169 | 1,251 |
| New Members | - | - | 82 | 82 | - | - | 16 | 16 |
| Opt-In (including net auto-enrolment) | - | - | 10 | 10 | - | - | 2 | 2 |
| Transitional Members during year | -32 | - | 32 | - | -1 | -1 | 2 | - |
| Transfers from Other Pension Schemes | - | - | 4 | 4 | - | - | - | - |
| Transfers to Other Pension Schemes | - | - | -4 | -4 | - | - | - | - |
| Retirements | -44 | -6 | -26 | -76 | -17 | -2 | -9 | -28 |
| Opt-Out | | | -5 | -5 | - | -1 | -1 | -2 |
| Leavers | | | -5 | -5 | - | - | - | - |
| Ill-Health Retirements | | | -2 | -2 | - | - | - | - |
| Members of the Fire Pension Schemes as at 31 August 2021 | | | | | 58 | 2 | 1,179 | 1,239 |

CAPITAL MONITORING STATEMENT 2021/22

| Scheme | Year 2021/22 | Latest Budget | Actuals August 21 | Forecast | Variance |
|--|-----------------|------------------|----------------------|--------------|---------------|
| | | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| <u>LAND & BUILDINGS</u> | | | | | |
| Boiler Replacement Programme | Ongoing | 285 | 141 | 280 | -5 |
| Roof Replacements | Ongoing | 892 | 0 | 392 | -500 |
| Windows/Door Replacement | Ongoing | 677 | 0 | 681 | 4 |
| Rewires | Ongoing | 399 | 108 | 399 | - |
| Drill Tower and Burn Facility | 1 of 2 | 689 | 316 | 689 | - |
| Other Building Modifications | 2 of 2 | 59 | 18 | 59 | - |
| Security Works | 3 of 3 | 73 | 23 | 86 | 13 |
| Occupational Health Relocation | 3 of 3 | 36 | 21 | 36 | - |
| Aston Fire Station | 7 of 7 | 97 | 12 | 87 | -10 |
| Health & Safety Works (COVID) | 2 of 2 | 320 | 286 | 320 | - |
| <u>VEHICLES</u> | | | | | |
| Vehicle Replacement Programme | Ongoing | 4,423 | 1,332 | 3,673 | -750 |
| <u>ICT & EQUIPMENT</u> | | | | | |
| C&C Upgrade-Vision 4/ESMCP | 4 of 4 | 150 | 1 | 150 | - |
| Grand Total | | 8,100 | 2,258 | 6,852 | -1,248 |
| <u>Funded By</u> | | | | | |
| Prudential Borrowing | | 0 | | 0 | - |
| Capital Grants / Contributions | | 74 | | 74 | - |
| Capital Receipts to be Applied | | 0 | | 0 | - |
| Revenue Financing / Earmarked Reserves | | 8,026 | | 6,778 | -1,248 |
| TOTAL | | 8,100 | | 6,852 | -1,248 |
| SURPLUS(-)/DEFICIT(+) | | | | | |