

EXECUTIVE

05 FEBRUARY 2019

REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board met on 31 January 2019 to consider a report on Revenue and Capital Monitoring Report.

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board supported the recommendations included in the report and received clarification and explanations on the following points:

- The Board queried the reported underspend on concessionary fares. Officers confirmed that this was a volatile budget area and reported that the underspend was due to the movement to a new model which reflected demand as opposed to fixed payments to contractors. The Board highlighted concern on the potential impact on local bus services, it was confirmed that this change in payment had been voluntary with the involvement of local bus operators. The Board supported smarter budgeting for demand led budgets as an area for future consideration.
- The Board highlighted the reported underspend of £3.163m identified under 'Enablers and Support to the Council Outcomes' and queried the reported £3.081m underspend on IMT Strategy and Support. Officers highlighted that there had been some delay in the work on the IT Strategy, but confirmed that an IMT Board was to be established to consider the on-going revenue budget implications of capital investment in IT Services. The Board supported receiving a Business Cases for future budget requirements in this area going forward.
- The Board highlighted the £1.338m overspend on the Historic Lincoln project and sought clarification that work was being undertaken to ensure external funding was received. Officers confirmed that the final claim for Heritage Lottery Fund would be submitted shortly and that the budget position would be known once all grant income was received.
- The Board highlighted the capital funding for Children are Safe and Healthy strategy was underspending. Officers responded that the underspend related to the foster carer capital fund. This budget is utilised when situations arise to provide solutions for current foster carers to accommodate siblings or an increased complexity of child. It ensures local solutions are achieved and delivers a cost effective revenue approach.
- The Board endorsed a suggestion that the Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee would receive regular capital programme budget monitoring reports from June 2019.
- The Board supported cost recovery activities as a method of offsetting overspends and highlighted the successful prosecution for the fire at Barkston Heath and the award of £0.226m to the Council.

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