



Finance and Corporate Services Scrutiny Board (1)

Time and Date

2.00 pm on Wednesday, 15th February, 2023

Place

Diamond Room 2 - Council House

Public Business**1. Apologies and Substitutions****2. Declarations of Interest****3. Minutes**

(a) To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2023 (Pages 3 - 6)

(b) Matters Arising

4. Reserve Balances (Pages 7 - 16)

Briefing note

5. CIPFA Resilience Index (Pages 17 - 28)

Briefing note

6. Work Programme and Outstanding Issues (Pages 29 - 32)

Report of the Scrutiny Co-ordinator

7. Any other items of Public Business

Any other items of public business which the Chair decides to take as matters of urgency because of the special circumstances involved

Private Business

Nil

Julie Newman, Chief Legal Officer, Council House, Coventry

Tuesday, 7 February 2023

Note: The person to contact about the agenda and documents for this meeting is Carolyn Sinclair carolyn.sinclair@coventry.gov.uk

Membership: Councillors R Auluck (Chair), J Blundell, R Brown (By Invitation), B Gittins, P Hetheron (By Invitation), R Lakha, J Lepoidevin, J McNicholas, S Nazir, E Ruane and T Sawdon

Public Access

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Carolyn Sinclair
carolyn.sinclair@coventry.gov.uk

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Finance and Corporate Services Scrutiny Board (1) held
at 2.00 pm on Wednesday, 11 January 2023

Present:

Members: Councillor R Auluck (Chair)
Councillor J Blundell
Councillor B Gittins
Councillor S Keough (substitute for Councillor J Lepoidevin)
Councillor R Lakha
Councillor J McNicholas
Councillor S Nazir
Councillor E Ruane
Councillor T Sawdon

Other Members: Councillor R Brown, Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources
Councillor P Hetherton, Cabinet Member for City Services
Councillor G Lloyd, Deputy Cabinet Member for City Services

Employees:

Law and Governance: V Castree, C Sinclair

Human Resources: S Newing

Customer & Business Services: A Bellingeri, L Waller

Health & Well-being: Rachel Chapman

ICT & Digital: A Simmonds, P Ward

Apologies: Councillor J Lepoidevin

Public Business

18. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

19. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 2022 were signed as a true record.

Matters Arising

The Board noted that in respect of Minute 15 (Recruitment & Selection and Tribepad)

- a) Recruiting for workforce diversity was being taken as a discussion item at the Member Training Panel
- b) A City Council structure chart and West Midlands vacancy data, which had been requested had now been circulated to members.

20. ICT and Digital Update

The Board considered a briefing note and presentation which provided an update on the ICT and Digital service and Strategy.

Updates were given on the following:

- Overview of progress towards the strategy
- Assurance investment and return
- Benchmarking to other similar authorities
- How fit for purpose ICT and Digital was for internal and external communications
- Integration between hardware and users
- Direction of travel, in particular, where was the biggest investment needed?

The following examples of progress were given:

- 2 data centres which were a fundamental part of the ICT & Digital infrastructure
- Relocation of Secondary data centre
- Establishment of a new co-located data facility with a strategic partner
- Moved servers, networking infrastructure and critical network connections
- Tested and improved overall resilience
- No downtime during the changes
- The offer of greater resilience at a lower level running cost

The Board questioned Officers and received responses on a number of matters relating to the presentation including:

- Digitising historical records
- Sharing IT services

In addition, the Board asked officers for an update on progress on the implementation of a caseworker software programme for Members and following discussion, the Board agreed that this was a matter of priority and would make a recommendation to the Cabinet Member that this be considered as such.

Following discussion, the Board asked for further information on:

- Details of the ICT budget for technology
- A copy of the Customer satisfaction survey
- Details of any shared IT services
- Information on data collected and opportunities to use it centrally

The Board resolved:

- a) **To note progress and future plans, including opportunities for engagement with scrutiny and for the digital inclusion workstream to enhance the lives of the City's residents through greater use of technology.**
- b) **To recommend to the Cabinet Member for City Services that a Member casework tool be introduced as soon as possible.**

21. **Digital Inclusion**

The Board received a briefing note and presentation which provided an update on the digital inclusion element of Coventry Connects.

In January 2022, initial information was shared with the Board on the emerging thinking around Coventry Connects. The briefing had introduced a number of different themes which would change the organisations approach to engagement with residents and identified digital inclusion as a specific programme focus. The presentation proved an update on progress.

The presentation included information on:

- The importance of digital inclusion
- Data on those most likely to be digitally excluded
- Connectivity
- Devices – developing projects
- Support and skills

The Board questioned Officers and received responses on a number of matters including

- Assistance for low-income families
- Working with partners and community groups

RESOLVED that the Board note the progress to date and future plans, including opportunities for engagement with scrutiny, for the digital inclusion workstream to enhance the lives of the City's residents through greater use of technology.

22. **Work Programme and Outstanding Issues**

The Board noted the Work Programme.

There were no outstanding issues.

23. **Any other items of Public Business**

There were no other items of public business.

(Meeting closed at 4.10 pm)

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Coventry City Council

Briefing note

To: Finance and Corporate Services Scrutiny Board (1)

Date: 15th February 2023

Subject: Reserve Balances

1 Purpose of the Note

1.1 The Scrutiny Board 1 work programme include an item to review the position in relation to the Council reserve balances. Information has been provided in an Appendix to this report which shows balances for each individual reserve areas over a two year period. These are listed in the size of the balance in April 2022 (largest first) within categories. In addition, a brief description has been provided for each balance.

2 Recommendations

Members of Scrutiny Board are recommended to:

- 2.1 Note the contents of the presentation and the detailed reserves listing.
- 2.2 Identify any recommendations for the Cabinet Member (Strategic Finance and Resources)

3 Information/Background

3.1 The Council's total level of non-schools revenue reserves stood at £140.5m at 31st March 2022 and capital reserve were £36.7m. The Council is also required to account for £31.0m of reserve balances that belong to the city's schools or are funded from Dedicated Schools Grant and are therefore ring- fenced for schools' usage.

3.2 It should be noted that in addition the Council's reserve balances include an extra-ordinary balance of £18.6m at the end of 2021/22. Government Covid Business Rates reliefs announced for 2021/22 had the effect of reducing the amount of Business Rates payable in-year causing a deficit within the Business Rates Collection Fund. Accounting rules mean that the corresponding grant (from Government) cannot be applied to the Collection Fund until 2022/23 and must be carried forward within General Fund reserves. This treatment will be common to all billing authorities across England. To ensure like for like comparisons this balance is treated as an extra-ordinary item here.

3.3 There are several reserve balances that warrant initial coverage due to their value.

- A range of reserves relating to Adult Social Care in excess of £28m are held representing Health resources rolled forward through the Better Care Fund, to meet pressures within Adult Social Care as part of the budget setting process, to fund projects in 2022/23 and as in-year undespends of iBCF resources.
- Reserves totalling £11m held as a legacy from the Covid pandemic which the Council will utilise as part of its overall response to ongoing budgetary issues.
- Reserves held to fund future early retirement and voluntary redundancy costs resulting from programmes to deliver the staffing savings required to balance the budget. This stands at £9.3m currently.
- A further £9.6m of reserve are held to manage the cashflow requirements of the financial models for the Council's 3 Private Finance Initiative schemes. These

reserves will be uses (and the balance will fluctuate) over the 25-year plus lifetimes of the schemes

- Capital receipts (proceeds from the sale of capital assets) have been generated in recent years and these amounted to £31.2m at the end of 2021/22. These receipts will or may be required to fund several developments over the coming period include the Council's investment in City Centre South, the Woodlands School rebuild and the Cultural Gateway Project and the revenue saving (funding of capital expenditure included in the 2023/24 Budget).

Name Paul Jennings
Job Title Finance Manager
Contact Details 02476 977228 paul.jennings@coventry.gov.uk

Reserves Analysis 2021/22

Title	Description	Apr-21	Movement	Apr-22
Non-Grant Funded Revenue				
Timing reserve - to meet impact in 2021-22 of NDR deficit (additional COVID-19 reliefs)	Government Covid Business Rates reliefs announced in 2021/22 had the effect of reducing the amount of Business Rates payable in-year causing a Business Rates Collection Fund deficit. Accounting rules mean that the corresponding grant (from Government) cannot be applied to the Collection Fund until 2022/23 and must be carried forward within General Fund reserves. This treatment will be common to all billing authorities across England. The value of this has fallen following a similar event in 2020/21.	(48,302,161)	29,667,000	(18,635,161)
COVID-19	The unused amount of Covid resources set aside and held to manage medium term Covid legacy issues.	(7,558,000)	(3,423,000)	(10,981,000)
General Fund Balance	The General Fund is held to manage unforeseen risks to the Council's overall financial position. Any in-year overspend at the whole-Council level would be funded by this reserve.	(10,277,193)	0	(10,277,193)
Private Finance Initiative	Resources earmarked to support the Caludon Castle, New Homes For Old and Street Lighting PFI schemes over a 25 year period subject to the individual decisions to establish each of these schemes. The schemes' financial models show how these reserves will be utilised over time. 2016/17 Budget Setting approved the cash-flowed use of this reserve to support the Council's overall budget at £1m per year to be repaid from the mid 2020s which is reflected here.	(11,122,455)	1,302,602	(9,819,853)
Pension Strain	Funding for early retirement and voluntary redundancy established as part of Staffing Reductions Consultation Report - Council 9th September 2015 and further contribution agreed as part of the 2018/19 Outturn Report to Cabinet.	(9,323,263)	0	(9,323,263)
Business Rates	Budgeted contributions set aside as future protection against Business Rates volatility. Recent significant appeals continue to justify a significant balance being maintained.	(7,735,088)	0	(7,735,088)
Innovation and Development Fund	Approved by Council in February 2021 as a fund to sustain the Council's future financial resilience. This could include internal transformation activity and strategic infrastructure projects in particular where these generate future quantifiable financial benefits.	(5,549,000)	50,000	(5,499,000)
Reset and Recovery	Revenue budgetary underspend at 2019/20 outturn earmarked to support the Council's reset and recovery following Covid. The budgetary position in either 2022/23 or 2023/24 may require this reserve to be utilised to underpin the Council's financial position.	(5,467,000)	0	(5,467,000)
2020/21 Outturn Underspend - Policy Priorities	Approved as part of the 2020/21 Outturn Report to Cabinet in July 2021 and set aside to fund corporate priorities including Very Light Rail.	(5,225,000)	527,000	(4,698,000)
City of Culture 2021 and 2022 Commonwealth Games	Corporate resources approved in the 2018/19 budget, profiled over 4 years. The balances represent allocations carried forward to reflect spend carried out later than planned, in some cases due to the delay in the City of Culture, but also some costs being deferred to cover liabilities in respect of the city's role as host for the 2022 Commonwealth Games.	(4,964,238)	1,059,924	(3,904,314)
Corporate - Capital	Resources earmarked to support approved corporate Capital Programme and transformation projects including Woodlands School (£1m), DFG repayments (£0.2m) and Public Realm funding (£0.2m)	(4,028,200)	617,884	(3,410,316)
Commercial Developments	Agreed as part of the 2018/19 Financial Outturn Report to support the Council's commercial development projects.	(3,750,000)	402,000	(3,348,000)
2020/21 Outturn Underspend - Provision Against Shocks	Approved as part of the 2020/21 outturn Report to Cabinet in July 2021.	(3,000,000)	0	(3,000,000)
Friargate Lifecycle	A property fund to ensure maintenance costs expected to increase in years 5-10 are not a burden on annual budgets	(1,377,507)	(216,901)	(1,594,408)
COVID19 Emergency Assistance and Clinically Extremely Vulnerable Grants	Part of corporate balances to fund any Covid legacy issues.	(537,000)	(960,000)	(1,497,000)

Title	Description	Apr-21	Movement	Apr-22
Insurance Reserve	The reserve has traditionally provided financial security for insurance claims arising out of incidents that may have occurred but for which claims have not yet been received. However, in recent years it has been utilised to fund insurance budget pressures including income loss caused by the move of some LEA schools to the Department of Education Risk Protection Arrangement and increased premiums.	(2,048,737)	551,838	(1,496,898)
Corporate Property Management	Slippage on large value repairs and maintenance projects to be completed in 2021/22 and beyond	(1,393,900)	25,000	(1,368,900)
2021/22 Outturn Underspend - Provision Against Shocks	Balance set aside at 2021/22 outturn to help manage anticipated financial shocks to the Council's budget position.	0	(1,233,899)	(1,233,899)
City of Culture	Cabinet approved allocations to support the 2021 UK City of Culture, in addition £200k match funding for the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum.	(2,579,111)	1,500,000	(1,079,111)
2020/21 Outturn Underspend - Pay & Grading	Approved as part of the 2020/21 Outturn Report to Cabinet in July 2021. Anticipated that this will be used to manage employee cost overspends in 2022/23	(1,000,000)	0	(1,000,000)
Other Corporate Balances	A range of smaller balances set aside for purposes including contributions to major project expenditure (£474k), repayment of Health contributions (£129k) and Hybrid meeting rooms (£150k).	(2,147,846)	1,231,000	(916,846)
Commercial property stock lifecycle	Property stock life-cycle balance including a £500k general sinking fund and £320k slippage in major building and repairs and maintenance work.	(1,437,700)	532,000	(905,700)
International Children's Games	ICG contribution approved by Cabinet in June 2020.	(920,000)	75,000	(845,000)
Coventry City Centre Regeneration	City Centre South Project development costs resources. Original Cabinet approval award of £880k to deliver City Centre South, together with short term rents from CCS acquired properties. These resources are needed to supplement development cost funding from the WMCA	(300,111)	(340,097)	(640,208)
Transformation Programme Office	This balance is held to fund the short term cost of external consultants or employ temporary posts to support delivery of the Council's medium term financial strategy and transformation programme.	(311,803)	(120,084)	(431,887)
Housing Enforcement and Mandatory Licensing	Ring-fenced account. Licence fees are received in advance and are required to fund costs over a period of years.	(235,170)	(193,719)	(428,888)
Contribution to Major Project Spend	Approved as part of the 2019/20 2nd quarter budget monitoring report to provide funds to support the development of major Council projects.	(669,000)	319,000	(350,000)
Climate change	Pump priming funding to fund team across next 2 years and pay for feasibility work required for climate change one Coventry ambitions. Sits in property under energy management team	0	(307,463)	(307,463)
BBC big weekend	Funding for BBC event in 2022/23.	0	(294,836)	(294,836)
PC Replacement Programme	This represents the smoothing reserve used to manage the rolling corporate programme of laptop & PC replacement. The international impact of the pandemic has lead to longer lead in times for IT equipment purchases necessitating a roll over of resources from the programme to manage orders still to be fulfilled.	(287,471)	26,606	(260,865)
Sports investment legacy costs	Intially set up to provide cashflow support to Coventry Sport Trust (Fairfax Street), now earmarked for wider sports portfolio inc investment in Gym equipment at Moat House, set up costs for CCDLF and opportunities to reduce Prudential borrowing costs.	(443,027)	186,171	(256,857)
Committed to support Cultural strategy and development i.e. DMO	£103k readiness for DMO, £100k for Arts connect match, residual £37k	(381,354)	141,354	(240,000)
People Directorate Programme Team	This balance represents the Transition Fund established as part of the Connecting Communities Programme, with a clear process of applications and award to organisations.	(213,760)	(1,520)	(215,280)
Planning Policy	Smoothing reserve set aside to fund (ongoing) cost of c2 x Section 106 monitoring posts in Planning	(88,766)	(123,819)	(212,585)
Project Management	Residual smoothing reserve relating to NDC Spirit quarters professional fees obligations (previously core funded - budget given back corporately). To be drawn down over next 3 years.	0	(202,982)	(202,982)

Title	Description	Apr-21	Movement	Apr-22
Project Delivery / Capital support	Gigafactory resource committed to spend in 22/24	0	(202,424)	(202,424)
ICT & Digital - corporately funded temporary staffing resource	One off corporate funding for staffing support to the systems integration and data team.	0	(199,400)	(199,400)
Waste Disposal - Landfill Penalty	Anticipated liability for Landfill Tonnage penalties.	(188,002)	0	(188,002)
Community Small Grants	Community Small Grants Scheme expanded to provide recovery support grants to voluntary and community sector organisations impacted directly by the pandemic or by an increase in demand caused by it. Other COVID funding has enabled this funding to be extended	(154,626)	0	(154,626)
COVID-19 Implications	Set aside for unbudgeted staffing costs due to Covid related accrued leave.	(120,000)	0	(120,000)
Adoption Agency Support	Smoothing reserve - rebate from previous years underspend on regional adoption agency held on account to cover future year rises. Will be drawn down in full during 2023-24	0	(108,629)	(108,629)
S4G - skills for growth programme	To be drawn down into revenue to support the programme in 22/23	(105,040)	0	(105,040)
External Funding and Business Development Team	Reserves earmarked together with core revenue as match funding to lever in new grant.	(259,017)	179,000	(80,017)
Our Future Workforce	This reserve contains the resources identified to support the development of the workforce programme	(280,371)	202,602	(77,769)
Community Support Team	Unused Client Budget for Community Support Team following other grants being identified to meet the need in the short term. Will be needed to continue support once other grants drop out	0	(75,825)	(75,825)
Sustainability & Low Carbon Team	Earmarked to pump prime the funding of staff costs which will be used as match funding for grant income generation and selling business sustain services, which will help achieve the service MTFs commercialisation targets.	(86,676)	19,676	(67,000)
Outdoor Education Centre	Continuation of agreement that surpluses from prior years should be retained to offset professional fees associated with the Centre's redevelopment proposals. A condition assessment of the existing estate is underway and funds may be needed for any historic larger capital repairs.	(67,844)	0	(67,844)
General Parks	Funding for the repairs to a Heritage Wall at Coombe in 22/23	0	(53,205)	(53,205)
Legacy Donation	Bequeathed money from a deceased's estate (external income) for the benefit of residents at Internally Provider Services.	(35,563)	514	(35,050)
Employee Benefits	NI & Superan savings from Employee Benefits scheme	0	(30,975)	(30,975)
SEN and Disability Information and Advice Support Service	This resource is ring-fenced as part of the contract with the Council for Disabled Children (CDC) to support the Information, Advice & Support Service (IASS) to enable it to fulfil its duties outlined in the Children & Families Act 2014. It has been agreed with CDC that the resource will continue to fund the additional staffing costs currently in place.	(27,614)	7,614	(20,000)
Training Adult's Services Commissioning	Training courses for Adult Ed staff which couldn't be delivered due to Covid (where possible, courses were moved online but some specific ones need to be delivered face to face due to physical elements).	(21,375)	7,048	(14,327)
Business Services	The reserve is held to support completion of digital projects in Customer Services.	(30,198)	20,000	(10,198)
Theatres and Public Entertainment	Funding for Albany Theatre support and Coventry Music Service proposed move to Drapers Hall	(20,713)	19,421	(1,292)
Friargate JV Contribution	Approved by Council in September 2020 to support the Friargate Joint Venture and its role to continue the regeneration of the Friargate district.	(750,000)	750,000	0

Title	Description	Apr-21	Movement	Apr-22
Car Parking General	Budget carried forward to address COVID related temporary parking pressures during 2021-22	(500,000)	500,000	0
Housing - Additional Licensing	Ring-fenced account, licence fees paid in advance are required to fund costs in future years.	(236,307)	236,307	0
Godiva Event	Residual 20/21 underspend after funding "City centre" events to restore confidence to the high street to generate footfall.	(51,000)	51,000	0
Taxi Licensing	Ringfenced Account - legal requirement. Licenses are planned to increase to recoup this debit balance.	13,319	23,423	36,742
Elections	Smoothing Reserve to manage volatility of Elections costs which vary with fallow year and with timing of grant funded national elections. Previously separate reserves for PCC and European elections. All now merged into this reserve.	48,006	(38,265)	9,741
		(145,546,882)	32,103,939	(113,442,943)
Capital				
Useable Capital Receipts Reserve	Receipts generated over recent years formerly set aside for future Capital Programme investments within current and future capital programmes. Current commitments include; Friargate hotel site (£4.5m); City of Culture Readiness (£1.9m); Duplex Loan Fund (£1.1m); and Coombe repayable loan (£1m).	(24,736,193)	(6,451,194)	(31,187,387)
Capital Grants Unapplied Account	Grant funding received in advance of spend, whereby there are no specific grant conditions to spend in the year. The funding reflects the decision made as part of the Council's Corporate Capital Programme.	(1,827,619)	(3,641,219)	(5,468,838)
		(26,563,811)	(10,092,413)	(36,656,225)
Grant Funded Revenue				
Joint Social Care and Health schemes funded through s256, Care Act Grant and Better Care Fund	The majority of this balance represents Health resources rolled forward through the Better Care Fund pooled budget and Mental Health pooled budget. These resources are managed through the Adult Joint Commissioning Group.	(13,268,390)	(15,836,349)	(29,104,738)
Air Quality Early Measures	Grant received for implementation of the air quality action plan. To be utilised in 2021-22/2022-23	(4,516,644)	284,415	(4,232,229)
Public Health Staffing & Overheads	The Public Health Reserves is made up of a number of different elements including balances held on behalf of the Clinical Commissioning Group, West Midlands Association of Directors of Public Health, MHCLG, NHSE and WMCA, match funding for other grants and resources to fund specific areas of activity e.g. Lets Ride, Wellbeing for Life, Activity in Parks, HIV testing, Immunisations campaigns.	(1,013,305)	(1,455,548)	(2,468,853)
DFE - Troubled Families	Troubled families grant carry forward is committed to fund short term Early Help pressures until an Early Help full service review can be carried out. Expected to be utilised in full during 2022-23 & 2023-24.	(761,149)	(471,061)	(1,232,210)
SFPC-Leeds Family Valued Programme Management	Grant payment for Coventry Family Valued Programme (2 year grant programme), approved slippage held on reserves for use in 2023-24 when grant falls out.	(639,437)	(589,642)	(1,229,079)
Employment Programme	Surplus earned from programmes which is retained for the following reasons: There is a risk of clawback of funds following audit, there is a potential risk of clawback of funds for underperformance – impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and staff leaving early as projects come to a close in 2023, there will be a 1-2 year gap in availability of grant once this ESF round ends and the surplus helps to maintain the Job Shop in the interim, the amount of available funds through the ESF replacement grant – UKSPF is substantially lower – these funds form part of the approach to reduce negative impact and transition to new delivery arrangements. Once this ESF round closes the surplus may also act as a leverage to draw in new grant sources and investment for the city.	(861,167)	(360,580)	(1,221,746)

Title	Description	Apr-21	Movement	Apr-22
Adult Ed Income including Grants/Fees	This reserve is made up of two elements, 16-19 Bursary (£146k) and Adult Skills (£940k). The year end for Adult Education is 31 July 2022. ESFA and WMCA then undertake a review of delivery over the academic year and adjust resource accordingly. This can result in a clawback of resource, with any clawback amount finalised in November 2022 for the academic year 21/22. At the end of the academic year, neither ESFA nor WMCA are making allowance for the impact of Covid in the academic year 21/22, despite the main enrolment for the academic year (September 2021) being significantly affected by Covid. Therefore, it is very likely that there will be clawback when final reconciliations are completed. The bursary element is held for a specific purpose, and it is recommended that the remainder is held in reserve to offset financial risk following a DfE consultation on the future of Adult Education funding.	(1,004,516)	(81,617)	(1,086,133)
Homelessness	Grant carry forward to pay for Housing Advisor contract.	(15,200)	(749,761)	(764,961)
Migration Project B	To deliver the requirements of the grant conditions for the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme and the Resettlement of Vulnerable Children's Scheme, for people arriving in the City since November 2017.	(273,504)	(287,938)	(561,441)
City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS)	DfT revenue capacity funding to be used to support building longer-term local transport planning and delivery capacity. It is ring-fenced for transport expenditure.	0	(513,378)	(513,378)
Individual Electoral Registration	Additional costs of IER have been funded by the Cabinet Office, however it is unclear how long the additional funding will continue. A decision was made when IER was introduced to maintain a reserve to manage this uncertainty around future funding whilst additional costs are being incurred.	(351,168)	(64,988)	(416,156)
Family, Drug and Alcohol Court (FDAC)	DfE grant that supports the running of the Family, Drug and Alcohol Court partnership. Will be used during 2022-23 & 2023-24	0	(365,074)	(365,074)
Community Champions	This is the balance of a grant awarded by MHCLG spanning the end of 20/21 and 21/22 to improve work with hard to reach communities who are at risk of COVID .	(463,274)	135,708	(327,566)
Looked After Children - Virtual School	The Virtual School are receiving new burdens grants, firstly for new responsibilities concerning those children who were previously LAC and secondly for new duties concerning children with a social worker.	(106,186)	(100,000)	(206,186)
Community Support Grant	Unspent Community Support Grant budget in 2021-22 to be applied to Discretionary Hardship Payments fund in 2022-23.	(322,741)	121,591	(201,150)
Connecting Communities	To continue funding specific Migration projects (EMAS & IGNITE). Grant received in advance so carried forward to when it will be needed.	(204,174)	4,830	(199,344)
West Midlands Teaching Partnership (DFE)	Coventry City Council is leading this partnership and therefore holds the funding on behalf of all partners. This reserve is due to slippage or cancellation of events and there are plans to spend during 2023/24	(111,715)	(2,344)	(114,059)
European City of Sports	International Childrens Games funding	(73,000)	(39,025)	(112,025)
Arts Connect	Grant funding support arts sector	0	(93,797)	(93,797)
West Midlands Commissioning Hub	Underspend on partner contributions in 20-21, partly as a result of no events / conferences occurring. Discussions currently being has with Board regarding utilising these funds in 23/24 towards additional short term resource	(75,379)	(9,659)	(85,038)
SEN Reforms Grant	This is the remaining balance of our SEN Reforms Grant funding and it is being used to fund a fixed term post in SEN.	(78,123)	9,819	(68,304)

Title	Description	Apr-21	Movement	Apr-22
Apprentice Strategy	Financial assistance to support:- - any apprentice or young person on new Work Experience programme for school leavers that might need it - funding any additional apprenticeship development including temporary staffing resource or marketing above	(17,500)	(41,000)	(58,500)
Home Office-Proceeds of Crime Scheme	Funds specific anti-crime schemes. Some being used to fund apprentice.	(41,846)	0	(41,846)
SALIX Project	Not City Council resources. A revolving fund to provide small energy saving initiatives funding with paybacks	(16,624)	(24,390)	(41,014)
Growth Funding	Grant Funding for staff to administer growth deal projects	(40,000)	0	(40,000)
Independent Living and Practice Development	This is made up of 3 elements of funding received to support development of Social Workers as well as funding for part of a post. Funding has come from Cov Uni, BCF and Skills for Care	(44,027)	10,326	(33,701)
Early Years	This money was given to us by the DfE to pass on to childcare providers. The funding will support childcare providers to release their staff to attend training (i.e. pay for backfill whilst they are away). The aim is to equip early years practitioners and teachers to provide high quality support and teaching on early language, early maths and personal social and emotional development to the children whose learning has been most impacted by COVID-19.	0	(29,250)	(29,250)
Pension Costs (Grants)	Funding to offset future years staff liability costs for old Coventry Polytechnic.	(26,925)	1,310	(25,615)
Community Safety	Grant carry forward from WMPC	(12,175)	(6,174)	(18,349)
Libraries	Grant allocation to fund Reading Sparks Programme - deliver STEM activities to young people in Libraries via key partner Empowr - U (youth organisation)	(6,130)	(6,114)	(12,244)
DFE Early Adopters grant	National Assessment and Accreditation System for social workers.	(42,687)	32,687	(10,000)
Adoption Support Fund	This reserve holds any unused or excess balances, due to be repaid to the funding body.	(14,723)	6,233	(8,490)
Existing - COVID-19	Omicron support fund balance that will be spent in 22/23	0	(8,095)	(8,095)
Recovery of overpaid Salaries	To fund repayments to schools for salary overpayments in future year or to fund write offs if never repaid. Only due to schools when/if overpaid person repays.	(8,167)	2,534	(5,633)
Trading Standards & Consumer Protection	To be moved into revenue 2022/23	(5,394)	0	(5,394)
CSW Sport - Management Costs	This balance is a hosted (ringfenced) account on behalf of 7 LA partners within Coventry Solihull and Warwickshire, and not therefore City Council money. The organisation now operates independently and all monies have been transferred to the body now named 'Think Active', during 21/22	(413,936)	413,936	0
Holiday Activities and Food Programme	Grant balance for the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme. This grant was provided to local authorities to coordinate free holiday provision, including healthy food and enriching activities, for children who receive benefits-related free school meals.	(70,481)	70,481	0
Fuel Poverty Grant & DECC Fuel Poverty Project	Switch & Save initiative. Fully applied	(27,385)	27,385	0
Youth Offending Service	Underspend on PCC grant, due to lower ECR case load where this is usually spent. Agreement made with the awarding body that this could be spent in 21-22.	(7,924)	7,924	0
COVID Advisors	Grant funding for COVID marshalls/advisors from central government. There was a small amount of grant remaining from 2020-21 which has been applied in 2021-22.	(1,340)	1,340	0

Title	Description	Apr-21	Movement	Apr-22
		(24,936,335)	(20,005,266)	(44,941,601)
Schools and Extended Learning Centre				
Schools (specific to individual schools and ELCs)	Dedicated Schools Grant Reserves owned and controlled by individual schools. Subject to existing legal framework for schools. Reported to Schools Forum.	(22,078,682)	(2,663,369)	(24,742,051)
Schools (related to expenditure retained centrally)	Dedicated Schools Grant Reserve central expenditure reserve. Grant must be used to support the Schools Budget as defined in the School and Early Years Finance Regulations. Usage is reported to and monitored by the Schools Forum.	(4,877,444)	(1,144,619)	(6,022,063)
Extended Learning Centre	Dedicated Schools Grant Reserves owned and controlled by extended learning centres. Subject to existing legal framework for schools. Reported to Schools Forum.	(276,031)	(271,168)	(547,199)
Woodlands	Woodlands ongoing running costs of site	(218,785)	(104,930)	(323,714)
Schools SLA	Schools property maintenance work that CCC have received payment from schools for but which have not yet completed	0	(100,000)	(100,000)
		(27,450,942)	(4,284,086)	(31,735,028)
		(224,497,970)	(2,277,826)	(226,775,796)

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Coventry City Council

Briefing note

To: Finance and Corporate Services Scrutiny Board (1)

Date: 15th February 2023

Subject: CIPFA Resilience Index Analysis

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 The Scrutiny Board 1 work programme include an item to review the position in relation to the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Resilience Index. Information has been provided in a separate presentation provided alongside this report which shows the Council's relative performance or ranking in a series of risk categories defined within the index. Scrutiny Board are invited to consider the information provided.

2 Recommendations

Members of Scrutiny Board are recommended to:

- 2.1 Note the contents of the presentation.
- 2.2 Identify any recommendations for the Cabinet Member (Strategic Finance and Resources)

3 Information/Background

- 3.1 CIPFA produce the Resilience Index on an annual basis. The Index is a comparative analytical tool that is intended to be used by chief financial officers to support good financial management. The index shows a council's position on a range of measures associated with financial risk highlighting where additional scrutiny may be required. CIPFA puts forward the indicators selected as having been informed by extensive financial resilience work undertaken by CIPFA, public consultation and technical stakeholder engagement.
- 3.2 Section 151 officers are invited to use the index for instance in setting out the proposed budget for the year, producing their medium-term financial strategy or for in preparing their statements of the robustness of the budget and the adequacy of reserves. The data for the resilience index is obtained from the Revenue Expenditure and Financing England Outturn Report 2021-22 ("RO Forms") and reflects figures submitted by Local Authorities to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) as at 31 March 2022.
- 3.3 CIPFA recognises some limitations in the returns (e.g. reflecting the previous financial year) but justify it as being a consistent and transparent starting place for a discussion on financial resilience that can be tracked over time. The index is made up of a set of indicators which take publicly available data and compares similar authorities across a range of factors. There is no single overall indicator of financial risk, so the index instead highlights areas where additional scrutiny should take place in order to provide additional assurance.

Name Paul Jennings

Job Title Finance Manager

Contact Details 02476 977228 paul.jennings@coventry.gov.uk

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Council Performance vs CIPFA Resilience Index

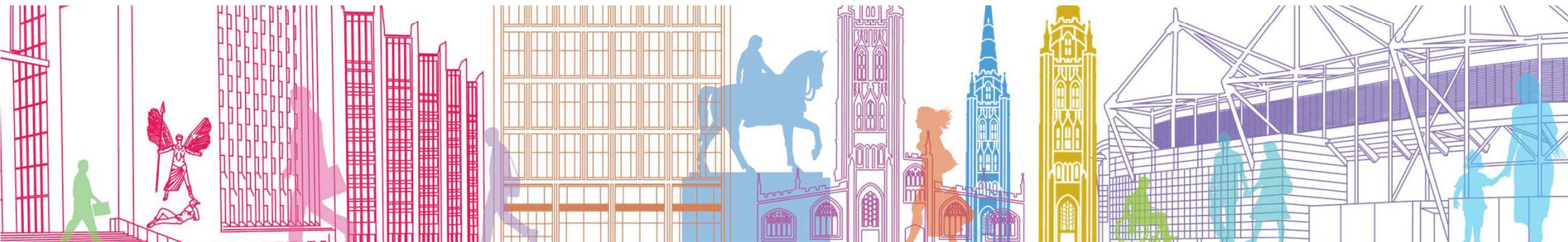
Scrutiny Board 1

15th February 2023



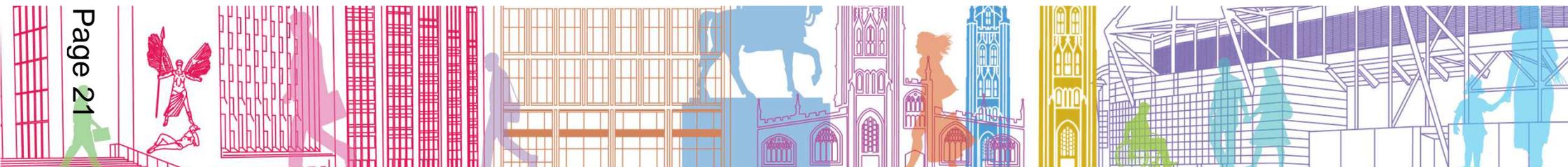
Context

- Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy Resilience Index - comparative analytical tool for use by Chief Financial Officers to support good financial management
- Latest version uses data from 2021/22 financial year results
- Uses public data to compare council performance vs financial risk measures (there is a health warning around how statistical returns have been completed by authorities)
- Shows a relative rather than an absolute measure of risk
- No overall financial risk categorisation



Context

- Info shows Coventry vs 36 Metropolitan Districts including all West Midlands Councils
- 16 categories although some are a subset of others
- Coventry's results place it in the higher risk half of the pack for 5 measures (all authorities scored equally on the reserves sustainability measure)



Higher Risk Indicators: Change in Reserves

From Table 1

- % change in useable reserves over last 3 years (excls schools and Public Health)
- Balances have increased at all councils, Coventry's by 49%
- All skewed by Covid Business Rates reserves
- 9th 'highest risk'
- Given that reserves have increased significantly this does not feel like a significant area of risk
- Very similar indictor on Table 2



Higher Risk Indicators: Unallocated Reserves

From Table 2

- Ratio of unallocated reserves to net revenue expenditure
- Coventry stands at c4% (£10.9m vs £252m)
- 6th 'highest risk'
- Subject to how authorities classify their reserves as unallocated
- Coventry tends to earmark reserves to specific purposes (so would expect lower level of unallocated reserves).
- Not a significant area of concern given healthy level of other balances



Higher Risk Indicators: Children's Social Care Ratio

- Reflected in overall social care indicator but Adults is a lower risk rating
- CSC spending 38.5% of overall net spend
- This places us as the 2nd highest proportionately of 36 metropolitan authorities
- The median authorities spend only 28%
- This is not news to us and will reflect a wide range of demographic and socio-economic factors in the city
- Financial position continues to be reported regularly at Corporate level and service activity reviewed by Scrutiny Board 2



Positive Indicators

- Interest payable – ratio of interest cost vs net revenue expenditure (low drain on revenue budget)
- Gross external debt – overall level of debt. Limited value because it includes an absolute number.
- Fees & charges 9% of service expenditure - 24th highest risk whereas previously in wrong half of the table
- Ratio of Council Tax as proportion of expenditure – 26th highest risk, demonstrates high proportion of secure revenue



Conclusions

- The index supports what we know instinctively
- In relative terms we are not amongst those most at risk
- Our reserves and fees and charges positions have been strengthened
- Very much “in the pack” on reserves and reflects national trends
- Towards top end of children’s social care spending



Please see page 2 onwards for background to items

13th July 2022
- Introduction to Local Government Finance
21st September 2022
- HR Update and People Plan
- Workforce Diversity & Inclusion Update
9th November 2022
- Procurement and Social Value Update
- Recruitment & Selection and Tribepad the Council's Applicant Tracking System
11th January 2023
- ICT & Digital Update
- Digital Inclusion
15th February 2023
- Reserve Balances
- CIPFA Resilience Index
29th March 2023
- HR/ Workforce update to include:
• Apprenticeship Update
• HR/Workforce Management information
• Managing an Agile Workforce
• Early Retirement/ Voluntary Redundancy
2023/24
- Equality and Diversity – Interview Panels
- Financial Management Code
- Medium Term Financial Strategy
- Coventry Connects

Date	Title	Detail	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer
13th July 2022	- Introduction to Local Government Finance	The report will include opportunities, challenges and risks for LG finance nationally and locally; the current Position on issues including inflation, reserves, treasury management and grants; the budget settings process; benchmarking and making best use of CCC published financial information.	Cllr Brown Barry Hastie
21st September 2022	- HR Update and People Plan	To review the new plan for 2022-2025. This will what is being done to develop, retain and attract new talent to CCC.	Cllr Brown Susanna Newing
	- Workforce Diversity & Inclusion Update	To provide Finance and Corporate Services Scrutiny Board with an opportunity to scrutinise the Council's Workforce Diversity & Inclusion and Anti-Racism work.	Cllr Brown Grace Haynes
9th November 2022	- Procurement and Social Value Update	To receive an update on procurement and social value. To include the financial implications of ethical procurement and social value.	Cllr Brown Oluremi Aremu
	- Recruitment & Selection and Tribepad the Council's Applicant Tracking System	To include the impact of the introduction of anonymised recruitment and a demonstration of the system.	Cllr Brown Susanna Newing Grace Haynes
11th January 2023	- ICT & Digital Update	To review the position with regards to ICT & Digital and the progress being made against the ICT & Digital strategy and service plans. To include progress against the feedback from the last feedback ICT survey. To consider what work is taking place and how decisions are being taken to future proof ICT investments.	Cllr Hetherton Susanna Newing/ Paul Ward
	- Digital Inclusion	Identified at the meeting on 13 th July 2022. To include the levels of digital poverty in the City.	Cllr Hetherton Susanna Newing/ Paul Ward/ Adrienne Bellingeri Laura Waller

Date	Title	Detail	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer
15 th February 2023	- Reserve Balances	To receive an update on the position of Council Reserves and identify recommendations for the Cabinet Member.	Cllr Brown/ Paul Jennings
	- CIPFA Resilience Index	To receive information on the outcome of the CIPFA Financial Resilience Index.	Cllr Brown/ Barry Hastie/ Paul Jennings
29 th March 2023	- HR/ Workforce update to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apprenticeship Update • HR/Workforce Management information • Managing an Agile Workforce • Early Retirement/ Voluntary Redundancy 	To receive an update on apprenticeships within CCC. For the Board to scrutinise the HR/Workforce Management dashboard. To scrutinise the mechanisms in place to enable managers to manage an agile workforce to include how staff are supported, developed and performance management undertaken. To receive an update on ER/VR at an appropriate time.	Cllr Brown Susanna Newing
2023/24	- Equality and Diversity – Interview Panels	As a follow up to the item on Recruitment & Selection and Tribepad the Council’s Applicant Tracking System, to review the analysis of the outcome of increasing the diversity of interview panels.	Cllr Brown Susanna Newing Grace Haynes
	- Financial Management Code	The Financial Management Code (FM Code) provides guidance for good and sustainable financial management in local authorities. By complying with the principles and standards within the code authorities will be able to demonstrate their financial sustainability. This item will examine Coventry’s progress towards meeting the FM Code principles.	Cllr Brown/ Barry Hastie/ Paul Jennings

Date	Title	Detail	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer
	- Medium Term Financial Strategy	To discuss the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy prior to its approval through the political process. This is an annual item.	Cllr Brown /Barry Hastie/ Paul Jennings
	- Coventry Connects	To include Customer Service channels including the feedback loop for customers and councillors and continuous improvement.	Cllr Brown/ Cllr Hetheron Adrienne Bellingeri/ Paul Ward