

Agenda Item 8
Council – 18 July 2023
Recommendation from Cabinet
11 July 2023

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet held at 2.00 pm on Tuesday, 11 July 2023

Present:

Cabinet Members: Councillor G Duggins (Chair)
Councillor R Brown
Councillor K Caan
Councillor J O'Boyle
Councillor K Sandhu
Councillor P Seaman
Councillor P Hetherton

Non-Voting Deputy
Cabinet Members: Councillor S Agboola
Councillor P Akhtar
Councillor G Hayre
Councillor A Jobbar
Councillor G Lloyd

Non-Voting Opposition
Members: Councillor S Gray
Councillor P Male
Councillor R Simpson

Other Non-Voting
Members: Councillor N Akhtar
Councillor R Auluck
Councillor R Lakha
Councillor C E Thomas

Employees (by Service):

Chief Executive J Nugent

Business, Investment and
Culture S Weir

Children's Services N Macdonald (Interim Director), A Whitrick

Finance B Hastie (Chief Operating Officer (Section 151 Officer),
P Jennings, T Pinks

Law and Governance J Newman (Chief Legal Officer), S Bennett

Streetscene and
Regulatory Services

R Back, C Styles

Transportation and
Highways

C Knight (Director of Transportation and Highways),

Apologies:

Councillor L Bigham
Councillor AS Khan
Councillor D Welsh

Councillors L Harvard, C Miks, S Nazir, Ridley

Public Business

7. Declarations of Interest

There were no disclosable pecuniary interests.

RECOMMENDATION

13. Revenue and Capital Outturn 2022/23

The Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Operating Officer (Section 151 Officer) which outlined the final revenue and capital outturn position for 2022/23 and reviews treasury management activity and 2022/23 Prudential Indicators reported under the Prudential Code for Capital Finance.

The overall financial position included the following headline items:

- An overspend of £6.7m, balanced by a contribution from legacy COVID reserves.
- Capital Programme expenditure of £146.9m
- A reduction in the level of available Council revenue reserves from £140m to £123m

Further detail included:

- An overspend of £9.4m within Streetscene and Regulatory Services includes the combined impact of the refuse drivers' strike, strike mitigation costs and the loss of commercial refuse service income as a result of the strike.
- An overspend of £4.1m within Childrens' Services reflecting high placement costs and social worker recruitment and retention pressures.
- An overspend of £2.7m in Adults' Social Care reflecting an increased number of high-cost complex cases.
- An overspend of £2.7m on Business & Investment Culture which represents significant energy inflationary pressure, as well as running costs and business rates for the Collection Centre in advance of construction start dates.

- A net underspend of £13.5m within central budgets including lower superannuation costs, interest income from loans and higher than budgeted investment income, and a surplus from the Coventry and Warwickshire Business Rates Pool.

The underlying revenue position has improved by £1.8m since Quarter 3 when an overspend of £8.5m was forecast. In particular the improved position relates to improvements within Contingency and Central budgets which were set out in the report.

The prudent management of the Councils financial position throughout the Covid crisis enabled the Council to retain some resources to manage any legacy issues. £6.7m of this has been used to balance the position at the end of 2022/23. Although the Covid crisis is no longer a significant threat to the Councils service delivery and financial position, the cost-of-living crisis and growing levels of inflation have had tangible impacts on demand for both Childrens and Adults services. The complexity of need, support required and sufficiency of the external market to provide for this has directly impacted the Councils financial outturn reported up to 31st March 2023 and will be an ongoing financial challenge in 2023/24.

RESOLVED that Cabinet:

- 1) Approves the final balanced revenue outturn position after a contribution of £6.7m from reserves.**
- 2) Approves the final capital expenditure and resourcing position (section 2.3 and Appendix 2 of the report), incorporating expenditure of £146.9m against a final budget of £160.9m; £14m expenditure rescheduled into 2023/24.**
- 3) Approves the outturn Prudential Indicators position in section 2.4.4 and Appendix 3 of the report.**
- 4) Recommends that Council approves the reserve contribution of £6.7m for the purposes described in Section 5.1 of the report.**