

Meeting of:	Homes and Safe Communities Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting:	Wednesday, 13 October 2021
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Homes and Safe Communities
Report Title:	Revenue and Capital Monitoring for the Period 1st April to 31st August 2021
Purpose of Report:	To advise Scrutiny Committee of the progress relating to revenue and capital expenditure for the period 1st April to 31st August 2021
Report Owner:	Report of the Director of Environment and Housing
Responsible Officer:	Carys Lord Head of Finance/ Section 151 Officer
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	Each Scrutiny Committee will receive a monitoring report on their respective areas. This report does not require Ward Member consultation
Policy Framework:	This report is for Executive decision by the Cabinet
<p>Executive Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The revenue position for 2021/22 will be challenging with the continuing pressure for the service both operationally and financially as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic. This will impact both as a result of incurring additional expenditure but also from a loss of income. Funding has been provided by Welsh Government to cover some of the issues. • A savings target for the year has been set at £6k. • The capital budget for this Committee has been set at £48.95m. 	

Recommendation

1. That Scrutiny Committee consider the position with regard to the 2021/22 revenue and capital budgets.

Reason for Recommendation

1. That Members are aware of the projected revenue outturn for 2021/22.

1. Background

- 1.1 Council on 10th March 2021 approved the revenue budget (minute no 472), the capital budget (minute no 471) and the Housing Revenue Account budget (minute number 473) for 2021/22.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

Revenue

- 2.1 It is still early in the financial year and it is anticipated that services within this Committee's remit will outturn within budget at year end. A breakdown of this year's budget is shown in the table below.

Directorate/Service	2021/22 Original Budget £000	2021/22 Projected £000	Variance (+)Favourable (-) Adverse £000
Youth Offending Service	707	707	0
Regulatory Services	1,825	1,825	0
Public Sector Housing (HRA)	(25)	(25)	0
Council Fund Housing	1,420	1,420	0
Private Housing	980	980	0
Total	4,907	4,907	0

- 2.2 Youth Offending Service - It is early in the financial year and it is anticipated that this service will outturn on target.
- 2.3 Regulatory Services - The allocation represents the Vale of Glamorgan's budget for its share of the Shared Regulatory Service (SRS). A separate set of accounts is maintained for the SRS and periodically reported to the Shared Regulatory

Service Joint Committee. Income, particularly Licensing income, has been affected by the pandemic however as with other services, WG has funded such losses.

- 2.4** Public Sector Housing (HRA) - The HRA is expected to outturn on target and any under/overspends in year will be offset by changes to the contributions to capital expenditure thus changing the reliance on Unsupported Borrowing.
- 2.5** Council Fund Housing - In response to the Welsh Government guidance on managing homelessness during the COVID 19 pandemic and the need to ensure that accommodation can be provided to ensure that those without a home can be protected, supported and isolated if necessary, the Housing Solutions Team have pre-booked 125 rooms in 3 local hotels to the end of September in order to accommodate these clients during the pandemic, as well as the provision at Ty lolo hostel, bed and breakfast accommodation and council, leased and shared properties in the private rented sector. It has further been agreed that these additional accommodation costs will be funded by the Welsh Government for the remainder of this financial year. The team are looking at a longer term strategy to deal with this situation should WG funding cease or reduce at some point after March 2022. The historic savings target of £75k for CCTV will once again not be achieved this year as the current monitoring arrangement with Bridgend Council has been extended until March 2022, until a strategy for future monitoring is agreed. So, it is anticipated that unless this saving can be covered by underspends elsewhere within the service, funding shall be drawn down from reserves to cover this shortfall.
- 2.6** Private Housing - Disabled Facility Grants clients remain nervous about having officers and contractors enter their property since the pandemic, however the position has improved lately. Fee income still remains behind profile and any shortfall in fees to the end of the financial year will again be claimed back from the WG.

2021/22 Efficiency Targets

- 2.7** As part of the Final Revenue Budget Proposals for 2021/22 an efficiency target of £6k has been set for services under this Committee and a breakdown is shown in Appendix 1. It is anticipated that this target will be achieved this year.

Capital

- 2.8** Appendix 2 details financial progress on the Capital Programme as at 31st August 2021. The following changes have been made to the Capital Programme since the last report to Committee.
- 2.9** Target Hardening Grant - The Council has received an award of funding of £21,450 in relation to Target Hardening. The funding relates to the period 1 April

2021 to 31 March 2022. The purpose of the funding is to purchase target hardening equipment that will enable individuals to remain safely in their own homes following the identification that they are at risk of their perpetrator attempting to access their property. Target hardening is offered in order to give victims of domestic abuse the option to remain in their own home by enhancing the security of their properties through the fitting of locks, bolts, door chains and mirrors, mail safe letter boxes, fire safety equipment, personal and property alarms, security lighting, CCTV equipment and monitored alarm system. Emergency powers have been used to include this new scheme into the 2021/22 Capital Programme to be funded by a grant from Welsh Government.

- 2.10** HRA Individual Schemes - The contract for Section 20 Leaseholder blocks (27) has been let and the work is expected to commence mid November 2021. The scheme at Long Meadow has been delayed due to the requirement to undertake a bat survey and to obtain a subsequent license. It has therefore been requested that £800k is carried from 2021/22 into the 2022/23 Capital programme.
- 2.11** HRA Common Parts - Due to staff turnover, the delivery of these schemes has been delayed. It has therefore been requested to carry forward £2.3m from 2021/22 into the 2022/23 Capital Programme.
- 2.12** HRA Environmental Improvement - Due to staff turnover and delays in contractors bidding for schemes, the works will continue into 2022/23. It has therefore been requested that £1.8m is carried forward from 2021/22 into the 2022/23 Capital Programme.
- 2.13** HRA New Builds - COVID-19 and the effects of Brexit have continued to cause disruption to the Housing Development Programme during 2021/22, particularly as the Housing Development Team had to commit their resources to deal with material and labour shortages, so that they could complete the existing schemes at Holm View Phase 1, Court Road and Hayes Road. This then delayed bringing to site the schemes at St. Cyres Road (start on site Oct. 2021), Hayeswood Road (tender return Nov. 2021) and Colcot Clinic (planning submission Sept. 2021). Hayeswood Road has also suffered delays because of the delay in the sale of land to the Council, although this is now imminent. Maes y Ffynnon has failed to achieve a planning determination, being deferred for a second time by Planning Committee on the 1st September 2021. This now means both Holm View Phase 2 and Maes y Ffynnon will be deferred until 2022/23. It has therefore been requested to carry forward £10.871m from 2021/22 into the 2022/23 Capital Programme.
- 2.14** Barry Island and Cosmeston Toilets - It has been requested that this scheme budget is increased in the 2021/22 Capital Programme by £10k to pay an outstanding invoice in relation to the scheme. This is to be funded by a contribution from the Disabled Facilities Grants revenue budget in Private Housing.

3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?

- 3.1** The revenue budget has been set in order to support services in the delivery of the Council's Well-being objectives. It is therefore important for expenditure to be monitored to ensure that these objectives are being delivered.
- 3.2** The revenue budget has been set and is monitored to reflect the 5 ways of working.
- 3.3** **Looking to the long term** - The setting of the revenue budget requires planning for the future and takes a strategic approach to ensure services are sustainable and that future need and demand for services is understood.
- 3.4** **Taking an integrated approach** - The revenue budgets include services which work with partners to deliver services e.g. Health via ICF.
- 3.5** **Involving the population in decisions** – As part of the revenue budget setting process there has been engagement with residents, customers and partners.
- 3.6** **Working in a collaborative way** – The revenue budgets include services which operate on a collaborative basis e.g. Shared Regulatory Service, Vale Valleys and Cardiff Adoption Service.
- 3.7** **Understanding the root cause of issues and preventing them** – Monitoring the revenue budget is a proactive way of understanding the financial position of services in order to tackle issue at the source as soon as they arise.

4. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

- 4.1** As detailed in the body of the report.

Employment

- 4.2** There are no employment implications.

Legal (Including Equalities)

- 4.3** There are no legal implications.

5. Background Papers

None

PROGRESS ON APPROVED EFFICIENCIES 2021/22

Service	Total Efficiency £000	Projected Efficiency £000	RAG Status	Update Comments, Issues & Actions	Relevant Scrutiny Committee	Project Manager
General Fund Housing						
Corporate Recovery and Efficiency Savings 21/22	4	4	Green	Savings achieved	Homes & Safe Communities	Mike Ingram
Private Housing						
Corporate Recovery and Efficiency Savings 21/22	2	2	Green	Savings achieved	Homes & Safe Communities	Marcus Goldsworthy
COMMITTEE TOTAL	6	6	100%	Green		

Green = on target to achieve in full

Amber = forecast within 20% of target

Red = forecast less than 80% of target

PROFILE TO DATE	ACTUAL SPEND 2021/22		APPROVED PROGRAMME 2021/22	PROJECTED OUTTURN 2021/22	VARIANCE AT OUTTURN 2021/22	PROJECT SPONSOR	COMMENTS
£000	£000		£000	£000	£000		
		Youth Offending Service					
0	0	Salisbury Road No. 91 (YOS) External Repairs Phase 2	15	15	0	R Evans	Drainage survey to be procured.
0	0		15	15	0		
		Housing Improvement Programme					
78	78	HRA Internal Works	1,467	1,467	0	M Punter	Maintenance of WHQS e.g. Kitchens, bathrooms, rewires and heating systems.
284	284	HRA External Works	3,014	3,014	0	M Punter	Continuation of installation of windows & doors, roof replacements, wall repairs, sewage treatment works and Airey properties refurbishment.
0	0	Individual Schemes	4,434	3,634	800	M Punter	Delivery of individual schemes and External Wall insulation on 17 Leaseholder blocks. Request to carry forward £800k into the 2022/23 Capital Programme as part of this report.
242	242	Energy Efficiency	5,206	5,206	0	M Punter	Continuation of External Wall Insulation and Energy efficiency.
149	149	Emergency Works	497	497	0	M Punter	Emergency works schemes i.e. Building works to resolve property structural and damp issues.
65	65	Aids and Adaptations	350	350	0	M Punter	Delivery of major adaptations.
0	0	Common Parts	5,301	3,001	2,300	M Punter	Delivery of the fire safety management upgrade works and communal area improvements. Request to carry forward £2.3m into the 2022/23 Capital Programme as part of this report.
98	98	Environmental Improvements	6,111	4,311	1,800	M Punter	On-going works to the Buttrills Estate, Williams/Irving and Owen scheme and Highway Maintenance Schemes. Request to carry forward £1.8m into the 2022/23 Capital Programme as part of this report.
1,830	1,830	New Build	19,808	8,937	10,871	M Punter	Continuation of Holm View, Court Road former amenity site, Haywood Lane and new schemes Holm View Phase 2, Cwrt St Cyres, Maes Y Ffynon, Hayes Wood Road and Colcot clinic. Also includes feasibility works for new schemes and acquisition of properties/land. Request to carry forward £10.871m into the 2022/23 Capital Programme as part of this report.
58	58	IHP- Heating retrofit	695	695	0	M Punter	Continuation of heating retrofit scheme
0	0	ICF - Penarth Older Persons Village	300	300	0	M Punter	Continuation of previous years scheme. Emergency powers detailed as part of this report.
5	6	Everyone Garden Education Centre	5	6	-1	M Punter	Scheme complete. Overspend to be funded from revenue.
2,809	2,810		47,188	31,418	15,770		
		Community Safety					
		Additional In Year Capital Funding					
3	3	Upgrade of CCTV system	348	348	0	M Punter	The Council are in on-going discussions with the Police regarding this scheme.
0	0	Target Hardening Grant	21	21	0	M Punter	Emergency powers detailed as part of this report.
3	3		369	369	0		
		Private Housing					
219	219	Disabled Facilities Grant	1,196	1,196	0	P Chappell	In the process of issuing grants.
0	0	Penarth Renewal Area	5	5	0	P Chappell	Carried forward from 2020/21 Capital Programme
0	10	Barry Island and Cosmeston Toilets	0	10	(10)	P Chappell	It is requested to increase this scheme budget by £10k as part of this report.
25	25	ENABLE Grant	177	177	0	P Chappell	WG grant funded scheme, scheme progressing.
244	254		1,378	1,388	-10		
3,056	3,067	COMMITTEE TOTAL	48,950	33,190	15,760		