

CORPORATE SUMMARY

1 Overall Summary Position

- 1.1 The overall financial position is good with favourable variances on both the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) being transferred into earmarked reserves. Improvements to capital project
- 1.2 Of the Corporate performance targets, 14 (70%) were delivered as planned, and 5 (25%) did not meet their target. One target (5%) had no data available. Performance is slightly improved on Quarter 3 when 13 (65%) of targets were being delivered as planned, 2 (10%) were below target but within acceptable tolerance limits, 4 (20%) were not meeting their target and 1 (5%) had no data.

2 Finance Overall and Corporate Budgets

General Fund

- 2.1 There is a year-end favourable variance of £1.808 million on the General Fund and a net favourable variance of £2.565 million on the HRA, both of which have been transferred into earmarked reserves.

General Fund Corporate Budgets

- 2.2 There is a net favourable variance of £0.130 million on Corporate budgets relating to additional pension related costs for pension enhancements and termination costs being lower than budgeted

Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

- 2.4 The HRA outturn position is a net £2.565 million favourable variance which has been transferred into earmarked reserves.

Capital

- 2.5 The capital outturn position is shown in more detail at Appendix E2. The outturn shows a net underspend of £1.443 million of which £1.004 million relates to slippage between financial years and £0.439 million to net underspends.
 - i. £0.555 million slippage from 2015/16 to 2014/15 for Superconnected Cities. This has a limited effect on the Council's resources because the scheme is largely externally funded.
 - ii. £0.183 million slippage on ICT schemes
 - iii. £0.391 million slippage and £0.068 million overspend on Council Properties.
 - iv. £0.195 million slippage on Leisure & communities schemes £0.099 million overspend on the new competition pool.
 - v. £0.111 million slippage on vehicle replacement and the Heavy Goods Vehicle Testing Facility
 - vi. £0.297 million on various car parking schemes.
 - vii. £0.100 million slippage on major voids works and £0.219 million underspend; the slippage is requested in anticipation of increases in void rates when new build properties become available in 2015/16.
 - viii. £0.098 million slippage and £0.027 million saving on Great Estates works
 - ix. £0.165 million underspend on Kitchens and Bathrooms due to the team being redirected to work on remediation of Normandy Crescent.

Savings and Efficiencies

- 2.6 The Council's budget identifies £0.704 million of efficiencies, £0.224 million of service reductions and £1.192 million of additional fees and charges for 2014/15. These targets were all achieved once some minor mitigating savings were taken into account.

3 Corporate Performance Exceptions

- 3.1 **Overall the Council's performance against its corporate targets was Good** with 14 (70%) being delivered as planned, 5 (25%) not meeting their target and one (5%) with no data. Exceptions to targeted performance are set out below

No Data:

- 3.2 **Vibrant and Sustainable Economy:** To achieve results for Oxford city schools that are 10% above the national average for KS2 by April 2015 – The national target or Key Stage 2 has now changed to include writing as well as reading and maths. This means that data to judge our performance, as set in the target, is no longer possible as data is no longer collected in this way. As pupils are poorer at writing the effect of this amendment is to reduce performance for our project schools to 63%. However, these schools have made a 4% increase in the number of children achieving level 2 for reading, writing and maths compared to a 1% increase across Oxfordshire schools generally.

Red:

- 3.3 **Meeting Housing Need:** There was a rough sleeper count in February 2015 of 20 people rough sleeping. The count recorded 1 rough sleeper who was on the streets for the first time that night; 15 who were spending a second night or more on the streets; and 4 entrenched rough sleepers. There are a number of reasons behind the high street count; the first one is that there is a lack of move on through the pathway, resulting in bed spaces not becoming available; tent sites not being closed down quickly; and a mild autumn period. However we are working with the providers to enable move on and also taking a firm approach on landowners with rough sleepers on their site.
- 3.4 **Meeting Housing Need:** Affordable Homes for rent - The target of 180 affordable housing units for rent for the year was not met because a number of schemes which were expected to complete will now slip into 2015/16. These are: Barns Road, Dora Carr Close, Luther Court and Marywood House.
- 3.5 **Meeting Housing Need:** The number of individual HMO's subject to agreed licence provisions - The target of 3,540 was missed by just 37. Some procedural changes were introduced in December in introducing customer service standards, which impacted on internal reporting due to work volumes, and resulted in some new applications not being progressed, and work to address this was not enough to meet the target.
- 3.6 **Vibrant and Sustainable Economy:** The number of Council apprenticeships created through Council investment for those who live in Oxford - The year end figure of 21 apprentices, with 19 of those living in Oxford (90%), fell short of the target of 22. The variance in numbers is due to the natural cycle of trades apprenticeships and a smaller than anticipated recruitment of NEET apprentices, e.g. we have recently taken on 3 new NEET apprentices compared with the 8 recruited in the first programme.

4 Corporate Risk Exceptions

Red:

- 4.1 The Corporate risk register has been reviewed in the fourth quarter of the year and this has identified no current red risks.

Amber:

- 4.2 Resilience of the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) function: there are numerous projects running concurrently across the Council all needing ICT support with limited resources and vacant posts within ICT. This gives rise to a risk that there is an inability to provide good quality and consistent service.
- 4.3 Management of capital projects and contracts: poor governance on major projects could result in cost overruns, non-delivery of projects, and slippage of projects.

- 4.4 Health & Safety of People: not maintaining a robust Health & Safety policy and ensuring it is implemented across all service areas could lead to increased costs, potential financial penalties and potential insurance claims.
- 4.5 Risk of fraud against the Council: fraud against the Council through internal fraud by staff, cyber-attacks on the Council's ICT systems, fraudulent claims for council tax and housing benefits and council tax discounts and fraudulent claims for payment carries the risk of additional costs and a loss of reputation.
- 4.6 Risk of breaching the Data Protection Act: breaches of the Data Protection Act through staff not being aware of the policy or being careless with data carry the risk of a loss of reputation and financial penalties.

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