

CYNGOR SIR CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

Report to: Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: 16 May 2024

Title: Oversight of in year Financial matters

Purpose of the report: To provide the Committee with an oversight of key in year Financial Monitoring matters

1. **Introduction**

The 24/25 Budget setting process was a challenging one which included c 70 Budget Reduction proposals being approved totalling c£5.8m. Progress in delivering these Budget Reduction is reviewed and monitored by Leadership Group at the end of every month.

During the year, it is intended to provide individual Overview & Scrutiny Committees with the following information:

- The latest quarterly financial position as reported to Cabinet, starting with Quarter 1 in due course. This will include the Revenue and Capital Monitoring reports.
- The latest BRAG status position in relation to the 24/25 Budget Reductions (Appendix 1).

This information will enable the Committee to scrutinise the financial matters pertinent to the areas of Service falling within its remit. At any point during the year, the Committee may choose to explore any area of the Budget within its remit via the Forward Work programme.

Wellbeing of Future Generations:

Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed?

Not applicable – these were considered where appropriate as part of the Budget Setting process.

Recommendation(s):

To note the report and for the Committee to scrutinise the information provided.

Reasons for decision:

To scrutinise the latest financial position.

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Latest BRAG status position in relation to the 24/25 Budget Reductions.

Contact Name: Duncan Hall – Corporate Lead Officer: Finance & Procurement

Date of Report: 03/05/24

Budget Reductions Proposals (approved by Full Council 29/02/24)

Item Ref	Service	Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Area of Service	Narrative	24/25 Revenue Savings / Income Value £'000	BRAG Status (24/04/24)	Comments
1	Finance & Procurement	Corporate Resources	NNDR Discretionary Relief	Reduce existing budget headroom and scale back support from 01/04/25 to focus solely on Ceredigion based organisations combined with a maximum award level	10	Blue	
2	Finance & Procurement	Corporate Resources	Community Grants Scheme	Reduction in the Scheme's scope to only provide revenue grants via the Welsh Church Fund and the Capital grant budget to be reduced from £200k to £100k	26	Green	Report to Corporate Resources Scrutiny 16/05/24 then Cabinet on 04/06/24
3	Finance & Procurement	Corporate Resources	Insurance	Operational Savings	50	Blue	
4	Finance & Procurement	Corporate Resources	Treasury Management	Continued delivery of Treasury Management Savings - Interest Paid on borrowing / Investment Income	365	Green	
5	Finance & Procurement	Corporate Resources	Council Tax Reduction Scheme	Operational Savings based on current volumes	200	Blue	
6	Finance & Procurement	Corporate Resources	WG Child Burial & Cremation Grant	Operational Savings - Grant expected to be transferred into Final Settlement, minimal annual spend	15	Blue	
18	Democratic Services	Corporate Resources	Translation	Operational savings to reduce the level of external Translation	15	Blue	
29	People & Organisation	Corporate Resources	Various	Operational savings / efficiencies	20	Blue	
30	Legal & Governance	Corporate Resources	Various	Operational savings / efficiencies	19	Green	
32	Policy, Performance & Public Protection	Corporate Resources	Supplies & Services	Operational savings to reduce 3rd Party spend	6	Blue	
33	Customer Contact, ICT & Digital	Corporate Resources	Mobile Phones / Connections	Operational savings from a reduction in Mobile Phones / IT Connections	55	Green	
34	Customer Contact, ICT & Digital	Corporate Resources	Zoom licence	Operational savings from fully moving to Microsoft Teams	9	Blue	
35	Customer Contact, ICT & Digital	Corporate Resources	Printing & Post	Operational efficiencies through reviewing Post Room and Reprographics Services	32	Amber	
36	Customer Contact, ICT & Digital	Corporate Resources	Libraries	Retain a presence in each of the 4 current towns but co-locate library provision with other Council Services wherever possible, combined with reviewing every location's opening hours.	70	Red	
37	Customer Contact, ICT & Digital	Corporate Resources	Libraries - Schools Support	Cease the additional Libraries support provided to Schools (This does not affect the Library provision that each School themselves currently operates)	47	Green	
38	Customer Contact, ICT & Digital	Corporate Resources	Mobile Library service	Reduce the current operation from 3 core vehicles + 1 delivery van down to 2 core vehicles.	70	Green	
45	Economy & Regeneration	Corporate Resources	Energy Savings	Anticipated savings from lower Gas prices from October 23 (indicative 13%)	25	Blue	
46	Economy & Regeneration	Corporate Resources	Operational Office Buildings	Continue to maximise the range of public facing services in Canolfan Rheidol, Aberystwyth and Penmorfa Aberaeron and seek alternative uses for County Hall, Aberaeron (£150k already assumed in the 23/24 base budget)	50	Green	
47	Economy & Regeneration	Corporate Resources	Corporate Estate / Commercial Buildings and Use of Space	Continued maximisation of income opportunities including recovering all costs, following up rent reviews, retain v sell v repurpose considerations	100	Amber	Work ongoing

Budget Reductions Proposals (approved by Full Council 29/02/24)

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48	Economy & Regeneration	Corporate Resources	Energy Schemes	Reduced running costs following capital investment in Energy Schemes - ranging from WG Re:Fit scheme to Solar PVs on key buildings (£125k already assumed in the 23/24 base budget)	100	Amber	Procurement concluding (plus some offset expected from lower energy prices in October 24)
69	Economy & Regeneration	Corporate Resources	Business Rates Saving	Heat Relief on 2 Biomass facilities	19	Blue	

TOTAL:	1,303
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