

**HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

WEDNESDAY 17 MARCH 2004 at 10.00am

Agenda Item No.

7

REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET MONITOR TO 31 DECEMBER 2003

Report of Director of Children, Schools & Families and the Finance Director

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Executive Members: Robert Gordon, Education
Jane Pitman, Children's Services

1. Purpose of report

To enable the Committee to identify if there are any issues arising from the budget monitor that they wish to scrutinise.

2. Summary

The revenue budget projected overspend has risen from £5.141m as reported for April to October 2003 to £6.509m based on April to December 2003. Movements are shown in Section 2 of the this report.

The capital forecast underspend has risen from £7.425m to £9.2m over the same period, and movements are again shown in Section 2.

3. Conclusion

Members are asked to note the variations and consider if there are any items arising out of the budget monitor report which should be subject of further scrutiny.

1. Background

- 1.1 Each area of the CSF budget is allocated to a named manager who has responsibility for ensuring that the services are delivered within the available funds. At the end of each month, from May onwards, a report is prepared that sets out any changes in the budget, predicted variances, virement and carry forward proposals and any other items of budgetary concern.
- 1.2 Copies of the report are sent to Group Spokesmen and to Corporate Finance who produce periodic summary reports that are considered by Cabinet.
- 1.3 At their meeting on 12 May, the Scrutiny Co-ordination Panel resolved: *"That the regular Budget Monitor and 'Traffic Light' Monitor reports be included on the agenda of Scrutiny Committees on the basis that the reports are for noting not for discussion and to enable the Committees to identify issues for scrutiny."*
- 1.4 Copies of the reports produced to the end of December 2003 are attached for consideration as follows:

Revenue Monitor

Appendix 1 (Summary Table) and
Appendix 2 (Detailed Analysis)

Capital Monitor

Appendix 3 (Summary Table) and
Appendix 4 (Detailed Analysis)

2. Financial Implications

2.1 Movements in Revenue Monitor

| | £'000k | Appendix 2 Para Ref |
|----------------------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| Out County Placements | 314 | 2.1.1 |
| Maternity Cover | 109 | 2.1.20 |
| Local Services Transport | 118 | 2.1.6 |
| Looked After Children | 82 | 2.1.8 |
| Section 17 | (72) | 2.1.11 |
| Criminal Records Bureau | (111) | 2.1.18 |
| SEN Additional Welfare & Tuition | 480 | 2.1.12 |
| Residential Homes | 228 | 2.1.21 |
| Client Services Charges | 89 | 2.1.13 |
| CAT & Assessment Data | 100 | 2.1.14 |
| Call Centre Charges | 135 | 2.1.15 |
| Other (movement under £50k) | (104) | |
| TOTAL | <u>1368</u> | |

2.2 Movements in Capital Monitor

| | £'000k | Appendix 4 Para Ref |
|------------------------------|--------|------------------------|
| County Funded Schemes | | |
| - Learning Support Centres | (350) | 4.1 |
| Externally Funded Schemes | | |
| - Hemel Hempstead Sixth Form | 200 | 2.1.2 |
| - Access Initiative | (1600) | 3 |
| Other (movements under £50k) | (25) | |
| | <hr/> | |
| TOTAL | 1775 | |
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3. **Access to Service Implications**

No access to service implications have been identified.

Background material referred to by the author while compiling this report:

Children & Families Panel report 11 December 2003: Out of County Placements