

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

WEDNESDAY 13 OCTOBER 2004 at 10.00am

Agenda Item No.

8

REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET MONITOR TO 30 JUNE 2004

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

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Executive Members: Robert Gordon, Executive Member for Education
Jane Pitman, Executive Member for Children's Services
David Beatty

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 budget projected overspend for the service is £2.13m based on April to June 2004. This reflects a number of areas that were not predicted when the budget was agreed for 2004/05. The service has undertaken an exercise, led by the Director to determine the extent to which pressures could be contained within the existing budget. This generated £2.50m of available resource to meet the budget pressures. The balance of £2.13m relates to additional pressures which are the subject to requests for possible use of contingency/special provision to Cabinet.

The capital forecast is in line with the latest budget as 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 June 2004 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)
- 1.5 In addition, this report provides further information on the uptake of nursery provision and the Integrated Transport Review as requested by the Committee at their meeting on 23 June 2004.

2. Financial Implications

2.1 Movements in Revenue Monitor

	£'000k	Appendix 2 Para Ref
Youth Offending Teams	80	2.1.3 a)
Herts Outdoors	150	2.1.3 b)
Local Services and SEN Home to School Transport	320	2.1.3 c)
Local Services Staffing	119	2.1.3 d)
Looked After Children	122	2.1.3 e)
Residential Homes	259	2.1.3 f)
Client Service Charges and Call Centre	131	2.1.3 g)
Manpower Charges	140	2.1.3 h)
Premature Retirement/Maternity Cover	258	2.1.3 i)
Postages	120	2.1.5 j)
Intentionally Homeless	140	2.1. 4 a)
Areas Previously Funded Through Grant	165	2.1.4 b)
Staff Related Pressure	113	2.1.4 c)
SHARP	213	2.1.4 d)
Recruitment and Retention of Qualified Social Workers	1,082	2.1.5
ACL Grant	531	2.1.6
Joint Inspection Framework for Children's Services	157	2.1.7
IRIS/Oracle	535	2.1.8
In Year Savings	(1,293)	3.1.1
Growth Programmes	(960)	3.1.2
Use of Grants	(247)	3.1.3
TOTAL	2,135	

2.2 Movements in Capital Monitor

There are no movements to report.

3. Uptake of Nursery Provision

3.1 Universal provision for all 3 year olds came into effect from 1 April 2004. Our early indication of the take-up of provision is in line with that predicted. We will continue to monitor this through 2004/05.

4. Integrated Transport Review

4.1 The outcomes of the integrated transport project are to ensure the right people get the right free and assisted transport and to promote independence. This will involve changes to policies, commissioning, processes and procurement of transport to achieve £1m saving by September 2006 across HCC.

4.2 CSF spend on transport comprises:

	£m
Home to School Transport	8.7
SEN Home to School Transport	10.8
Quadrant Transport (Children with Disabilities, Looked After Children, Section 17 Transport)	<u>2.0</u>
	21.5

4.3 We are currently setting up terms of reference for intensive pieces of work, with milestones for completion by the end of December. These include:

4.3.1 Policy

- To clarify the current statutory/non-statutory transport associated with costs and opportunities for change.
- To clarify existing SEN policy for transport, ensure interpreted consistently and robustly across CSF.

4.3.2 Commissioning

- To develop new Service Level Agreement (SLA) between CSF/ACS and Environment for April 2005/06. This will include agreement of performance, quality, costs and monitoring processes.
- To appoint a time limited CSF Transport Commissioning post to achieve cost effective practices and the right processes.

4.3.3 Procurement

- To develop a taxi contract for opportunistic journeys in North Herts Quadrant area to more cost effectively procure ad-hoc journeys.
- To assess the benefits, against project objectives, of leasing a fleet of vehicles, in an area of Hertfordshire, to transport any client (one client group at a time), and plan the implementation, if appropriate.

4.4 The deliverables from these projects will be fed back to the Integrated Transport Implementation Group during January 2005.

5. Access to Service Implications

No access to service implications have been identified.

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