

Budget Monitoring for 2011/12

Council Summary

The Council's latest budget position is as follows:

Item	Budget £000	Forecast Outturn £000	Variance £000
Adult Social Care	92,155	92,555	400
Children & Families	57,831	58,291	360
Environment & Neighbourhood Services	42,567	42,567	0
Regeneration & Major Projects	21,974	21,974	0
Finance & Corporate Services / Central Services	26,407	26,407	0
Service Area Total	240,934	241,694	760
Central Items	24,455	24,950	495
Total Council Budget	265,389	266,644	1,255

The Council is currently forecasting an over-spend of £1.255m, primarily due to demand pressures on service budgets.

Adult Social Care

The main pressure on the Adult Social Care budget is the cost of transitions.

The responsibility for paying the cost of care transfers each year on 1st August from Children and Families for all young people aged 19. The majority of the transfers relate to learning disabilities and can require residential, homecare respite and day care services.

Adult Social Care are currently forecasting an over-spend of £1m on transitions in Learning Disabilities with a further £200k of demand pressures spread over the other services. During the 2011/12 budget process a growth bid of £800k was submitted by Adults and a centrally held provision was established. Allowing for this provision the forecast overspend is £400k.

Children & Families

Children & Families are currently forecasting an overspend of £360k. Of this £230k relates to the projected costs on social care placements.

In addition there are the continuing pressures on the social care legal budget. Recent years have seen significant increases in the number of child care cases following the death of baby Peter and the overspend in this area is currently projected to be £830k, however 700k has been set aside centrally to meet these costs giving a net overspend of £130k.

Environment & Neighbourhood Services

Environment & Neighbourhood Services are currently forecasting a breakeven position though there are still a number of pressures on the budget mainly around delivering savings around the waste and recycling contract and on staffing costs due to slippage for staff leaving as part of wave 2 of the staffing and structure review.

Regeneration and Major Projects

The main pressure within Regeneration and Major Projects relates to the Housing area and the Housing Benefit scheme changes which are having an impact on the temporary accommodation budget.

With significant increases in the number of acceptances for homelessness applications in 2011/12 now coming through an over-spend of £1m is currently forecast in this area.

As part 2011/12 budget process monies were set aside centrally to meet pressures from changes in Housing Benefit.

Central Services

Finance and Corporate Services and the Central Service areas are currently forecasting a breakeven position. With the various restructuring and virements currently being factored into budgets further work is still ongoing and the position is being kept under review.

Central Items

For Central Items we are currently forecasting an overspend of £495k.

The main area of potential overspend is the budget for centrally held budget pressures which is forecast to overspend by £500k. As part of the budget process a budget of £2m was established centrally to meet the costs of children social care legal fees, transition of clients to Adults from Children & Families and housing benefit changes. Service areas are now experiencing pressures in these areas as discussed above and are looking to draw upon this budget. Current forecasts indicate that £2.5m would be required to meet these pressures (Adult Social Care £800k, Children & Families £700k, and Regeneration and Major Projects £1m).

Further savings will be required to meet these service pressures.