

Mid Devon District Council
Financial Monitoring Verbal Update
2020/21 Jan / Month 10

1. General Fund

This will be the final reporting period prior to presentation of the 2020/21 Outturn Report to Cabinet in June. It has been an extraordinary year due to the impact of Covid 19. Financially the Council has suffered significant service disruption with resultant income losses. The response from Government has evolved as the crisis necessitated, with little warning, including the provision of various levels of Covid grant funding. The unpredictability has frustrated our forecasting; and this will continue, not least with the interpretation/calculation risk we have previously discussed particularly with respect to the Income Compensation Scheme.

	Month 9 – Dec 20 £k	Month 10 – Dec 21 £k	Movement £k
	89	46	(43)

The Month 10 reporting indicates a forecast improvement of £43k and now indicates a deficit of £46k.

The third lockdown persists as expected so income losses were already largely forecast although there have been some small adjustments. The Council continues to participate in the Job Protection Scheme with a further £74k claimed for January (YTD = £471k). The January claim largely relates to officers working in the leisure centres which remain closed. Despite the speculation, it is not certain when this lockdown may start to be relaxed but it is clear that the leisure centres will not reopen this (financial) year.

To recap MDDC has received £1,197k in non-ring fenced Covid funding (including £39k late last year); is awaiting £775k being the second submission under the Income Compensation Scheme prior to the final reconciliation for the year in May (forecast - £1.650m); and will benefit under the Collection Fund Compensation Scheme with the NDR element yet to be finalised.

The table below shows how the monthly movement breaks down between budget lines. To be concise, the table only includes service areas where the forecast has moved between December and January. For these service lines, it extracts the variance value which is funded from ear marked reserves as this will not contribute to the overall (surplus)/deficit movement.

General Fund Summary £K	Full Year Variance				M10
	M9	EMR	Bridge Other	Total	
Cllr Bob Deed					
Corporate Management	8		38	38	46
Cllr Colin Slade					
Grounds Maintenance	(78)		(3)	(3)	(81)
Waste Services	63		7	7	70
Cllr Dennis Knowles					
Environmental Services incl. Licensing	(60)		(4)	(4)	(63)
IT Services	42	(5)	(22)	(27)	14
Recreation And Sport	1,485		(2)	(2)	1,483
Cllr Andrew Moore					
Revenues And Benefits	(201)		(34)	(34)	(234)
Car Parks	535		(17)	(17)	518
Cllr Bob Evans					
General Fund Housing	38	(155)	5	(150)	(112)
Cllr Richard Chesterton					
Planning And Regeneration	246		(34)	(34)	212
Cllr Mrs Nikki Woollatt					
Legal & Democratic Services	(17)		(2)	(2)	(19)
All General Fund Services		(160)	(68)	(227)	
Interest Payable on Other Activities	(340)		(4)	(4)	(344)
Interest Receivable on Investments	(177)		(16)	(16)	(193)
Transfers into/(from) Earmarked Reserves	1,169	160	(0)	160	1,329
Total Budgeted Expenditure		0	(88)	(88)	
Covid19 Income Compensation Scheme	(1,700)		50	50	(1,650)
Total Budgeted Funding		0	50	50	
Forecast in year (Surplus) /	89	0	(38)	(38)	51

Deficit

General Fund Reserve 31/03/20	(2,251)	(2,251)
Forecast General Fund Balance 31/03/2021	(2,162)	(2,200)

Therefore those items not funded by EMRs and which contribute to the month on month deficit movement are as follows:

- Corporate Management - £38k:
 - Officer TUPE costs - £38k
 - 3RDL professional fees - £7k
 - Other small cost savings – (£7k)
- Grounds Maintenance – Staff costs - (£3k)
- Waste Services - £7k:
 - Garden waste permit sales reduced over performance - £6k
 - Recycling income reduced under performance – (£22k)
 - Street Cleansing income re Grand Western Canal part year – £5k
 - Staff costs including agency - £28k
 - Additional Covid 19 costs (vehicle hire & PPE) – (£14k)
 - Fuel savings – £4k
- Environmental Services – licencing income reduced under performance due to Covid – (£4k)
- IT – (£22k):
 - Reduced additional maintenance costs due to delays implementing voice over Skype – (£3k)
 - Software costs - £8k
 - Salary savings – (£7k)
 - Retained consultancy to cover vacancies re technical support for R&B – (£20k)
- Recreation & Sport – (£2k):
 - Further cost centre savings due to closures – (£5k)
 - Covid 19 income losses adjustment - (£7k)
 - Salary costs – £10k
- Revenues & Benefits – (£34k):
 - Reduced agency requirement to manage Covid 19 grant administration – (£39k)
 - Other staff costs - £5k
- Car Parks – (£17k)
 - Adjustment to P&D income losses arising from Covid 19 – (£13k)
 - Adjustment to off street parking fines arising from Covid 19 – (£4k)

- General Fund Housing – Homelessness debt review and write off - £5k
- Planning and Regeneration – (£34k)
 - Development management income reduced under performance due to Covid – (£36k)
 - Development management vacancy management savings - £2k
- Legal & Democratic – Sale of electoral register – (£3k)
- Interest payable – Reduced cost of borrowing as no new loans required in 2020/21 – (£4k)
- Interest Receivable on Investments – (£16k)
 - Interest on 3RDL loan drawdowns – (£5k)
 - CCLA dividend exceeding expectations – (£11k)
- Income Compensation Scheme – adjustment to reflect reduced income loss expectations - £50k

2. HRA

	Month 9 – Dec 20 £k	Month 10 – Jan 21 £k	Movement £k
Forecast (Surplus) / Deficit	230	37	(193)

Month 10 reporting shows a forecast reduction in the deficit by £193k to £37k.

The reasons for this movement is as follows:

- Rental income reduction due to void levels increasing during the pandemic amendment – £5k
- Staff costs reduced savings (DLO & Development Team) - £35k
- Increased non staff savings in planned maintenance – (£83k)
- Reduced non staff savings in responsive and voids - £12k
- Fuel usage savings reduction - £22k
- DLO recharge (revenue and capital) under recovery improvement – (£100k)
- DFG under recovery improvement – (£20k)
- Tenancy services additional staff savings including sewage maintenance, communal roads and warden services – (£64k)