

**Report for: Cabinet**

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Date of Meeting: 6 February 2024

Subject: **2023/24 QUARTER 3 MONITORING**

Cabinet Member: Cllr James Buczkowski, Cabinet Member for Finance

Responsible Officer: Andrew Jarrett, Deputy Chief Executive (S151)

Exempt: Appendix G – Part I Exempt from publication under paragraph 3, Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) as it contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

Wards Affected: All

Enclosures: Appendix A – General Fund Summary  
Appendix B – General Fund Service Variances  
Appendix C – Employee Cost Summary Analysis  
Appendix D – Income Summary Analysis  
Appendix E – HRA Summary and detail variances  
Appendix F – Capital Programme Summary  
Appendix G – 3Rivers update (PART 2)

### **Section 1 – Summary and Recommendation(s)**

To present the forecast Outturn position for the General Fund, Housing Revenue Account and Capital Programme for the financial year 2023/24.

#### **Recommendation(s):**

**1. The Cabinet are asked to:**

- a) **Note the financial monitoring information for the income and expenditure for the three months to 31 December 2023 and the projected outturn position;**
- b) **Note the use of Waivers for the Procurement of goods and services as included in Section 9;**

- c) **Note the financial implication to the current year of closing 3rivers is £2.8m in further impairments (write off), taking the total to c£8.1m (compared to a forecasted £8.9 in Qtr 2 at which point Cabinet noted an forecasted impairment of £3.7m for the current year) and asset purchases with a value of c£2.6m which will provide future economic benefit to the Council.**
- d) **Agree the £1,810,600 increase in the 2023/24 Capital Deliverable Budget reflecting the previous cabinet decision (March 2023) to spend the Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF1) including the associate match funding requirement.**

## **Section 2 – Report**

### **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 This report contains information relating to the Council's overall financial performance for the 2023/24 financial year. Monitoring the Budget is an important part of the Council's performance management framework. The aim is to keep a tight control on spending on services within a flexible budget management framework.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to highlight to Cabinet our current financial status and the likely reserve balances at 31 March 2024. It encompasses both revenue, in respect of the General Fund, the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), and Capital Programme. The detail underpinning these projections is included within the body of report in the following sections / appendices:
  - The projected General Fund outturn position for 2023/24 (**Section 3 + Appendices A to D**);
  - The projected HRA Outturn position for 2023/24 (**Section 4 + Appendix E**);
  - The projected Capital Outturn position for 2023/24 (**Section 5 + Appendix F**);
  - Collection Fund Update (**Section 6**);
  - The projected Reserves Outturn position for 2023/24 (**Section 7**);
  - The Procurement Waivers utilised during the quarter (**Section 8**);
  - The latest position of 3Rivers (**Appendix G – Part 2**)
- 1.3 Favourable variances generating either increased income or cost savings are expressed as credits (negative numbers), whilst unfavourable overspends or incomes below budget are debits (positive numbers). Any variance against the agreed budget will impact on the Council's reserves. This monitoring focuses on significant budget variances (+/- £20k), including any remedial action where necessary leading to an estimated overall Outturn position.
- 1.4 The Council's financial position will be constantly reviewed to ensure its continued financial health and delivery of excellent Value for Money.
- 1.5 This report also includes Section 9 which updates Members on the use of Procurement Waivers during the first quarter of 2023/24. A procurement waiver

is were contract procedure regulations have not be applied due to exceptional circumstances, such as urgency of the goods/services being required, or the specialist nature of the goods/services where there is no effective competition to provide it.

- 1.6 Members should note that officers have also identified areas where some unbudgeted expenditure can be mitigated through the use of earmarked reserves. Therefore this is shown in Appendix A within the individual service areas enabling clarity on the overall forecast outturn variance that will affect General Reserves.
- 1.7 A summary of the Council's Treasury Management year end position is shown in Section 8. This now includes further detail as required by new regulations.

## **2.0 Executive Summary of 2023/24**

- 2.1. The report indicates a projected General Fund outturn variance of £119k over spend (£196k in Qtr 2) and a HRA outturn variance of £520k under spend (£485k in Qtr 2). In respect of the Capital Programme, there is a variance of £53,595k against the 2023/24 Deliverable Budget, this is explained through a forecast £1,475k under spend, £1,656k over spend and slippage of £28,823k across various projects, with £24,954k no longer required, the majority of which was funding for future 3Rivers development projects.
- 2.2. The General Fund position must be considered against the position agreed by Full Council in March to draw £625k from General Reserves to balance the budget and the £400k vacancy saving target to be identified in-year. Therefore, to be forecasting to have reduced this £1,025k challenge down to £119k is a significant achievement. The workforce review group have, and continue to, consider each vacancy to ensure that we achieve and exceed the £400k vacancy target, and services have achieved significant budgetary savings in order to deliver a virtually balanced position. Work continues to ensure the position is maintained and pushed further towards fully offsetting the in-year savings targets set by Full Council.
- 2.3. Although overall targeted staffing savings are above the £400k vacancy target, the Council continues to struggle with recruitment and retention particularly within Waste, Planning Enforcement and Public Health requiring higher usage of agency staff than planned. Some service areas that were dependent upon agency support have reduced or removed this requirement through successfully filling roles. Therefore forecast outturn agency costs are c£220k lower than they were at this point last year.
- 2.4. In respect of income, there are significant reductions in Planning and Building Control income due to the increasingly depressed housing market leading to fewer planning applications and build sign offs. However, other income streams are tracking well above budget giving an overall credit to the bottom-line.

- 2.5. If the forecast level of over spend is required to be covered from General Reserves, this will reduce the balance to £1,905k rather than the planned £1,400k, thereby reducing the required draw by £505k. However, this revised balance is below the agreed minimum £2m balance and therefore action needs to be taken to address the matter, through the wider MTFP strategy.
- 2.6. All of the above positive budgetary achievements currently exclude any in-year implications associated with the soft closure of 3Rivers which are currently expected to be in the region of £5.4m and will need to be funded from a number of drawings from existing earmarked reserves – see **Section 7** and **Appendix G (Part 2)**. This will be formalised in the end of year outturn accounts.

### 3.0 The General Fund

- 3.1. The forecast General Fund over spend for the current year is £119k after transfers to and from Earmarked Reserves. A summary explanation of these key variances is shown in **Appendix A**, service by service. **Appendix B** also provides the detail of the key variances and those above £20k (+ or -) at individual service level to enable full transparency of the position. Similarly, within **Appendix F** (Capital Programme) the detail of the key variances at individual project level are included.
- 3.2. The table below shows the overall Budget, Forecast and Variance, summarised for 2023/24.

*Table 1 – General Fund Summary*

<b>Financial Summary for 2023/24</b>	<b>2023/24 Budget £</b>	<b>2023/24 Forecast £</b>	<b>2023/24 Variance £</b>
Total Net Cost of Services	15,664,819	16,231,488	556,669
Other Income and Expenditure	(3,201,584)	(3,109,022)	92,561
<b>Total Net Budgeted Expenditure</b>	<b>12,463,235</b>	<b>13,122,467</b>	<b>659,231</b>
Total Funding	(12,463,235)	(13,003,163)	(539,928)
<b>Net Income and Expenditure</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>119,304</b>	<b>119,304</b>

- 3.3. The current incomes from our major fee income streams are shown in **Appendix C**. It shows that the full year forecast Income variance is £349k above budget. The lower than forecast income in Planning and Building Control reflects the economic/market conditions, although has improved overall from earlier forecasts. Within Waste, Garden and Trade waste is healthy and above forecasts, however recycle prices, which are excluded from Appendix C, have dropped and therefore this income stream is £200k lower than expected. Other Service income streams remain relatively close to expectations.

- 3.4. The current employee costs are shown at Appendix D. It shows a full year forecast under spend of £484k, after taking into account the £400k vacancy target included across Corporate Management and Leisure (with the actual savings shown against the respective service areas). Notable savings are being made in Property, Legal and Democratic Services, Economic Development, Planning and IT due to vacancies not being filled. All vacancies are fully reviewed to consider if the position can be removed permanently, or temporarily managed without. Within Public Health, the use of Homes for Ukraine funding is offsetting the administrative cost of operating the scheme on behalf of the government. The Waste service is showing a notable over spend on staff costs due to higher than expected absence, both through vacancies and sickness.
- 3.5. The impact on the 2023/24 local government pay award has been amended from the assumed 5.5% budgeted uplift, to reflect the agreed uplift of the higher of £1,925k or 3.88%. This creates a relatively minor variance (+ or -) in each service area depending on the average pay in that area.
- 3.6. Agency Spend to date continues to be high following on from 2022/23. This is particularly applicable to Waste which has high levels of sickness in the year so far and is required to maintain the service. Overall, agency costs are largely offset by corresponding underspends on the service's staffing establishment.
- 3.7. The Other Income and Expenditure variance shown in the table within para 3.2 above, includes the budgeted £625k draw from General Reserves, whereas the final outturn variance will be the actual transfer to or from General Reserves. It is now virtually fully offset by service savings, the increased return on investments due to continued increase in interest rates and additional grant and collection fund yields projections since setting the budget. Therefore the £625k is not expected to be drawn at this time.
- 3.8. The table below shows the opening position of key operational balances of the Council, the forecast in year movements and final predicted position at 31 March 2024:

*Table 2 – Summary of Key Reserves*

<b>Usable Reserves</b>	<b>31/03/2023</b>	<b>Forecast In Year Movement</b>	<b>31/03/2024</b>
<b>REVENUE</b>	<b>£000's</b>	<b>£000's</b>	<b>£000's</b>
General Fund (See above)	(2,025)	119	<b>(1,905)</b>
Earmarked Reserves	(18,160)	1,728	<b>(16,432)</b>
<b>HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT</b> (See Section 4)	(2,000)	(520)	<b>(2,520)</b>

However, the actual reserves will be increased or decreased by the surplus or deficit generated on the General Fund in the year.

#### **4.0 Housing Revenue Account (HRA)**

- 4.1. This is a ring-fenced reserve in respect of the Council's housing landlord function. It is increased or decreased by the surplus or deficit generated on the HRA in the year. At Quarter 2 2023/24 the forecast year end budget position is a net surplus of £520k (£485k in Qtr 2). An explanation of the key variances and those above £20k + or -) are highlighted within **Appendix E**. The main movement from the Quarter 2 forecast is a £40k reduction on capital financing costs due to slippage to the 2023/24 projected capital spend.
- 4.2. It is anticipated that the forecast variance will increase the budgeted transfer to the Housing Maintenance Fund and so the HRA reserve balance will remain at £2m.

#### **5.0 Capital Programme**

- 5.1. The Capital Quarter 2 summary is attached as Appendix F to this report. The approved total Capital Programme Approval is £139,277k, although much of this is planned to be spent in future years. It is requested that this be increased by £1,811k largely reflecting the Cabinet decision to maximise the opportunity offered by the Local Authority Housing Fund to purchase additional housing to reduce temporary accommodation costs. The matched funding required from this funding stream can be funded as before through a mix of unspent Capital Grants, Capital Earmarked Reserves or Prudential Borrowing. This would increase the 2023/24 Deliverable Programme to £68,107k.
- 5.2. At Quarter 2 the actual, committed and forecast spend for 2023/24 amount to £14,512k; leaving a variance of £53,595k against the increased 2023/24 Deliverable Budget. Of which, £1,474k is an under spend; £1,656k is an over spend, £28,823k will slip into future years and £24,954k is no longer required.
- 5.3. The main areas of slippage relate to HRA developments where the overall programme of works is regularly reviewed. As a result, some projects have slipped to later in the MTFP timetable, while others have been brought forward. The Cullompton Relief Road still awaits funding via a successful bid against the Government's Levelling-Up Scheme.
- 5.4. The £14,512k expenditure will be funded by the use of £1,306k of Capital Receipts (including 1-4-1 receipts), £4,665k grant funding, £4,593k Revenue Contributions such as S106 or utilisation of reserves and £3,947k through internal borrowing (including Lease finance). No further external borrowing has been required during the year.



## 6.0 Treasury Management

6.1. The CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) Code of Practice for Treasury Management 2021 introduced a new requirement for 2023/24 that members be updated on treasury management activities and indicators at least quarterly. This section, therefore, ensures this Council is implementing best practice in accordance with the Code.

### 6.2. Prudential and Treasury Indicators for 2023/24 as of 31 December 2023

6.2.1. It is a statutory duty for the Council to determine and keep under review the affordable borrowing limits. During the quarter ended 31 December 2023, the Council has operated within the treasury and prudential indicators set out in the Council's Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2023/24 (approved at Full Council 08/03/2023). The Deputy Chief Executive (S151) reports that no difficulties are envisaged for the current or future years in complying with these indicators.

6.2.2. The table below shows the Council's updated treasury indicators for 2023/24.

Treasury Indicators	2023/24 Original Forecast £000	2023/24 Q1 Updated Forecast £000	2023/24 Q3 Updated Forecast £000
Authorised Limit for External Debt	107,000	64,000	60,000
Operational Boundary for External	98,000	55,000	51,000
Gross External Debt	45,910	33,450	33,465
Investments	10,000	20,000	17,901
Net Borrowing	35,910	13,450	15,564

6.2.3. The table below shows the Council's updated prudential indicators for 2023/24.

Prudential Indicators	2023/24 Original £000	2023/24 Q1 Updated £000	2023/24 Q3 Updated £000
<b>Capital Expenditure</b>	<b>64,826</b>	<b>17,486</b>	<b>14,512</b>
<i>Of which General Fund</i>	17,084	4,005	4,459
<i>Of which HRA</i>	21,634	9,745	7,414
<i>Of which Loans to Subsidiary</i>	26,108	3,736	2,639
<b>Capital Financing Requirement</b>	<b>96,793</b>	<b>53,623</b>	<b>49,885</b>
<i>Of which General Fund</i>	14,223	9,832	9,722
<i>Of which HRA</i>	51,934	43,791	40,163
<i>Of which Loans to Subsidiary</i>	30,636	0	0
<b>Annual Change in CFR</b>	<b>25,814</b>	<b>(10,969)</b>	<b>(14,707)</b>
<b>In-Year Borrowing Requirement</b>	<b>12,500</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

\*see 6.4 for more information



### 6.3. Investment Portfolio

6.3.1. In accordance with the Code, it is the Council's priority to ensure security of capital and liquidity, and to obtain an appropriate level of return which is consistent with the Council's risk appetite. Interest rates offered by banks and building societies have come down during Q3 as market participants become increasingly confident that Bank Rate has peaked at 5.25% and will see cuts later in 2024. The local authority market has recently been offering better returns than the banks, and so most surplus cash during Q3 has been placed with other local authorities to take advantage of this.

6.3.2. The Council's investment portfolio as at 31 December 2023 was made up of short term investments/deposits to the value of £29.30m, comprising of £26.50m in fixed term investments and £2.80m in NatWest call accounts. In addition to this, the Council also holds £5.00m in the CCLA commercial property fund.

6.3.3. The following table shows short term investments/deposits held as at 31 December 2023.

Institution	Principal £000	Interest Rate	Start Date	Maturity Date
NBK International PLC	2,000,000	5.870%	02/08/2023	02/02/2024
Goldman Sachs International Bank	2,500,000	5.840%	29/08/2023	29/02/2024
City of Liverpool	2,000,000	5.700%	29/09/2023	31/05/2024
Surrey County Council	2,500,000	5.550%	26/10/2023	26/04/2024
NBK International PLC	2,000,000	5.550%	02/11/2023	02/05/2024
Surrey County Council	2,500,000	5.550%	15/11/2023	15/05/2024
Eastleigh Borough Council	3,000,000	5.550%	20/11/2023	20/05/2024
Blackpool Council	5,000,000	5.600%	11/12/2023	11/03/2024
DMO	3,000,000	5.190%	18/12/2023	04/01/2024
DMO	2,000,000	5.190%	21/12/2023	04/01/2024

6.3.4. The Council received an average return of 5.08% on investments during the first three quarters of 2023/24, up from 4.21% in the first quarter. Returns during the early part of 2023/24 were weakened slightly by maturing investments made before the full extent of Bank Rate increases was known, and so this rate was slightly below the interest rates on offer during that time. Performance has improved marginally through Q2 and Q3 following further increases to interest rates, however it is likely we have now seen the peak.

6.3.5. The Council currently has £5m deposited with the CCLA (Churches, Charities and Local Authorities) Local Authorities' Property Fund, which pays dividends quarterly. For the first three quarters of 2023/24, dividends of £174k (4.64%)

were received, up from £150k (4.00%) for the same period in 2022/23. There has been a decrease in fund value of £151k during the first three quarters of 2023/24. The Council's share in the fund is now valued at £4.488m.

6.3.6. Officers can confirm that the approved limits within the Annual Investment Strategy were not breached during the quarter ended 31 December 2023.

## 6.4. Borrowing

6.4.1. The Council has no short-term borrowing but has existing PWLB loans of £32.349m as at 31 December 2023, in addition to £2.092m in finance leases.

6.4.2. The Council's revised Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) for 2023/24 is £49.885m. The CFR denotes the Council's underlying need to borrow for capital purposes. If the CFR is positive the Council may borrow from the PWLB or the market (external borrowing) or from internal balances on a temporary basis (internal borrowing). The balance of external and internal borrowing is generally driven by market conditions. Table 6.2.2 shows the Council has forecast borrowings at 31 March 2024 of £33.465m, and so will have utilised £16.420m of cash flow funds in lieu of borrowing to finance the CFR of £49.885m shown in table 6.2.3.

6.4.3. There has so far been no new borrowing in 2023/24, and it is expected that there will not be a need for new borrowing before the end of the financial year. This is a reduction in the level of borrowing forecast at the start of the year, which originally stood at £12.500m, and is mainly due to note lending to 3Rivers as original expected and slippage in the Capital Programme.

## 6.5. Economic Update

6.5.1. The Council's treasury advisor, Link Group, provided the following forecasts on 08 January 2024 (PWLB rates are certainty rates, gilt yields plus 80bps):

Link Group Interest Rate View 08.01.24													
	Mar-24	Jun-24	Sep-24	Dec-24	Mar-25	Jun-25	Sep-25	Dec-25	Mar-26	Jun-26	Sep-26	Dec-26	Mar-27
<b>BANK RATE</b>	5.25	5.25	4.75	4.25	3.75	3.25	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
3 month ave earnings	5.30	5.30	4.80	4.30	3.80	3.30	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
6 month ave earnings	5.20	5.10	4.60	4.10	3.70	3.30	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10
12 month ave earnings	5.00	4.90	4.40	3.90	3.60	3.20	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.20	3.20
5 yr PWLB	4.50	4.40	4.30	4.20	4.10	4.00	3.80	3.70	3.60	3.60	3.50	3.50	3.50
10 yr PWLB	4.70	4.50	4.40	4.30	4.20	4.10	4.00	3.90	3.80	3.70	3.70	3.70	3.70
25 yr PWLB	5.20	5.10	4.90	4.80	4.60	4.40	4.30	4.20	4.20	4.10	4.10	4.10	4.10
50 yr PWLB	5.00	4.90	4.70	4.60	4.40	4.20	4.10	4.00	4.00	3.90	3.90	3.90	3.90

6.5.2. It is now expected that the MPC will be keen to underpin its anti-inflation credentials by keeping Bank Rate at 5.25% until at least the second half of 2024. Rate cuts are expected to begin only when the CPI inflation and wage/employment data are unequivocally supportive of such a move.

### 6.5.3. The third quarter of 2023/24 saw:

- A 0.3% month-on-month decline in real GDP in October, potentially partly due to unseasonably wet weather, but also due to the ongoing drag from higher interest rates;
- A sharp fall in wage growth, with the headline 3 month year-on-year rate declining from 8.0% in September to 7.2% in October, although the ONS “experimental” rate of unemployment has remained low at 4.2%;
- CPI inflation continuing on its downward trajectory, from 8.7% in April to 4.6% in October, then again to 3.9% in November;
- Core CPI inflation decreasing from April and May’s 31 year high of 7.1% to 5.1% in November, the lowest rate since January 2022;
- The Bank of England holding rates at 5.25% in November and December; and
- A steady fall in 10-year gilt yields as investors revised their interest rate expectations lower.

## 7.0 Other – 3Rivers Developments Ltd

7.1. Following the decision to soft close 3Rivers, the close down programme is managing the sale / transfer of assets.

7.1.1. In respect of St George’s Court, agreement has been reached for the sale of all units to the HRA. The sale is progressing well and should complete at the end of January. Works will be undertaken to improve accessibility for the planned over 60’s tenancy scheme and the first tenants are expected to be in occupation before the end of the financial year.

7.1.2. As previously reported, two houses at Hadden Heights, Bampton have been sold and receipts returned to the Council. A further two units are close to exchange and should complete before the end of the financial year. The remaining 5 units continue to be marketed.

7.1.3. Sale has been agreed for Knowle Lane back to the General Fund for expedience while longer term options are being considered. The sale should again complete at the end of January.

7.1.4. The Banksia property will also be bought by the General Fund and included within its property portfolio managed through an independent management company.

7.2. During the quarter ended 31 December 2023, a further £984k was loaned to 3 Rivers Developments Limited. The total outstanding loan value at this date was £22,080k. Interest of £172k was charged by the Authority in respect of these loans for the third quarter.

7.3. Now the route to closure is known and being implemented, greater clarity is available on the financial implications of the closure. A summary by project is

included within Appendix G – as Part 2 given the commercial nature of the business. This forecasts that the closure of the company will cost a further c5.4m, split between £2.8m in further impairments (write off), taking the total to c£8.1m (compared to a forecasted £8.9 in Qtr 2 at which point Cabinet noted an forecasted impairment of £3.7m for the current year) and asset purchases with a value of £2.6m which will provide future economic benefit to the Council.

- 7.4. Note the estimated 2023/24 financial implication of closing 3Rivers at c£5.4m will be funded through a combination of Earmarked Reserves including New Homes Bonus and various sinking funds. The precise make up of this will be recommended within the Cabinet Outturn report.

## **8.0 The Collection Fund**

- 8.1. Mid Devon is a Collection Authority for Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates, and as such, is required to produce a Collection Fund Account for the Mid Devon area. The movement from the position reported at Qtr 2 is £150k improvement in the forecast Business Rates surplus, increasing it to £294k which is proposed to be added to the smoothing reserve to minimise any deficit in future years.

## **9.0 Procurement Waivers**

- 9.1. In exceptional circumstances, there are sometimes justifiable reasons to act outside the contract procedure regulations. These include the following reasons:
- I. The work, goods or materials are urgently required, and loss would be entailed by delay arising from advertising;
  - II. The work, goods or materials required are of such special nature that no advantage would accrue by inviting competitive tenders;
  - III. There is no effective competition for the goods or materials required by reason of the fixing of prices under statutory authority or that such goods or materials are patented or proprietary articles or materials;
  - IV. Transactions, which, because of special circumstances, may (either individually or as a class) be excepted from time to time by the Cabinet of the Council.
- 9.2. In such circumstances, prior written approval of the Deputy Chief Executive (S151) is required and Cabinet will be informed. Below is a list of the Procurement Waivers utilised during the third quarter of this financial year:

*Table 3 – Summary of Procurement Waivers applied*

<b>Ref</b>	<b>Subject of the Waiver</b>	<b>Approximate Value £</b>	<b>Reason Code</b>
1	In house Biodiversity Net Gain support provided by funding from DEFRA	£40k	I
2	Tiverton EUE Community Centre: Architectural and Urban Design Expertise	£35k	I
3	Tiverton EUE Community Centre – Community Engagement Services	£10k	I
4	Tiverton EUE Community Centre – Quantity Surveyor Services	£10k	I
5	Tiverton EUE Community Centre – Transport Expertise	£10k	I
6	Renewal of Public Surveillance System CCTV at Culm Valley Leisure Centre	£15k	II
7	Installation of Fire Dampers at Phoenix House	£35k	I

## **10.0 Conclusion**

10.1. Members are asked to note the Revenue and Capital Outturn figures for the financial year 2023/24 and the use of procurement waivers during the quarter. We continue to closely monitor the financial position and amend our expectations accordingly.

### **Financial Implications**

Good financial management and administration underpin the entire document. A surplus or deficit on the Revenue Budget will impact on the Council's General Fund balances. The Council's financial position is constantly reviewed to ensure its continued financial health.

### **Legal Implications**

None.

### **Risk Assessment**

Regular financial monitoring information mitigates the risk of over or underspends at year-end and allows the Council to direct its resources to key corporate priorities. Members will be aware that the Council continues to face a financially difficult and uncertain future. As such, the Strategic Risk Register (monitored by Audit Committee) includes a specific risk relating to this issue (CR7).

### **Impact on Climate Change**

The General Fund, Capital Programme and the Housing Revenue Account all contain significant investment in order to work towards the Council's Carbon Reduction Pledge.

### **Equalities Impact Assessment**

No equality issues identified for this report



### **Relationship to Corporate Plan**

The financial resources of the Council impact directly on its ability to deliver the Corporate Plan prioritising the use of available resources in 2023/24. The Monitoring Report indicates how the Council's resources have been used to support the delivery of budgetary decisions.

### **Section 3 – Statutory Officer sign-off/mandatory checks**

**Statutory Officer: Andrew Jarrett**

Agreed by or on behalf of the Section 151

**Date: 26/01/2024**

**Statutory Officer: Maria De Leburne**

Agreed on behalf of the Monitoring Officer

**Date: 26/01/2024**

**Chief Officer: Stephen Walford**

Agreed by or on behalf of the Chief Executive/Corporate Director

**Date: 26/01/2024**

**Performance and risk: Steve Carr**

Agreed on behalf of the Corporate Performance & Improvement Manager

**Date: 26/01/2024**

**Cabinet member notified:** Yes

### **Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers**

**Contact:** Paul Deal, Corporate Manager for Finance, Property and Climate Change

**Email:** [pdeal@middevon.gov.uk](mailto:pdeal@middevon.gov.uk)

**Telephone:** 01884 23(4254)

**Background papers:** 2023/24 Budget Report to Cabinet / Full Council  
2023/24 Qtr1 Monitoring Report  
2023/24 Qtr2 Monitoring Report