

OPEN

**Environment and Communities  
Committee**

**27 July 2023**

**Provisional Financial Outturn 2022/23**

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**Report of:** Alex Thompson: Director of Finance and Customer Services

**Report Reference No:** EC/17/23-24

Ward(s) Affected: Not applicable

**Purpose of Report**

- 1 This report provides members with an overview of the Cheshire East Council provisional outturn for the financial year 2022/23. Members are being asked to consider the financial performance of the Council relevant to their terms of reference.
- 2 Reporting the financial outturn at this stage, and in this format supports the Council's vision to be an open Council as set out in the Corporate Plan 2021 to 2025. In particular, the priorities for an open and enabling organisation, ensure that there is transparency in all aspects of council decision making.
- 3 The report also provides an early update on performance in 2023/24, in respect of the approved budget policy changes made in the MTFS 2023/24-27, at Council in February 2023.

**Executive Summary**

- 4 This report outlines how the Council managed its resources through sound financial planning, monitoring, and reporting to achieve outcomes and value for money. The report includes a narrative from the Council's Draft Group Accounts, to highlight financial performance within the year, as well as associated appendices to show how the Council has achieved against the priorities contained within the Corporate Plan as well as other important financial matters.

- 5 The full report was received by Corporate Policy Committee on 11 July. Service Committees will receive the sections relevant to their committee.
- 6 The Outturn is reported as part of the Statutory Accounts and is therefore subject to audit. The audited Accounts will be presented to the Audit and Governance Committee on 28 September 2023.
- 7 The annexes and appendices attached to this report set out details of the Council's financial performance:
- 8 Corporate Policy Committee Provisional Financial Outturn 2022/23 covering report.
- 9 **Annex 1** – Narrative from the Draft Group Accounts – Provides context of the area and its people, commentary on performance and introduces the financial statements of the Council and the wider Group of Companies for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.
- 10 **Annex 2** – Sets out the financial stability context and reasons for the outturn position. The annex contains the relevant appendix for each service committee relating to revenue and capital budgets, debt and reserves.
- 11 **Annex 3** – Update on performance from the MTFS 2023-27 on approved budget policy change items. A full review will be provided in at First Review in the September cycle of Committee meetings.
- 12 The 2023/24 – 2026/27 Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) approved in February 2023 included proposal MTFS-88 Closed Cemeteries relating to the closed cemeteries which were likely to be coming over to CEC as a statutory obligation to maintain during 2023/24.
- 13 The council has completed the statutory obligations to enact and accept transfer of maintenance responsibilities for Wybunbury Closed Churchyard. The 1972 Local Government Act states that on production of a relevant Closure Order, Parish Councils must uphold the notice request for transfer of maintenance from a Parochial Parish Council.
- 14 The costs associated with the capital works are based on estimates from site baseline conditioning surveys undertaken by the Councils Assets team for the infrastructure maintenance elements at St Chads, Wybunbury.
- 15 The business case included inflation (at 5% for the duration), and a contingency of 10% on capital costs.

## 16 Estimated Capital Costs

Capital	2023/24 £	2024/25 £	2025/26 £	Ongoing Uplift (PA)	Combined Total £
St Chads, Wybunbury	198,402	£9,920	£10,416.10	5%	<b>£218,738.10</b>

- 17 The HLBC set out the reasons and requirements for both the revenue and capital implications of the proposal. The MTFS report set out the revenue implications (MTFS Report page 90) however the associated capital allocations and how it was to be funded was to be agreed once the revenue proposal has been approved as part of the MTFS.
- 18 In consultation with the Director of Finance and Customer Services, S.151 Officer, funding has been identified from within the Strategic Capital Projects allocation to fund this project. An Officer Decision record will be required to vire the funds to the Environment & Communities Committee.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

The Environment and Communities Committee to:

1. Consider the report of the Corporate Policy Committee ([Agenda for Corporate Policy Committee on Tuesday, 11th July, 2023, 10.00 am | Cheshire East Council](#)).
2. Consider the financial performance of the Council in the 2022/23 financial year relevant to their terms of reference.
3. Consider the delegated decisions relating to supplementary revenue estimates for specific grants coded directly to services in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules as detailed in **Section 2 of each Committee Appendix (Annex 2)**.
4. Consider the update on performance with regard to the MTFS 2023-27 approved budget policy change items, in respect of Services within the remit of the Committee (**Annex 3**).
5. Consider a virement for £218,718.10 that will be approved by the Director of Finance and Customer Services in consultation with the chair of the

Environment and Communities Committee and the chair of the Finance Sub-Committee to fund the works required at St Chads Churchyard, Wybunbury.

## Reasons for Recommendations

- 19 Committees are responsible for discharging the Council's functions within the Budget and Policy Framework provided by Council. The Budget will be aligned with Committee and Head of Service responsibilities as far as possible.
- 20 Budget holders are expected to manage within the budgets provided by full Council. Committee and Sub-Committees are responsible for monitoring financial control and making decisions as required by these rules.

<b>Access to Information</b>	
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Appendices:	<b>Corporate Policy Committee Provisional Financial Outturn 2022/23</b> which includes: <b>Annex 1</b> – Narrative from the Draft Group Accounts <b>Annex 2</b> – Provisional Financial Outturn 2022/23 <b>Annex 3</b> – Update on tracked MTFS 2023-27 Approved Budget Policy Change items
Background Papers:	The following are links to key background documents: <a href="#">Medium-Term Financial Strategy</a> <a href="#">First Financial Review 2022/23</a> <a href="#">Financial Review 2022/23</a> <a href="#">Financial Review Update 2022/23</a> <a href="#">2022/23 Financial Update</a> <a href="#">Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement (cheshireeast.gov.uk)</a>