

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	City Growth and Resources Committee
DATE	21 June 2022
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Council Financial Performance – Quarter 4, 2021/22
REPORT NUMBER	RES/22/136
DIRECTOR	Steven Whyte
CHIEF OFFICER	Jonathan Belford
REPORT AUTHOR	Lesley Fullerton
TERMS OF REFERENCE	1.1

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the full year actual financial position of the Council against budget for the financial year 2021/22, including:
- General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) revenue and capital accounts; and
 - Common Good Revenue Account and Balance Sheet.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee :-

- 2.1 Note the unaudited final outturn position for financial year 2021/22 as detailed in Appendix 1;
- 2.2 Note that the General Fund has recorded an operational surplus of £1.310m for the year 2021/22, which has been added to the earmarked sum set aside for Covid resilience. The uncommitted General Fund reserve remains in line with the approved Reserves Policy;
- 2.3 Note that the Housing Revenue Account has recorded a surplus of £0.500m for the year, in line with budget and increasing the uncommitted working balance for use in future years;

- 2.4 Note that the Common Good has recorded an operating surplus of £1.620 m for the year, which is better than the approved use of cash reserves. After investment valuation changes and capital receipts are included cash balances increased by £5.378m and remain in line with recommended levels;
- 2.5 Approve the various transfers for 2021/22, between Council Reserves and Earmarked sums for the General Fund, Housing Revenue Account, Common Good and Statutory Funds as of 31 March 2022, as detailed in Appendix 1;
- 2.6 Approve the reprofiling of the 2022/23 – 2025/26 capital programmes to take account of the year end position and that the outcome of this is incorporated into the 2022/23 Quarter 1 reporting; and
- 2.7 Note that the unaudited Annual Accounts for 2021/22 will be presented to Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee on 30 June 2022, including the Annual Governance Statement and Remuneration Report for the year.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 This report focuses on the final financial position for the year to 31 March 2022 for the Council's General Fund, Housing Revenue Account and Common Good.
- 3.2 The actual position for the year is presented in Appendix 1.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The full year financial position is provided in Appendix 1 to this report and the revenue positions are summarised below:

Revenue	2021/22 Budget £'000	2021/22 Actual (Surplus) / Deficit £'000	Variance (Under) / Over Budget £'000
General Fund	0	(1,310)	(1,310)
HRA	(500)	(500)	0
Common Good	(500)	(1,620)	(1,120)

- 4.2 Appendix 1 also includes a Management Commentary providing information on the 2021/22 financial position, including details of the movement between Reserves.
- 4.3 The capital position can be summarised as follows:

Capital	2021/22 Budget £'000	2021/22 Actual Expenditure £'000	Variance (Under) / Over Budget £'000
General Fund	253,713	128,583	(125,129)
HRA	147,884	99,999	(47,885)

- 4.4 The underspending on Capital is in relation to a wide range of projects, which have been reported on during the course of the year. These figures remain unaudited and are subject to that process being completed. Capital budgets, as appropriate, will be updated to take account of the continuing nature of capital investment projects, and be reprofiled to enable projects to be completed.
- 4.5 As a number of key projects move forward at the start of 2022/23, it is expected that the profile (across individual projects) to require to be revised by viring approved budget from one project to another. This is because the values against the individual projects had initially been estimated.
- 4.6 The usable reserves have moved as follows:

Council Usable Reserves	Balance at 31 March 2021 £'000	Balance at 31 March 2022 £'000	Movement £'000
General Fund	(71,603)	(72,152)	(549)
HRA	(14,715)	(15,215)	(500)
Statutory & Other	(13,082)	(20,860)	(7,778)
Total	(99,400)	(108,227)	(8,827)

- 4.7 All of the usable reserve's balances have increased during the year, and Appendix 1 also shows the change in the value of earmarked sums during the year. The value of these change due to the nature of the earmarked sum as they are set aside for funding specific projects, and this can influence when the funds are used. Larger earmarked sums include Covid Grant funding, to be used for a range of purposes, there are funds set aside to support the approved 2022/23 budget and there is money from the Council Tax account to support the development of affordable housing. The uncommitted balance that remains on the General Fund was reduced to £12m following the approval of the budget for 2022/23, which confirmed the use of £0.519m to support revenue operations in 2022/23. The sums held as uncommitted are in line with the Council approved Reserves Policy (March 2022).
- 4.8 The increase in the HRA is as a result of the operational surplus achieved. The Statutory and Other Usable Reserves include the Capital Fund, Insurance Funds and Capital Receipts Unapplied Account. Transfers have included capital receipts and contributions from revenue.
- 4.9 At the year end the Council has retained a significant value in usable reserves, managed the overall budget through a difficult and volatile year. The Council benefited from funding confirmed late in the financial year, with a proportion of

those funds being carried into 2022/23 to use. The strength of the reserves position provides the basis for financial resilience required into 2022/23, where funding was approved to support the General Fund budget and to continue to provide limited protection for the various circumstances that the Covid-19 pandemic has caused. The first quarter report and initial forecast for the year will be considered at the City Growth and Resources Committee on 4 August 2022.

- 4.10 The Common Good Cash Balances are as shown in the table below. The cash position has improved from the start of the year due to capital receipts during the year. The capital receipts are set aside and invested to mitigate the impact of income loss that arises from the sale of land.

Cash Balances	Balance at 31 March 2021 £'000	Balance at 31 March 2022 £'000	Movement £'000
Common Good	(34,420)	(39,798)	(5,378)

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are additional reporting requirements due to the London Stock Exchange listing, for example the requirement to notify them ahead of publication of the report, that have to be taken into account when preparing this report

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

7. RISK

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H) <small>*taking into account controls/control actions</small>	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
Strategic Risk	There is a risk that if the financial resilience of the Council is not maintained that strategic priorities and outcomes	There is a comprehensive approach to financial management of the council budgets, quarterly reporting, Medium Term Financial Strategy in place to support future planning.	M	Yes

	have to be compromised in the future.			
Compliance	There is the risk that the accounts do not comply with legal and accounting legislation.	A year end accounts process is in place to ensure compliance. Annual external audits are undertaken to review the financial transactions and controls. Ongoing internal audits also review specific financial and service data.	L	Yes
Operational	There is the risk that there may be an IT system failure.	Daily backups taken and held offsite for security purposes. Constant review and update of security systems by Digital and Technology.	L	Yes
Financial	There is the risk that the external audit process identifies adjustments that have an impact on the usable reserves.	The year end and Annual Accounts have been prepared in the line with accounting practice and standards and year end reviews have been carried out to ensure that the final position presented is comprehensive.	M	Yes
Reputational	There is a risk that through the reduction of expenditure the Council may be criticised that spending is not in line with public expectation of service delivery.	The Council has continued to address priority spending areas, and to protect people. It is equally accountable for the use of public funds and to ensure that they are managed robustly. There are a wide range of unknown external factors that require to be balanced to deal with the current operating environment. Regular reporting during the year provides an ongoing description of the position the Council is	M	Yes

		in and the situations it faces.		
Environment / Climate	None identified			n/a

8. OUTCOMES

<u>COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN</u>	
	Impact of Report
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement	Financial planning, budget setting and resource allocation are all enablers for the delivery of the outcomes and regular performance reviews ensure that the Council's stewardship and financial management are robust.
Regional and City Strategies	The information within this report supports the Strategic Development Plan and Regional Transport Strategy by enabling financial planning, resource allocation and investment.

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	Not required
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required
Other	Not required

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

11. APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix 1 – Financial Position for the Year 2021/22

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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