

REPORT FOR DECISION

DECISION OF	The Cabinet
DATE:	29 July 2020
SUBJECT:	The Council's Financial Position 2020/21 as at 30 June 2020
REPORT FROM:	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Growth
CONTACT OFFICER:	Mike Woodhead, Joint Chief Finance Officer
TYPE OF DECISION:	Key decision
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/STATUS:	This paper is within the public domain.
SUMMARY:	This report outlines the forecast financial position of the council at the end of 2020/21 based on the information known at the end of the first quarter. The report sets out the position for both revenue and capital and provides an analysis of the variances, both under and overspending.
OPTIONS & RECOMMENDED OPTION	<p>Cabinet is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve the reallocation of the Council's budget to reflect the new organisational footprint; • Note the announcement of £16.150m in grant funding to support the Council with the additional costs and pressure of COVID-19 and note that these have been reflected in the service budgets; • Note that further funding announcements have not yet been reflected in the financial position due to the fact that individual local authority allocations have not yet been made; • Note the forecast overspend of £7.524m, the position on reserves, the position on the Dedicated Schools Grant and the CCG funding framework; • Note the challenges in monitoring the collection fund and that further work is ongoing with other Greater Manchester Authorities to manage and report on the impact of COVID-19 on the fund;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the position in relation to grants for businesses affected by COVID-19; • Note the capital programme for the year and that further work is underway to review the programme in light of the COVID-19 crisis.
<p>IMPLICATIONS:</p> <p>Corporate Aims/Policy Framework:</p>	<p>The proposals accord with the Policy Framework</p>
<p>Statement by Section 151 Officer:</p>	<p>The financial implications are set out in the report.</p>
<p>Equality/Diversity implications:</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Considered by Monitoring Officer:</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Are there any legal implications?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Wards Affected:</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>Scrutiny Interest:</p>	<p>Overview and Scrutiny Committee</p>

THE COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT THE END OF JUNE 2020

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report outlines the forecast financial position of the council at the end of 2020/21 based on the information known at the end of the first quarter. The reports sets out the position for both revenue and capital and provides an analysis of the variances, both under and overspending.
- 1.2 This is the first report of the financial year and the position will change over time as trends emerge. Most notable in the current financial year is the impact of COVID-19 on the council's finances. There remain some significant challenges to forecasting as a result of COVID-19 and the position will be closely monitored throughout the year.
- 1.3 The council's budget was set in February 2020. Since then a new organisational structure has been implemented and the budget has been updated to reflect this. Additionally, some technical budgets over which budget holders have no control have been centralised. This means that, whilst the overall budget remains unchanged, the allocations between Directorates has moved and is therefore recommended for approval.
- 1.4 In response to the COVID-19 crisis the government has made available £3.7bn to Local Authorities nationally and some additional specific grants have been made available to provide funding to cover additional costs that will be incurred as a result of specific grant criteria. These funding allocations have also been reflected in the 2020/21 budget. Further announcements are expected and will be added to the budget as and when the information is available. Cabinet will continue to be updated of all changes.

2 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The council is forecasting an overspend of £7.524m. This is not unexpected given the pressures faced by COVID-19 and reflects the monitoring that has been reported to MHCLG and Greater Manchester on the in-year position. Whilst the Council has seen an increase in some costs, the most notable impact has been on income loss. The MHCLG returns request details on the loss of income including council tax and business rates and the projected total loss for 2020/21, based on the June submission, is forecast at £24m. It should however be noted that, for financial planning and financial strategy purposes, the loss in income for business rates and council tax impacts in 2021/22 and will therefore be reflected in the update to medium term financial strategy.
- 2.2 When set in February 2020, the 2020/21 budget was considered to be challenging but deliverable however the position has now changed considerably. In responding to this, the Council must, and is, moving quickly to consider options for managing the in-year impact and to consider how the longer term impact can also be managed.
- 2.3 In forecasting the position, some assumptions have been made particularly around income losses. The ability to recover and improve on this will be dependent upon the extent and duration of COVID-19. With this in mind, there remains a significant degree of uncertainty and the position will change. A further

announcement of funding was made in early July however details are yet to emerge and the financial impact of this is yet to be factored in.

- 2.4 The Council has factored in £2.4m of costs that are to be funded through COVID-19 grant monies that have been made available to Clinical Commissioning Groups. The relationship between the Council and CCG within Bury as enabled some quick decision making which is helpful for financial planning purposes.
- 2.5 The planned contribution to the pooled fund in 2020/21 will be £10.5m less than is budgeted for due to the fact that an additional contribution, to the same value, was made in 2019/20 as part of a strategy to access additional funding for the CCG. This has not yet been factored into the figures although it is assumed that this will be used to increase general reserves. In 2019/20 the Council made an additional contribution to the pooled fund of £10.5m which has effectively been met by the Council's general reserves which were lower at the end of the 2019/20 than anticipated.
- 2.6 Within the Council's 2020/21 budget there was an expectation that savings of £4.162m would be delivered. The ability to deliver these in the context is continually being assessed and a total of £1.578m is deemed to be at risk. The impact of this has already been factored into the monitoring position. In line with the principles set out in the approach for the development of the medium term financial strategy, executive directors will be expected to identify other efficiencies to mitigate the financial impact.
- 2.7 The position on the collection fund will be significantly affected by COVID-19 as it is expected that the collection rates for both council tax and business rates will be lower than anticipated when the budget was set. Due to the way in which the accounting arrangements for the collection fund work, the financial impact will materialise in the 2021/22 financial year and is therefore reflected in the updated medium term financial strategy. It is however important to be clear that whilst the impact will present itself in the 2021/22 financial year, it will have occurred in 2020/21 and so we must factor this in now into our financial planning.
- 2.8 The introduction of the Council's reserves strategy will introduce greater control and scrutiny over the use of reserves and will ensure these can be targeted to managing overall financial risk and also to Council priorities. General reserves were expected to increase during 2020/21 due to a budgeted contribution to reserves (£0.567m), the CCG pooled fund contribution and the release of monies from the collection fund as set out in the report to Full Council in February 2020. At this stage, with the exception of the Dedicated Schools Grant reserve, these are not forecast to change. The position on the DSG reserve will be the subject of a future report to Cabinet.
- 2.9 The CCG financial position is uncertain due to a change in the financial framework and regime that has been introduced in response to COVID-19. Greater clarity and understanding of the position will not be known until further announcements from government are made.
- 2.10 The capital programme is currently under review and has been impacted by COVID-19. Some schemes have progressed and others have stopped or been delayed due to COVID-19. With the carry forward of schemes from 2019/20, the Council's capital budget for 2020/21 is £86.562m.

3 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW - REVENUE

- 3.1 Since the 2020/21 budget was set in February 2020, the Council has implemented a new organisational structure. To ensure that strong financial management can be maintained, the budget has been reshaped to reflect the new organisation and to align budgets to the relevant Executive Directors and managers. Additionally, the Council has received over £16.150m in grant funding to provide financial support for COVID-19 costs. Some of these grants were to fund new activities for which additional costs would, and have been, incurred and therefore budgets for both income and expenditure have been built into individual budgets. A list of all grants received is attached at Appendix 1. Approval of the budget on the new organisational footprint is requested of Cabinet.
- 3.2 The forecast out turn position is set out in Table 1 below and shows a forecast overspend of £7.524m, representing 4.56% of the council's net revenue budget. The forecast is based on trends and information early in the financial year and therefore will change as trends and assumptions crystallise.

Table 1

Forecast Out Turn Position 2020/21 – As At 30 June 2020			
Directorate	Approved Budget	Forecast Out Turn	Forecast (Under)/Over Spend
	£m	£m	£m
One Commissioning Organisation	79.502	82.065	2.563
Children and Young People	41.778	42.654	0.876
Operations	16.247	22.828	6.581
Corporate Core	13.470	13.659	0.189
Business, Growth and Infrastructure	2.800	3.359	0.559
Arts and Museum	0.577	0.639	0.062
Housing General Fund	0.553	1.116	0.563
Non Service Specific	9.964	6.095	(3.869)
TOTAL	164.891	172.415	7.524
Funded By:			
Government Grants	25.718	25.718	0.000
Council Tax	89.020	89.020	0.000
Business Rates	50.153	50.153	0.000
Total	164.891	164.891	0.000

- 3.3 Details on individual services are set out in the next section of the report.

One Commissioning Organisation – Forecast Overspend £2.563m

Table 2

2020/21 Forecast Revenue Out Turn Position – as at 30 June 2020			
One Commissioning Organisation	Approved Budget	Forecast Out Turn	Forecast (Under)/Over Spend
	£m	£m	£m
Adult Social Care Operations	7.441	6.885	(0.556)
Care in the Community	40.987	43.945	2.958
Commissioning & Procurement	15.968	16.112	0.144
Public Health	10.421	10.421	0.000
Departmental Support Services	4.607	4.625	0.017
Workforce Modernisation	0.078	0.078	0.000
TOTAL	79.502	82.065	2.563

3.4 The OCO budget is forecast to overspend by £2.563m. However £2.396m of the overspend relates to Covid-19 Infection control expenditure within the Care in the Community budget which is offset by the Infection Control grant income which sits within Non Service Specific budgets. This reduces the forecast overspend to £0.167m

3.5 The material OCO variances are as follows:

- **Care in the Community** overspend is due to pressures regarding self-directed support budgets within Learning Disabilities, supported living budgets within Mental Health, underachieving on the savings programme and an underspend on nursing budgets within the Older People cohort (£0.562m);
- **Adult Social Care Operations** underspend is due to lower than budgeted staffing budgets in services that are currently undergoing transformation (-£0.556m);
- **Commissioning & Procurement** the projected overspend is largely due to the potential delay regarding achievement of savings and additional Deprivation of Liberty Safeguarding (DoLS) assessments (£0.144m).

Children and Young People – Forecast Overspend £0.876m

Table 3

2020/21 Forecast Revenue Out Turn Position – as at 30 June 2020			
Children and Young People Directorate	Approved Budget	Forecast Out Turn	Forecast (Under)/Over Spend
	£m	£m	£m
Children’s Social care – Corporate Parenting	16.175	16.627	0.452
Education Services – Non Schools	15.960	16.394	0.436
Children’s Social Care - Safeguarding	5.985	6.052	0.066
Social Care Strategy – Commissioning and Youth Justice	1.897	1.851	(0.046)
Early Help and School Readiness	1.761	1.730	(0.032)
TOTAL	41.778	42.654	0.876

3.6 The Children, Young People and Culture Directorate is forecasting an overspend of £0.876m

3.7 The main reasons for the variances are as follows:

- **Independent Fostering Agency Placements** increase in costs as a result of increased numbers of Looked After Children (LAC) (£0.452m);
- **Home to school and college transport**, including Bus Escorts, higher than budgeted demand (£0.441m);
- **Safeguarding** overspend due to building costs incurred for delays in vacating Higher Lane, and external legal fees in relation to two high-cost court cases (£0.066m);
- The overspends are offset by underspends elsewhere in the budget.

Operations Directorate – Forecast Overspend £6.581m

Table 4

2020/21 Forecast Revenue Out Turn Position – as at 30 June 2020			
Operations	Approved Budget	Forecast Out Turn	Forecast (Under)/Over Spend
	£m	£m	£m
Operations Senior Management	0.327	00321	(0.006)
Street Scene	4.874	5.044	0.170
Engineers (includes Car Parking)	1.379	3.303	1.924
Waste, Transport and Stores	6.541	6.703	0.162
Health & Environmental Protection	1.565	1.644	0.078
Parks & Countryside	0.517	0.521	0.004
Wellness Operations	2.474	4.430	1.955
Commercial Services	(0.306)	1.425	1.731
Architectural Services	(0.454)	(0.064)	0.391
Admin Buildings	(0.670)	(0.499)	0.171
TOTAL	16.247	22.828	6.581

3.8 The Operations Directorate is forecasting an overspend of £6.581m mainly as a result of COVID related loss of income across all services. The government has provided some funding to offset addition pressures and loss of income in local authorities and this is currently being held centrally within the non-service specific budget. The material variances within Operations are as follows:

- **Health & Environmental Protection** – the projected overspend is due to loss of pest control income due to only emergency works being undertaken during the COVID crisis (£0.078m);
- **Car Parking Services** – the overspend largely due to suspension of car parking charges (£1.924m);
- **Street Scene** - the overspend is largely due to due increased in highways works activity (£0.170m);
- **Wellness Operations** – the overspend is due to income loss in the Leisure Services (£1.875m) and other minor variances;
- **Commercial Services** – The overspend is due to:
 - loss of income due to closure of Civic venues (£0.500m);
 - overspend on Catering due to loss of catering income from schools (£0.534m);
 - loss of market rental income due to agreed schemes to offer rent reliefs to market traders (£0.697m);
- **Architectural Services** - the overspend is due to loss of income due to staff shortages and reduction in chargeable work to the capital programme due to Covid19 (£0.391m);
- **Admin buildings** - the overspend is due to pressures on rates, cleaning and utilities budgets (£0.171m).

Corporate Core and Finance– Forecast Overspend £0.190m

Table 5

2019/20 Forecast Revenue Out Turn Position – as at 31 December 2019			
Corporate Core and Finance	Approved Budget	Forecast Out Turn	Forecast (Under)/Over Spend
	£m	£m	£m
Corporate Core	3.513	3.710	0.197
Adult Learning	0.099	0.099	0.000
Corporate Core Finance	9.858	9.850	(0.008)
TOTAL	13.470	13.660	0.190

3.9 Corporate Core and Finance is forecasting an overspend of £0.190m as a result of:-

- **Legal Services** – the overspend is due to reduced income relating to COVID 19 and additional agency costs (£0.228m);
- **Corporate Procurement** - a reduction in income from contract management (£0.019m);
- **Communications and Engagement** – additional costs to support the communications team during COVID-19 and to cover staff absences (£0.056m)

Business, Growth and Infrastructure – Forecast Overspend £0.559m

Table 6

2020/21 Forecast Revenue Out Turn Position – as at 30 June 2020			
Business, Growth and Infrastructure Directorate	Approved Budget	Forecast Out Turn	Forecast (Under)/Over Spend
	£m	£m	£m
Economic Regeneration & Capital Growth	1.214	1.764	0.550
Housing Needs & Options	1.586	1.595	0.009
TOTAL	2.800	3.359	0.559

3.10 The Business, Growth and Infrastructure Directorate is forecasting an overspend of £0.559m as a result of:

- Property Income losses (£0.450m) some of which is resulting from an approved rent relief scheme to support businesses affected by COVID-19;
- Planning & Development Control COVID 19 income losses (£0.101m).

Art Gallery and Museum – Forecast Overspend £0.062m

Table 7

2020/21 Forecast Revenue Out Turn Position – as at 30 June 2020			
Art Gallery and Museum	Approved Budget	Forecast Out Turn	Forecast (Under)/Over Spend
	£m	£m	£m
Art Gallery and Museum	0.577	0.639	0.062
TOTAL	0.577	0.639	0.062

3.11 The Art Gallery and Museum is forecast to overspend by £0.062m due to loss of income as a result of the service being closed.

Housing General Fund – Forecast Overspend £0.563m

Table 8

2020/21 Forecast Revenue Out Turn Position – as at 30 June 2020			
Housing General Fund	Approved Budget	Forecast Out Turn	Forecast (Under)/Over Spend
	£m	£m	£m
Housing General Fund	0.553	1.116	0.563
TOTAL	0.553	1.116	0.563

3.12 The Housing General Fund is forecast to overspend by £0.563m due to assumed required contribution to the bad debt provision and the projected net Housing Subsidy position.

Non Service Specific – Forecast Underspend £3.868m

Table 9

2019/20 Forecast Revenue Out Turn Position – as at 31 December 2019			
Non Service Specific	Approved Budget	Forecast Out Turn	Forecast (Under)/Over Spend
	£m	£m	£m
Accumulated Absences	1.120	1.120	0.000
Chief Executive’s Office	0.377	0.377	0.000
Corporate Management	1.730	1.730	0.000
Cost of Borrowing	4.978	7.234	2.256
Grants/COVID-19	0.000	(11.316)	(11.316)
Disaster Expenses	0.011	0.011	0.000
Environment Agency	0.100	0.104	0.004
FRS17 Costs	(19.962)	(19.962)	0.000
GMWDA Levy	13.763	13.763	0.000
Manchester Airport	(5.635)	0.000	5.635
Passenger Transport Levy	13.456	13.010	(0.477)
Persona Dividend	(0.200)	(0.200)	0.000
Town of Culture	0.050	0.050	0.000
Provisions/Reserves	0.174	0.174	0.000
TOTAL	9.964	6.095	(3.868)

3.13 The Non Specific Service budget is forecasting an underspend of £3.868m due to:

- **Manchester airport** – loss of dividend (£5.635m) and loan interest repayment (£2.256m) due to the impact of COVID-19 on the travel industry;
- **Passenger Transport Levy** – levy is forecast to be lower than anticipated (-£0.477m);

- **Environment Agency** – slightly higher levy than expected (£0.004m);
- **Grants/COVID-19** – reflects the receipt of additional grant offset by expenditure within other departments and a budget imbalance relating to the New Homes Bonus (-£11.316m).

4 DELIVERY OF THE SAVINGS PLAN

4.1 Planned savings of £4.162m are included in the 2020/21 revenue budget. Of these £2.584m is considered delivered with the remaining £1.578m at risk. Work is currently underway with Directorates to establish whether savings can be delivered in the remainder of the year and, if not, whether any other compensating savings can be identified. A summary of the savings is set out in the table below.

Table 10

Assessment of Savings in the 2020/21 Budget			
Directorate	Description	Amount £m	Assessment
One Commissioning Organisation	Persona Contract	0.611	Amber
One Commissioning Organisation	Supporting People Review	0.177	Green
One Commissioning Organisation	Debt Recovery	0.100	Green
Children and Young People	School Improvement Service	0.330	Green
Children and Young People	Early Help Model	0.102	Amber
Children and Young People	Procurement review of Contracts	0.100	Amber
Operations	Procurement Review of Contracts	0.085	Green
Operations	Corporate Landlord	0.585	Green
Operations	Architects Service Review	0.200	Green
Corporate	Contract Management	0.300	Amber
Corporate	Discretionary payments	0.350	Amber
One Commissioning Organisation	Provider Fees Review	1.107	Green
Operations	Re-Wilding Grass Verges	0.065	Red
Operations	Review of Highways Fees	0.050	Red
Total		4.162	

4.2 In addition to the above, care package reviews were expected to reduce the financial impact of increasing demand in adult social care. A further budget pressure of £0.408m is anticipated. This may no longer be achievable due to COVID-19.

5 RESERVES

5.1 At the end of 2019/20 the council's useable reserves were £28.588m of which £7.794m is available to support corporate priorities and the remaining £20.794m is grant funding provides for specific purposes and which it is anticipated will be utilised during the year. In addition to this, the council has general other risk management reserves. Unlike previous years, the 2020/21 budget did not include any reliance on one-off reserves although there were some one-off commitments to fund some priorities that were identified as part of the budget resolution. The 2020/21 budget did however include an increase in the planned contribution to general reserves of £0.567m.

- 5.2 General reserves were planned to increase during the year as a result of the release of monies from the collection fund and also the lower than budgeted contribution to the pooled fund to offset the higher than budgeted contribution of the same amount that was made in 2019/20.
- 5.3 The COVID-19 crisis has seen the risk profile for the Council and all local authorities increase significantly and there will be a need to maximise the benefit of all reserves going forward. A new reserves strategy has been developed that brings a consolidated approach to reserves, targeted and consolidated risk management and greater corporate oversight and control.
- 5.4 In light of the above, the position on reserves will be closely monitored throughout the year and reported as part of the quarterly monitoring from now on.

6 OTHER BUDGETS

SCHOOLS

- 6.1 The council's expenditure on schools is funded primarily by the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). The DSG is ringfenced and can only be spent on schools related activity as set out in the Schools Finance England) Regulations 2019. The Schools Budget includes funding for a range of educational and support services provided on an authority wide basis as well as individual Schools Budget. The Schools Forum recommend the allocation of funding to schools and academies through the application of the funding formula.
- 6.2 The DSG has 4 main blocks:

Table 11

Block	2020/21 Budget £m
Schools	129.940
High Needs	33.209
Early Years	13.782
Central Support Services	0.774
TOTAL	177.705

- 6.3 In addition to the DSG, schools and academies also receive external funding through the following grants:

Table 12

Estimated external Funding 2020/21	
	£m
Pupil Premium Grant	9.108
Universal Infant Free School Meals Grant	2.369
Primary PE and Sport	1.147
Year 7 Catch Up Grant	0.195
Teacher's Pay Grant	1.473
Teacher's Pension Grant	4.909
Devolved Formula Capital	0.742
TOTAL	19.943

- 6.4 Some of these grants are subject to change due to in-year funding provision for Covid Catch-Up Grant which will subsume the Year 7 Catch Up Grant. Teacher's Pay and Pensions Grants are currently subject to mainstreaming them directly into the Schools Block formula allocation with effect from 1 April 2021
- 6.5 For 2019/20 the Department for Education (DfE) required all councils to complete a recovery plan should their overspend on the DSG exceed 1%. The council has an agreed 5 year recovery plan. The 5 year timeline is required in order to ensure the sufficiency and capacity of places can be developed and delivered within Bury.
- 6.6 Guidance on the treatment of DSG deficit reserves has been delayed due to COVID-19 and until this is received, the reporting of the deficit will continue to form part of the Council's monitoring position.
- 6.7 In accordance to the agreed recovery and profiled into the current 5 year plan, investment has been made in 2020/21 which is expected to reduce the number of high-cost SEND placements out of borough by stemming the flow and having more in borough placements. These investments include:

Table 13

Investment/High Needs DSG Increases 2020/21	
	£m
Special Schools increased capacity, including Elms Bank extension into St Monica's Hub	1.900
Inclusion Partnerships and Hubs	0.360
Paediatric Disability Service	0.150
Education Health & Care Plans	2.300
SEND – Preparation for Employment	0.036
TOTAL	4.746

- 6.8 Further actions to reduce DSG costs will be implemented within 2020/21 to ensure the DSG is sustainable and that the deficit reduces over time to a balanced position. Increased funding for high needs and for schools in 2020/21 was announced as part of the Local Government finance settlement which will help manage the deficit position.
- 6.9 A strategic plan around all processes, controls and governance is being finalised and will be included in the next monitoring report.

COLLECTION FUND

- 6.10 The collection fund will be significantly impacted by the COVID-19 crisis as collection rates for Council Tax and Business Rates are expected to be lower than in future years.
- 6.11 In response to COVID-19 the government announced additional business rates reliefs to support small businesses and those in the retail sector. To compensate for this, local authorities have received compensatory grants. For Bury this equates to £9.344m. Forecasting business rates in the current year is difficult as a result of COVID and the award of the grant may mask a problem for future years if some of the businesses for which the council has received a grant are no longer operating next year. It is anticipated that there will be a reduction in collection rates for those businesses which are not in receipt of additional reliefs or support

from government but for whom the pandemic has had a detrimental impact on their revenues.

- 6.12 Council tax income will also be negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, both through increased support required by individuals via the Local Council Tax Support Scheme, and by reduced collection from those individuals still liable to pay the charge who may be under financial strain. The Council received £1.888m to provide a credit of £150 to those residents of working age who are eligible for Local Council Tax Support Scheme and this has been applied. Residents who become eligible during the year will also be eligible. These credits have been applied and revised bills issued.
- 6.13 These reductions in income for both business rates and council tax are difficult to quantify with the data currently available and the rapidly changing nature of the situation. Due to the regulations on the accounting treatment for the Collection Fund, this deficit will not impact until the 2021/22 financial year and is therefore reflected on the update to the medium term financial strategy.
- 6.14 The government has also announced some changes to the collection fund accounting arrangements and this will impact on timing of the financial impact to councils. Details have yet to be made available but will have the benefit of smoothing the financial impact of COVID over a longer period of time. Work is currently underway with Greater Manchester to better understand the methodology for calculating the impact on the collection fund and therefore, at this stage, a balanced position has been assumed for the current financial year. Close monitoring of the collection fund will be undertaken throughout the year.
- 6.15 The Greater Manchester Combined Authority area continues to pilot 100% business rates retention. The pilot was first implemented on 1 April 2017. The purpose of the pilot is to develop and trial approaches to manage risk and reward in a local government finance system that includes full devolution of business rates revenues. Whilst the pilot is in place, a no detriment policy is in operation under which the government guarantees that the level of business rates income/grant that a council receives can be no less than it would have been if it was not in the pilot area. The council has so far gained from being a member of pilot scheme. The implementation of the business rates review from April 2021 has been postponed.
- 6.16 A review of commitments in the pooled fund is being carried out by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and it is anticipated that there will be a return of some funding to the Districts in 2020/21. The details of this are not yet known but will be factored into future monitoring updates.

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

- 6.17 The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is forecasting a surplus of £0.738m and further information is set out in the table 12 below.

Table 14

2020/21 Forecast Revenue Out Turn Position – as at 30 June 2020			
Housing Revenue Account	Approved Budget	Forecast Out Turn	Forecast (Under)/Over Spend
	£m	£m	£m
Income			
Dwelling Rents	(29.963)	(29.935)	0.028
Non-Dwelling Rents	(0.194)	(0.196)	(0.002)
Other Charges	(1.036)	(1,105)	(0.069)
Total Income	(31.193)	(31.236)	(0.043)
Expenditure			
Repairs and Maintenance	7.039	6.902	(0.137)
General Management	7.452	7.315	(0.137)
Special Services	1.366	1.364	(0.002)
Rents, Rates and Other Charges	0.060	0.059	(0.001)
Increase in Bad Debts Provision	0.484	0.908	0.424
Capital Charge	4.632	4.632	-
Depreciation	8.587	7.362	(1.225)
Debt Management Expenses	0.041	0.041	-
Contribution to/(from) reserves	(1.925)	(1.925)	-
Total Expenditure	27.736	26.658	(1.078)
Net Cost of Services	(3.457)	(4.578)	(1.121)
Interest receivable	(0.067)	(0.063)	0.004
Principal Repayments	0.192	0.193	0.001
Revenue Contributions to Capital	3.322	3.710	0.388
Sub Total	3.447	3.840	0.393
Operating (Surplus)/Deficit	(0.010)	(0.738)	(0.728)

6.18 The main reasons for the forecast surplus are:

- **Depreciation** – the calculation method was reviewed in 2019/20 resulting in a reduction in the charge for future years. As the depreciation charge is ultimately used to fund capital programme expenditure this reduction has been taken into account in the forecast Revenue Contributions to Capital (see note below).
- **Revenue contributions to capital** – the change shows the net effect of schemes brought forward from 2019/20 and anticipated slippage in the programme for the current year; it is forecast that £2.357m of resources will need to be released back from the HRA balances (Business Plan Headroom Reserve) in 2021/22 to complete the 2020/21 programme.

6.19 As well as looking at the in-year financial position, it is useful to consider some of the other aspects of performance regarding the Housing revenue Account. These have all to some degree been affected by the operating restrictions and financial impacts resulting from the pandemic; this makes forecasting with any certainty very difficult.

- **Voids** The rent loss due to voids for April to June was on average 1.14% which is worse than the 1% void target level set in the original budget. If this performance continues, there will be a reduction in rental income of

£0.043m over the original budget. Six Town Housing continue to review the voids processes and the various factors affecting demand.

- **Arrears** The rent arrears at the end of June totalled £2.268m, an increase of 8.5% since the end of March. Of the total arrears £0.842m relates to former tenants and £1.426m relates to current tenants. An estimated £1,000m of current tenant arrears are in cases where either the under occupancy charge applies or the tenants are in receipt of Universal Credit rather than Housing Benefit; this is an increase of £0.123m from the start of the year reflecting the increase in the number of tenants claiming Universal Credit and the impact this can have on the arrears position with payments received for a number of weeks, in arrears and sometimes with delays.
- **Bad Debts** The Council is required to make a provision for potential bad debts. The contribution for the year is calculated with reference to the type of arrear, the amount outstanding on each individual case and the balance remaining in the provision following write off of debts.

The forecast increase in the required contribution to the Bad Debt Provision is based on an assessment of the arrears at the end of June and the potential change in arrears for the remainder of this financial year. This is very much an estimate based on current trends and expectations and will need to be closely monitored.

- **Right to Buy Sales** The forecast for 2020/21 was set at 60, this being an increase of 15 on the level of sales assumed for Bury in the Government's self-financing valuation. There have been 14 sales in the period April to June. This is 9 more than at this point last year. The number of applications currently proceeding is lower than at this point last year (83 compared to 108). The Council's surveyors suspended Right to Buy valuations from the point of lockdown but are now looking to recommence them, subject to an approved Risk Assessment. Given the current situation it is difficult to forecast how many applications will actually proceed to completion therefore the sales forecast has been kept at 60 and will be reviewed again at the end of quarter 2; the projections of rental income have been calculated on this basis.

CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP

- 6.20 For Council budgets although the COVID-19 pandemic bring significant uncertainty and financial pressures it has not affected the setting of budgets for services. For the CCG the financial regime has changed completely. In March a command and control approach was taken in response to the COVID pandemic and interim financial arrangements put in place covering the first 4 months of the year. The contracting process was suspended with all NHS providers moved to stipulate block payments as notified by NHSE England. Independent sector hospital capacity was centrally block purchased and guidance issued on payments to all other non-NHS providers.
- 6.21 For the CCG this means we have only received firm allocations for the first 4 months of the year from April to July. The budget for the period from August (month 5) until the end of the year is currently unknown but planning guidance and notification of baseline allocation is expected imminently.

6.22 Once the CCG revised 12 month allocations have been announced an update on the overall position will be reported to Cabinet.

7 BUSINESS GRANTS

7.1 To support businesses affected by the COVID-19 crisis, the government made available grants of £10,000 and £25,000 to businesses that met specified eligibility criteria. Bury received £42.920m in total and has paid out a total of £36.335m – 2,771 grants of £10k and 345 grants of £25k. Within the funding made available the Council was allowed to set up a discretionary scheme, the total value of which could not exceed £1.957m. The scheme has been launched and payments have started to be made. There is likely to be funding of c£4.5m remaining on the total funding provided although, at this stage, it is expected that this will be clawed back by the government in the Autumn. Representations have been made to keep the funding and the outcome of this is awaited. For forecasting purposes, a balanced position has been assumed.

8 CAPITAL PROGRAMME

8.1 The Council's capital programme was set at £53.376m including schemes rolled forward from the 2019/20 and the budget resolution, both of which were approved by Cabinet and Full Council in February 2020. Since then, a further £18.373m has been carried forward from 2019/20, and the 2020/21 budget (£1.873m) for a strategic investment in Manchester Airport that was agreed by Full Council in March 2019 has been added to the programme. A further decision made under urgent powers for a strategic investment in the Manchester Airport Group (£12.950m) as part of a wider financial package with other GM Authorities in recognition of the impact of COVID-19 on the airport has been added bringing the overall capital budget to £86.562m.

Table 15

Revised 2020/21 Capital Programme	
	£m
Original Capital Programme	51.101
Council Resolution	2.275
Schemes Brought Forward from 2019/20	18.373
Strategic Investment Manchester Airport	1.863
Strategic Investment Manchester Airport	12.950
Revised 2019/20 Capital Programme	86.562

8.2 Full details on the Capital programme are set out in Appendix 2.

Financing

8.3 As well as approving the revised spending in the capital programme, the council must also ensure it has sufficient funds available to meet its capital payments in each financial year. The table below shows how the planned and forecast capital expenditure is to be financed.

Table 16

Financing of the 2020/21 Capital Programme	
	£m
Revised Capital Programme	86.562
Funded By:	
External Funding and Contributions	28.855
Use of Capital Receipts	3.177
Prudential Borrowing (2020/21 approved schemes)	38.574
Prudential Borrowing (2019/20 approved schemes)	2.000
Prudential Borrowing (2018/19 approved schemes)	13.956
TOTAL	(86.562)

8.4 The Capital Programme will continue to be monitored closely for the remainder of the year. New Capital Gateway processes are being implemented and will review new schemes against corporate priorities and the council's capital strategy and embed effective monitoring and reporting arrangements. It is envisaged that the new gateway process will ensure that:

- schemes are prioritised and presented to members for consideration at appropriate times during the year
- schemes are a strategic fit with corporate priorities
- adequate resources are identified at the start of the process to ensure sufficient capacity is available to deliver the projects within anticipated timescales
- effective monitoring is carried out so that any slippage or delays can be considered and reported
- effective project management practices are embedded for all projects

8.5 As it stands a number of schemes have not yet commenced due to the impact of COVID and an assessment is currently underway to establish the status of the programme in terms of deliverability and affordability. This is linked to the work on the MTFS. For now, it has been assumed that there are no variances in the programme however work is underway to determine which schemes can realistically progress in the current year. Final proposals will be presented to Cabinet in September.

8.6 It should be noted that at this early stage in the financial year the actual expenditure in-year is affected by costs that were accrued for in the last financial year and will be paid for in the current year. Costs of £13.467m have been incurred to date.

8.7 A review and update of the council's capital strategy is also planned and will be concluded during 2020/21 for consideration and approval by Cabinet and Full Council. This is particularly important in light of the work on the Bury2030 strategy and will ensure that the capital strategy is aligned to the future outcomes and objectives of the council.

9 FUTURE YEARS

9.1 The impact of COVID-19 will be significant to the council in the current and future financial years and regular updates to the medium term financial strategy will be undertaken. Underlying trends and factors that are impacting on the financial

strategy will need greater scrutiny that will help and support financial planning going forward. A strong alignment to the Councils' Bury 2030 strategy and other recovery plans that are to be introduced will be critical in ensuring the council has the financial levers in place to make delivery a success.

- 9.2 Financial resilience and sustainability is key and whilst recent reviews of reserves and provisions have helped strengthen the position the council they cannot be relied upon as a longer term solution. Balancing the need for long term sustainability through the delivery of ongoing savings with the need for transformation supported by reserves will be needed and will be the subject of future reports.
- 9.3 A separate report on the Medium Term Financial Strategy is presented to Cabinet for consideration and sets out some principles for managing the impact of COVID-19 in the current and financial years. If agreed, these will be applied to the management of the 2020.21 budget.

10 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The financial implications are set out in the report.

11 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 There are no legal implications arising from the report.

12 ASSOCIATED RISKS

- 12.1 The content of the report supports the Council in managing the overall financial risks and financial planning for the Council.

13 NEXT STEPS AND CONCLUSION

- 13.1 The financial position will be considered to be closely monitored and will inform discussions with the Executive Team and Cabinet on managing the in-year position and the impact in future years. Planning for the medium term financial strategy and addressing the financial gap will be continuing over the summer months with proposals emerging from September onwards.

Analysis of Grants Received 2020/21 as a result of COVID -19			
Description	Amount (£m)	Additional Costs	Detail
COVID-19 Tranche 1	5.364	No additional costs. This grant was received in 2019/20 and is un-ringfenced and is available to support the Council to meet additional costs and loss of income as a result of COVID-19.	£1.1m of the total allocation of £5.364m was utilised within the 19/20 financial year. The balance will be utilised to offset additional costs / income losses across all services. The grant is being monitored and reflected in the forecast position of the non-service specific budget.
COVID-19 Tranche 2	5.253	No additional costs. This grant is un-ringfenced and is available to support the Council to meet additional costs and loss of income as a result of COVID-19.	The grant will be utilised to offset additional costs / income losses across all services. The grant is being monitored and reflected in the forecast position of the non-service specific budget.
Hardship Relief Fund	1.888	Criteria on how this should be allocated was provided by government. Majority to be used to fund £150 credit on council tax bills to working age residents eligible for local council tax support scheme. Remainder allocated to hardship and welfare schemes.	Currently held within the Collection Fund as most of the costs will be incurred within the fund.
Infection Control	2.396	New Costs will be incurred. Budget assumes that the grant will be offset fully by new additional costs.	All of the grant received has been allocated to care home and other organisations as specified in the grant criteria.
Re-Opening High Streets	0.169	New costs will be incurred. Budget assumes that the grant will be offset fully by new additional costs.	This grant will be paid in arrears on qualifying expenditure.
Test and Trace	1.080	New Costs. Budget assumes that the grant will be offset fully by new additional costs.	Additional costs will be reflected within the OCO department
	16.150		
Further announcements of funding have been made, however allocations at individual local authority level have yet to be released. This funding has not yet been reflected in the Council's budget. The Council is also assuming £2.4m grant funding made available to CCGs.			

Appendix 2

	2020/21 Budget	Slippage Brought Forward	Revised Budget	Forecast Out Turn	Forecast (Under)/ Over Spend
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Radcliffe Regeneration:					
Radcliffe Town Centre	0.100	0.000	0.100	0.100	0.000
Radcliffe Market Chambers	0.100	0.000	0.100	0.100	0.000
Radcliffe Library Refurbishment	0.000	(0.020)	(0.020)	(0.020)	0.000
Radcliffe Regeneration	0.300	0.000	0.300	0.300	0.000
Radcliffe Regeneration Action Plan	0.000	0.232	0.232	0.232	0.000
Sub Total	0.500	0.212	0.712	0.712	0.000
Prestwich Regeneration:					
Public Services Hub	0.050	0.000	0.050	0.050	0.000
Strategic Acquisition – Longfield	0.300	0.000	0.300	0.300	0.000
Prestwich Urban Village	0.200	0.000	0.200	0.200	0.000
Sub Total	0.550	0.000	0.550	0.550	0.000
Ramsbottom Regeneration:					
Ramsbottom Town Plan	0.200	0.000	0.200	0.200	0.000
Upper Floor Development	0.200	0.000	0.200	0.200	0.000
Sub Total	0.400	0.000	0.400	0.400	0.000
Bury Regeneration					
Bury Market	0.050	0.000	0.050	0.050	0.000
Bury Business centre	0.050	0.000	0.050	0.050	0.000
Elizabethan Suite Update	0.080	0.000	0.080	0.080	0.000
Bury Civic Centre – Phase 1	1.800	0.000	1.800	1.800	0.000
Sub Total	1.980	0.000	1.980	1.980	0.000
Bradley Fold Regeneration	0.200	0.000	0.200	0.200	0.000
Refurbishment of Bury Market	0.900	(0.008)	0.892	0.892	0.000
TOTAL - REGENERATION	4.530	0.204	4.734	4.734	0.000
Place Shaping/Growth:					
Prestwich	0.000	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.000
Radcliffe	0.000	0.420	0.420	0.420	0.000
Whitefield	0.000	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.000
Place Shaping/Growth Programme	0.000	2.715	2.715	2.715	0.000
Other Development Schemes	0.000	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.000
TOTAL – PLACE SHAPING/GROWTH	0.000	3.625	3.625	3.625	0.000

	2020/21 Budget	Slippage Brought Forward	New Scheme	Revised Budget	Forecast Out Turn	Forecast (Under)/ Over Spend
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Sport and Leisure:						
Parks and Green Space Strategy	0.800	0.000		0.800	0.800	0.000
Play Area Strategy	0.250	0.000		0.250	0.250	0.000
Outdoor Gyms	0.120	0.000		0.120	0.120	0.000
Access, Infrastructure and Quality – Parks	0.300	0.000		0.300	0.300	0.000
Grass Pitch Vert Draining	0.010	0.000		0.010	0.010	0.000
Leisure Gym Equipment Upgrade	0.500	0.000		0.500	0.500	0.000
Bury Athletics Track	0.100	0.000		0.100	0.100	0.000
Flood Repair – 3 G Pitch	0.000	0.105		0.105	0.105	0.000
3G Pitch – Bury Radcliffe	0.040	0.000		0.040	0.040	0.000
3G Pitch at Goshen	0.669	0.000		0.669	0.669	0.000
Sustainable Tennis Strategy	0.180	0.000		0.180	0.180	0.000
Radcliffe FC Facilities	0.170	0.000		0.170	0.170	0.000
Match Fund Football Grants	0.150	0.000		0.150	0.150	0.000
Non Turf Cricket Pitch	0.072	0.000		0.072	0.072	0.000
Flood Repair and Defence	0.000	0.563		0.563	0.563	0.000
Environmental Works	0.000	0.084		0.084	0.084	0.000
Parks	0.000	0.141		0.141	0.141	0.000
TOTAL – SPORT AND LEISURE	3.361	0.893	0.000	4.254	4.254	0.000
Operational Fleet::						
Vehicle Replacement Strategy	6.760	0.000		6.760	6.760	0.000
Grounds Maintenance Equipment	0.240	0.000		0.240	0.240	0.000
TOTAL – OPERATIONAL FLEET	7.000	0.000	0.000	7.000	7.000	0.000
ICT:						
ICT Projects	5.015	0.868		5.883	5.883	0.000
Improving Information Management	0.000	0.057		0.057	0.057	0.000
GM Full Fibre Project	0.000	0.469		0.469	0.469	0.000
TOTAL – ICT	5.015	1.394	0.000	6.409	6.409	0.000
Highways:						
Highways Investment Strategy – Tranche 2	4.000	0.000		4.000	4.000	0.000
Cycling and Walking Routes – Mayors Challenge	3.000	0.024		3.024	3.024	0.000
Growth Deal	0.711	0.000		0.711	0.711	0.000
Mobile Speed Signs	0.035	0.000		0.035	0.035	0.000
Full Fibre Infrastructure	0.520	0.000		0.520	0.520	0.000
Weather Station and Road Surface Temperature Sensors	0.030	0.000		0.030	0.030	0.000
Street Lighting	2.000	(0.239)		1.761	1.761	0.000
Traffic Calming and improvement	0.517	0.280		0.797	0.797	0.000
Traffic Management Schemes	0.000	0.127		0.127	0.127	0.000
Public Rights of Way	0.000	0.058		0.058	0.058	0.000
Highways Planned Maintenance	0.000	2.717		2.717	2.717	0.000
Bridges	0.000	0.050		0.050	0.050	0.000
TOTAL – HIGHWAYS	10.813	3.017	0.000	13.830	13.830	0.000

	2020/21 Budget	Slippage Brought Forward	New Schemes	Revised Budget	Forecast Out Turn	Forecast (Under)/O ver Spend
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Children and Young People (including Schools):						
NDS Modernisation	6.995	1.042		8.037	8.037	0.000
DFE Formula Capital	0.327	0.555		0.882	0.882	0.000
Targeted Capital Funds	0.000	(0.050)		(0.050)	(0.050)	0.000
Special Provision Grant	0.000	0.320		0.320	0.320	0.000
Radcliffe School	0.378	0.000		0.378	0.378	0.000
Condition Related Schemes – Schools	0.500	0.000		0.500	0.500	0.000
Schools Sustainability Schemes	0.250	0.000		0.250	0.250	0.000
TOTAL – CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE	8.450	1.867	0.000	10.317	10.317	0.000
Estate Management – Investment Estate:						
Demolition of Former Fire Station – Bury	0.300	0.000		0.300	0.300	0.000
177 & 179 The Rick	0.005	0.000		0.005	0.005	0.000
Portland and Chesham industrial Estate	0.010	0.000		0.010	0.010	0.000
Former Prezzo, Lytham	0.055	0.000		0.055	0.055	0.000
Black Manor Street	0.050	0.000		0.050	0.050	0.000
Tile Street	0.050	0.000		0.050	0.050	0.000
St Mary's Place	0.030	0.000		0.030	0.030	0.000
TOTAL – ESTATE MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT ESTATE	0.500	0.000	0.000	0.500	0.500	0.000
Estate Management - Corporate Landlord:						
Fernhill Gypsy and Traveller Site	0.360	0.000		0.360	0.360	0.000
Bradley Fold Welfare Facilities	0.200	0.000		0.200	0.200	0.000
Bradley Fold Depot – Essential Maintenance	0.220	0.000		0.220	0.220	0.000
Leisure Health and Safety Improvements	0.188	0.000		0.188	0.188	0.000
Leisure Health and Safety Improvements 19/20	0.181	0.000		0.181	0.181	0.000
LED Lighting Installation	0.011	0.000		0.011	0.011	0.000
Seedfield – Health and Safety	0.025	0.000		0.025	0.025	0.000
Bury Cemetery Upgrade of Welfare Facilities	0.025	0.000		0.025	0.025	0.000
Hoyles park Pavilion Demolition and Clarence Park Skateboard Park removal	0.040	0.000		0.040	0.040	0.000
TOTAL – ESTATE MANAGEMENT CORPORATE LANDLORD	1.250	0.000	0.000	1.250	1.250	0.000
One Commissioning Organisation:						
Older People	0.588	(0.203)		0.385	0.385	0.000
Disabled Facilities Grant	0.855	0.597		1.452	1.452	0.000
Neighbourhood Working	0.000	0.242		0.242	0.242	0.000
Planning – Other Schemes	0.065	0.012		0.077	0.077	0.000
Other Development Schemes	0.027	0.000		0.027	0.027	0.000
Environmental Works	0.067	0.000		0.067	0.067	0.000
TOTAL – COMMUNITIES AND WELLBEING	1.602	0.648	0.000	2.250	2.250	0.000

	2020/21 Budget	Slippage Brought Forward	New Schemes	Revised Budget	Forecast Out Turn	Forecast (Under)/O ver Spend
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Electric Vehicle Trials	0.075	0.000		0.075	0.075	0.000
Housing – HRA	9.280	3.407		12.687	12.687	0.000
HRA – Disabled Facilities Adaptations	0.550	0.166		0.716	0.716	0.000
Empty Property Strategy	0.000	0.273		0.273	0.273	0.000
Housing Development	0.000	1.000		1.000	1.000	0.000
TOTAL – HOUSING	9.830	4.846	0.000	14.676	14.676	0.000
Climate Change:						
Community Climate Capital Fund	0.600	0.000		0.600	0.600	0.000
Climate Change Resilience Fund	0.200	0.000		0.200	0.200	0.000
Electric Charging Points	0.040	0.000		0.040	0.040	0.000
Glysophate Alternative Equipment	0.050	0.000		0.050	0.050	0.000
Waste Management	0.000	0.014		0.014	0.014	0.000
Fly-Tipping	0.060	0.000		0.060	0.060	0.000
TOTAL – CLIMATE CHANGE	1.025	0.014	0.000	1.039	1.395	0.000
STRATEGIC INVESTMENT						
Strategic Airport Investment	0.000	1.863	1.863	3.726	3.726	0.000
Strategic Airport Investment	0.000	0.000	12.950	12.950	12.950	0.000
TOTAL – STRATEGIC INVESTMENT	0.000	1.863	14.813	16.676	16.676	0.000
TOTAL	53.376	18.373	14.813	86.562	86.562	0.000