From: Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate and

Traded Services, Peter Oakford

Corporate Director Finance, Zena Cooke

To: Cabinet, 4 January 2024

Subject: Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring Report – October 2023-24

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary:

The attached report sets out the revenue and capital budget monitoring position as at October 2023-24.

Recommendation(s):

Cabinet is asked to:

- a) NOTE the forecast Revenue position.
- b) NOTE the management action of £35.6m identified to bring the Council to a balanced position.
- c) NOTE the projected Schools' monitoring position of £15.9m overspend
- d) NOTE the progress on the delivery of £65.3m savings

1. Introduction

1.1 The October 2023-24 budget monitoring report being presented sets out the revenue and capital forecast position.

2 Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring Report – September 2023-24

- 2.1 The attached report sets out the overall forecast position as at 31 October 2023-24, which is a revenue overspend of +£35.6m before management action.
- 2.2 2023-24 continues to be an extremely challenging time for local government and KCC is no exception. The latest revenue forecast outturn position for 2023-24 before further management action is an overspend of £35.6m (excluding schools). The forecast overspend represents 2.7% of the revenue budget and continues to present a serious and significant risk to the Council's financial sustainability. Within the overall outturn position there are still significant forecast overspends in Adult Social Care & Health totalling £31.3m, and in Children's, Young People and Education totalling £28.9m before management action. Planned management action has been identified to bring the forecast outturn to within budget by the end of the financial year.
- 2.3 The Schools' Delegated budgets are reporting an overspend of +£15.9m. This reflects the impact of high demand for additional SEN support and greater demand for specialist provision. In 2022-23 the Council entered into a "Safety Valve" agreement with the Department for Education (DfE) and the accumulated DSG deficit will reduce from an estimated £174m to £73m as at 31st March 2024 as a result of contributions from the Council and DfE.

3. Recommendation(s)

Cabinet is asked to:

- a) NOTE the forecast Revenue position.
- b) NOTE the management action of £35.6m identified to bring the Council to a balanced position.
- c) NOTE the projected Schools' monitoring position of £15.9m overspend
- d) NOTE the progress on the delivery of £65.3m savings

4. Contact details

Report Author

Joe McKay
Acting Chief Accountant
03000 419601
joe.mckay@kent.gov.uk

Relevant Director

Zena Cooke
Corporate Director Finance
03000 419205
Zena.Cooke@kent.gov.uk