

200803 Cranborne & Alderholt Ward Dorset Councillor Report for Alderholt Parish Council

Dorset Council Finances

2019/20 Outturn

Directorate	Net Budget	Outturn (Overspend)/ Underspend		
	£k	£k	£k	%
People - Adults	114,188	125,267	(11,080)	(9.70%)
People - Children's	65,025	73,757	(8,733)	(13.43%)
Place	58,726	60,054	(1,327)	(2.26%)
Corporate Development	35,200	34,737	462	1.31%
Legal & Democratic	8,830	8,615	215	2.44%
Public Health	818	818	0	0.00%
Total Service Budgets	282,786	303,248	(20,462)	(7.24%)
Central Finance	(358,177)	(373,651)	15,473	(4.32%)
Whole Authority	(75,391)	(70,403)	(4,988)	(6.62%)

Forecast as at end of Q1 2020/21

Directorate	Net Budget	Forecast Outturn	Forecast (Overspend)/ Underspend	
	£k	£k	£k	%
People - Adults	122,890	136,042	(13,151)	(10.70%)
People - Children's	74,240	81,743	(7,503)	(10.11%)
Place	68,831	85,054	(16,223)	(23.57%)
Corporate Development	25,303	27,615	(2,312)	(9.14%)
Legal & Democratic Services	7,213	11,214	(4,001)	(55.48%)
Public Health	0	0	0	0.00%
Total Service Budgets	298,477	341,668	(43,191)	(14.47%)
Central Finance	(300,069)	(300,188)	118	(0.04%)
Whole Authority	(1,592)	41,480	(43,072)	

The Council is currently forecasting a net overspend of £43.1m.

Unless additional Government funding becomes available the Council will have to meet this overspend from its Reserves. The General Reserve fund of £28m combined with other earmarked reserves should be sufficient to enable the Council to continue operating through 2020/21. However this level of spending is unsustainable moving into 2021/22

The Council therefore needs to focus on three things:

- a. Making every effort to contain this current year's operational and financial pressures within the funding envelope available.
- b. Continuing to explain the financial reality of the situation to Government and secure additional funding where possible.

c. Entering into a really challenging budget setting round which combines the identification of tactical savings with the development of a transformation programme which enables the Council to meet the needs of Dorset's residents within the funding which is available.

Covid-19 Local Outbreak Position

A "Local Outbreak" will be declared if the 7-Day count of new cases rises above 7 per 100,000

Currently the 7-Day figure for Dorset is 1.3/100,000; for the South West as a whole – 2.4 and for England 3.6

For comparison Leicester's 7-Day rate per 100,000 as at 29/July was 53.2. As at 28th July Wigan had 7.6 cases per 100,000 and Devon had 0.4 per 100,000

Care Homes are at the highest risk nationally and locally. There are currently no outbreaks in Care Home Residents – Residents are tested every 28 Days, and Staff every 7 days. Whilst this regime has uncovered the occasional case there is no evidence of anything greater. Should a Local Outbreak be declared then the Local Outbreak Engagement Board will be convened. This board consists of a subset of members of the Health and Wellbeing Board, and can convene and act rapidly.

Covid-19 and Local Council Meetings

From the 5th April new regulations allowed virtual meetings to be held until May 2021. Government advice is still that virtual meetings should take place when possible. We should not hold face to face nor hybrid meeting – the advice is to continue with virtual meetings. NALC and DAPTC have both issued clear advice saying no face to face meetings unless no alternative - if there is no alternative then there are processes to put in place - but primarily, do not hold face to face meetings.

Dorset Council Community Impact Fund

Dorset Council Community Impact Fund (DCIF) round 5 is now open for applications. The fund aims to provide support to local groups and organisations that are helping vulnerable people and their local communities to recover and stay safe after the easing of lockdown. Further information can be found here.

<https://news.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/2020/08/03/funding-to-support-voluntary-and-community-groups-launches-2-august/>