

TARGETED BUDGET MANAGEMENT (TBM) 2020/21: MONTH 2

CONSERVATIVE GROUP AMENDMENT

To add an additional recommendation 2.7 as shown below in ***bold italics***:

2.7 That the fee associated with the licence required to put tables and chairs on a pavement/public highway be suspended for the remainder of the 2019-2020 financial year.

Proposed by: Cllr Miller

Seconded by: Cllr Bell

Recommendation if carried to read:

- 2.1 That the Committee note the forecast risk position for the General Fund, which indicates a budget pressure of £36.003m. This includes an overspend of £2.061m on the council's share of the NHS managed Section 75 services.
- 2.2 That the Committee note the forecast net Collection Fund deficit of £13.070m.
- 2.3 That the Committee note the forecast for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), which is currently an underspend of £0.343m.
- 2.4 That the Committee note the forecast risk position for the Dedicated Schools Grant which is an overspend of £0.059m.
- 2.5 That the Committee note the forecast outturn position on the capital programme which is a forecast underspend of £2.417m and approve the variations and slippage in Appendix 5 and new schemes as set out in Appendix 6.
- 2.6 That the Committee approve the extension of the temporary period of average pay for Casual Workers who cannot work to the end of July 2020.
- 2.7 That the fee associated with the licence required to put tables and chairs on a pavement/public highway be suspended for the remainder of the 2019-2020 financial year.

Note: Acting Chief Finance Officer's comments on the proposed amendment:

The government's Business and Planning Bill 2019-21 is currently being expedited through Parliament and will shortly place a cap of £100 on licences for placing tables and chairs on the pavement outside cafes, restaurants and bars. This will result in a

loss of income of approximately £77,000 to the council. The proposed amendment, to waive the licence fee entirely, would increase the loss of income to approximately £110,000, an increased loss of £33,000. There are two possibilities for the total loss to be mitigated. The first is that by supporting business recovery this may generate economic and visitor activity that could help to mitigate a part of the losses that would otherwise be sustained on revenue streams such as parking incomes, business rates, commercial rents and so on. The second is that the recent government funding announcement, which provides some support for losses of Sales, Fees & Charges, may provide cover for up to 75p in the pound of the total losses, however, detailed guidance on the Sales, Fees & Charges to be provided for by this funding is still awaited. If neither of these possibilities comes to fruition, the loss of £110,000 would be added to the projected 2020/21 deficit and would need to be considered by the committee in October as part of plans to address and manage the overall projected deficit.