

Minutes of FMT Meeting on Tuesday 5th March 2024

Present: David Jackson (DJ)
Aidan McPeake (AP)
Pat Mulvenna (PM)
David Wright (DW)
Lindsay Clyde (LC)
John Culkin (JC)

1. Period 10 Management accounts

DW started a review of period 10 accounts.

The accounts for period 10 showed a positive variance of £1,886k, an increase of £286k from period 9 accounts.

L & D had improved by £240k, ES down by £35k and CPR had reversed by £8k.

Employee costs across Council are adverse by £791k at the end of period 10.

Income across Council showing a positive variance of £2.4M as opposed to £2.2M at period 9.

Year end forecast is	worse case	£1.3M positive.
	Best Case	£2.5M
	Likely outcome	£2M

APP forecast has reduced by £100k due to the University having a challenge settled. Education Authority to get £196k clawed back by end of the year. Assuming a zero finalisation at present.

Any questions/comments?

AP said that ES was in a good position, holding the line and that expenditure was on target. Income was bringing ES up better than budget. Employee costs were on target even allowing for pay rise. Operations are adverse and Estates positive and these cancel each other out. He said he would like to drill into operations to check if there was either an underprovision or overspend. He could not find slicers for Car parks.

DW said we would look into why they were not there.

PM said that the Heads of Service were not able to drill down. she would like to drill down into SWB re the issue with Estates costings. Income lines were helping to mask overspend on employees.

DW said that all income gains have all been taken into account for the rates setting process so there is no slack for next year.

DJ said that we are £1.9M ahead against the large applied balance of last year.

LC said that Tourism has increased. Events up by £70k when Halloween and Christmas events are finished, moved from £60k adverse to £12k positive in the past month. Coast and Countryside and

Caravan Park staff are profiled for 12 months, and we are starting to have a clawback as staffing costs are not down to seasonality.

DJ said that Councillors may think there was an overprovision. We scaled back on Christmas Events. Events teams just did the four main towns and others were outsourced by offering grants.

PM asked had we received 24/25 budgets yet.

DW said that we are sorting out profiling issues and that budgets should be built seasonally. Budgets should be released shortly.

AP said that profiling doesn't need to be done before issuing budgets.

DJ said could budgets be issued by Friday 25th March.

DW said yes, they would be.

DJ said that we should expect narratives by end of week to issue reports.

AP said he would be taking P9 & P10 to committee next week.

DW said to concentrate on P10, with just a light touch on P9, just for comparison.

DJ anything else?

AP asked about getting TECH1 training for Directors and Heads of Service.

DW said that there was going to be Dashboard training in the next few days for Finance Staff and we are trying to schedule training in March. Training will be rolled out to all staff.

AP asked were there any timescales for Dashboard training?

DJ said training would be compulsory for Directors and Heads of Service, to get intimate with budgets and Management Accounts.

DW hoped to arrange a days training by the end of March.

DJ asked how many days in total?

DW said there would be a further day in April and a follow up to see what is required. A Minimum of two days.

DJ asked Could we see a training programme?

DW said that we may have to split the training due to accommodation issues at Flowerfield.

DJ said we would need to put dates in the diary.

Date of next FMT meeting, Wednesday 3rd April 24