

ESSEX POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER
FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY
Essex County Fire & Rescue Service



Meeting	Fire & Rescue - Performance and Resources Board	Agenda Item	
Meeting Date		Report Number	
Report Author:	Delusha Jeyanathan - Senior Finance Business Partner		
Presented By	Neil Cross - Chief Finance Officer		
Subject	Budget Review - February 2024		
Type of Report:	Information		

SUMMARY

This paper reports on expenditure against budget as at February 2024 and identifies and comments on major budget variations. In addition the report includes key indicators that act as lead indicators for expenditure across the Authority.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Fire & Rescue - Performance and Resources Board is asked to:

- 1 - Note the position on income and expenditure for Year to Date compared to the Budget.
- 2 - Note the capital expenditure spend against budget for period to February 2024

Executive Summary



Results for the period to February 2024

Forecast:

The projected position of the outturn is currently showing a deficit of £91k, this is a movement of -£13k from the last outturn position. The monthly movements are included in the calculation of the projected outturn position which explains the majority of movement in the outturn. An increased expectation in the operational income due to come through for the year based on our income generated through interest on investments has been included in this month's forecast. The projected costs for On-Call have kept in line with the yearly trend.

YTD position:

The YTD position shows a deficit position of £283k. This is a £304k adverse variance as compared to budget. The overspend on employment costs have been partially offset by additional unbudgeted operational income and funding.

Pay Explanations

The Grey Book pay award for 23-24 was agreed during the 22-23 discussions which means that we have a pay pressure of 3%.

On Call activity costs always relate to the prior months activity. We have incurred additional turnout costs of £485k as well as Standby costs of £374k which are to ensure the service in line with the response model.

Support staff (Green Book) is showing an overspend of £362k. This variance includes the back dated pay award which was processed in December's pay which is offset by the rephased budget and we had previously reported in the outturn.

Non Pay explanations

Other costs and Services is showing an overspend of £578k. £462k of this overspend is in consultancy with elements being funded from Earmarked Reserves. Building Cleaning is overspent by £113k but we should see a reduction in costs, with the cleaning contract having gone live in October. Ill health pension costs is showing an overspend of £350k due to an inflationary increase as well as unplanned injury payments occurring during the year. Transport costs are showing an overspend of £352k, mostly driven by Petrol & Diesel (£159k).

The Month Position:

Shows a surplus position of £415k, which is £371k better than the monthly Budget position, this is due to:
£37k underspend on Wholetime costs (the underspend on Wholetime Pay partially offsets some of the underspend on overtime).
£94k overspend in On-Call costs.
£87k overspend in Support costs.
£104k overspend in Premises & Equipment costs.
£33k overspend in Other Costs and Services, mostly driven by Consultancy Fees.
£82k underspend in Financing Items Costs.
These are offset by £315k operational income (£181k up on budget), mostly driven by interest on investment income (£106k).

Balance Sheet Statement and Cashflow Forecast

The Balance Sheet report on page 8 shows the key monthly rather than year to date movements.

Total cash and investments at the end of February was £23.0m, down from £25.9m in January.

The Authority holds investments of £17.5m, which is £7.5m less than last month, including £1.1m of fixed term investments in UK government gilts. The remaining investments are in money market funds, CCLA and a Lloyds call account to maintain liquidity.

The Cashflow Forecast on page 9 shows the forecast cash position of the Authority for the next twelve months.

Capital

The Capital Programme is actively monitored by several groups at the Authority, including the Programme Management Board and Strategic Fleet Sub-Group. The forecast for 2023-24 is £5.1m.

Other

There were no property sales in the month.

The external audit for 2022/23 commenced at the start of October and will continue into March as the audit file is reviewed by management. The internal audit for Culture and Behaviours completed in September, discussions are ongoing with RSM to agree the final report before the December Audit Committee.



Summary Income and Expenditure Statement to 29th February 2024

Period	Actual £'000s	Budget £'000s	Actuals £'000s	Variance %	YTD Actual £'000s	YTD Budget £'000s	Actuals £'000s	Variance %	Description	FY Forecast / Outturn	FY Budget	Outturn £'000s	Variance %
	3,169	3,206	37	1%	35,436	34,779	(657)	(2%)	WholeTime Firefighters	38,855	37,991	(864)	(2%)
	828	735	(94)	(13%)	9,071	7,882	(1,189)	(15%)	On-Call Firefighters	9,893	8,579	(1,314)	(13%)
	163	165	2	1%	1,713	1,792	79	4%	Control	1,878	1,957	79	4%
	1,503	1,477	(26)	(2%)	17,156	16,793	(362)	(2%)	Support Staff	18,669	18,270	(399)	(2%)
	5,664	5,583	(80)	(1%)	63,375	61,247	(2,129)	(3%)	Total Employment Costs	69,294	66,797	(2,497)	(4%)
	246	159	(87)	(55%)	1,952	1,747	(205)	(12%)	Support Costs	2,191	1,924	(267)	(12%)
	1,074	970	(104)	(11%)	10,954	10,844	(110)	(1%)	Premises & Equipment	11,976	11,834	(142)	(1%)
	296	264	(33)	(12%)	3,611	3,033	(578)	(19%)	Other Costs & Services	3,900	3,294	(606)	(16%)
	189	172	(17)	(10%)	2,362	2,012	(350)	(17%)	Ill health pension costs	2,537	2,184	(353)	(14%)
	385	466	82	18%	4,848	5,131	283	6%	Financing Items	5,232	5,597	365	7%
	2,189	2,030	(159)	(8%)	23,727	22,767	(959)	(4%)	Total Other Costs	25,836	24,834	(1,002)	(4%)
	7,853	7,614	(239)	(3%)	87,102	84,014	(3,088)	(4%)	Gross Expenditure	95,130	91,631	(3,499)	(4%)
	(315)	(134)	181	136%	(3,075)	(1,469)	1,606	109%	Operational Income	(3,346)	(1,602)	1,744	52%
	7,538	7,480	(58)	(1%)	84,027	82,545	(1,482)	(2%)	Net Expenditure before Funding	91,784	90,029	(1,755)	(2%)
	(1,093)	(695)	397	57%	(8,680)	(7,648)	1,032	13%	Government Grants	(9,813)	(8,343)	1,470	15%
	(806)	(806)	-	-	(8,864)	(8,865)	-	-	Revenue Support Grant	(9,670)	(9,671)	(1)	(0%)
	(1,409)	(1,411)	(2)	(0%)	(15,498)	(15,518)	(20)	(0%)	National Non-Domestic Rates	(17,113)	(17,137)	(24)	(0%)
	(17)	(18)	(0)	(3%)	(191)	(191)	(0)	(0%)	NNDR (surplus)/deficit	-	-	-	-
	(43)	-	43	-	(475)	0	475	-	Council Tax Collection Account	(500)	-	500	100%
	(4,433)	(4,461)	(28)	(1%)	(48,767)	(48,873)	(105)	(0%)	Council Tax Precept	(53,201)	(53,267)	(66)	(0%)
	(7,801)	(7,391)	411	6%	(82,476)	(81,095)	1,381	2%	Total Funding	(90,297)	(88,418)	1,879	2%
	(263)	89	352	395%	1,551	1,450	(100)	(7%)	Funding Gap / (Surplus)	1,487	1,611	124	8%
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Cont'ns to/(from) General Bals	-	-	-	-
	(152)	(134)	18	14%	(1,268)	(1,471)	(203)	(14%)	Cont'ns to/(from) Earmarked Reserves	(1,396)	(1,610)	(214)	(15%)
	(152)	(134)	18	14%	(1,268)	(1,471)	(203)	(14%)	Total Contribution to/(from) Reserves	(1,396)	(1,610)	(214)	(15%)
	(415)	(44)	371	834%	283	(21)	(304)	(1446%)	Net Gap / (Surplus)	91	1	(90)	(99%)

YTD Summary Income and Expenditure Statement to 29th February 2024



Prior Year YTD Actuals £'000s	Prior year YTD Budget £'000s	Prior Year Variance (Actuals Vs Budget)	Description	Core YTD Actual £'000s	Earmarked Projects £'000s	YTD Actual £'000s	Core YTD Budget £'000s	Earmarked Projects £'000s	YTD Budget £'000s	Budget Vs Actuals £'000s	Variance %	Core Budget Vs Core Actuals £'000s	Variance %
32,117	32,712	595	WholeTime Firefighters	35,028	408	35,436	34,330	449	34,779	(657)	(2%)	(698)	(2%)
8,290	6,530	(1,760)	On-Call Firefighters	9,071	-	9,071	7,882	-	7,882	(1,189)	(15%)	(1,189)	(15%)
1,523	1,442	(80)	Control	1,713	-	1,713	1,792	-	1,792	79	4%	79	4%
15,522	15,371	(152)	Support Staff	17,087	69	17,156	16,729	64	16,793	(362)	(2%)	(358)	(2%)
57,452	56,055	(1,397)	Total Employment Costs	62,899	477	63,375	60,733	513	61,247	(2,129)	(3%)	(2,166)	(4%)
1,880	1,742	(138)	Support Costs	1,901	51	1,952	1,380	367	1,747	(205)	(12%)	(521)	(38%)
10,177	9,252	(925)	Premises & Equipment	10,596	358	10,954	10,343	501	10,844	(110)	(1%)	(253)	(2%)
3,641	3,149	(493)	Other Costs & Services	3,417	194	3,611	2,942	92	3,033	(578)	(19%)	(475)	(16%)
1,990	2,012	22	Ill health pension costs	2,362	-	2,362	2,012	-	2,012	(350)	(17%)	(350)	(17%)
5,060	5,406	346	Financing Items	4,848	-	4,848	5,131	-	5,131	283	6%	283	6%
22,748	21,561	(1,187)	Total Other Costs	23,124	603	23,727	21,808	960	22,767	(959)	(4%)	(1,316)	(6%)
80,200	77,616	(2,584)	Gross Expenditure	86,023	1,079	87,102	82,541	1,473	84,014	(3,088)	(4%)	(3,482)	(4%)
(1,931)	(1,297)	634	Operational Income	(3,075)	-	(3,075)	(1,469)	-	(1,469)	1,606	(109%)	1,606	(109%)
78,269	76,319	(1,950)	Net Expenditure before Funding	82,947	1,079	84,027	81,072	1,473	82,545	(1,482)	(2%)	(1,875)	(2%)
			Funding										
(6,687)	(6,920)	(233)	Government Grants	(8,680)	-	(8,680)	(7,648)	-	(7,648)	1,032	13%	1,032	13%
(8,247)	(8,247)	0	Revenue Support Grant	(8,864)	-	(8,864)	(8,865)	-	(8,865)	-	-	-	-
(14,645)	(14,645)	-	National Non-Domestic Rates	(15,498)	-	(15,498)	(15,518)	-	(15,518)	(20)	(0%)	(20)	(0%)
71	-	(71)	NNDR (surplus)/deficit	(191)	-	(191)	(191)	-	(191)	(0)	(0%)	(0)	(0%)
(749)	-	749	Council Tax Collection Account	(475)	-	(475)	-	-	-	475	100%	475	100%
(45,511)	(45,530)	(19)	Council Tax Precept	(48,767)	-	(48,767)	(48,873)	-	(48,873)	(105)	(0%)	(105)	(0%)
(75,768)	(75,342)	427	Total Funding	(82,476)	-	(82,476)	(81,095)	-	(81,095)	1,381	2%	1,381	2%
2,501	977	(1,523)	Funding Gap / (Surplus)	472	1,079	1,551	(23)	1,473	1,450	(100)	(7%)	(494)	(34%)
-	-	-	Cont'ns to/(from) General Bals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(1,977)	(1,755)	222	Cont'ns to/(from) Earmarked Reserves	(132)	(1,136)	(1,268)	-	(1,471)	(1,471)	(203)	(14%)	132	-
(1,977)	(1,755)	222	Total Contribution to/(from) Reserves	(132)	(1,136)	(1,268)	-	(1,471)	(1,471)	(203)	-	132	-
524	(778)	(1,302)	Net Gap / (Surplus)	340	(56)	283	(23)	2	(21)	(304)	(1446%)	(362)	(1593%)

Period Summary Income and Expenditure Statement to 29th February 2024



Prior Year Period Actuals £'000s	Prior year Period Budget £'000s	Prior Year Variance (Actuals Vs Budget)	Description	Core Period Actual £'000s	Earmarked Projects £'000s	Period Actual £'000s	Core Budget £'000s	Earmarked Projects £'000s	Period Budget £'000s	Budget Vs Actuals £'000s	Variance %	Core Budget Vs Core Actuals £'000s	Variance %
2,853	2,961	108	Wholetime Firefighters	3,132	37	3,169	3,166	41	3,206	37	1%	33	1%
664	594	(70)	On-Call Firefighters	828	-	828	735	-	735	(94)	(13%)	(94)	(13%)
133	131	(2)	Control	163	-	163	165	-	165	2	1%	2	1%
1,439	1,361	(77)	Support Staff	1,435	67	1,503	1,471	6	1,477	(26)	(2%)	36	2%
5,089	5,047	(42)	Total Employment Costs	5,559	104	5,664	5,537	47	5,583	(80)	(1%)	(22)	(0%)
121	158	37	Support Costs	246	-	246	125	33	159	(87)	(55%)	(120)	(96%)
1,272	855	(418)	Premises & Equipment	1,050	25	1,074	924	46	970	(104)	(11%)	(126)	(14%)
483	287	(195)	Other Costs & Services	296	-	296	255	8	264	(33)	(12%)	(41)	(16%)
170	172	1	Ill health pension costs	189	-	189	172	-	172	(17)	(10%)	(17)	(10%)
416	491	75	Financing Items	385	-	385	466	-	466	82	18%	82	18%
2,462	1,964	(499)	Total Other Costs	2,165	25	2,189	1,943	88	2,030	(159)	(8%)	(222)	(11%)
7,551	7,010	(541)	Gross Expenditure	7,724	129	7,853	7,479	134	7,614	(239)	(3%)	(245)	(3%)
(252)	(118)	134	Operational income	(315)	-	(315)	(134)	-	(134)	181	136%	181	136%
7,299	6,892	(407)	Net Expenditure	7,409	129	7,538	7,346	134	7,480	(58)	(1%)	(63)	(1%)
			Funding										
(623)	(629)	(6)	Government Grants	(1,093)	-	(1,093)	(695)	-	(695)	397	57%	397	57%
(532)	(532)	-	Revenue Support Grant	(806)	-	(806)	(806)	-	(806)	-	-	-	-
(1,304)	(1,304)	-	National Non-Domestic Rates	(1,409)	-	(1,409)	(1,411)	-	(1,411)	(2)	(0%)	(2)	(0%)
87	-	(87)	NNDR (surplus)/deficit	(17)	-	(17)	(18)	-	(18)	(1)	(6%)	(1)	(6%)
(76)	-	76	Council Tax Collection Account	(43)	-	(43)	-	-	-	43	100%	43	100%
(4,219)	(4,238)	(19)	Council Tax Precept	(4,433)	-	(4,433)	(4,461)	-	(4,461)	(28)	(1%)	(28)	(1%)
(6,668)	(6,703)	(35)	Total Funding	(7,801)	-	(7,801)	(7,391)	-	(7,391)	410	(6%)	410	6%
631	189	(442)	Funding Gap / (Surplus)	(392)	129	(263)	(45)	134	89	352	394%	347	(772%)
-	-	-	Cont'ns to/(from) General Bals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(275)	(121)	154	Cont'ns to/(from) Earmarked Reserves	-	(117)	(152)	-	(134)	(134)	18	14%	-	-
(275)	(121)	154	Total Contribution to/(from) Reserves	-	(117)	(152)	-	(134)	(134)	18	14%	-	-
356	68	(288)	Net Gap / (Surplus)	(392)	12	(415)	(45)	0	(44)	370	833%	347	772%

Operational Income



Operational Income	YTD Actual £	YTD Budget £	Variance YTD £	Variance YTD %	Current Full Year Budget £	Comments
Cycle to Work Scheme	(14,693)	(32,084)	(17,390)	(54%)	(35,000)	
Childcare Vouchers	(11,121)	(27,500)	(16,379)	(60%)	0	
Sales of Vehicles	(68,399)	0	68,399	100%	0	
Canteen Income	(99,182)	(71,500)	27,682	39%	(78,000)	
Sale of Vehicle Spares	(76,842)	(82,500)	(5,658)	(7%)	(90,000)	
Aerial Sites	(128,871)	(105,416)	23,455	22%	(115,000)	
Solar Panel Income	(62,997)	(55,000)	7,997	15%	(60,000)	
Hydrant Tests	(99,864)	(82,500)	17,364	21%	(90,000)	
Lease Cars - Employee Contributions	(4,519)	(5,500)	(981)	(18%)	(6,000)	
General Sales	(7,206)	0	7,206	100%	0	
Service Charges	(866)	(413)	453	110%	(451)	
Secondments	(315,242)	(167,753)	147,489	88%	(183,004)	1 x National Resilience, 3 x NFCC
Community Safety General	(71,797)	(71,797)	0	100%	(78,324)	
Labour Credit	(63,901)	(82,500)	(18,599)	(23%)	(90,000)	
Section 13/16	(48,261)	(55,000)	(6,739)	(12%)	(60,000)	
Provision of Hire Vehicles & Equipment	(20,366)	0	20,366	100%	0	
Interest Received Short Term Investments	(1,118,607)	(137,500)	981,107	714%	(150,000)	
Events Income	(1,621)	0	1,621	100%	0	
Community Safety Youth Work	(42,975)	(105,509)	(62,534)	(59%)	(115,100)	The Budget was re-aligned in P7 as it related to DoF E and Cadet generated income
Shared Services Income	(388,667)	(229,174)	159,493	70%	(250,008)	CWO & BSR
Other Miscellaneous Income	(429,143)	(157,172)	271,970	173%	(171,461)	£53k USAR Jersey Reimbursement, £42k SERP Income, £100k insurance reimbursement
Total Operational Income	(3,075,141)	(1,468,818)	1,606,322	(109%)	(1,572,347)	

Specific Government Grants Income

Specific Government Grants	YTD Actual £	YTD Budget £	Variance YTD £	Variance YTD %	Current Full Year Budget £	Comments
Pensions Top Up Grant	(2,930,454)	(3,223,499)	-	-	(3,516,545)	Central Govt. Grant for Pensions - increase in Employers contribution £102k higher from prior year release
Business Rates Relief Support	(2,984,168)	(2,658,414)	325,754	(0)	(2,900,088)	Business Rate relief reclassified as part of Section 31 grant from funding, additional leisure and hospitality relief
USAR Grant	(785,977)	(785,180)	797	0%	(856,560)	
Firelink Grant	(336,166)	(348,748)	(12,582)	(4%)	(380,453)	Communications Network (Firelink) grant and New Risk Mosaic programme funding.
Services Grant (One off investments)	(612,406)	(586,667)	25,739	4%	(640,000)	Grant of circa £688k to fund one off investments, the funding is being released as costs are incurred.
Protection Uplift Grant	(329,596)	(45,287)	284,309	628%	(49,404)	PU Grant (Grenfell Grant) released against ringfenced spend, Budget based only on expected staff cost.
MTA	-	-	-	-	-	MTA is part of new dimensions S31 grant and will be released against costs
Other Grant Income	-	-	-	-	-	Home Office grant in relation to internal Audit costs (Redmond review grant offset monthly against audit fees).
Subtotal-Govt Grants	(7,978,767)	(7,647,795)	330,972	4%	(8,343,049)	

Balance Sheet - 29th February 2024



	29th Feb 2024 £000's	31st Jan 2024 £000's	31st Mar 2023 £000's	Variance Month £000's	Variance YTD £000's
Property, plant & equipment					
Land and buildings	129,586	129,586	129,586	-	-
* Vehicles, plant & equipment	10,603	10,603	10,602	-	-
* Assets under construction	5,493	5,138	1,599	355	3,894
Long term assets	145,682	145,327	141,787	355	3,894
Inventories	441	431	445	10	(4)
Short term debtors	7,805	7,578	13,068	227	(5,263)
Cash and cash equivalents	23,970	25,849	18,602	(1,879)	5,368
Assets held for sale	-	-	350	-	(350)
Current assets	32,216	33,858	32,465	(1,642)	(249)
* Short term borrowings	-	-	(249)	-	249
Short term creditors	(10,034)	(10,014)	(11,447)	(20)	1,413
Grants received in advance	(4,376)	(6,278)	(1,303)	1,902	(3,073)
Current liabilities	(14,410)	(16,292)	(12,999)	1,882	(1,411)
Long term borrowing	(23,500)	(23,500)	(23,500)	-	-
Provisions	(853)	(803)	(786)	(51)	(67)
* Pension liability - LGPS	9,887	9,887	9,887	-	-
* Pension liability - FPS	(580,729)	(580,729)	(580,729)	-	-
Long term liabilities	(595,195)	(595,145)	(595,128)	(51)	-
NET LIABILITIES	(431,707)	(432,251)	(433,876)	544	2,169
Usable reserves					
General fund	3,603	3,190	3,882	413	(279)
Earmarked general fund reserves	5,834	5,987	7,102	(152)	(1,268)
Capital receipts reserve	16,090	16,090	15,741	-	349
Usable reserves	25,527	25,266	26,725	261	(1,198)
Unusable reserves					
Revaluation reserve	43,674	43,674	43,840	-	(166)
Capital adjustment account	69,730	69,447	66,198	283	3,533
* Holiday pay account	(1,353)	(1,353)	(1,353)	-	-
* Collection fund adjustment account	1,557	1,557	1,557	-	-
Pension reserve	(570,842)	(570,842)	(570,842)	-	(0)
Unusable reserves	(457,234)	(457,518)	(460,601)	283	3,367
TOTAL RESERVES	(431,707)	(432,251)	(433,876)	544	2,168

* Balances adjusted at year end only.

Key Movements

Fixed Assets:

- Increase in Assets under construction of £355k in the month, for further detail, see the Capital Expenditure report.
- There is a reclassification from prepayments in April due to year end entries relating to the Control Project, increasing the YTD variance.

Current Assets:

- Increase in short term debtors due to movements in working capital.
- £1.9m decrease in cash and cash equivalents, as seen in the cashflow on page 8.

Current Liabilities

- No short term borrowings, as the next loan payment is due in 2025.
- Short term creditors stayed consistent compared to last month.
- Grants received in advance have reduced by £1.9m as grants are released to income, and adjustments are made to precept accruals.

Long-term Liabilities:

- No movement in long-term liabilities - the next repayment will be in 2025.

Reserves:

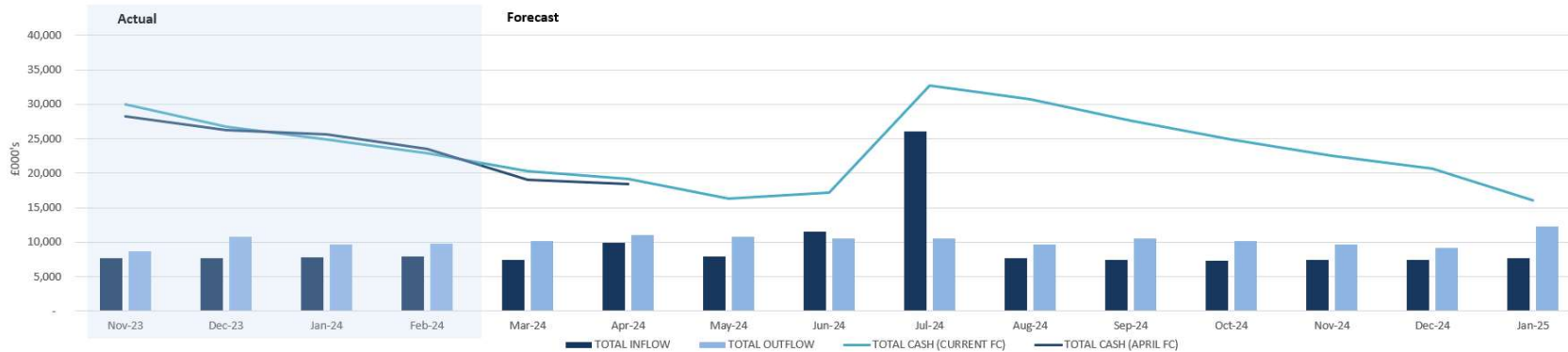
Movements in Usable Reserves:

- The movements in General and Earmarked Reserves tie back to the summary Income & Expenditure statement on page 3.

Movements in Unusable Reserves:

- The movement in the Revaluation Reserve is a result of disposal accounting entries posted for day crewed house sales.
- The movement in the Capital Adjustment Account reflect adjustments for MRP in the month offset by disposal movements.

Cashflow Forecast



COMMENTARY

Total cash and investments at the end of February was £23.0m, down from £25.9m in January. Key inflows and outflows for the month are summarised below:

- Cash inflows include precepts of £5.2m and grants of £1.8m. This is in line with expectation.
- Cash outflows include purchase ledger payments of £2.4m, which is in line with expectation. We anticipate that purchase ledger payments will increase in March, as creditors are paid down in anticipation of the new finance system.
- The Authority holds investments of £17.5m, which is £7.5m less than last month, including £11m of fixed term investments in UK government gilts. The remaining investments are in money market funds, CCLA and a Lloyds call account to maintain liquidity.

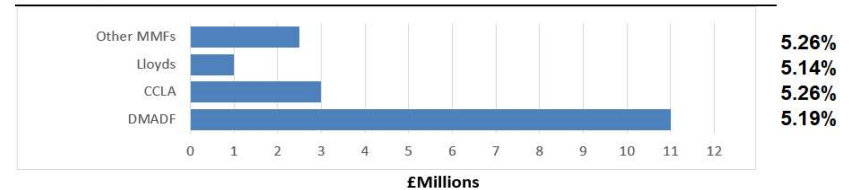
TREASURY MANAGEMENT INDICATORS

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Explanation of Indicators</u>
Credit risk indicator	AAA	The average credit rating of investments must be A or greater.
Liquidity risk indicator	£25.9m	The target cash available within 3 months is £8.5m.
Monthly interest rate movement	0.04%	Change in average interest rate received.
Price risk indicator	£nil	The limit on the amount that can be invested beyond 12 months.
Refinancing rate indicator:		
<i>Under 12 months</i>	0%	A large proportion of the Authority's debt expires within 5-10 years. The Finance team have reviewed the impact of early repayment, and found there would be no advantage of doing so. Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) debt requires full payment of interest up to the date of expiry.
<i>12 months and within 24 months</i>	0%	
<i>24 months and within 5 years</i>	9%	
<i>5 years and within 10 years</i>	64%	
<i>10 years and within 15 years</i>	28%	
<i>15 years and above</i>	0%	

EXPENDITURE ANALYSIS



INVESTMENTS





Capital	Budget 2023/24	Forecast - Prior	Adjustment to Budget	Forecast - Current	Actual Spend	Committed Orders
New Premises						
Service Workshops	500	-	-	-	-	-
Existing Premises						
Asset Protection	1,150	1,000	(12)	988	525	357
Asset Improvement Works Training Facilities Improvement	774	318	-	318	221	6
Wethersfield replacement	500	-	-	-	-	-
Asset Improvement Works - Shoeburyness	-	330	-	330	275	162
Total Property	2,924	1,648	(12)	1,637	1,021	525
Equipment	939	529	-	529	381	37
Information Technology						
Projects	1,413	2,072	-	2,072	1,166	909
Total Information Technology	1,413	2,072	-	2,072	1,166	909
Vehicles						
New Appliances	-	5	-	5	-	-
Other Vehicles	720	818	-	818	852	-
Total Vehicles	720	823	-	823	852	-
Total Capital Expenditure	5,996	5,072	(12)	5,060	3,419	1,472

Essex County Fire & Rescue Service - Capital Expenditure as at 29th February 2024



	Budget 2023/24	Forecast - Prior	Adjustment to Budget	Forecast - Current	Actual Spend	Committed Orders	Total Committed Spend
B113 - Vehicles							
Appliances (Pumping)	-	4,834	-	4,834	-	-	-
Off Road Vehicles	120,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
Officers Cars (Principal Officers)	80,000	40,000	-	40,000	78,175	-	78,175
Specialist Rescue Vehicle	100,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
Light Vans	160,000	41,000	-	41,000	36,982	-	36,982
Hose Layer Replacement	260,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
Provided Cars	-	736,836	-	736,836	736,836	-	736,836
Total B113 - Vehicles	720,000	822,671	-	822,671	851,994	-	851,994
	Budget 2023/24	Forecast - Prior	Adjustment to Forecast	Forecast - Current	Actual Spend	Committed Orders	Total Committed Spend
B116 - Operational Equipment							
Fitness equipment	19,000	156,000	-	156,000	155,948	-	155,948
Hose Reel Branch/Main Line Branch	-	132,548	-	132,548	132,548	-	132,548
Defibrillators	120,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thermal Imaging Cameras - training	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thermal Imaging Cameras	650,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
Air mats	150,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
BA Contamination Machine	-	50,000	-	50,000	-	31,373	31,373
Heatwave Costs:							
Ice makers and water kegs	-	14,500	-	14,500	6,502	-	6,502
Hoses	-	38,760	-	38,760	30,368	-	30,368
Fog spikes	-	70,000	-	70,000	-	-	-
Radios and repeaters	-	67,000	-	67,000	55,286	6,045	61,332
Total B116 - Operational Equipment	939,000	528,808	-	528,808	380,653	37,419	418,071
B114 - ICT Equipment							
Digital & Data Strategy							
DEVICES	225,000	391,000	(10,000)	391,000	310,031	112,498	422,529
NETWORK	-	236,000	-	236,000	251,320	6,557	257,876
Switchgear replacements	-	-	10,000	10,000	-	-	-
Other Projects							
Station End Equipment	450,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
Control Project	738,450	1,445,030	-	1,445,030	604,512	790,163	1,394,675
Total B114 - ICT Equipment	1,413,450	2,072,030	-	2,072,030	1,165,863	909,217	2,075,080

Essex County Fire & Rescue Service - Capital Expenditure as at 29th February 2024



	Budget 2023/24	Forecast - Prior	Adjustment to Forecast	Forecast - Current	Actual Spend	Committed Orders	Total Committed Spend
B112 - Land & Building							
Lexden Workshops Relocation	500,000	-		-	-	-	-
Total B112 - Land & Building	500,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
B117 - Asset Improvements							
Asset Improvement Works - Shoeburyness	-	330,000	-	330,000	275,346	161,750	437,096
Wethersfield replacement	500,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
Asset Protection Works - Training Facilities:							
Phase 3 (W) - Harlow	502,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
Phase 3 (E) - Clacton	232,000	234,000	-	234,000	210,888	5,873	216,761
Consultancy support	40,000	80,000	-	80,000	5,560	-	5,560
Prior year retentions and small works	-	4,438	-	4,438	4,438	-	4,438
Total B117 - Asset Improvement	1,274,000	648,438	-	648,438	496,232	167,623	663,855

Essex County Fire & Rescue Service - Capital Expenditure as at 29th February 2024



	Budget 2023/24	Forecast - Prior	Adjustment to Forecast	Forecast - Current	Actual Spend	Committed Orders	Total Committed Spend
B118 - Asset Protection							
Asset Protection Works							
Basildon boilers/controls	140,000	160,000	(100,000)	60,000	59,279	820	60,099
Grays - Water Heating, Pumps and BMS Controls	80,000	105,000	(105,000)	-	-	-	-
Braintree refurb	50,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
Southend SDP boilers/heater	60,000	40,839	-	40,839	40,839	-	40,839
OCAAT	150,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
SWF windows	150,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stansted - Non-slip coating and Garage Works	60,000	20,000	-	20,000	-	-	-
EV Charging Points - KP	-	25,328	-	25,328	25,328	-	25,328
KP Control Room Refurbishment	-	37,891	-	37,891	34,651	-	34,651
Mini Refurbishment Project: Wivenhoe OC Station	-	27,905	6,595	34,500	550	33,413	33,963
KP Oxy-Reduct Unit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Harlow Command: BA Training Room for Equipment Cleaning	-	37,981	-	37,981	28,724	30,003	58,726
Grays FS - Welfare area, lecture room and AC works	-	36,000	(36,000)	-	-	-	-
Braintree Water Heater Replacement	-	25,651	-	25,651	22,651	3,000	25,651
Waltham Abbey: Civil Work (External Car Park Spaces)	-	-	16,485	16,485	16,485	-	16,485
Harlow Water Heater Replacement	-	-	23,802	23,802	-	-	-
KP Space Planning Project	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Air Conditioning Projects	-	-	25,000	25,000	-	-	-
14 site EV Chargers: Installation Project March 2024	-	-	48,500	48,500	-	-	-
Fire Alarm Installations	-	12,650	-	12,650	4,751	7,899	12,650
Bay Door Replacements	-	22,173	-	22,173	17,372	4,996	22,368
Wholetime Station Modernisation							
Orsett Station and FRA	600,000	550,000	-	550,000	266,295	277,121	543,416
Provision for limited capacity	(140,000)	(106,890)	106,890	-	-	-	-
Prior year retentions and small works	-	5,472	2,123	7,595	7,595	-	7,595
B118 - Asset Protection	1,150,000	1,000,000	(11,605)	988,395	524,519	357,252	881,771
TOTAL FORECAST 2023-24	5,996,450	5,071,947	(11,605)	5,060,342	3,419,260	1,471,512	4,890,772



BENEFITS AND RISK/ FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The review of expenditure against the profiled budget is part of the overall financial control process of the Authority.
In exceptional circumstances it allows for budget virements to ensure that under spending against budget heads can be utilised to fund expenditure against other priorities.
If virements are not made there is a risk that the Authority will miss out on opportunities to improve performance and meet key objectives during the year.
The Authority's reserves are at the upper end of their target range and the Authority is able to fund short term fluctuations in activity from them when necessary.
The review of the management accounts is one control measure to mitigate the risk of overspending the Authority's budget for the year.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct Equality or Diversity implications within this report

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct legal implications within this report.

HEALTH & SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct Health and Safety implications within this report.

ACTIONS / NEXT STEPS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985	
List of background documents – including appendices, hardcopy or electronic including any relevant link/s.	
Appendices: Outturn movement from Budget Movement of YTD projected position to Expected Outturn Movement from Budget Position to Outturn	
Proper Officer:	Chief Finance Officer to PFCC Fire & Rescue Authority
Contact Officer:	Neil Cross Essex County Fire & Rescue Service, Kelvedon Park, London Road, Rivenhall, Witham CM8 3HB Tel: 01376 576020 Email: neil.cross@essex-fire.gov.uk



Appendices

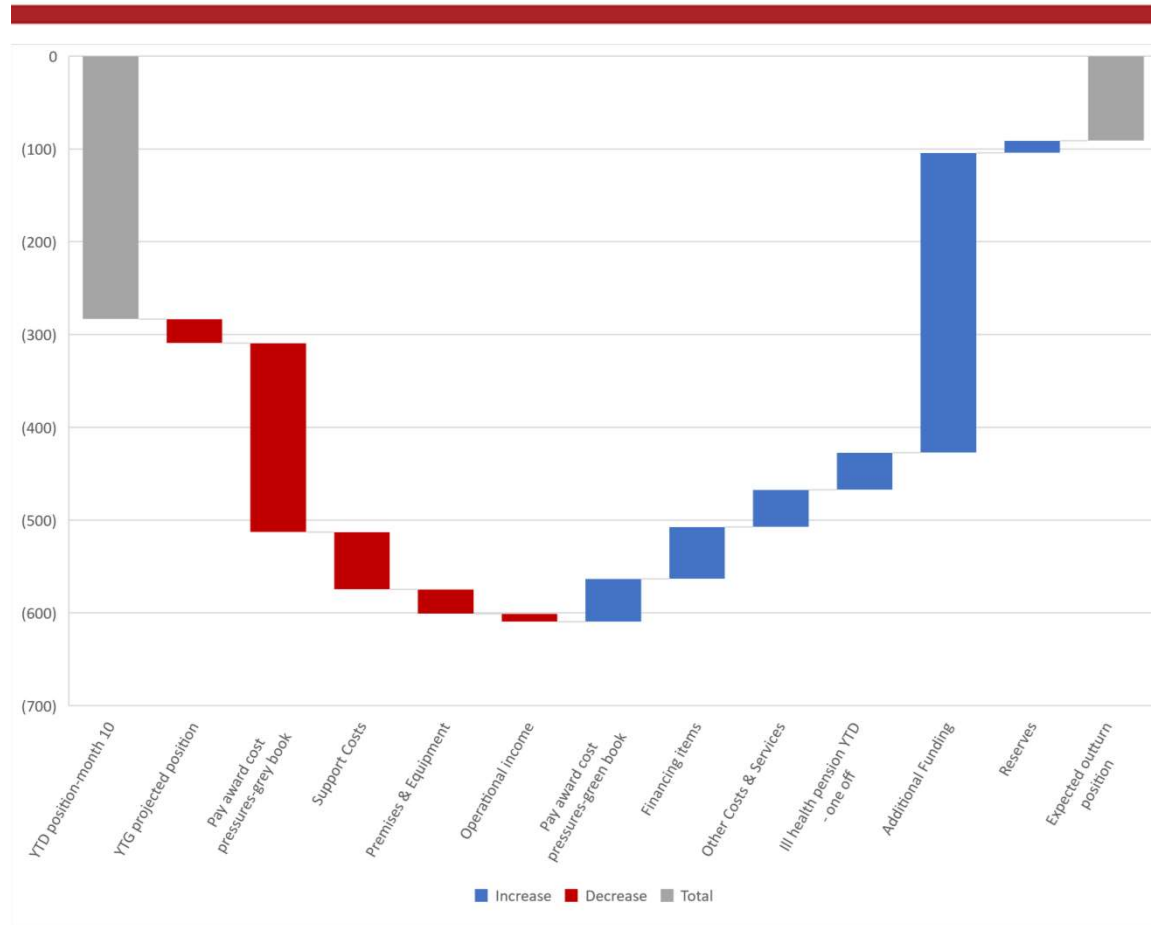
Outturn movement from Full Year Budget including Reserves



Description	2023-24 FY Budget £'000	YTD Actuals	2023-24 Expected FY Outturn position £'000	Movement from Budget to Outturn £'000	Variance of movement %	Expected monthly position based on Actual trends	Outturn position based on Actual trends	Variance of movement to projected outturn	Variance of movement to projected outturn %
Wholetime Firefighters	37,991	35,436	38,855	(864)	(2%)	3,221	38,658	197	1%
On-Call Firefighters	8,579	9,071	9,893	(1,314)	(15%)	825	9,896	(3)	(0%)
Control	1,957	1,713	1,878	79	4%	156	1,868	9	1%
Support Staff	18,270	17,156	18,669	(399)	(2%)	1,560	18,715	(46)	(0%)
Total Employment Costs	66,797	63,375	69,294	(2,497)	(4%)	5,761	69,137	158	0%
Other Service Expenditure									
Support Costs	1,924	1,952	2,191	(267)	(14%)	177	2,129	62	3%
Premises & Equipment	11,834	10,954	11,976	(142)	(1%)	996	11,950	26	0%
Other Costs & Services	3,294	3,611	3,900	(606)	(18%)	328	3,940	(40)	(1%)
Ill Health Pension costs	2,184	2,362	2,537	(353)	(16%)	215	2,577	(40)	(2%)
Financing Items	5,597	4,848	5,232	365	7%	441	5,288	(56)	(1%)
Total Other Costs	24,834	23,727	25,836	(1,002)	(4%)	2,157	25,884	(48)	(0%)
Gross Operating Expenditure	91,631	87,102	95,130	(3,499)	(4%)	7,918	95,020	110	0%
Operational income	(1,602)	(3,075)	(3,346)	1,744	109%	(280)	(3,355)	9	0%
Net Expenditure	90,029	84,027	91,784	(1,755)	(2%)	7,639	91,666	118	0%
Funding									
Government Grants Income	(8,343)	(8,680)	(9,813)	1,470	18%	(789)	(9,469)	(344)	(4%)
Revenue Support Grant	(9,671)	(8,864)	(9,670)	(1)	(0%)	(806)	(9,670)	-	-
National Non-Domestic Rates	(17,137)	(15,498)	(17,113)	(24)	(0%)	(1,409)	(16,907)	(206)	(1%)
NNDR (surplus)/deficit	-	(191)	-	-	-	(17)	(208)	208	100%
Council Tax Collection Account	-	(475)	(500)	500	100%	(43)	(518)	18	4%
Council Tax Precepts	(53,267)	(48,767)	(53,201)	(66)	(0%)	(4,433)	(53,201)	-	-
Council Tax Collection Impact	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cont'ns to/(from) General Reserves	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cont'ns to/(from) Earmarked Reserves	(1,610)	(1,268)	(1,396)	(214)	-	(115)	(1,383)	(13)	(1%)
Total Funding	(90,028)	(83,743)	(91,693)	1,665	(2%)	(7,613)	(91,356)	(336)	0%
Funding Gap/ (Surplus)	1	283	91	(90)	-	26	309	(218)	(240%)



Movement from YTD projected position to expected Outturn



Key comments on movements

The projected position has been calculated based on the YTD actuals, there are a few one off costs which will need to be excluded from this waterfall along with any pay award costs that haven't been captured to date.

Additional agreed pay pressure for 2023-24 agreed for Grey book to be included from July onwards.

Additional pay pressure for 2023-24 agreed for Green book to be included from December, once reflecting in the pay figures.

Support costs include an expectation of Training costs to come back in line with Budget, this is just timing.

Financing items includes costs for the training facilities which haven't come through yet, these are offset by Earmarked Reserves and are included in the EMR strategy paper.

Ill health costs are one off costs which came through at the start of the financial year but won't be re-occurring on a monthly basis at this amount.

Operational income is likely to be higher based on higher interest rates from the short term investments, there is still uncertainty around interest rates projections.

Premises & Equipment costs are lower due to timing of costs coming through, there will be £100k savings from lower utilities costs and savings in the cleaning tender.

Additional Funding and Reserves includes £500k in BRR funding and £500k from council tax collections.

Movement from Budgeted position to Outturn

