

BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL

Governance Committee

Decision Report

Thursday 27 April 2023

1. Review of Out-turn Against Probable 2022/23

Recommendation

The Governance Committee resolve to confirm the financial situation following the completion of the accounts for 2022/23.

Ward

Not ward specific.

Risk Management

To provide the required updates to reflect the financial standing of the Council.

Objective

To ensure compliance with the Governance arrangements in place as outlined within the Accounts and Audit Regulations.

Report

Review of Out-turn Against Probable 2022/23

During the process of preparing the final accounts for 2022/23, a comparison was carried out between the Probable, as prepared at the time the budget was being considered, and the Out-turn. Although the Out-turn reflects a lower level of net expenditure of some £138k, this is within 9.8% of the Probable Budget.

The reduced out-turn is mainly brought about by a decrease in expenditure for the:

Governance Committee (-£52k) which is mainly Staff costs £27k, Office/Members/Civic costs, as well as additional Investment income of £13k,

Environment Committee (-£81k) which is mainly the agreed delay on the Skate Park of £103k, reduced Allotment expenditure of £12k, and offset by additional expenditure on the Partnership and Future development projects of £20k and the

Community Development Committee (£5k) which is mainly due to reduced expenditure on grants.

The Council have balances of £880k as at 31 March 2023, albeit the Governance Committee have approved that £103k is to be earmarked towards the installation of the Skate Park in 2023/24, due to this work not being able to be carried out in 2022/23. This then means that there are operational balances of £777k for 2023/24.

Shown on:

Appendix A is a summary by Committee and

Appendix B is the situation regarding the Council's Reserves

2. Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2021/22

Recommendation

The Committee resolve to approve the documents listed in connection with the Annual Governance and Accountability return 2021/22 prior to approval by the Council before submission to the External Auditor:

Ward

Not ward specific.

Risk Management

To provide the required documents to reflect the financial standing of the Council in order for the External Auditor to give their independent opinion.

Objective

To ensure compliance with the Governance arrangements in place as outlined within the Accounts and Audit Regulations.

Report

The key sections within the Annual Return for 2021/22 have been prepared and are attached. These documents have been prepared on the guidance given by the external auditor for the accounts.

The Council's Internal Auditor has also submitted his annual summary report which is attached.

Appendices

1. Council's Internal Auditor's Report
2. Annual Internal Audit Report for 2022/23
3. Annual Governance Statement for 2022/23
4. Accounting Statements for 2022/23

3. Appointment of Internal Auditor 2023/24

Recommendation

The Governance Committee resolve to confirm the appointment of Mike Slaughter as Internal Auditor for the financial year 2023/24.

Ward

Not ward specific.

Risk Management

To have in place effective internal audit coverage for the Council.

Objective

To ensure compliance with the Governance arrangements in place as outlined within the Accounts and Audit Regulations.

Report

The Council is required to have in place an effective internal audit resource, to evaluate the impact of its risk management, control, and governance processes, in consideration with the guidance for such Councils as ours.

The Internal Audit Review for 2022/23 was again carried out by Mike Slaughter, who has extensive experience within Local Government. This was Mike's first year in carrying out the audit and he has been of benefit to the Council in his approach etc.

If the Council are agreeable Mike would be willing to do the 2023/24 audit.

Appendix A

Committee	Probable 2022/23 £	Out-Turn 2022/23 £
Governance	399,069	328,674
Environment	618,650	536,749
Community Development	412,820	408,051
Overall Net Expenditure	1,411,539	1,273,474

	2022/23	2022/23
	Probable	Actual
Net service Expend	1,411,539	1,273,474
Precept Income	1,331,803	1,331,803
Use of Reserves	79,736	(58,329)
Total Resources	1,411,539	1,273,474

Position of Reserves

	2022/23	2022/23	2023/24	2023/24
	Probable	Actual	Original Budget	Revised Budget
1 April B/F	821,540	821,540	741,804	879,869*
From/(To) Reserves	79,736	(58,329)	7,796	7,796
31 March C/F	741,804	879,869	734,008	872,073*

*Of which £103k has been earmarked for the Skate Park installation 2023/24.

The additional balances of £35k going into 2023/24 do not materially affect the Council's 7-year plan, and this will be subject to a further report at the next Governance Committee.

Malcolm Wilkinson
Deputy Town Clerk

17 April 2023