

12. 2018/19 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE - MONTH 6 MONITORING REPORT

The Panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Finance and Property Services providing an update on the financial performance of the Partnership and Resources portfolio.

A table within the report summarised the position in relation to service and capital expenditure and provided an update on the forecast position. The forecast revenue position was an underspend of £1.476 million for the Partnership and Resources portfolio. There was also net slippage of £1.678 million in the capital programme. As part of the monitoring exercise, a number of key risks and service pressures had been identified and these were noted in the narrative for the relevant service area.

The report also provided a summary of the main issues in service expenditure budgets and impact on performance for both general fund revenue and general services capital.

In relation to future budget issues West Lothian Council had approved savings of £41.281 million for the three year period 2018/19 to 2020/21 as part of a five year budget strategy on 13 February 2018. For 2018/19 there remained risks around deliverability of budget reductions. In addition recurring pressures of £3.894 million would have an impact on how the council could contain overall spending within the approved budget. It was therefore essential that mitigating actions, which had been agreed, were progressed to ensure these pressures were managed on a recurring basis.

It was recommended that the Panel :-

1. Notes the financial performance of the Partnership and Resources portfolio as at month 6;
2. Notes that the Partnership and Resources position at month 6 was part of the overall council budget position which was reported to Council Executive on 13 November 2018; and
3. Notes any actions required to be taken by Heads of Service and budget holders to manage spend within available resources.

Decision

To note the contents of the report