

3. 2018/19 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE - MONTH 12 MONITORING

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 Environment Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel portfolio for the General Fund Revenue Budget.

The report set out the 2018-19 general fund revenue financial performance information in respect of the Environment Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel portfolio of services. It was important to note that the council's revenue budget was operationally managed at Head of Service level and the financial position included within the report was part of the overall council draft out-turn which would be reported to Council Executive.

The budget monitoring process for 2018-19 had been undertaken in line with the council's budgetary control framework and procedures, which placed particular focus on a risk based and pro-active approach to budget monitoring. The overall outturn was reported to Council Executive on 25 June 2019.

A table in the report summarised the position in relation to service expenditure and provided an update on the draft outturn. The draft out-turn indicated an overspend for the Environment portfolio of £810.000 and a slippage of £1.020 million on the capital programme.

In terms of future budget issues and risks West Lothian Council had approved a five year strategy from 2018/19 to 2022/23 including savings measures for the three years 2018/19 to 2020/21 with a further revision to the overall level of savings required approved by Council on 19 February 2019. The total level of savings approved for the five year period was £60.550 million with £41.991 million of those savings required in the first three years. In addition there were recurring pressures of £4.047 million with mitigating actions being agreed and implemented to ensure pressures were managed on a recurring basis.

In addition severe weather events such as heavy snowfall and flooding could have a significant impact on expenditure with Roads and Transportation.

It was recommended that the Panel :-

1. Notes the financial performance of the Environment portfolio for 2018-19;
2. Notes that the Environment portfolio position for the year formed part of the overall council position reported to Council Executive on 25 June 2019; and
3. Notes any actions required to be taken by Heads of Services and budget holders to manage spend within available resources.

Decision

To note the terms of the report