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:	Beth Blackburn, Finance Business Partner	
Presented By	Neil Cross - Chief Finance Officer	
Subject	Budget Review - August 2021	
Type of Report:	Information	

SUMMARY

This paper reports on expenditure against budget as at August 2021 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 aginst budget for period to August 2021

Executive Summary



Results for the period to August 2021

There was a deficit of £137k in August bringing the YTD total spend to a surplus of £853k (with a Business as usual (BAU) surplus of £869m).

Total pay costs YTD show an overspend of £667k, which after £437k of unbudgeted Earmarked Reserve costs, shows the BAU overspend of 230k. This includes £100k for the Wholetime pay protection payment and £70k pay protection payment relating to the day crewed conversion in Waltham Abbey. The first part of the Grey book pay award was also included in the month.

Total non pay costs show £59k underspend, which includes £139k of Covid costs and £270k of unbudgeted Earmarked Reserve spend and a continuing BAU underspend of £468k. This mainly relates to underspend YTD in areas like community safety and home safety along with lower travel costs.

The monthly Capital Finance Charge has been re-aligned to reflect the postion of the projected cost.

Forecast

The forecast that was presented last month has been updated and the latest projection shows a movement from the surplus of £92k to a deficit of £242k in general fund position. The key movement here relates to the inclusion of 1.75% pay awards which is under consultation (please see page 7 for the breakdown).

Earmarked Reserves

When preparing the forecast, unbudgeted projects which utilise Earmarked Reserves funding have not had their costs projected forward. The Year to Date breakdown of these projects has been set out on page 8 to show the impact on Earmarked Reserves, this combines the original budget release of £1.8m with the additional release of £2.4m laid out in the Earmarked Reserves Strategy.

Balance Sheet Statement and Cashflow Forecast

The Balance Sheet report on page 9 shows the key monthly rather than year to date movements.

- Cash and cash equivalents has reduced from £31m to £30m in the month, this is due to expenditure exceeding income for the month as well as changes in working capital.
- Short term debtors have reduced by £1.2m, mainly as a result of accounting adjustments reclassifying the non-domestic rates deficit to short term creditors.
- The Authority has utilised £893k of earmarked reserves in the year to fund specific projects such as the new Competency Management system and the Digital & Data Strategy.

The Cashflow Forecast on page 10 shows the forecast cash position of the Authority for the next twelve months. Payments are expected to exceed receipts from August to April due to the cost of the Firefighter's Pension Scheme, which is funded annually in July.

Capital

The Capital Programme is actively monitored by several groups at the Authority, including the Asset Board and Strategic Sub-Groups. Updates in the month include:

- A reduction of £141k in the Vehicle budget due to changing business requirements.
- A reduction of £90k in the ICT Equipment budget due to a rephasing of the Control project.
- A reduction of £656k in the Asset Improvement budget, as Shoeburyness is rephased in line with the latest budget report.

Other

The FTE report shows the shortfall of FTEs in On Call of 29.25 and Prevention & Protection of 10.89. These two areas account for the majority of the staffing shortfall of 52.5 overall.

There was one Single Tender Action in August.



YTD Summary Income and Expenditure Statement to August 2021

Prior Year YTD Actuals £'000s	Prior year YTD Budget £'000s	Prior Year Variance (Actuals Vs Budget)	Description	BAU YTD Actual £'000s	COVID £'000s	Earmarked Projects £'000s	YTD Actual £'000s	BAU YTD Budget £'000s	COVID Budget £'000s	Earmarked Projects Budget £'000s	YTD Budget £'000s	Budget Vs Actuals £'000s	Variance %	Budget Vs BAU Actuals £'000s	Variance %
14,352	14,643	291	Wholetime Firefighters	14,505	-	165	14,670	14,439	-	116	14,555	(115)	(1%)	(66)	(0%)
2,467	2,489	22	On Call Firefighters	2,997	-	-	2,997	2,862	-	-	2,862	(135)	(5%)	(135)	(5%)
626	588	(37)	Control	642	-	-	642	653	-	-	653	10	2%	10	2%
5,821	5,948	127	Support Staff	6,196	1	425	6,622	6,158	-	37	6,195	(427)	(7%)	(38)	(1%)
23,266	23,669	403	Total Employment Costs	24,341	1	590	24,932	24,111	-	153	24,265	(667)	(3%)	(230)	(1%)
570 4,817	904 4.449		Support Costs Premises & Equipment	841 4.035	34 94	68 184	943 4,312	894 4.177	-	-	894 4,177	(49) (136)	(5%) (3%)	53 141	6% 3%
1.094	1.373		Other Costs & Services	1,228	11	19	1,257	1.365	_	_	1,365	108	8%	138	10%
1.059	1.036	-	III health pension costs	896	- ''	-	896	938	_	_	938	42	4%	42	4%
2,319	2,326		Financing Items	2.495	-	-	2,495	2.590	-	-	2.590	95	4%	95	4%
9.859	10.088		Total Other Costs	9.495	139	270	9,904	9.963	-	-	9,963	59	1%	468	5%
	-		Investment in productivity improvement	-	-	-	-	(0)	(0)	(0)	-	-	-	-	-
33,125	33,757		Gross Expenditure	33,836	140	861	34,836	34,074	(0)	153	34,228	(608)	(2%)	238	1%
(3,649)	(2,578)	1,071	Specific Govt. Grants Income	(3,002)	(109)	-	(3,111)	(2,661)	-	-	(2,661)	449	(17%)	341	(13%)
(547)	(563)	(16)	Operational income	(587)		-	(587)	(406)	-	-	(406)	181	(45%)	181	(45%)
28.929	30,616	1.687	Net Expenditure	30.247	31	861	31.138	31.007	(0)	153	31,160	22	0%	760	2%
(4.070)	(4,878)		Funding Revenue Support Grant	(4,905)			(4,905)	(4,905)	. ,		(4.005)	0	(0%)		(0%)
(4,878) (7,039)	(7,039)		National Non-Domestic Rates	(7,018)	-	-	(4,905)	(7,020)	-	-	(4,905) (7,020)	0 (2)	0%)	0 (2)	0%
(201)	(236)		Council Tax Collection Account	(29)	-	-	(29)	(70)	-	-	(70)	(41)	58%	(41)	58%
(19,055)	(19,043)	()	Council Tax Precept	(19,132)	-	-	(19,132)	(18,979)	-	-	(18,979)	153	(1%)	153	(1%)
(15,035)	14		Council Tax Collection Impact	(13)	_	_	(13,132)	(14)	_	_	(14)	(1)	(170)	(1)	(170)
(31.178)	(31,182)		Net Funding	(31,097)	-	-	(31,097)	(30,989)	-	-	(30,989)	109	(0%)	109	(0%)
(195)	-		Cont'ns to/(from) General Bals	-	-	-	-	(==,===)			-		-	-	-
(130)	_		Cont'ns to/(from) Earmarked Reserves	0	(31)	(863)	(893)	-	-	-	_	893	-	(0)	-
(195)	-		Total Contribution to/(from) Reserves	0	(31)	(863)	(893)	-	-	-	-	893	-	(0)	-
(31,373)	(31,182)	191	Total Funding	(31,097)	(31)	(863)	(31,991)	(30,989)	-	-	(30,989)	1,002	(3%)	109	(0%)
(2,249)	(566)	1,683	Funding Gap / (Surplus)	(851)	(0)	(2)	(853)	18	(0)	153	172	1,024		869	

Period Summary Income and Expenditure Statement to August 2021



£'000s	Budget £'000s	Variance (Actuals Vs Budget)	Description	BAU Period Actual £'000s	COVID £'000s	Earmarked Projects £'000s	Period Actual £'000s	Period Budget £'000s	Budget Vs Actuals £'000s	Variance %	Budget Vs BAU Actuals £'000s	Variance %
2,774	2,799	25	Wholetime Firefighters	2,998	-	50	3,048	2,894	(154)	(5%)	(104)	(4%)
654	563	(91)	On Call Firefighters	644	-	-	644	570	(74)	(13%)	(74)	(13%)
128	118	(9)	Control	131	-	-	131	131	(1)	(0%)	(1)	(0%)
1,188	1,192	4	Support Staff	1,273	-	12	1,285	1,240	(45)	(4%)	(34)	(3%)
4,743	4,672	(71)	Total Employment Costs	5,047	-	62	5,108	4,835	(274)	(6%)	(212)	(4%)
65 1,113	181 890		Support Costs Premises & Equipment	197 817	4 1	6 50	207 868	179 835	(28) (32)	(16%) (4%)	(<mark>18)</mark> 18	(10%) 2%
314	278	(36)	Other Costs & Services	236	-	19	254	276	22	8%	41	15%
172	177	5	III health pension costs	170	-	-	170	177	7	4%	7	4%
464	465	1	Financing Items	429	-	-	429	518	89	17%	89	17%
2,127	1,991	(136)	Total Other Costs	1,848	5	75	1,928	1,986	57	3%	137	7%
-	-	-	Investment in productivity improvement	•	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6,870	6,663	(207)	Gross Expenditure	6,895	5	137	7,037	6,820	(216)	(3%)	(75)	(1%)
(627)	(516)	111	Specific Govt. Grants Income	(588)	(5)	-	(593)	(532)	61	(11%)	56	(11%)
(79)	(113)	(34)	Operational income	(118)	-	-	(118)	(81)	36	(45%)	36	(45%)
6,165	6,034	(130)	Net Expenditure	6,189	-	137	6,326	6,207	(119)	(2%)	18	0%
(54.2)	(540)		Funding	(540)			(540)	(540)				
(513)	(513)		Revenue Support Grant National Non-Domestic Rates	(516)	-	-	(516)	(516)	-	-	-	-
(1,375)	(1,375) (48)		Council Tax Collection Account	(1,370)	-	-	(1,370)	(1,370)	-	-	-	-
(39) (4,176)	(4,172)	(-)	Council Tax Collection Account Council Tax Precept	(5) (4,160)	-	-	(5) (4,160)	(5) (4,160)	-	-	_	-
(4,170)	(4,172)		Council Tax Trecept Council Tax Collection Impact	(4,100)			(4,100)	(3)	(3)	_	(3)	_
(6,105)	(6,105)		Net Funding	(6,052)		_	(6,052)	(6,055)	(3)	0%	(3)	0%
(0,100)	(0,100)		Cont'ns to/(from) General Bals	(0,002)			(0,002)	(0,000)			(-)	
			Contins to/(from) Earmarked Reserves	_	_	(137)	(137)		137	_	_	_
-			Total Contribution to/(from) Reserves		-	(137)	(137)		137		-	
(6,105)	(6,105)		Total Funding	(6,052)		(137)	(6,189)	(6,055)	133	(2%)	(3)	0%
60	(71)	(130)	Funding Gap / (Surplus)	137	-	` /	137	152	14		14	

Operational Income



Operational Income	YTD Actual £	YTD Budget £	Variance YTD £	Variance YTD %	Current Full Year Budget £	Comments
Cycle to Work Scheme	(14,170)	(12,505)	1,665	(13%)	(30,006)	
Childcare Vouchers	(14,955)	(27,085)	(12,130)	45%	(65,004)	
Canteen Income	(12,059)	(20,835)	(8,776)	42%	(50,004)	
Sale of Vehicle Spares	(15,243)	(10,415)	4,828	(46%)	(25,000)	
Aerial Sites	(56,565)	(64,855)	(8,291)	13%	(155,652)	
Solar Panel Income	(15,939)	(20,835)	(4,896)	23%	(50,000)	
Hydrant Tests	(5,073)	(37,500)	(32,427)	86%	(90,000)	
Lease Cars - Employee Contributions	(2,600)	(6,250)	(3,650)	58%	(15,000)	
Service Charges	(235)	(250)	(15)	6%	(600)	
Secondments	(86,691)	0	86,691	0%	0	
Community Safety General	(1,670)	0	1,670	0%	0	
Labour Credit	(22,706)	(22,915)	(209)	1%	(55,000)	
Section 13/16	(31,120)	(18,750)	12,370	(66%)	(45,000)	
Provision of Hire Vehicles & Equipment	(627)	(835)	(208)	25%	(2,000)	
Interest Received Short Term Investements	(1,588)	(10,415)	(8,827)	85%	(24,996)	
Community Safety Youth Work	(13,035)	(41,665)	(28,630)	69%	(99,998)	
Shared Services Income	(258,146)	(75,835)	182,311	(240%)	(182,001)	
Reimburements from EFA(T)	0	0	0	0%	0	
Other Miscellaneous Income	(22,752)	(35,210)	(12,458)	35%	(84,499)	
Total Operational Income	(587,233)	(406,155)	181,078	(45%)	(974,760)	

Specific Government Grants Income

Specific Government Grants	YTD Actual £	YTD Budget £	Variance YTD £	Variance YTD %	Current Full Year Budget £	Comments
Addn Pens Grant Accr	(1,465,227)	(1,465,227)	0	0%	(3,516,545)	Central Govt. Grant for Pensions - increase in Employers contribution
DCLG BRR 2021-22	(574,466)	(558,450)	16,016	(3%)	(1,340,280)	Business Rate relief
USAR Grant 2021-22	(356,900)	(357,158)	(258)	0%	(856,560)	
Firelink Grant 2021-22 Local council tax support	(258,823) (311,366)	(275,489)	(16,667) 311,366	6% 0%	(662,258)	Communications Network (Firelink) grant was ovverpaid in 20/21 so will be reduced by £40k in 21/22 and New Risk Mosaic programme funding. £62k released monthly
Other Grant Income	(143,829)	(4,792)	139,037	-		Budget includes £11.5k for Prevention (funding from PFCC for 1 FTE). Actuals include £103k of Covid 19 funding and £32k of the Grenfell Grant (protection uplift and building risk review) has been released to offset the YTD spend.
Subtotal-Govt Grants	(3,110,610)	(2,661,116)	449,494	17%	(6,387,143)	

FTE Establishment Summary to August 2021

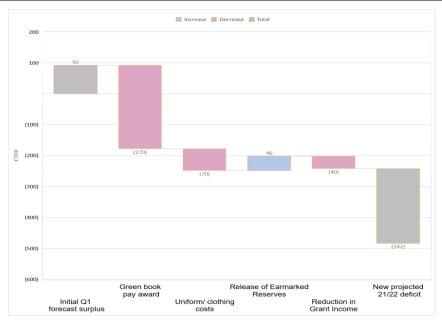


			_			_					_				and like	
	W	holetime		(On Call		(Control			Supp	ort			Total	
Station/Dept	A C T U A L	B U D G E T	V a r	A C T U A L	B U D G E T	V a r	A C T U A L	B U D G E T	V a r	A C T U A L	AT geempcs	B U D G E T	V a r	A C T U A L	B U D G E T	V a r
Wholetime/Combined Station	480.00	480.00	-	18.75	30.00	11.25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	498.75	510.00	11.25
Wholetime Recruits	1.00		1.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	1.00	-	- 1.00
On-Call Station	1.00		1.00	347.75	396.25	48.50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	348.75	396.25	47.50
Day Crewed Stations	20.00	21.00	1.00	41.00	21.75 -	19.25		-	-		-	-	-	61.00	42.75	18.25
Operations - USAR	15.00	16.00	1.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	15.00	16.00	1.00
Operational Response	517.00	517.00	-	407.50	448.00	40.50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	924.50	965.00	40.50
Prevention & Protection BAU	20.00	40.00	20.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	62.61	-	53.50 -	9.11	82.61	93.50	10.89
Control	1.00	1.00	-	-	-	-	35.54	35.69	0.15	2.57		2.57	-	39.11	39.26	0.15
Support Dept.																
Catering Corp Risk & Bus Cont Corporate Comms Emergency Planning External Secondments Finance & Pay	1.00 2.00	2.00 3.00	- - 1.00 1.00	- - - -	- - - -	- - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	3.31 2.00 13.00 2.00 1.00 16.28		3.60 2.00 13.00 3.00 0.49 - 16.61	0.29 - 0.00 1.00 0.51 0.33	3.31 2.00 13.00 3.00 3.00 16.28	3.60 2.00 13.00 5.00 3.49 16.61	0.29 - 0.00 2.00 0.49 0.33
Health & Safety Human Resources ICT Innovation & Change	2.00 - - -	2.00 - - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	4.00 39.38 25.15 17.33		4.00 35.20 - 23.60 - 20.71	4.18 1.55 3.38	6.00 39.38 25.15 17.33	6.00 35.20 23.60 20.71	- 4.18 - 1.55 3.38
Operational Assurance Operational Policy Operational Training Performance & Improvement	5.00 5.00 34.00	5.00 5.00 29.00 -	5.00	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	3.00 11.00 12.63		3.00 12.00 11.63 -	- 1.00 1.00	5.00 8.00 45.00 12.63	5.00 8.00 41.00 - 11.63 -	4.00 - 1.00
Police Collaboration Property Services Purchasing & Supply Service Leadership Team	1.00 - - 2.00	1.00 - - 2.00	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	4.00 11.42 11.00 4.00		2.00 - 12.61 11.00 5.00	2.00 1.19 - 1.00	5.00 11.42 11.00 6.00	3.00 - 12.61 11.00 7.00	2.00 1.19 - 1.00
Station Group Management Technical Services Water Services Workshops Engineering	39.00 2.00 - -	39.00 2.00 - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	10.49 5.41 7.57 28.43		10.49 5.41 8.57 30.43	0.00 0.00 1.00 2.00	49.49 7.41 7.57 28.43	49.49 7.41 8.57 30.43	0.00 0.00 1.00 2.00
Workshops Management Support Dept.'s	93.00	90.00 -	3.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	6.81 239.20		8.81 243.16	2.00 3.96	6.81 332.20	8.81 333.16	2.00 0.96
BAU Employees	114.00	131.00	17.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	35.54	35.69	0.15	304.38	0.00	299.23	-5.15	453.92	465.92	12.00
Projects and/or Funded from Earmarked Reserves/ Specific Grants Grenfell Infrastructure Grant ICT Projects Operational Training Projects	- - 5.00	- - 5.00	- - -	- - -	- - - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	0.41 - 1.00		1.00 - 2.00	0.59 - 1.00	0.41 - 6.00	1.00 - 7.00	0.59 - 1.00
Innovation & Change Projects Earmarked Reserves, Projects, etc	3.00 8.00	5.00 -	3.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.41	0.50 0.50	3.00	0.50 1.09	3.50 9.91	8.00 -	3.50
All Employees	631.00	648.00	17.00	407.50	448.00	40.50	35.54	35.69	0.15	304.38	-	299.23 -	5.15	1,378.42	1,430.92	52.50

Movement from 2021/22 original Budget to 2021/22 Q1 Forecast



Description	Q1 Forecast £'000	2021/22 FY Budget £'000	Movement from Budget £'000	Variance %	Budget Vs BAU Forecast £'000s	Variance %
Total Employment Costs	59,480	58,063	(1,417)	(2%)	(1,002)	(2%)
Training	2,299	2,148	(151)	(7%)	(121)	(7%)
Communications	10,127	10,024	(103)	(1%)	123	1%
Professional Fees & Services	3,291	3,278	(13)	(0%)	(2)	(0%)
Agency Services	2,241	2,276	34	2%	34	2%
Statutory Provision for Capital Financing	5,509	6,215	706	11%	706	11%
Financing	1,151	1,151				
Total Other Costs	24,619	25,092	473	2%	740	3%
Gross Operating Expenditure	84,099	83,155	(944)	(1%)	(262)	(0%)
Government Grants Income	(7,281)	(6,387)	894	(14%)	759	(12%)
Operational income	(1,151)	(975)	177	(18%)	177	(18%)
Net Expenditure	75,667	75,794	126	0%	674	1%
Total Funding	(75,425)	(74,719)	706	(1%)	112	(0%)
Funding Gap/ (Surplus)	242	1,075	832	77%	786	73%



Key changes to Forecast:

The risk of awarding Green book

- staff a pay increase of 1.75% has been included in the forecast.
- £70k increase in uniform costs.

£46k was previously included in Innovation and Change as a BAU

 cost, this is project related so is funded from release of Earmarked Reserves.

£40k relates to an overpayment by the Home Office for the 2020/21

Firelink Grant which is being recovered in 2021/22.





Category	Balance at 31 March 2021 £'000	Expected Budgeted Balance at 31 March 2022 £'000	Budgeted full Year Movement 2021-22 £'000	Additional Release included in Earmarked Reserve Strategy £'000	Total 2021 /22 release of Earmarked Reserves	Year to Date movement in Earmarked Reserves £'000
Earmarked Contingency Reserves						
Demand Pressures	600	600	-	-	-	
Taxbase & Collection Account Reserve	200	200	-	(200)	(200)	
National Non Domestic Rates Collection Reserve	200	200	-	-	-	
Rolling Budgets Reserve	85	85	-	-	-	
Risk Protection	250	250	-	-	-	
Business Continuity	150	150	-	-	-	
Earmarked Reserve-Productivity						
On Call- Support	400	400	-	(283)	(283)	
Invest to Save	495	495	-	-	-	
Innovation & Transformation	4,000	2,849	(1,151)	(1,015)	(2,166)	(354)
Earmarked Reserve -Specific Purpose						
Unspent Government Grant - Covid 19	0	0	-	(412)	(412)	(140)
Operational Training Reserve	1,000	622	(378)	-	(378)	(213)
Learning & Development Programme	1,400	1,100	(300)	-	(300)	
Community Safety Programme - Sprinkler Support	600	600	-	(225)	(225)	
LGPS Deficit	884	884	-	(295)	(295)	(295)
Total as per Budget	10,264	8,435	(1,829)	(2,430)	(4,259)	(1,002)



	31st Aug 2021 £000's	31st July 2021 £000's	31st Mar 2021 £000's	Variance July 2021 £000's	Variance Mar 2021 £000's
	£000 S	£000 S	£000 S	2021 £000 \$	2021 £000 \$
Property, plant & equipment					
Land and buildings	124,892	124,892	125,232	-	(340)
* Vehicles, plant & equipment	11,404	11,404	11,404	-	-
Assets under construction	1,244	1,137	751	107	494
Long term assets	137,540	137,433	137,387	107	154
Inventories	646	632	642	14	4
Short term debtors	2,059	3,307	6,363	(1,248)	(4,304)
Cash and cash equivalents	29,999	31,010	17,696	(1,012)	12,303
Assets held for sale	315	315	912	-	(597)
Current assets	33,019	35,265	25,612	(2,246)	7,406
* Short term borrowings	_		(250)		250
Short term creditors	(5,977)	(6,977)	(6,954)	1,000	976
Grants received in advance	(8,150)	(9,195)	(1,049)	1,045	(7,101)
Current liabilities	(14,128)	(16,172)	(8,253)	2,045	(5,875)
Long term borrowing	(24,500)	(24,500)	(24,500)	-	-
Provisions	(1,166)	(1,163)	(1,161)	(3)	(4)
* Pension liability - LGPS	(38,242)	(38,242)	(38,242)	-	-
Pension liability - FPS	(886,391)	(886,391)	(886,443)	-	52
Long term liabilities	(950,299)	(950,296)	(950,346)	(3)	48
NET LIABILITIES	(793,868)	(793,770)	(795,600)	(98)	1,732
Usable reserves					
General fund	4,954	5,342	4,351	(387)	603
Earmarked general fund reserves	12,588	12,624	13,481	(36)	(893)
Capital receipts reserve	10,602	10,602	9,669	-	932
Usable reserves	28,144	28,567	27,502	(423)	642
Universal and annual					
Unusable reserves	37.690	37,690	38,180		(490)
Revaluation reserve	68,929	68,604	67,401	325	1,528
Capital adjustment account	(828)	(828)	(828)	325	1,320
* Holiday pay account * Collection fund adjustment account	(3,170)	(3,170)	(3,170)		
Pension reserve	(924,633)	(924,633)	(924,685)		52
Unusable reserves	(822,012)	(822,337)	(823,102)	325	1,090
TOTAL RESERVES	(793,867)	(793,769)	(795,600)	(98)	1,732

Key Movements

Long Term Assets:

Additions for the year flow through 'Assets under construction', which is monitored by the Asset board. Day crewed housing sales are reflected in the movement in land and buildings unless the asset was carried in assets held for sale at year end.

Current Assets:

- £1.2m reduction in short term debtors as a result of non-domestic rates accounting adjustments from creditors below.
- •£1.0m reduction in cash and cash equivalents as cash outflows exceeded inflows for the month, as seen in the cashflow on page 10.

Current Liabilities

- · Short term borrowing is accrued at year end only.
- •£1.0m of short term creditors have been reclassified to short term debtors above in line with accounting requirements.
- Grants received in advance of £1.0m have been to released to income in the month.

Long-term Liabilities:

There have been no material movements in long term liabilities. This is adjusted at year end as part of the annual pension valuation.

The small movement in the year relates to ill health payments.

Reserves:

The movements in General and Earmarked Reserves tie back to the YTD Summary Income and Expenditure Statement on page 3 and reflect a transer from Earmarked Reserves of £893k.

The largest balance in unusable reserves is the pension reserve that offsets the pension liability in 'long term liabilities'.

The Authority has continued to accrue for MRP charges, which is shown in the YTD movement in the capital adjustment account of £1,528k. This is the net of MRP charges of £1,975k offset by disposals adjustments of £447k.

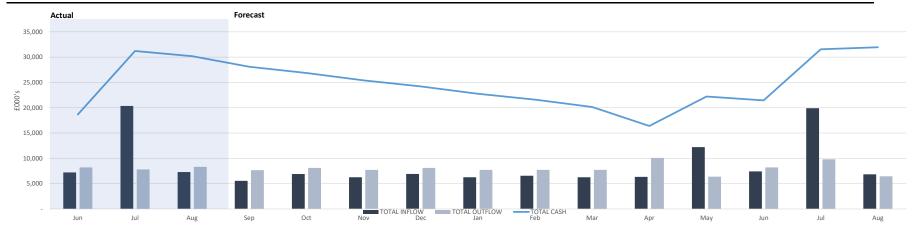
The year to date reduction of £490k in the revaluation reserve is due to disposals, representing previously recognised gains on valuation.

^{*} Balances adjusted at year end only.

Cashflow Forecast



FORECAST CASH INFLOWS AND OUTFLOWS



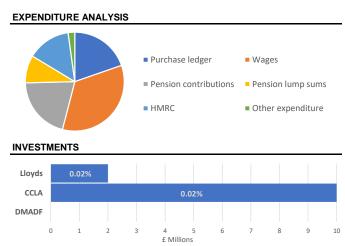
COMMENTARY

Total cash and investments at the end of August was £30m. Key inflows and outflows for the month are summarised below:

- Income includes precepts of £4.8m and grants of £1.8m, with grant income boosted by payment of the Firelink and New Dimentions grants of £380k.
- There were no day crewed house sales in August. House sales to date are £2.0m, with a further £3.5m forecast over the next two years.
- Purchase ledger payments totalled £1.4m in the month these costs are typically between £1-2m, so this is in line with expectation.
- The £6m Debt Management Office (DMADF) investment expired on the last day of the month finance team are currently exploring new investment opportunities to generate a larger return, while spreading investments over a larger number of counterparties.

TREASURY MANAGEMENT INDICATORS

Credit risk indicator	Actual AAA	<u>Explanation of Indicators</u> The average credit rating of investments must be A or greater.
Liquidity risk indicator	£30m	The target cash available within 3 months is £8.5m.
Monthly interest rate movement	(0.01%)	The interest rates of investments are tracked on a regular basis.
Price risk indicator	£nil	The limit on the amount that can be invested beyond 12 months.
Refinancing rate indicator: Under 12 months 12 months and within 24 months 24 months and within 5 years 5 years and within 10 years 10 years and within 15 years 15 years and above	0% 4% 8% 61% 27%	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.





Capital	Budget 2021/22	Adjustment to forecast	Forecast - Last agreed	Adjustment to Forecast	Forecast - Sept 2021*	Actual Spend
·	2021/22	Torecast	ayıeeu	Torecast	3ept 2021	Actual Spellu
New Premises						
Service Workshops - New	250	-	250	-	250	-
Existing Premises						
Asset Protection	1,700	-	1,700	-	1,700	226
Asset Improvement Works Training Facilities Improvement	1,651	(95)	1,556	-	1,556	7
Asset Improvement Works - Shoeburyness	906	-	906	(656)	250	8
Total Property	4,507	(95)	4,412	(656)	3,756	241
Equipment	246	-	246	-	246	22
Information Technology						
Projects	570	463	1,033	(90)	943	26
Total Information Technology	570	463	1,033	(90)	943	26
Vehicles						
New Appliances	2,330	(2,330)	-	-	-	-
Other Vehicles	978	10	988	(141)	846	205
Total Vehicles	3,308	(2,320)	988	(141)	846	205
Total Capital Expenditure	8,630			(887)	5,790	494



* To be agreed at asset board

	Asset Life	Budget 2021/22	Forecast - Last agreed	Adjustment to Forecast	Forecast - Sept 2021*	Actual Spend	Committed Orders
B113 - Vehicles							
Appliances (Pumping)	15	2,330,000	-	-	-	-	2,328,200
ICU Internals	6	30,000	-	-	-	-	-
Light Vehicles	6	292,000	292,000	-	292,000	105,551	-
Off Road Vehicles	6	102,000	102,000	-	102,000	50,967	50,967
Officers Cars (Principal Officers)	4	111,000	111,000	(55,000)	56,000	26,250	27,868
Specialist rescue vehicle	6	100,000	100,000	-	100,000	-	-
Light Vans	6	248,000	248,000	-	248,000	22,102	-
Ramps	12	-	40,000	-	40,000	-	-
Ladders	12	94,500	94,500	(86,247)	8,253	-	8,253
Total B113 - Vehicles		3,307,500	987,500	(141,247)	846,253	204,870	2,415,287
B116 - Operational Equipment							
B.A. Compressors	8	55,851	55,851	-	55,851	22,149	-
BA Contamination machine	8	80,000	80,000	-	80,000	-	-
Method entry equipment	8	30,000	30,000	-	30,000	-	-
Smoke curtains	8	30,000	30,000	-	30,000	-	-
Body warn CCTV	8	30,000	30,000	-	30,000	-	-
Fog spikes	8	20,000	20,000	-	20,000	-	-
Total B116 - Operational Equipment		245,851	245,851	-	245,851	22,149	-
B114 - ICT Equipment							
Rolling laptop refresh	3	130,000	53,333	-	53,333	-	-
Rolling phone refresh	3	100,000	-	-	-	-	-
Apprentice laptops	3	32,400	32,400	-	32,400	-	-
Virtual servers	3	25,000	-	-	-	-	-
People Systems	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hardware for Skype to Teams upgrade	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
CRM	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total B114 - ICT Equipment		569,550	1,032,883	(90,377)	942,506	26,088	46,549



2,656,733

Essex County Fire & Rescue Service - Capital Expenditure as at 31st August 2021

TOTAL FORECAST 2021-22

			Forecast - Last	Adjustment to	Forecast - Sept		Committed
	Asset Life	Budget 2021/22	agreed	Forecast	2021*	Actual Spend	Orders
B112 - Land & Building							
Lexden Workshops Relocation	20	250,000	250,000	-	250,000	-	=
Total B112 - Land & Building		250,000	250,000	-	250,000	-	-
Asset Improvement Works - Shoeburyness	20	905,814	905,814	(655,814)	250,000	7,628	54,301
Asset Protection Works - Training Facilities:	20						
Phase 1 - Chelmsford, Greys, Southend, SWF		212,012	554,000	-	554,000	6,530	22,428
Phase 2 - Braintree, Brentwood		429,089	233,000	-	233,000	-	-
Phase 3 - Harlow, Safron Waldon and Clacton		741,000	500,000	-	500,000	-	-
Witham TC WaH		70,000	70,000	-	70,000	-	-
Wethersfield TC room/Pilot scheme Grays		130,006	130,006	-	130,006	-	-
Deep lift pits		60,000	60,000	-	60,000	-	_
Consultancy		8,682	8,682	-	8,682	-	-
Total B117 - Asset Improvement		2,556,603	2,461,502	(655,814)	1,805,688	14,158	76,72
B118 - Asset Protection							
Projects carried forward from 20/21:							
Colchester FP/WFS Offices	20	7,000	7,000	-	7,000	15,104	4,032
Orsett Appliance Bay	20	35,000	35,000	-	35,000	31,981	-
Southend Boilers	20	22,000	22,000	-	22,000	16,179	-
Fire Alarms	20	5,000	60,000	-	60,000	-	-
Burnham AB Floor	20	35,000	8,000	-	8,000	18,749	-
Projects commencing 21/22:							
Dunmow Yard	20	140,000	140,000	-	140,000	-	-
Great Baddow Windows	20	130,000	130,000	-	130,000	70,268	-
Park Pond - lake works	20	346,000	346,000	-	346,000	40,742	114,135
Park Pond - liner repairs	20	-	75,000	-	75,000	-	-
Park Pond - building management system	20	-	56,000	-	56,000	-	-
Orsett - No time to lose	20	25,000	25,000	-	25,000	24,199	-
Rayleigh Parking	20	10,000	10,000	-	10,000	-	-
Harlow boilers	20	180,000	240,000	-	240,000	-	-
Baddow boilers	20	180,000	180,000	-	180,000	-	_
Chelmsford TC boilers	20	80,000	30,000	-	30,000	-	_
Grays Heater	20	25,000	50,000	-	50,000	-	_
Witham TC boiler	20	50,000	35,000	-	35,000	-	-
Harlow mains	20	35,000	60,000	-	60,000	-	-
Appliance bay floors (Halstead, Tollesbury, Weeley)	20	175,000	175,000	-	175,000	2,180	-
Witham TC offices	20	100,000	100,000	_	100,000	-,	-
Epping part refurbishment	20	60,000	-	_	-	_	-
Waltham Abbey drill yard	20	60,000	60,000	_	60,000	- 1	-
Orsett Fra (50%)	20	240,000	240,000	_	240,000	- 1	-
Other	20		- 15,300	_		6,998	-
Provision for limited capacity **		(240,000)	(384,000)	-	(384,000)	-	-

(887,438)

5,790,298

6,677,736

Essex County Fire & Rescue Service



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:								
Q1 Forecast summary								
Single Tender Actions								
Covid Report								
Internal Audit Recommendations								
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

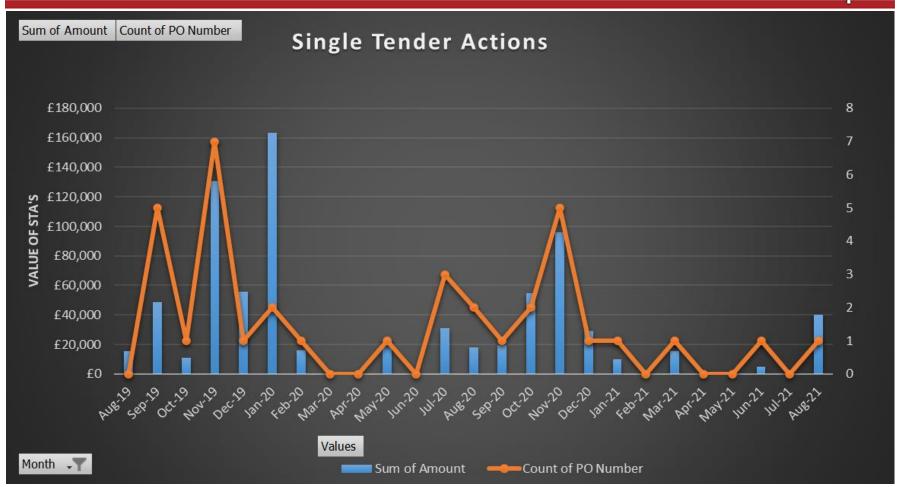
2021/22 Q1 Forecast



Description	BAU Forecast £'000s	COVID Forecast £'000s	Earmarked Projects Forecast £'000s	Q1 Forecast £'000	BAU Budget £'000s	COVID Budget £'000s	Earmarked Projects Budget £'000s	2021/22 FY Budget £'000	Movement from Budget £'000	Variance %	Budget Vs BAU Forecast £'000s	Variance %
Employees												
Wholetime Firefighters	34,513	-	299	34,812	34,061	-	279	34,340	(472)	(1%)	(452)	(1%)
On-Call Firefighters	7,361	-	-	7,361	7,081	-	-	7,081	(280)	(4%)	(280)	(4%)
Control	1,582	-	-	1,582	1,568	-	-	1,568	(14)	(1%)	(14)	(1%)
Support Staff	15,242	1	483	15,725	14,986	-	89	15,075	(651)	(4%)	(256)	(2%)
Inter Department Cross Charges	-	-										
Total Employment Costs	58,697	1	782	59,480	57,695	-	368	58,063	(1,417)	(2%)	(1,002)	(2%)
Other Service Expenditure												
Support Costs	1,959	30	310	2,299	1,838	-	310	2,148	(151)	(7%)	(121)	(7%)
Premises & Equipment	9,901	93	133	10,127	10,024	-	-	10,024	(103)	(1%)	123	1%
Other Costs & Services	3,280	11	-	3,291	3,278	-	-	3,278	(13)	(0%)	(2)	(0%)
III Health Pension costs	2,241	-	-	2,241	2,276	-	-	2,276	34	2%	34	2%
Financing Items	5,509	-	-	5,509	6,215	-	-	6,215	706	11%	706	11%
Productivity improvement investment	-	-	1,151	1,151		-	1,151	1,151				
Total Other Costs	22,891	134	1,595	24,619	23,631	-	1,461	25,092	473	2%	740	3%
Gross Operating Expenditure	81,588	134	2,377	84,099	81,326	-	1,829	83,155	(944)	(1%)	(262)	(0%)
Government Grants Income	(7,146)	(134)	-	(7,281)	(6,387)	-	-	(6,387)	894	(14%)	759	(12%)
Operational income	(1,151)	-	-	(1,151)	(975)	-	-	(975)	177	(18%)	177	(18%)
Net Expenditure	73,291	(0)	2,377	75,667	73,965	-	1,829	75,794	126	0%	674	1%
Funding					_							
Revenue Support Grant	(8,520)	-	-	(8,520)	(8,520)	-	-	(8,520)		(0%)	0	(0%)
National Non-Domestic Rates	(16,517)	-	-	(16,517)	(16,519)	-	-	(16,519)	(2)	0%	(2)	0%
Council Tax Collection Account	(359)	-	-	(359)	(400)	-	-	(400)	(41)	10%	(41)	10%
Council Tax Precepts	(47,604)	-	-	(47,604)	(47,451)	-	-	(47,451)	153	(0%)	153	(0%)
NNDR surplus/deficit	(2)	-	-	(2)	-	-	-	-	2	- 1	2	
Cont'ns to/(from) Earmarked Reserves	-	-	(2,379)	(2,423)	-	-	(1,829)	(1,829)	594	(32%)	-	
Total Funding	(73,002)		(2,379)	(75,425)	(72,890)	-	(1,829)	(74,719)	706	(1%)	112	(0%)
Funding Gap/ (Surplus)	289	(0)	(2)	242	1,075	0	0	1,075	832	77%	786	73%

Single Tender Actions





There was one Single Tender Action in the month for August 2021:

Value	Department	Supplier	Justification
£40,373	ICT	Unit 4 Coda renewal (Dream)	Continuity of existing ICT system.

Essex County Fire & Rescue Service

Jul-21

COVID-19 Incremental Cost Summary / PO Commitments / Forecast

INCOME

First Tranche of Covid 19 Emergency Funding - March 20 Second Tranche of Covid 19 Emergency Funding - May 2020 Third Tranch of Covid 19 Emergency Funding - **April 2021 TOTAL FUNDING** 290,932 1,378,051 233,344 1,902,327

I - STAFFING COSTS	CC	20/21 Costs	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	21/22 Costs	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	# Est Total Cost	Comments
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£		
														_	
On Call additional costs - service response		0						0						0	
Wholetime overtime (including control)- service	ce response	32,800						0							Recall to duty payments
On Call additional costs - LRF support		201,529						0						201,529	
Wholetime overtime - LRF support	9501	0						0						0	
On Call additional costs - National response		0						0						0	
Wholetime overtime - National response		0						0						0	
ARA's	Not in 9501	10,191						0				0		10,191	
ARA's Recovery	9501	13,300						0				0		13,300	
Other		3,967	864					864	0	0	0	0		4,832	
Sub-Total: Staffing costs		261,787	864	0	0	0	0	864	0	0	0	0	0	262,652	
II - PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT															I
PPE	Various 9501	323,142			45.004	76,666	550	0	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	343,142	
Cleaning and decontamination supplies	9501	178,688			15,801	/6,666	650	93,117	12,674	12,890	12,890	12,890	12,890		Additional Cleaning at Stations - £10,174 (move to 10,390 in Apr 21) + £2,500 p/m wipes / sprays
Lateral Flow Tests		74,100						0						74,100	
Sub-Total: Equipment		575,930	0	0	15,801	76,666	650	93,117	16,674	16,890	16,890	16,890	16,890	752,631	
III- OTHER COSTS															
ICT Infrastructure and licencing	9501	228,905						0	40,000					268,905	
Thermometers	9501	1,199						0	40,000					1,199	
Signage	3301	44,745						0						44,745	
Other		16,608		1,234	12,060	27,287	4,364	44,944					132,000		£11k relating to Bureau Veritas & £132k Classroom and toilet block in Weathersfield training room
Recharge of PPE		-9,837		1,234	12,000	27,287	4,304	44,544					132,000		Recharge of PPE to West Mids FRS
Changes to Workplace on return to work		-5,037	0					0			40.000	30,000	30,000	100.000	
Sub-Total: Other costs		281,620	0	1,234	12,060	27,287	4,364	44,944	40,000	0	40,000	30,000	132,000	594,201	
Sub-rotui. Other costs		201,020	·	1,234	12,000	27,207	4,304	44,544	40,000	·	40,000	·	132,000	334,201	
TOTAL ADDITIONAL COSTS		1,119,337	864	1,234	27,861	103,953	5,014	138,926	56,674	16,890	56,890	16,890	148,890	1,554,497	1
101/12/12/11/01/12 00010	'	1,113,337	004	1,254	27,002	100,555	5,014	150,520	30,074	10,050	30,030	10,050	140,050	2,554,457	
REVENUE SPEND		908,145													
CAPITAL SPEND		211,193													
		1,119,337													
STOCK SPEND		298,421			Amount of Gra	ant remaining								347,830	1
		230,121			% OF GRANT F									18.3%	
Amount of 2020/21 Grant remaining		251,225												10.070	
2. 2220/ 22 Grant Ternanning		252,225													



Internal Audit Recommendations

Financial Year	Audit Report Title	Owner		mmendations	Recomm	pleted endations	Outst	endations anding	Recommendations outside of due date	
			High	Medium	High	Medium	High	Medium	High	Medium
2019/20	Non-Operational - H&S	Senior Health and Safety Advisor (Joanne Hampton)	1	3	-	3	1	-	1	-
2019/20	GDPR	GDPR Officer (Hope Osayande)	2	7	1	5	1	2	1	2
2019/20	Procurement	Head of Purchasing & Supply (Sheldon Dyer)	1	5	1	2	-	3	-	3
2020/21	Follow-up 2021	Various action owners	-	4	-	-	-	4	-	-
	•	•	8	45	6	36	2	9	2	5
		THIS UPDATE		53	42		11		7	
			Percentage	complete		79%	Percentage	overdue	64%	

LAST UPDATE

8	45	6	36	6 2 9		2	5	
5	3	4	2	1	1	7		
Percentage of	omplete		79%	Percentage of	overdue	64%		

Internal Audit Programme Update

The final audit report was agreed for the ICT Transformation Programme, which resulted in substantial assurance and three low risk recommendations. This is a fantastic result and testament to the hard work of the ICT Team.

The Fleet Management audit is currently underway with auditors on site at Lexden Workshops.

The scope is due to be agreed for the Competency Management System audit and a meeting is being arranged this month.

External Audit Update

The audit team have finished the majority of the fieldwork, with only a small number of queries outstanding.

Updates On Outstanding Recommendations

There are no new recommendations since the last update with a total of 53 actions tracked.

No recommendations have been completed in the month, but the Finance Team have had several meetings with sponsors to identify where issues persist.

There are 7 overdue recommendations. 3 of these actions relate to the GDPR audit, which is advisory only.

Action owners have been reminded to progress their recommendations, and further meetings have been arranged with key stakeholders.

Please contact Austin Page for any questions relating to the internal audit programme.