

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, Senior Finance Business Partner		
Presented By	Neil Cross - Chief Finance Officer		
Subject	Budget Review - March 2023		
Type of Report:	Information		

SUMMARY

This paper reports on expenditure against budget as at March 2023 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 March 2023

Executive Summary



Full year Results to March 2023

The final Full Year position ended as a Deficit of £1.20m, this is £1.1m variance to Core Budget and £.29m variance to the expected Outturn position.

Summary of Income and Expenditure

Net Core Expenditure to end of March is £3.46m over Budget
The main reasons driving these variances are:

Area of Variance	Variance YTD	Context behind the variance
Employment costs	(2,594,772)	The Pay award for Operational staff was set at 7% and back dated to July, Green Book staff had a fixed pay award of £1,925. The Budgeted pay award for the year was set at 2%. £1.8m of the variance is due to higher On Call Costs, of which £1.3m costs related to a higher number of Turnouts. £520k of Pay costs related to Heatwave activity.
Non Employment costs:		
Premises & Equipment	(1,422,021)	Utilities costs were £395k higher than Budget. Transport costs were £533k higher (£359k of this was Petrol & Diesel). Information Systems costs were £422k higher than Budget.
Other Costs & Services	(623,072)	£500k of costs related to consultancy fees, part of which was allocated against the service grant funding. £166k higher costs related to section 13/16 cross border charges. £144k of higher costs to Budget for Collaboration work, of which can be partially offset with the shared service income.
Financing Items	518,244	MRP for the year was £500k better than Budget.
Additional variances	(214,985)	Slightly higher costs coming through for sprinkler costs (offset by sprinkler funding) and ill health pensions costs
Operational income	875,868	£383k made on interest in Investments £105k made on cross border (section 13/16) activity
Funding	2,363,262	Adjustments to the treatment of NNDR and additional NNDR and BRR funding received.
	(1,089,475)	

There were several unexpected events in the year 2022-23 which lead to higher uncontrollable costs:

Heatwave:

Pay costs	Amount £
On Call	484,314
Wholetime	55,512
Total additional pay costs	539,826
Non Pay costs	Amount £
Bottled water	3,180
Emergency feeding/ refreshments	1,383
Electrolyte tablets	452
Cool boxes	93
Petrol and Diesel	112,701
Total additional non pay item costs	117,809
Total heatwave related additional costs	637,635

Cost of Living (Utilities bills and rise in Fuel prices)

In addition to the above, there were pay award costs which were higher than Budgeted.

ISAR and USAR deployments to support disasters in Jersey, Turkey and Malawi were carried out in the year, costs were offset through funding from the Section 31 Grant.

Funding:

A creation of a £1.1m Services Grant was provided for in the year to help support the increase in Employers National Insurance costs of 1.25% along with supporting one off key investments in the year.

The service received £138k of Accumulated Business Rate Surplus funding.

Changes to the recognition of part of the NNDR have been made to reclassify the funding as a Government Grant rather than through NNDR Funding. This was identified in the Outturn position as a movement of £1.6m.

Balance Sheet Statement and Cashflow Report

Total cash and investments ended at 18.6m in March and there was one day crewed house sale in the month.

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 show the final spend carried forward for the year of £1.99m.



YTD Summary Income and Expenditure Statement to 31st March 2023

Prior Year YTD Actuals £'000s	Prior year YTD Budget £'000s	Prior Year Variance (Actuals Vs Budget)	Description	Core YTD Actual £'000s	COVID £'000s	Earmarked Projects £'000s	YTD Actual £'000s	Core YTD Budget £'000s	COVID Budget £'000s	Earmarked Projects Budget £'000s	YTD Budget £'000s	Budget Vs Actuals £'000s	Variance %	Core Budget Vs Core Actuals £'000s	Variance %
23,643	23,882	239	WholeTime Firefighters	35,647	-	999	36,646	35,544	-	793	36,337	(309)	(1%)	(103)	(0%)
4,941	4,613	(328)	On-Call Firefighters	9,384	-	-	9,384	7,159	-	-	7,159	(2,225)	(31%)	(2,225)	(31%)
1,045	1,045	(1)	Control	1,729	-	-	1,729	1,604	-	-	1,604	(125)	(8%)	(125)	(8%)
10,419	9,914	(505)	Support Staff	16,187	39	497	16,722	16,045	-	687	16,732	9	0%	(142)	(1%)
40,048	39,454	(594)	Total Employment Costs	62,947	39	1,496	64,482	60,353	-	1,480	61,833	(2,649)	(4%)	(2,595)	(4%)
1,524	1,430	(94)	Support Costs	1,729	1	428	2,159	1,625	-	275	1,900	(259)	(14%)	(104)	(5%)
6,668	6,683	15	Premises & Equipment	11,529	29	129	11,687	10,106	-	-	10,106	(1,580)	(16%)	(1,422)	(14%)
2,189	2,191	2	Other Costs & Services	4,143	30	275	4,449	3,520	-	-	3,520	(929)	(26%)	(623)	(18%)
1,407	1,469	63	Ill health pension costs	2,295	-	-	2,295	2,184	-	-	2,184	(111)	(5%)	(111)	(5%)
3,683	3,722	39	Financing Items	5,379	-	-	5,379	5,897	-	-	5,897	518	9%	518	9%
15,470	15,495	24	Total Other Costs	25,075	60	833	25,969	23,334	-	275	23,609	(2,360)	(10%)	(1,742)	(7%)
-	-	-	Investment in productivity improvement	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55,519	54,949	(570)	Gross Expenditure	88,023	99	2,329	90,451	83,686	-	1,755	85,442	(5,009)	(6%)	(4,337)	(5%)
(1,000)	(650)	350	Operational Income	(2,291)	-	-	(2,291)	(1,415)	-	-	(1,415)	876	(62%)	876	(62%)
54,519	54,299	(220)	Net Expenditure before Funding	85,732	99	2,329	88,159	82,271	-	1,755	84,026	(4,133)	(5%)	(3,461)	(4%)
-	-	-	Funding	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(4,758)	(4,258)	501	Government Grants	(9,753)	-	-	(9,753)	(7,549)	-	-	(7,549)	2,204	(29%)	2,204	(29%)
(6,458)	(6,454)	4	Revenue Support Grant	(8,780)	-	-	(8,780)	(8,780)	-	-	(8,780)	-	-	-	-
(11,525)	(11,166)	359	National Non-Domestic Rates	(15,823)	-	133	(15,690)	(16,519)	-	-	(16,519)	(829)	5%	(696)	4%
(50)	(91)	(41)	Council Tax Collection Account	(783)	-	-	(783)	-	-	-	-	783	-	783	-
(31,944)	(31,791)	153	Council Tax Precept	(49,384)	-	-	(49,384)	(49,315)	-	-	(49,315)	69	(0%)	69	(0%)
6	(24)	(30)	Council Tax Collection Impact	(3)	-	1,329	1,326	-	-	-	-	(1,326)	-	3	-
(54,728)	(53,784)	945	Total Funding	(84,526)	-	1,462	(83,064)	(82,163)	-	-	(82,163)	902	(1%)	2,363	(3%)
(209)	515	725	Funding Gap / (Surplus)	1,206	99	3,790	5,095	108	-	1,755	1,864	(3,232)	(173%)	(1,097)	(59%)
(24)	-	24	Cont'ns to/(from) General Bals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(1,371)	(368)	1,003	Cont'ns to/(from) Earmarked Reserves	(8)	(99)	(3,791)	(3,898)	-	-	(1,755)	(1,976)	1,922	-	8	(0%)
(1,395)	(368)	1,027	Total Contribution to/(from) Reserves	(8)	(99)	(3,791)	(3,898)	-	-	(1,755)	(1,976)	1,922	-	8	(0%)
(1,605)	147	1,752	Net Gap / (Surplus)	1,198	0	(0)	1,197	108	-	-	(113)	(1,310)	-	(1,089)	-

Period Summary Income and Expenditure Statement to 31st March 2023



Prior Year Period Actuals £'000s	Prior year Period Budget £'000s	Prior Year Variance (Actuals Vs Budget)	Description	Core Period Actual £'000s	COVID £'000s	Earmarked Projects £'000s	Period Actual £'000s	Core Budget £'000s	COVID Budget £'000s	Earmarked Projects Budget £'000s	Period Budget £'000s	Budget Vs Actuals £'000s	Variance %	Core Budget Vs Core Actuals £'000s	Variance %
2,954	2,814	(140)	Wholetime Firefighters	4,429	-	99	4,529	3,556	-	69	3,625	(903)	(25%)	(873)	(24%)
658	590	(67)	On-Call Firefighters	1,094	-	-	1,094	629	-	-	629	(465)	(74%)	(465)	(74%)
130	131	1	Control	207	-	-	207	162	-	-	162	(45)	(28%)	(45)	(28%)
1,228	1,240	12	Support Staff	1,370	28	17	1,416	1,335	-	27	1,361	(54)	(4%)	(36)	(3%)
4,969	4,775	(194)	Total Employment Costs	7,101	28	116	7,245	5,682	-	96	5,778	(1,467)	(25%)	(1,419)	(25%)
190	179	(12)	Support Costs	201	-	79	279	133	-	25	158	(121)	(77%)	(68)	(43%)
797	835	38	Premises & Equipment	1,510	-	-	1,510	855	-	-	855	(655)	(77%)	(655)	(77%)
362	275	(87)	Other Costs & Services	582	-	225	808	271	-	100	371	(436)	(117%)	(311)	(84%)
167	177	10	Ill health pension costs	297	-	-	297	172	-	-	172	(125)	(73%)	(125)	(73%)
436	465	29	Financing Items	320	-	-	320	491	-	-	491	172	35%	172	35%
1,952	1,932	(21)	Total Other Costs	2,909	-	304	3,213	1,922	-	125	2,047	(1,166)	(57%)	(987)	(48%)
-	-	-	Investment in productivity improvement	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6,921	6,706	(215)	Gross Expenditure	10,010	28	420	10,459	7,604	-	221	7,825	(2,633)	(34%)	(2,406)	(31%)
(145)	(81)	64	Operational income	(252)	-	-	(252)	(118)	-	-	(118)	134	(113%)	134	(113%)
6,776	6,625	(151)	Net Expenditure	9,758	28	420	10,207	7,486	-	221	7,707	(2,500)	(32%)	(2,272)	(29%)
			Funding												
(581)	(532)	48	Government Grants	(3,066)	-	-	(3,066)	(629)	-	-	(629)	2,437	(387%)	2,437	(387%)
(516)	(516)	-	Revenue Support Grant	(533)	-	-	(533)	(533)	-	-	(533)	(0)	0%	(0)	0%
(1,731)	(1,370)	361	National Non-Domestic Rates	(1,178)	-	133	(1,045)	(1,874)	-	-	(1,874)	(829)	44%	(696)	37%
(5)	(5)	-	Council Tax Collection Account	(34)	-	-	(34)	-	-	-	-	34	-	34	-
(4,160)	(4,160)	-	Council Tax Precept	(3,873)	-	-	(3,873)	(3,785)	-	-	(3,785)	88	(2%)	88	(2%)
(1)	(3)	(2)	Council Tax Collection Impact	(74)	-	1,329	1,254	-	-	-	-	(1,254)	-	74	-
(6,994)	(6,587)	407	Total Funding	(8,758)	-	1,462	(7,296)	(6,821)	-	-	(6,821)	475	(7%)	1,937	(28%)
(218)	38	256	Funding Gap / (Surplus)	1,001	28	1,882	2,911	665	-	221	886	(2,025)	-	(335)	-
28	-	(28)	Cont'ns to/(from) General Bals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(103)	(44)	60	Cont'ns to/(from) Earmarked Reserves	-	(28)	(1,885)	(1,913)	-	-	(221)	(221)	1,692	(766%)	-	-
(76)	(44)	32	Total Contribution to/(from) Reserves	-	(28)	(1,885)	(1,913)	-	-	(221)	(221)	1,692	(766%)	-	-
(294)	(6)	288	Net Gap / (Surplus)	1,001	-	(3)	998	665	-	-	665	(333)	-	(335)	-

Operational Income



Operational Income	YTD Actual £	YTD Budget £	Variance YTD £	Variance YTD %	Current Full Year Budget £	Comments
Cycle to Work Scheme	(28,449)	(30,012)	(1,563)	5%	(30,012)	
Childcare Vouchers	(10,722)	(60,000)	(49,278)	82%	(60,000)	
Sales of Vehicles	0	0	0	0%	0	
Canteen Income	(109,088)	(63,996)	45,092	(70%)	(63,996)	
Sale of Vehicle Spares	(94,485)	(24,996)	69,489	(278%)	(24,996)	
Aerial Sites	(148,187)	(129,996)	18,191	(14%)	(129,996)	
Solar Panel Income	(65,108)	(65,004)	104	(0%)	(65,004)	
Hydrant Tests	(109,254)	(80,004)	29,250	(37%)	(80,004)	
Lease Cars - Employee Contributions	(7,531)	(6,000)	1,531	(26%)	(6,000)	
General Sales	(11,052)	0	11,052	0%	0	
Service Charges	(929)	(600)	329	(55%)	(600)	
Secondments	(314,974)	(164,712)	150,262	(91%)	(164,712)	
Community Safety General	(74,426)	(78,324)	(3,898)	5%	(78,324)	
Labour Credit	(120,978)	(54,996)	65,982	(120%)	(54,996)	
Section 13/16	(97,545)	(60,000)	37,545	(63%)	(60,000)	
Provision of Hire Vehicles & Equipment	(13,790)	0	13,790	0%	0	
Interest Received Short Term Investements	(464,633)	(9,996)	454,637	(4548%)	(9,996)	
Events Income	(4,000)	(115,100)	(111,100)	97%	(115,100)	
Community Safety Youth Work	(53,192)	0	53,192	0%	0	
Shared Services Income	(398,164)	(300,012)	98,152	(33%)	(300,012)	
Other Miscellaneous Income	(164,613)	(171,504)	(6,891)	4%	(171,504)	
Total Operational Income	(2,291,120)	(1,415,252)	875,868	(62%)	(1,415,252)	

Specific Government Grants Income

Specific Government Grants	YTD Actual £	YTD Budget £	Variance YTD £	Variance YTD %	Current Full Year Budget £	Comments
Specific Government Grants						
Addn Pens Grant Accr	(3,618,753)	(3,516,540)	102,213	(3%)	(3,516,545)	Central Govt. Grant for Pensions - increase in Employers contribution £102k higher from prior year release
DCLG BRR 2022-23	(3,089,172)	(1,404,348)	1,684,824	(120%)	(1,404,348)	Business Rate relief reclassified as part of Section 31 grant from funding, additional leisure and hospitality relief
USAR Grant 2022-23	(857,430)	(856,560)	870	(0%)	(856,560)	
Firelink Grant 2022-23	(507,881)	(617,496)	(109,615)	18%	(617,000)	Communications Network (Firelink) grant and New Risk Mosaic programme funding.
Services Grant (employers NI 1.25%) 2022-23	(489,977)	(465,996)	23,981	(5%)	(466,000)	Circa £500k to offset NI increase 1.25%, actuals are coming in around £35k rather than £39k budgeted
Services Grant (One off investments) 2022-23	(538,278)	(687,996)	(149,718)	22%	(688,000)	Grant of circa £688k to fund one off investments, the funding is being released as costs are incurred.
Grenfell Grant release	(156,013)	0	156,013	0%	0	Grenfell grant released against ringfenced spend.
Reclassified BRR (Section 31 Grant)	(413,600)	0	413,600	0%	1	£138k 2022/23 additional relief, NNDR release £408k.
Other Grant Income	(81,932)	0	81,932	0%	0	Home Office grant in relation to internal Audit costs (Redmond review grant offset monthly against audit fees).
Subtotal-Govt Grants	(9,753,035)	(7,548,936)	2,204,099	29%	(7,548,452)	

Balance Sheet - 31st March 2023



Essex County
Fire & Rescue Service

	31st Mar 2023	28th Feb 2023	31st Mar 2022	Variance Month £000's	Variance YTD £000's
	£000's	£000's	£000's		
Property, plant & equipment					
Land and buildings	125,165	125,530	126,527	(365)	(1,362)
* Vehicles, plant & equipment	10,089	10,089	10,089	-	-
Assets under construction	7,303	6,402	1,985	901	5,318
Long term investments	-	-	-	-	-
Long term assets	142,557	142,021	138,601	536	3,956
Inventories	395	573	424	(177)	(29)
Short term debtors	9,599	6,890	8,746	2,709	852
Cash and cash equivalents	18,604	25,345	20,473	(6,741)	(1,870)
Assets held for sale	-	-	1,445	-	(1,445)
Current assets	28,597	32,807	31,089	(4,210)	(2,492)
* Short term borrowings	-	(1,000)	(1,250)	1,000	1,250
Short term creditors	(10,506)	(9,087)	(7,557)	(1,419)	(2,949)
Grants received in advance	(1,897)	(3,388)	(1,233)	1,491	(663)
Current liabilities	(12,402)	(13,474)	(10,040)	1,072	(2,362)
Long term borrowing	(23,500)	(23,500)	(23,500)	-	-
Provisions	(979)	(979)	(994)	-	15
* Pension liability - LGPS	(30,253)	(30,253)	(30,253)	-	-
Pension liability - FPS	(872,096)	(872,096)	(872,200)	-	104
Long term liabilities	(926,828)	(926,828)	(926,947)	-	119
NET LIABILITIES	(768,075)	(765,474)	(767,297)	(2,602)	(779)
Usable reserves					
General fund	3,144	4,045	4,341	(901)	(1,197)
Earmarked general fund reserves	7,145	9,058	11,035	(1,913)	(3,890)
Capital receipts reserve	16,064	15,697	13,153	367	2,912
Usable reserves	26,353	28,800	28,529	(2,447)	(2,176)
Unusable reserves					
Revaluation reserve	39,759	39,940	41,336	(181)	(1,578)
Capital adjustment account	69,849	69,823	66,978	26	2,871
* Holiday pay account	(1,269)	(1,269)	(1,269)	-	-
* Collection fund adjustment account	(418)	(418)	(418)	-	-
Pension reserve	(902,349)	(902,349)	(902,453)	-	104
Unusable reserves	(794,428)	(794,273)	(795,826)	(155)	1,397
TOTAL RESERVES	(768,075)	(765,473)	(767,297)	(2,602)	(778)

* Balances adjusted at year end only.

Key Movements

Fixed Assets:

• One property sold in the month for £350k.

• Increase in Assets under construction of £901k for the month. Significant expenditure in the month included work on phases 1 and 2 of the Training Project as well as the delivery of Shoeburyness.

Current Assets:

• Reduction in stock due to movements in year end provisions arising from the annual stock take.
• Increase in short term debtors due to movements in the pension fund, and fluctuations in working capital.
• £6.7m decrease in cash and cash equivalents as cash outflows exceeded inflows for the month, as seen in the cashflow on page 8.

Current Liabilities

• Reduction in short term borrowing due to £1m loan repayment in March.
• Short term creditors have increased by £1.4m due to increases in purchase ledger and monthly accruals.
• Grants received in advance have reduced by £1.5m as grants are released to income.

Long-term Liabilities:

• No movement in long-term liabilities in the month.

Reserves:

Movements in Usable Reserves:

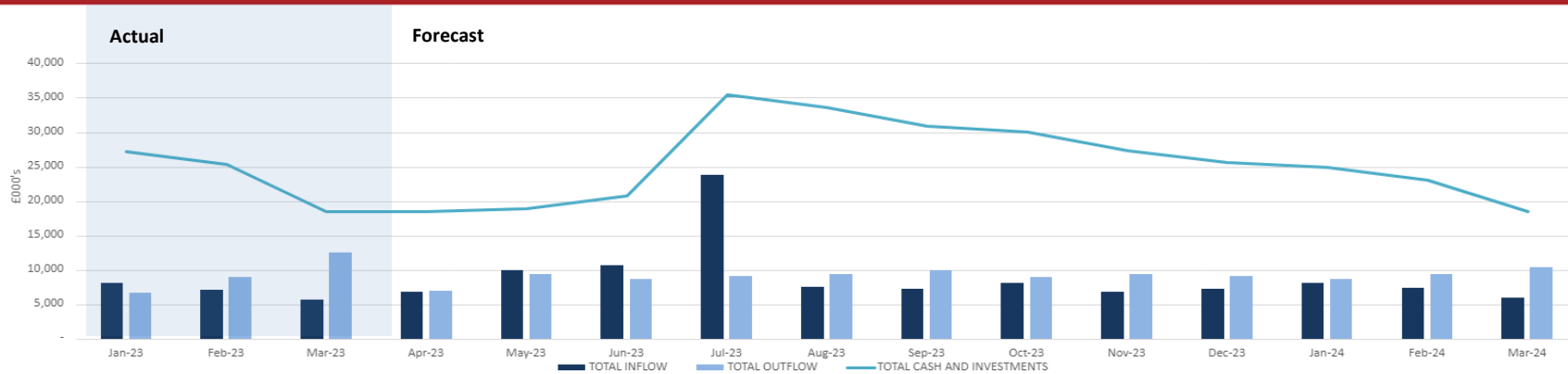
• The movements in General and Earmarked Reserves tie back to the summary Income & Expenditure statement on page 3.

Movements in Unusable Reserves:

• No movement in the revaluation reserve in the month.

• The movement in the Capital Adjustment Account reflect adjustments for MRP in the month offset by disposal movements.

Cashflow Forecast



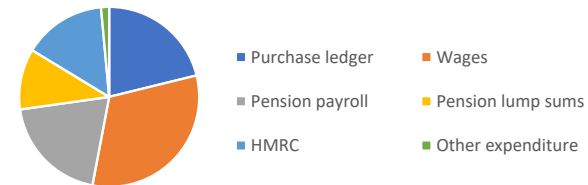
COMMENTARY

- Total cash and investments at the end of March was £18.6m, down from £25.3m in February. Key inflows and outflows for the month are summarised below:
- Cash inflows include precepts of £3.1m and grants of £2.4m.
 - Cash outflows include purchase ledger payments of £3.2m, which is higher than normal due to additional year end payments. There were two pension payroll payments in the month totalling £3.6m- this was due to timing of the bank holidays.
 - The Authority holds investments of £11m, including £8m of fixed term investments in UK government gilts and bank deposits. The remaining investments are in money market funds.
 - The Service complied with the Treasury Management Strategy this month.
 - There was one day crewed housing sale in the month totalling £350k.
 - The Authority repaid a Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) loan of £1m in the month. The next loan is due for repayment in March 2025.

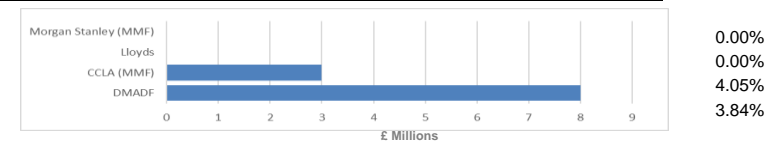
TREASURY MANAGEMENT INDICATORS

	Actual	Explanation of Indicators
Credit risk indicator	AAA	The average credit rating of investments must be A or greater.
Liquidity risk indicator	£25m	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:		
Under 12 months	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.
12 months and within 24 months	4%	
24 months and within 5 years	8%	
5 years and within 10 years	61%	
10 years and within 15 years	27%	
15 years and above	0%	

EXPENDITURE ANALYSIS



INVESTMENTS





Capital	Budget 2022/23	Forecast - Prior month	Adjustment to Forecast	Forecast - Current Month	Actual Spend
New Premises					
Service Workshops - New	-	-	-	-	-
Existing Premises					
Asset Protection	1,300	1,002	(159)	843	843
Asset Improvement Works Training Facilities Improvement	1,246	1,805	(622)	1,183	1,183
Asset Improvement Works - Shoeburyness	1,224	1,337	(330)	1,007	1,007
Total Property	3,771	4,144	(1,110)	3,034	3,034
Equipment	320	344	(206)	126	126
Information Technology					
Projects	3,792	2,043	(990)	1,045	1,053
Total Information Technology	3,792	2,043	(990)	1,045	1,053
Vehicles					
New Appliances	941	941	(0)	941	941
Other Vehicles	264	147	5	164	164
Total Vehicles	1,205	1,088	5	1,105	1,105
Total Capital Expenditure	9,087	7,619	(2,302)	5,309	5,318

Essex County Fire & Rescue Service - Capital Expenditure as at 31st March 2023



* To be agreed at asset board

** Provision for limited capacity limiting spend to agreed level of £1.7m

	Asset Life	Budget 2022/23	Forecast - Prior Month	Adjustment to Forecast	Forecast - Current Month	Actual Spend	Spend Brought Forward	Spent carried forward
B113 - Vehicles								
Appliances (Pumping)	15	941,135	941,135	-	941,135	931,032	1,388,865	-
Light Vehicles	6	79,647	90,000	-	90,000	86,845	-	-
Officers Cars (Principal Officers)	4	80,000	40,000	-	40,000	76,866	-	40,000
Light Vans	6	-	-	-	-	10,652	-	-
Ladders	12	4,500	17,000	-	17,000	-	-	-
Tyre inflation units	-	-	12,000	-	12,000	12,024	-	-
Total B113 - Vehicles		1,205,282	1,100,135	4,866	1,105,001	1,105,026	1,388,865	40,000
B116 - Operational Equipment								
Hose Reel Branch/Main Line Branch	10	160,000	180,000	(129,325)	50,675	50,675	-	129,325
BA Contamination machine	10	80,000	-	-	-	-	-	80,000
Foam replacement	8	-	80,000	(80,000)	-	-	-	80,000
Method entry equipment	8	30,000	-	-	-	-	-	30,000
Smoke blocking curtains	8	30,000	28,140	-	28,140	28,140	-	-
Fog spikes (temperature reduction equipment)	8	20,000	20,000	(20,000)	-	-	-	20,000
Tyre Inflation Units	8	-	-	47,340	47,340	47,340	-	-
Fitness Equipment	-	-	24,000	(24,000)	-	-	-	24,000
Total B116 - Operational Equipment		320,000	332,140	(205,985)	126,155	126,155	-	363,325
B114 - ICT Equipment								
<i>Digital & Data Strategy</i>								
DEVICES	3	216,667	216,667	(58,158)	158,509	158,509	-	-
NETWORK	3	1,160,000	600,000	(211,497)	388,503	388,503	-	211,497
VOICE	3	47,197	47,197	(22,342)	24,855	24,855	-	-
Civica API - to be reviewed	-	-	-	8,332	-	8,332	-	-
<i>Other Projects</i>								
Station End Equipment	3	450,000	-	-	-	-	-	450,000
Control Project	7	1,917,732	1,179,282	(706,580)	472,702	472,702	-	1,445,030
Total B114 - ICT Equipment		3,791,596	2,043,146	(990,245)	1,044,569	1,052,901	-	2,106,527

Essex County Fire & Rescue Service - Capital Expenditure as at 31st March 2023



* To be agreed at asset board

	Asset Life	Budget 2022/23	Forecast - Prior Month	Adjustment to Forecast	Forecast - Current Month	Actual Spend	Spend Brought Forward	Spend Carried Forward
Total B112 - Land & Building		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B117 - Asset Improvements								
Asset Improvement Works - Shoeburyness	20	1,224,478	1,337,000	(329,977)	1,007,023	1,007,023	290,522	329,977
Asset Protection Works - Training Facilities:								
Phase 1 - Chelmsford, Greys, Southend, SWF	20	681,416	692,000	15,603	707,603	707,603	-	-
Phase 2 - Braintree, Brentwood	20	280,256	356,000	(4,010)	351,990	351,990	-	-
Phase 3 - Harlow, Safron Waldon and Clacton	20	284,365	502,000	(485,483)	16,517	16,517	-	502,000
Phase 3 (E) - Clacton		-	232,000	(232,000)	-	-	-	232,000
Consultancy Support		-	-	42,545	42,545	42,545	112,848	-
Witham Working at Height	20	-	23,000	41,440	64,440	64,440	-	-
Total B117 - Asset Improvement		2,470,515	3,142,000	(951,882)	2,190,118	2,190,118	403,370	1,063,977
B118 - Asset Protection								
Confirmed Projects for 2022/23								
Dunmow Yard	20	166,000	147,000	4,932	151,932	151,932	-	-
Waltham Abbey drill yard	20	60,000	60,000	(60,000)	-	-	-	60,000
Chelmsford refurbishment/rec room	20	35,000	99,000	(10,710)	88,290	88,290	-	-
Baddow boilers	20	90,000	97,000	(5,048)	91,952	91,952	-	-
BA Compressor Installation works - Clacton	20	50,000	77,000	(19,250)	57,750	57,750	17,314	-
STC Boiler	20	-	58,000	(1,936)	56,064	56,064	-	-
Harlow Bay Floors	20	-	100,000	(100,000)	-	-	-	100,000
Rochford Windows	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
AB floors (Coggeshall, Hawkwell,	20	117,600	214,000	(1,742)	212,258	212,258	52,618	-
Other Projects Including Planning Stage								
Great Baddow Roof	20	-	150,000	(16,760)	133,240	133,240	-	-
Witham TC offices	20	7,000	-	-	-	-	116,930	-
Witham TC boiler	20	80,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
Epping part refurbishment	20	60,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
Orsett Fra (50%)	20	240,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
Retentions and small works	20	-	-	52,000	52,000	52,000	5,830	-
Chelmsford TC boilers	20	24,500	-	-	-	-	-	-
Projects to be confirmed by Property Services	20	369,900	-	-	-	-	-	-
B118 - Asset Protection		1,300,000	1,002,000	(158,514)	843,486	843,486	192,692	160,000
TOTAL FORECAST 2022-23		9,087,393	7,619,421	(2,301,760)	5,309,329	5,317,685	1,984,927	3,733,829



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: Internal and External 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

Internal Audit recommendations and External Audit update



Financial Year	Audit Report Title	Owner	Total Recommendations		Completed Recommendations		Recommendations Outstanding		Recommendations outside of due date		Months Overdue		
			High	Medium	High	Medium	High	Medium	High	Medium			
2022/23	22/23 FM Code and Overtime	Chief Finance Officer	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	N/A		
2022/23	22/23 Cyber	Director of Corporate Services	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	N/A		
2022/23	22/23 Follow-Up	Director of Corporate Services	-	6	-	1	-	5	-	3	4 Months		
2022/23	22/23 Emergency Response Driving	Director of People Services	-	3	-	1	-	2	-	2	8 Months		
2021/22	21/22 Follow up	Chief Finance Officer	-	2	-	1	-	1	-	1	11 Months		
THIS UPDATE			2	15	-	3	2	12	-	6			
			17		3		14		6				
			Percentage complete				18%				Percentage overdue		43%
LAST UPDATE			1	14	-	2	1	12	-	3			
			15		2		13		3				
			Percentage complete				13%				Percentage overdue		23%

External Audit Update

The interim external audit has completed, and the Finance Team are working on the year end financial statements.

The draft accounts deadline is 31st May 2023, brought forward from July. This has been confirmed following an emergency consultation on this deadline. The Finance Team have carefully planned for this shortened timeframe, and have liaised with other departments, Essex County Council, actuaries and valuers to ensure all stakeholders are aligned on the shortened timeframe.

Internal Audit Update

The Change Management audit report has been received, achieving substantial assurance. The final audit of the 2022/23 audit plan is still ongoing, Efficiency Savings. This audit is focusing on how the Service tracks benefits and efficiencies - further work is required to provide sufficient assurance to the auditors.

One action was closed this month and there are six overdue recommendations. This is a result of several action with March deadlines not being achieved. 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.