

REPORT TO: WEST OF ENGLAND MAYORAL COMBINED AUTHORITY

COMMITTEE

DATE: 15 MARCH 2024

REPORT MAYORAL COMBINED AUTHORITY AND MAYORAL

TITLE: BUDGET FORECAST 2023/24

RESPONSIBLE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

**OFFICER:** 

Key Decision No

## **Purpose of Report**

This report represents the revenue and capital forecast for the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority Committee for the financial year 2023/24 based on data from the period April 2023 to January 2024 for both the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority and Mayoral budgets.

#### Recommendation

That Committee:

1. Notes the forecast position for the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority Revenue Budget as set out in Figure 1 and the forecast position for the Mayoral Revenue budget as set out in Figure 7. Notes the changes to the Capital Forecast as set out in Appendix 2.

#### Reasons for recommendation

• Statutory Requirements and Recommended Best Practice.

#### **Voting arrangements**

Recommendation 1: None required – Recommendations are for noting with any comments.

## **Publication Requirements**

For Publication.

## **Background**

 In accordance with the regular reporting timetable for updating the committee with budget monitoring information, this report sets out the financial forecast position for both revenue and capital budgets. Members of the committee are asked to note the forecast financial positions set out in this report.

## **Revenue Forecast - West of England Mayoral Combined Authority**

2. The 2023/24 West of England Mayoral Combined Authority Revenue Budget was originally set in January 2023 with income and expenditure of £120m, together producing a net nil balanced budget. A summary of the original budget and the latest forecast position based on actuals to January 2024 is given below:

Figure 1: Approved West of England MCA Revenue Budget 2023/24 and Forecast Position Based on Actuals to January 2024

|                                        | 2023/24 Approved Budget £'000s | 2023/24  Forecast £'000s | Variance | Variance |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|----------|----------|
| Expenditure                            | £ 000s                         | £ 000s                   | £'000s   | %        |
| Employees                              | 17,600                         | 16,566                   | (1,034)  | -6%      |
| Staff Budget Increase (withheld - 10%) | (800)                          | -<br>-                   | 800      | -100%    |
| Premises                               | 916                            | 1,100                    | 184      | 20%      |
| Transport-Related Expenditure          | 16                             | 111                      | 95       | 594%     |
| Supplies & Services                    | 7,983                          | 16,071                   | 8,088    | 101%     |
| Third Party Payments                   | 94,011                         | 91,465                   | (2,546)  | -3%      |
| Depreciation and Impairment Losses     | 50                             | 232                      | 182      | 364%     |
| Net Transfer to General Reserve        | -                              | 2,344                    | 2,344    | >100%    |
| Net Transfer to Earmarked Rserves      | -                              | 2,716                    | 2,716    | >100%    |
| Total Expenditure                      | 119,776                        | 130,605                  | 10,829   | 9%       |
| Income                                 |                                |                          |          |          |
| Support Services                       | 5,409                          | 2,538                    | (2,871)  | -53%     |
| Income                                 | 115,108                        | 128,722                  | 13,614   | 12%      |
| Transfer from Reserves                 | 59                             | 145                      | 86       | 146%     |
| Total Income                           | 120,576                        | 131,405                  | 10,829   | 9%       |
| Surplus                                | 800                            | 800                      | -        | 0%       |

3. The West of England Mayoral Combined Authority has been successful in obtaining and utilising additional funding to deliver services to the local community – rising from the originally budgeted £120m to a forecast of £131m during the year – a 9% increase. Expenditure is forecast to also increase as that additional funding will be allocated and spent. A summary of the underlying key variances by category is set out in the following paragraphs:

## **Expenditure:**

4. **Employee Costs:** Following the approval of the budget in January 2023, the Mayoral Combined Authority has undertaken a 'step change' exercise to ensure corporate staffing is fit for purpose. This was a commitment made in the transformation programme

response to the Grant Thornton Audit report and the Solace Peer Review. Having undertaken this exercise, it had become clear that there are a number of gaps in key corporate roles that needed to be filled urgently as reported in the budget setting report to the main West of England Mayoral Combined Authority Committee on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024. The budget report for 2024/25 was approved and these additional roles will be recruited to in the coming financial year to address these gaps.

- 5. **Premises Costs:** £184k variance compared to the original budget due to increased utilities, business rates, maintenance costs and equipment purchases.
- 6. **Transport-Related Expenditure:** £95k variance to budget due to an increased return and activity in the number of in person meetings.
- 7. **Supplies and Services:** £8m variance is due to increases in activity, reflecting income from Government Grants and Investment Fund (see Appendix 1).
- 8. **Third Party Payments:** The variance in forecast position indicates a decrease of 3% compared to the original budget. This category includes payments and grants made to external parties including bus operators and is fully project funded.
- 9. **Depreciation and Impairment Losses:** This represents the minimum revenue position (MRP) required as a result of the capital assets acquired in line with the office premises.
- Transfer to Reserves: A breakdown is referenced in Figure 5 Transfer to Reserves
  column excluding the transfer of £346k Mayoral Election Costs which is included in the
  Mayoral Fund.

#### Income:

- 11. **Support Services:** £2.9m variance resulting from lower than expected recharges to capital projects.
- 12. **Income:** A breakdown of the Income summary is indicated in the table below:

Figure 2: Breakdown of Income Original 2023/24 Revenue Income Budget compared to Forecast Position

|                          | Budget<br>23/24 | Forecast<br>23/24 | Variance t<br>Approved B |       |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------------|-------|
|                          | £'000s          | £'000s            | (£'000s)                 | %     |
| Grants and Contributions | 91,665          | 95,595            | 3,930                    | 4%    |
| Transport Levy           | 19,443          | 19,443            | -                        | 0%    |
| Interest                 | 4,000           | 12,857            | 8,857                    | 221%  |
| Business Rates Pilot     | -               | 827               | 827                      | >100% |
|                          |                 |                   |                          |       |
|                          | 115,108         | 128,722           | 13,614                   | 12%   |

13. **Grants and Contributions:** There is a small increase in the forecasted spend against Grants and Contributions reflecting new funding approvals, grant income and reprofiling of projects.

- 14. **ITA Levy:** Current forecast suggests that Levy will run a small surplus of £275k. Underspends and overspends across functions have been managed across the programme. An additional £1.5m of funding from S106 funding and Bus Service Operator Grant have helped us manage the growing costs for supported services.
- 15. The largest underspend is in Concessionary travel which is running around 80% of pre covid level. We expect this to continue to be the case throughout the year.
- 16. There is a £1.4m reserve in place to cover any unexpected deviations from forecast.

Figure 3: ITA Levy (Excluding North Somerset)

|                                                          | Budget<br>23/24 | Latest<br>forecast<br>23/24 | Variance  |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| <u>Function</u>                                          | (£,000's)       | (£,000's)                   | (£,000's) |
| Team and Operational costs                               | 1,367           | 1,491                       | 124       |
| Contribution from the Combined Authority*                | (511)           | (629)                       | (118)     |
| Community Transport grants                               | 1,653           | 1,556                       | (97)      |
| Concessionary Fares                                      | 13,018          | 11,607                      | (1,411)   |
| Real Time Information (RTI)                              | 402             | 403                         | 1         |
| Supported Bus Services                                   | 3,059           | 6,162                       | 3,103     |
| Metrobus                                                 | 73              | 114                         | 41        |
| Updating Bus Stop Information                            | 177             | 178                         | 1         |
| Travelwest                                               | 14              | 13                          | (1)       |
| Integrated Ticketing                                     | 216             | 205                         | (11)      |
| Forecasted Spend                                         | 19,468          | 21,100                      | 1,632     |
| Additional Funding                                       |                 |                             |           |
| S106 Funding                                             |                 | (370)                       | (370)     |
| Bus Service Operator Grant (BSOG)                        |                 | (1,148)                     | (1,148)   |
| Recharge cost of moving net cost operators to gross cost |                 | (389)                       | (389)     |
| Forecasted Additional Income                             | -               | (1,907)                     | (1,907)   |
| Net Spend                                                | 19,468          | 19,193                      | (275)     |
| Movement in Reserves                                     |                 |                             |           |
| Opening balance on reserves                              | - !             | (1,402)                     |           |
| Forecasted in Year (Surplus) / Deficit                   | - !             | (275)                       |           |
| Closing Balance on reserves                              | · :             | (1,677)                     |           |

## **UA Levy Contributions as per current Medium Term Financial Plan**

| Authority                     | 2023/24<br>(£,000's) | 2024/25<br>(£,000's) | 2025/26<br>(£,000's) | 2026/27<br>(£,000's) | 2027/28<br>(£,000's) | Total<br>(£,000's) |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Bath & North East Somerset    | (5,194)              | (5,194)              | (5,194)              | (5,194)              | (5,194)              | (25,970)           |
| Bristol City Council          | (10,235)             | (10,235)             | (10,235)             | (10,235)             | (10,235)             | (51,175)           |
| South Gloucestershire Council | (4,014)              | (4,014)              | (4,014)              | (4,014)              | (4,014)              | (20,070)           |
| Total UA Levy Contribution    | (19,443)             | (19,443)             | (19,443)             | (19,443)             | (19,443)             | (97,215)           |
| First Group                   | (25)                 | (25)                 | (25)                 | (25)                 | (25)                 | (125)              |
| Total Levy                    | (19,468)             | (19,468)             | (19,468)             | (19,468)             | (19,468)             | (97,340)           |
| North Somerset Council        | (1,958)              | (1,923)              | (1,923)              | (1,923)              | (1,923)              | (9,650)            |
| Total                         | (21,426)             | (21,391)             | (21,391)             | (21,391)             | (21,391)             | (106,990)          |

Note: There is a need for solutions and agreement on the MTFP UA Levy Contributions as referenced in the MCA Budget 2024-25, 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024 Committee paper – Sections 31-38.

- 17. **Interest:** The original budget was based on a fall in our investment balances to be between £200m £230m during the year with an average interest rate return of 2%, which were in line with interest rates in October 2022 when the budget was prepared. Cash balances have not fallen as expected and remain above £360m, therefore advantages as a result of interest rate increases during 2023 have been obtained.
- 18. **Business Rates:** The West of England Mayoral Combined Authority retains 5% of the total business rates growth retained in the region after accounting for the highways maintenance grant. This income consists of the 5% share of estimated business rate income, s31 grants and offset by the Tariff. Full detail of the retained business rate position was not known until the start of February 2023, when the individual unitary councils submit their NNDR1 returns to the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities [DLUHC] and was not included in our original budget. Any change in forecast amounts by the unitary authorities will impact on the Combined Authority in 2024/25 or beyond. Based on the latest forecast the estimate is likely to be £827k for 2023/24.
- 19. **Transfer from Reserves:** A breakdown is referenced in Figure 5 Transfer to Reserves column excluding the transfer of £346k Mayoral Election Costs which is included in the Mayoral Fund.
- 20. A forecast surplus of £800k for the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority revenue budget is being reported. This represents a 0.6% variance against the total expenditure.

# **Forecast Analysis by Directorate**

21. An analysis of the forecast position is shown in the table below by directorate:

Figure 4: Forecast by Directorate

| Directorate / Service Area | Approved Budget (£'000s) | Forecast<br>(£'000s) | Variance to Approved Budget (£'000s) | %    |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|------|
| Economy & Skills           | 409                      | 370                  | (39)                                 | -10% |
| Environment                | 555                      | 603                  | 48                                   | 9%   |
| Infrastructure             | 132                      | 1,240                | 1,108                                | 840% |
| Resources                  | (4,151)                  | (6,913)              | (2,762)                              | 67%  |
| Strategy & Innovation      | 1,341                    | 1,554                | 213                                  | 16%  |
| Chief Executive            | 914                      | 2,346                | 1,432                                | 157% |
| Forecast Net Surplus       | (800)                    | (800)                | 0                                    | 0%   |

- 22. A summary of the underlying key variances by directorate is set out in the following paragraphs:
- 23. **Economy and Skills:** The favourable variance of 10% is mainly due to staff vacancy.
- 24. **Environment:** The variance of 9% is due to the profiling of the Low Carbon budget.
- 25. **Strategy and Innovation:** The variance of 16% is due to communication costs. There has been additional communication spend due to the need to increase the marketing and communication of key campaigns, grants and support to residents and businesses across the sectors of business, skills, infrastructure, and regional innovation, as well as ongoing promotion of key initiatives.
- 26. Chief Executive: The main increase within this area is for Legal and Governance. An increase in resource in Democratic Services is required to properly resource the increased commitment to the Scrutiny function (part of the transformation programme) given the increased number of scrutiny meetings and Task and Finish groups now being accommodated. This also provides resilience for other additional committee meetings, and to better resource the organisation's obligations in respect of forward plans of Key Decisions and other information publication requirements and aspirations.
- 27. Infrastructure: In year expenditure is higher than anticipated, some projects have been delayed which has reduced the recharge to projects, the majority of the increased spend though is due to budget having targets around recharges to projects that have not been possible. The position has significantly improved since the October forecast as we have revised the approach to recharges.
- 28. **Resources:** As is seen in other directorates across the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority, actual income in year through grants or other funding streams has been achieved significantly in excess of that originally budgeted and both forecast income

and expenditure are expected to rise commensurately during the course of the year for this directorate.

Interest earnings on cash balances have benefitted from increasing rates during the year, overall cash balances continuing to remain higher than forecast, as well as a number of 'forward deal' investments and longer-term placements in property and equity funds, and therefore contribute £8.9m to the net under-spend position for this directorate – we continue to significantly out-perform the income target of £4m (see item 17 of the Income section). Interest earning forecasts currently significantly support the Mayoral Combined Authority core budgets and cash balances are predicted to decline as projects advance. An allocation of the surplus interest earnings at the end of the financial year will be recommended (as in previous years) to be transferred to an earmarked treasury reserve to meet potential short-term reductions in interest earnings or any liability that may arise from future changes to accounting regulations and treatment of pooled property investments. With the remaining being appropriated to the General Reserves and indicated earmarked reserves. These decisions will formally be recommendations and proposals to the committee at the appropriate times.

#### **Investment Fund**

29. The Investment Fund (with projects managed by both the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority and Unitary Authorities) is forecasting spend of £33m in 2023/24 compared to an original budget of £22m as set out in the January 2023 Budget Setting Report. The latest Agreed Position Revenue Investment Fund Projects **Appendix 1**.

#### Reserves

30. On the 26<sup>th</sup> of January 2024 West of England Mayoral Combined Authority Committee meeting, agreement to building reserves to the minimum target of 5% (c£6m) was obtained (Reference: Section 81-84 of the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority Budget 2024/25 Report). The following table sets out the movement in general and usable earmarked reserves over recent years as well as the forecast to the end of the financial year:

Figure 5: Movement and Forecast in the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority Usable Reserves

|                                                | Balance<br>Mar-21<br>(£000's) | Balance<br>Mar-22<br>(£000's) | Balance<br>Mar-23<br>(£000's) | Transfers<br>To 2023/24 F<br>(£000's) | Transfers<br>from 2023/24<br>(£000's) | Balance<br>Jul-23<br>(£000's) |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Total Usable General Reserves*                 | 1,963                         | 2,370                         | 2,474                         | 2,344                                 | -                                     | 4,818                         |
| Business Rate Reserve                          | 777                           | 777                           | 777                           |                                       |                                       | 777                           |
| Intergrated Transport Auth Reserve             | 843                           | 616                           | 616                           | 275                                   |                                       | 891                           |
| Intergrated Transport Bus Reserve              | -                             | 1,347                         | 786                           |                                       |                                       | 786                           |
| Mayoral Capacity Funding Reserve               | 507                           | 214                           | 42                            |                                       |                                       | 42                            |
| Housing Capacity Funding                       | 1,096                         | 502                           | 502                           |                                       | (145)                                 | 357                           |
| Programme Delivery O/Hd Reserve                | 391                           | 822                           | 822                           |                                       |                                       | 822                           |
| Delivery Programme Risk                        | _                             | -                             | -                             | 625                                   |                                       | 625                           |
|                                                | 400                           | 1,099                         | 1,574                         | 1,000                                 |                                       | 2,574                         |
| LEP Potential Shortfall in Core Capacity Grant | -                             | -                             | -                             | 240                                   |                                       | 240                           |
| M10 Reserve                                    | 166                           | 71                            | 105                           |                                       |                                       | 105                           |
| Mayoral Election Reserve                       | 888                           | 120                           | 466                           | 346                                   |                                       | 812                           |
| Adult Education Reserve                        | 238                           | 312                           | 1,468                         |                                       |                                       | 1,468                         |
| Business Rates s31 Grant Reserve               | 9,561                         | 3,406                         | -                             |                                       |                                       | -                             |
| Other Reserves                                 | 774                           | 355                           | 275                           |                                       |                                       | 275                           |
| IMS Investment Fund                            | _                             | -                             | -                             | 490                                   |                                       | 490                           |
| IMS Concessionary Reserve                      | -                             | -                             | -                             | 85                                    |                                       | 85                            |
| Total Usable Earmarked Reserves                | 15,641                        | 9,641                         | 7,433                         | 3,061                                 | (145)                                 | 10,349                        |
| Total Usable reserves                          | 17,604                        | 12,011                        | 9,907                         | 5,405                                 | (145)                                 | 15,167                        |

<sup>\*</sup>Total Usable General Reserves - Consideration will be taken at the final outturn position on transfers to general reserves and earmarked reserves.

- 31. Of the earmarked reserves being held, an explanation of the most significant is given below:
  - ➤ The Business Rates Reserve: Held to meet potential risk in NNDR income due to changes in rateable value of properties (appeals), exemptions and collection rates (bad debt provisions).
  - ➤ The Integrated Transport Authority Reserve: Exists to hold variances between the costs of Concessionary Fares, Bus Information services and Community Transport support, pending the adjustment of Levy calculations in subsequent Financial Years, to maintain a revenue neutral position between the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority and contributing Unitary Authorities.
  - ➤ Integrated Transport Reserve: The 2021/22 transport underspend of £1.3m was transferred to a specific one-off earmarked bus reserve to invest in further support to regional bus services to protect routes, particularly in rural areas.
  - ➤ Mayoral and Housing Capacity: The balance of these two grant funding streams has been transferred into earmarked reserves to facilitate and accelerate delivery of infrastructure and investment projects, and to create a strategic housing delivery unit.

- Programme Delivery Overhead Recovery Reserve: Central overhead savings due to delays in programme delivery.
- ➤ Treasury Management Reserve: Held to manage the financial impact of movements in cash balances and/or interest rates and to mitigate against the risk of pooled investment losses being subject to change in future accounting regulations. IFRS 9 Financial Instruments, there is currently a statutory override, this will end in March 2025. In the event there is no extension, falls in the value of bond and property funds will be charged to revenue rather than being reflected on the balance sheet- this poses a potential risk which would need to be met from reserves.
- ➤ M10: Ring-fenced funding held for the provision of a secretariat function for the M10 network of Mayoral Combined Authorities.
- Adult Education Reserve: Ring-fenced grant funding held for future spend on adult education services.
- ➤ Other Reserves: The £275k is related to smaller earmarked reserves including the Brexit Fund and Rent Rebates.
- ➤ Integrated Mobility Fund: This fund is being newly created from the Revenue Share income from the new contract with Tier. Until the exact use for the money has been determined it is being assumed that the money is going into a reserve to be drawn down as and when decisions are made.

# The West of England Mayoral Combined Authority Capital Programme Forecast

32. The capital programme continues to evolve during 2023/24 as project delivery plans are refined and implemented. The forecast for 2023/24 based on information to January 2024 is £115m – a summary of the gross capital spend is indicated below. A full listing of the capital forecast is set out in *Appendix 2*.

Figure 6: Evolution of the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority Capital Budget – Gross Spend

|        | 2022/23  | 2023/24  | 2024/25  | 2025/26  | 2026/27+ | Total    |
|--------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
|        | (£000's) | (£000's) | (£000's) | (£000's) | (£000's) | (£000's) |
| Jan-23 | 96,740   | 107,873  | 134,781  | 243,653  | 183,428  | 766,475  |
| Mar-23 | 76,165   | 104,269  | 156,868  | 231,045  | 201,250  | 769,597  |
| Sep-23 | 76,165   | 126,466  | 195,462  | 300,525  | 149,974  | 848,592  |
| Jan-24 | 76,165   | 115,313  | 188,003  | 250,589  | 141,586  | 771,656  |

33. We are committed to ensuring that capital delivery of projects is closely monitored and carefully managed to maintain progress and ensure that money is effectively and efficiently spent in the region. Through enhanced collaboration efforts, we have implemented measures to identify and address any shortcomings more expediently. This includes inviting all unitary authorities to participate in monthly programme reviews, to discuss progress and highlight issues and quality feedback sessions have been introduced to make sure we are effectively sharing the right information to monitor progress. Summary reports from these sessions are regularly presented to the PRB (Portfolio Review Board) to ensure that s151 officers responsible for financial oversight are fully informed about the progress and any areas of challenge. Additionally, we are focusing our efforts on closely examining instances where projects are slipping in monthly

spend, ensuring that such issues are promptly identified and communicated to all stakeholders. Moreover, specific attention is being devoted to the CRSTS (City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement), which represents a large portion of the capital spend, with the involvement of specialist cost consultants and scheduling experts. This targeted approach aims to enhance project deliverability and effectively manage risks and opportunities, thereby ensuring successful completion within the allocated funding window.

## **Mayoral Fund Revenue Forecast**

- 34. The 2023/24 Mayoral Budget was approved in January 2023 to be balanced and consisted of a £675k spend offset by a corresponding Investment Fund Contribution. Included within the expenditure is a £346k annual contribution to an earmarked reserve set aside to pay for the four-yearly costs of elections. The £2k overspend is made up of £17k adverse variance on goods and services which is offset by an underspend of £15k on staff costs.
- 35. The table below summarises the forecast position for the Mayoral Fund Forecast:

**Figure 7: Mayoral Fund Revenue Forecast** 

|                                          | Budget<br>(£000's) | Forecast<br>(£000's) | Variance<br>(£000's) |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
|                                          |                    |                      |                      |
| Staffing                                 | 243                | 228                  | 15                   |
| Premises                                 | 13                 | 13                   | -                    |
| Support Service                          | 11                 | 11                   | -                    |
| Supplies and Services                    | 62                 | 79                   | (17)                 |
|                                          |                    |                      |                      |
|                                          | 329                | 331                  | (2)                  |
|                                          |                    |                      |                      |
| Contribution to Mayoral Election Reserve | 346                | 346                  | -                    |
|                                          |                    |                      |                      |
| All Mayoral Costs                        | 675                | 677                  | (2)                  |
|                                          |                    |                      |                      |
| Total Income                             |                    |                      |                      |
|                                          |                    |                      |                      |
| Investment Fund Contribution             | 675                | 677                  | (2)                  |
|                                          |                    |                      |                      |
| Surplus / (Deficit)                      | -                  | -                    | -                    |

#### **Alternative Options Considered**

36. Value for Money and appropriate use of resources are constantly considered when allocating, monitoring and managing all revenue and capital budgets.

#### **Consultation and Engagement**

37. Consultation has been carried out with the Chief Executives, and the West of England

# **Key Risks**

- 38. This report forms a core part of the governance and risk management process. The forecast presented in this report take account of known financial risks and their potential impact on the forecasted financial position.
- 39. Treasury Management Income is being used to fund the increase in core staffing costs. Were this income to fall staffing costs will need to be funded by alternative means or reduced accordingly.
- 40. The West of England Mayoral Combined Authority will continue to put forward a case to government to establish sustainable core funding for Combined Authorities beyond the current annual allocations (Mayoral Capacity Fund and Business Rates Pilot Scheme) and taking account of the high inflationary environment that builds into base costs without inflated funding.
- 41. In terms of reserves the committee set a 5% target on general reserves and the current position on general reserves is these will total approximately £2.4m against a target of £6m. On the 26th of January 2024 West of England Mayoral Combined Authority Committee meeting agreement was obtained to build the reserves to the minimum required using the only source currently available the Treasury Management one-off surpluses. In addition, this is still the most volatile economic situation for some time and adequate reserves are even more essential in such circumstances given they are less than half the Committees agreed target.

# **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Implications**

42. The Public Sector Equality duties will be considered within each individual project or area of work.

## **Climate Change Implications**

43. Several of the specific West of England Mayoral Combined Authority workstreams have a strong focus on improving climate change. Where funds are allocated as grants to local businesses and organisations, the criteria used to prioritise funding allocations will incorporate carbon management and where appropriate consideration of nature recovery and climate resilience opportunities.

#### **Finance Implications**

- 44. All financial implications are contained within the body of the report.
- 45. General and earmarked reserves available to meet potential future risks remain comparatively low and the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority will continue to manage those risks and place a strong focus on building the levels of reserves to the required levels in line with the approved reserves policy. Commitment was reached on the 26th of January 2024 West of England Mayoral Combined Authority Committee meeting to build the reserves to the minimum level required.

## **Legal Implications**

46. The Budget proposals set out in this Report have been developed in accordance with appropriate Local Government legislation and regulations, including the specific funding and related governance requirements set out in: a) Part 2 of the Local Government Act 2003 (Financial Administration); b) The West of England Combined Authority Order 2017; and c) The Combined Authorities (Finance) Order 2017.

## **Human Resources Implications**

47. There are no direct Human Resources implications arising from this paper. Variances attributable for staffing are covered in the main body of the report and relate to the staffing asks in the main budget setting report for the 2024/25 financial year, which was agreed at the January 2024 full Committee.

# **Land/property Implications**

48. The West of England Mayoral Combined Authority does not currently own any land or material assets. The West of England Mayoral Combined Authority office lease at 70 Redcliff Street is accounted for within this forecast.

# **Commercial Implications**

49. The are no commercial implications that need to be highlighted in this report.

# **Appendices**

Appendix 1 Latest Agreed Position Revenue Investment Fund Projects

Appendix 2 Capital Forecast

#### **Background papers:**

MCA Budget Setting Report 2023/24 – Committee 27 January 2023 MCA Budget Setting Report 2024/25 – Committee 26 January 2024 Budget Forecast Reports to Committee throughout 2023 and 2024

#### **West of England Mayoral Combined Authority Contact:**

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# Appendix 1 Latest Agreed Position Revenue Investment Fund Projects

|                                                                                                       | 23/24    | 24/25       | 25/26    | Profile  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|-------------|----------|----------|
| Carpare Hulb 22/22 25/26                                                                              | (£000's) | (£000's)    | (£000's) | (£000's) |
| Careers Hub 22/23-25/26                                                                               |          | 288         | 140      |          |
| Business Innovation Fund (prev Research and Innovation Challenge Fund)                                | 39       | 700         |          | 39       |
| LIS Productivity Challenge                                                                            | 714      | 799         | 435      | 1,948    |
| Innovation for Renewal and Opportunity                                                                | 4,384    | 738         | <u>-</u> | 5,122    |
| Culture and Creative Economic Recovery Fund                                                           | 129      | 188         | <u>-</u> | 317      |
| Cultural Compact Start-Up Investment                                                                  | 210      | 55          |          | 265      |
| Workforce for the Future                                                                              | 1,058    | 150         |          | 1,208    |
| Future Bright Plus                                                                                    | 1,372    |             |          | 1,372    |
| Digital Skills Investment Programme                                                                   | 22       |             |          | 22       |
| Community Support Fund (prevs Community Recovery Fund)                                                | 36       |             |          | 36       |
| All Age Advice Centre Pilot                                                                           | 171      | <del></del> |          | 171      |
| Skills Connect and All Age Advice Centre (previously Skills Connect and Mayoral Priority Skills Fund) | 1,060    | 1,111       |          | 2,171    |
| Mayoral Priority Skills Fund (previously merged with Skills Connect)                                  | 325      | 1,732       | 517      | 2,575    |
| Retrofit Step Up Programme                                                                            | 100      | 100         | -        | 200      |
| Green Futures Project                                                                                 | 40       | 130         | 130      | 300      |
| Jobs Connect (prevs known as West of England Talent Retention Platform)                               | 70       |             |          | 70       |
| West of England HGV Driver Training Project                                                           | 67       | 2           |          | 69       |
| Business Start Up School                                                                              | 245      | 244         |          | 490      |
| WoE Business Support Programme                                                                        | 1,390    | 1,479       | 2,950    | 5,819    |
| Extension of Local Energy Advice                                                                      | 55       | 154         |          | 209      |
| Retrofit Accelerator                                                                                  | 1,455    | 988         | 489      | 2,932    |
| Retrofit Accelerator - supply side market and capacity building                                       | 701      | 1,299       |          | 2,000    |
| GRF Nature Recovery - Somer Valley Rediscovered                                                       | 311      | 381         | 228      | 920      |
| Local Nature Recovery Strategy                                                                        | 220      |             |          | 220      |
| Low Carbon Challenge Fund Extension                                                                   | 1,010    | 443         |          | 1,453    |
| GRF Nature Recovery - River Frome Reconnected                                                         | 667      | 439         |          | 1,106    |
| GRF Nature Recovery - Forest of Avon                                                                  | 244      | 244         |          | 488      |
| GRF Nature Recovery - Tree Canopy                                                                     | 247      | 289         |          | 536      |
| GRF Nature Recovery - Capricorn Quay                                                                  | 11       | 5           | 5        | 20       |
| Green Recovery Fund Resources                                                                         | 190      | 305         |          | 495      |
| Resourcing Regional Engagement on the Environment                                                     | 87       | 64          |          | 150      |
| Green Infrastructure                                                                                  | 31       |             |          | 31       |
| MMC / Housing Innovation / Housing Delivery Strategy (Prev One Public Estate, OPE8)                   | 125      | -           | -        | 125      |
| Mass Transit SOBC Development (future4WEST)                                                           | 312      |             |          | 312      |
| SDS/LTP Shared Evidence Base                                                                          | 470      | -           | -        | 470      |
| Integrated Ticketing                                                                                  | 83       |             |          | 83       |
| Future Transport Zones                                                                                |          | 1,511       | 2,144    | 3,655    |
| 10 Year Rail Delivery Plan                                                                            | 325      | 325         | -        | 650      |
| EV Charging Infrastructure                                                                            | 114      |             |          | 114      |
| Walking and Cycling Scheme Development                                                                | 100      | 100         | -        | 200      |
| Energy Strategy – Climate Change Action Plan                                                          | 63       | -           |          | 63       |
| Community Pollinator Fund                                                                             | 1,449    | 605         | 109      | 2,163    |
| Regional Evidence Portal Pilot                                                                        |          | 25          | 25       | 50       |
|                                                                                                       |          |             |          |          |
| Total of MCA Managed Investment Fund Projects                                                         | 20,003   | 14,191      | 7,172    | 41,366   |

| V-Sept23 |
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| Total Agreed Investment Fund Profiles                                        | 33,217 | 19,779 | 7,706 | 60,702 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|-------|--------|
| Total of 3rd Party Managed Investment Fund Projects                          | 13,214 | 5,588  | 534   | 19,336 |
| Total of 2nd Donty Managed Investor out Found Decision                       | 42.244 | F F00  | F2.6  | 10.225 |
| Muller Road Eastbound Bus Lane                                               | 322    | 66     |       | 388    |
| Western Harbour Masterplan and Infrastructure Delivery Plan                  | 512    | 2,048  |       | 2,560  |
| Keynsham to Willsbridge Path                                                 | 294    | 161    |       | 455    |
| Bath Central Riverside (Formally Manvers St)                                 | 233    | 316    | -     | 549    |
| South Gloucestershire Council Specialist Support (moved from CRSTS)          | 142    | 151    | 174   | 467    |
| HREF - South Gloucestershire Council Capacity                                | 522    | 83     |       | 605    |
| ISTART Phase 0                                                               | 1,245  | 83     | -     | 1,328  |
| South Gloucestershire Catalyst High Street funding                           | 56     | 47     |       | 103    |
| B&NES Masterplanning                                                         | 925    | -      |       | 925    |
| Waterspace Connected Phase 1                                                 | 195    | 101    |       | 296    |
| City Centre Economic Development and Markets Development                     | 110    | 36     |       | 146    |
| Bath Creative Quarter                                                        | 113    |        |       | 113    |
| Hydrogen Sustainable Transport Economy Accelerator                           | 482    | 495    | 194   | 1,171  |
| Bristol Harbour Place Shaping Strategy                                       | 283    | -      | -     | 283    |
| Love our High Streets - MidsomerNorton High Street Market Square Project     | 40     | 10     | -     | 50     |
| LOHS Bath Local Centres                                                      | 129    | 18     | 10    | 157    |
| Chew Valley Lake Recreational Trail South (Southern Section)                 | 150    | -      | -     | 150    |
| Development of the strategic evidence base to inform Spatial Plan Making     | 703    | -      | -     | 703    |
| Bristol Avon Flood Strategy                                                  | 169    | -      |       | 169    |
| Housing & Regeneration Enabling Fund                                         | 254    | 347    | -     | 601    |
| Common connections                                                           | 103    | 109    | 131   | 343    |
| Temple Quarter Regeneration Programme                                        | 1,756  | -      | -     | 1,756  |
| Bottle Yard Studios- Hawkfield Business Park                                 | 68     |        | 25    | 93     |
| Bristol City Centre & High Streets Recovery and Renewal Programme            | 1,500  | 266    | -     | 1,766  |
| Milsom Quarter Masterplan                                                    | 795    | 826    |       | 1,621  |
| Frome Gateway Framework & Infrastructure Delivery Plan                       | 71     |        |       | 71     |
| East Fringe Master Plan                                                      | 34     | -      |       | 34     |
| High Street Renewal Catalyst Fund                                            | 75     |        |       | 75     |
| Reboot West                                                                  | 275    | 36     | -     | 311    |
| North Keynsham Masterplanning                                                | 142    | -      | -     | 142    |
| iSTART (formerly Working Well Institute)                                     | 1,070  | 389    | -     | 1,459  |
| We Work for Everyone                                                         | 374    | -      | -     | 374    |
| Coalpit Heath/Westerleigh Bypass and Frampton Cotterell/ Winterbourne Bypass | 72     | -      | -     | 72     |
|                                                                              |        |        |       |        |

# Appendix 2 Capital Forecast

| Investment Fund                                                    | 23/24<br>Budget | YTD Spent | Forecast | Budget:<br>Forecast<br>Variance | 24/25    | 25/26    | 26/27    | 27/28    | TOTAL    | Lead    | Notes                                                                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|----------|---------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                    | (£000's)        | (£000's)  | (£000's) | (£000's)                        | (£000's) | (£000's) | (£000's) | (£000's) | (£000's) |         |                                                                                      |
| MetroWest Phase 2                                                  | -               | 7,546     | 7,546    | 7,546                           | -        | -        | 5,583    | 662      | 13,791   | MCA     | Additional award of funding since the budget                                         |
| Contactless Card Payment - On Bus                                  | -               | 4         | 46       | 46                              | -        | -        | -        | -        | 46       | MCA     | No funding profile this financial year at budget                                     |
| Business Growth and Adaptations Fund                               | 33              | 352       | 793      | 760                             | 35       | -        | -        | -        | 828      | MCA     | New funding not budgeted for                                                         |
| Step Free Stations Phase 1 & 2                                     | -               | -         | 209      | 209                             | -        | -        | -        | -        | 209      | MCA     | Funding reprofiled into current financial year                                       |
| EV Charging Infrastructure                                         | -               | 49        | 1,365    | 1,365                           | 1,536    | 1,802    | -        | -        | 4,703    | MCA     | Newly commenced project, not budgeted for                                            |
| Somer Valley EZ Final Draft (Highways)                             | -               | (0)       | 521      | 521                             | -        | -        | -        | -        | 521      | BANES   | Profile has changed due to agreed change requests made subsequent to the budget      |
| Wraxall Road Roundabut Signalisation                               | -               | 4         | 104      | 104                             | -        | -        | -        | -        | 104      | SGC     | Additional spend has moved into current year vs original budgeted position           |
| Quantum Technologies Innovation Centre (QTIC/QTIC+)                | 16,487          | 2,600     | 2,600    | (13,887)                        | 15,150   | 11,511   | -        | -        | 29,261   | UoB     | Significant reprofile of spend into future financial years                           |
| Bottle Yard Studios- Hawkfield Business Park                       | -               | (33)      | 115      | 115                             | -        | -        |          | -        | 115      | BCC     | Profile has changed due to agreed change requests made subsequent to the budget      |
| North Keynsham Land Acquisition Fund                               | -               | -         | 448      | 448                             | -        | -        |          | -        | 448      | BANES   | Profile has changed due to agreed change requests made subsequent to the budget      |
| Old City and King Street                                           | -               | 321       | 93       | 93                              | -        | -        | -        | -        | 93       | BCC     | Profile has changed due to agreed change requests made subsequent to the budget      |
| Cycle Route Connecting Yate with the East Fringe (Yate Spur)       | -               | 202       | 457      | 457                             | -        | -        | -        | -        | 457      | SGC     | Profile has changed due to agreed change requests made subsequent to the budget      |
| Bath Quays Bridge Cycle/Pedestrian Links                           | -               | (23)      | 32       | 32                              | -        | -        |          | -        | 32       | BNES    | Profile has changed due to agreed change requests made subsequent to the budget      |
| Thornbury Hospital                                                 | -               | -         | 122      | 122                             | -        | -        | -        | -        | 122      | SGC     | Profile has changed due to agreed change requests made subsequent to the budget      |
| South Bristol Industrial Light Workspace                           | 492             | 12        | 1,160    | 668                             | -        | -        | -        | -        | 1,160    | BCC     | Change to the profiling as well as additional funding awarded since budget           |
| Bath City Centre High Streets Renewal Project                      | 296             | 112       | 338      | 42                              | 298      | 250      | -        | -        | 886      | BNES    | Project spend has been reprofiled                                                    |
| Keynsham Road                                                      | -               | 24        | 61       | 61                              | -        | -        | -        | -        | 61       | SGC     | Profile has changed due to agreed change requests made subsequent to the budget      |
| Filton to MoD                                                      | -               | 31        | 46       | 46                              | -        | -        | -        | -        | 46       | SGC     | Profile has changed due to agreed change requests made subsequent to the budget      |
| Grovesend Road - Gillingstool                                      | -               | 17        | 57       | 57                              | -        | -        | -        | -        | 57       | SGC     | Profile has changed due to agreed change requests made subsequent to the budget      |
| Concorde Way Dovercourt Depot                                      | -               | 91        | 97       | 97                              | -        | -        | -        | -        | 97       | BCC     | Profile has changed due to agreed change requests made subsequent to the budget      |
| Bath River Line Phase 1                                            | -               | 28        | 1,018    | 1,018                           | 128      | -        | -        | -        | 1,146    | BANES   | Approval of funding for delivery of the scheme has been made since budget            |
| Common connections                                                 | 182             | 42        | 182      | -                               | 238      | 50       | -        | -        | 470      | SGC     | No significant variance                                                              |
| Love our High Streets - MidsomerNorton High Street Market Square P | 735             | 12        | 735      | -                               | 265      | -        | -        | -        | 1,000    | BANES   | No significant variance                                                              |
| LOHS Bath Local Centres                                            | 17              | 22        | 17       | -                               | 2        | -        | -        | -        | 19       | BANES   | No significant variance                                                              |
| Milsom Quarter Masterplan                                          | 586             | (31)      | 112      | (474)                           | 697      | -        | -        | -        | 809      | BNES    | Reprofile of spend into future year                                                  |
| Hengrove Housing Enabling Infrastructure                           | 7,592           | -         | 7,592    | -                               | 10,280   | -        | -        | -        | 17,872   | BCC     | No change since budget however there is a significant reprofiling at March committee |
| Kingswood Regeneration Project                                     | 2,130           | 10        | 650      | (1,480)                         | 373      | -        | -        | -        | 1,023    | SGC     | Funding switched for project to EDF in current and next financial year               |
| Alveston Hill                                                      | -               | (10)      | 377      | 377                             | -        | -        | -        | -        | 377      | SGC     | Additional award of funding since the budget                                         |
| Hanham High Street                                                 | -               | 17        | 394      | 394                             | -        | -        | -        | -        | 394      | SGC     | Additional award of funding since the budget                                         |
| Arena Infrastructure Package                                       | -               | 210       | 3,880    | 3,880                           | 6,095    | 15       | -        | -        | 9,990    | SGC     | Additional award of funding since the budget                                         |
| Regional Low Carbon Delivery Programme                             | 586             | 42        | 1,325    | 739                             | 2,116    | 50       | -        | -        | 3,491    | MCA     | Profile has changed due to agreed change requests made subsequent to the budget      |
| GRF Nature Recovery - Capricorn Quay                               | -               | -         | 385      | 385                             | -        | -        | -        | -        | 385      | BCC     | New award of funding since budget                                                    |
| GRF Nature Recovery - Tree Canopy                                  | -               | -         | 276      | 276                             | 276      | -        | -        | -        | 552      | SGC     | New award of funding since budget                                                    |
| Access for All Mid-Tier                                            | -               | (138)     | 485      | 485                             | -        | -        | -        | -        | 485      | MCA     | Profile has changed due to agreed change requests made subsequent to the budget      |
| MetroBus Consolidation Package                                     | -               | 0         | 0        | 0                               | 5        | -        | -        | -        | 5        | MCA     | No significant variance                                                              |
| Low Carbon Challenge Fund Extension                                | -               | 69        | 1,124    | 1,124                           | -        | -        | -        | -        | 1,124    | MCA     | Profile has changed due to agreed change requests made subsequent to the budget      |
| Green Recovery Fund                                                | -               | -         | 30       | 30                              | -        | -        | -        | -        | 30       | MCA     | Profile has changed due to agreed change requests made subsequent to the budget      |
| Yate A432 Park & Ride                                              | -               | (104)     | (73)     | (73)                            | -        | -        | -        | -        | (73)     | MCA     | Accruals difference                                                                  |
| IF GH Green Recovery Fund Nature Recovery – Somer Valley Rediscov  | -               | 3         | 3        | 3                               | -        | -        | -        | -        | 3        | B&NES   | Accruals difference                                                                  |
| FEAS CW – Strategic Cycle Route Connecting Thornbury with the A38  | -               | 20        | 20       | 20                              | -        | -        | -        | -        | 20       | SGC     | Accruals difference                                                                  |
| Whitfield Tabernacle Kingswood                                     | -               | (14)      | (14)     | (14)                            | -        | -        | -        | -        | (14)     | SGC     | Accruals difference                                                                  |
| Cribbs Patchway MetroBus Extension                                 | -               | (6)       | (6)      | (6)                             | -        | -        | -        | -        | (6)      | BCC     | Accruals difference                                                                  |
| Bus Stops                                                          | -               | 53        | 53       | 53                              | -        | -        | -        | -        | 53       | Various | s Accruals difference                                                                |
| IF EL - Portway Park and Ride                                      | -               | (34)      | (34)     | (34)                            | -        | -        | -        | -        | (34)     | BCC     | Accruals difference                                                                  |
|                                                                    |                 |           |          |                                 |          |          |          |          | ·····    |         |                                                                                      |

| MCA Capital                                | 23/24<br>Budget | YTD<br>Spent | Forecast | Budget:<br>Forecast<br>Variance | 24/25    | 25/26    | 26/27    | 27/28    | TOTAL    | Lead    |                                                                                 |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|----------|---------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                            | (£000's)        | (£000's)     | (£000's) | (£000's)                        | (£000's) | (£000's) | (£000's) | (£000's) | (£000's) |         |                                                                                 |
| CRSTS                                      | 16,811          | 14,588       | 26,664   | 9,853                           | 99,468   | 178,526  | 110,341  | -        | 415,000  | Various | Increase in spend this financial year with more accurate forecasting available. |
| Highways Maintenance Grants                |                 | 18,750       | 25,000   | -                               | 25,000   | 25,000   |          |          |          | MCA     | No variance                                                                     |
| Active Travel Fund Projects                | 5               | 714          | 2,685    | 2,680                           | 5,317    |          |          |          |          | Various | Increase in spend this financial year with more accurate forecasting available. |
| MetroWest Phase 2                          | 5,932           | 2,249        | 7,839    | 1,907                           |          |          |          |          | 48,331   | MCA     | Project is progressing well. Project is split between IF and EDF                |
| FTZ                                        | 13,075          | 3,967        | 7,888    | (5,187)                         | 6,392    | 1,236    |          | :        | 15,517   | MCA     | Forecast spend has moved into future years, hence the reduction since budget    |
| Bristol Temple Quarter                     | 17,914          | 2,091        | 4,978    | (12,936)                        |          |          |          |          | 4,978    | MCA     | BTQ moving to joint venture                                                     |
| Additional Pothole Funding / Network North |                 | 3,627        | 4,835    | 4,835                           | 2,007    | 2,007    |          |          | 8,849    | MCA     | New funding not in original budget                                              |
| Office Move - 70 Redcliffe                 |                 | 73           | 73       | 73                              |          |          |          |          | 73       | MCA     | Small amount of capital cost incurred this year due to the office move.         |
| DCIA                                       |                 | 43           | 43       | 43                              |          |          |          |          |          | MCA     | Fund has ended.                                                                 |
| UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Capital  |                 | 45           | 358      | 358                             | 1,353    |          |          |          | 1,711    | MCA     | New funding not budgeted for                                                    |
| Rural England Prosperity Fund              |                 |              | 207      | 207                             | 621      |          | ·        | r-:      | 828      | MCA     | New funding not budgeted for                                                    |
| SUBTOTAL                                   | 78,737          | 46,146       | 80,571   | 1,834                           | 150,509  | 236,911  | 135,341  | -        | 603,333  |         |                                                                                 |
| TOTAL                                      | 107,873         | 57,648       | 115,313  | 7,440                           | 188,003  | 250,589  | 140,924  | 662      | 695,491  |         |                                                                                 |

Note: At this point in time – we are not at risk of handing any funding back to grant providers.