

Overall Target

The overall target was set by Council on 23/02/17. Taking into account the various savings streams (service savings, cross cutting savings, stopping services, increased council tax resources and unpicking some of the overlaps across streams) a stretch target equivalent to £18.727m is needed to balance the budget on its own. This tracker was predominantly compiled in early December towards the end of the first quarter.

Firm/To date

A strict interpretation of "firm" has been used. To qualify budget must have been allocated, removed and actual practical steps delivered to achieve the planned saving.
NON DELIVERY OF ORIGINAL SAVINGS

Forecast

The overall weighted forecast is 67%, so very significantly short of where we should be. There is some progress on most areas of savings but limited delivery significant savings in the service savings, especially in Corporate Services and Social Services (both of which are consequently reporting significant over spending) and in senior staff savings in Corporate Services. **SOME LARGE GAPS**

Service Savings

There are gaps in assured and evidenced savings across two directorates, Social Services and Corporate Services . These are significant enough to indicate that the overall budget will remain overspent by year end. **SUBSTANTIALLY BELOW TARGET**

Senior Staffing

Of the £2.5m savings target set at budget, there is remains significant slippage in one directorate, Corporate Services. **SIGNIFICANTLY BELOW TARGET**

Delivery Strands

All now fully allocated into services - no cross cutting unallocated strands remain. **NO LONGER APPLICABLE**

Other Savings

The nature of these savings is that they are mostly fully assured right at the start of the year. The major exception is Council Tax which ultimately depends upon collection performance. It is also where mitigating actions taken to address gaps elsewhere are likely to be recorded as the year develops **TARGET MET**

Risks and Issues to Address This Time

Overall rate of progress is significantly below expectation and is therefore again red flagged for the whole year .

The risks are predominantly around assuring progress is actually occurring on Service Savings savings. Reassurance and revalidation work will be essential in the final quarter to ensure all savings are being fully captured.

Cabinet will in due course be advised of the third quarter position, which taken together with emerging additional overspends in Corporate Services, Social Services and, to a lesser extent, Education means that urgent action must continue to be taken on service spending.

Spending restrictions remain in place and will need to do so all year.

Immediate effort has been directed to:

Reminding every Head of Service they have NO authority to overspend and must take all endeavours to balance their budgets

Freezing recruitment to all but utterly exceptional circumstances posts

Stopping all overtime bar utter exception

Freezing all discretionary spend

Comments and feedback from PFMs

None to date