ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL				
REPORT TO:	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE			
DATE:	14 MARCH 2016			
SUBJECT:	REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING, QUARTER 3 2015/16			
PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S):	COUNCILLOR H E JONES			
HEAD OF SERVICE:	MARC JONES			
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LOCAL MEMBERS:	n/a			
A - Recommendation/s and reason/s				

- 1. In February 2015, the Council set a net budget for 2015/16 with net service expenditure of £124.6m to be funded from Council Tax income, NNDR and general grants.
- 2. The budget for 2015/16 included required savings of £4.3m. These have been incorporated into the individual service budgets and achievement or non-achievement of these is reflected in the net under/overspends shown.
- **3.** This report sets out the financial performance of the Council's services for the third quarter of the financial year which relates to the period 1 April 2015 to 31 December 2015. The projected position for the year as a whole is also summarised.
- **4.** The overall projected financial position for 2015/16 on services is an overspend of £390k. This is less than 1% (0.31%) of the Council's net budget for 2015/16. This is a significant improvement on the forecast overspend of £980k (0.78%) which was reported during quarter 2. The explanations for significant variances are included within the report and the reasons for changes from quarter 2.
- 5. The predicted outturn includes an overspend of £476k on Children's Services which is the result of overspends on looked-after-children. The demand against this budget is difficult to control as the costs relate to statutory services to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of the children in the Authority's care. The Executive is, therefore, requested to fund this from the Council's general reserves. If this is approved, the outturn would reduce by this amount, though Council reserves will also reduce. The forecast also includes £350k overspend as part of Highways and Transport outturn which is the result of significant damage caused by the exceptional flooding and storms which have affected the Island. The Executive is requested to fund this from the Council's Insurance Earmarked Reserve, which would still leave an adequate amount for other insurance risks (£1.5m after all funding for storm damage). In addition, the net impact of council tax collection is shown in this guarter's forecast. An over-achievement on the collection of council tax of £153k is predicted. However, a provision of £213k for bad debt on council tax is being recommended to ensure the Council is prudent and provides for the risk of non-payment of Council Tax. The net impact of Council Tax on the Council fund is, therefore, an overspend of £60k. If the Executive approves the requested transfers from general and earmarked reserves as noted above, the estimated outturn, after the impact of Council Tax and movements from reserves, is predicted to be an underspend of £376k.

- 6. It is recommended that:-
  - (i) The position set out in respect of financial performance to date is noted;
  - (ii) The Executive is asked to approve funding of £476k from the Council's general reserves to fund the overspend on Children's Services;
  - (iii) The Executive is requested to approve up to £350k from the Earmarked Insurance Reserve to fund the cost of flood damage, if required;
  - (iv) The Executive is also requested to approve up to £250k from the Earmarked Insurance Reserve to cover the cost of storm damage to leisure centre roofs, as required.

## B - What other options did you consider and why did you reject them and/or opt for this option?

n/a

#### C - Why is this a decision for the Executive?

This matter is delegated to the Executive.

#### CH - Is this decision consistent with policy approved by the full Council?

Yes

#### D - Is this decision within the budget approved by the Council?

Yes

DD - Wh	o did you consult?	What did they say?					
1	Chief Executive / Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) (mandatory)	C/Ex approves of this report					
2	Finance / Section 151 (mandatory)	n/a – this is the Section 151 Officer's report					
3	Legal / Monitoring Officer (mandatory)	No Comment					
4	Human Resources (HR)						
5	Property						
6	Information Communication Technology (ICT)						
7	Scrutiny						
8	Local Members						
9	Any external bodies / other/s						
E - Risł	E - Risks and any mitigation (if relevant)						
1	Economic						
2	Anti-poverty						
3	Crime and Disorder						
4	Environmental						
5	Equalities						
6	Outcome Agreements						
7	Other						
F - Appendices:							
<ul> <li>Appendix A - Revenue Budget Monitoring Report – Quarter 3, 2015/16 (includes Annex A – table of forecast revenue outturn 2015/16)</li> </ul>							
FF - Background papers (please contact the author of the Report for any further information):							

• 2015/16 revenue budget (as recommended by this Committee on 16 February 2015 and adopted by the the County Council on 26 February 2015).

#### **REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING – QUARTER 3 2015/16**

#### 1. General Balance – Opening Position

**1.1** The provisional outturn for 2014/15 resulted in general balanaces at the start of the current financial year of £7.5m, a healthier position than previously expected.

# 2. Period to end of Quarter 3 (herein referred to as 'the period') – Financial Performance by Service

**2.1** The details of the financial performance by service for the period and the projected out-turn position for each is set out in Annex A. A net overspend of £410k on services is predicted at 31 March 2016. This is an improvement on the estimated outturn reported at Quarter 2 which predicted an overspend on the services of £980k. The table below summarises the significant variances (£100k or higher).

	(Under) / Overspend
	£000
Adult Social Care	221
Children's Social Care	476
Housing	(120)
Economy and Community	147
Highways and Transport	420
Planning and Public Protection	(444)
Waste Management	100
Corporate - Other Services	(248)
Resources – excluding benefits granted	135
Transformation	(122)
Resources – benefits granted	(338)
Whole Authority transformation target	300
,	(137)
Other (total of variances less than £100k)	
Net over/(under) spend on services	390

#### 3. Explanation of Significant Variances

#### 3.1 Lifelong Learning

#### 3.1.1 Central Education

**3.1.1.1** This service was underspent by £16k (less than 1%) at the end of quarter 3. The forecast for the year-end is an underspend of £62k (less than 1%). This is an improvement on the forecast at Quarter 2 where the service was predicted to overspend slightly by £7k. The improvement is due to an increase in the underspends on out-of-county placements and Youth Services. The forecast underspend is mainly as a result of a number of compensating minor over and underspends. Larger overspends include: an overspend of £126k on integration – secondary; £100k on Cynnal and £157k on school transport. Significant underspend of £100k on youth. The Head of Lifelong Learning will review the budgets for 2016/17 in consultation with the Portfolio Holder to realign the budgets as relevant between integration and out-of-county budgets.

## 3.1.2 Culture

**3.1.2.1** This service was £66k (6.3%) underspent during the period, with the forecast outturn for the year being an underspend of £2k. An improvement on the estimated overspend of £5k reported at Quarter 2. Museums and Galleries are expected to overspend by £50k which has reduced by £10k due to vacancy management. Library Services are expected to underspend by £50k which will offset the overspend in Galleries and Museums.

## 3.2 Communities

### 3.2.1 Adult Social Care

- **3.2.1.1** This service was £134k (0.88%) overspent for the period, with the forecast outturn for the year as a whole being a predicted overspend of £221k (1%). This is a signifcant improvement on the overspend of £505k reported during quarter 2. The improvement is the result of reduced estimated spend on Elderly Services. Remedial action through reducing costs in the provider unit has also contributed to the expected reduction in overspend.
- 3.2.1.2 The elements within the forecast outturn variance are as follows:-
  - Services for the Elderly: forecast overspend of £4k;
  - Physical Disabilities (PD): forecast underspend of £59k;
  - Learning Disabilities (LD): forecast overspend of £284k;
  - Mental Health (MH): forecast overspend of £214k;
  - > Provider Unit: forecast underspend of £146k; and
  - > Management and Support: forecast underspend of £76k.
- **3.2.1.3** The most significant budgetary pressures are in learning disabilities and mental health services.
- **3.2.1.4** Approximately 59% of the Service's budget is demand-led. Work is continuously on-going on predicting future costs of this demand-led budget. The year-end prediction at each month-end is based on the latest available information on each adult placement. Indeed, the circumstances can change from one week to the next. This makes predicting the year-end position extremely difficult and can result in large swings from one period to the next. Management of overall placement occurs through allocation panels which allow managers to consider in detail how placements are commissioned. This ensures not only a safe outcome for service users but also the most cost effective outcome for the Council. A specific review of LD Day Care is currently underway. An example of the cost pressures on the service is the 1.7% increase on fees for external residential placements for 2015/16, for which no additional budget has been provided. We estimate the impact of this alone to be £150k across the service for 2015/16.
- **3.2.1.5** In addition to reducing the costs in the provider unit, the service attempts to manage demand through close monitoring of placements at placement panels. The service aims to achieve the outcomes for service users at the most efficient service. However, attempts to restrict access to residential, nursing, domiciliary or day care for those who need it would place the department in breach of its statutory duties. The Service uses vacancy management where possible to reduce overspends.

## 3.2.2 Children's Services

- **3.2.2.1** The service was overspent by £249k (5.1%) during the period and is projected to be overspent by £476k (7.1%) for the year as a whole. This includes a projected overspend of £597k for Looked-after-Children. Additional high cost specialist placements, including out-of-county placements, are increasing the pressure on the looked-after-children's budget. The commissioning and social work budget is also now expected to overspend by £93k due to the costs of agency staff to cover essential posts. The service has reduced costs against more controllable budgets to reduce the overall overspend as much as possible.
- **3.2.2.2** SLT has considered a report by the Head of Children's Services about the budgetary impact of the demand for specialist social care placements and is requesting that the Executive release additional funding from general balances to fund the additional costs.

## 3.2.3 Housing (Council Fund)

- **3.2.3.1** This service was underspent by £157k (10.4%) during the period. An underspend of £120k (12%) is estimated by the end of the financial year. This is an improvement on the underspend of £50k predicted during Quarter 2. The underspend is due to welfare reform and debt advice projects starting later than anticipated.
- **3.2.3.2** The service has looked at mitigating this underspend which, while positive for the Council's overall financial position, has caused delays in the implementation of key welfare reform projects. There is no scope to progress the projects further before the end of the financial year.

#### 3.3 Sustainable Development

#### 3.3.1 Economic and Community (includes Maritime and Leisure)

- **3.3.1.1** The Service overall was overspent by £95k at the end of quarter 3 (4.3%). The service is projected to be overspent by £147k (3.67%) by 31 March 2016. This is lower than the overspend of £151k predicted at Quarter 2.
- **3.3.1.2** Economic is estimated to underspend by £7k by year-end. Economic was estimated to achieve a balanced budget during Quarter 2. The most signifant budget pressure for Economic is an under-achievement of income targets of £56k due to termination of grant funding and capacity issues within the fee earning Graphic team. However, underspends on employees, tourism, supplies and services will fund the shortfall income.
- **3.3.1.3** Maritime is expected to underspend by £1k which is an improvement on the overspend of £40k reported during Quarter 2. This is due to Amlwch Port raising higher than expected income, which will offset the poor marine oil sales expected at Holyhead Port.

- **3.3.1.4** Leisure is predicted to overspend by £155k. This is a worsened position from the overspend of £111k reported during quarter 2. Since quarter 2 there has been additional pressures on leisure services due to reduced income during the temporary closure of Holyhead Leisure Centre due to storm damage. Leisure centres are expected to under-achieve on their income budgets and incur other minor overspends by an estimated £45k. In addition, overspends are expected as follows, similar to those reported last quarter: Parks and outdoor facilities £69k due to unachieved efficiency savings; the golf course will overspend by £37k due to unrealistic income targets. This will not continue beyond July 2015 as the Golf Course has been transferred to the Llangefni Partnership. A small overspend of £4k is expected on Sports Development due to a severance payment.
- **3.3.1.5** In addition to the impact of the storm damage on income generation which is shown in the above overspend, there is an estimated £250k of works required to repair the leisure centre roofs following the severe storms. The Executive is, therefore, asked to approve a transfer from the Insurance Earmarked Reserve to fund up to £250k for the storm damage repairs to leisure centre roofs.

## 3.3.2 Highways

- **3.3.2.1** This service was £414k (6.1%) underspent during the period and is projected to be £420k (4.5%) overspent by the year-end. This is a worsened position on the £160k overspend reported during Quarter 2.
- **3.3.2.2** The overspend is largely due to significant costs incurred as a result of the exceptional storms and flooding. Welsh Government have provided significant grant funding (£472k) towards the flood damage repairs. However, this does not cover all of the storm damage costs and the impact of the floods will cost the Council an estimated £350k. The Executive is requested to approve a transfer from the Insurance Earmarked Reserve up to £350k to cover the cost of storm damage repairs.
- **3.3.2.3** If the storms had not caused the extensive damage the service would have been reporting an improved position due to an improvement from £30k overspend to an underspend of £20k in Development Control. An overspend in Maintenance Management (£40k) and an under-achievement on car park income (£50k) are the other main budgetary pressures on the service.

## 3.3.3 Planning and Public Protection

- **3.3.3.1** This service was £200k underspent (11.4%) during the period and is projected to be £444k (15.49%) underspent by the year-end. This is an improvement on the underspend of £395k reported at Quarter 2. This improvement is largely ue to an increased underspend of £40k on major developments.
- **3.3.3.2** Most of the budgets within Planning are underspending with the exception of Planning Delivery Wales, which is expected to overspend by £29k and PEG, which is forecast to overspend by £35k. Countryside and Coast are also expecting to overspend by £20k. Slippage on the Local Development Plan (LDP) has meant that there will be an underspend of £258k on the LDP for 2015/16.

**3.3.3.3** There are a number of more minor compensating under and overspends within Public Protection. A predicted overspend of £34k is expected on licensing which is offset by underspends of £23k in Registrars and £8k in Markets.

# 3.3.4 Property

**3.3.4.1** This service was £165k (15.61%) underspent during the period and is projected to be underspent by £74k (12.09%) for the year as a whole. This is an improvement on the predicted underspend of £54k reported during Quarter 2. The most significant expected overspend is £60k in emergency and planned maintenance works. This will be offset by a number of minor underspends and an underspend of £83k is expected against employee budgets due to vacancy management. The service mitigates its overspends by funding these from underspending areas.

# 3.3.5 Waste Management

**3.3.5.1** This service was £142k (2.6%) overspent by the end of the period, with a projected overspend of £100k (1.4%) for the year as a whole. This is an improvement on the forecast overspend of £300k reported at Quarter 2. The improved position is due to confirmation of eligible grant funding from Welsh Government. Penhesgyn Transfer Station remains a budgetary pressure with an overspend of £200k expected. £100k of this will be offset by an estimated underspend in Waste Disposal.

# 3.4 Deputy Chief Executive

# 3.4.1 Corporate - Other Services

**3.4.1.1** This budget was £323k (26.54%) underspent during the period, with a projected underspend of £248k (9.23%) for the year as a whole. This is an improvement on the underspend of £193k reported at Quarter 2. The main reason for the underspend is due to an accounting transfer for an amount of £262k from the balance sheet to revenue relating to a prior-year over-provision. This is a one-off windfall for 2015/16 only, without this the service would have been slightly overspent.

## 3.4.2 Corporate & Democratic

**3.4.2.1** This budget area was £14k (2%) overspent during the period, with an overspend of £15k (less than 1%) projected for the year as a whole. An overspend of £2k was predicted during quarter 2. This worsened position is due to an estimated overspend of £6k on Members and £7k of unbudgeted legal fees.

## 3.4.3 Deputy Chief Executive's Office

**3.4.3.1** The budget was overspent by £46k (6.79%) during the period and is projected to be £84k (115%) overspent by the year-end. This now includes the cost of the interim Head of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer as this role is part of the SLT structure. In addition, the Sycle system (CAMMS invoices) is expected to put pressure on this budget due to £33k of unbudgeted costs. The Sycle System is a performance management system for which there is no budget to offset the costs against. This system is in the process of being decommissioned but costs up to January 2016 will affect 2015/16. There is also £38k of savings target against this budget area but which relate to the wider Authority. This target was set in 2013/14 as a general target against this budget which is unlikely to be achieved.

## 3.4.4 Resources – Excluding Benefits Granted

**3.4.4.1** The service was overspent by £105k (4.72%) at the end of the period, with a forecast overspend of £135k (16.92%) for the year as a whole. This is an improved position from the overspend estimated at quarter 2 of £197k. Budgetary pressures include more significant overspends of £54k on accounting staff, including agency; overspends on bank charges of £25k and saving to be found against tendering exercise. The more significant underspends include £30k savings on procurement staffing and £29k of windfall grants.

# 3.4.5 Resources - Benefits Granted

**3.4.5.1** The forecast outturn is an underspend of £338k (5.71%) which is a significant improvement on the overspend of £50k reported at Quarter 2. This forecast includes an underspend on the Council Tax Reduction Scheme of £550k. The forecast on the Council Tax Reduction Scheme was not available during quarter 2 due to the uncertain nature of the expenditure, therefore, the actual was estimated to be in line with the budget. The forecast also includes the £50k of irrecoverable costs from the DWP which was included in quarter 2. A provision for bad debt on overpaid benefits of £162k is also included within this forecast.

# 3.4.6 Human Resources

**3.4.6.1** This section was overspent by £302k (37.84%) in the period but is forecast to be £21k underspent for the year as a whole. This is a slight reduction from the underspend of £30k reported at Quarter 2. £281k of the period's overspend relates to Job Evaluation, for which funding has been requested from reserves. The underspend is due to remedial action through vacancy management.

# 3.4.7 ICT

**3.4.7.1** This function was overspent by £107k (8.73%) during the period and is forecast to overspend by £14k at year-end. The function had previously reported a predicted balanced budget at quarter 2. The estimated overspend is due to £14k unachievable recharge income. This is due to a budgetary anomaly which was created during the budget setting for Anglesey Connected. This will need to be reviewed for budget setting 2016/17.

# 3.4.8 Legal & Committees

**3.4.8.1** This service was underspent by £45k (4.22%) during the period and is forecast to be £61k (44.53%) underspent by the year-end. An overspend of £37k was reported for Quarter 2. The main reason for the improvement is central funding for £47k of land litigation costs relating to 2014/15 which should have been provided for last year. There are also minor underspends on most of the Function's main budget areas.

# 3.4.9 Transformation

**3.4.9.1** This section underspent by £116k (25.33%) during the period and is forecast to be £122k (18.02%) underspent for the year as a whole. This underspend is due to delays in recruiting to key posts within the team. This is a significant reduction on the predicted overspend of £170k reported for Quarter 2. This is due to the removal of the £300k smarter working saving target from this budget to a central budget (under Corporate Finance) as the smarter working projects relate to services across the whole Council not just the transformation team.

# 3.4.10 Audit

**3.4.10.1** This section underspent by £31k (15.66%) during the period and is forecast to underspend by £30k at 31 March 2016 due to savings from restructuring. This is an improvement on Quarter 2 where an underspent of £20k was predicted.

# 3.4.11 Corporate Finance

3.4.11.1 This budget header contains a number of areas such as investment income, financing costs and contingencies. Work is underway to analyse these budgets. It is hoped that there will be an underspend in this area as the Council has used internal borrowing (i.e. use of cash reserves rather than external borrowing). Once the underspend can be quantified, this will be reported. The contingencies budgets, which amounted to £2.124m at the start of the year, are expected to be on budget for the year as a whole. In addition, this budget now includes the £300k Smarter Working target which is unlikely to be achieved against this budget heading. However, there have been smarter working savings but these have been credited to services and are reflected in the outturn for 2015/16.

# 3.5 Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

**3.5.1** The HRA is expecting to underspend by £500k due to delays in the full implementation of the Housing Management Unit (HMU) restructure. This was due to be funded from the HRA contingency budget which is not required at this stage. The surplus will remain in the HRA to continue the HMU restructure and to contribute to reducing debt. Significant savings in sub-contractor costs have also contributed to this underspend.

# 4. Conclusion

- **4.1** The net revenue expenditure incurred by the Authority to the end of December 2015 and the forecast financial position of each service has been outlined above and included in Annex A. An estimated overspend of £0.390m on services is predicted at this stage. This may change in the future due to events, service demands and information which may impact on the forecast. This predicted outturn position is an improvement on that reported at Quarter 2 where an overspend of £0.980m was estimated.
- **4.2** The report highlights that the most significant estimated overspends are in Adults Social Care (£221k); Children's Social Care (£476k); Economic, Community and Leisure (£147k); Highways and Transport (£420k); Waste (£100k); Resources (£135k) and Corporate Finance which includes the £300K unlikely to be achieved Smarter Working target. The reasons for these estimated overspends are explained above. SLT is monitoring the outturn position regularly and is proactively encouraging services to take remedial action to reduce overspends.

**4.3** The Executive is asked to approve the transfer of £476k from the Council's General Reserves to fund the overspend on Children's Services due to the significant demand on the Looked-after-Children budget. If this is approved, outturn would improve by this amount and Council general reserves would reduce from £7.5m to approximately £7m. In addition the Executive is asked to a transfer the following from Earmarked Insurance Reserves: up to £350k as required for highways flood damage and, in the future, £250k for repairs following storm damage to leisure centre roofs. In addition the impact of Council Tax collection has been included in the forecast with an overspend of £60k due to the net impact of the provision for bad debt on Council Tax collection. If theExecutive approves the movement from reserves and incorporating the impact of Council Tax collection, the estimated outturn for the Council for 2015/16 would lead to an estimated underspend of £376k.

Service/Function	Annual Budget	Q3 Budget	Q3 Actual & Committed spend	Q3 Variance	Q3 Estimated Expenditure to 31 March 2016	Q3 Estimated Outturn 31 March 2016	Q2 Estimated Outturn 31 March 2016
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£,000	£'000	£,000
Lifelan a Leannin a							
Lifelong Learning	10 77 1						
Delegated Schools Budget	43,771	33,100	33,100	-	43,771	-	-
Central Education	8,122	2,897	2,881	(16)	8,060	(62)	7
Culture	1,728	1,053	986	(66)	1,726	(2)	5
Communities							
Adult Services	21,946	15,308	15,442	134	22,167	221	505
Children's Services	6,673	4,879	5,128	249	7,149	476	104
Housing	994	1,508	1,352	(157)	874	(120)	(50)
5		1,000	1,002	(107)	0/4	(120)	(00)
Sustainable Development							
Economic and Community (Inc. Maritime and Leisure Services)							
	4,009	2,220	2,315	95	4,156	147	151
Highways & Transport	9,234	6,769	6,355	(414)	9,654	420	160
Planning & Public Protection	2,867	1,749	1,548	(200)	2,423	(444)	(395)
Property	612	1,057	892	(165)	538	(74)	(54)
Rechargeable Works	-	211	125	(86)	-	-	-
Directorate Management	78	64	56	(8)	78	-	-
Waste	7,067	5,530	5,673	142	7,167	100	300
Deputy Chief Executive							
Corporate - Other Services	2,687	1,217	895	(323)	2,439	(248)	(193)
Corporate and Democratic Costs	2,233	674	688	14	2,248	15	2
Deputy Chief Executive's Office	73	677	723	46	157	84	34
Resources - Excluding Benefits Granted	798	2,226	2,331	105	933	135	197
Resources - Benefits Granted	5,918	5,989	6,022	34	5,580	(338)	50
Human Resources	199	798	1,100	302	178	(21)	(30)

Service/Function	Annual Budget	Q3 Budget	Q3 Actual & Committed spend	Q3 Variance	Q3 Estimated Expenditure to 31 march 2016	Q3 Estimated Outturn 31 March 2016	Q2 Estimated Outturn 31 March 2016
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£,000	£'000	£,000
ICT	(6)	1,225	1,332	107	8	14	-
Legal and Committees	137	1,064	1,019	(45)	76	(61)	37
Transformation	677	458	342	(116)	555	(122)	170
Audit	-	198	166	(31)	(30)	(30)	(20)
Corporate Finance	4,827	2,073	2,073	-	5,127	300	-
Total Council Fund	124,646	92,942	92,544	(398)	125,036	390	980
Movement from reserves for demand-led looked after children budget						(476)	-
Net impact of council tax collection						60	-
Transfer from the Insurance Earmarked Reserve to fund highways flooding and storm damage						(350)	
Total Council Fund 2015/16 after movement from Council balances and net impact of council tax collection	124,646	92,942	92,544	(398)	124,270	(376)	980
FUNDED BY							
NNDR	21,986						
Council Tax	30,955						
Outcome Agreement Grant	725						
Revenue Support Grant	70,980						
	124,646						