DECISION-MAKER: CABINET

SUBJECT: 3RD QUARTER FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE

MONITORING FOR 2009/10

DATE OF DECISION: 15 FEBRUARY 2010

REPORT OF: ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (STRATEGY) AND THE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

None.

SUMMARY

This report summarises the General Fund revenue financial position for the Authority for the nine months to the end of December 2009 and highlights any key issues by Portfolio which need to be brought to Members' attention. In addition, it provides an analysis compiled on an exceptions basis, at the end of December 2009 (Quarter 3), against the targets and commitments contained within the 2009/10 Corporate Improvement Plan.

It therefore only highlights areas of under performance at the end of December 2009 (Quarter 3) against the key performance measures set out in the Corporate Improvement Plan (CIP) or where the Chief Financial Officer considers that there are key financial issues which need to be highlighted to Members. The key variances in financial and performance information are presented alongside each other to underline the pivotal relationship between expenditure and service delivery and to highlight to Members any areas of concern where further action may be required.

Full copies of the detailed financial and performance monitoring information for each Portfolio are available in Members' Rooms or are available on request from the report authors.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (i) Note the current General Fund revenue budget monitoring position for 2009/10 as at Month 9 (December), which is a forecast under spend at year end of £288,200 against the budget approved by Council on 18th February 2009 as detailed in Appendix 1.
- (ii) Note that this includes an assumed increase in the budget for highway maintenance in 2009/10 by £500,000 in order to help address the deterioration in the road network following the severe weather conditions experienced in the early part of the year. Due to the virement limits, a maximum of £250,000 will initially be approved by Cabinet on 1st February, with a recommendation to Full Council on 17th February to approve a further £250,000 for this purpose. Any funds not utilised in the current year will be carried forward into 2010/11.
- (iii) Note that the baseline forecast over spend for Portfolios is £3,726,000.

- (iv) Note that the Risk Fund totals just under £4.3M, and that the estimated draw at Month 9 is £3,520,700 to cover expenditure which is included within the baseline forecast portfolio over spend of £3,726,000. At this stage of the year, it has been prudently assumed that a further draw of £350,000 may be required in 2009/10 which will result in an overall forecast favourable variance on the Risk Fund of £393,500.
- (v) Note that the Revenue Development Fund now totals £2.4M following the allocation of a further £447,400 so far in 2009/10 to Portfolios and £200,000 to increase the Contingency. At this stage of the year it has been prudently assumed that the remainder of the Fund will be fully utilised.
- (vi) Note that £25,000 of the contingency will be used to replace the windows at the Cobbett Road library as outlined in paragraph 16.
- (vii) Note that it has been assumed that the contingency of £250,000 will be fully utilised by the end of 2009/10.
- (viii) Note the forecast includes an approved carry forward for Central Repairs & Maintenance as agreed by Full Council.
- (ix) Note the addition of £1.5M to the Interest Equalisation Reserve from the savings achieved as a result of debt restructuring as approved by Council on 18th February 2009.
- (x) Note the performance to date with regard to the delivery of the agreed savings proposals approved for 2009/10 and detailed in Appendix 3.
- (xi) Note the performance against the financial health indicators detailed in Appendix 4.
- (xii) Note the performance outlined in the Quarterly Treasury Management Report attached as Appendix 5.
- (xiii) Note that 77% of the Performance Indicators that are the responsibility of the council compared to 69% at the end of September 2009 and 86% of the Commitments set out in the 2009/10 Corporate Improvement Plan are reported to be on target at the end of December 2009, maintaining the performance at the end of September 2009.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. To ensure that responsibilities for the overall financial management of the Council's resources are appropriately fulfilled.
- 2. This report also provides an opportunity for Cabinet to collectively review the 3rd quarter performance results for all improvement measures contained within the 2009/10 Corporate Improvement Plan and to initiate further action where required.

CONSULTATION

3. The Chief Officers' Management Team considered the 3rd quarter's budget and performance monitoring information outlined in this report at its meeting on 26th January 2010. Heads of Service and Budget Holders and Executive Directors have been consulted in preparing the reasons for variations contained in the financial appendices. Discussions have also taken place with service managers and Heads of Service through Directorate Management Teams. In addition the financial and performance monitoring information for each Portfolio which is summarised in this report will be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

4. No alternative options are relevant as the Chief Financial Officer has a statutory duty to report financial monitoring to Cabinet.

DETAIL

Overall Financial Summary

5. Appendix 1 sets out a high level financial summary for the General Fund, and shows that the overall forecast outturn position for the Council is an under spend of £288,200, as shown below:

	Forecast Outturn Variance £000's	Forecast Outturn Variance %
Baseline Portfolio Total	3,726.0 A	2.2 A
Draw From Risk Fund	3,520.7 F	
Portfolio Total	205.3 A	0.1 A
Other General Fund Expenditure	2,250.0 F	
Risk Fund	393.5 F	
Approved Carry Forwards	150.0 A	
Contrib'n to Interest Equalisation Reserve	1,500.0 A	
Highways Maintenance	500.0 A	
Net Total General Fund	288.2 F	0.2 F

The above forecast includes an assumed increase in the budget for highway maintenance in 2009/10 by £500,000 in order to help address the deterioration in the road network following the severe weather conditions experienced in the early part of the year. Due to the virement limits, a maximum of £250,000 can initially be approved by Cabinet on 1st February, with a recommendation to Full Council on 17th February to approve a further £250,000 for this purpose. Any funds not utilised in the current year will be carried forward into 2010/11.

6. As shown in the above table, the forecast portfolio revenue outturn on net controllable spend for the end of the year compared to the working budget is an over spend of £205,300 and this is analysed below:

Portfolio	Baseline Forecast Outturn	Remedial Portfolio Action	Risk Fund Items	Forecast Outturn Variance	
	Variance £000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	%
Adult Social Care & Health	984.6 A	0.0	150.0 F	834.6 A	1.7
Children's Services	1,951.1 A	0.0	1,341.8 F	609.3 A	2.4
Economic Development	6.1 F	0.0	0.0	6.1 F	0.2
Environment & Transport	1,432.6 A	0.0	1,874.7 F	442.1 F	1.8
Housing & Local Services	60.8 F	0.0	0.0	60.8 F	0.5
Leader's Portfolio	21.1 F	0.0	0.0	21.1 F	0.4
Leisure Culture & Heritage	9.5 A	0.0	0.0	9.5 A	0.1
Resources & Workforce Planning	313.8 F	0.0	154.2 F	468.0 F	1.3
Young People & Skills	250.0 F	0.0	0.0	250 0 F	6.1
Portfolio Total	3,726.0 A	0.0	3,520.7 F	205.3 A	0.1

The key issues affecting each Portfolio are shown in paragraph 26, with further detail provided in Appendix 2.

Remedial Portfolio Action

7. At Month 6 Children's Services Portfolio and the Young People & Skills Portfolio, identified remedial action to the value of £972,300 which is now reflected in the Portfolio position. Other Portfolios have highlighted further remedial action to manage a number of the corporate issues and the financial impact of this is included in the above forecast position.

Other General Fund Expenditure

- 8. The favourable variance of £2.25M (before a contribution of £1.5M is made to the Interest Equalisation Reserve) relates to two items:
 - Net Housing Benefit Payments (£750,000) This is due to the increased income achieved from the improved recovery rate on overpayments.
 - <u>Capital Financing Charges (£1.5M)</u> This is due to a reduction in net interest payable achieved through the debt restructuring undertaken at the end of January 2009 and outlined in the Annual Treasury Management Strategy report approved by Council on 18th February 2009.

Risk Fund

- 9. As last year, potential pressures that may arise during 2009/10 relating to volatile areas of expenditure and income, are being managed through the Risk Fund. A sum of £3,066,000 was initially included in the budget to cover these pressures and will be taken into account during the year as evidence is provided to substantiate the additional expenditure against the specific items identified.
- 10. Since the initial budget was set a further £1.2M has been added to the Risk Fund, (see paragraph 11 below), bringing the total amount available up to just under £4.3M.
- 11. Employee budgets initially included an allowance for the pay award of 2.25% over and above the 2008/09 award. However, the pay award for 2009/10 has been agreed at an average of 1.05%. The over provision, which totals £1.2M, has been removed from Portfolio budgets and transferred to the Risk Fund. This will enable accurate salary monitoring to be undertaken for the remainder of the year whilst also recognising the risks inherent due to the economic climate.
- 12. At Month 9, it is estimated that pressures within portfolios will require the allocation of £3,520,700 from the Risk Fund (as shown in the table below) leaving a balance of £743,500:

Portfolio	Service Activity	£000's
Adult Social Care & Health	Learning Disability Services	150.0
Children's Services	Multi Agency Resource Panel and Out of City	1,341.8
Environment & Transport	Income impacted by the economic climate – Off Street Car Parking	1,010.7
Environment & Transport	Income impacted by the economic climate - Development Control	397.0
Environment & Transport	Income impacted by the economic climate – Bus Shelter Contract	350.0
Environment & Transport	Bereavement Services	117.0
Resources & Workforce Planning	Income impacted by the economic climate – Sponsorship Income	154.2
Portfolio Draw From Risk Fund		3,520.7

13. At this stage of the year, it has been assumed that a further draw of £350,000 may be required in 2009/10 which will result in an overall forecast favourable variance on

the Risk Fund of £393,500.

Revenue Development Fund

- 14. The majority of the revenue developments are complex strategic projects around which there are uncertainties in relation to timing and speed of progress. Consequently, it was agreed that funding for revenue developments be placed into a Revenue Development Fund to enable the Council to retain flexibility in funding. Further, it was agreed that approval to release this funding, making adjustments between schemes and in the timing as required, be delegated to the Executive Director of Resources following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources and Workforce Planning.
- 15. The Revenue Development Fund, which originally stood at £4,042,000, now totals £2,433,000 following the allocation of a further £447,400 so far in 2009/10 to Portfolios and £200,000 to increase the Contingency. The funding allocated is shown below:

Portfolio	Service Activity	£000's
Children's Services	Safeguarding Children	191.5
Environment & Transport Street Lighting PFI		255.9
Funding Allocated From the Revenue Development Fund		447.4

It has been assumed that the Fund will be fully utilised.

Contingency

16. The contingency was originally set at £250,000 and of this £200,000 has been allocated to fund approved expenditure as at Month 9. In the light of the economic climate an increase of £200,000 was approved to bring the contingency back up to £250,000, funded from the Revenue Development Fund It is proposed to use £25,000 of the contingency to replace the windows at the

Cobbett Road library. However, this has no impact on the overall financial forecast for the year as it has been assumed that the contingency of £250,000 will be fully utilised by the end of 2009/10.

Approved Carry Forward Requests

17. Currently there is a forecast under spend of £150,000 on Central Repairs and Maintenance. Full Council has agreed to automatically carry forward any surplus/deficit at year-end subject to the overall financial position of the Authority. Furthermore, Cabinet has approved the delegation of authority to the Executive Director of Resources following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources and Workforce Planning to allocate premises related resources (revenue and capital) in order to maximise the efficient use of resources in respect of general repairs and maintenance, major works to civic buildings and the implementation of the accommodation strategy.

Potential Carry Forward Requests

18. Portfolios have highlighted only three potential carry forward requests that may be submitted for approval as part of the outturn process. The carry forward totals £95,000 and are shown below:

Portfolio	Item	£000's
Economic Development	Safer &Stronger Communities Fund grant	15.0
Economic Development	Regeneration & Renewal – Jobs Fund	25.0
Housing & Local Services	Trees, Allotments & Park Improvements – Invest to Save Funding	55.0
Total Potential Carry Forward Requests		95.0

These requests are not reflected in the current forecast outturn.

Interest Equalisation Reserve

- 19. A major debt restructuring exercise was undertaken earlier in the year in order to take advantage of market conditions and it is currently forecast that this will produce net revenue savings of £1.5M in 2009/10. In achieving this, the Council has exposed itself to short term variable interest rate risk and whilst in the current climate of low interest rates this is obviously a sound strategy, at some point when the market starts to move the Council will need to act quickly to lock into fixed long term rates which may be at similar levels to the debt it has restructured. Furthermore, the volatility in the financial markets means that interest costs and investment income will continue to fluctuate for some time.
- 20. It was therefore recommended that an Interest Equalisation Reserve be created from the savings arising from the debt restructure to help to manage volatility in the future and ensure that there is minimal impact on annual budget decisions. Consequently, the £1.5M forecast saving on net interest paid will be added to the Interest Equalisation Reserve.

Forecast Employee Expenditure

21. Included within the baseline forecast portfolio over spend of £3,726,000, is a forecast over spend on employees of £948,700. The position by portfolio is as follows:

Portfolio - Employee Costs	Variance to December £000's	Forecast Outturn Variance £000's	Forecast Outturn Variance %
Adult Social Care & Health	255.4 A	303.4 A	1.3 A
Children's Services	128.6 A	477.0 A	1.6 A
Economic Development	75.2 A	14.6 A	0.3 A
Environment & Transport	82.9 F	62.2 A	0.4 A
Housing & Local Services	231.4 F	237.5 F	2.3 F
Leader's Portfolio	98.5 F	27.0 A	0.5 A
Leisure Culture & Heritage	38.9 A	3.5 F	0.0
Resources & Workforce Planning	155.3 A	183.9 A	1.3 A
Young People & Skills	4.6 F	121.6 A	2.4 F
Total General Fund	236.0 A	948.7 A	0.7 A

- 22. Historically the forecast in year presents a prudent picture and the final position at outturn is generally more favourable. However, it is recognised that the economic situation this year will impact on turnover and consequently on the ability of services to achieve what are in some areas not inconsiderable vacancy management factors.
- 23. As outlined in paragraph 11, employee budgets initially included an allowance for the pay award of 2.25% over and above the 2008/09 award. The pay award for 2009/10 has been agreed at an average of 1.05% and the over provision, which totals £1.2M, has been removed from Portfolio budgets and transferred to the Risk Fund. This will enable accurate salary monitoring to be undertaken for the remainder of the year whilst also recognising the risks inherent due to the economic climate.
- 24. Taking these factors into account, would indicate that a more realistic forecast for 2009/10 would result in an overall under spend at the end of the year as the call on the Risk Fund will not require the allocation of the full £1.2M.

Key Portfolio Issues

- 25. The corporate issues for each portfolio are detailed in Appendix 2. It is good practice to recognise that any forecast is based on assumptions about key variables and to undertake an assessment of the risk surrounding these assumptions. Having done this a forecast range has been produced for each corporate and key issue, where applicable, which represents the pessimistic and optimistic forecast outturn position. The variances detailed in Appendix 2 represent the realistic forecast of the year end position.
- 26. There are, however, certain corporate issues which are highlighted in the tables below as being the most significant for Cabinet to note. The adverse variances are noted in the first table, with any significant favourable variances detailed in the second table:

Corporate Adverse Variances

Portfolio	Corporate Issue	Adverse Forecast £000's
Adult Social Care & Health	Learning Disabilities	966.4
Adult Social Care & Health	In House Care Services	148.4
Children's Services	Multi Agency Resource Panel (MARP)	1341.8
Children's Services	Children in Care	586.9
Children's Services	Children in Need	433.4
Children's Services	Safeguarding	173.0
Environment & Transport	Off Street Parking	1010.7
Environment & Transport	Development Control	516.3
Environment & Transport	Public Transport	328.7

Corporate Favourable Variances

Portfolio	Corporate Issue	Favourable Forecast £000's
Adult Social Care & Health	Adult Disability Care Services	9.5
Children's Services	Inclusion Support Services	447.4
Environment & Transport	Waste Disposal	593.0
Environment & Transport	Waste Collection	276.5
Resources & Workforce Planning	Property Portfolio Management	348.5
Young People & Skills	Young People & Community Support	250.0

Implementation of Savings Proposals

27. Savings proposals of £11.3M were approved by Council in February 2009 as part of the overall budget package for 2009/10. The delivery of these savings is key to the financial position of the authority and below is a summary of the progress as at the end of the third quarter:

Portfolio	Implemented and Saving Achieved %	Not Yet Fully Implemented and Achieved But Broadly on Track %	Not on Track to be Implemented %
Adult Social Care & Health	96.6	3.4	0.0
Children's Services	78.4	1.1	20.5
Economic Development	86.5	1.0	12.5
Environment & Transport	56.3	5.6	38.0
Housing & Local Services	77.7	22.3	0.0
Leader's Portfolio	100.0	0.0	0.0
Leisure Culture & Heritage	55.2	36.7	8.1
Resources & Workforce Planning	94.4	0.0	5.6
Young People & Skills	100.0	0.0	0.0
Total General Fund	81.2	5.5	13.3

- 28. The overall shortfall in the delivery of the savings proposals is currently forecast as £1,067,000 or 9.5% as for some of the proposals, whilst the saving may not be on track to be fully implemented, progress has been made towards delivery of the financial outcomes.
- 29. The progress made in implementing and delivering the savings proposals has been reviewed by the Chief Officers Management Team and Appendix 3 contains full details. The financial implications of the delivery of these proposals are reflected in the current forecast position and areas of ongoing concern have been fully reviewed and appropriate action plans put into place. In addition, any implications for the budget for 2010/11 and future years will be addressed.

Financial Health Indicators

30. In order to make an overall assessment of the financial performance of the authority it is necessary to look beyond pure financial monitoring and take account of the progress against defined indicators of financial health. Appendix 4 outlines the performance to date and in some cases the forecast, against a range of financial indicators which will help to highlight any potential areas of concern where further action may be required.

Quarterly Treasury Management Report

31. The Council approved a number of indicators at its meeting of the 18th February 2009. Following the September update of the Capital Programme and an analysis of Treasury Management activity during 2008/09 and between April and December 2009 these have been reviewed for 2009/10 as detailed in Appendix 5 and are reported in accordance with best practice contained in the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA's) code of practice on Treasury Management and in line with the approved Treasury Management Strategy.

OVERALL OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE

- 32. The 2009/10 Corporate Improvement Plan (CIP) contains the agreed targets for all Performance Indicators (PIs) which the council is currently responsible for. It also includes a number of service improvement actions (commitments) which are due to be completed by the end of the financial year.
- 33. It should be noted that to ensure a consistent means of determining good and poor performance, the same assessment criteria have been applied as in previous monitoring reports. An indicator is therefore deemed to be:
 - "On Target" (Green) if performance is within 5% of the agreed target
 - Have a slight variance (Amber) if the variance is between 5 and 15%
 - Have a significant variance (Red) if the reported variance is more than 15% from the agreed target.

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- 34. At the end of December 2009 (Quarter 3) progress against the targets and commitments contained within the 2009/10 Corporate Improvement Plan shows that:
 - 77% of all of the Performance Indicators (PIs) included within the CIP that
 are the responsibility of the council were reported to be on target, which is an
 improvement compared to 69% at the end of September 2009 and 47% at
 the end of December 2008.
 - 86% of commitments to be progressed by the council are reported to be on track for completion by the year end, maintaining the results achieved at the end of September 2009, which is a slight decrease compared to 89% at the end of December 2008.
 - 71% of all the Performance Indicators included within the CIP were reported to be on target which is an improvement compared to 61% at the end of September 2009 and 65% at the end of December 2008.
- 35. Overall, performance reporting information for the 3rd quarter shows an increase in the number of indicators which are reported to be on target from 170 at the end of September to 192 at the end of December 2009.
- 36. The following table provides an overview of progress at the end of December 2009 for all of the council's performance indicators included within the 2009/10 Corporate Improvement Plan.

Portfolio	Total number of Indicators	Total Monitored 3 rd Qtr	No. On target (Green)	No. Variance (Amber)	No. Significant Variance (Red)	Data Unavailable	Not Reported	No Target Set
Adult Social Care & Health	40	23	12	4	7	-	-	-
Children's Services	81	79	52	12	15	-	-	-
Economic Development	27	25	25	-	-	-	-	-
Environment & Transport	62	43	38	5	-	-		
Housing & Local Services	46	37	32	5	-	-	-	-
Leader's	2	2	2	-	-	-	-	-
Leisure, Culture & Heritage	4	4	3	1	-	-	-	-
Resources & Workforce Planning	20	20	17	2	1	-	-	-
Young People & Skills	16	16	11	2	3	-	-	-
3 rd Qtr Totals	298	249	192	31	26	0	0	0
%		100%	77%	13%	10%	0%	0%	0%
2 nd Qtr Totals		247	170	24	29	8	15	1
%		100%	69%	10%	11.5%	3%	6%	0.5%
1st Qtr Totals		203	158	5	18	15	2	5
%		100%	78%	2%	9%	7%	1%	2%

- 37. At the end of the third quarter there are 26 indicators (10%) showing a significant variance from their target by the end of December 2009. This shows an improvement compared to the end of September 2009 when 29 indicators were showing a significant variance. Appendix 2 provides details on the actions being taken to address these variances. These indicators are detailed later in this report and include 15 National Indicators (13 within the Children's Services and Learning Portfolio and 2 in Adult Social Care and Health Portfolio). Within the Adult Social Care and Health Portfolio self directed support for older people and carers and completion of assessments. Within the Children's Services Portfolio these relate to:
 - · school exclusions
 - care leavers in suitable accommodation
 - former care leavers in education
 - employment or training
 - initial and core assessments within safeguarding
 - educational attainment
 - · schools in special measures
- 38. In addition, 5 LAA Stretch Target Indicators for which the council is the lead partner have been flagged as having significant (red) variances at the end of the 3rd quarter of 2009/10. They relate to key stage 2 in English, Warm Front, NEETs, Pension Credit Beneficiaries and Community Cohesion.
- 39. At the end of the 2nd quarter, there was only 1 Performance Indicator where a target had not been set (NI 54 Services for disabled children). This new National Indicator is calculated from an annual survey carried out nationally and the data was published by the Department for Children, Schools and Families in December 2009. It has been reported in the 3rd quarter and a baseline and target has now been set for this indicator.

Commitments

- 40. There are also 185 commitments contained within the Corporate Improvement Plan designed to improve the quality, performance and reach of council services by the end of the financial year. Progress reported against these items at the end of December 2009 indicates that 86% are on target for completion by the year end, same as in the 2nd quarter. Four commitments are reported to be off target and are therefore unlikely to be complete by the end of March 2010. These commitments fall within the Adult Social Care and Health Portfolio, Children Services Portfolio, Environment and Transport Portfolio and Housing and Local Services Portfolio and are detailed later in this report.
- 41. The following table below provides an overview of progress at the end of December 2009 for the commitments included within the 2009/10 Corporate Improvement Plan.

Commitments

Portfolio	Total	No. on target	No. Slippage	No. Off target
Adult Social Care & Health	8	7	0	1
Children's Services	43	33	9	1
Economic Development	17	16	1	0
Environment and Transport	40	35	4	1
Housing & Local Services	34	29	4	1
Leader's	11	11	0	0
Leisure, Culture & Heritage	7	7	0	0
Resources & Workforce Planning	9	9	0	0
Young People & Skills	16	12	4	0
3 rd Qtr 2009/10 Total	185	159	22	4
& %	100%	86%	12%	2%
2nd Qtr 2009/10 Total	185	158	24	2
& %	100%	86%	13%	1%

Council Progress by Portfolio

Adult Social Care and Health Portfolio

- 42. At the end of the 3rd quarter, 7 of the 8 commitments within the Adult Social Care and Health Portfolio were reported to be on target. There is one commitment which remains off target and has slipped further since the 2nd quarter. This relates to the implementation of a new billing module of the PARIS system which has been delayed due to non-delivery by the system supplier of a 'fit for purpose' release. The earliest anticipated implementation date is June 2010.
- 43. 12 of the 23 indicators for this Portfolio are reported to be on target, representing 52% of the indicators monitored in the 3rd quarter. 7 indicators showing significant variances from their 2009/10 target represent 30% of all indicators monitored for this Portfolio in the 3rd quarter and include:
 - National Indicator NI 130 Number of adults, older people and carers receiving self directed support as a percentage of clients receiving community based services and carer's specific services aged 18 or over (LAA Designated Target) and related target LAA9bi (local target). There are on going issues related to the definitions around personal budgets and as a result these targets will not be met.

- National Indicator NI 132 Percentage of new social care clients aged 18 or over where the time from first contact with social services to completion of assessment is four weeks or less. This has been caused by an increase in Occupational Therapy and Safeguarding referrals combined with staff vacancies. A programme is in hand to deal with the issue but it may still be off target at year end.
- LAA Target 10aiii and iv Increase in the number of successful referrals to the Warm Front scheme these targets are in the process of being renegotiated with GOSE. Efforts are continuing to achieve the stretch element and if successful, the Stretch Target will become amber from red.
- 44. A further 4 indicators monitored in the 3rd quarter are showing slight variances including:
 - NI 145 Percentage of adults with learning disabilities in settled accommodation at the time of their assessment or review and NI 125 Proportion of people aged 65 or over discharged from hospital to their own home or to a residential or nursing care home with the clear intention that they will move back to their own home (LAA Designated Target) - These are fairly new indicators where a baseline is yet to be firmly established, they are likely to fall just outside of the 5% tolerance based on the targets set last year.
 - Stretch Target 10 LAA 10a ii Increase in the number of Pension Credit beneficiaries (LAA Stretch Target) Number of Pension Credit beneficiaries has remained constant and the target will not be met. The Pension Service will meet its targets, which are based on maintaining beneficiary levels, taking account the 'drop off' rate. Performance is consistent with comparator cities where take up has remained constant or declined suggesting a take-up threshold has been reached. Over the three years of the LAA, the number of people eligible for Pension Credit has been reducing as more people retire with employer or private pensions. The LAA target was required to be set as an absolute figure rather than as a 'percentage of those eligible' and a combination of these factors has mitigated against such a 'total figure' based target ever being achievable as the three years has progressed. Southampton's level of beneficiaries at around 80% is one of the highest in the Southeast and nationally. Further research on causes is being undertaken.

Children's Services Portfolio

45. Of the 43 commitments relating to the Children's Services Portfolio, 33 (77%) were reported to be on target at the end of December 2009. The commitment that is reported to have significantly slipped is:

Safeguarding: To meet our set targets for all statutory timescales for assessments: The way that timescales for Initial Assessment are counted is now in accordance with the national and inspection guidance. This has led to a reduction in reported performance which is being addressed. An external audit of social work files commissioned in 2009, which identified areas where changes are required and an improvement programme has now been put in place. This includes workshops for all front line staff, and a change to the way referrals are categorised. There has been a significant rise in the numbers of referrals received over the last year. Significant increases in the number of children and young people with Child Protection Plans and the number of children in care over the same period has increased pressure on social workers. A return to performance against this measure nearer target levels by the end of Quarter 4 is dependent upon the success of a number of initiatives that have been put in place to increase social care capacity. These are being reviewed on an ongoing basis.

- 46. In addition there are 9 commitments (21%) that are reported to have slightly slipped from their expected timescales as follows:
 - To ensure fewer children and young people go missing from home, school and care: The development and implementation of the Joint Protocol for children missing from care had slipped. It has now been agreed across Hampshire and IOW Police authority. Children missing from school are tracked by the School Attendance and safeguarding Team. The Strategic Group is now in place to monitor and report on the actions to achieve improvement by the end of the 4th quarter.
 - To improve outcomes for vulnerable children and young people: The Behaviour and Attendance Partnership (BOSS) now meets regularly to place vulnerable children out of school and will begin to see progress by the end of Quarter 4. Three Common Assessment Panels have been established. The panels are improving the volume and coordination of early intervention and prevention services.
 - To improve school attendance: Following a successful meeting with the National Strategy, it was confirmed that Southampton is now on target to meet the 2011 CYPP target for persistent absence. Appointment of a virtual head teacher enables individual progress tracking of looked after children.
 - To provide earlier intervention for children and young people in need through
 effective joined up working to ensure that they are safe: The reconfiguration of
 teams on a locality basis will enable improved multi-agency working at lower
 levels by the end of the 4th quarter. Planned service redesign has taken place.
 From April 2010 multi-disciplinary teams will function in three localities offering
 coordinated universal and targeted services to children and young people.
 - To reduce the number of permanent and fixed period exclusions: Whilst fixed-term exclusions have reduced, permanent exclusions have remained the same as the previous year. An action plan is in place to improve training and support for schools and provide more targeted resources. Improvement will be evident by the end of the 4th quarter.
 - To implement the new admissions code: The Code has been implemented but there has been an increase in number of complaints from parents and schools. Improvement will be evident by the end of the 4th guarter.
 - To co-ordinate the development of accommodation proposals in relation to locality working and the Service Property Review: Options are under development.
 - To deliver the Directorate's ICT Strategy and To implement the learning portal and learning platform proposals for children and young people attending schools: Portal is now operational. An ICT Board has been established. Scoping work on integration project now underway, improvements will be evident by the end of the 4th quarter.
- 47. In addition, of the 79 Performance Indicators monitored in the 3rd quarter, 52 indicators (66%) were reported to be on target, showing an improvement of 4% since the 2nd quarter. The remaining 27 indicators (34%) consist of 15 indicators showing significant variances in performance and 10 indicators that are showing slight variances in performance.
- 48. The following National and Designated Indicators within the Children's Services Portfolio are showing significant variances from their 2009/10 target at the end of December:
 - NI 59: Percentage of initial assessments made within 7 working days of referral:

Timescales for Initial Assessments (IAs) are now counted in line with national and inspection guidance. This has led to a reduction in reported performance. An external audit of social work files identified the areas where changes were required, and an improvement programme is in place. There has also been a significant rise in referrals, Child Protection Plans and children looked after in the last year, increasing pressures across Safeguarding teams. Improvement in performance depends upon initiatives such as recruitment and retention, and capacity to review open cases and safely and promptly closing them when appropriate. These initiatives are resulting in some improvements and the service is reducing a backlog of assessments whilst improving the timeliness of new casework. For example, the number of IAs which are one month or more overdue has fallen from 247 in August 2009 to 33 at the end of December 2009. Whilst there has been some success in recruiting additional social workers, the teams are not yet at full capacity.

- NI 60: Percentage of core assessments that were carried out within 35 working days of the initial assessment end (LAA Designated Target: Timescales for Core Assessments (CAs) are now counted in line with national and inspection quidance. This led to a reduction in reported performance. An external audit of social work files identified areas where changes were required, and an improvement programme is in place. There has also been a significant rise in referrals, Child Protection Plans and children looked after in the last year, increasing pressures across the service. Improvement in performance will depend upon initiatives such as recruitment and retention, training to ensure staff are fully aware of government guidance, and reviewing open cases. This makes it difficult to predict how quickly performance will be back on target, but the service aims to achieve this during 2010/11. The timeliness of core assessments is being reviewed daily through improved management reports, with monthly reports to Cabinet Members and Chief Officers. Improved management is showing an impact, with 50% of CAs being completed within timescales in December 2009.
- NI 76 Number of schools where the percentage of pupils achieving Level 4 + in both English and Maths at KS2 is less than 55%: This is based upon the revised data from the performance tables. Performance against the stretch target cannot be back on target until Quarter 2 in 2010 as Key Stage 2 tests are carried out annually. A comprehensive plan to improve performance in Primary Schools is in place, with a focus on Leadership and Teaching and Learning. Five headteachers are undergoing training with National College of School Leadership to become Local Leaders in Education (LLE). Each will partner schools currently below the floor target.
- NI 86 Percentage of secondary schools judged as having good (Grade 1) or outstanding (Grade 2) standards of behaviour by Ofsted: Due to a change in definition, performance for this indicator no longer includes Special Schools and Academies that have not been open long enough to have a full inspection. This is likely to remain below target, as the three schools who are currently rated as "satisfactory" for behaviour by Ofsted are not due an inspection during this year and therefore will remain "satisfactory". These schools receive consultancy support from Inclusion and School Standards staff in order to improve strategies for managing pupil behaviour and for engaging pupils through an innovative curriculum.
- NI 89a: The number of schools which are in special measures: NI 99:
 Percentage of looked after children who have been in care for at least one year achieving level 4 in English at Key Stage 2: It is unlikely to be on target until

- Quarter 3 2010-11. Sinclair Primary School was placed in Special Measures at the end of July and the average time nationally for a school to stay in Special measures is 21 months. A comprehensive Local Authority Statement of Action has been validated by OFSTED for both schools currently in Special Measures.
- NI 100: Percentage of looked after children who have been in care for at least one year achieving level 4 in Maths at Key Stage: This represents a very small cohort of children (8) and all but one have Special Educational Needs. We now have a Virtual Headteacher in place who is developing a strategy to improve the attainment of children looked after. The earliest performance can be on target will be quarter 2 of 2010/11.
- NI 101: Percentage of children looked after in year 11 who were in care for at least one year achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs including English and Maths: The 2008/9 cohort of children looked after in year eleven was quite small (29 children), many of whom had complex needs. Only one achieved 5 GCSEs at grades A*-C including English and maths. The authority now has a Virtual Headteacher in post, whose role it will be to take a more proactive role in the attainment, progress and attendance of children looked after.
- NI 107c Percentage point gap of pupils in a minority cohort who achieve at least Level 4 in English and Maths at Key Stage 2 White/Black Caribbean: This data does not include academies. Due to a change in the definition of the indicator targets were set using initial pupil level results from DCSF. Revised data showed poorer performance. Future targets informed by performance this year will be set for 2010/2011.
- NI 114: Percentage of pupils who are permanently excluded from school during the academic year: Permanent exclusions are still at a high level within the city. There are a number of reasons for this including the introduction of 2 new schools (Both Oasis Academies) which resulted in 35.5% (16) of the city's total number of permanent exclusions in their first academic year. Excluding the academies the target of 0.11% would have been met. Various strategies have been put in place to address this. Inclusion staff, Specialist Behaviour Teams and Educational Psychologists, are working together to identify pupils at an earlier stage and prioritise provision for those most at risk of exclusion. Also with the addition of the BOSS (Better Outcomes for Southampton Students) board, the Local Authority and Secondary heads will work together to address key targets and concerns within the city. This figure is reported 2 terms in arrears.
- NI 147: Percentage of former care leavers aged 19 who were in suitable accommodation: There has been a particular difficulty this quarter with a significant number of young people not maintaining contact with the Pathways team. This automatically results in them being recorded as not being in suitable accommodation (7 out of a cohort of 31). There has been significant short term staffing difficulties this quarter within the Pathways Team contributing to this: three staff have left, a further three are on maternity leave. Priority has been afforded by the team to young people in care under the age of 16. To address staffing capacity issues additional locum staff have been recruited. Attempts to recruit permanent staff continue. In addition, Personal Advisers will no longer case hold children under the age of 16 and will prioritise those over 18. Improved performance is unlikely to be shown until quarter 1 of 2010/11.
- NI 148: Percentage of former care leavers in employment, education or training: Many of the young people in group have complex needs and challenging behaviour. In addition, unemployment in the city is rising. The priority is now for all young people of school age to have a personal education plan and this is pursued by the virtual head teacher for children looked after who will also

ensure much earlier intervention and raise aspiration. Youth support continue to meet with the Pathways Leaving Care team to consider further support strategies to raise aspirations and to engage with those who are having difficulty in motivating themselves to attend training or secure employment. The National Care Advisory Service have offered support to advise on strategies for support Care Leavers into employment and this offer will be accepted. While off target, there have been significant increases since the last quarter (from 32% to 48%) and work will continue to prioritise this very vulnerable group of young people although it will be Quarter One 2010/11 before improvements can be seen.

Economic Development Portfolio

- 49. At the end of December 2009, all 25 indicators within the CIP relating to the Economic Development Portfolio due to be monitored at the end of the 3rd quarter were reported to be on target. One commitment out of a total of 17 commitments is reported to have slight slippage:
 - Implementation of the Southampton Economic Development Action Plan:
 Workshops on Property, Enterprise and Image have been held; 78% of
 Enterprise & Innovation projects are underway; recession is impacting on
 Employment Land & Associated Infrastructure projects but 77% projects are
 underway and 100% of City Image projects are underway.

Environment and Transport Portfolio

- 50. At the end of December 2009, 35 out of a total of 40 commitments (87.5%) compared to 92% in quarter 2 within the CIP relating to the Environment and Transport Portfolio due to be monitored at the end of the third quarter were reported to be on target. The 5 commitments showing slippage include one indicator (2.5%) showing a significant slippage and 4 indicators (10%) reporting a slight slippage from planned timescales. This compares with no significant slippage and 3 commitments showing a slight slippage in the 2nd quarter. The commitment that is showing a significant slippage in the 3rd quarter is:
 - Conduct a review and establish a new policy for Section 106 agreements This
 was reported as green in the 2nd quarter and the slippage is because of the
 need to complete an internal audit of Section 106 agreements as well as the
 current restructure within the Planning and Sustainability division. An
 Infrastructure Study has been commissioned to take this forward and Arup are
 producing a new S106 policy alongside their work on Community Infrastructure
 Levy. A revised policy is anticipated in autumn 2010 after the government
 enactment, in April 2010, of the Community Infrastructure Levy.
- 51. 38 (88%) out of a total of 43 indicators were reported to be on target and there are no National, Designated or Stretch Indicators in the Environment and Transport Portfolio showing significant or slight variances from their 2009/10 targets.
- 52. It should be noted that the significant variance reported in 2nd quarter, (LAA 7d(ii) No of Home Energy Check (HEC) forms and phone calls to Energy Efficiency Advice Centre), has seen a marked improvement and this indicator is now on target following a strong response to a large mail out to carbon rich households.
- 53. There are 5 indicators showing slight variances at the end of the 3rd quarter within the Environment and Transport Portfolio, compared to 2 indicators in the second quarter. They include 2 National Indicators as follows:
 - NI 157a Processing of planning applications as measured against targets for major applications within 13 weeks –The slight variance is due to a relatively

- small number of applications decided which makes the overall percentage look worse. A more flexible approach on negotiation of timescales for some key strategic applications has been taken, due to the economic recession. The year to date performance is only just below target (74.19% target 75%); however, the performance is well above the National Target of 60%.
- NI 192 Percentage of household waste arising which have been sent by the authority for reuse, recycling, composting or anaerobic digestion. The recession has also hit the sales of newspapers and magazines thereby reducing recycling rates over the year. However, performance in the 3rd and 4th quarters is also impacted upon by the seasonal reduction in composting levels. The projected outturn reflects this seasonal reduction and the impact that the adverse weather conditions have had on the number of rounds of recycling collected. It is unlikely that this indicator will be on target at year end.

Housing and Local Services Portfolio

- 54. Of the 34 commitments relating to this Portfolio, 29 (85%) are reported to be on target compared to 82% in the 2nd quarter. The status of 4 commitments remained the same while 1 commitment has slipped to a slight variance and 2 commitments have improved to now be on target. 1 commitment continues to be off target at the end of December:
 - Progress mobile working technology which will improve our service to tenants and improve value for money. A value for money study is currently underway.
- 55. In addition, 4 commitments are reported to have a slight slippage from their planned timescales
 - Improve resident's access to the housing management service by considering
 use of alternative methods of contact. This was previously reported as being on
 target. Phase 1 of the review completed to target. Phase 2 is well underway
 however is slightly behind target due to complexity of issues and time needed to
 resolve these.
 - Progress towards achieving the 2010 Decent Homes standard target by achieving 95% completion by 1/4/2010. It is expected that 91% of decent homes will be achieved by 1/4/2010 and 100% decent homes will be achieved by December 2010.
 - Progress procurement to appoint developers for the estate regeneration programme. This was on target in the 2nd quarter and is now showing slight slippage as the timetable has slipped while longer term funding position was being agreed.
 - Encourage residents to take an active role in their community and services
 provided by the council as a landlord including through consultation on the
 establishment of agreed service delivery standards. Work has been completed
 in a number of key areas. Work is progressing however is slightly behind target
 due to competing priorities.
- 56. Two commitments that were previously reported to have slight slippage are now on target:
 - Progress Decent Neighbourhoods project to provide local environmental improvements and neighbourhoods where residents feel safe and secure.
 - Keep Southampton 'Clean and Green' by achieving the LAA stretch targets by

March 2010.

- 57. 32 of the 37 indicators (86%) relating to the Housing and Local Services Portfolio were reported to be on target at the end of December 2009, showing improvement compared to 29 indicators in the 2nd quarter. No indicators were reported to have significant variances in the 3rd quarter compared to 3 indicators in the 2nd quarter.
- 58. Three indicators that were previously reported with significant variances have improved to a slight variance as follows:
 - NI158a Number of non-decent council homes and NI158b Percentage of non-decent council homes: It is expected that 91% of decent homes will be achieved by 1/4/2010 and 100% decent homes will be achieved by December 2010.
 - LAA Stretch Target 12 Reduction in fly-tipping incidents across the city: Although we are not achieving the target for this quarter performance has significantly improved with plans in place which should enable the end of year stretch target to be hit.
- 59. Three further indicators have either remained or are now showing a slight variance as follows:
 - LAA Stretch Target 7 Improvement in bio-diversity across the city: Although we are not currently achieving the latest quarter target the forecast outturn will be achieved and possibly exceeded.
 - HMD6 Former Tenant Arrears collected as a % of FT debt: The projected outturn is that the end of year target will be achieved.
 - Stretch Target 7 LAA 6c ii Percentage of people who feel that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together: Work is underway through the 'I love Southampton' campaign, albeit a final outturn will not be available until the Place Survey 2010/11.

Leader's Portfolio

60. At the end of December 2009, all of the indicators and commitments within the Corporate Improvement Plan relating to the Leader's Portfolio which were due to be monitored at the end of the 3rd quarter were reported to be on target.

Leisure, Culture and Heritage Portfolio

- At the end of December 2009, 3 of the 4 indicators (75%) and all 7 commitments are reported to be on target.
- 62. The following indicator that continues to report a slight variance:
 - NI 8 Percentage of adults participating in sport and active recreation. This measure is updated annually through the Sport England survey.

Resources and Workforce Planning Portfolio

63. All of the commitments relating to the Resources and Workforce Planning Portfolio were reported to be on target at the end of December 2009. At the end of the 3rd quarter, 17 of the 20 performance indicators relating to this portfolio that were monitored during this period were on target (85%). There were no National, Designated or Stretch Indicators relating to this Portfolio showing significant or slight variances from their 2009/10 target at the end of December.

Young People and Skills Portfolio

64. At the end of December 2009, 12 of the 16 commitments for this Portfolio were reported to be on target and this represents 75% of the commitments for this Portfolio.

- 65. Slight slippage was reported for the following 4 commitments:
 - Improve performance management across the division. Managers are being provided with training to support improvement in performance management. Evidence of improvement is expected by the end of the 4th guarter.
 - Increase the number of young people taking up post 16 study in the areas of science: A target has not yet been set and it is proposed that this year's figures will act as a baseline. 'Project Science', a collaboration between SCC and Taunton's College, is underway and an increase in numbers of young people taking science subjects will be reported in the 4th quarter.
 - Increase the number participating and progressing through 14-19 education, employment and training attainment and attendance: Plans have been put in place during Quarters One and Two to ensure that there is an increase in this area. It is currently estimated that 94% of young people have indicated a positive outcome. Annual reporting will take place by the end of 4th guarter.
 - Implement systems and policy across the Young People and community Support Division – System implemented but not fully operational. Improvements will be expected by the end of the 4th quarter.
- 66. At the end of December 2009, 11 of the 16 indicators within the Young People and Skills Portfolio that were monitored in the 2nd quarter were on target (69%). Considerable progress has been made on NEETs with a reduction from 12.1% in the 2nd quarter to 9.9% in the 3rd quarter. The 3 indicators that are reporting significant variances from target include:
 - Stretch Target 1- Decrease in the percentage of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training (NEET: The 3rd quarter data position is 9.9% which compares to 9.6% in December 2008. Any variance is due to an increase in the number of 17 and 18 year olds becoming unemployed. A range of actions are being taken such as: a) January Guarantee initiative which provides additional capacity for NEET young people in education and training and includes Entry2Employment, pre-Entry2Employment, Apprenticeships and Foundation Learning pilot programmes. b) Partnership working with Job Centre Plus in order to understand the actual number of 18 year olds who are claiming benefits and ensure that they are able to access places in education and training. The September Guarantee outturn for 2009 for Y11 was 100% recorded and 94.2% with offers, which is an improvement on the 2008 out-turn of 89.8%. Year 12, 100% recorded and 81.7% with offers, there was no requirement to report for Y12 in 2008.
 - LAA Decrease in the percentage of 16-18 year olds whose destination is not known (Stretch Target Condition): Actions implemented including caseload management and introduction of Tracking Support Officers have improved both reporting and awareness of the destination of young people. The final out-turn position for the DCSF monitoring period of November-January 2009/10 is predicted to be 6.9% with the current data position for LS7 is currently 8.3%. Activity will be focused in the collation of data and information sharing between the city providers in order to reduce this position.
- 67. There are two further related indicators monitored on a quarterly basis which are also reporting slight variances from target:
 - NI 117- The percentage of 16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, training or employment (NEET): This is the same as the Stretch Target 1 in paragraph 66.
 - NI 91 Percentage of young people aged 17 who are in full or part time

education training or work based learning: Data that has been published in the statistical first return in June 2009 of 76% relates to the calendar year 2007, the 2008 data is due for release in June 2010. Current performance data gained from CCIS indicates a participation rate for December 2009 of 75.6% for 17 year olds who are in education and training. This is outside of the variance of the final-out turn for 2009/10 which is predicted to be in the region of 83%. The January Guarantee initiative prioritises the participation of 17 year olds through the facilitation of additional places in Entry2Employment programmes and a Foundation Learning pilot.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital

68. None.

Revenue

69. Contained in the report and the attached Appendices.

Property

70. None.

Other

71. None.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

72. Financial reporting is consistent with the Chief Financial Officer's (Executive Director or Resources) duty to ensure good financial administration within the Council. In addition monitoring of the Council's performance against statutory and local performance indicators is in line with the Council's statutory duties under the Local Government Acts 1999, 2000 & 2003.

Other Legal Implications:

73. None.

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

74. The 2009/10 General Fund Budget and Corporate Improvement Plan form part of the Council's approved Budgetary and Policy Framework.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1.	General Fund Summary 2009/10
2.	3 rd Quarter Financial and PI Exceptions by Service Area
3.	3 rd Quarter Savings Monitoring
4.	Financial Health Indicators
5.	Quarterly Treasury Management Report

Documents In Members' Rooms

	of December 2009 – Report of the Executive Director of Resources
2.	Housing Revenue Account Financial Capital and Revenue monitoring for the Period to the end of December 2009
3.	Compendium of PI and Commitment information by Portfolio

Background Documents

Title of E	Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
1	None	

1		None	
	•	. 1.5.1.5	

Background documents available for inspection at: Not Applicable

FORWARD PLAN No: N/A KEY DECISION? No

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	All wards are affected but not so significantly
	for this to be a key decision.