Appendix 2 – Directorate Commentaries Outturn 2022/23

Corporate Management (£7.850 million)

The Corporate Management position brings in £7.241 million of the Covid-19 contingency budget to offset pressures included in the monitoring positions of other directorates, where these are linked to the cost-of-living crisis or the prolonged impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on additional costs and income loss. In addition, the Corporate Management position £2.759m includes a £2.509 million contribution to schools as a part contribution to the pay awards for 2022/23 being in excess of the estimate and £250,000 in respect to GLL as part of an energy relief payment. The position released £800,000 of the Organisational Change Budget as a result of potential spend pressures not emerging by the year end. Setting the Covid–19 contingency budget aside, the position on Corporate Management has further increased since month 9, linked to further recent notification of increasing financial pressures on the regional coroner service for 2022/23.

Economic Development +£1,063 million

The Economic Development Directorate is reporting a £1.063 million overspend against the net controllable budget of £10.104 million; an improvement of £583,000 compared to the previously reported month 9 position.

Culture, Venues and Events division reported a final outturn deficit of £1.232 million overall, an improvement of £404,000 when compared to the month 9 forecast. This includes deficits at Cardiff Castle (£805,000), City Hall and County Hall Functions (£234,000), Functions Catering (£196,000), St David's Hall (£168,000), Retail Catering at City Hall (£15,000) and at the Mansion House £13,000) and Tourism (£44,000). These deficits were largely attributable to customer numbers and business confidence not returning to pre-pandemic levels despite the ending of Covid restrictions, high inflation impacting on service delivery costs and consumer spending habits impacted by the cost-of-living pressures. Paid admission visitor numbers at the Castle were down by 36% from 277,000 to 178,000 compared to 2019/20. These deficits were only partially offset by underspends within Events (£159,000), the Museum of Cardiff (£61,000) and at the Cardiff Caravan Park (£20,000).

Facilities Management reported a reduced underspend of £450,000 at outturn, a cost increase of £228,000 since month 9. This reflected higher levels of building maintenance expenditure in the latter part of the year as well as an increased adverse change within Pest Control. The Building Services trading account reported an end of year surplus of £1.373 million, whilst FM buildings reported an overspend of £828,000, largely reflective of the higher energy costs highlighted throughout the year in addition to increased charges for water, rates, rents and security. Cleaning Services reported a £40,000 overspend reflecting additional costs associated with the staff pay award that could not be passed on to clients, whilst Security Services reported a small surplus of £2,000.

Property Services reported an overspend of £651,000, an increase of £8,000 compared to Month 9. The overspend position included vacancy & premises savings which partially offset shortfalls in income. Key deficit areas contributing to the

overspend included shortfalls in income in relation to the Capital Receipt Disposal target (£113,000), Central Market (£47,000), Old Library (£148,000) and the Tennis Centre (£363,000) where the Council are not fully recovering service charge costs on these assets. A number of property transactions that were previously assumed to be completed in 2022-23 are now anticipated to be completed in 2023-24.

The Major Projects final overspend of £119,000 is linked to holding costs at Toys R Us building following the cessation of the NHS lease in October 2022 as well as unbudgeted costs of funding a project manager post and internal support recharges during the year.

The Sport, Leisure & Development function reported a £287,000 underspend. This is primarily linked to Invest to Save budget provision of £278,000 that is no longer required as was repaid in 2021/22. Overspends on Outdoor Sport and Cardiff Riding School are offset by savings due to the delayed recruitment for Youth Sport Inclusion officers, the closure of Canton Community centre resulting in operational cost savings and in year additional income for Landscape Design.

The Parks division reported an underspend of £145,000, an improvement of £68,000 compared to Month 9. Delays on recruitment to new positions and freeze on existing vacant posts were partly offset by increased Centralised Transportation Services costs for vehicle repairs and fuel recharges. Identified in year savings for apprentices, office accommodation and Bute Park event income contributed to the underspend position.

Business, Investment and the Workshops function reported a £426,000 underspend: a £108,000 favourable change from Month 9. This included a surplus of £258,000 against the income target for Advertising, as well as managed vacancy savings of £180,000 to assist with in-year savings targets. Additionally, there were overspends for Enterprise House (£58,000) and the Film unit (£62,000).

The Projects, Design and Development (PDD) service reported a trading deficit of £33,000 compared to the balanced position reported at month 9. This reduction is attributed to a delay in a number of schemes starting on site resulting in a reduction of fee income and envisaged partner recharges.

Youth Foods manages both County Hall Café and Cardiff Castle Café, and this division reported an overspend of £199,000 at outturn, an increase of £19,000 compared to Month 9.

Shared Regulatory Services reported an outturn overspend of £255,000; an increase of £190,000 compared to month 9. This position included overspends within licensing and night-time noise, unfunded legal costs and additional staffing costs for staff employed during the year to facilitate the declaration of the Cathays licensing scheme.

All other areas are reporting underspends including a £68,000 underspend in Health and Safety. This included bringing forward a new service level agreement with schools and recharging delegated schools for legionella testing as part of in-year savings targets, increasing Health & Safety income by circa £150,000 in total. Underspends were reported in Service Management and Support (£43,000) and City Centre Management (£9,000).

The 2022/23 efficiency savings target for Economic Development was £498,000. This was supplemented with additional in-year savings targets of £437,000. At outturn, £388,000 of these original efficiency savings were achieved (circa 78%), leaving a balance of £110,000 not delivered. This shortfall relates to savings of £30,000 linked to reduction in agency and employee costs at Cardiff Castle, and a shortfall of £80,000 against the targeted £110,000 income increase in Property Estates.

The directorate outturn position also takes into account projections for the additional £437,000 in-year savings proposals put forward in August and September. £389,000 of these in-year savings were achieved, with £19,000 of the Workshops increased income target proving to be unachievable due to tenants moving out. The £20,000 Motocross saving was also not achieved due to increased costs (although additional income has been achieved).

Recycling & Neighbourhood Services +£2.213 million

The service reported a net overspend of £2.213 million at outturn, representing an increase of £457,000 compared to Month 9. This is caused by an increase in costs in relation to staffing and vehicles with the position being partly mitigated by the retention of a proportion of the surplus generated in the Trade Waste Service.

The position reflects a drawdown of £543,000 from reserves to fund in-year operational pressures not included in the budget.

The Policy Growth and FRM allocations to fund various waste and cleansing initiatives were all fully spent.

The Service achieved the £262,000 budget savings approved in the 2022/23 budget and the additional in-year savings of £318,000.

The Collection Service reported an overspend of £2.120 million. This reflects several factors including higher staff costs caused by greater levels of sickness and overtime plus the impact of the pay award and compensation payments. There were higher vehicle costs including the inflationary impact on fuel and further costs associated with the segregated recycling trial. The service has partially offset the position, with in-year work to reduce PPE costs by changing suppliers and radio costs by moving to mobile phones as a means of communications with operatives.

The overspend in Environmental Enforcement is £159,000 and caused by a short-term extension to temporary staff contracts until a proposed restructure is introduced.

Street Cleansing have an overspend of £1.056 million caused by increased staffing costs due to the pay award and higher vehicle charges.

Waste Disposal reported an underspend of £1.248 million reflecting lower processing costs because of reduced volumes of residual waste and further savings due to the Project Gwyrdd contract re-banding and gain share calculations.

Recycling Treatment has an overspend of £469,000 reflecting the increased operational costs at the Recycling Centres and Waste Transfer Stations. Income from the sale of recyclable materials has significantly reduced since month 9 due to a further downturn in the market prices particularly for plastics and paper.

The Waste Strategy team reported a saving of £26,000 due to the recruitment freeze.

Education and Lifelong Learning +£3.501 million

The outturn position for the Education & Lifelong Learning directorate reflects an overspend of £3.501 million. This includes additional budget of £281,000 towards the impact of the 2022/23 pay award.

Schools Transport returned an overspend of £1.922 million reflecting the full year effect of 2021/22 new routes and price increases, along with anticipated increases in ALN routes in 2022/23, and the extraordinary contractor price increases experienced in response to fuel price fluctuations. This overspend has been mitigated through contract reviews and levelling exercises and includes use of ALN covid grant (£484,000) and 2021/22 WLGA grant funding (£594,000).

Services to Schools includes an overspend of £1.249 million on Schools Catering Services, the financial position has improved since month 9 due to contributions from earmarked reserves and Universal Free School Meal grant allocations from Welsh government, however due to significant price increases for food and transport costs, as well as higher than anticipated impact from the pay award, the outturn position remains overspent.

Out of Area Placements are reporting an overspend of £645,000 due to an increase in provision required from 245 to 316 pupils in year, this position includes use of £484,000 ALN grant.

Planning, Transport & Environment – Balanced Position

The Directorate reported a balanced position following the transfer of some budgets to reserves for future investment and resilience.

The position includes the full cost of the staff pay award and highlights the pressures within Planning & Building Control, Highway Infrastructure and Transport which were offset by significant income levels in Energy Management and small savings in Management and Support and Bereavement, Registration and Dogs Home.

Energy Management reported an underspend of £586,000 reflecting a significant surplus achieved at the Lamby Way Solar Farm. This is partly offsetting a shortfall in income at the Radyr Weir Hydro Plant which continues to under-perform against expectations. In addition, there were savings on staff costs following decisions to hold back on recruitment.

An overspend of £263,000 is reported in Planning and Building Control and reflects the challenge of achieving the income target against the current economic climate. Planning Fees were £386,000 short of its £2.9 million target although additional income from Property Searches helped to mitigate the position. The ring-fenced Building Regulations Chargeable A/c reported a deficit of £22,000 and this was mitigated by a drawdown from reserves.

Transport reported an overspend of £208,000. This includes the increased cost and underfunding for the provision of Traffic Management at Events held in the city, the additional cost of Hostile Vehicle Mitigation measures and an income shortfall in Street Work activities. In addition, there were costs associated with the planned Road User Payment scheme which did not receive any WG funding as anticipated. These have been partly offset by a saving following the cessation of the Parking Sensors contract.

Highway Infrastructure reported an overspend of £149,000 and reflects a funding shortfall for the Winter Maintenance programme and inflationary increases in contract values. The allocation of Shared Prosperity Funding for asset renewal, increased income from vehicle clamping and reduced maintenance on Electrical infrastructure helped to mitigate the pressures.

The Bereavement, Registration & Dogs Home reported an underspend of £16,000 reflecting increased turnover in Registration Services. The Bereavement Service is balanced following the transfer to reserves for Improvement Fees paid by funeral directors and the drawdown from reserves to fund infrastructure improvements and increased operational costs. The Dogs Home is also reporting a balanced position following the transfer of public donations to reserve and the drawdown to fund increased operational costs.

A further saving of £18,000 was achieved in Management and Support Services through in-year and retention of vacant posts.

The Policy Growth allocations to fund infrastructure and community improvements were fully committed except for One Planet Cardiff, this has been transferred to reserve for investment in 2023/24. The FRM allocations for the provision of grants for taxi replacements and Parking Enforcement improvements did not proceed. This funding has been transferred to reserves where it is planned to be committed during 2023/24.

The savings target for the Directorate was £932,000. All of these were achieved.

Performance & Partnerships (£527,000)

The Performance and Partnerships position comprises underspends due to held vacancies, maximisation of grant funding and over-achievement of the external income target for Bilingual Cardiff.

Housing & Communities (£2.904 million)

The Housing & Communities directorate reported a £2.904million net underspend which represents an increase of £526,000 on the position reported at Month 9. This is reflective of additional Cardiff Works income and Housing Benefit net surplus after year-end adjustments. The overall underspend relates to the maximisation of grant income, vacancy savings due to delays in planned restructures, in-year recruitment restrictions and net administration income. The position includes total contributions to

reserves of £1.050 million and contributions from reserves of £438,000 across the divisions.

The position comprises overspends totalling £212,000 across Business Performance & Support, £195,000 and Housing Strategy and Service Development, £17,000 offset by underspends totalling £3.116 million across all other areas of the service.

The Business Performance and Support overspend of £195,000 relates mainly to PPE distribution costs across the authority.

The £17,000 overspend within Housing Strategy and Service Development relates to delays in a planned restructure that is now complete.

Within Advice and Benefits, an underspend of £1.932 million was reported. The position includes savings of £635,000 in relation to FRM budgets within Into Work and Money Advice teams as alternative funding streams were identified. Further underspends of £434,000, £266,000 and £228,000 reflect net surplus of Housing Benefit after year-end adjustments, net administration income from various cost of living support schemes and additional Cardiff Works income respectively. The remaining underspend is reflective of grant maximisation and employee savings across the division.

Homelessness and Hostels reported an underspend of £224,000 following a restructure at the Gypsy & Traveller sites and grant maximisation across the service. The position includes a drawdown of £318,000 from the Homeless reserve to fund ongoing security issues at Shirenewton and utility works at both sites. The unprecedented demand on the service due to the cost-of-living crisis were met in full by Welsh Government No-One Left Out and Discretionary Homeless Prevention grants. This included the funding of all ad-hoc hotels used for provision of emergency temporary accommodation.

Hubs and Community services reporting an underspend of £202,000 across the divisions following notification of Shared Prosperity grant income. The position includes overspends of £49,000 within Day centres due to additional CCTV and vehicle costs and £24,000 within Learning for Life following lower than anticipated tuition fee income. These were offset by underspends of £275,000 across the service relating to additional grant income and employee savings reflective of in-year recruitment restrictions.

Neighbourhood Regeneration reported an underspend of £322,000 following delays to the planned restructure and maximisation of available grant income.

Housing Projects division supports the Rehousing Solutions Unit and Estates Management Project and reported an underspend of £321,000 due to delays in the planned restructure.

Early Help reported a final underspend of £92,000 following a £298,000 contribution to reserve to support ongoing demands for the service.

Partnership and Delivery reported a minor underspend of £23,000 as a result of vacancy savings.

Adult Services (£1,532,000)

Adult Services reported an underspend of £1.532 million; a reduction in underspend of £0.288 million compared with month 9. The overall position comprises a £1.486 million overspend on commissioned care, offset by a £3.018 million underspend on internal services.

The position on commissioned care comprises overspends in Older People (£154,000), Substance Misuse (£468,000), Physical Disabilities (£866,000) and Mental Health (£57,000). These are partially offset by a £59,000 underspend in Learning Disabilities. The largest contributory factors to the position on Older Peoples' Services are overspends on domiciliary and respite care which are largely offset by an underspend in relation to direct payments. The underspend in Learning Disabilities is a combination of delayed impact of anticipated demand increases in this area, combined with additional income from Health towards the cost of care packages. The underspend in this area has reduced since month 9 due to additional placement costs in the final quarter. The overspend on commissioned Mental Health Care is largely attributable to the partial achievement of 2022/23 savings; these are on course to be fully achieved in 2023/24. Overspend in Physical Disabilities and Substance Misuse reflect demand in those areas.

The £3.018 million underspend on Internal Services is a combination of Assessment and Care Management (£1.599 million), Reablement and Independent Living (£732,000), Internal Day Care (326,000) and Support & Performance Management (£615,000). These variances are partially offset by a £254,000 overspend in the Internal Learning Disability Service which is largely attributable to the delayed implementation of a 2021/22 saving proposal. The underspends in all other areas of Internal Services reflect a combination of vacancies, grant maximisation and the fact that funds allocated to support restructure were not fully used in the current financial year. Additional health income was also received in respect of Internal Day Care placements.

Governance & Legal Services +£669,000

Governance and Legal Services report an overspend of £669,000; a £49,000 deterioration compared to the Month 9 report.

An increased overspend in Legal Services (now £638,000) is primarily due to unbudgeted locum solicitor costs of £469,000 and unachieved external income targets. Added to this is an overspend of £77,000 within Electoral Services following a review of the required contribution to the Elections Reserve in respect of the likely costs of the 2027 Local Government Elections. These are offset by an underspend within Democratic Services due to the holding of vacant posts.

Children's Services +£6.596million

Children's Services final outturn position was £6.596 million overspent for 2022/23 financial year, following full utilisation of the Children Services contingency of £2.175 million, and a drawdown from £1.915 million of reserve to fund staff due to ongoing pressures on the services area since the pandemic.

The overspend is primarily due to placement costs for the authority's children looked after cohort as sustained demand pressures and price increases resulted in costs exceeding budget. Placements costs include a £5.488 million overspend relating to residential placements. Ongoing placement numbers have fluctuated over the year but have consistently remained above 100, and increased in the final quarter of the year, with 106 ongoing cases at year end. Residential placement inflationary pressure has further compounded the budgetary pressure with 5% price increase experienced during the year. The external fostering budgets are reporting a £0.686 million underspend as placement numbers are less than planned due to the reduction in placements provided by the independent fostering agency market. The underspend has been partially eroded as Independent fostering market placements experienced an 8% price increase during the year. Children's Services are required to commission additional bespoke placement and support packages due to the complexity of needs and a shortage of placements spaces available. These costly arrangements are included in the position as an overspend within the directorate to the sum of £4.8 million. During the financial year, there have been 83 of these packages to date, of which 17 are currently active.

A national trend of a challenging recruitment market, with difficulties in recruiting permanent qualified social workers and care workers resulted in increased reliance on care workers being employed through external employment agency. The cost differential between permanent staff and agency staff led to a staffing overspend of £1.1 million within Intake and Assessment and Localities divisions.

During the year, several external grant bids were successful as ongoing work by the directorate to target early intervention and reduce reliance on the external placement market was aligned with Welsh Government priorities and eligible for grant funding.

Resources (£766,000)

The Resources outturn position is an underspend of £766,000. This position incorporates budgets given, and full cost of the pay award. A savings target of 268,000 was achieved in full. Contributions to reserves were made to fund future pressures, most notably, £768,000 for vehicle replacement costs within the Central Transport Services. A number of contributions from reserve were also made to fund in-year

schemes and transitional costs. Underspends are reported against Finance (£160,000), HR (£319,000), Commissioning and Procurement (£74,000) and Chief Digital Officer (213,000), primarily due to holding vacant posts. Central Transport Services' position was balanced.

Cardiff Harbour Authority (£116,000)

For the financial year 2022/23, the Council worked with the Welsh Government to identify pressures around increases in materials, contractors, energy prices, as well as historical shortfalls in service level agreement budgets and to agree on an appropriate budget arrangement for Asset Renewal. The Welsh Government initially agreed Fixed Costs funding of £5.374 million and an Asset Renewal budget of £0.026 million, resulting in a total budget of £5.400 million.

In May 2022, an additional Asset Renewal exceptional amount of £0.521 million was awarded to cover essential upgrade works on the Senedd Boardwalk, plus upgrade works to ABB Scada Control system which was not completed by March 2022. This resulted in a total approved budget of £5.921 million. The final outturn position indicates a drawdown of £5.805 million resulting in a variance of £116,000 as set out in the table below.

Heading	Budget	Out-turn	Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure	6,332	6,534	202
Income	(958)	(1,189)	(231)
Fixed Costs	5,374	5,345	(29)
Asset Renewal	547	460	(87)
TOTAL	5,921	5,805	(116)

In respect of the Fixed Costs budget, the position included overspends on maintenance dredging, groundwater control and barrage maintenance reflecting materials and contractor price increases. This overspend position was mitigated by income above target on Harbour dues, site fees and car parking.

The Fixed Costs net underspend of £29,000 also included sale proceeds of £23,000 for the old Harbour patrol boat which were paid into the Project & Contingency Fund, as agreed with the Welsh Government in December 2022. Any underspend against the Fixed Cost budget is to be shared equally between both organisations and, therefore, the balance of underspend of £3,000 has also been transferred to the Fund.

The £87,000 Asset Renewal underspend relates to delays on final phase of Senedd Boardwalk scheme. Funding will need to be identified in 2023/24 to cover additional asset spend on this scheme. Discussions are in progress in this regard with the Welsh Government.

Also in progress is the planned review of the S165 Agreement which is anticipated to be finalised in 2023/24.

The CHA maintains a Project & Contingency Fund, which is used to support projects and provides a contingency if the approved budget is exceeded. The Fund receives contributions from a combination of receipts from the sale and disposal of land and a share of past year underspends on the Fixed Cost budget. The balance at 1st April 2023 was £104,000 and this will increase by £26,000 as detailed above. This leaves a net balance at 31st March 2023 of £130,000 and this is line with the amendments to the Deed of Variation as agreed in May 2022.

Civil Parking Enforcement

Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) manages parking, parking enforcement and moving traffic offences throughout the city. The income from these activities is used to support the operational costs with the surplus being transferred to the Parking and Enforcement Reserve.

The table below provides a summary of the budget and outturn position.

	Budget £000	Outturn £000	Variance £000
Income			
On street car parking fees	4,839	4,110	729
Off street car parking fees	1,092	1,199	(107)
Resident's parking permits	473	367	106
Penalty charge notices	1,933	2,203	(270)
Moving Traffic Offences (MTO's)	4,050	4,101	(51)
Other Income	48	107	(59)
Total Income	12,435	12,087	348
Expenditure			
Operational costs, parking & permits	597	660	63
Enforcement service including TRO	6,142	5,998	(144)
Total Expenditure	6,739	6,658	(81)
Annual Surplus / (Deficit)	5,696	5,429	267

The CPE account achieved a net trading surplus of £5.429 million.

Income generated was £12.087 million which is £348,000 lower than budgeted. Reduced activity, partly caused by road closures to facilitate city centre events and delays in project implementation, resulted in lower car parking fees although there is an increase in the income generated from PCN's.

Total expenditure was £6.658 million, a reduction of £81,000 against the plan. This includes the cost of the staff pay award offset by a reduction in loan repayments for invest to save schemes following full repayment in the previous financial year.

The surplus is transferred to the Parking and Enforcement Reserve and available to support highway, transport and environmental improvements.

The following table illustrates the movements in the Parking Reserve and the balance carried forward.

Parking & Enforcement Reserve	£000
Balance 1st April 2022	1,985
Contribution from CPE	5,429
Total Available	7,414
Contribution to support revenue budget	(5,935)
Project support and initiatives	(457)
Balance 31st March 2023	1,022

The brought forward balance in the reserve was £1.985 million. The contribution from the CPE trading position was £5.429 million increasing the amount available to £7.414 million. The approved contribution to the revenue budget to fund infrastructure maintenance and improvements is £5.935 million. A further £457,000 was used to support various initiatives including Active Travel, LDP transport monitoring, matchfunding for bollard removal scheme in St. Mary Street and Womanby Street and funding for various transport scoping works such as the Metro. The carried forward balance is £1.022 million.

Housing Revenue Account - Balanced

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) reported an overall balanced position after a net transfer to earmarked reserves of £2.469 million.

Standard rent and service charge income was £895,000 above target. This included an underspend in relation to bad debt provision based on year-end arrears and write off levels and a lower than budgeted void rent loss. The bad debt provision underspend reflected various rent rescue and support schemes which assisted tenants during the year with rent arrears.

The position also included a £775,000 underspend on capital financing costs due to the deferral in the timing of projects, unexpected grant funding towards capital projects and a change to the consolidated rate of interest.

The Housing Repairs Account underspent by £287,000. This included underspends against external painting budgets due to the withdrawal of contractors from the framework as well as electrical testing underspends. These were partly offset by overspends on responsive repairs due to increased demand and the inflationary increase applied to framework prices in January 23. Void repairs were also overspent due to the increase of the number of properties being returned that required higher value works.

Hostels and Other Accommodation budgets were overspent by a net £532,000. This position included overspends on employee, premises/utilities, management, transport and supplies and services costs. These overspends were partly offset by rent and service charge income above target, additional grant funding and an underspend on bad debt provision.

Other variances within the general HRA functions (£794,000) included vacancy and other employee savings partly offset by a reduction in staff recharges to capital schemes and overspends on general premises costs across the functions.

The outturn position prior to transfers to earmarked reserves was a net surplus of £2.219 million. £4.031 million of the balance within the Housing Repairs and Building Maintenance reserve was transferred to the Housing Supply Increase reserve along with £1.969 million of the in-year surplus. The balance of £6 million is planned to be used to fund future housing buyback purchases. In addition, a budgeted contribution of £250,000 was transferred to the Housing Development Resilience Reserve along with an additional £250,000 transfer from the remaining in year surplus.