

Finance

Cabinet Member: Councillor Cowell

Responsible Officer: Martin Phillips

Budgets Held Centrally

There are a number of budgets which are held centrally these include:

- Pension deficit which is the annual cash payment Council is required to make to the Local Government Pension Scheme pension fund in relation to past employees, and
- Pension enhancements which are the ongoing costs of historic awards of discretionary pensions including the Council's contribution to Devon County Council's pre 1998 awards

Corporate Management includes subscriptions such as the Local Government Association.

Financial Services and Internal Audit

Financial Services is responsible for the co-ordination and planning of the Council's budget, financial statements, financial advice, creditor payments and cashiers. Services include – Closure of Accounts including production of statement of accounts; Budget and Resource Planning and Preparation; Budget Monitoring for Services; Treasury Management; Capital Planning- resourcing and monitoring; Technical Advice and Major Project work; submission of Statutory Returns and Grant Claims; Provision of brought back service to Schools and Financial Systems.

The Council's internal audit function is provided by the Devon Audit Partnership, a joint service with Devon County and Plymouth City Councils.

The Council's Counter Fraud Team works with partner agencies and colleagues from across the Council to identify, investigate and prevent fraudulent activity. The team acts proactively to identify changes in the Council Tax and Business Rates charge-base that go unreported to the Council, preventing the opportunity for fraudulent activity.

Grant Income and Contingencies

This area of the budget contains a number of cross cutting Council budgets including contingencies for service pressures and social care and number of grants.

Treasury Management

This area of the budget reflects the costs of borrowing to support capital expenditure, both interest paid and repayment of principal (Minimum Revenue Provision), interest earned on cash balances, principal and interest costs of PFI projects offset by PFI Credits from government, treasury charges including bank charges and other income from services for supported borrowing and bank charges.