

**SOUTHEND ON SEA CITY COUNCIL**  
**Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee Meeting**  
**30<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

**Question 1. from Mr Webb for Cllr P Collins (Cabinet Member for Finance, Assets and Investments)**

What measures specifically have been put in place to achieve an improvement of £0.962 million compared to the position at the end of September 2024?

**Response:**

Thank you Mr Webb for your question.

The detailed work to reduce the projected overspend reported for the period to the 30 September 2024, has continued and in this reported period at 30 November 2024, two months further on, the service areas excluding Children's Social Care have net improvements of around £0.9m. This has been achieved partly through essential spend only, a recruitment pause, maximising spend against grants and detailed examination of all service budgets are some of the measures in place. In addition, the review of our prudent use of our contingency and government grants or circa £1.35m, will now be brought back into the 2024/25 projected outturn.

The funds released from our contingency includes a reduction in budgeted energy costs across the Council's estate and assets, along with the recognition that the April pay 2024 award was lower than budgeted for. The continued pressure to review and reduce the planned Capital expenditure of projects has also allowed us to reduce the 2024/2025 revenue expenditure further.

Children's Services continues to experience significant demand pressures however the Administration continues to work with Officers to reduce the projected overspend even further by the end of this financial year.