CIPFA\ Financial Resilience Index



| | | Relationship to risk and |
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| Indicator | Description | interpretation |
| Reserves Burn Rate | This indicator is the ratio between the current level of reserves and the average change in reserves in each of the past three years. A negative value (which implies reserves have increased) or one greater than 100 is recoded to 100. | The indicator provides a measure of how long (in years) it will take for a council to completely denude its reserves, if they continue to use reserves at the same rate as in the previous three years. A low value suggests that there is a risk that the authority will run out of reserves. A high value says, that on current trends, they are unlikely to deplete their reserves. |
| Level of Reserves | This is the ratio of the current level of reserves (total useable excluding public health & schools) to the council's net revenue expenditure. We have set the figure at 100% for a small number of district councils to remove the impact of extreme outliers. | A low level of reserves may indicate that a council has low capacity to cope with financial shocks. It will also face a risk should expenditure exceed income. |
| Change in Reserves | This indicator shows the average percentage change in reserves (total useable excluding public health and schools) over the past three years | A council that is using up its reserves may be at risk if they do not move to a more balanced budget. |
| Unallocated Reserves | This indicator is calculated as the ratio of unallocated reserves to net revenue expenditure | This indicator provides some further information on the reserves indicator. A low level of unallocated reserves may be a sign that a council will struggle with financial shocks. |
| Earmarked Reserves | This indicator is calculated as the ratio of earmarked reserves (excluding public health and schools) to net revenue expenditure | This indicator provides some further information on the reserves indicator. A low level of earmarked reserves could mean that a council will struggle with financial shocks or that they have not planned effectively for their use of reserves. |
| Change in Unallocated Reserves | This indicator is the average percentage change in unallocated reserves over the past three years | This indicator provides some further information on the reserves indicator. A council that is using up its reserves may be at risk if they do not move to a more balanced budget. |
| Change in Earmarked Reserves | This indicator is the average percentage change in unallocated reserves over the past three years | This indicator provides some further information on the reserves indicator. A council that is using up its reserves may be at risk if they do not move to a balanced budget. |
| Social Care & Interest payments ratio | This indicator is the ratio of total spending on adults' social care, children's social care and debt interest to net revenue expenditure. | This indicator provides a measure of the degree of flexibility within a council's budget. Spending on these items is less likely to be reduced compared to other categories. A high ratio suggests that the council has little flexibility to make further savings, potentially leading to risk |
| Children's Social Care Ratio | This indicator is the ratio of spending on children's social care to net revenue expenditure | This indicator provides a breakdown of the total ratio to allow councils to understand their relative position for this component |
| Adult Social Care Ratio | This indicator is the ratio of spending on adult social care to net revenue expenditure | This indicator provides a breakdown of the total ratio to allow councils to understand their relative position for this component |
| Grants to Expenditure Ratio | This indicator shows the proportion of net revenue expenditure funded by central government grants. | Grants are a diminishing source of funding. However, a relatively high level of grants may suggest that a council may experience financial difficulties in the future as grants continue to be a declining source of income. |
| Council Tax Requirement / RSG | This indicator shows the ratio of council tax to RSG | This indicator provides a measure of the relative importance of council tax and grants. A low ratio suggest higher dependency on grants which may suggest that a council may experience financial difficulties as grants diminish further |
| Retained Income from business Rates/ Net Expenditure | This indicator shows the ratio of retained income from business rates as a proportion of net expenditure | As locally raised business rates become more important, a lower ratio may be associated with difficulties in raising the income necessary to support spending. |
| Children's Social Care Judgement | This indicator shows the latest OFSTED judgement on the quality of children's social care | A rating of inadequate or requires improvement may be associated with future higher spending on children's social care adding to council funding pressures |
| Auditors VfM Assessment | This indicator shows whether auditors have produce a non-standard conclusion on a council's accounts | A non-standard judgement may indicate some concern over the financial management and decisions within a council. |