

Public Document Pack
SOUTHEND-ON-SEA CITY COUNCIL

Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Date: Thursday, 7th December, 2023

Time: 6.30 pm

Place: Committee Room 1 - Civic Suite

Contact: Stephanie Cox (Principal Democratic Services Officer)

Email: committeesection@southend.gov.uk

AGENDA

- 1 Chair's Introduction & Apologies for Absence**
- 2 Declarations of Interest**
- 3 Questions from Members of the Public**
- 4 Minutes of the Meeting held on 2 NOVEMBER 2023 (Pages 3 - 8)**
- **** ITEMS CALLED-IN/REFERRED DIRECT BY CABINET - 20 NOVEMBER 2023**
- 5 Resourcing Better Outcomes - Financial Performance Report for September 2023 (Period 6) (Pages 9 - 108)**
Please find enclosed (at appendix 5) an excerpt of the decisions digest of Cabinet held on 20 November 2023 which sets out the resolutions.

Chair & Members:

Cllr S Wakefield (Chair), Cllr L Burton (Vice-Chair), Cllr B Beggs, Cllr M Borton, Cllr S Buckley, Cllr O Cartey, Cllr T Cowdrey, Cllr M Dent, Cllr F Evans, Cllr N Folkard, Cllr S George, Cllr J Harland, Cllr R McMullan, Cllr M Sadza, Cllr C Walker, Cllr J Warren and Cllr P Wexham

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SOUTHEND-ON-SEA CITY COUNCIL

Meeting of Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Date: Thursday, 2nd November, 2023

Place: Committee Room 1 - Civic Suite

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Present: Councillor S Wakefield (Chair)
Councillors L Burton (Vice-Chair), B Beggs, S Buckley, O Cartey, M Dent, F Evans, N Folkard, S George, J Harland, R McMullan, J Warren, P Collins*, D Cowan*, A Dear* and R Woodley*

*Substitute in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 31.

In Attendance: Councillors K Buck, J Courtenay, T Cox, M Davidson, D Garston and J Lamb (Cabinet Members)
Councillor S Aylen
J Chesterton, G Halksworth, S Newman, A Richards, C Shuter and S Cox

Start/End Time: 6.30pm - 9.05 pm

38 Chair's Introduction & Apologies for Absence

(a) Chair's Introduction

Prior to the consideration of the matters set out in the agenda, the Chair outlined their expectations of the standard of conduct and behaviour to be shown at the meeting.

(b) Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M Borton (Substitute: Councillor D Cowan), Councillor T Cowdrey (Substitute: Councillor R Woodley), Councillor Walker (Substitute: Councillor A Dear) and Councillor P Wexham (Substitute: Councillor P Collins).

39 Declarations of Interest

The following interests were declared at the meeting:

- (a) Councillor M Sadza – Minute 40 (Questions from Members of the Public) – Member of Acorn Renters Union.
- (b) Councillor R Woodley – Minute 43 (Budget Update) – Member of a Bowls Club.
- (c) Councillor O Cartey – Minute 43 (Budget Update) Grandfather Founding Trustee of 'Project Southchurch' and previously advised on financial and operational issues.
- (d) Councillor N Folkard – Minute 43 (Budget Update) – as Fusion leisure was mentioned and he was a daily user of the swimming pool at Garon's Park.

40 Questions from Members of the Public

The Committee noted the response of the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning to a question presented by Mr Webb.

41 Minutes of the Meeting held on 31 August 2023

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 31st August 2023 be received, confirmed as a correct record and signed.

42 Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 5 October 2023

Resolved:

That the minutes of the special meeting of the Committee held on 5th October 2023 be received, confirmed as a correct record and signed.

43 Budget Update

The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director of Finance and Resources (S151 officer) which had been referred direct by the Cabinet from the meeting held on 31st October 2023.

The report had been circulated prior to the meeting as a supplementary agenda item and set out a range of proposals to help to address the financial challenges the Council was facing, to allow sufficient time to develop and make the necessary detailed arrangements which included appropriate consultation.

The Committee asked a number of procedural questions regarding a S114 notice, any what would happen if one was required to be issued, which were responded to by the S151 officer (the Executive Director of Finance and Resources).

On consideration of the report the Leader of the Council made a commitment that Group Leaders would be involved in the development of the proposed consultation(s) to ensure the best quality responses, and that they would have the opportunity to participate in 'Revenue Challenge Sessions'. (*Action noted*).

The Committee discussed the report at length and asked a number of questions which were responded to by the relevant Cabinet Members. In response to a committee member's question regarding business support grants, the Leader of the Council requested for the meeting to move into exempt session at the end to briefly discuss, to which the Chair agreed.

The Leader of the Council clarified the net General Fund Revenue Budget position for 2023/24 of £143.875M, and that the language would be corrected in future reports.

During the debate a Councillor sought reassurance that he would receive a response regarding a £300,000 overspend in the Highways budget. (*Action noted*).

Prior to the meeting, the Chair of the Committee requested all Councillors to put forward any ideas for revenue generation / revenue savings which were being collated by Democratic Services so that details could be supplied to Cabinet Members. At the time of the meeting, the Chair confirmed that responses had been so far received from Councillor

R Woodley, Councillor S Aylen, Councillor M Dent, Councillor A Jones, Councillor M Berry, Councillor R McMullan and Councillor M Terry.

The Leader of the Council reaffirmed his commitment to appraising all suggested revenue saving / revenue generating ideas at a future meeting of the Cabinet. In order for all suggestions to sufficiently be reviewed by officers and appraised by the Cabinet, all Councillors were requested to submit their responses to Democratic Services and the Chair of the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee within the following 7 days. (*Action noted*).

During the debate a number of revenue saving / revenue generation suggestions were put forward by Members, which were logged by Democratic Services. These included:

- to review the modelling for burials in Southend with a comparison of nearby neighbours, and whether an alternative fee structure could be introduced for those living outside of the City.
- Associated cost savings and possibility of moving staff from Civic 2 into the main tower block (estate optimisation).
- Subsidies to bowl clubs.

The Committee agreed that, in addition to noting the following decisions by Cabinet, a new recommendation be added (at number 7) that Members suggestions for revenue saving / revenue generation be collated and appraised at a future meeting of the Cabinet.

Resolved:

That the following decisions of the Cabinet be noted:

1. Notes the significant financial challenges facing the Council and agrees that immediate action is required in-year to mitigate the scale of current year overspending as well as plan for longer term, fundamental re-design of Council service delivery.
2. Notes the work already in progress under existing delegations to the Chief Executive and senior officers.
3. Agrees therefore to take the decisions outlined in Appendix 1 and delegates to the relevant Executive Director authority to take all necessary action to realise savings, income generation and cost avoidance measures related to those decisions.
4. Agrees also to delegate authority to the relevant Executive Director, in consultation with (relevant Cabinet Member) to agree the consultation document for decisions in Appendix 1 subject to statutory consultation. The outcome of the consultation and resulting recommendations to be taken back to Cabinet for agreement.
5. Agree that officers continue to develop the longer-term service re-design measures as set out in paragraph 6 and that Cabinet receive a future report on the projected impact of that service redesign on the Council's finances.
6. Agrees that the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, will develop a new design for service delivery based upon a localities model for approval by a future Cabinet.

Note: This is an Executive Function

Cabinet Member: Councillor T Cox (Leader of the Council)

7. That is be agreed Members suggestions for revenue saving / revenue generation be collated and appraised at a future meeting of the Cabinet.

44 Southend-on-Sea City Council Refreshed Corporate Plan 2023-2027

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director (Strategy and Change), by way of pre-Cabinet Scrutiny, presenting the Council's refreshed Corporate Plan for 2023 to 2027.

In response to questions from members of the Committee, the Leader confirmed that the final document would be shared with partners as appropriate, and that there was not expected to be any significant changes to the Corporate Plan arising from the budget update report which had more recently been referred.

The Leader of the Council thanked everyone who had attended the working party to contribute to the draft Corporate Plan and commended the collaborative approach that had been undertaken.

Resolved:

That the report to Cabinet be noted.

Note: This is an Executive Function

Cabinet Member: Councillor T Cox (Leader of the Council)

45 Treasury Management Report - Mid Year 2023/24

The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director (Finance and Resources), by way of pre-Cabinet scrutiny, presenting the treasury management activity and compliance with the treasury management strategy for both quarter two and the period from April to September 2023.

The Committee asked a number of questions regarding the Lothbury Property Trust which were responded to by the Executive Director (Finance and Resources) and the Leader of the Council.

Resolved:

That the report to Cabinet, be noted.

Note: This is an Executive Function

Cabinet Member: Councillor T Cox (Leader of the Council)

46 Association of South Essex Local Authorities - Joint Committee (now re-branded as South Essex Councils (SEC))

The Committee received the draft minutes of the meeting of the Joint Committee of the Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA), held on 28th September 2023.

The Committee also received a cover note which advised that the Joint Committee of the Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA) had been rebranded as South Essex Councils (SEC) at the meeting held on 28th September 2023.

The covering note highlighted any implications, benefits or considerations for Southend and its interests arising from the SEC Joint Committee, its work programme and operations.

One of the reported implications was that Southend was being asked to recommend through its own governance procedures that Castle Point Borough Council be indemnified against all costs and liabilities arising from the OSE-related redundancy, in the same proportion as our current OSE subscription (currently 17%).

In response the Leader advised that he was not aware of such implications arising from the meeting, however he would seek further clarification and provide a written response to the Committee. (*Action noted*).

Resolved:

That the draft minutes of the meeting of the Joint Committee of the Association of South Essex Local Authorities held on 28th September, be noted.

Note: This is a Scrutiny function

Chairman: _____

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Title:	Finance and Corporate Performance Report 2023/24 to end of September 2023 (Period 6)
Meeting:	Cabinet
Date:	20 November 2023
Classification:	Part 1
Policy Context:	
Key Decision:	No
Report Authors:	Pete Bates, Director of Financial Services, Caroline Fozzard, Senior Finance Lead (Strategy, Sustainability and Governance), Suzanne Newman, Head of Corporate Strategy Gareth Nicholas, Insights Manager
Executive Councillor:	Councillor Cox, Leader and Cabinet Member for Special Educational Needs & Disability

1 Executive Summary

The finance and corporate performance report is a key tool in scrutinising the Council's overall performance. It is designed to provide an overview to all relevant stakeholders at regular stages throughout the financial year. It is essential that the Council monitors its budgets and assesses its performance regularly to ensure that it is meeting its strategic objectives and providing value for money. This approach highlights where corrective action is necessary and reasonable mitigation is required to try to deliver a balanced financial position by the end of the year.

Given the current operating environment and the significant increases experienced in both service demand and the ongoing unavoidable inflationary cost pressures, this will be an incredibly difficult ambition to achieve in 2023/24. This report summarises the current forecast position at this halfway point of the financial year and reinforces the need to make some difficult choices and take decisive action.

2 Recommendations

2.1 Cabinet notes the continued unprecedented levels of reported financial pressure and challenges right across the local government sector (appendix 1).

That, in respect of the 2023/24 Revenue Budget Performance as set out in appendix 2 to this report, Cabinet:

- 2.2 Note the forecast outturn for 2023/24 for the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account as at 30 September 2023.**
- 2.3 Note the plans and intentions to try to reduce the forecast overspend of the Council's revenue budget for 2023/24 and agree that the Chief Executive and Executive Director (Finance & Resources) continue to explore all opportunities within their delegated powers and authority to improve the financial position by the year-end (section 5).**
- 2.4 Approve the planned budget transfers (virements) of £2,710,000 from earmarked reserves, as set out in section 5.58.**

That, in respect of the 2023/24 Capital Budget Performance as set out in appendix 3 of this report, Cabinet:

- 2.5 Note the expenditure to date and the forecast outturn as at 30 September 2023 and its financing.**
- 2.6 Approve the requested changes to the capital investment programme for 2023/24 and future years, as set out in section 4 of appendix 3.**
- 2.7 Note the Corporate Performance Report as at 30 September 2023 set out in appendix 4.**

3 Southend-on-Sea City Council's financial situation

- 3.1 As reported in July 2023, the Council ended the 2022/23 financial year with the largest level of overspending since it became a Unitary Authority on 1st April 1998. Following years of strong financial management, the Council had sufficient reserves to cope with the impact of this outcome for that year as a 'one-off' critical event. Despite the improved financial performance and positive direction of travel summarised in this report for 2023/24, the reduced level of forecast overspending at September 2023 (period 6) is too high and still places the Council at serious risk and remains a threat to its future viability.**
- 3.2 The Council's financial situation remains challenging, and continued urgent action needs to be taken. It is in the best interests of the Council for all Officers and Elected Members to work closely and collaboratively together at pace to control all areas of identified overspending and to ensure that any adverse variances are brought back as close as possible to the approved budget for 2023/24. Without this collaborative action, this 'in-year' pressure could continue to increase the forecast budget gap for 2024/25 and the future. The Council has a statutory requirement to approve a balanced budget and set the Council Tax level for 2024/25 by 11 March 2024.**

- 3.3 Despite the difficult circumstances the Council still has its financial destiny and control in its own hands if it can manage to continue to reduce the revised forecast level of overspending significantly throughout the rest of the 2023/24 financial year and develop robust plans to deliver a balanced budget for 2024/25. To support this ambition, it is intended to arrange Elected Member briefings to enhance understanding of the current situation, the severity of the challenge, assess the risks and seek their views and co-operation in determining and then implementing budget savings solutions at pace. The Council is now working with Ernst & Young (EY) to provide additional independent challenge and sector insight to help develop options to mitigate the range of financial pressures that are being faced.
- 3.4 Urgent action is needed to try to reduce all non-essential expenditure and/or generate extra local income. This priority must be achieved whilst ensuring that our most vulnerable residents are looked after appropriately, and our statutory responsibilities are effectively discharged. Like other Local Authorities we also need to consider how we deliver our statutory responsibilities and if changes can be made. The same principles are being applied to the early development of ideas and proposals to deliver a balanced budget for 2024/25. Improving efficiency and productivity is essential but the scale of the continuing unprecedented financial pressures will inevitably lead to a reduction in the range, quality, cost and responsiveness of other discretionary Council services as well as challenging our approach to the delivery of our statutory responsibilities.
- 3.5 To help to begin to address and close the estimated budget gap over the next five years the Council will continue to aim to achieve financial sustainability by growing local income sources and relying less on grant support from Central Government in the future. The Council will continue to work collaboratively with its partners, increase its focus on the delivery or joint commissioning of services in a targeted way to ensure that those in most need and who will receive the greatest benefit are the recipients of services. It is vital that we learn from our COVID-19 experience and tailor our services and working practices accordingly.
- 3.6 This report will focus on providing some detail and commentary of the financial variances at a portfolio level that are currently forecast for 2023/24. It builds on the information that was reported at July 2023 (period 4) and highlights what improvements have been made but clearly demonstrates that further work is required. It should be noted that these revised forecasts have been based on the best information we currently have available and have also been calculated at what is still a relatively early stage of the financial year.

4 Unprecedented levels of financial challenge right across the Sector

- 4.1 The current national operating environment, particularly for upper tier local authorities has never been so financially challenging with numerous Councils announcing or giving warnings of financial distress. The issuing of a s114 notice was once unheard of and whilst a lot more authorities are highlighting the possibility, it is still a major undertaking which has huge consequences for the local authority concerned. It is effectively a declaration that the organisation is forecasting that it cannot meet all its financial obligations.

- 4.2 The Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) now provide an option for local authorities in financial difficulties that are deemed to be unmanageable to apply for Exceptional Financial Support. In practice, this presents an intermediate step to avoid a s114 scenario. This action inevitably results in an escalation of direct intervention by DLUHC in the Council's management, administration and decision-making.
- 4.3 The ultimate consequences of issuing a s114 notice are serious and significant and would immediately result in the cessation of all but the most essential levels of expenditure and then only to meet the statutory minimum level of service and Council liabilities. There would also be the need to develop and deliver a comprehensive Council-wide financial recovery plan. This would need to be considered by a full Council meeting within 21 days of issuing the notice.
- 4.4 There remains widespread concern and risk to the continued delivery and level of public services in many local authority areas. The unprecedented levels of demand and huge increases in costs of maintaining statutory service provision, particularly for support and intervention for vulnerable children and adults has been at such a pace that discretionary universal services are continually being squeezed and are being forced to be significantly reduced to ensure some local authorities remain financially viable.
- 4.5 The summary of headlines shown at Appendix 1, are all stories that have been published in October 2023. Many authorities are continuing to highlight that the respective financial resilience and sustainability of their organisation is under serious threat.
- 4.6 Given this combination of factors and unheard-of levels of financial distress being raised right across the sector, local authority networks up and down the country continue to lobby the Government hard for recognition of the scale of the underfunding problem and the impact on local areas. Authorities are requesting more transparency and a fairer longer term funding deal particularly in the more deprived areas of the country, which are suffering most from huge increases in both the complexity and cost of statutory service demand.
- 4.7 The fact that this scale of financial challenge is so widespread across the country remains of little comfort currently though as all Councils, including Southend-on-Sea, wrestle with maintaining the delivery of their key statutory responsibility to operate in a financially sensible and sustainable way.
- 4.8 An urgent report was considered at a Special Cabinet meeting on 31 October 2023 regarding the budget for 2024/25 and future years. This report brought forward a range of proposals for early consideration and decision to help to begin to address the financial challenges the Council is facing and to allow for sufficient time to develop initiatives and progress the necessary detailed arrangements including appropriate statutory consultation. The Council needs to take decisive action now to ensure good local governance of financial and operational decision making and for the future of the City.

- 4.9 For the decisions set out in the appendix to the report, Cabinet agreed to delegate authority to the relevant Executive Director and to take all necessary action to realise savings, income generation and cost avoidance measures related to those decisions. The report and proposed course of action was then presented and considered at the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 2 November 2023. [Agenda item - Budget Update \(southend.gov.uk\)](https://www.southend.gov.uk/agenda-item-budget-update)
- 4.10 Cabinet agreed that officers should continue to develop longer-term service re-design measures and that a future report on the projected impact on the Council's finances would be presented to a future meeting. Approval was also given to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, to develop a new design for service delivery based upon a localities model. A report recommending a new set of arrangements would be presented to a future Cabinet meeting.

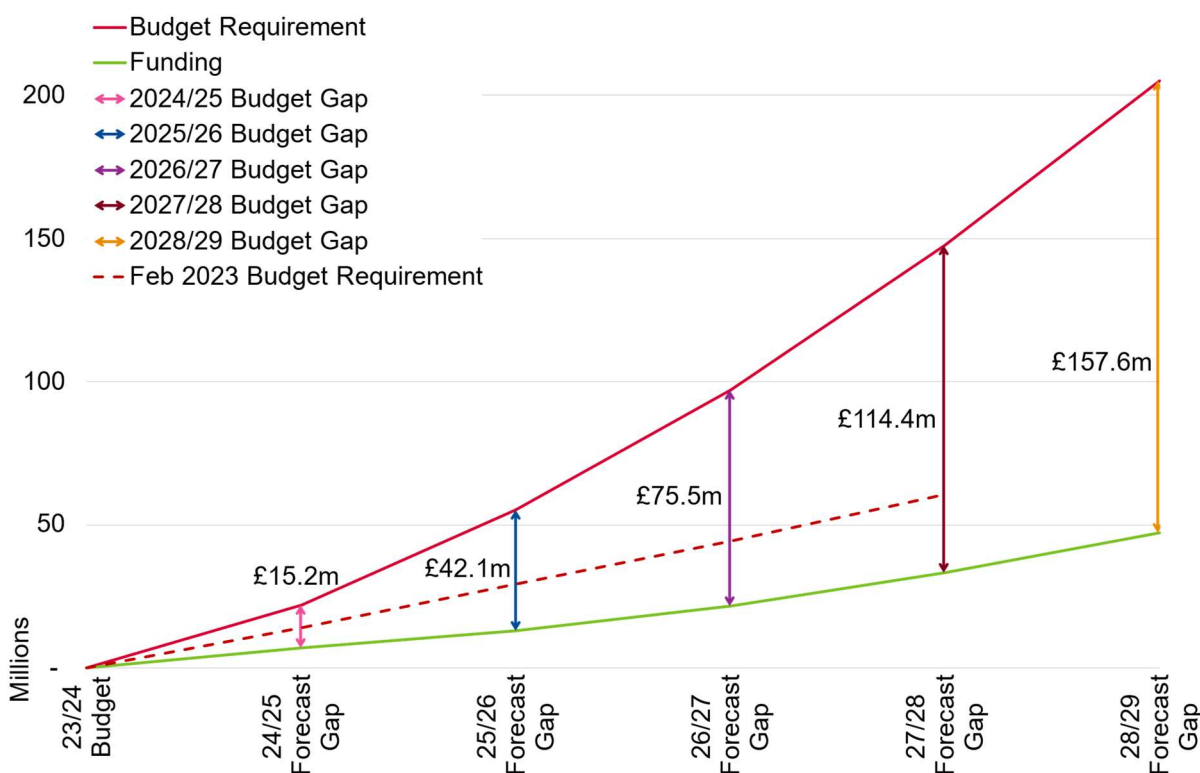
5 Southend-on-Sea City Council Revenue Position – General fund

- 5.1 In February 2023, the Council approved a General Fund Revenue Budget requirement for 2023/24 of **£143.875M**. This report provides details of the current projected outturn position for 2023/24 based on information as at the end of September 2023 (period 6). In headline terms the Council's Corporate Budgets and Service Portfolios are currently forecasting a net overspend by the year-end of **£10.767M** for 2023/24, this is an improvement of **£3.273M** on the position reported at July 2023 (period 4) (£14.040M).

2023/24	Projected Overspend £M
Feb 2023 (Budget Approved)	-
July 2023 (Period 4)	14.040
September 2023 (Period 6)	10.767

- 5.2 This clearly shows a positive direction of travel, but more urgent work is still required to try and reduce this revised level of overspending as far as possible for 2023/24. Action is and will continue to be taken to further mitigate this revised potential overspend throughout the remainder of the year. The total projected overspend currently stands at around 3.0% of the Council's gross expenditure budget. This revised level of overspending remains unsustainable and would continue to put the Authority at serious financial risk.
- 5.3 All local authorities provide an indicative estimate of future budget/funding gaps as part of approving their respective Medium-Term Financial Strategies each year. As referenced in the July 2023 (period 4) Cabinet report some initial work has now been done to re-cast this medium-term financial forecast for the Council.
- 5.4 The scale, range, volume of data, assumptions and forecasts included in any Medium-Term Financial Forecast for a Unitary Authority is incredibly complex and volatile. An initial assessment has now been completed based on all the current information available and on the assumption that **NO NEW ADDITIONAL** funding would be available from Central Government from 2024/25 onwards.

5.5 An illustration of the potential impact is shown in the following diagram. Clearly more work and refinement will be required throughout the remainder of the year. The Council will continue to lobby Central Government for a fairer funding deal in the future and to do all it can to reduce its costs and generate additional local income wherever possible.



The following table provides an estimated update of the potential individual additional budget gap forecast for each of the next 5 years. The cumulative impact of these revised forecast 'in-year' gaps is illustrated in the diagram above.

Permanently reducing the 'in-year' gap in an individual year will create a cumulative benefit in the years that follow, reducing the divergence between the expenditure (red) and funding (green) line in the above diagram.

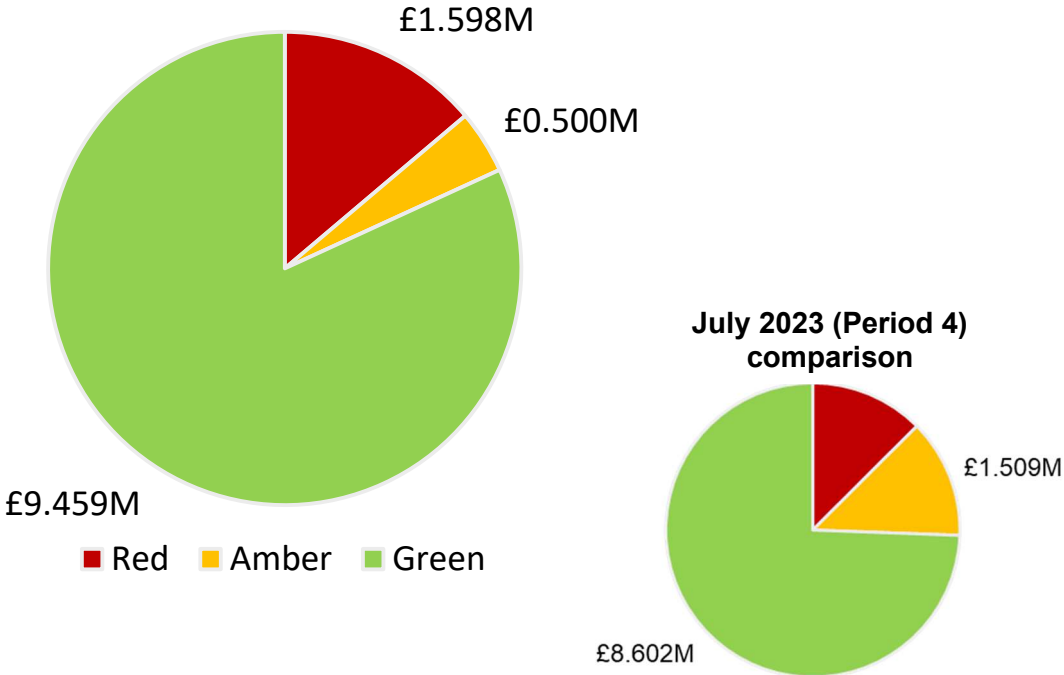
	Forecast Variance 23/24	'in-year' gap (£M)				
		24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29
Original Forecast February 2023	0	9.3	9.5	6.0	5.0	n/a
Updated Forecast September 2023	10.8	15.2	11.9	6.5	5.5	4.3
Increase	10.8	5.9	2.4	0.5	0.5	n/a

Any residual overspending in 2023/24 and additional increased demand/costs on top of what the Council is already experiencing within our statutory social care services would have a further detrimental impact on these projections.

- 5.6 A major budget planning intention was to develop a prioritised programme of targeted transformation reviews. The blueprint for this was drawn up with the support of Grant Thornton and is now currently being progressed with the Council's new implementation partner Ernst & Young (EY). A new Director of Transformation has been appointed and the planned transformation programme will assist the Council towards achieving financial sustainability in the medium term, but the focus now is urgently on improving the financial position for 2023/24.
- 5.7 It was reported in the July 2023 (period 4) report that a series of Budget Challenge sessions for each Executive Director and their service leads with the Chief Executive, Executive Director (Finance & Resources) and Senior Finance Officers would take place between 5th and 12th September 2023. Key lines of enquiry for all services to identify opportunities for cost reduction, savings and income generation were explored. Representatives from EY were in attendance to add some independent insight and external challenge. The outcome from these sessions have undoubtedly had a positive impact on the Council's financial performance as summarised in this September 2023 (period 6) report but more is required. The Chief Executive and Executive Director (Finance & Resources) are arranging a series of Budget Challenge Sessions Round 2 designed to continue to try and improve the Council's financial position in 2023/24.
- 5.8 The revised predicted financial position for 2023/24 and an evaluation of all action taken following the original Budget challenge sessions has been represented in this report, it is now necessary to introduce even tougher measures to try to move towards a balanced financial position by the year end. Tightening the measures already introduced with even greater enforcement or changing intervention thresholds needs to be implemented safely. These actions will include the following activities: -
- Transformation programme – use of technology and still customer focussed.
 - Target Operating Model (TOM) Changes, layering of Management and Supervisors – full implementation of Organisation Design principles.
 - Recruitment freeze.
 - Essential spending only.
 - Close services/reduce services.
 - Demand management.
 - Driving real value from contract management, procurement and commissioning activity.
 - Implementing fair and appropriate charging for all relevant services – inflationary increases where necessary.
 - Removing all subsidy from discretionary services.
 - Risk managed commercial approach.
 - Rationalising our estate and reducing poor quality underutilised front-line provision.
 - Capital programme – stop, defer, pause.
 - Managing some decline on the highway, sticking to very clear service standards.

Summary of performance against savings and income generation initiatives

5.9 The 2023/24 approved budget included £11.557M of savings and income generating initiatives. Some positive progress has been achieved from the previously reported July 2023 (period 4) position, as illustrated below. The following pie charts represent the current value of savings which have been categorised as Green – will be achieved, Amber – will be partially achieved or Red – unlikely to be achieved based on the current assessment of progress. It is critical that all approved plans are delivered, or alternative options are urgently developed.



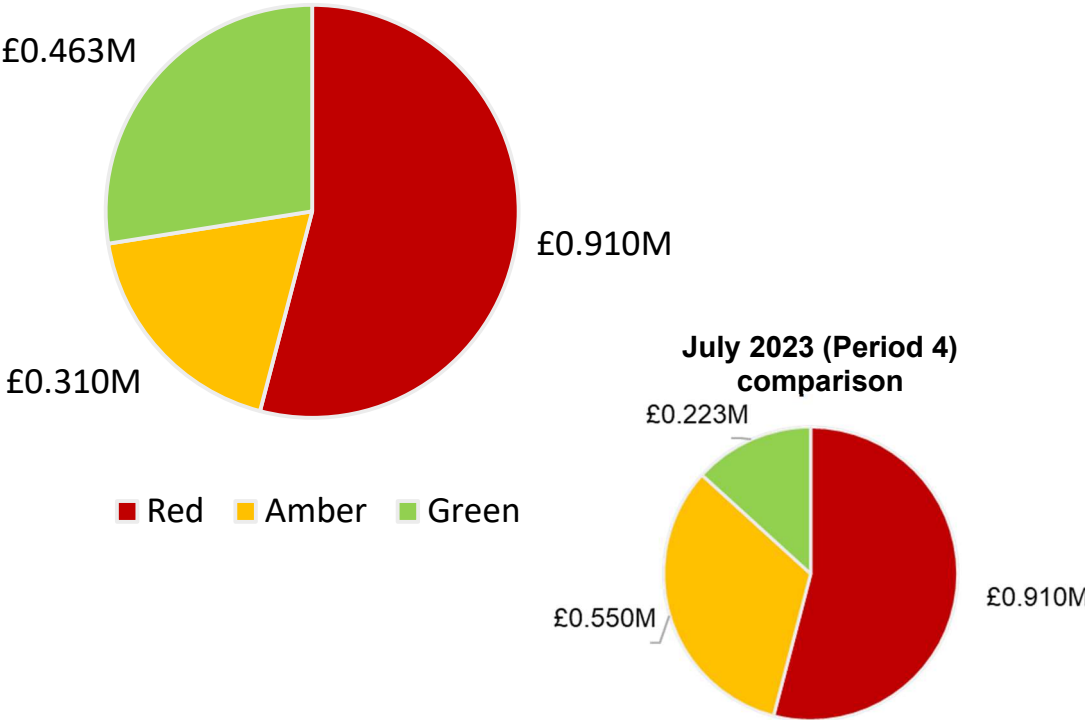
5.10 Where savings or income generating initiatives are not currently being achieved, they have been highlighted in the relevant Portfolio service sections within this report.

5.11 The table on the next page highlights a summary of the initiatives that are currently classified as Red or Amber. Work is ongoing to try to improve the delivery of these areas and/or alternative proposals are being developed. A further update on progress will be provided in the November 2023 (period 8) report to January’s Cabinet meeting.

Reference	Title of Proposal	£000
EAP-06	System for management of sickness absence	25
ORE-09	Staffing Reduction – Digital & ICT	85
SOC-03	Review Travel Centre Operation / Closure	40
SOC-04	Review of public toilet offer with focus on securing external operator	150
TPP-03	Recruitment Contract (Hays Commercial)	104
IGC-03	Cremation and burial costs for non-residents	100
IGC-09	Sales, Fees & Charges (this includes a saving from 2022/23 ref. PY-FW06-SP)	586
IGC-10	CCTV Control Room commercial activity	25
IGC-11	Street Lighting Advertising Banners	40
PY-SW08	Introduce a new strengths-based refresh in 2021/22	200
PY-ES08	Better use of email for communication	8
PY-SW16-IS	Learning Disability Services Transformation	75
PY-SW17-IS	Shared Lives Expansion	10
PY-SW19-IS	Enhanced In-house Foster Care Offer	150
Red - unlikely to be achieved sub-total		1,598
ORE-04	Staffing Reduction – Revenues Service	145
ORE-05	Customer Services/ Revenues and Benefits Structure Review	125
ORE-11	Staffing Operational Review – Library Services	30
SOC-08	Library service savings	35
TPP-04	Employee Assistance contract for service	10
TPP-05	Occupational Health contract for service	75
IGC-09	Sales, Fees & Charges (this includes a saving from 2022/23 ref. PY-FW06-SP)	75
PY-OP03	Park Sponsorship	5
Amber – will be partially achieved sub-total		500

Summary of performance against targeted overspend reductions.

5.12 When setting the budget for 2023/24 it was recognised that there were overspends of £1.683M which occurred in 2022/23 that would need to reduce in 2023/24 for the organisation to operate within the agreed budget. The operating environment experienced throughout the year to date has severely impacted the delivery of this ambition. The following pie charts represent the value of overspend reductions which were identified and have been categorised as Green – will be achieved, Amber – will be partially achieved or Red – unlikely to be achieved.



5.13 Where significant overspends are continuing to occur, or have increased, they have been highlighted in the relevant Portfolio service sections within this report. Most of the high values of continued pressure are within our statutory social care services for our most vulnerable children and adults.

Summary of the major factors contributing to the forecast overspend in 2023/24

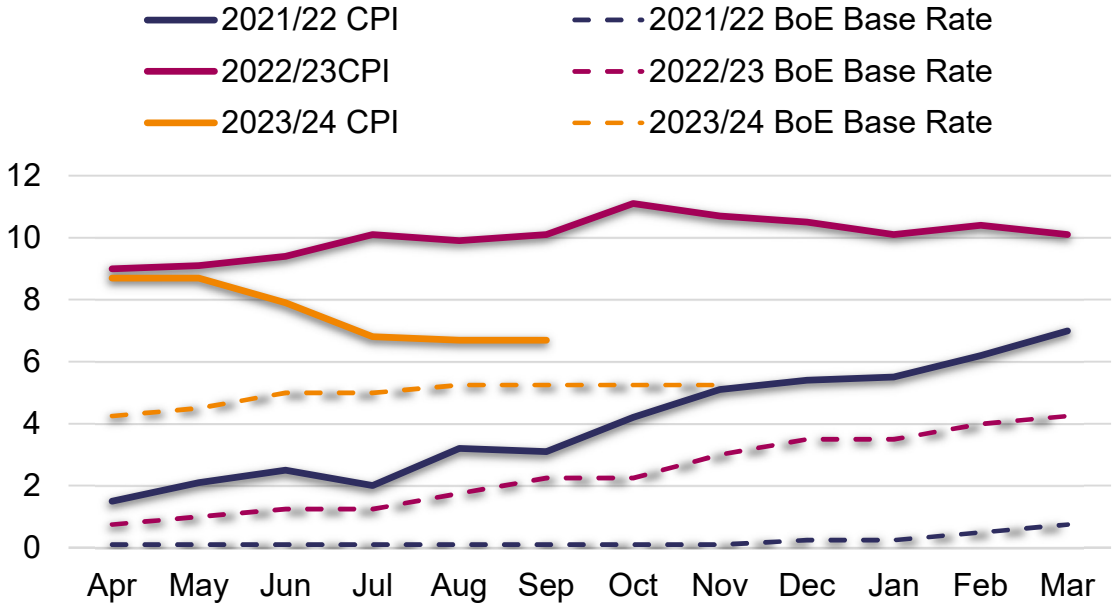
5.14 The revised forecast revenue overspend at September 2023 (period 6) of **£10.767M** for 2023/24 is driven by a wide range of factors which are considered in more detail in the remainder of this section.

5.15 The budget provision for the nationally negotiated Pay Award April 2023 is currently being held corporately, inflationary increases on most existing contracts have now been applied appropriately to all services.

5.16 The nationally negotiated Pay Award for 2023/24 has now been agreed and the Council received formal notification on 1 November 2023. The Council’s provision (£4.425M) is sufficient to meet the full costs of this award for 2023/24. Arrangements are being made to pay all staff accordingly (backdated to 1 April 2023) starting with the November payroll run.

- 5.17 Stubbornly high inflation continues to drive costs upwards and although the price of energy has not risen as steeply as expected when the budget was set in February 2023 this has been more than offset by price increases elsewhere right across the supplier/provider market.
- 5.18 In September 2023 the rate of inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), was 6.7%, the same rate as in August 2023. Downward contributions to the inflation rate came from food and non-alcoholic beverages but these have been offset by rising prices for motor fuel. Although the rates of inflation are lower than at the same time last year (see graph below) they are increases on already higher prices creating a cumulative impact that is stretching most Council budgets to breaking point.
- 5.19 In its efforts to bring inflation back down to its target of 2% the Bank of England has continued to increase interest rates at every opportunity since December 2021 until August 2023, when the Bank of England Base Rate was 5.25%. The decision to maintain this rate in September and again on 2nd November 2023 means it will not change for a further 6 weeks.

Consumer Price Inflation (CPI) and Bank of England (BoE) Base Rate



- 5.20 The increase in the base rate has driven up interest rates being paid on savings and investments. The 2023/24 budget reflected the projected increase with an additional £1.450M of income built into the budget. As at September 2023 (period 6) it is forecast that a further £1.909M will be earned, and this is reported as a favourable variance against Corporate Budgets in Appendix 2.

5.21 Rising interest rates are not entirely beneficial to the Council and will impact on the cost of borrowing over time. Perhaps more significantly they will affect resident's costs of borrowing (i.e., mortgages) and household bills (i.e., food & energy). It is likely that increasing numbers of residents will be pushed into a position of requiring additional Council services, advice and support over the coming months. A key risk that could add even further demand pressure on already over stretched services.

Leader: Corporate Matters and Performance Delivery

5.22 Children with a special need and disability (SEND), is the main cause of the £150,000 spend pressure (increase of £50,000 from July 2023 (period 4)). There is a national shortage in Educational Psychologists (a critical statutory service supporting and advising both schools, parents and carers for children with SEND). Interim cover has therefore been required to sustain an appropriate statutory service level. These arrangements, together with increases in demand are the key contributory factors of the forecast overspend being reported. Recruitment and retention plans are in place to try to secure a permanent workforce moving forward. Smaller pressures also remain where direct SEND team cover is required for staff on maternity leave.

5.23 Management decisions taken on Human Resources staffing have reduced the forecast pressure by £31,000. No specific overspending mitigation has yet been agreed for the £147,000 of savings not expected to be achieved this year, some of these are a one-off pressure as the savings are part of larger projects that have experienced delays. The service also continues to struggle to meet its income target, the final outturn for 2022/23 showed a shortfall of £74,000 and a similar pressure is forecast for 2023/24.

5.24 The new interim Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer) has been in post since the beginning of September. July 2023's (period 4) report included an initial estimate for the additional agency costs this would incur but these were underestimated, correcting this has increased the pressure on the overall staffing costs for the Service. The Legal Services team have had significant problems with permanent recruitment and as a result expenditure on agency staff to cover vacant roles remains high. The forecast level of income for the service has also been reduced, adding to the increased level of overspending. The combined impact of these changes is creating a further £90,000 pressure from the position reported at July 2023 (period 4).

Deputy Leader: Environment

- 5.25 Residual waste tonnages increased significantly during the Covid pandemic but positively the forecast tonnages the Council needs to dispose of is forecast to return to comparable pre-pandemic levels as the volume is decreasing against the same time period last year. However, the reduction of residual waste is not enough to deliver this service within budget and a pressure of £700,000 is currently forecast. This amount could be decreased further by reducing the amount of residual waste presented by households which brings with it both financial and environmental benefits. This is currently being explored as part of the waste collection contract procurement.
- 5.26 The pressure of residual waste disposal is being partly offset by the income received from the disposal of food waste for which we receive an income. It is anticipated that this will be somewhere in the region of £300,000.
- 5.27 Based on the income received last year within the Grounds Maintenance service and current income levels it seems unlikely that the service will achieve its income target in 2023/24. This is being offset by holding staffing vacancies and reducing the number of seasonal workers.
- 5.28 The parks and open spaces services are forecasting an overspend because of increased vehicle requirements, repairs and maintenance costs, the effect of vandalism and the impact of controlling brown tail moths.

Adult Social Care, Health, Public Health, and Constitutional Affairs

- 5.29 Adult Social Care is forecast to overspend by £4.923M, which is a reduction of £680,000 since July 2023 (period 4). The primary driver of the reduction in the forecast is the application of £1.2M of budget mitigations being applied to the forecast. These relate to the use of reserves and grant funding to reduce the previously reported pressure. Over the same period, there has been a £565,000 deterioration to the forecast, relating to the provision of statutorily required care and support to Older People.
- 5.30 The cost of support to Older People is now 25% overspent relative to the budget, and accounts for circa 60% of the underlying pressure in Adult Social Care. There has been a 5% increase in the number of clients receiving home care in September 2023 (period 6) compared to July 2023 (period 4), with an increase in the complexity of care required driving up the average weekly package cost. As a result, homecare is forecast to overspend by £1.7M, which is an increase of £366,000 since July 2023 (period 4). Additionally, the forecast for interim residential placements has increased by circa £500,000, this is due to more accurate information available to extrapolate future costs for the remainder of the financial year. These residential placements are on average costing 17% above our contract rate, which is causing a significant additional cost pressure.

- 5.31 The forecast for learning disabilities has reduced, with the forecast cost of those anticipated to transition from Children's services being reviewed and Continuing Health Care (CHC) being secured following discussions between the service and health. This has contributed to the reduction in forecast costs within the learning disabilities service of £341,000 since July 2023 (period 4).
- 5.32 A £450,000 under spend continues to be reported in Commissioning against the Transitional Supported Housing budgets, this is an early delivery of the 2024/25 saving as the contracts were revised ahead of the original approved budget profile.
- 5.33 Targeted management action within Digital and Technology has decreased the reported staffing pressure at July 2023 (period 4) by a small amount and reduced the likely shortfall on income significantly, the combined impact is a positive reduction in the forecast overspend of £299,000.
- 5.34 With the transition of the Mental Health Service back to the Council from Essex Partnership University Trust (EPUT), there continues to be an estimated £288,000 forecast over spend on the staff/contract budget element of the service as the planned saving will not be fully delivered until the service fully transitions from November 2023.

Arts, Culture, Heritage and Leisure

- 5.35 The improvement from July 2023 (period 4) in the overall level of overspend forecast for the Pier and Foreshore Service has been achieved by a combination of reviewing the cost and level of seasonal staff required to keep the Pier operational and previously reported pressures relating to water testing, repairs and maintenance and waste management have now been funded from contingency. Pier admission income has also remained positive due to high visitor numbers throughout the summer.

Children Services, Education and Learning

- 5.36 As reported in July 2023 (period 4), the significant spend pressure trend continues from 2022/23 into 2023/24 within Children Services. This is mainly due to a combination of Residential Care placement costs particularly for those cases that are most complex within a market that is stretched and short of supply (resulting in some very high prices) and the continued reliance on external foster care placements in 2023/24. The strategy remains to reduce reliance on external foster care placements by building and sustaining capacity within our own inhouse fostering service promoted by the new and improved inhouse foster care offer from April 2023. The cost of external care placements continues to be the main cause of this significant overspend pressure.

- 5.37 Whilst the safety and wellbeing of Children remain of paramount importance the Council continues to explore opportunities to reduce costs where it is safe and possible to do so. As previously highlighted the costs relating to residential care placements are significant and any further placements or net increased placement costs will have a significant impact on the financial position reported for September 2023 (period 6).
- 5.38 Work building and sustaining capacity within the Inhouse foster carer provision continues and this is promoted by the new, improved and revised Inhouse foster care remuneration offer from April 2023, and work continues to engage regionally with the risks of the costs of the care market to Councils.
- 5.39 Other major pressures within Children Services for 2023/24 (as reported in July 2023 (period 4)) remain and includes continued reliance on temporary agency staff to cover critical statutory social work and certain critical social work management posts. Financial pressures including the national transfer scheme for Unaccompanied Asylum seekers where those children have now turned 18 and remain in supported in accommodation whilst their asylum application is considered (as the Home Office grant to support their costs reduces once the child turns 18), and pressures for care and support costs for Children with Disabilities under Section 17 status are continuing. Within the Youth Justice Service whilst temporary vacancies remain present, there is now an added confirmed pressure on secure remand placements. This is due to the confirmed grant level now received for 2023/24, which is significantly lower than the actual costs being experienced. The HM Prison & Probation service grant is based on the average of the last 3 year costs and therefore the Council will be expecting to receive an increase in the level of grant in 2024/25.
- 5.40 Whilst significant financial pressure remains across the portfolio directorate of Children Services, within Education and Learning the position has improved and reduced by £290,000 from July 2023 (period 4). Children Services have intensely reviewed and reduced spend pressure within supported accommodation placements where young adults 18+ who were previous care experienced children have transitioned safely into adults and further work is continuing. Educational Services have also proactively reduced Council spend pressures by effectively integrating eligible activities into other direct and legitimate educational grant funding streams.

Community Safety and Public Protection

- 5.41 As part of the 2023/24 budget package, it was agreed to review the public toilet offer with a focus on securing an external operator. This £150,000 saving will not be delivered this year, and the proposal is not currently being progressed. An alternative saving proposal has not yet been agreed but when one is developed then this pressure could be mitigated before the end of the year.
- 5.42 The current toilet provision also requires ongoing repairs and maintenance, it is anticipated that this will overspend by a further £70,000 this year. The Council is exploring if it is possible to deal with some of this pressure through the capital budget allocated to public toilets.

- 5.43 The CCTV service is delivered by an established team of staff and as such staff turnover is very low. This is resulting in a budget pressure on staffing costs, due to an assumption that there would be some staff turnover. The drive to deliver services on a commercial basis is continuing but formal contracts are yet to be signed to bring in additional income.

Economic Growth and Investment

- 5.44 The improvement in the revised forecast outturn previously reported at July 2023 (period 4) for this portfolio can be predominantly attributed to the agreed use and application of Council reserves to fund the additional special events which included the Herd in the City Sponsorship, the Tour of Britain Cycling Event and local fireworks event.

Highways, Transport and Parking

- 5.45 Before COVID-19 there was a slow decline in the use of cash, but the pandemic sped that up considerably. As a result, a significant proportion of parking payment transactions are now made by card or phone app and the impact of that is higher costs for card transaction and processing fees. The overspend for this is expected to be in the region of £300,000 in 2023/24. Cash collection costs have not reduced to offset some of this as there is still some cash (although significantly less than in previous years) that must be physically collected from machines located across the City.
- 5.46 There continues to be a requirement to have security staff in place at the University Square car park. This is resulting in a forecast overspend of £120,000. It is intended that this security provision will be included in the new parking contract.
- 5.47 The parking enforcement contract is currently overspending by approximately £600,000 due to the volume of variable works undertaken by the contractor and changes made as part of the short-term extension whilst a new contract is procured. The main changes relate to an increase in the number of Civil Enforcement Officers and the wage increases they have received to retain staff. Alternative options will be considered as part of the procurement, including the potential for shared services opportunities.
- 5.48 Concessionary fares payments are linked directly to actual usage on local buses. Due to the reduction in journeys post-pandemic our financial contribution has continued to reduce. Based on the most up to date information the estimated position by the end of the year is currently forecast to underspend by £550,000.

- 5.49 The reported overspend at July 2023 (period 4) on the Highways (including maintenance) line has reduced due to the utilisation of the inflation contingency which was earmarked for this purpose. Ongoing spend pressures in this area include the repair costs associated with damaged street lighting columns and a shortfall in the amount of staff time which is charged to delivering the capital programme which is being offset by staffing vacancies and an increase in income from PVX (private vehicle crossings) applications.
- 5.50 The operation of the Travel Centre in Chichester Road continues to bring with it additional cost pressures due to increased security, cleaning and utility costs totalling approximately £80,000. Contract changes have been put into effect to reduce costs, but this will only show a part-year saving.

Housing and Planning

- 5.51 The Building Control service exceeded their income budget last year due to some significant works coming into the team in early 2022/23. However, since September 2022 income has been down year on year. As this is a commercial service there is a risk that if the Authority cannot deliver the service on commercial terms the works will go to competitors in the market and we may struggle to obtain repeat business. The improvement now reported from July 2023 (period 4) in the forecast outturn position for the overall Planning Service is directly due to the drawdown from the reserve for Planning which is earmarked to respond to this volatility in the market.
- 5.52 The Service Director continues to intentionally hold vacancies within Housing Benefit teams (Benefits Administration and Essential Living Fund) to try to help with the overall financial pressures across the Council whilst maintaining an acceptable level of service. This forecast may need to be reduced in future reporting periods if there is a significant increase in the number of Southend residents seeking support as additional staff will be needed to maintain the statutory minimum levels of service.

Regulatory Services

- 5.53 Asset Management have a reduced staffing complement due to acting up arrangements across the team operating without backfill. There is a knock-on impact of reduced levels of staff time being capitalised against the budget, but the net impact is still a substantial underspend.
- 5.54 The refurbishment of the crematorium is underway and due for completion in March 2024 bringing with it greater efficiency, ensuring that the crematorium can function into the future and improving the environmental impact of the service. During the works and to minimise disruption services have been restricted to Tuesday - Thursday so that 4 days a week are available to deliver the scheme. Reducing the operating hours of the crematorium is resulting in a significant reduction in income over this 12-month period with current estimates forecasting a shortfall of £640k. This income reduction is expected to be temporary and when the crematorium is fully operational again it is expected that income levels will return. In addition, the new equipment will be significantly more energy efficient bringing further cost avoidance by reducing future energy bills.

- 5.55 The Service Director is intentionally holding vacancies across his Financial Services teams to try and help with the overall financial pressures experienced across the Council. This is proving to be more and more difficult as the demand on the service continues to increase.
- 5.56 The Council is responsible for service charges for vacant lots at the Airport Business Park, based on current occupancy levels this will be a cost of £100,000 for the year, occupied lots are generating income above budgeted levels offsetting this cost by an expected £66,000.
- 5.57 The forecast performance of investment properties has improved due to a rise in rents. Staffing pressures within the Property and Commercial remain but the pressure on operational properties has reduced because of the application of contingency to offset the increase in energy prices. The combined effect of these elements is to reduce the forecast overspend by £317,000.
- 5.58 Whilst Delaware House is sold the site needs to be kept secure, this is forecast to cost around £80,000 for six months and is a one-off budget pressure.
- 5.59 Vacancies with the Regulatory Services team are intentionally being held for longer than anticipated at July 2023 (period 4) and as a result the expected underspend from these roles has increased to circa £200,000.

Budget Virements

- 5.60 All budget transfers (virements) over £250,000 between portfolios or between pay and non-pay budgets are considered and approved by Cabinet. These budget transfers have a net nil impact on the Council's overall budget. The budget transfers for Cabinet approval this period are as follows.

<u>£</u> 2,250,000	Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) High Need Reserve draw down one off 2023/24 High Need Inclusion Services Grant for all Southend Mainstream Schools (As consulted and supported through the June 2023 Education Board)
£460,000	DSG High Need Reserve draw down – one off 2023/24 SEND local offer (As consulted and supported through the June 2023 Education Board)
<u>2,710,000</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>

Victoria Centre

- 5.61 In December 2020 the Council invested £10.6m in purchasing the Victoria shopping centre as a strategic acquisition on the High Street and for the future regeneration benefits it offered to improve the main point of entry to the City Centre. An assessment of the Centre's current performance, operational arrangements and future is being undertaken. For 2023/24 the revised budget for capital expenditure is £876,000 for landlord works regarding health and safety and investment to facilitate commercial lettings. The actual capital expenditure to September 2023 (period 6) was £373,000.
- 5.62 For many years, across the UK, major shopping centres including retail outlets are experiencing a very challenging trading environment. A net income target of £250,000 was included as part of the overall Council's revenue budget for 2023/24. Our managing agents (Savills) have taken into consideration void and vacant units within the Centre and have estimated that the net revenue income generated for 2023/24 will be circa £280,000.

6 Revenue – Housing Revenue Account

- 6.1 In February 2023, the Council approved a balanced 2023/24 Housing Revenue Account budget. This section of the report details the projected outturn position for this year based on actual activity and financial performance as at the end of September 2023 (period 6).
- 6.2 The forecast for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) at September 2023 (period 6) indicates that the service is forecast to overspend by £645,000 over the approved budget.
- 6.3 There are several variables within the forecasting of this position, mainly resourcing challenges on voids work which have led to the use of a secondary contractor (£180,000). The number of void units at Queensway has been increasing which is also resulting in a higher rent loss than expected (£465,000), although it should be noted that a programme of works is in place to bring these up to a lettable standard and to once again utilise these units to meet housing need. The sustained requirement for rental income to be collected against a background of the continued challenging economic environment for local tenants is a key objective. Appropriate support and advice for any tenant that is struggling with keeping up with their rental payments is being provided.
- 6.4 The assumptions within the budget forecast will continue to be reviewed and refined throughout the year and the key risks will continue to be monitored.

7 Capital

- 7.1 Successful and timely delivery of the capital investment programme is a key part of achieving the Council's Corporate Plan and delivering priority outcomes. The investment contributes to the four main priorities in the following way:
- 7.2 A growing city with a strong and prosperous community – the key investment areas are: the Airport Business Park to deliver benefits for both local businesses and local communities, creating thousands of job opportunities and attracting inward investment; refurbishment works at the Victoria Centre to make a significant contribution to the attraction and amenity of the centre and improve and enhance that end of the City Centre; the Levelling Up Fund projects at Leigh Port, Cliffs Pavilion and City Beach; the refurbishment and enhancement of Southend's historic pleasure pier; the Council's ICT infrastructure to provide core services and to progress the Smart Council project.
- 7.3 A safe city with a good quality of life for all – the key investment areas are the schools' high needs and special provision programmes to enhance the facilities and number of places available for children with special educational needs and disabilities or requiring alternative provision. Key housing related investment areas include the construction and acquisition of new council homes and the refurbishment of existing ones via the decent homes programme.
- 7.4 A clean city with a resilient environment – the key investment areas are energy saving and efficiency projects; cliff stabilisation, coastal defence, flood prevention and resilience schemes; the investment in the City's highways and transport network, including Better Networks and Better Sustainable Transport projects funded via the Local Transport Plan.
- 7.5 A transforming council delivering efficient, cost-effective services – there is a project within the ICT capital investment programme to replace the My Southend system. Later phases of the project relating to system development are expected deliver efficiencies and improvements in productivity.
- 7.6 In February 2023 the Council agreed a capital investment programme budget for 2023/24 of £95.4M. The outturn for 2022/23 showed a final spend of £51.8M against a revised budget of £61.8M, an underspend of £10.0M. The proposed budget carry forwards, accelerated delivery requests and other budget re-profiles and amendments at July Cabinet resulted in a revised budget for 2023/24 of £101.7M. Budget re-profiles and other changes as a result of the review of the capital investment programme were approved at September Cabinet and reduced the revised budget for 2023/24 to £97.0M. Of this amount £66.7M is deliverable directly by the Council and £30.3M is to be delivered by South Essex Homes Limited, Porters Place Southend-on-Sea LLP and Kent County Council.
- 7.7 This amount should be considered in the context that there is a further list of schemes that are not in the approved programme but are subject to viable business cases. This includes schemes where the costs have been estimated, totalling £86M and schemes that are yet to be costed. There may also be urgent health and safety works that might occur that are as yet unforeseen.

- 7.8 The Council is being impacted by the sustained and ongoing inflationary pressures which is affecting the affordability of capital schemes and therefore in some cases the Council's ability to deliver all the expected outcomes. Given this, and the Council's finite capacity to deliver capital schemes, the Capital Programme Delivery Board have considered how to review all capital projects and programmes and the status of their business cases:
As a result all capital projects with a budget over £100k will be reviewed and assigned a RAG rating as follows:

RAG rating	Examples of the criteria to be used	Proposed outcome
Red	Project not yet started, no/very low costs incurred, low impact of stopping or pausing the project	Stop, delete the project or move it to the subject to viable business case section
Amber	A project or programme for which the scope can be adjusted, some work started and costs incurred (e.g. consultation started, planning permission sought), can be stopped or paused but implications need to be considered	Further review required
Green	Key political priority, urgent health and safety works, project underway and progressing well (i.e. materials delivered, contractors on site), time limited grant conditions	Continue

- 7.9 A generic approach to the programme as a whole would not be appropriate, as each project is different in its nature, extent and impact. The way that projects are funded also needs to be considered as grant and third-party funding would have to be returned if not spent or if delayed beyond the agreed expenditure timeframe. It is also recognised that these options need to be considered alongside any forthcoming capital challenge sessions.
- 7.10 The capital investment programme should continue to be subject to continuous review and re-prioritisation to ensure resources are aligned to the Council's Corporate Plan, administration priorities and the need to deliver a balanced financial position. This will inevitably lead to some difficult decisions having to be made regarding the programme with the delivery of some schemes being scaled back, delivered over a longer timescale, paused or removed.
- 7.11 Progress of schemes will be reassessed, and some schemes may be removed from the main programme entirely and others held as 'subject to viable delivery plans' until it can be demonstrated that there is the capacity and resources to deliver them in the timescales indicated. Schemes can then be brought back into the main programme as and when it is appropriate to do so.
- 7.12 As this review progresses via challenge meetings, the Capital Programme Delivery Board and the Investment Board, re-profiles and other adjustments to the programme for 2023/24 and future years will be put forward for approval.

- 7.13 The results of the early stages of this review were included in the July 2023 (period 4) performance report to Cabinet in September. The review is on-going and comprehensive cross party capital challenge sessions chaired by the Leader took place in early October. This included the direction from Cabinet that if capital projects had not yet commenced this year, they would not do so (see the Red RAG rating in the table in paragraph 7.8). The resulting requested changes to the capital investment programme from those sessions have been included in this report.
- 7.14 Approximately 39% of the revised capital investment programme is financed by Government grants and external developer and other contributions and at the end of September nearly 85% of that had been received. The rest of the programme is funded by capital receipts, the use of reserves or by borrowing. Funding schemes by borrowing has a revenue consequence of approximately £70k p.a. for every £1M borrowed.
- 7.15 This report details the projected outturn position for 2023/24 based on information as at the end of September 2023 (period 6). The report includes details of progress in delivering the 2023/24 capital investment programme and in receiving external funding relating to that year.
- 7.16 This report includes any virements between schemes, re-profiles across years, any new external funding, deletions from the programme and transfers from the main programme to the 'subject to viable business case' section.
- 7.17 The progress of schemes for 2023/24 is detailed in sections 1 to 3 of Appendix 3 with Section 4 setting out the resulting requests to:

For schemes to be delivered by the Council:

- Carry forward £16,387,000 of 2023/24 scheme budgets, £13,637,000 into 2024/25, £2,625,000 into 2025/26 and £125,000 into 2026/27.
- Accelerated delivery of £38,000 of 2024/25 scheme budgets into 2023/24.
- Add scheme budgets of £150,000 into 2023/24 and £80,000 into 2024/25 for new schemes and additions.
- Add scheme budgets totalling £50,000 into 2023/24 and £3,612,000 into 2027/28 and future years where new external funding has been received.
- Delete scheme budgets totalling £2,656,000 from 2023/24, £103,000 from 2024/25, £43,000 from 2025/26 and £4,000 from 2026/27.
- Action virements of budget between approved schemes.
- Transfer £2,341,000 of 2023/24 scheme budgets and £11,150,000 of 2024/25 scheme budgets from the main capital investment programme to the 'subject to viable business case' section.

For schemes to be delivered by Subsidiary Companies, Partners and Joint Ventures:

- Carry forward £500,000 of 2023/24 scheme budgets into 2024/25.
- Delete scheme budgets totalling £1,550,000 from 2023/24, £3,250,000 from 2024/25, £3,250,000 from 2025/26 and £3,175,000 from 2026/27.

- Transfer £14,500,000 of 2023/24 scheme budgets from the main capital investment programme to the 'subject to viable business case' section.

7.18 As at the end of September the capital outturn for 2023/24 is currently estimated at £45,532,000 for schemes to be delivered by the Council and £13,783,000 for schemes to be delivered by subsidiary companies, joint ventures and partners. The amount to be delivered by the Council is expected to further reduce following the on-going review of the capital investment programme as highlighted in 7.8 to 7.12. An updated assessment will be included in the November 2023 (period 8) performance report and presented to Cabinet in January 2024.

7.19 The 2023/24 capital budget is part of the wider capital investment programme spanning several years. The table below shows the revised programme if all the above requests are approved:

Programme to be delivered by the Council (GF and HRA):

	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000	2027/28 £000	Total £000
At September Cabinet	66,648	61,950	8,587	6,560	560	144,305
Amendments	(21,146)	2,426	2,582	121	3,612	(12,405)
Revised programme	45,502	64,376	11,169	6,681	4,172	131,900

Programme to be delivered by Subsidiary Companies and Joint Ventures:

	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000	2027/28 £000	Total £000
At September Cabinet	30,333	9,524	9,579	9,666	0	59,102
Amendments	(16,550)	(2,750)	(3,250)	(3,175)	0	(25,725)
Revised programme	13,783	6,774	6,329	6,491	0	33,377

7.20 At September Cabinet, £28.8M of the 2023/24 budget was financed by borrowing. At November Cabinet, £18.3M of the proposed programme for 2023/24 is financed by borrowing, a reduction of £10.5M. This will result in the increase in financing costs for 2024/25 being reduced by £0.7M.

8 Corporate Performance

8.1 The Corporate Performance Period 6 2023 report (Appendix 4) covers Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that link to the Resourcing Better Outcomes financial report and highlights the Council's overall performance against agreed corporate objectives.

8.2 The report shows our performance predominantly up to the period of September 2023, with some exceptions where data is unavailable at this time. Data has been rated against targets using Red, Amber Green (RAG) ratings where applicable and compares our current position to the previous month and previous year where data is available.

8.3 The report reflects the council's recently refreshed Corporate Plan (2023-2027) and how the council is performing against the agreed priorities detailed within the plan. This is presented by the four refreshed priorities:

1. A growing city with a strong and prosperous community
2. A safe city with a good quality of life for all
3. A clean city with a resilient environment
4. A transforming council delivering efficient, cost-effective services

8.4 Each of the four priorities are further broken down into corporate objectives, with the most appropriate KPI linked to illustrate how well the objective is performing. The refreshed corporate objectives are:

A growing city with a strong and prosperous community

Objectives:

- Economic regeneration and business development
- Spending power used wisely
- Enhanced tourism, culture and leisure

A safe city with a good quality of life for all

Objectives:

- Safe, inclusive communities and neighbourhoods
- People live well, age well and care well
- Children and young people, including those in care, feel and are safe at home, school and in their communities
- Quality, affordable safe homes

A clean city with a resilient environment

Objectives:

- Enhanced and protected street scene and environment
- Improved transport system
- Prevent waste, promoting re-use and increase recycling

A transforming council delivering efficient, cost-effective services

Objectives:

- Value for Money
- Transformation

8.5 The Council's strategic KPIs demonstrate measures that provide an indication of the Council's performance towards our corporate objectives. They are often short to medium term in the time taken to see a difference in performance and the Council has greater influence in affecting them. The strategic KPIs are fulfilled by Council services through strategies, action plans, programmes, projects and initiatives detailed in Service Plans.

8.6 Services continue to work on developing relevant KPIs that are relevant to the outcome measures and objectives of the Council's corporate priorities. The following are currently being explored with the intention of reporting at the next period: economic regeneration and business development, community safety, rate of children on a child in need plan, percentage of outstanding schools and early education settings, Percentage of children on free school meals, Percentage of persistent absences for all pupils, number of people who have quit smoking through the smoking cessation services, the Council's transformation programme, culture and tourism such as: annual visitor numbers, annual number of overnight trips, Total value of tourism and Overall number of total footfall for all identified council-run cultural assets.

8.7 The KPIs currently showing as red on their RAG status, indicate that they are at risk of missing target. These indicators are noted below by way of exception:

A city with a good quality of life for all

8.8 Take up of the NHS Health Check programme

The Office for Health Improvement & Disparities report that the percentage of Health Checks offered and received for 2023/24 quarter 1 has increased, which tracks with Southend's increase from 994 (September 2022) to 1,577 (September 2023). This is an increase of the national trend from 2022/23 where the number of people taking up a Health Check invite was decreasing and getting worse, which may explain the low numbers experienced by Southend in 2022.

Engagement and improvements in partnership working (i.e. with Mid and South Essex Integrated Care System) continues to further improve the take up of the NHS Health Check. The service is investigating why 7 out of 17 GP practices are yet to offer the Health Check service to support wider engagement and take up of this service.

8.9 Number of people completing the Falls Prevention Programme

The Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) reported that the rate for emergency hospital admissions due to falls in people aged 65 and over (per 100,00) was 2,250 for Southend and 1,727 for all English authorities in 2021/22 (the latest available data). Falls prevention programmes are important to support the reduction of admissions to hospital.

The rate of dropouts on the Council's falls prevention programme is understood to be reducing, with ongoing discussions occurring between the council and our provider to support the improvement of completions; improvements will not be understood until December 2023 – March 2024.

8.10 Percentage of placements in residential and Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) settings

Ofsted reporting evidences that in mainstream fostering, there has been an increasing use of IFAs nationally, with LAs accounting for a steadily decreasing proportion of all approved households, from 61% in 2018 to 58% in 2022. In this period, IFAs have seen an increase in capacity of 3%, whilst the LA sector has seen an 8% decrease. There has also been a downward trend

in the number of applications for both LAs and IFAs, and a higher number of deregistration's compared with approvals.

Increases in the use of residential and IFA settings coincides with increasing numbers of children in care in Southend, as well an increase in complex needs of these children. A focus on returning children and young people to their birth families where possible looks to reduce the number of children in care. Alongside this, a revised fostering offer looks to increase the number of applications for LA foster carers.

8.11 Total number of households in temporary accommodation

There is a national housing issue contributing to the Council's rise in temporary accommodation. The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities released data in October 2023 demonstrating that households in temporary accommodation rose by 10% nationally from the same period last year. Locally this pressure is being further impacted by high volumes of out of area placements by other local authorities into Southend, the pressures arising from central government, refugee resettlement and asylum policy, frozen Local Housing Allowance rates and a declining private sector rented offer. A hostel improvement plan task and finish group are currently working on the council's wider stock optimisation, which will eventually affect this KPI and target.

A clean city with a resilient environment

8.12 Tree net gain in the city

The Parks service have several trees left over from last year, which are to be planted this year. Although this KPI is currently not meeting target, Parks are confident they will achieve 100 net gain this year due to the mitigating issue of the leftover trees.

8.13 Percentage of waste recycled

The latest national statistics for recycling provided by the Department for Environmental Food & Rural Affairs (2021 data, reported in 2023) notes that there was a small increase of households recycling in England from 2020 (44.0%) to 2021 (44.1%). This is compared to pre-COVID rates of 45.5% in 2019, demonstrating the ongoing impact of COVID-19 and the difficulty in returning to previous recycling rates.

The council will continue to use a variety of tools including resident engagement to maintain and increase recycling rates over time.

A transforming council delivering efficient, cost-effective services

8.14 Ensure a balanced budget for 2023/24

The council is dealing with an unprecedented financial crisis that has impacted across all of Local Government. For 2023/24 the council is focusing on a range of initiatives to help break even with our finances. The direction of travel towards no variance is positive as the level of overspend has reduced by £3.3m between July 2023 (period 4) and September 2023 (period 6).

- 8.15 For ease of reading, a Glossary of Terms is provided in the Corporate Performance report – Period 6 2023-24 (appendix 4 pages 20-24).
- 8.16 The following table sets out corporate risks affiliated to KPIs. The KPIs with associated risks can be read throughout the SCC Corporate Plan Performance Report (appendix 4).
- 8.17 Aligning our corporate risks and performance enables a holistic approach to understanding and presenting the impact the council's highest risks may have on performance, and to allow for risk mitigation and planning to be informed by performance data. Performance can act as an early warning sign for risks, enabling performance to be viewed systemically and early mitigation to take place. The remaining corporate risks are overarching and therefore not linked to KPIs (4 – Public services landscape, 5 – Workforce, 6 – a) Cyber security b) Data protection, 7- Capital investment programme delivery, 12 – Other safeguarding responsibilities, 14 – Staffing vacancies impacting on the delivery of statutory responsibilities, 19 – Local Plan, 20 - Regeneration and major projects); the full risk register reference key can be found on SCC Corporate Plan Performance Report page 19 (Appendix 4):

Corporate Risks Associated With KPIs	
2 – Financial sustainability	13 – Health inequalities
3 – Inflation and cost of living pressures	15 – Adult social care
8 – Transformation programme	16 – Social cohesion
9– Mitigating for and adapting to climate change	17 – Housing
10 – Waste Management	18 – House building programme
11 – Safeguarding responsibilities and child welfare	21 – Visitor destination and major events
13 – Health inequalities	22 - Economic recovery and income inequalities

- 8.18 The following breakdown provides an overview of the corporate risks aligned to KPIs that are not meeting target (please note 'Percentage of waste recycled' is aligned to risks 9 and 10). This illustrates what potential impacts may arise as a result of performance not meeting target:

Corporate Risks with KPIs not meeting target		
Corporate Risk	Proportion of KPIs that are Red or Amber	Potential impact
2 – Financial sustainability TBC	1/7 KPIs rated red (14%)	This may impact the medium to long term financial sustainability of the Council.
9– Mitigating for and adapting to climate change	2/7 KPIs rated red (29%) 1/8 rated amber (13%)	This may impact the council's ability to make an adequate contribution to the reduction in carbon emissions required.

10 – Waste Management	1/7 KPIs rated red (14%)	This may impact the Council's ability to effectively manage waste arrangements results in a loss of service quality and additional financial liability for the Council.
11 – Safeguarding responsibilities and child welfare	1/7 KPIs rated red (14%) 2/8 rated amber (25%)	This could cause a failure to deliver the outcomes anticipated for vulnerable people that need support.
13 – Health inequalities	2/7 KPIs rated red (29%) 2/8 rated amber (25%)	This may impact on widening health inequalities in the city.
15 – Adult social care	2/8 rated amber (25%)	This could cause difficulty in meeting increasing demand for support, resulting in worsening outcomes for those in need of support.
17 – Housing	1/7 KPIs rated red (14%) 3/8 rated amber (38%)	This may impact on the council's ability to address rising homelessness, particularly with the ongoing cost of living pressures.
18 – House building programme	1/8 rated amber (13%)	This may impact pressure on the local housing market and the ability to deliver the anticipated housing supply.

9 Reasons for Decisions

- 9.1 The regular reporting of Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring information provides detailed financial information to members, senior officers and other interested parties on the financial performance of the Council. It sets out the key variances being reported by budget holders and the associated management action being implemented to try to address any identified issues.
- 9.2 It also informs decision making to ensure that the Council's priorities are delivered within the approved budget provision.
- 9.3 It is important that any adverse variances are addressed in order for the Council to remain within the approved budget provision or where this cannot be achieved by individual service management action, alternative proposals are developed, and solutions proposed which will address the financial impact. Members will have a key role in approving any actions if the alternative proposals represent significant changes to the service delivery arrangements originally approved by them.

- 9.4 The challenge of delivering a balanced financial outturn for 2023/24 remains significant. Even at this halfway point of the year – continued urgent action is required to try to reduce all non-essential expenditure even further and/or generate extra income. This priority must be achieved whilst ensuring that our most vulnerable residents are looked after appropriately, and our statutory responsibilities are effectively discharged. Improving efficiency and productivity is essential but the scale of the unprecedented financial pressures will inevitably lead to a reduction in the range, quality, cost and responsiveness of other discretionary Council services, as well as challenging our approach to statutory services.

10 Other Options

- 10.1 The Council could choose to monitor its budgetary performance against an alternative timeframe, but it is considered that the current reporting schedule provides the appropriate balance to allow strategic oversight of the budget by members and to also formally manage the Council's exposure to financial risk. More frequent monitoring is undertaken by officers and considered by individual service Directors and the Council's Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) including the implementation of any necessary remedial actions.

11 Financial Implications

- 11.1 As set out in the body of the report and accompanying appendices.

12 Legal Implications

- 12.1 The report provides financial performance information. It is good governance and sensible management practice for the Council to consider monitoring information in relation to plans and budgets that it has adopted.
- 12.2 Section 3 of the Local Government Act 1999 requires the Council as a best value authority to "make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness". Monitoring of financial and other performance information is an important way in which that obligation can be fulfilled.
- 12.3 The Council is required by section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs. The Council is also required by section 28 of the Local Government Act 2003 to monitor its budget and take corrective action, as necessary. The Council's chief finance officer has established financial procedures to ensure the Council's proper financial administration. These include procedures for effective budgetary control. To comply with these best practice arrangements, it is important that Cabinet receive information and comment accordingly on the performance of the revenue and capital budgets as set out in the report.

13 Carbon Impact

13.1 None arising from this report.

14 Equalities

14.1 Some of the actions may have equality and diversity implications and these will be considered as part of our normal equalities impact assessments.

15 Consultation

15.1 Engagement has already been made with staff and cabinet members and now with all councillors and this will continue as options to mitigate for 2023/24 are progressed as well as options for delivering a robust balanced budget for 2024/25.

16 Background Papers

Approved 2023/24 Budget – Report to Council 23 February 2023

Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023/24 – 2027/28

17 Appendices

Appendix 1 Summary of Local Government Headlines (October 2023)

Appendix 2 Period 6 – September 2023 Revenue Budget Performance 2023/24

Appendix 3 Period 6 – September 2023 Capital Investment Programme Performance 2023/24

Appendix 4 Corporate Performance report – Period 6 2023-24

Report Authorisation

This report has been approved for publication by:

This report has been approved for publication by:		
	Name:	Date:
S151 Officer	Joe Chesterton	09/11/2023
Monitoring Officer		
Executive Director(s)	Joe Chesterton	09/11/2023
Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Councillors Cox and Moyies	10/11/2023

Summary of Local Government headlines in October

Ctrl+Click on captions to follow links to online articles.

1st – 7th October

BBC NEWS

Wokingham Borough Council warns of bankruptcy risk



E Essex Live

Chelmsford City Council fears it could face bankruptcy without government help

Chelmsford council has warned its financial numbers “don’t stack up anymore” with overspending on temporary accommodation so unsustainable...



G The Guardian

Tory-run Hampshire council says it faces ‘financial meltdown’

Council says without help it will be forced to make drastic cuts to local services to avoid bankruptcy.



L Leicester Mercury

Defiant leader says 'hell will freeze over' before struggling county council declares bankruptcy

Leicestershire County Council's finances are in a “dire” state, but its leadership remains defiant. Leader of the Conservative-run authority...



39

F Farnham Herald

Cash-strapped Guildford Borough Council avoids Section 114 bankruptcy notice for now

Guildford Borough Council will avoid declaring itself bankrupt for now – but overspends and an almost £2 million deficit in its housing...



BBC

Havering Council could be bankrupt in six months - leader

Havering Council could go bankrupt in as soon as six months, its leader said. Ray Morgan blamed supplier costs and spending on social care...



BBC

Coventry City Council faces bankruptcy without extra funding

Coventry City Council has said it could effectively declare itself bankrupt next year without additional funding from the government.



The Telegraph

Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead on brink of bankruptcy

The Berkshire council is forecast to overspend this year by more than £7 million, councillors heard on Saturday.



D Dawlish Post

Teignbridge District Council taking measures to prevent bankruptcy

HUNDREDS of fees and charges across Teignbridge have gone up in a bid to prevent the authority going bankrupt.



8th – 14th October

... BBC

London Councils warns borough budgets are on 'knife edge'

Croydon Council has already declared bankruptcy, while Havering Council, in ... debt, the 10th highest of England's local authorities. London Councils said...



... BBC

Southampton reviews car costs to lift 'precarious' finances

He said: "This is the most challenging year for local councils I have ever known. ... In June the council was forecasting a £30m budget deficit for this year..."



The MJ

Councils need an unconditional cash injection

Without action of this scale, there is a risk more local authorities will soon issue bankruptcy notices. ... Government to address their in-year deficits. It is...



New Statesman

Councils are the victims not the cause of their poor finances

... deficits have been removed from the balance sheets of local authorities. The DfE planned to end this practice in April but extended it for three years...



Leicestershire Live

'Worsening picture' of Leicester City Council's 'bleak' finances revealed

... council declares bankruptcy. While the £12.7 million can be offset this financial year by departmental reserves – which are separate to the council's central...



15th – 20th October



... BBC

Denbighshire: Avoiding bankruptcy is council priority, leader says

Avoiding bankruptcy is the main priority of a north Wales council, a private letter from its leader has revealed.



Bracknell Forest Council |

Bracknell Forest Council's financial position | Bracknell Forest ...

This deficit is largely due to: rising ... local authorities. "Some councils have declared bankruptcy, and the number of councils close to this position is rising..."



Funding gap growing as councils "firmly in eye of inflationary storm"

Councils in England face a funding gap of £4 billion over the next two years the Local Government Association reveals today.

Appendix 2

Budget Monitoring & Reporting 2023/2024

Period 06 - September 2023 Revenue Budget Performance



Summary

Last Reported Variance £M	Portfolio	Revised Budget £M	Forecast Outturn £M	Variance £M
0.612	Leader: SEND	17.117	17.897	0.780
0.416	Deputy Leader: Environment	20.412	20.877	0.465
6.398	Adult Social Care, Health, Public Health, and Constitutional Affairs	61.477	66.832	5.355
0.112	Arts, Culture, Heritage and Leisure	4.889	4.969	0.080
7.449	Childrens Services, Education and Learning	33.491	40.650	7.159
0.232	Community Safety and Public Protection	1.873	2.141	0.268
0.125	Economic Growth and Investment	0.934	0.915	(0.019)
1.183	Highways, Transport and Parking	0.066	0.715	0.649
(0.082)	Housing and Planning	4.063	3.764	(0.299)
0.961	Regulatory Services	1.972	2.284	0.312
17.406		146.294	161.044	14.750
(3.366)	Corporate Budgets	24.555	21.372	(3.183)
14.040		170.849	182.416	11.567
0.000	Contribution to / (from) earmarked reserves	(7.146)	(7.146)	0.000
0.000	Revenue Contribution to Capital	0.471	0.471	0.000
0.000	Non Service Specific Grants	(19.837)	(19.837)	0.000
14.040	TOTAL	144.337	155.904	11.567
0.000	Funding (including Collection Fund)	(143.337)	(144.137)	(0.800)
0.000	Planned contributions from reserves	(1.000)	(1.000)	0.000
14.040		0.000	10.767	10.767

Sources of funding



Portfolio services are forecast to overspend by **£14.750m**, an improvement of **£2.656m** on the position reported at period 4. An analysis of these variances are explained in more detail over the following pages. The net overall forecast overspend has reduced to **£10.767m**, an overall improvement of **£3.273m** on the position reported at period 4.

The VOA confirmed that, for its 2023 revaluation, it has changed the methodology it uses to calculate business rates for the majority of museums. The rateable value is now calculated by receipts and expenditure, which considers whether the property makes a net surplus, rather than the contractor's method, which assesses the cost of rebuilding the existing museum or gallery. The updated rateable values took effect from 1 April 2023 but there was also the opportunity to appeal the rateable value of the affected buildings since the 2017 revaluation. The rebate is yet to be received but the estimated one-off benefit of £400,000 is included in this forecast and shown in the Corporate Budgets line.

£2.026m of the provision of £2.950m for CPI % increases on existing contracts and rises in energy costs has been allocated to services. The remaining budget of £0.924m is being reported as an underspend and will be allocated to services if required.

There is £4.425m provision for the Local Government Pay Award April 2023, which has not been agreed at the time of writing. When this cost is known the budget will be allocated to services and the amount shown here will reduce. Any award above an average of 5% will result in an additional pressure on the organisation. The trade unions have confirmed that they will reconvene after the GMB ballot closes on 24th October 2023.

Forecast outturn for investment income is £1.9m higher than expected as interest rates have increased faster and by more than initially expected. This is due to the Bank of England's response to the rate of inflation being slower to reduce than expected. The net favourable variance on Corporate Budgets of (£3.183m) includes all the items outlined above.

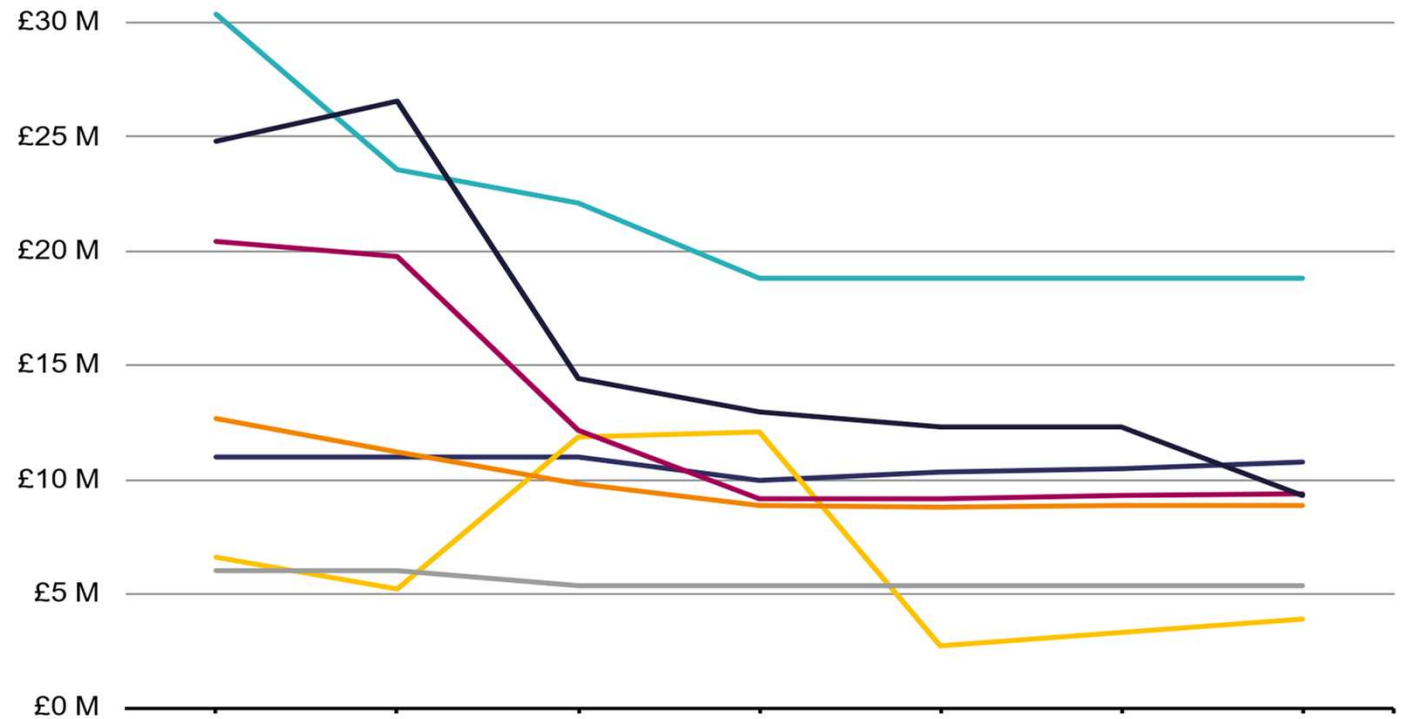
The Council is now estimating to receive a circa £800k benefit in 2023/24 as part of its continued participation in the Essex Business Rates Pool. This is shown as part of the Funding line in the table above.

Reserves

The Council maintains General Fund reserves between £10M and £12M in line with the Medium Term Financial Strategy. This provides a working cashflow balance and allows a degree of financial security in the case of unexpected events or emergencies.

Earmarked Reserves are set aside to fund future projects and to mitigate specific risk. The level of these reserves will fluctuate as grants are received, risk is realised and projects progress.

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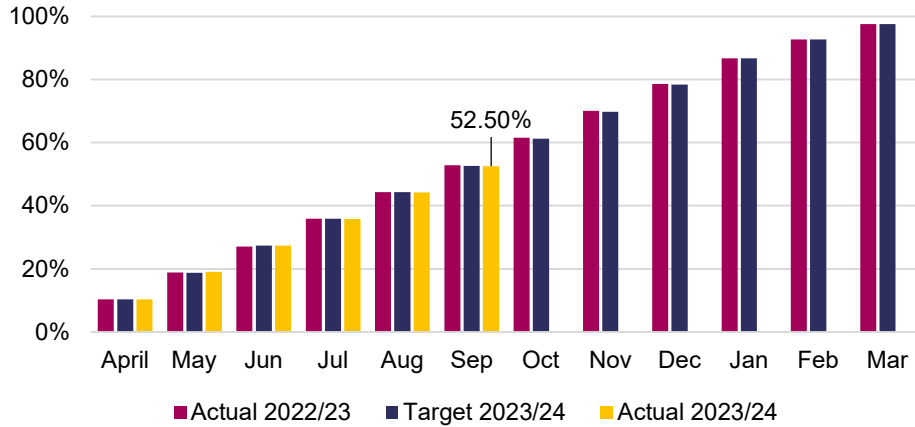


Reserves in £M	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
General Reserves	11.0	11.0	11.0	10.0	10.3	10.5	10.8
Capital Reserves	6.6	5.2	11.9	12.1	2.7	3.3	3.9
Corporate Reserves	20.4	19.8	12.2	9.2	9.2	9.3	9.4
Grant Reserves	30.4	23.6	22.1	18.8	18.8	18.8	18.8
Insurance Reserves	6.0	6.0	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Service Reserves	12.7	11.2	9.8	8.9	8.8	8.9	8.9
Technical Reserves*	24.8	26.6	14.4	13.0	12.3	12.3	9.3
	111.9	103.4	86.8	77.4	67.5	68.5	66.5

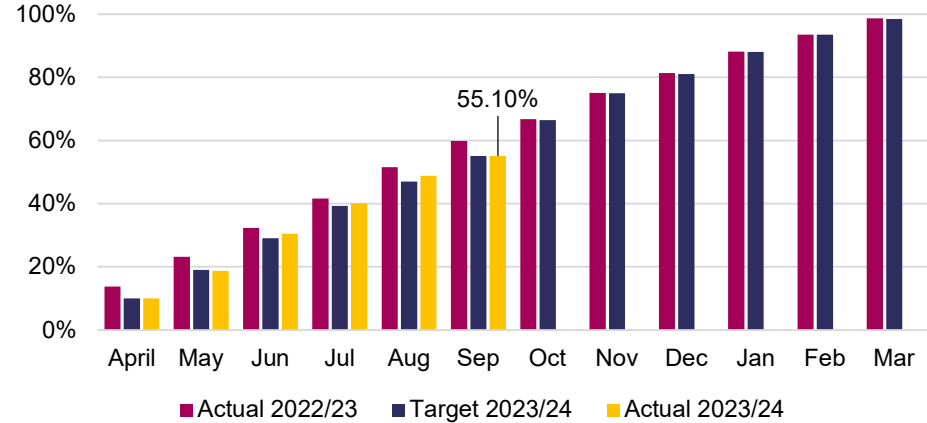
* Technical Reserves are held to even out the Council's finances and reduce in year volatility

Collection Rates

Council Tax Collection

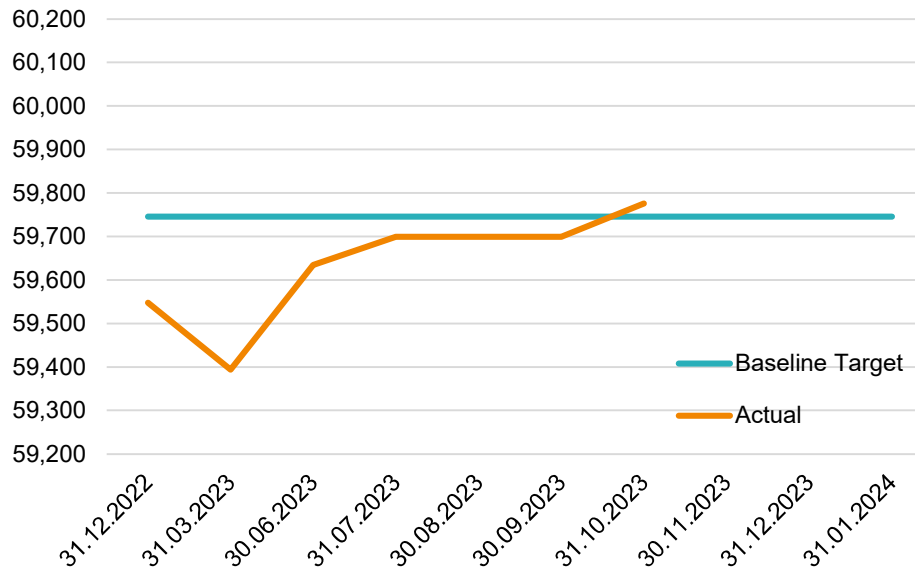


Business Rates Collection



45

Council Tax Base



The Council Tax Base reflects a slight increase in comparison to the base setting figure, with an increase of 30 Band D equivalent properties. This is primarily due to a decrease in the number of Band D equivalent properties receiving exemptions or discounts.

Council Tax collection is 0.1% (£122k) lower than the current year target for the period. This does not represent a risk of non-collection at this stage.

Business rates in year collection is on target for the financial year giving confidence that the year-end collection can be achieved.

Leader: SEND

10.64%

of Total Gross Revenue
Service Budget

£0.8M

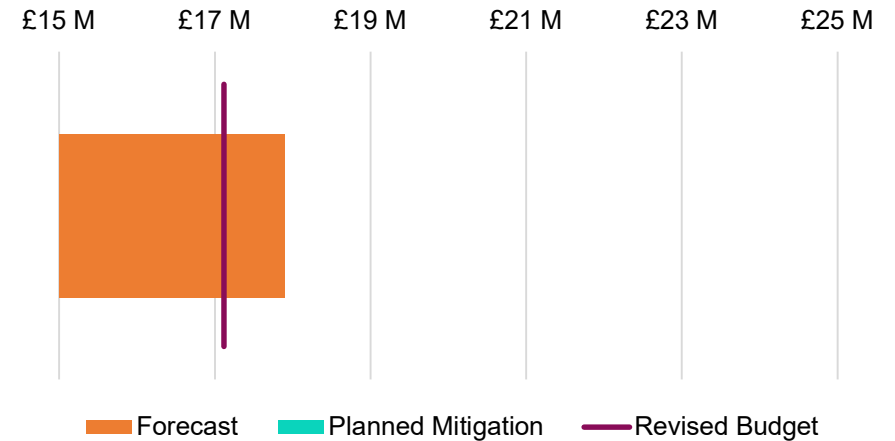
Forecast Adverse Variance

4.56%

Variance as % of Net Portfolio
Service Budget Envelope

Last Reported Variance £M	Service Area	Revised Budget £M	Forecast Outturn £M	Variance £M
0.100	Children with a special educational need and disability (SEND)	3.934	4.084	0.150
0.000	Home to School Transport Contract	2.611	2.611	0.000
0.095	Passenger Transport / Vehicle Fleet	0.186	0.302	0.116
(0.243)	Audit	0.766	0.551	(0.215)
0.070	Civic Affairs	1.043	1.069	0.026
(0.049)	Corporate Budget and Resources Planning	0.900	0.886	(0.014)
0.083	Corporate Planning and Strategic Directic	1.607	1.706	0.099
49 0.055	Council Tax and Business Rates	0.176	0.241	0.065
0.332	Human Resources	1.677	1.978	0.301
(0.081)	Learning and Workforce Development	0.824	0.687	(0.137)
(0.041)	Performance Delivery	1.458	1.426	(0.032)
0.000	Transformation	0.252	0.252	0.000
0.000	Emergency Planning and Business Continuity	0.252	0.252	0.000
0.289	Legal Services & Land Charges	1.430	1.852	0.422
0.610		17.116	17.897	0.781

Last Reported Variance £M		Revised Budget £M	Forecast Outturn £M	Variance £M
0.495	Gross Expenditure	38.076	38.711	0.635
0.116	Gross Income	(20.959)	(20.814)	0.145
0.611		17.117	17.897	0.780



Children with a special need and disability (SEND) pressures are continuing. There is a national shortage of Educational Psychologists (a critical statutory service supporting and advising both schools, parents and carers for children with SEND). Interim cover has therefore been required to sustain an appropriate statutory service level. These arrangements, together with increases in demand are the key contributory factors of the forecast overspend being reported. Recruitment and retention plans are in place to try to secure a permanent workforce moving forward. Smaller pressures also remain where direct SEND team cover is required for staff on maternity leave.

The internal audit team is continuing to operate with five full time vacancies which is resulting in a significant underspend, this is being partly offset by additional spend on external agencies which has marginally increased since the last position was reported at period 4.

Management decisions taken on Human Resources staffing have reduced the forecast pressure by £31,000. No specific overspending mitigation has yet been agreed for the £147,000 of savings not expected to be achieved this year or the forecast £70,000 shortfall against the approved income target.

The interim Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer) has been in post since the beginning of September. Period 4 included an initial estimate for the additional agency costs this would incur but these were underestimated, correcting this has increased the pressure on staffing costs for the Service. The forecast level of income has also been reduced, adding to the increased level of overspending. The combined impact of these changes is circa £90,000.

Income from Local Land Charges has declined further since the forecast was produced for period 4, a direct result of the ongoing slow down in the housing market and the cost of living crisis. There remains an intentional underspending on staffing to partially offset this pressure but the overall forecast for the service has deteriorated by £43,000.

Deputy Leader: Environment

6.10%

of Total Gross Revenue
Service Budget

£0.5M

Forecast Adverse Variance

2.28%

Variance as % of Net Portfolio Service
Budget Envelope

Last Reported Variance £M	Service Area	Revised Budget £M	Forecast Outturn £M	Variance £M
(0.022)	All matters relating to trees, plants, grass verges and other flora	0.559	0.537	(0.022)
0.061	Cleansing of highways and public realm	1.656	1.652	(0.004)
(0.018)	Climate Change, Renewable Energy and Energy Saving	0.194	0.184	(0.010)
(0.022)	Parks and Open Spaces, Grounds Maintenance	4.875	4.915	0.040
0.417	Waste collection, disposal, management, recycling & sanitation	13.127	13.588	0.461
48 0.416		20.411	20.876	0.465
0.212	Gross Expenditure	21.835	21.924	0.089
0.204	Gross Income	(1.424)	(1.048)	0.376
0.416		20.411	20.876	0.465



The cost of waste disposal continues to be the largest driver of financial pressure within this portfolio area. Although tonnages have reduced by 2% on a year on year basis, the volume of residual waste continues to be higher than the budget position can sustain. Tonnages are starting to return to levels similar to that seen pre-covid and the recent waste disposal procurement has seen the costs of disposal and haulage reduce as well as improving the environmental impact of its disposal.

The parks and open spaces services are reporting an overspend as a result of increased vehicle requirements, repairs and maintenance costs, the effect of responding to increased levels of vandalism and the impact of controlling brown tail moths.

Adult Social Care, Health, Public Health, and Constitutional Affairs

29.03%

of Total Gross Revenue
Service Budget

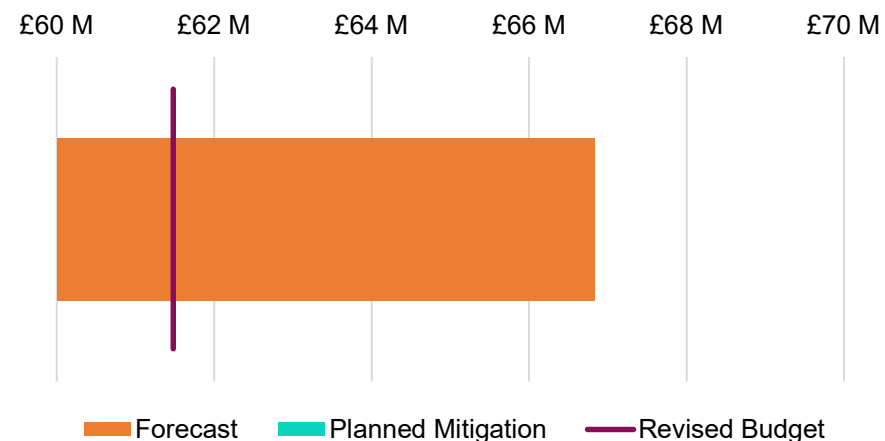
£5.36M

Forecast Adverse Variance

8.71%

Variance as % of Net Portfolio Service
Budget Envelope

Last Reported Variance £M	Service Area	Revised Budget £M	Forecast Outturn £M	Variance £M
5.602	Adult Social Care	41.082	46.005	4.923
(0.451)	Commissioning	3.970	3.461	(0.509)
0.017	Community Cohesion and community assets	0.017	0.032	0.015
0.138	Customer Contact	4.899	4.961	0.062
0.710	Digital and Technology	4.386	4.797	0.411
0.000	Domestic Abuse (Social Aspects)	0.064	0.064	0.000
0.330	Mental Health Services	4.993	5.369	0.376
0.000	Public Health	0.153	0.153	0.000
0.052	Democratic Services	0.776	0.854	0.078
0.000	Transformation	1.138	1.138	0.000
6.398		61.478	66.834	5.356
6.147	Gross Expenditure	103.851	110.812	6.961
0.251	Gross Income	(42.374)	(43.980)	(1.606)
6.398		61.477	66.832	5.355



Budget mitigations of £1.2m have been applied to adult social care which have reduced the overall pressure that was reported at period 4. The underlying pressure continues to relate to the provision of statutory care, particularly around the cost of support to older people, both in residential and home care packages. A combination of an increase in both complexity and costs of individual care packages continues.

The Commissioning Service is now reporting an underspend of around £500,000, primarily against the Transitional Supported Housing budgets, this is a positive development and confirms the earlier than planned delivery of the 2024/25 saving as the contracts have been revised ahead of the original planned budget profile.

Management action within Digital and Technology has decreased the staffing pressure by a small amount and reduced the likely shortfall on income significantly, the combined impact is a positive reduction in the forecast overspend of £299,000.

With the transition of the Mental Health Service back to the Council from Essex Partnership University Trust (EPUT), there continues to be an estimated £288,000 forecast over spend on the staff/contract budget element of the service as the planned saving will not be fully delivered until the service fully transitions from November 2023.

Arts, Culture, Heritage and Leisure

2.04%

of Total Gross Revenue
Service Budget

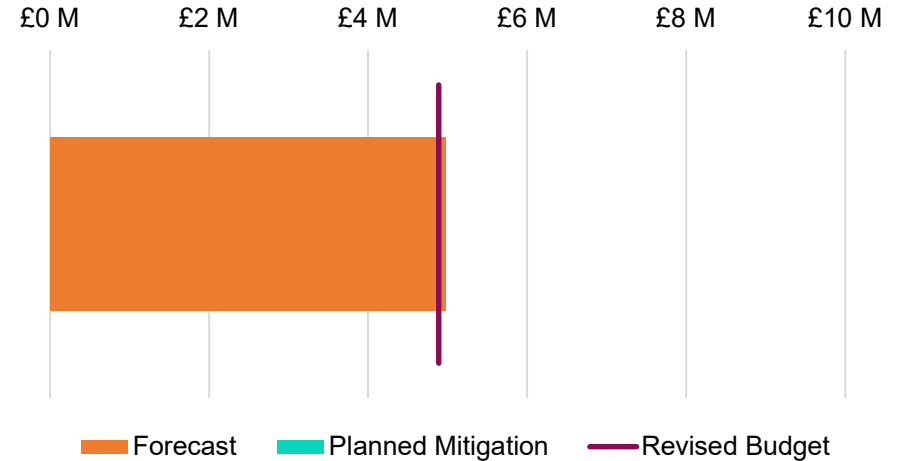
£0.1M

Forecast Adverse Variance

1.64%

Variance as % of Net Portfolio Service
Budget Envelope

Last Reported Variance £M	Service Area	Revised Budget £M	Forecast Outturn £M	Variance £M
(0.079)	Museums and Galleries, Theatres and Libraries	4.575	4.573	(0.002)
0.187	Pier and Foreshore	0.437	0.511	0.074
0.004	Sport Development	(0.123)	(0.115)	0.008
0.112		4.889	4.969	0.080
0.085	Gross Expenditure	7.311	7.391	0.080
0.027	Gross Income	(2.422)	(2.422)	0.000
0.112		4.889	4.969	0.080



The improvement in the overall level of overspend forecast for the Pier and Foreshore Service has been achieved by a combination of reviewing the cost and level of seasonal staff required to keep the Pier operational and previously reported pressures relating to water testing, repairs and maintenance and waste management have now been funded from contingency. Pier admission income has also remained positive due to high visitor numbers throughout the summer.

Childrens Services, Education and Learning

24.36%

of Total Gross Revenue
Service Budget

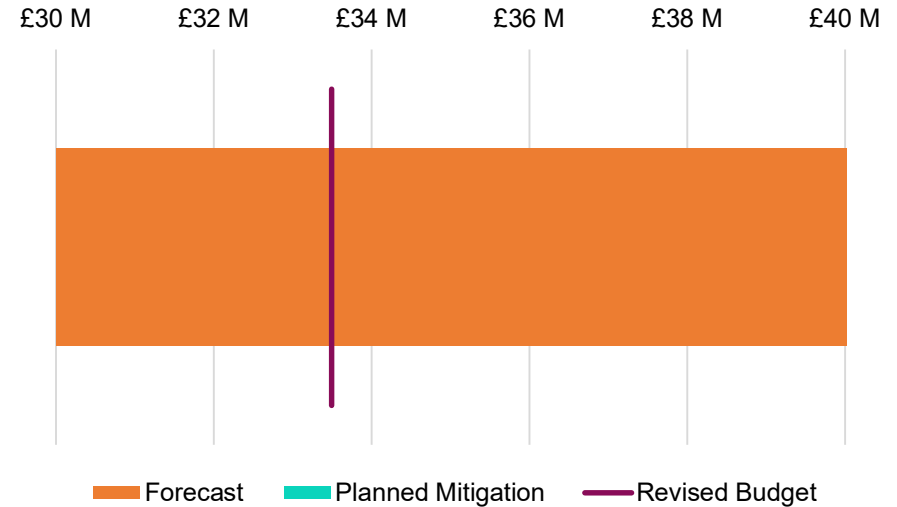
£7.2M

Forecast Adverse Variance

21.38%

Variance as % of Net Portfolio Service
Budget Envelope

Last Reported Variance £M	Service Area	Revised Budget £M	Forecast Outturn £M	Variance £M
0.000	Adult and Community Learning	0.062	0.062	0.000
0.000	Children's Safeguarding	0.068	0.068	0.000
7.718	Children's Services	29.646	37.014	7.368
(0.040)	Family Centre, Early Years and Childcare	1.144	1.094	(0.050)
(0.110)	Schools, Education and Learning	1.211	0.976	(0.235)
(0.005)	Youth and Connexions	0.778	0.828	0.050
(0.114)	Youth Justice Service	0.582	0.608	0.026
7.449		33.491	40.650	7.159
52				
7.908	Gross Expenditure	87.128	95.179	8.051
(0.459)	Gross Income	(53.637)	(54.529)	(0.892)
7.449		33.491	40.650	7.159



As reported in Period 4, the significant spend pressure trend continues from 2022/23 into 2023/24 within Children Services. This is mainly due to a combination of Residential Care placement costs particularly for those cases that are most complex within a market that is stretched and short of supply (resulting in some very high prices) and the continued reliance on external foster care placements in 2023/24. The strategy remains to reduce reliance on external foster care placements by building and sustaining capacity within our own inhouse fostering service promoted by the new and improved inhouse foster care offer from April 2023. The cost of external care placements continues to be the main cause of this significant overspend pressure.

Other major pressures within Children Services for 2023/24 (as reported in Period 4) remain and includes continued reliance on temporary agency staff to cover critical statutory social work and certain critical social work management posts. Financial pressures including the national transfer scheme for Unaccompanied Asylum seekers where those children have now turned 18 and remain in supported in accommodation whilst their asylum application is considered (as the Home Office grant to support their costs reduces once the child turns 18), and pressures for care and support costs for Children with Disabilities under Section 17 status are continuing. Within the Youth Justice Service whilst temporary vacancies remain present, there is now an added confirmed pressure on secure remand placements. This is due to the confirmed grant level now received for 2023/24, which is significantly lower than the actual costs being experienced. The HM Prison & Probation service grant is based on average of the last 3 year costs and therefore the Council will be expecting to receive an increase in the level of grant in 2024/25.

Whilst the safety and wellbeing of Children remain of paramount importance the Council continues to explore opportunities to reduce costs where it is safe and possible to do so. As previously highlighted the costs relating to residential care placements are significant and any further placements or net increased placement costs will have a significant impact on the financial position reported for period 6.

Whilst significant financial pressure remains across the portfolio directorate of Children Services, within Education and Learning the position has improved and reduced by £290,000 from period 4. Children Services have intensely reviewed and reduced spend pressure within supported accommodation placements where young adults 18+ who were previous care experienced children have transitioned safely into adults and further work is continuing. Educational Services have also proactively reduced Council spend pressures by effectively integrating eligible activities into other direct and legitimate educational grant funding streams.

Community Safety and Public Protection

1.19%

of Total Gross Revenue
Service Budget

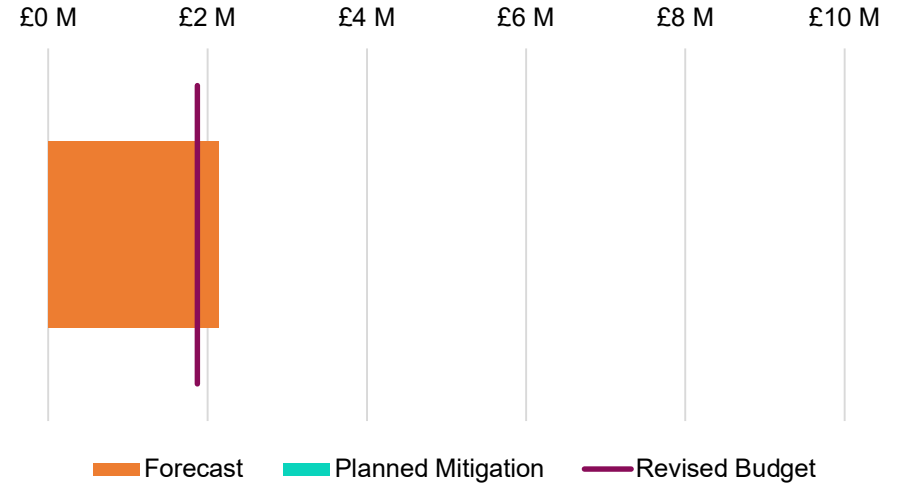
£0.3M

Forecast Adverse Variance

14.31%

Variance as % of Net Portfolio Service
Budget Envelope

Last Reported Variance £M	Service Area	Revised Budget £M	Forecast Outturn £M	Variance £M
0.084	Closed Circuit Television	0.491	0.588	0.097
(0.002)	Community Safety	0.855	0.805	(0.050)
0.001	Drugs and Alcohol Service	0.000	0.001	0.001
0.150	Public Toilets	0.407	0.627	0.220
0.000	Town Centre Management	0.120	0.120	0.000
0.233		1.873	2.141	0.268
0.043	Gross Expenditure	4.270	4.358	0.088
0.189	Gross Income	(2.396)	(2.217)	0.179
54 0.232		1.874	2.141	0.267



The £150,000 saving associated with a review of the public toilet offer is not being progressed which leaves this service area unable to be delivered within its budget envelope for 2023/24. An alternative saving proposal has not yet been agreed but when one is developed then this pressure could be mitigated before the end of the year. There is also an additional maintenance pressure in this service of £70,000.

The CCTV service is delivered by an established team of staff and as such staff turnover is very low. This is resulting in a budget pressure on staffing costs, due to an assumption that there would be some staff turnover. The drive to deliver services on a commercial basis is continuing but formal contracts are yet to be signed to bring in additional income.

Economic Growth and Investment

0.31%

of Total Gross Revenue
Service Budget

(£0.0M)

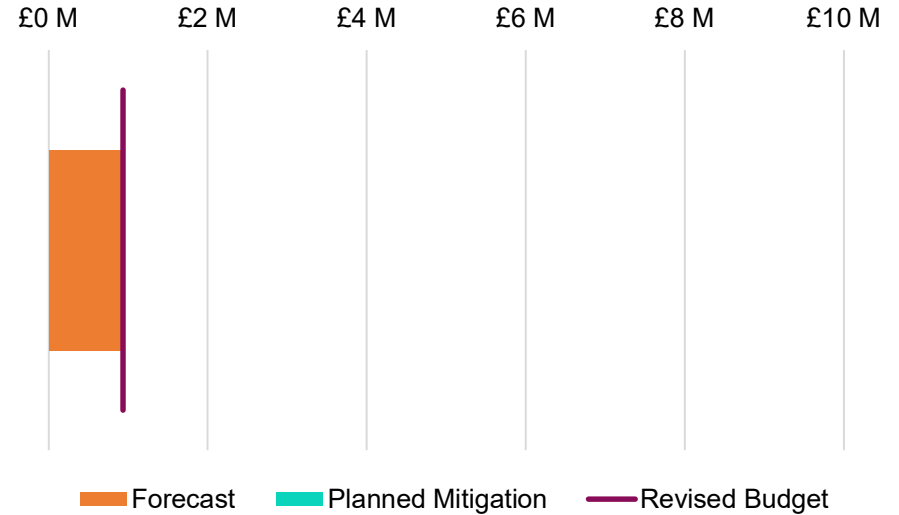
Forecast Favourable
Variance

-2.03%

Variance as % of Net Portfolio Service
Budget Envelope

Last Reported Variance £M	Service Area	Revised Budget £M	Forecast Outturn £M	Variance £M
0.184	Marketing (Place Branding/Tourism)	0.449	0.491	0.042
(0.059)	Regeneration and business growth	0.486	0.425	(0.061)
0.125		0.935	0.916	(0.019)
0.125	Gross Expenditure	1.096	1.078	(0.018)
0.000	Gross Income	(0.162)	(0.162)	0.000
0.125		0.934	0.916	(0.018)

65



The improvement in the revised forecast outturn for this portfolio can be predominantly attributed to the agreed use and application of Council reserves to fund the additional special events which included the Herd in the City Sponsorship, the Tour of Britain Cycling Event and local fireworks event.

Highways, Transport and Parking

3.52%

of Total Gross Revenue
Service Budget

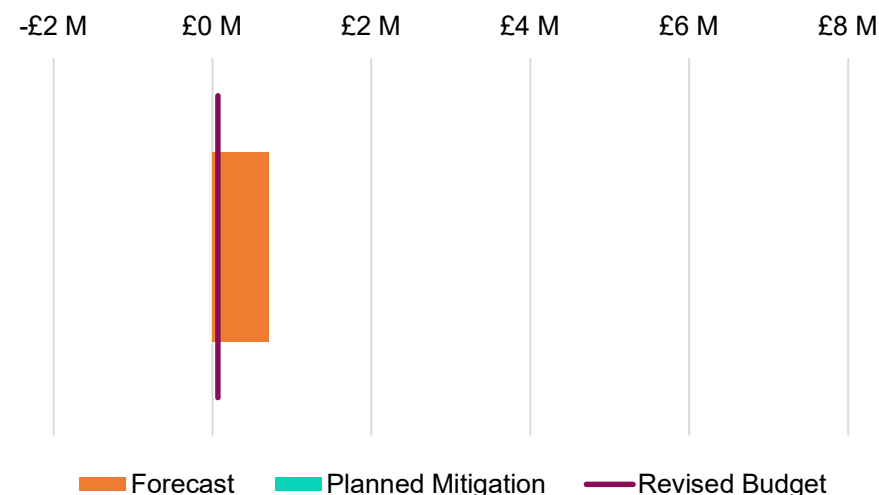
£0.6M

Forecast Adverse Variance

-965.67%

Variance as % of Net Portfolio Service
Budget Envelope

Last Reported Variance £M	Service Area	Revised Budget £M	Forecast Outturn £M	Variance £M
0.736	Car parks and all car parking matters	(8.690)	(7.703)	0.987
(0.300)	Concessionary Fares	2.840	2.290	(0.550)
0.000	Engineering (Bridges and Structures)	0.051	0.051	0.000
0.661	Highways (including maintenance)	4.746	4.843	0.097
(0.053)	Highways and Transport	(0.303)	(0.350)	(0.047)
0.143	Public Transport	0.185	0.327	0.142
(0.004)	Transport (including Transport Policy and Licensing)	1.238	1.256	0.018
1.183		0.067	0.714	0.647
56				
1.967	Gross Expenditure	12.582	13.732	1.150
(0.784)	Gross Income	(12.516)	(13.016)	(0.500)
1.183		0.066	0.716	0.650



The parking enforcement contract is currently overspending significantly due to the volume of variable works undertaken by the contractor and changes made as part of the short term extension whilst a new contract is procured. The major spend pressures include an increase in the number of Civil Enforcement Officers and the wage increases they have received in response to national living wage increase and the need to retain staff.

Car parking income to the end of September is exceeding the assumed budget profile but expenditure pressures in relation to transaction fees, bank charges and security at University Square car park are continuing to add cost pressures in 2023/24.

Concessionary fares payments are now linked directly to actual usage on local buses. Due to the reduction in journeys post-pandemic our financial contribution has also continued to reduce.

The reported overspend on the Highways (including maintenance) line has reduced due to the utilisation of the inflation contingency which was earmarked for this purpose. Ongoing spend pressures in this area include the repair costs associated with damaged street lighting columns and a shortfall in the amount of staff time which is charged to delivering the capital programme which is being offset by staffing vacancies and an increase in income from PVX (private vehicle crossings) applications.

The public transport service is forecast to overspend due to spend pressures on the bus shelter maintenance contract and the costs in relation to the travel centre. Plans are continuing to be developed to try to mitigate some of this additional pressures for the remainder of 2023/24.

Housing and Planning

19.45%

of Total Gross Revenue
Service Budget

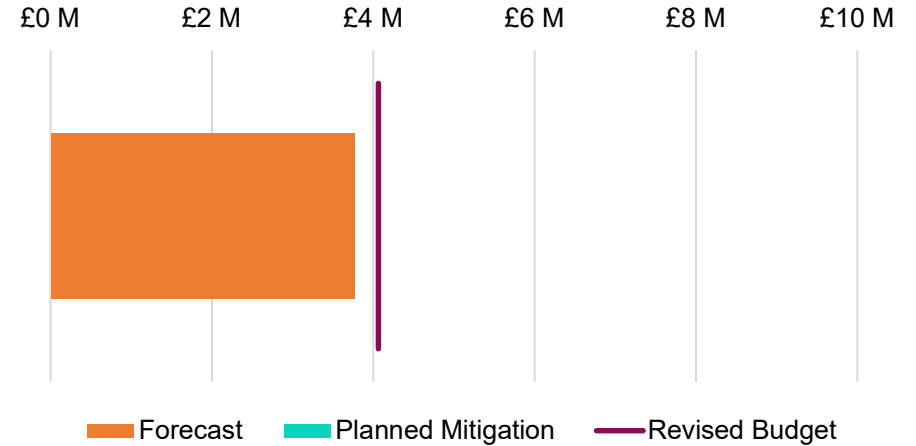
(£0.30M)

Forecast Favourable
Variance

-7.38%

Variance as % of Net Portfolio Service
Budget Envelope

Last Reported Variance £M	Service Area	Revised Budget £M	Forecast Outturn £M	Variance £M
(0.030)	Homelessness and Rough Sleeping	0.365	0.314	(0.051)
(0.159)	Housing Benefit	1.643	1.456	(0.187)
0.000	Housing Management	0.082	0.082	0.000
0.020	Housing Strategy	0.360	0.363	0.003
0.068	Planning Policy and Planning Control, Building Control	0.598	0.549	(0.049)
(0.011)	Private sector housing standards and grants	0.585	0.569	(0.016)
0.000	Queensway Development	0.000	0.000	0.000
0.030	Sea and Foreshore Defences	0.431	0.431	0.000
(0.082)		4.064	3.764	(0.300)
0.059	Gross Expenditure	69.576	69.562	(0.014)
(0.141)	Gross Income	(65.512)	(65.798)	(0.286)
(0.082)		4.064	3.764	(0.300)



The Service Director continues to intentionally hold vacancies within Housing Benefit teams (Benefits Administration and Essential Living Fund) to try to help with the overall financial pressures across the Council whilst maintaining an acceptable level of service.

The Building Control service exceeded their income budget last year due to some significant works coming into the team in early 2022/23. However, since September 2022 income has been down year on year. As this is a commercial service there is a risk that if the Authority cannot deliver the service on commercial terms the works will go to competitors in the market and we may struggle to obtain repeat business. The improvement now reported in the forecast outturn position for the overall Planning Service is directly due to the drawdown from the reserve for Planning which is earmarked to respond to the volatility in the market.

Regulatory Services

3.35%

of Total Gross Revenue
Service Budget

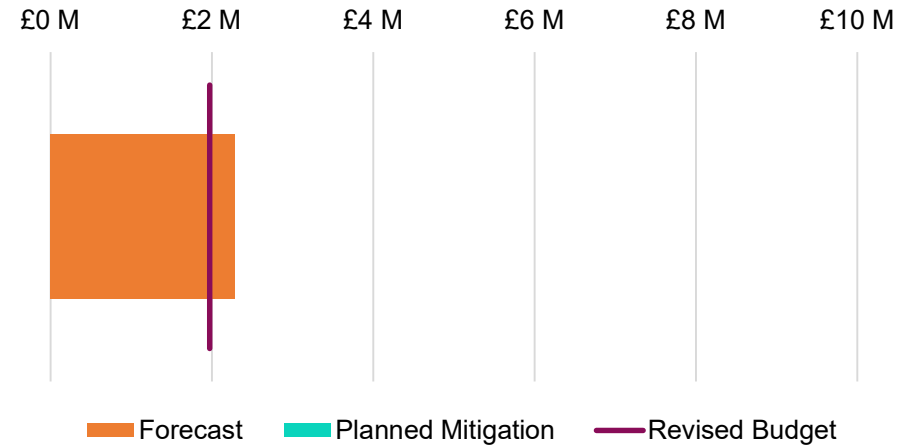
£0.31M

Forecast Adverse Variance

15.82%

Variance as % of Net Portfolio Service
Budget Envelope

Last Reported Variance £M	Service Area	Revised Budget £M	Forecast Outturn £M	Variance £M
(0.239)	Asset Management	0.618	0.389	(0.229)
0.990	Cemeteries, Crematoria and Bereavemen	(1.719)	(0.924)	0.795
0.000	Corporate Procurement	0.940	0.940	0.000
(0.174)	Financial Services (including Insurance etc.)	2.704	2.534	(0.170)
0.382	Property and Commercial	(1.600)	(1.535)	0.065
59 0.031	Registration Services	(0.145)	(0.114)	0.031
(0.029)	Regulatory services	1.174	0.994	(0.180)
0.961		1.972	2.284	0.312
1.032	Gross Expenditure	11.966	12.874	0.908
(0.071)	Gross Income	(9.994)	(10.591)	(0.597)
0.961		1.972	2.283	0.311



Asset Management have a reduced staffing complement due to acting up arrangements across the team operating without backfill. There is a knock-on impact of reduced levels of staff time being capitalised against the budget but the net impact is still a substantial underspend.

The refurbishment of the crematorium is underway and due for completion in March 2024 bringing with it greater efficiency, ensuring that the crematorium can function into the future and improving the environmental impact of the service. During the works and to minimise disruption, services have been restricted to Tuesday - Thursday so that 4 days a week are available to deliver the development. Reducing the operating hours of the crematorium is resulting in a significant reduction in income over this 12 month period with current estimates forecasting a shortfall of £640k. This income reduction is expected to be temporary and when the crematorium is fully operational again it is expected that income levels will return.

The Service Director is intentionally holding vacancies across his Financial Services teams to try and help with the overall financial pressures experienced across the Council. This is proving to be more and more difficult as the demands on the service continues to increase.

The Council is responsible for service charges for vacant lots at the Airport Business Park, based on current occupancy levels this will be a cost of £100,000 for the year, occupied lots are generating income above budgeted levels offsetting this cost by an expected £66,000.

The forecast performance of investment properties has improved due to a rise in rents. Staffing pressures within the Property and Commercial remain but the pressure on operational properties has reduced because of the application of contingency to offset the increase in energy prices. The combined effect of these elements is to reduce the forecast overspend by £317,000.

Whilst Delaware House is sold the site needs to be kept secure, this is forecast to cost around £80,000 for six months and is a one-off budget pressure.

A number of posts are currently being held vacant in the Regulatory Services team which is contributing to a forecast underspend of (£198k).

Housing Revenue Account

£0.6M

Forecast Adverse Variance

2.3%

Variance as % of Gross Operating Expenditure

Last Reported Variance £M	Service Area	Revised Budget £M	Forecast Outturn £M	Variance £M
0.000	Gross Expenditure	28.449	28.629	0.180
0.000	Gross Income	(32.556)	(32.091)	0.465
0.000	NET OPERATING EXPENDITURE	(4.107)	(3.462)	0.645
0.000	Revenue Contribution to Capital	7.384	7.384	0.000
0.000	Contribution to / (from) Earmarked Reserves	(3.277)	(3.922)	(0.645)
0.000	TOTAL	0.000	0.000	0.000

HRA Reserves 2023/24	Opening Balance	Forecast Movement	Closing Balance
Capital Investment Reserve	27.614	(3.922)	23.692
Major Repairs Reserve	9.916	0.047	9.963
Repairs Contract Pension Reserve	0.760	0.000	0.760
HRA Reserve	3.502	0.000	3.502
HRA Reserves Total	41.792	(3.875)	37.917

Following resourcing difficulties with the responsive repairs and voids contractor, a secondary contractor has had to be used to deliver on this work. This is in place whilst the main contractor is working through the resourcing issues. This has led to the forecast costs for the full year being higher than originally anticipated.

Over the years, the number of void units on the Queensway site has been increasing, which is leading to a higher rent loss than expected. We anticipate the rent loss to reduce as the void Queensway units are brought back into use, and this forecast will be reviewed closely each month.

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Budget Monitoring & Reporting 2023/24

Period 6 – September 2023 Capital Investment Programme Performance



Capital Investment Programme Performance Report

1. Overall Budget Performance by Investment Area

The table below shows the revised capital budget for the 2023/24 financial year which includes all changes agreed at September 2023 Cabinet and the proposed capital budget at November 2023 Cabinet if all the requested changes in section 4 are approved:

Schemes	Revised Budget at September Cabinet 2023/24 £'000	Proposed Budget at November Cabinet 2023/24 £'000
Total Schemes Delivered by General Fund	48,266	32,550
Total Schemes Delivered by General Fund Funded by the Levelling Up Fund	6,411	2,738
Total Schemes Delivered by Housing Revenue Account	11,971	10,214
Total Schemes Delivered by Subsidiary Companies and Joint Ventures	30,333	13,783
Total Capital Programme	96,981	59,285

Actual capital spend as at 30 September 2023 is £16.103 million representing approximately 17% of the revised budget. This is shown in section 2. (Outstanding creditors totalling £0.236 million have been removed from this figure).

The expenditure to date has been projected to year end and the outturn position is forecast to reflect the Project Manager's realistic expectation. This is broken down by type of investment area on the following pages.

Total Schemes Delivered by General Fund

Investment Area	Revised Budget 2023/24	Outturn to 30 September 2023	Current Variance to 30 September 2023	Expected outturn 2023/24	Latest Expected Variance to Revised Budget 2023/24	Amended Budget 2024/25 to 2027/28
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
General Fund Housing	705	323	(382)	635	(70)	6,572
Social Care	263	30	(233)	94	(169)	199
Schools	5,681	347	(5,334)	2,759	(2,922)	5,474
Enterprise & Regeneration	5,460	1,085	(4,375)	2,488	(2,972)	1,105
Southend Pier	4,690	690	(4,000)	1,499	(3,191)	6,741
Culture & Tourism	846	384	(462)	779	(67)	35
Community Safety	314	247	(67)	314	0	0
Highways & Infrastructure	17,099	4,584	(12,515)	13,935	(3,164)	21,086
Works to Property	6,864	1,328	(5,536)	5,502	(1,362)	3,627
Energy Saving	627	(108)	(735)	231	(396)	340
ICT	4,368	1,392	(2,976)	3,367	(1,001)	4,706
S106/S38/CIL	1,349	28	(1,321)	977	(372)	1,537
Total	48,266	10,330	(37,936)	32,580	(15,686)	51,422

Total Schemes Delivered by General Fund – Funded by the Levelling Up Fund

Investment Area	Revised Budget 2023/24	Outturn to 30 September 2023	Current Variance to 30 September 2023	Expected outturn 2023/24	Latest Expected Variance to Revised Budget 2023/24	Amended Budget 2024/25 to 2027/28
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Enterprise & Regeneration	6,411	468	(5,943)	2,738	(3,673)	20,962
Total	6,411	468	(5,943)	2,738	(3,673)	20,962

Total Schemes Delivered by Housing Revenue Account

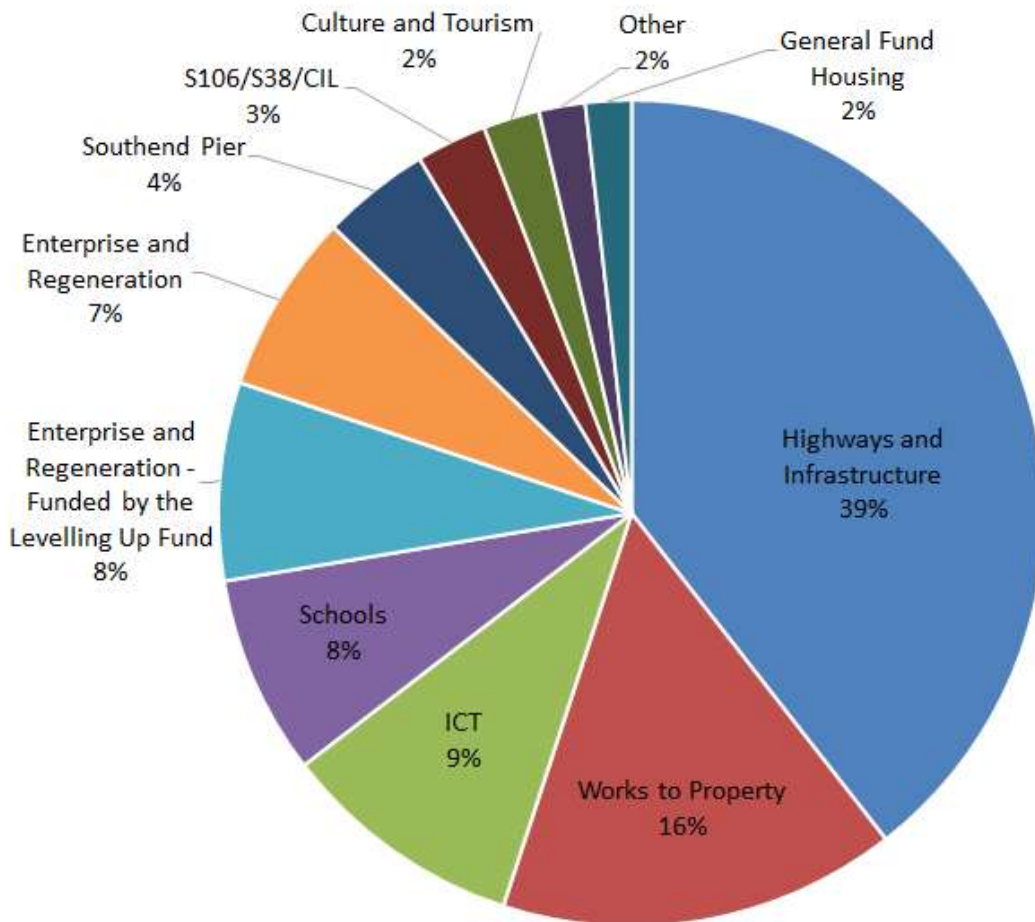
Investment Area	Revised Budget 2023/24	Outturn to 30 September 2023	Current Variance to 30 September 2023	Expected outturn 2023/24	Latest Expected Variance to Revised Budget 2023/24	Amended Budget 2024/24 to 2027/28
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Council Housing New Build Programme	2,534	18	(2,516)	1,523	(1,011)	9,883
Council Housing Acquisitions Programme	8,593	1,979	(6,614)	8,041	(552)	2,978
Council Housing Refurbishment – Disabled Adaptations	844	248	(596)	650	(194)	1,153
Total	11,971	2,245	(9,726)	10,214	(1,757)	14,014

Total Schemes Delivered by Subsidiary Companies and Joint Ventures

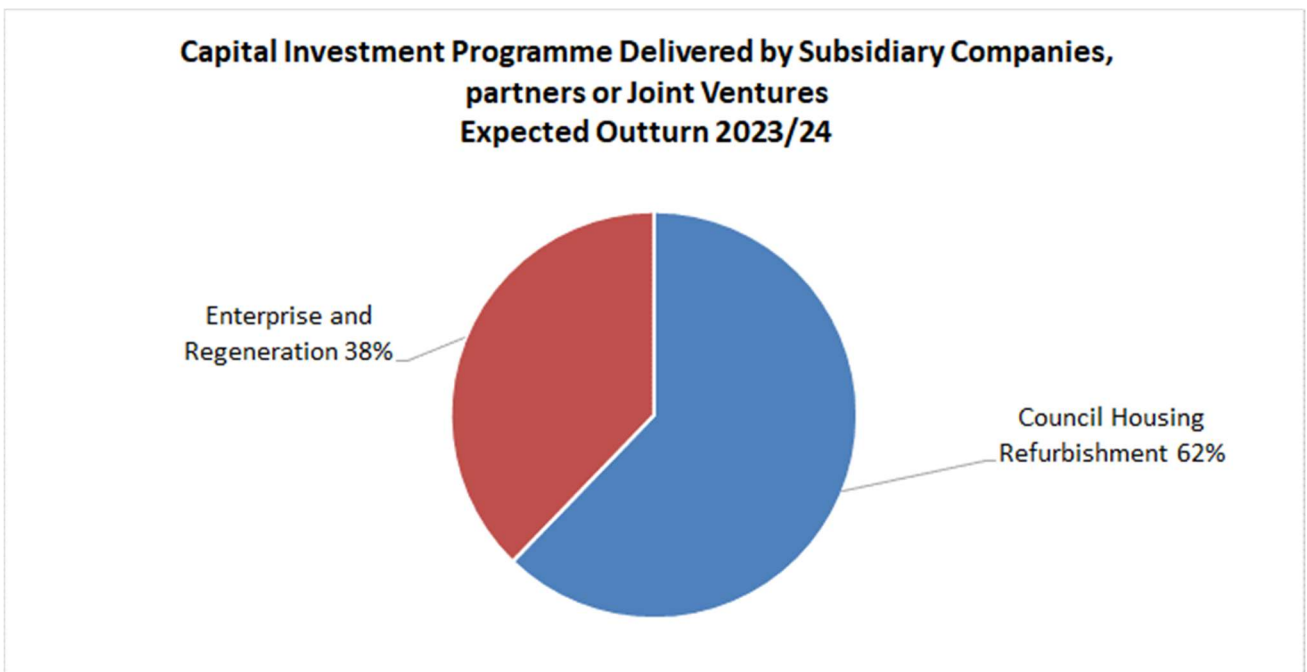
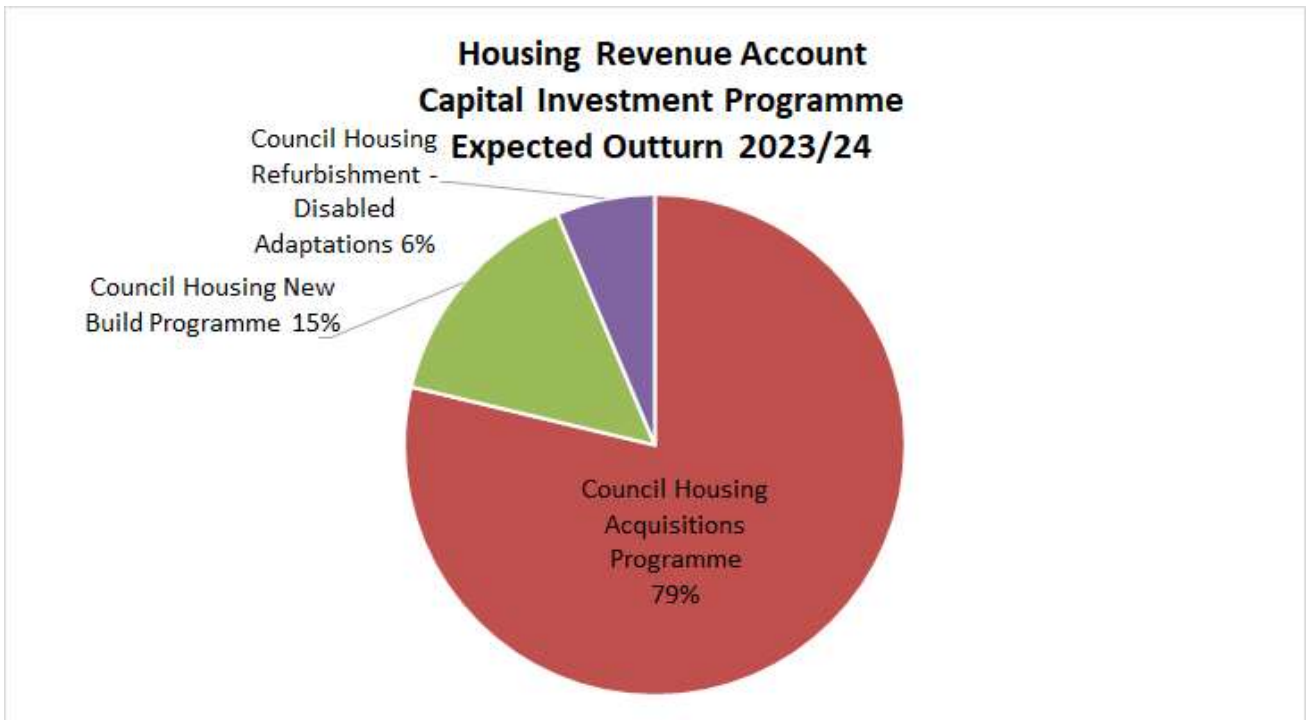
Investment Area	Revised Budget 2023/24	Outturn to 30 September 2023	Current Variance to 30 September 2023	Expected outturn 2023/24	Latest Expected Variance to Revised Budget 2023/24	Amended Budget 2024/25 to 2027/28
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Council Housing Refurbishment	8,578	2,344	(6,234)	8,578	0	19,094
Enterprise and Regeneration	21,755	716	(21,039)	5,205	(16,550)	500
Total	30,333	3,060	(27,273)	13,783	(16,550)	19,594

Total Capital Programme	96,981	16,103	(80,878)	59,315	(37,666)	105,992
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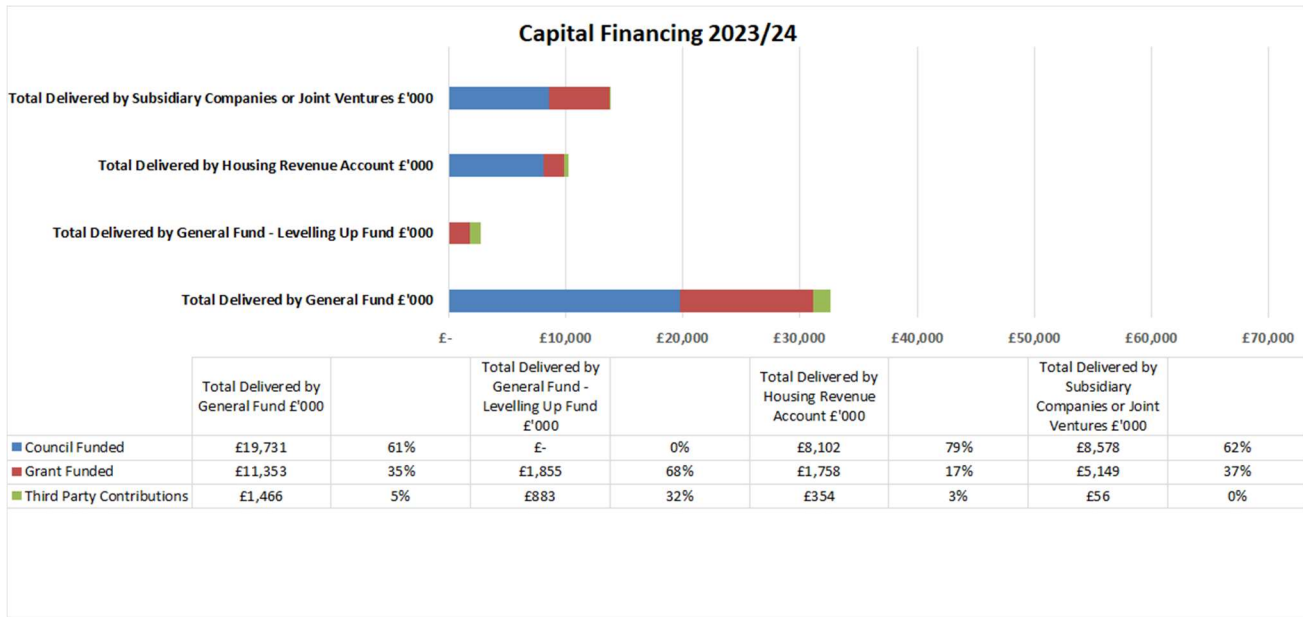
General Fund Capital Investment Programme Expected Outturn 2023/24



	Expected Outturn 2023/24	
Community Safety	£	314,000
Energy Saving	£	231,000
Social Care	£	94,000
	£	639,000



The capital investment for 2023/24 is proposed to be funded as follows:



Third party contributions are non-grant funding from external sources such as S106 contributions.

Of the £22.874 million of external funding expected, £19.365 million had been received by 30 September 2023.

2. Progress of Strategic Schemes

Successful and timely delivery of the capital investment programme is a key part of delivering the Corporate Plan.

£69.469 million of this relates to strategic schemes and approximately 15% spend has been achieved to date for these strategic schemes.

Investment Area	Scheme	Revised Budget 2023/24	Outturn to 30 September 2023	Expected outturn 2023/24	Latest Expected Variance to Revised Budget 2023/24	Amended Budget 2024/25 to 2027/28
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Strategic Schemes						
Enterprise and Regeneration	Airport Business Park (including Local Growth Fund)	2,609	416	908	(1,701)	825
Enterprise and Regeneration	Better Queensway - Programme Management	754	289	554	(200)	200
Enterprise and Regeneration	Queensway Footbridge	-	-	150	150	80
Enterprise and Regeneration	Victoria Centre	1,852	381	876	(976)	-
Social Care	Brook Meadows House	-	30	30	30	-
Schools	High Needs Provision	3,661	2	1,661	(2,000)	5,212
Southend Pier	Southend Pier schemes	4,690	690	1,499	(3,191)	6,741
ICT	ICT schemes	4,368	1,392	3,367	(1,001)	4,706
Highways and Infrastructure	Footways and Carriageways Schemes	5,373	2,769	5,373	-	12,773
Highways and Infrastructure	Parking Schemes	504	127	503	(1)	-
Highways and Infrastructure	Highways and Infrastructure - Local Growth Fund and Local Transport Plan Schemes	4,297	756	3,447	(850)	3,328
Total General Fund Strategic Schemes		28,108	6,852	18,368	(9,740)	33,865
Enterprise and Regeneration	Leigh Port Detailed Design	4,673	169	1,000	(3,673)	13,206
Enterprise and Regeneration	Cliffs Pavilion	500	293	500	-	6,956
Enterprise and Regeneration	Marine Parade	1,238	6	1,238	-	800
Total General Fund - Funded by Levelling Up Fund Strategic Schemes		6,411	468	2,738	(3,673)	20,962
Council Housing New Build Programme	Council Housing New Build Programme	2,534	18	1,523	(1,011)	9,883
Council Housing Acquisitions	HRA Affordable Housing Acquisitions Programme	2,878	853	2,878	-	-
Council Housing Acquisitions	Acquisition of Tower Block Leaseholds - Queensway	1,085	-	450	(635)	-
Total HRA Strategic Schemes		6,497	871	4,851	(1,646)	9,883
Council Housing Refurbishment	HRA Decent Homes Programme	8,578	2,344	8,578	-	19,094
Enterprise and Regeneration	Better Queensway - Loan to Joint Venture	1,550	-	-	(1,550)	-
Enterprise and Regeneration	Housing Infrastructure Funding	14,500	-	-	(14,500)	-
Enterprise and Regeneration	Better Queensway - SELEP	3,825	-	3,825	-	-
Total Delivered by Subsidiary Companies and Joint Ventures Strategic Schemes		28,453	2,344	12,403	(16,050)	19,094
Total Strategic Schemes		69,469	10,535	38,360	(31,109)	83,804

Strategic schemes - General Fund

Enterprise and Regeneration

The Launchpad at the Airport Business Park has now opened. There is still some outstanding expenditure to be incurred, which has been estimated at £1,317k. £492k of this is expected to be incurred in the 2023/24 year. This report therefore includes a request to carry forward £825k with £575k carried forward to 2024/25, £125k to 2025/26 and £125k to 2026/27. The remaining budget is not therefore expected to be utilised in full, and this report also therefore includes a request to transfer £100k to the Local Growth Fund – Southend town centre interventions project, and to release £776k from the 2023/24 budget.

The refurbishment works to the Victoria Centre are progressing, and a number of the projects within this are now complete. Some of the remaining significant works within the project are still dependent on lease agreements being reached, with approximately £495k of works expected to be completed by the end of 2023/24. The Council is committed to this £495k. This report includes a request to release the remaining unspent budget of £976k for 2023/24 and £250k for 2024/25, from the main capital programme, to be subject to a viable business case being submitted.

Better Queensway Programme Management: the Council remains committed to the Better Queensway project. There have however been delays in this project whilst Sanctuary carried out their due diligence of the scheme. This report therefore includes a request to carry forward £200k to 2024/25. For more information see the Subsidiary Companies and Joint Ventures section below.

A sum of £230k is required to remove the footbridge at Queensway. This report therefore includes a request to add a budget of £230k, with £150k to be included in 2023/24 and £80k in 2024/25.

The 2024/25 capital programme includes a £10M contribution towards the Seaway Leisure scheme. This report includes a request to remove this amount from the main capital programme and be subject to a viable business case being submitted.

Social Care

As reported in previous Cabinet reports, construction of the new care home Brook Meadows House was completed in 2021/22 with residents having moved into the building in early 2022 and the Priory Care Home has been demolished. Works incurred during 2022/23 and 2023/24 do not have a budget allocation with £30k of expenditure incurred in 2023/24 over and above the overspend of £4.9M already incurred in 2021/22 and 2022/23. The overspend has been incurred due to a number of issues including the performance of the design team. The Council is currently taking forward actions with a view to recovering significant costs incurred where these have been caused by the performance of third parties. The timing of any cost recovery is uncertain.

Schools

The High Needs Provision budget is financed by grant monies from the Department for Education to enhance the facilities and number of places available for children with special

educational needs and disabilities or requiring alternative provision. This project is expected to commence later in 2023/24 and conclude in 2024/25. This report therefore includes a request to carry forward £2M into 2024/25.

Southend Pier

Whilst work on the pier schemes are in progress, different elements of the project are at different stages of completion. Planned work in the summer months is limited with more significant expenditure anticipated to be incurred over the winter. Despite this, the current budgets are not expected to be utilised in full in 2023/24, and this report therefore includes requests to carry forward £2.5m to 2025/26 on the Prince George Extension scheme and £691k to 2024/25 on the Timber Outer Pier Head scheme.

ICT

The Business World bank reconciliation module improvements and HR recruitment contract implementation projects are both complete. This report therefore includes a request to release the remaining 2023/24 budgets of £4k and £41k respectively.

The N3 connectivity in the Civic building project which was planned for 2025/26 is not now expected to go ahead. This report therefore includes a request to release £39k from the 2025/26 budget.

Whilst work on ICT schemes is in progress, different projects are at different stages of completion. There are four projects where work which was planned for 2023/24 is now expected to take place in 2024/25. This report therefore includes requests to carry forward £40k, £25k, £110k and £440k against projects ICT Core Application and Database Migration, ICT Cybersecurity, ICT Technology Device Refresh and My Southend Replacement respectively.

Savings have been identified within a number of the ICT projects. This report therefore includes requests to release £75k, £35k, £120k, £15k, £21k and £75k from the 2023/24 budget in respect of projects ICT Business Services, ICT Connected and Smart, ICT Core Application and Database Migration, ICT Cybersecurity, ICT Stabilise and Run, and ICT Technology Device Refresh respectively. This report also includes a request to release £7k from the 2024/25 budget for the Implementation of ContrOCC Modules project, as a result of savings identified.

In order to continue the normal day-to-day ICT operations of the Council, a Microsoft Enterprise agreement license is required. The current license agreement expires at the end of the 2023/24 financial year. The Council is aiming to secure a three-year license covering the financial years 2024/25 to 2026/27. The September Cabinet paper included a request to add a budget of £1.16M to each of the financial years 2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27. Revised estimates have now been obtained for this contract reducing the expected costs to £1,064k, £1,156k and £1,156k for the three years respectively. This report therefore includes a request to release budgets of £96k, £4k and £4k for the three years respectively. This report also includes a request to transfer the remaining budgets of £1,064k, £1,156k and £1,156k respectively to the ICT Operational Requirements project.

Highways and Infrastructure

The Footways and Carriageway schemes are progressing well with plans in place to deliver the allocated budget by the end of the financial year.

The Junction Protection works are progressing with work being performed in three wards. The budget is expected to be delivered by the end of the financial year.

Over half the Zebra Crossing Surfacing Replacement budget for 2023/24 has already been delivered, and orders have been placed for the majority of the remaining budgets. Plans are in place to deliver this budget by the end of the financial year.

Works on the Local Transport Plan Maintenance, Better Networks, Traffic Management Schemes, Better Operation of Traffic Control Systems, Better Sustainable Transport and Street Lighting projects are ongoing. It is anticipated that the total spend across all schemes in 2023/24 will mostly be in line with the budget, but there are expected to be underspends on some of the projects. This reports therefore includes requests to carry forward to 2024/25: £200k on Better Networks, £200k on Traffic Management Schemes, £150k on Better Operation of Traffic Control Systems and £400k on Better Sustainable Transport.

Car Parks

Car park infrastructure improvement works are progressing and are expected to be delivered in line with the budget.

The car park resurfacing project is complete. After allowing for commitments, there is £1k unspent budget. This report therefore includes a request to release this £1k from the capital programme.

No expenditure has been incurred for the year-to-date on parking signage replacement. This project will fund replacement signs required as a result of parking tariff changes which will be decided upon towards the end of the financial year. The allocated budget is expected to be utilised in full.

Strategic schemes - General Fund - Funded by the Levelling Up Fund

Enterprise & Regeneration

A carry forward request into 2024/25 for £9,533k was approved at July Cabinet in respect of Leigh Port. There are restrictions on what can be done on this project over the winter due to overwintering birds, although the dredging element of the project can be performed in the winter months, as this is the optimal time for dredging in order to protect sea grasses. These restrictions will limit the progress of the project in 2023/24, and this report therefore includes a request to carry forward an additional £3,673k into 2024/25. The project is expected to complete by March 2025.

As previously reported to Cabinet, progress against the Marine Parade project has been limited in recent months. The project is expected to progress later in the 2023/24 financial year, and the 2023/24 budget is expected to be delivered.

As reported in previous Cabinet reports, the Cliffs Pavilion project was placed on hold to enable the commercial terms to be agreed between the Council and the current operator. The majority of this project is expected to be delivered in 2024/25, and a request was previously made at July Cabinet to carry forward most of the budget to that year.

Third party funding receivable against the Cliffs Pavilion project was expected to be £1M, but is now anticipated to reduce to £300k. The overall budgeted costs of the project have not changed, and it is therefore anticipated that the element of the project financed by borrowing will increase by £700k.

Strategic schemes - Housing Revenue Account

Construction of New Housing on HRA Land

The Council has reached the contractor appointment stage for phase 3 and is expecting to commence onsite works in early 2024. This is a delay from the previous expected timeline, and this report therefore includes a request to carry forward £1M from 2023/24 to 2024/25.

As previously reported to Cabinet, planning permission for Phase 4 was obtained at Development Control Committee in October 2022. An issue with access to the site has subsequently arisen regarding a right of way, which is yet to be resolved. This is likely to result in delays to the project, and it is unlikely any significant work will be performed in 2023/24.

As previously reported to Cabinet, there have been delays to the West Shoebury scheme as a result of the Council parting company with the main contractor. The Council is planning to use in-house architects to progress the scheme, but there is unlikely to be any significant work performed in 2023/24.

There was previously a HRA land review project which was completed in 2019/20. The Council has been notified that a residual invoice for £11k will be receivable later in the 2023/24 year for this project. This report therefore includes a request to transfer £11k from the Land Assembly Fund budget to HRA land review to cover the cost of this invoice.

Affordable Housing Acquisitions Programme

11 properties are to be acquired under this programme in 2023/24. They have all either been purchased or are currently with solicitors awaiting completion. The total cost of these properties is expected to utilise the allocated budget in full in 2023/24.

Acquisition of Tower Block Leaseholds – Queensway

There are 4 properties currently in the pipeline, for which the purchase is expected to complete by the end of the 2023/24 year, at a total cost of £450k. The Council remains committed to acquiring leasehold properties but has no other properties currently in the pipeline. This report therefore includes a request to remove the remaining budget of £635k for the 2023/24 year and £900k for the 2024/25 from the main capital programme, on the assumption that it will be brought back into the programme when properties become available.

Strategic schemes - Subsidiary Companies and Joint Ventures

HRA Decent Homes Programme

The main programme works are contractually committed and progressing. All works are under contract, although there have been some delays due to supply chain issues. The overall budget is expected to be spent over the course of 2023/24. Due to changing priorities, this report includes requests to change the profiling of the 2023/24 budgets as follows:

- Bathroom refurbishment: decrease by £244k.
- Central heating: increase by £174k.
- Kitchen refurbishment: increase by £29k.
- Rewiring: decrease by £384k.
- Roofing: decrease by £37k.
- Windows and doors: increase by £90k.
- Environmental works: increase by £96k.
- Common area improvements: increase by £274k.
- Balmoral structural works: increase by £30k.
- Remodelling of former tied flats – sheltered: decrease by £28k.

Better Queensway

As previously reported to Cabinet, following the merger between Swan Housing Association and Sanctuary Housing Association earlier this year, Sanctuary has now confirmed its intention to withdraw involvement from the Better Queensway Project. Sanctuary intend to prioritise investment and commitment to existing homes and communities and focus on the delivery of schemes where construction has already started. An appropriate settlement agreement is under development that will cover the terms of Sanctuary's withdrawal.

The Council remains fully committed to the Better Queensway regeneration scheme for the benefit of the residents of the estate and will now explore alternative options to progress the scheme. Whilst this is all being worked through, the Loan to LLP and Housing Infrastructure Funding elements of the project are proposed to be removed from the main capital programme, on the assumption that they will be brought back, if required, once a viable plan for this project is in place. This report therefore includes a request to move the budget of £14.5M from the 2023/24 main programme in respect of the Housing Infrastructure Fund to the 'subject to' section, and to remove budgets of £1,550k, £3,250k, £3,250k and £3,175k in respect of the Loan to LLP for years 2023/24, 2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27 respectively.

3. Progress of other schemes

General Fund

Enterprise and Regeneration

The Infrastructure Feasibility Studies project has been in the capital programme for several years and is still yet to commence. This report therefore includes a request to remove £245k from the programme in respect of this project.

Highways and Infrastructure

Delays have been incurred on both the Cliff Parade Cliff Slip and Belton Way East Cliff Slip projects as a result of badgers continuing to access the site. This report therefore includes a request to carry forward £2M on the Belton Way East project to 2024/25.

There has been a delay to procurement for traffic surveys to update the Southend Transport Model. Traffic surveys will now be undertaken in 2024/25 and the Model will be updated in 2024/25. This report therefore includes a request to carry forward £310k of the budget for the Southend Transport Model to 2024/25.

Car Parks

The vehicle restraint replacement project is complete. After allowing for commitments, there is £3k unspent budget. This report therefore includes a request to release this £3k from the capital programme.

Works to Property

The Council's review of RAAC across the property portfolio has identified one property (the Dixon Studio at Palace Theatre) where RAAC is present. A £40k virement has been made from the priority works budget to rectify this issue.

There has been an overspend of £35k on the Futures Demolition project arising due to there being more asbestos in the building than expected. A £35k virement has been made from the priority works budget to fund this overspend.

After six months of the year, the total utilisation of the £600k Priority Works budget has been £214k. Although Priority Works cannot be predicted in advance, it is considered unlikely that the remaining budget will be utilised in full by the end of 2023/24, and this report therefore includes a request to release £249k from the 2023/24 budget, and to carry forward £37k to 2024/25.

Works to Aviation Way Car Park have been delayed as a result of the planning application process taking longer than expected, and it is considered unlikely that this project will commence in 2023/24. This report therefore includes a request to carry forward £261k to 2024/25.

The Porters House heating issues project has been completed with an underspend of £2k. This report therefore includes a request to release the remaining unspent budget of £2k from 2023/24.

The Parks Fuel Storage project has also been completed with an underspend of £15k. This report therefore includes a request to release the remaining unspent budget of £15k from 2023/24.

There is not expected to be any further progress on the Seaways – Homes England Conditions Funding project in 2023/24. This report therefore includes a request to carry forward £99k to 2024/25.

Schools

The Chalkwell Junior Lightning Protection and Earls Hall Primary heating projects are both complete with underspends of £10k and £20k incurred on these projects respectively. This report therefore includes a request to transfer these unspent budgets to the Future Conditions Projects for schools programme.

As reported to Cabinet in July, the Council has received a Basic Needs grant for the provision of additional school places of £922k. Expenditure on the provision of additional schools places was incurred in advance of receiving the grant prior to the 2023/24 year, and the grant has been utilised to reimburse this expenditure. This report therefore includes a request to release £922k from the 2023/24 budget.

Energy Saving

The initial equipment being funded by the Air Quality Grant project has been purchased. This is expected to be a two-year project and will not complete in this financial year. This report therefore includes a request to carry forward £30k into 2024/25.

The ULEV taxi infrastructure scheme involves installing electric vehicles points for the car park on London Road. This project is about to enter the bidding phase for potential contractors and is unlikely to be delivered in full by the end of the 2023/24 year. This report therefore includes a request to carry forward £60k to 2024/25.

There has been no progress on the Real Time Air Quality Measurement project so far in 2023/24. This report therefore includes a request to release the £56k budget allocated to this project.

The energy efficiency projects are progressing but will not be completed in this financial year. This report therefore includes a request to carry forward £250k to 2024/25.

Culture and Tourism

The allotments water supply upgrade and irrigation tanks projects have not made any progress so far in 2023/24. This report therefore includes a proposal that both projects are placed on hold and the budgets of £7k and £24k respectively are released from the main capital programme subject to a viable business case being produced.

The next phase of the playground gates scheme is expected to commence in December 2023. It is unlikely the project will be completed by the end of the 2023/24 year, and this report therefore includes a request to carry forward £35k to 2024/25.

The Shoebury Common Regeneration project is complete. This report therefore includes a request to release the remaining unspent budget of £1k.

The Council has not yet decided on the prioritisation of the public toilet provision project and does not have any projects in the pipeline which will utilise this budget. This report therefore includes a request to release the budget of £699k from the main capital programme subject to a viable business case being submitted.

Social Care

Disabled facilities grants have been received in 2022/23 and 2023/24 with values of £1,721k and £1,871k respectively. There is also £20k of funds from previous years which has become available for spend again as a result of some previous schemes being ineligible to use the grant. There is already sufficient budget in 2023/24 to 2026/27 so this report includes a request to add a budget of £3,612k to 2027/28 and future years.

The Community Capacity, Mental Health Funding Stream and Transforming Care Housing projects have not started, and it is unlikely they will commence in the 2023/24 year. This report therefore includes requests to carry forward to 2024/25, budgets for £29k, £31k and £139k respectively.

S106/S38/CIL

This report includes a request to add budgets for four projects which will be funded by S106 contributions as follows:

- S106 10 Fairfax Drive - Biodiversity Contribution: £5k
- S106 27 Victoria Avenue - Biodiversity Contribution: £11k
- S106 Land East of Fossetts Way – RAMS Contribution: £31k
- S106 659-665 London Road - Essex Coast RAMS contribution: £3k

The enhancing children's play provision in public parks project has commenced but is still in the early stages. This report therefore includes a request to carry forward £250k to 2024/25.

The enhancing cycle infrastructure project has not yet commenced. This report therefore includes a request to carry forward £183k to 2024/25.

Housing Revenue Account

The Housing and Development Pipeline budget is split between the General Fund and HRA within the capital programme. The expenditure on HRA is expected to be significantly higher than the General Fund in 2023/24. This report therefore includes a request to transfer £70k from the General Fund budget to the HRA budget.

The Next Steps Accommodation Programme, which is used to refurbish properties for complex needs, is progressing, but there has not been as much need for these funds in 2023/24 as expected. The September Cabinet report included a request to carry forward £25k to 2024/25. This report includes a request to carry forward an additional £25k to 2024/25.

The Passive House Pilot project has experienced delays with obtaining planning permission. It is considered unlikely that any significant work will be performed on this project in 2023/24. The September Cabinet report therefore included a request to carry forward £800k to

2024/25. Works are now progressing slightly quicker than expected, and this report therefore includes a request to accelerate delivery of £38k from 2024/25 to 2023/24.

The works completed on HRA Disabled adaptations have been lower than anticipated. This report therefore includes a request to carry forward £194k to 2024/25.

Subsidiary Companies and Joint Ventures

The No Use Empty – Growing Places Fund is not expected to be fully utilised in the 2023/24 year. This report therefore includes a request to carry forward £500k to 2024/25.

4. Requested Changes to the Capital Investment Programme

Summary - programme to be delivered by the Council:

	2023/24 Budget £000	2024/25 Budget £000	2025/26 Budget £000	2026/27 Budget £000	2027/28 and future years Budget £000	Total Budget (all years) £000
Approved Capital Investment Programme - September 2023 Cabinet	66,648	61,950	8,587	6,560	560	144,305
Carry Forwards	(16,387)	13,637	2,625	125	-	-
Accelerated Deliveries	38	(38)	-	-	-	-
Additions to the Programme	150	80	-	-	-	230
Deletions from the Programme	(2,656)	(103)	(43)	(4)	-	(2,806)
Virements	-	-	-	-	-	-
New External Funding	50	-	-	-	3,612	3,662
Transfers to 'Subject to Viable Business Case' section of the programme	(2,341)	(11,150)	-	-	-	(13,491)
Proposed Investment Programme - following amendments	45,502	64,376	11,169	6,681	4,172	131,900

Summary - programme to be delivered by Subsidiary Companies, Partners and Joint Ventures:

	2023/24 Budget £000	2024/25 Budget £000	2025/26 Budget £000	2026/27 Budget £000	2027/28 and future years Budget £000	Total Budget (all years) £000
Approved Capital Investment Programme - September 2023 Cabinet	30,333	9,524	9,579	9,666	-	59,102
Carry Forwards	(500)	500	-	-	-	-
Deletions from the Programme	(1,550)	(3,250)	(3,250)	(3,175)	-	(11,225)
Virements	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers to 'Subject to Viable Business Case' section of the programme	(14,500)	-	-	-	-	(14,500)
Proposed Investment Programme - following amendments	13,783	6,774	6,329	6,491	-	33,377

Carry Forwards to Future Years - programme to be delivered by the Council

Scheme	2023/24 Budget £000	2024/25 Budget £000	2025/26 Budget £000	2026/27 Budget £000	2027/28 and future years Budget £000	Total Budget (all years) £000
Southend Pier - Prince George Extension (Phase Two)	(2,500)		2,500			-
Southend Pier - Timber Outer Pier Head	(691)	691				-
Southend Transport Model	(310)	310				-
Playground Gates	(35)	35				-
DFT - Belton Way East Cliff Slip	(2,000)	2,000				-
Leigh Port Detailed Design	(3,673)	3,673				-
LTP (Integrated Transport Block) - Better Networks	(200)	200				-
LTP (Integrated Transport Block) - Traffic Management Schemes	(200)	200				-
LTP (Integrated Transport Block) - Better Operation of Traffic Control	(150)	150				-
LTP (Integrated Transport Block) - Better Sustainable Transport	(400)	400				-
Air Quality Grant	(30)	30				-
ULEV Taxi Infrastructure Scheme	(60)	60				-
ICT - Core Application and Database Migration	(40)	40				-
ICT - Cybersecurity	(25)	25				-
ICT - Technology Device Refresh	(110)	110				-
My Southend Replacement	(440)	440				-
Airport Business Park	(825)	575	125	125		-
Council Affordable Housing Development (Phase3) - Shoebury	(1,000)	1,000				-
Next Steps Accommodation Programme	(25)	25				-
Community Capacity	(29)	29				-
Mental Health Funding stream only	(31)	31				-
Transforming Care Housing	(139)	139				-
Aviation Way Car Park	(261)	261				-
Seaways - Homes England Condition Funding	(99)	99				-
High Needs Provision	(2,000)	2,000				-
Better Queensway - Programme Management	(200)	200				-
Priority Works	(37)	37				-
Energy Efficiency Projects	(250)	250				-
CIL Main Fund Allocation – Enhancing Children’s Play Provision in Public	(250)	250				-
CIL Main Fund Allocation - Enhancing Cycle Infrastructure	(183)	183				-
HRA Disabled Adaptations - Major Adaptations	(194)	194				-
Total Carry Forwards - programme to be delivered by the Council	(16,387)	13,637	2,625	125	-	-

Carry Forwards to Future Years - programme to be delivered by Subsidiary Companies, Partners and Joint Ventures

Scheme	2023/24 Budget £000	2024/25 Budget £000	2025/26 Budget £000	2026/27 Budget £000	2027/28 and future years Budget £000	Total Budget (all years) £000
No Use Empty – Growing Places Fund	(500)	500				-
Total Carry Forwards - programme to be delivered by Subsidiary Companies, Partners and Joint Ventures	(500)	500	-	-	-	-

Accelerated Deliveries - programme to be delivered by the Council

Scheme	2023/24 Budget £000	2024/25 Budget £000	2025/26 Budget £000	2026/27 Budget £000	2027/28 and future years Budget £000	Total Budget (all years) £000
Passive House Pilot	38	(38)				-
Total Accelerated Deliveries - programme to be delivered by the Council	38	(38)	-	-	-	-

Additions to the Programme - programme to be delivered by the Council

Scheme	2023/24 Budget £000	2024/25 Budget £000	2025/26 Budget £000	2026/27 Budget £000	2027/28 and future years Budget £000	Total Budget (all years) £000
Queensway Footbridge	150	80				230
Total Additions to the Programme - programme to be delivered by the Council	150	80	-	-	-	230

Deletions from the Programme - programme to be delivered by the Council

Scheme	2023/24 Budget £000	2024/25 Budget £000	2025/26 Budget £000	2026/27 Budget £000	2027/28 and future years Budget £000	Total Budget (all years) £000
ICT - Operational Requirements		(96)	(4)	(4)		(104)
Shoebury Common Regeneration	(1)					(1)
Car Park Resurfacing	(1)					(1)
Vehicle Restraint Replacement	(3)					(3)
Real Time Air Quality Measurement - Feasibility	(56)					(56)
Business World Bank Reconciliation Module Improvements	(4)					(4)
HR Recruitment Contract Implementation	(41)					(41)
ICT - Business Services	(75)					(75)
ICT - Childrens and Adults Social Care - Implementation of ContrOCC		(7)				(7)
ICT - Connected and Smart	(35)					(35)
ICT - Core Application and Database Migration	(120)					(120)
ICT - Cybersecurity	(15)					(15)
ICT - Stabilise and Run	(21)					(21)
ICT - Technology Device Refresh	(75)					(75)
N3 Connectivity in the Civic Building			(39)			(39)
Airport Business Park	(776)					(776)
Infrastructure Feasibility Studies	(245)					(245)
Parks Fuel Storage	(15)					(15)
Porters House Heating Issues	(2)					(2)
Priority Works	(249)					(249)
Future Condition Projects	(922)					(922)
Total Deletions from the Programme - programme to be delivered by the Council	(2,656)	(103)	(43)	(4)	-	(2,806)

Deletions from the Programme - programme to be delivered by Subsidiary Companies, Partners and Joint Ventures

Scheme	2023/24 Budget £000	2024/25 Budget £000	2025/26 Budget £000	2026/27 Budget £000	2027/28 and future years Budget £000	Total Budget (all years) £000
Better Queensway - Loan to LLP	(1,550)	(3,250)	(3,250)	(3,175)		(11,225)
Total Deletions from the Programme - programme to be delivered by Subsidiary Companies, Partners and Joint Ventures	(1,550)	(3,250)	(3,250)	(3,175)	-	(11,225)

Virements between schemes - programme to be delivered by the Council

Scheme	2023/24 Budget £000	2024/25 Budget £000	2025/26 Budget £000	2026/27 Budget £000	2027/28 and future years Budget £000	Total Budget (all years) £000
Airport Business Park	(100)					(100)
Local Growth Fund - Southend Town Centre Interventions	100					100
Housing and Development Pipeline Feasibility - GF	(70)					(70)
Housing and Development Pipeline Feasibility - HRA	70					70
Housing Construction Scheme - Land Assembly Fund (S106)	(11)					(11)
S106 HRA Land Review	11					11
Chalkwell Junior - Lightning Protection	(10)					(10)
Future condition projects	10					10
Earls Hall Primary heating	(20)					(20)
Future condition projects	20					20
Software Licensing		(1,160)	(1,160)	(1,160)		(3,480)
ICT - Operational Requirements		1,160	1,160	1,160		3,480
Virements already actioned under delegated authority						
Priority Works	(40)					(40)
RAAC - Operational Estate	40					40
Priority Works	(35)					(35)
Futures Demolition	35					35
Total Virements between schemes - programme to be delivered by the Council	-	-	-	-	-	-

Virements between schemes - programme to be delivered by subsidiary companies and joint ventures

Scheme	2023/24 Budget £000	2024/25 Budget £000	2025/26 Budget £000	2026/27 Budget £000	2027/28 and future years Budget £000	Total Budget (all years) £000
Bathroom Refurbishment	(244)					(244)
Central Heating	174					174
Kitchen Refurbishments	29					29
Rewiring	(384)					(384)
Roofs	(37)					(37)
Windows and Doors	90					90
Environmental - H&S Works	96					96
Common Areas Improvement	274					274
Balmoral Estate Improvement and Structural Works	30					30
Remodelling of Tied Accommodation	(28)					(28)
Total Virements between schemes - programme to be delivered by subsidiary companies and joint ventures	-	-	-	-	-	-

New External Funding - programme to be delivered by the Council

Scheme	2023/24 Budget £000	2024/25 Budget £000	2025/26 Budget £000	2026/27 Budget £000	2027/28 and future years Budget £000	Total Budget (all years) £000
Disabled Facilities Grant					3,612	3,612
S106 10 Fairfax Drive 1800810FULM - Biodiversity Contribution	5					5
S106 27 Victoria Avenue 1802151FULM - Biodiversity Contribution	11					11
S106 Land East Of Fossetts Way 21/00711/FULM - RAMS Contribution	31					31
S106 659-665 London Road 21/00161/FULM - Essex Coast RAMS	3					3
Total New External Funding - programme to be delivered by the Council	50	-	-	-	3,612	3,662

Transfers to 'Subject to Viable Business Case' section from main Capital Investment Programme - programme to be delivered by the Council

Scheme	2023/24 Budget £000	2024/25 Budget £000	2025/26 Budget £000	2026/27 Budget £000	2027/28 and future years Budget £000	Total Budget (all years) £000
Allotments Water Supply Upgrade	(7)					(7)
Irrigation Tanks	(24)					(24)
Seaway Leisure		(10,000)				(10,000)
Acquisition of Tower Block Leaseholds - Queensway	(635)	(900)				(1,535)
Public Toilet Provision	(699)					(699)
Victoria Centre	(976)	(250)				(1,226)
Total Transfers to 'Subject to Viable Business Case' section from main Capital Investment Programme - programme to be delivered by the Council	(2,341)	(11,150)	-	-	-	(13,491)

Transfers to 'Subject to Viable Business Case' section from main Capital Investment Programme - programme to be delivered by subsidiary companies and joint ventures

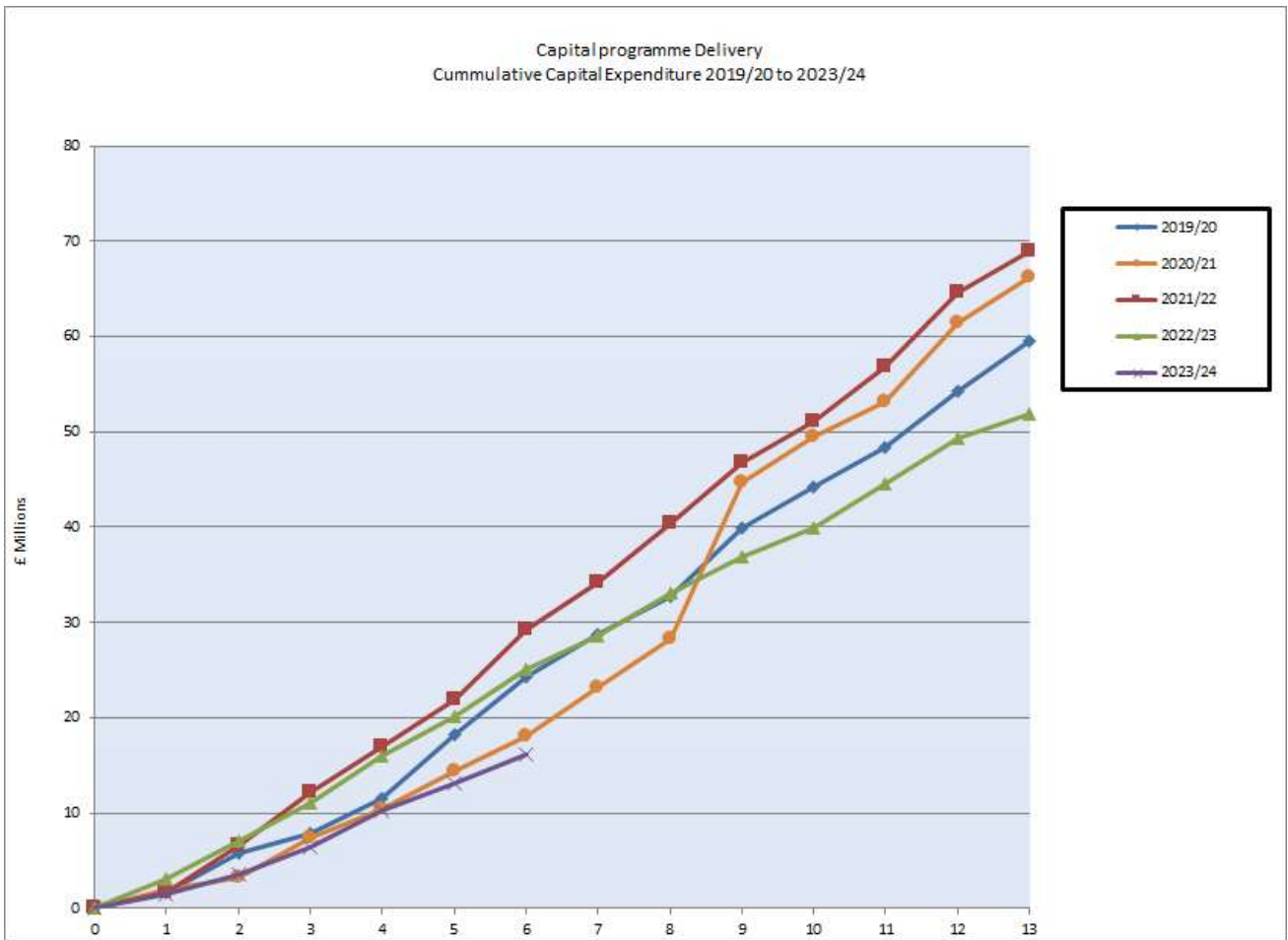
Scheme	2023/24 Budget £000	2024/25 Budget £000	2025/26 Budget £000	2026/27 Budget £000	2027/28 and future years Budget £000	Total Budget (all years) £000
Housing Infrastructure Funding	(14,500)					(14,500)
Total Transfers to 'Subject to Viable Business Case' section from main Capital Investment Programme - programme to be delivered by subsidiary companies and joint ventures	(14,500)	-	-	-	-	(14,500)

5. Summary of Capital Expenditure at 30 September

	Original Budget 2023/24	Revisions	Revised Budget 2023/24	Actual 2023/24	Forecast outturn 2023/24	Forecast Variance to Year End 2023/24	% Variance
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
General Fund Housing	1,135	(430)	705	323	635	(70)	46%
Social Care	263	0	263	30	94	(169)	11%
Schools	4,053	1,628	5,681	347	2,759	(2,922)	6%
Enterprise and Regeneration	2,195	3,265	5,460	1,085	2,488	(2,972)	20%
Southend Pier	5,053	(363)	4,690	690	1,499	(3,191)	15%
Culture and Tourism	152	694	846	384	779	(67)	45%
Community Safety	29	285	314	247	314	0	79%
Highways and Infrastructure	13,878	3,221	17,099	4,584	13,935	(3,164)	27%
Works to Property	6,739	125	6,864	1,328	5,502	(1,362)	19%
Energy Saving	256	371	627	(108)	231	(396)	-17%
ICT	3,109	1,259	4,368	1,392	3,367	(1,001)	32%
S106/S38/CIL	35	1,314	1,349	28	977	(372)	2%
TOTAL PROGRAMME TO BE DELIVERED BY THE GENERAL FUND	38,897	11,369	48,266	10,330	32,580	(15,886)	21%
Enterprise and Regeneration	22,405	(15,994)	6,411	468	2,738	(3,673)	7%
TOTAL PROGRAMME TO BE DELIVERED BY THE GENERAL FUND - FUNDED BY THE LEVELLING UP FUND	22,405	(15,994)	6,411	468	2,738	(3,673)	7%
Council Housing New Build Programme	7,875	(5,341)	2,534	18	1,523	(1,011)	1%
Council Housing Acquisitions Programme	2,846	5,747	8,593	1,979	8,041	(552)	23%
Council Housing Refurbishment - Disabled Adaptations	770	74	844	248	650	(194)	29%
TOTAL PROGRAMME TO BE DELIVERED BY THE HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT	11,491	480	11,971	2,245	10,214	(1,757)	19%
Council Housing Refurbishment	7,593	985	8,578	2,344	8,578	0	27%
Enterprise and Regeneration	17,050	4,705	21,755	716	5,205	(16,550)	3%
TOTAL PROGRAMME TO BE DELIVERED BY SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES OR JOINT VENTURES	24,643	5,690	30,333	3,060	13,783	(16,550)	10%
	95,436	1,545	96,981	16,103	69,315	(37,666)	17%
Council Approved Original Budget - February 2023	95,436						
Programme to be delivered by the General Fund							
General Fund Housing	(430)						
Social Care	0						
Schools	1,628						
Enterprise and Regeneration	3,265						
Southend Pier	(363)						
Culture and Tourism	694						
Community Safety	285						
Highways and Infrastructure	3,221						
Works to Property	125						
Energy Saving	371						
ICT	1,259						
S106/S38/CIL	1,314						
Programme to be delivered by the General Fund - Funded by the Levelling Up Fund							
Enterprise and Regeneration	(15,994)						
Programme to be delivered by Housing Revenue Account							
Council Housing New Build Programme	(5,341)						
Council Housing Acquisitions Programme	5,747						
Council Housing Refurbishment - Disabled Adaptations	74						
Programme to be delivered by Subsidiary companies or Joint Ventures							
Council Housing Refurbishment	985						
Enterprise and Regeneration	4,705						
Council Approved Revised Budget - September 2023	96,981						

Actual compared to Revised Budget spent is £16.103M or 17%

6. Capital Programme Delivery



Year	Outturn £m	Outturn Against Budget %
2019/20	59.5	83.8
2020/21	66.2	81.0
2021/22	69.0	88.0
2022/23	52.0	83.0

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Corporate Plan performance report – Period 6 2023

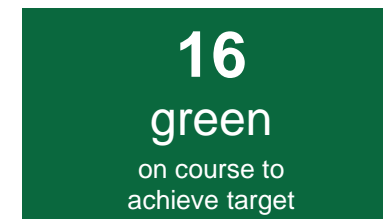
The Corporate Plan Performance Report includes performance indicators relating to the council's recently refreshed Corporate Plan (2023 to 2027). This report shows our corporate performance for Period 6 (August - September) of 2023. This is presented by the four refreshed priorities:

- 18
1. A growing city with a strong and prosperous community
 2. A safe city with a good quality of life for all
 3. A clean city with a resilient environment
 4. A transforming council delivering efficient, cost-effective services

Where applicable, data has been RAG rated against targets and our current position compared to the previous period (April – July 2023) and the previous year (there are some exceptions if data is currently unavailable).

Relevant corporate risks are noted underneath each applicable Key Performance Indicator (KPI) title. A risk register key can be found at page [15](#). A glossary of terms for each KPI can be found at page [16](#).

The total number of Strategic KPIs included is 31. The summary of RAG status is as follows:



A growing city with a strong and prosperous community

Indicator	Value	Target	Aim of indicator	Date range	Compared to the last period	Compared to the previous year
Outcome: Spending power used wisely						
Amount of council's spend with local businesses Corporate Risk Register Ref: 2 and 3	£63,456,910	>£63m	Maximise	22/23	-	↑ £62,722,212
∞	<p>In 22/23, 32.5% (£63m) of council spend was with Southend-on-Sea suppliers and 55.2% (£108m) of council spend was with Essex suppliers (including Southend-on-Sea postcodes). This compares to 21/22, when 32.2% (£57m) of council spend was with Southend-on-Sea suppliers and 54% (£93m) of council spend was with Essex suppliers (including Southend-on-Sea postcodes).</p> <p>As an indicator of local spend for 23-24 Q1 and Q2*: Southend-on-Sea postcodes = 31.28% (£30,281,194.70) Essex (including Southend-on-Sea postcodes) = 43.2% (£41,823,334)</p> <p>* Please note, these figures do not include postcode allocations from South Essex Homes, so in reality the figures will be slightly higher.</p> <p>Benchmarking with other areas is difficult to do on a like for like basis. Comparing it with a local authority with a greater area and boundary not considered to be a worthwhile use of resources. Focus instead is on what we are achieving here in Southend-on-Sea year on year.</p>					
Outcome: Enhanced tourism, culture and leisure						
Visitor numbers to Southend Pier Corporate Risk Register Ref: 21	286,291	283,300	Maximise	As at Sept 23	-	↑ 286,036
	<p>We have had our busiest September on record with 39,421 visitors. This is +2,126 compared to the previous highest in 2021 with 37,295 visitors and +3,425 compared to the same month last year with 35,996 visitors.</p> <p>There was a heatwave at the start of the month (as soon as the schools returned after the summer holidays), the City Jam event ran from 1-3 September with exhibits on the Pier walkway, we have hosted the Blade Education CTWOW event (The City That Walks On Water) and the Waverley paddle steamer has been running boat trips from here since Friday 22 September with trips running until Sunday 8 October.</p>					

The below indicators are under development. The Insights Team are working with the relevant service areas to establish targets and baseline measures:

- Number of businesses engaged with
- Value of inward investment secured by Southend-on-Sea City Council
- Number of jobs created through Southend-on-Sea City Council initiatives
- Number of higher education learning completions at Southend Adult Community College

These measures are focussed on the council's role in economic growth and regeneration; business support schemes run or funded by the Council contribute either to starting new businesses or helping existing ones to survive and grow, with robust and well-coordinated partnerships between the Council and our partners enabling the securing of inward investment. Regeneration initiatives create employment opportunity for residents and an improved adult skill base. ensures the meeting of identified skill gaps.

- Accommodation occupancy rates
- Total value of tourism
- Overall number of total footfall for all identified council-run cultural assets (museums, galleries, theatres, libraries and leisure centres)
- Annual number of overnight trips
- Annual visitor numbers

These measures concentrate on the role of tourism and culture in Southend-on-Sea, with the value of the visitor economy recognised as an important driver of local growth, jobs and prosperity. The council plays a crucial role in creating the conditions for the tourism and visitor economy to thrive, through being direct providers of attractions and assets, as well as through strategic roles in marketing, promotion and support for cultural and visitor centres.

A safe city with a good quality of life for all

Indicator	Value	Target	Aim of indicator	Date range	Compared to the last period	Compared to the previous year
Outcome: Safe, inclusive communities and neighbourhoods						
Take up of the NHS Health Check programme Corporate Risk Register Ref: 13	1,577	2,178	Maximise	As at Sept 23	-	↑ 994
	17 practices active; 7 practices haven't delivered any this month. We continue to investigate the reason why some GPs have not started the service yet. To date 45% of checks have been delivered to residents in Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 1-4. Contract variation on target has been reviewed and sent to GPs.					
Number of physically inactive adults completing a physical activity course Corporate Risk Register Ref: 13	230	204	Maximise	As at Sept 23	-	↓ 248
	On schedule to reach the annual target.					
Rate of under-18 conceptions Corporate Risk Register Ref: 13 ⊗	9.8	9.5	Minimise	2021	-	↑ 13.8 (2020)
	Under-18 conception rates in Southend-on-Sea are; lower than the East of England (11.0) and England (13.1). There has been a long-term decrease in under-18 conception rates nationally, and between 2011 and 2021, conception rates in Southend-on-Sea decreased by 71.8%.					
Percentage of children receiving MMR vaccinations at second (a) and fifth (b) birthday Corporate Risk Register Ref: 13	(a) 93.2%	95%	Maximise	Q1 23/24	↑ 88.6% (Q4 22/23)	↑ 88.8% (Q1 22/23)
	(b) 85.7%	95%	Maximise	Q1 23/24	↑ 83.1% (Q4 22/23)	↑ 88.4% (Q1 22/23)
	In vaccinations at second and fifth birthday, there has been a 4.6% increase and 2.6% respectively in quarter 1. For vaccinations at second birthday, Southend-on-Sea is now the 2nd highest uptake in the East of England region. Work is continuing with partners, children's services and comms to sustain this uptake. Three community vaccination clinic pilots were carried out in August 2023.					
	Benchmarking data (21/22) shows vaccine coverage at two-years old for Southend-on-Sea at 89.5%, the East of England at 91.3%, and England at 89.2%. For coverage at five-years old, 89.9% for Southend-on-Sea, 89.2% for the East of England and 85.7% for England.					

Indicator	Value	Target	Aim of indicator	Date range	Compared to the last period	Compared to the previous year
Number of people completing the Falls Prevention Programme Corporate Risk Register Ref: 13	113	250	Maximise	22/23	-	↓127 (21/22)
	<p>In 22/23, 281 people were referred into the programme against a target of 250 starters. Target completion rate was missed, partly due to drop-outs from the programme. Discussions have been had with the provider at various contract meetings to attempt to improve completions. Due to the length of the course, improvements will not be understood until December 23 – March 24. This has been discussed with the provider and it is felt that the level of dropouts on the programme has reduced and that we anticipate an improvement on last year's performance.</p> <p>For 23/24, as of September, there are currently 166 on the programme against a participation target of 209.</p>					
Outcome: People live well, age well and care well						
¹⁶ Proportion of adults with learning difficulties who live in their own home or with their family Corporate Risk Register Ref: 15	88.25%	85.5%	Maximise	Period 6	↑ 87.8%	↓ 89%
	<p>We continue to perform beyond our target for this measure. The Learning Disabilities Team's focus is supporting people with a Learning Disability to reside within tenanted arrangements which increases choice and control. This measure remains consistently above target and performance for September which is 88.9% and 87.6% for August.</p> <p>For 21/22, Southend-on-Sea is ranked 26th nationally for this indicator (88.8%). Region score: 73.3% England score: 78.8%</p>					
Number of permanent admissions into residential and nursing care (18-64) Corporate Risk Register Ref: 15	4	6	Minimise	As at Sep 23	-	↓ 1.86
	<p>There have been 4 permanent admissions into residential care measured against a target for September of 6. Performance is on target this month; however, this measure will continue to be closely monitored over the coming months to ensure a continued focus on supporting people to remain resident within their own homes.</p> <p>For 21/22, Southend-on-Sea is ranked 21st nationally for this indicator (7.5). Region score: 11.9 England score: 13.9</p>					

Indicator	Value	Target	Aim of indicator	Date range	Compared to the last period	Compared to the previous year
Proportion of adults in contact with secondary mental health services who live independently with or without support Corporate Risk Register Ref: 15	38.9%	39%	Maximise	Aug 23	↓ 40.35%	↓ 40.2% (Aug 22)
Performance – 38.9% for August 23, down 0.6% from July. For 21/22, Southend-on-Sea is ranked 34th nationally for this indicator (42%). Region score: 39% England score: 26%						
Proportion of older people (65 and over) who were still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement/rehabilitation services Corporate Risk Register Ref: 15	84.4%	80%	Maximise	Period 6	↑ 78.6%	↑ 75%
Period 6's performance evidences an upward trend in performance and is now above the target of 80%. Of the 83 people discharged from hospital, 70 remain at home, 3 are deceased and 10 are now within a care home. It is important to note that the NHS continues to lead on discharge from hospital which means the local authority has reduced input and control over this measure. For 21/22, Southend-on-Sea is ranked 90th nationally for this indicator (81.9%). Region score: 82.9% England score: 81.8%						
NS Overall satisfaction of people who use services with their care and support Corporate Risk Register Ref: 15	71.1%	71.2%	Maximise	21/22	-	↑ 70.6%
For 21/22, Southend-on-Sea is ranked 6th nationally for this indicator. Region score: 65.4% England score: 63.9%						
Number of co-produced strategies and policies Corporate Risk Register Ref: 16	4	3	Maximise	As at Sep 23	-	-
Co-produced Strategies are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tackling Poverty Strategy in April 2023 - development of Autism and Neurodiversity strategy action plans and user voice group in August 2023 - setting up Learning Disability user voice group (feeding into Live Well Strategy and action plan) in September 2023 - carers user voice group (feeding into Care Well strategy and action plan) in September 2023 						

Indicator	Value	Target	Aim of indicator	Date range	Compared to the last period	Compared to the previous year
Outcome: Children and young people, including those in care, feel and are safe at home, school and in their communities						
Rate of children on child protection plan per 10,000 population Corporate Risk Register Ref: 11	(b) 31.97	34 - 44	Goldilocks	Period 6	↑ 30.58	↓ 36.84
	This measure is slightly outside the target area. Understanding the reasons for this will continue to be an area of focus.					
Percentage of placements in residential and Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) settings Corporate Risk Register Ref: 11	53.71%	45%	Minimise	Period 6	↑ 54.01%	↓ 51.5%
	There has been an increase in the demand for placements, both inhouse and IFA. Where possible we endeavour to place our children with inhouse carers as they tend to be local and they are Southend-on-Sea carers. However, we have few vacancies allowing for placements. IFA and residential placements are the next source we will utilise when we have no vacancies. The use of residential is becoming more frequent given the limited options we have in IFA carers. Many of our children and young people would ordinarily be placed with carers if there was the availability, but the complex needs of our young people means less choice.					
∞ Percentage of Children Looked After (CLA) long-term stability Corporate Risk Register Ref: 11	62.57%	70%	Maximise	Period 6	↓ 63.68%	↑ 59%
	We have had a number of young people's placements end, due to various reasons, including retirement, ill health coupled with carers being unable to manage young people's behaviour. We are embedding the placement stability process and becoming more reactive at putting this in place. We are also trying to support the placement with various options; however, a number of placements have been disrupted, and this is out of our control as they are for the reasons above. Fostering are progressing with their marketing strategy and there is hope the increase in our inhouse carers over the coming year will mean we are able to offer direct support.					
Percentage of children experiencing permanent exclusions in the academic year Corporate Risk Register Ref: 11	0.02%	0.08%	Minimise	As at Sept 23	-	↓ 0.01%
	The first month of term has unfortunately already seen 4 permanent exclusions from secondary schools (Chase High, Shoeburyness High and Se Tomas More). Inclusion Officers have tried to negotiate alternatives particularly for 3/4 of the exclusions with some success for the 2 Chase students which we are hopeful will be rescinded and directions issued instead. Both Chase and Shoeburyness have been targeted for high support this year with inclusion outreach to try and change patterns of behaviours with staff and Head Teachers.					

Indicator	Value	Target	Aim of indicator	Date range	Compared to the last period	Compared to the previous year
Outcome: Quality, affordable safe homes						
Percentage of council homes meeting the Decent Home Standards Corporate Risk Register Ref: 17	96.6%	96.1%	Maximise	As at Sep 23	↑ 94.35%	↑ 87.45%
	<p>The figure for the percentage of homes that meet the decent homes standard always starts the year below target as property elements are validated and added to the programme for the year. The target is to achieve 100% by year end and we are currently on track to achieve this.</p> <p>For 21/22, Southend-on-Sea's score: 96% Essex score: 97% England score: 92%</p>					
Percentage of properties brought into compliance (Selective Licensing Scheme) Corporate Risk Register Ref: 17	20%	15%	Maximise	As at Sep 23	-	-
94	<p>The Selective Licensing Scheme is a five-year scheme, launched in 2021. The first year of the scheme was about issuing licences – 3,540 properties were issued with a selective licence. To date, 25% of licensed properties have been visited. Of these, 20% have been brought into compliance and 5% are currently being worked on. The overall target is for 100% of properties to be brought into compliance by December 2026. Our quarterly target is to increase the percentage of properties brought into compliance and will be 25% by the end of 2023.</p>					
Number of houses supplied by council, Registered Providers (RPs) and empty properties brought back into use Corporate Risk Register Ref: 17 and 18	48	50	Maximise	As at Q2 23/24	-	-
	<p>In Q2, a further 7 homes were purchased by the council's Acquisition Programme for council housing or for the Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF) scheme. In terms of Registered Provider (RP) schemes, Guinness Housing's scheme at Meadow Grange which was due for completion over the next 2 years has stalled due to the demise of Ilke Homes.</p> <p>The Empty Homes assisted in bringing 11 homes being brought back into use in Q2. These previously empty homes include the close of a management order, homes that have been renovated and occupied or reoccupied after a period of being empty.</p>					

Indicator	Value	Target	Aim of indicator	Date range	Compared to the last period	Compared to the previous year
Total number of households in temporary accommodation Corporate Risk Register Ref: 17 95	269	219	Minimise	As at Sep 23	↓ 249	↓ 222
	In September there was 269 households placed in temporary accommodation/emergency including 20 being assisted under the council's Rough Sleeping Initiative (12 in our commissioned Rapid Assessment Hub at HARP and 8 in B&B).					
	In August there was 257 households placed in temporary accommodation by Southend-on-Sea City Council. This includes 19 households being assisted under our Rough Sleeping Initiative and 11 Afghan Resettlement Scheme households, who have been made homeless further to the Home Office ending the provision of 'Bridging accommodation' in the City. Work is ongoing to find settled accommodation solutions and for the Afghan Resettlement Scheme Cohort, some of whom will be matched to Local Authority Housing Fund properties (properties purchased with the assistance of government grant, to be used specifically for resettlement purposes). A hostel improvement plan task and finish group are currently working on the council's wider stock optimisation, which will eventually affect this KPI and target.					
	The target is derived from the council's number of owned temporary accommodation units and therefore the target may change as we continue with stock optimisation work. For Q4 22/2, Southend-on-Sea had a total of 238 in temporary accommodation, which is a rate of 3.04, per 1,000 households. East of England rate: 2.78 England rate: 4.46					

The below indicators are currently developing their target and/or baseline data to be reported on within 2023/24. The Insights team are working with the relevant service areas to develop appropriate targets to monitor performance.

- Rate of domestic abuse incidents per 1,000 population
- Rate of knife crime incidents per 1,000 population
- Rate of hate crime incidents per 1,000 population
- The rate of reported ASB incidents to Essex Police per 1,000 population

These measures reflect the top priorities for activity in the community safety partnership in Southend-on-Sea.

- Percentage of good or outstanding Schools (a) and early education settings (b)
- Percentage of children on free school meals (FSM) achieving national expectation at (a) KS2 and (b) KS4 outcomes in schools
- Percentage of persistent absences (10% or more missed) for all pupils

These measures focus on quality of education and attainment; high quality education has an impact on both involvement in further education and economic activity in the future, with children from deprived backgrounds tending to have lower achievement levels than those from less deprived backgrounds. This is also true for those with lower attendance rates. These measures provide an understanding of educational quality and attainment gaps in Southend-on-Sea.

- Rate of children on a child in need plan

This is a volume measure that forms part of the overall number of children in need and is one indication of the future rates of children in care, which have increased significantly in Southend-on-Sea.

- Number of people who have quit smoking through the smoking cessation services

Tobacco smoking remains one of the main preventable causes of bad health and early mortality. Research shows that local stop smoking services alongside stop smoking aids are the most effective way for an individual to quit smoking.

A clean city with a resilient environment

Indicator	Value	Target	Aim of indicator	Date range	Compared to the last period	Compared to the previous year
Outcome: Enhanced and protected street scene and environment						
Percentage of council homes that are Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rated 'C' or above Corporate Risk Register Ref: 9 and 17 97	81.9%	84%	Maximise	22/23	-	-
<p>The data shows we are currently at 81.9% of homes that are already Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) C. This is based on a lot of estimates – we only have valid EPCs for about 30% of our homes. Because data in this space is so poor, there is a chance that the value could go down as we do more assessments. Other sources suggest we are more like 75% at EPC C.</p> <p>Taking the 81.9% as the starting point, with the ongoing projects we have (Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) and new build projects) this value is expected to rise to 84% by March 2025. If the value does go down as we do new EPCs, we could come up worse than the baseline.</p> <p>Some benchmarking against other organisations has been done by the council's Climate Change Team Remedy project, which showed that we were performing better than other housing providers in this area; however, we largely look at legislation to set our targets, such as the need to have all of our homes at EPC C by 2030.</p>						
Pollutant levels in air quality management areas Corporate Risk Register Ref: 9	37 µg/m3	40 µg/m3	Minimise	22/23	-	↓ 35.5 µg/m3
<p>The council submitted an Air Quality Action Plan for Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) 2, detailing measures to improve air quality within AQMA 2. The council also submitted an Annual Status Report to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), which has been accepted. Last year, the air quality level recorded in AQMA 2 was 37.0. DEFRA has suggested the council take steps to undeclare AQMA 2, as the measured air quality has been within the acceptable range for NO2 for the past four years.</p> <p>With respect to levels of NO2 in AQMA 1, the level recorded in 2022 was 36.2, but has not been consistently recording levels below the air quality objective.</p>						
Tree net gain in the city Corporate Risk Register Ref: 9	-35	100	Maximise	22/23	-	↓ 443
<p>In 21-22, 205 trees were removed, and 648 trees were planted (net gain 443 trees). In 22-23, 205 trees have been felled and 170 trees were planted (net gain -35 trees). We have lots of trees left over from last year, which are due to be planted this year. The Parks Team are confident we will achieve 100 tree net gain target this year.</p>						

Indicator	Value	Target	Aim of indicator	Date range	Compared to the last period	Compared to the previous year
Outcome: Improved transport system						
Proportion of bus services running on time	71%	>71%	Maximise	22/23	-	↓ 75%
	<p>The decrease from 21/22 to 22/23 can be explained by there being lots of roadworks in the city. In particular, roadworks located along the A13, which is the Passenger Transport Corridor, have had a large effect during 22/23.</p> <p>An improvement is required on current levels and service is on track to achieve above 71% in 23/24.</p>					
Percentage of carriageway potholes repairs, that have been inspected and meet required investigatory levels, are repaired within 28 days	100%	90%	Maximise	Period 6	↑ 87.85%	-
	We met our target for repairing carriageway potholes that have been inspected and meet investigatory levels within 28 days during this reporting period.					
Outcome: Prevent waste, promoting re-use and increase recycling						
Percentage of waste collections carried out on schedule Corporate Risk Register Ref: 10	99.96%	99%	Maximise	As at Sep 23	-	↑ 99.94%
	<p>The month value for September 2023 of 849 reported missed collections is a decrease of 92 on the previous month. To date 99.96% of collections have been carried out on time, this is above the annual target of 99.00%</p> <p>The month value for August 2023 of 941 reported missed collections is an increase of 59 on the previous month. To date 99.95% of collections have been carried out on time, this is above the annual target of 99.00%.</p>					
Percentage of waste recycled Corporate Risk Register Ref: 10 and 9	41.72%	50%	Maximise	22/23	-	-
	<p>Total recycling/composting/reuse tonnage for 22/23 was 30,110.07. It has been recognised that the target of 50%, which was set in 2019, is a challenging one as the economic context was very different (pre Covid-19). Consumption patterns were hugely disrupted during 2020 to 2022 and the industry was keen to understand whether or not these changes would be sustained into 22/23.</p> <p>A study by Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), focusing on food waste, showed that food waste tonnages increased during the pandemic as more was consumed at home. However, at the same time residents responded to this with a wide range of positive food management strategies. It is possible that these strategies continue post pandemic. Southend-on-Sea has seen a reduction in food waste in 22/23 of over 600 tonnes, however this is not</p>					

Indicator	Value	Target	Aim of indicator	Date range	Compared to the last period	Compared to the previous year
	<p>explained by reduced capture – the most recent waste composition analysis shows that food waste has remained stable (at around 30%).</p> <p>Pink sack recycling tonnages were one of the only material streams to increase in 22/23 compared 21/22 (by 101.73 tonnes). This is likely due to stabilisation in consumption patterns following the pandemic, although the increase may have been higher has it not been for inflation. The return to normality post Covid-19 and the cost-of-living crisis may have also impact paper and card tonnages, as we have seen a decline in 22/23.</p> <p>Garden waste tonnages are subject to seasonal impacts every year and with a reduction seen in 22/23 it is clear that the growing season was not as strong as previous years.</p> <p>The council will continue to use a variety of tools including resident engagement to maintain and increase recycling rates over time.</p>					
Percentage acceptable standard of cleanliness: litter Corporate Risk Register Ref: 10	98.82%	95%	Maximise	As at Aug 23	↓ 99.85%	↑ 96.99%
Percentage acceptable standard of cleanliness: detritus Corporate Risk Register Ref: 10	100%	95%	Maximise	As at Aug 23	- 100%	↑ 91.07%
	<p>At the last data entry of August 2023 performance demonstrated a good level of cleansing; the indicator is on track with the 23/24 target of 95%. Resources are currently being prioritised for the Waste Collection procurement; a review of current work processes will take place shortly.</p>					

A transforming council delivering efficient, cost-effective services

Indicator	Value	Target	Aim of indicator	Date range	Compared to the last period	Compared to the previous year
Outcome: Value for Money						
Ensure a Balanced Budget for 2023/24 Corporate Risk Register Ref: 2	£10.7m	Nil	Minimise	TBC	£14m	-
The council is dealing with an unprecedented financial crisis that has impacted across all of Local Government. For 23/24 the council is focusing on a range of initiatives to help break even with our finances for 23/24. The direction of travel towards no variance is positive as the level of overspend has reduced by £3.3m between period 4 to period 6.						

The below indicator is under development. The Insights Team are working with the relevant service areas to establish targets and baseline measures:

- Transformation Programme (2024/25 onwards)

The council is developing a programme of transformation, change and innovation to help ensure that services are modern, meeting the needs of users; to support a robust, sustainable balanced budget for the council from 2024/25 onwards.

Risk Register Heat Map: Risk Numbers

Risk	
2 – Financial sustainability	13 – Health inequalities
3 – Inflation and cost of living pressures	14 – Staffing vacancies impacting on the delivery of statutory responsibilities
4 – Public services landscape	15 – Adult social care
5 – Workforce	16 – Social cohesion
6 – a) Cyber Security b) Data protection 101	17 – Housing
7 – Capital investment programme delivery	18 – House building programme
8 – Transformation programme	19 – Local Plan
9 – Mitigating for and adapting to climate change	20 – Regeneration and major projects
10 – Waste Management	21 – Visitor destination and major events
11 – Safeguarding responsibilities and child welfare	22 – Economic recovery and income inequalities
12 – Other safeguarding responsibilities	

Relevant Corporate Risks are noted underneath each applicable Key Performance Indicator title. The latest Corporate Risk Register report can be found [here](#).

Glossary of Terms

Measure	Definition
Outcome measures	
Businesses in the city	The number of business units in Southend-on-Sea. Business units are defined as an individual site, for example, a factory or shop.
City centre footfall	The total number of unique visits made to the city centre by unique visitors.
High street occupancy	The percentage of Southend-on-Sea high street premises occupied.
Employment rate for 16 to 64 year olds	The proportion of the population aged 16-64 who are in employment.
Residents aged 16 to 24 with level 3+ qualifications	The proportion of the population aged 16 to 64 qualified to National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) level 3 or above. People are counted as being qualified to NVQ level 3 or above if they have achieved either at least 2 A-levels grades A-E, 4 A/S levels graded A-E, or any equivalent (or higher) qualification in the Qualifications and Credit Framework.
Gross value added per hour worked	The smoothed gross value added (GVA) per hour worked in pounds at current prices, generated from enterprises in the area, calculated using a balanced approach to GVA. Labour productivity is calculated by dividing output GVA by a measure of labour input, in this case total hours worked. GVA estimates are on a workplace basis: they are allocated to where the economic activity took place.
Healthy life expectancy at birth/at 65	The average number of years a person would expect to live in good health based on contemporary mortality rates and prevalence of self-reported good health.
Crime rate and anti-social behaviour incidents per 1,000 population	The total number of police-recorded crimes and anti-social behaviour incidents reported in an area per 1,000 population.
Rate of children in care per 10,000 population under 18 years old	The number of children who are looked after on the last date of the month, excluding those who cease to be looked after on the last date of the month, per 10,000 population aged 17 and under in Southend-on-Sea (based on ONS mid-year population estimates).
Percentage of children achieving national attainment levels at KS2 and KS4	The proportion of children provision achieving (a) the expected standard in reading, writing and maths combined and (b) achieving grades 5 or above in English and Mathematics GCSEs.
Social care-related quality of life score	This metric gives an overarching view of the quality of life of people who draw on social care. It is based on the outcome domains of social care-related quality of life identified in the Adult Social Care Outcomes Toolkit (ASCOT) .
Housing affordability ratio	Housing affordability ratios are calculated by dividing house prices by annual earnings. A larger number reflects a less affordable area.
Overall public satisfaction with highways and transport services	Overall public satisfaction results from the National Highways and Transport Network (NHT) survey. The NHT survey collects the public's views on different aspects of Highway and Transport in local authority areas, such as pavements, cycle routes, community transport, safety on roads, congestion and more.
Core spending power per dwelling	Core Spending Power is a measure of the resources available to local authorities to fund service delivery. It sets out the money that has been made available to local authorities through the Local Government Finance Settlement (LGFS). This measure is per dwelling.

Measure	Definition
Priority: A growing city with a strong and prosperous community	
Number of businesses engaged with	The total number of businesses engaged with by the council's Economic Development team.
Value of inward investment secured by Southend-on-Sea City Council	The total value of inward investment secured from third parties for local regeneration programmes.
Number of jobs created through Southend-on-Sea City Council initiatives	The total number of jobs created through initiatives run by Southend-on-Sea City Council.
Number of higher education learning completions at Southend Adult Community College	The number of people completing a higher education course at Southend Adult Community College.
Amount of council's spend with local businesses	Total spend by the council and South Essex Homes with external suppliers based in Southend-on-Sea.
Annual visitor numbers	The annual number of visitors to Southend-on-Sea.
Annual number of overnight trips	The annual number of overnight trips taken by people visiting Southend-on-Sea.
Total value of tourism	Total value of tourism in Southend-on-Sea .
Overall number of total footfall for all identified council-run cultural assets (museums, galleries, theatres, libraries and leisure centres)	The total footfall for all identified council-run cultural assets. These assets include our museums, galleries, theatres, libraries and leisure centres.
Visitor numbers to Southend Pier	The total number of visitors who pay to walk Southend pier or ride the trains.
Priority: A safe city with a good quality of life for all	
Take up of the NHS Health Check programme	The total number of NHS Health Checks delivered.
Number of physically inactive adults completing a physical activity course	The total number of physically inactive adults completing a physical activity course. Physical activity courses are run as part of a programme to assist behaviour change. Physically inactive adults are defined as doing less than 30 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity per week. Continuing to be active is defined as doing some physical activity.
Rate of under-18 conceptions	The rate of conceptions under 18 per 1,000 females aged 15 – 17 for the calendar year. The rate includes all conceptions under 18 but uses the ONS mid-year population estimates for females aged 15-17 as a denominator to calculate the rate (as 95% of under 18 conceptions occur within this age group).
Percentage of children receiving MMR vaccinations at second (a) and fifth (b) birthday	(a) The total number of children whose second birthday falls within the time period who received one dose of MMR on or after their first birthday and at any time before their second birthday. (b) The total number of children whose fifth birthday falls within the time period who received two doses of MMR on or after their first birthday and at any time before their fifth birthday.
Number of people completing the Falls Prevention Programme	The total number of people completing the Falls Prevention Programme.
Number of people who have quit smoking through the smoking cessation services	The total number of people who have quit smoking through smoking cessation services.
Rate of reported domestic abuse incidents to Essex Police per 1,000 population	The total number of domestic abuse incidents reported to Essex Police per 1,000 population aged 16 and over.
Rate of knife crime incidents per 1,000 population	The total number of knife crime incidents reported to Essex Police per 1,000 population aged 16 and over.

Measure	Definition
Rate of reported knife crime incidents to Essex Police per 1,000 population	The total number of hate crime incidents reported to Essex Police per 1,000 population aged 16 and over.
The rate of reported ASB incidents to Essex Police per 1,000 population	The total number of anti-social behaviour incidents reported to Essex Police per 1,000 population aged 16 and over.
Proportion of adults with learning difficulties who live in their own home or with their family	All people who are “living on their own or with their family” divided by the number of working-age clients with a primary support reason of learning disability support in long term services.
Number of permanent admissions into residential and nursing care (18-64)	The number of council-supported younger adults (aged 18-64) whose long-term support needs were met by a change of setting to residential and nursing care during the year.
Proportion of adults in contact with secondary mental health services who live independently with or without support	The number of adults aged 18-69 who are receiving secondary mental health services recorded as living independently (with or without support), divided by number of adults aged 18-69 who have received secondary mental health services.
Proportion of older people (65 and over) who were still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement/rehabilitation services	The proportion of people at home after 90 days following a period of reablement post hospital divided by the total number of hospital discharges to reablement.
Overall satisfaction of people who use services with their care and support	The satisfaction with services of people using adult social care, which is directly linked to a positive experience of care and support.
Number of co-produced strategies and policies	The number of council strategies and policies that have been co-produced with residents and relevant external organisations. These only relate to the number that involve or are known to the SCC Communities Team.
Rate of children on a child in need plan (a) or child protection plan (b) per 10,000 population	The rate of children who have an open Child in Need or Child Protection Plan on the last date of month, excluding children whose plan ceases on the last date of the month (excluding children who have a plan with another LA but are in Southend-on-Sea).
Percentage of placements in residential and Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) settings	The proportion of children who are looked after on the last day of the month and have a placement in a residential or independent fostering agency setting.
Percentage of Children Looked After (CLA) long-term stability	The proportion of children who are looked after on the last day of the month who have been in the same placement for at least two years (730 calendar days) or, for those children in an adoptive placement, their previous placement and their adoptive placement added together is at least two years (730 calendar days).
Percentage of good or outstanding Schools (a) and early education settings (b)	(a) The percentage of schools in Southend-on-Sea rated as Good or Outstanding by OFSTED. (b) The percentage of early education settings in Southend-on-Sea rated as Good or Outstanding by OFSTED.
Percentage of children experiencing permanent exclusions in the academic year	The proportion of children attending all Southend-on-Sea schools being issued a permanent exclusion.
Percentage of children on free school meals (FSM) achieving national expectation at (a) KS2 and (b) KS4 outcomes in schools	The proportion of children eligible for free school meal provision achieving (a) the expected standard in reading, writing and maths combined and (b) achieving grades 5 or above in English and mathematics GCSEs.

Measure	Definition
Percentage of persistent absences (10% or more missed) for all pupils	The proportion of pupil enrolments who have missed 10% of more of their possible sessions.
Percentage of council homes meeting the Decent Home Standards	The percentage of council homes meeting the Decent Home Standards. A decent home meets the following four criteria: a) It meets the current statutory minimum standard for housing. b) It is in a reasonable state of repair. c) It has reasonably modern facilities and services. d) It provides a reasonable degree of thermal comfort.
Number of properties brought into compliance (Selective Licensing Scheme)	The number of properties brought into compliance under the Selective Licensing Scheme.
Number of houses supplied by council, Registered Providers (RPs) and empty properties brought back into use	The total number of housing that have been supplied by the council and/or Registered Providers (RPs) and empty properties brought back into use.
Total number of households in temporary accommodation	The number of households in temporary accommodation on the last date of the month.
Priority: A clean city with a resilient environment	
Percentage of council homes that are Energy Performance Certificate rated 'C' or above	An Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rates how energy efficient your building is using grades from A to G (with 'A' the most efficient grade). This KPI measures the percentage of all council homes that are grade C or above.
Pollutant levels in air quality management areas	This measures air quality in Southend-on-Sea's two Air Quality Management Areas – The Bell Junction (AQMA 1) and A127 Victoria Avenue (AQMA 2).
Tree net gain in the city	The total number of trees planted minus the total number of trees removed in Southend-on-Sea.
Proportion of bus services running on time	Proportion of bus services running on time and average waiting time. "On time" is defined as being between 60 seconds early and 5 minutes, 59 seconds late. The average excess waiting time of frequent buses (more than 5 services per hour).
Percentage of carriageway potholes repairs, that have been inspected and meet required investigatory levels, are repaired within 28 days	Percentage of carriageway potholes repairs that have been inspected by the council's highways team and meet required investigatory levels and are repaired with a permanent repair within 28 days. The only exception is on key routes such as the A127, where a temporary fix will be carried out within 24 hours to reduce the risk, ahead of a permanent repair.
Percentage of waste collections carried out on schedule	How well household waste is collected in line with the council's collection dates and times. More information can be found here.
Percentage of waste recycled	The cumulative amount of household waste that is collected by Southend-on-Sea City Council that is recycled per quarter.
Percentage acceptable standard of cleanliness: litter	Percentage is calculated using a sample number of streets, which during inspection the amount of litter is assessed to give an overall grade to a road or street. Litter is assumed to include a range of different materials, some associated with smoking, eating and drinking, that are improperly discarded and left.

Measure	Definition
Percentage acceptable standard of cleanliness: detritus	Percentage is calculated using a sample number of streets, which during inspection the amount of detritus is assessed to give an overall grade to a road or street. Detritus is comprised of small, broken-down particles of synthetic and natural materials. Detritus includes dust, mud, soil, grit, gravel, stones, rotted leaf and vegetable residues, and fragments of twigs, glass, plastic and other finely divided materials.
Priority: A transforming council delivering efficient, cost-effective services	
Ensure a Balanced Budget for 2023/24	It is essential that the council monitors its budgets to ensure that value for money is provided; corrective action and reasonable mitigation is in place where necessary to support delivery of a balanced financial position.

Excerpt of the decisions digest of Cabinet held on 20 November 2023

6 **Resourcing Better Outcomes - Financial Performance Report For September 2023 (Period 6)**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Executive Director (Finance & Resources) summarising the current forecast position at this half-way point of the financial year and reinforcing the need to make some difficult choices and take decisive action.

Resolved:

1. That the continued unprecedented levels of reported financial pressure and challenges right across the local government sector, as set out in Appendix 1 to the submitted report, be noted.

In respect of the 2023/24 Revenue Budget Performance, as set out in appendix 2 to the report:

2. That the forecast outturn for 2023/24 for the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account as at 30 September 2023, be noted.

3. That the plans and intentions to try to reduce the forecast overspend of the Council's revenue budget for 2023/24, be noted and that the Chief Executive and Executive Director (Finance & Resources) continue to explore all opportunities within their delegated powers and authority to improve the financial position by the year-end.

In respect of the 2023/24 Capital Budget Performance as set out in appendix 3 of this report:

4. That the expenditure to date and the forecast outturn as at 30 September 2023 and its financing, be noted.

5. That the requested changes to the capital investment programme for 2023/24 and future years, as set out in Appendix 3 to the report, be approved.

6. That the Corporate Performance Report as at 30 September 2023, as set out in Appendix 4 to the report, be noted.

7. That the planned budget transfers (virements) of £2,710,000 from earmarked reserves, as set out in the report, be approved.

8. That a Working Group be established on a political proportionate basis to consider budget proposals for 2024/25 and future years, with nominations from Group Leaders to be notified to the Chief Executive.

Recommended:

9. That the removal of the footbridge over the Queensway highway be approved and the relevant budget be included in the Capital Investment Programme, as set out in paragraph 7.17 and Section 4 of Appendix 3 to the report, with the funding for this project coming from borrowing and that it be noted that the construction of the road layout included in the planning permission or any other major changes to the road layout will require a further Cabinet report before progressing.

Reasons for Decisions

To provide detailed financial information on the financial performance of the Council. The report sets out the key variances by budget holders and associated management action being implemented to address the identified issues.

Other Options

The Council could choose to monitor its budgetary performance against an alternative timeframe, but it is considered that the current reporting schedule provides the appropriate balance to allow strategic oversight of the budget by Councillors and to also formally manage the Council's exposure to financial risk.

Note: The decisions in resolutions 1 to 8 above constitute an Executive function and the recommendation in 9 above constitutes a Council function.

This matter is not eligible for call-in.

Cabinet Member: Cllr Cox

outturn as at 30