

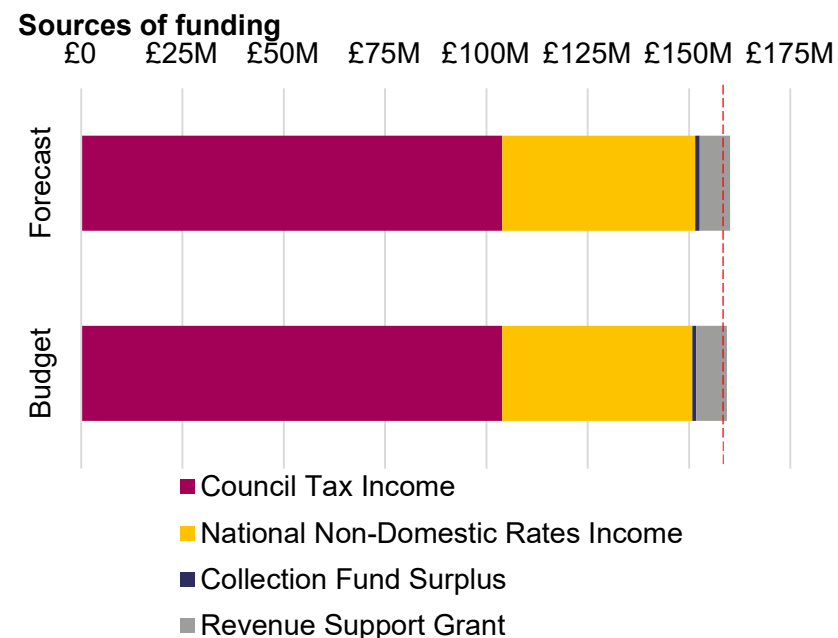
Budget Monitoring & Reporting 2024/2025

Period 8 - November 2024 Revenue Budget Performance



General Fund Summary

Last Reported Variance £M	Portfolio	Revised Budget £M	Forecast Outturn £M	Variance £M
0.632	Leader: Infrastructure and Corporate Strategy	6.785	6.623	(0.162)
0.893	Deputy Leader: Planning, Housing and the Local Plan	1.631	2.817	1.186
5.077	Children, Young People and SEND	48.685	55.017	6.332
0.514	Climate, Environment and Waste	19.552	19.952	0.400
(0.158)	Community Safety	10.484	10.232	(0.252)
(0.067)	Culture, Tourism and Business	7.193	7.219	0.026
0.088	Finance, Assets and Investments	10.414	10.352	(0.062)
0.066	Regeneration and Major Projects	5.054	5.241	0.187
1.118	Social Care and Healthier Communities	55.264	56.160	0.896
8.163		165.062	173.613	8.551
(1.768)	Corporate Budgets	16.046	13.092	(2.954)
6.395		181.108	186.705	5.597
0.000	Contribution to / (from) earmarked reserves	(4.175)	(4.175)	0.000
0.000	Revenue Contribution to Capital	0.832	0.832	0.000
0.000	Non Service Specific Grants	(18.358)	(18.472)	(0.114)
6.395	TOTAL	159.407	164.890	5.483
(0.750)	Funding (including Collection Fund)	(159.407)	(160.207)	(0.800)
0.000	Planned contributions from reserves	0.000	0.000	0.000
5.645		0.000	4.683	4.683



The total forecast overspend as at the 30 November 2024 for Council services was £8.551M; 74% (P6 62%) of this forecast related to Children, Young People and SEND services and 10% (P6 14%) related to Social Care and Healthier Communities (Adults) services. Our core social care statutory services overspend now accounts for 84% (P6 76%) of the total reported pressure at this stage of the financial year. The variances for each individual service level are summarised across each portfolio page within this appendix.

Forecast outturn for investment income is higher than budgeted, due to proactive investment management and helped by interest rates staying higher for longer than was originally anticipated when the budget was set. The provision to repay debt is also expected to be lower than budgeted as less of the 2023/24 capital expenditure was financed by borrowing than was anticipated when the budget was set. This combination has contributed £1.170M (P6 £1.195M) improvement against Corporate Budgets. This was offset by a forecast budget pressure of £0.077M regarding the Coroners Court, following an updated forecast outturn from ECC, reflecting the outcome of their 2023/24 closedown.

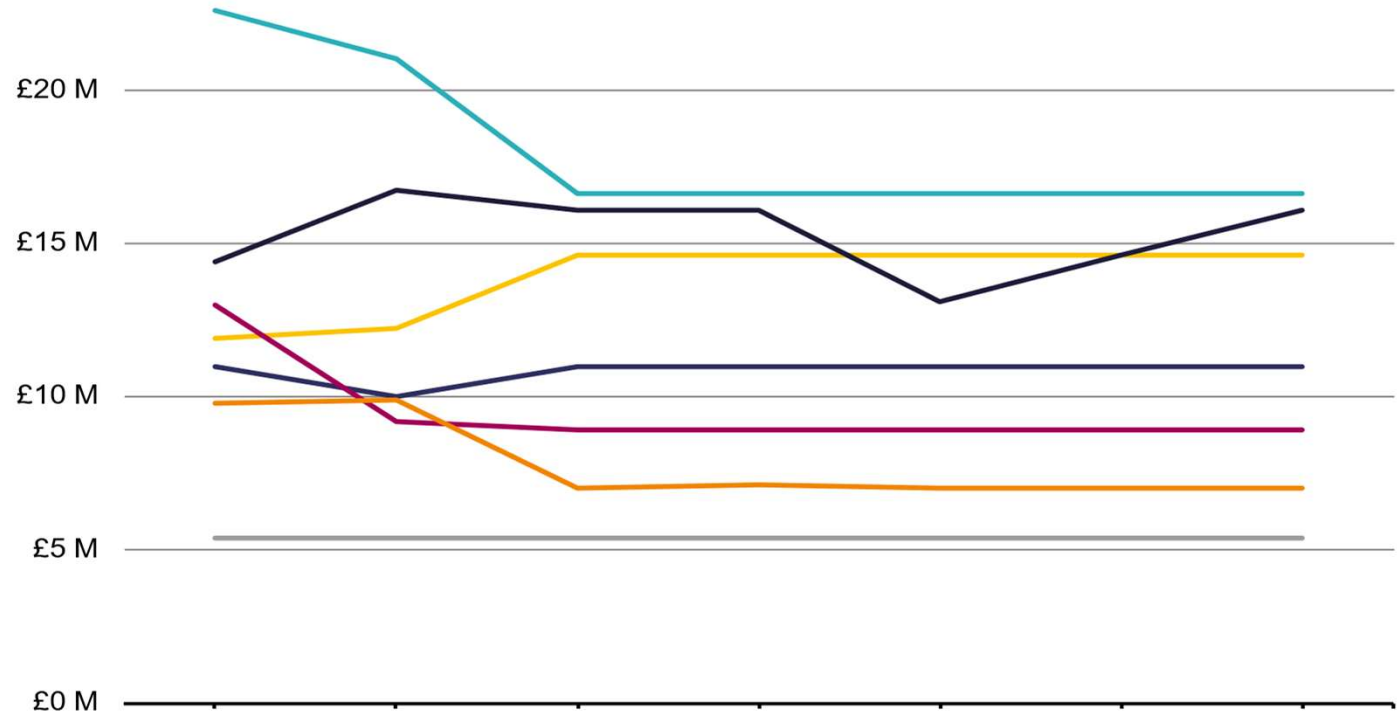
There is a forecast underspend on contingency of £1.860M (P6 £0.900M), which is reported against Corporate Budgets. This consists of an underspend due to deflation on energy unit costs on street lighting and across the Council's estate of £0.580M (P6 £0.400M). Plus an underspend on the pay award provision of £0.280M which is now finalised and back-pay to April 2024 was paid in November. Plus £0.800M which has been released from a central provision for changes in accounting treatment from capital to revenue which have not materialised, and are now not expected, in 2024/25. The final outturn on contingency may differ if there are unforeseen costs in the remaining four months of the financial year.

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.

These reserves include £1.07M earmarked for the Local Plan and a maximum of £0.75M in relation to the transition to the new waste management contract, as per the September 2024 (period 6) financial performance report.

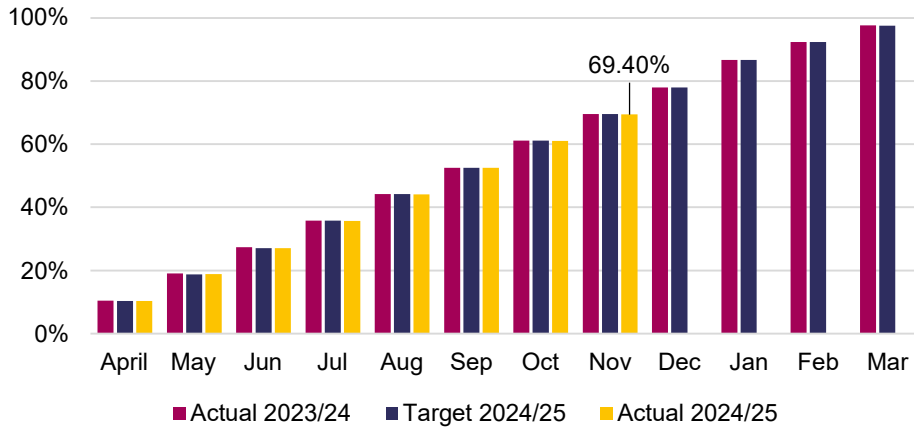


Reserves in £M	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
General Reserves	11.0	10.0	11.0	11.0	11.0	11.0	11.0
Capital Reserves	11.9	12.2	14.6	14.6	14.6	14.6	14.6
Corporate Reserves	13.0	9.2	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9
Grant Reserves	22.6	21.0	16.6	16.6	16.6	16.6	16.6
Insurance Reserves	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Service Reserves	9.8	9.9	7.0	7.1	7.0	7.0	7.0
Technical Reserves*	14.4	16.7	16.1	16.1	13.1	14.6	16.1
	88.1	84.4	79.6	79.7	76.6	78.1	79.6

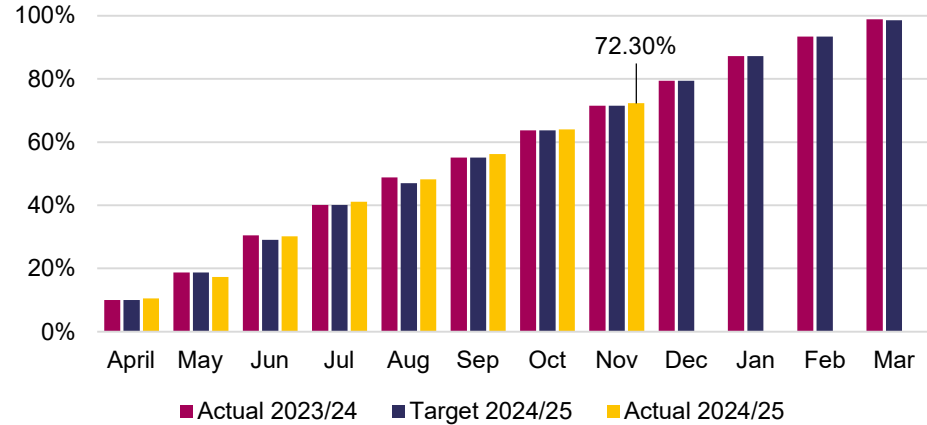
* Technical Reserves are held to even out the Council's finances and reduce in year volatility

Collection Rates

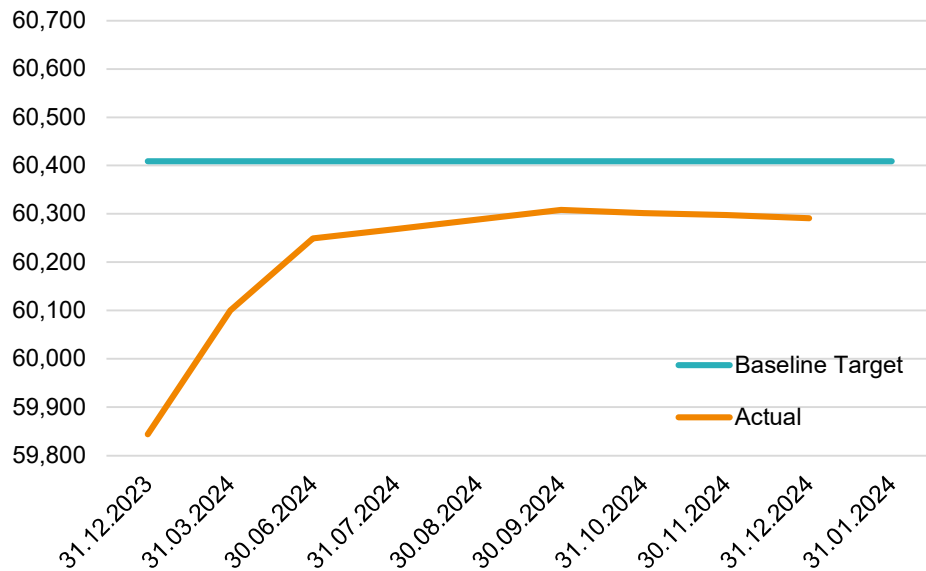
Council Tax Collection



Business Rates Collection



Council Tax Base



Business Rate collection performance remains strong as at end of November, with 72.3% (vs target 71.5%) with an extra £300k collected compared to the target. It is expected that the year-end target will be achieved.

Council Tax collection performance has improved since July and the collection rate is now marginally below the target at 69.4% (vs target 69.5%).

At present, the Council Tax Base projection for Band D equivalent properties is 100 less than the forecast for the year. The significant pressure in this area is properties which were projected to receive the 100% premium introduced 1 April 2024. A large proportion of these properties have subsequently provided the relevant documentation to reverse the premium applied. Despite this shortfall, there remains steady growth in the tax base, and it is still expected that the base figure will be reached, albeit at a later stage in the year.

Leader: Infrastructure and Corporate Strategy

5.76%

of Total Gross Revenue
Service Budget

(£0.2M)

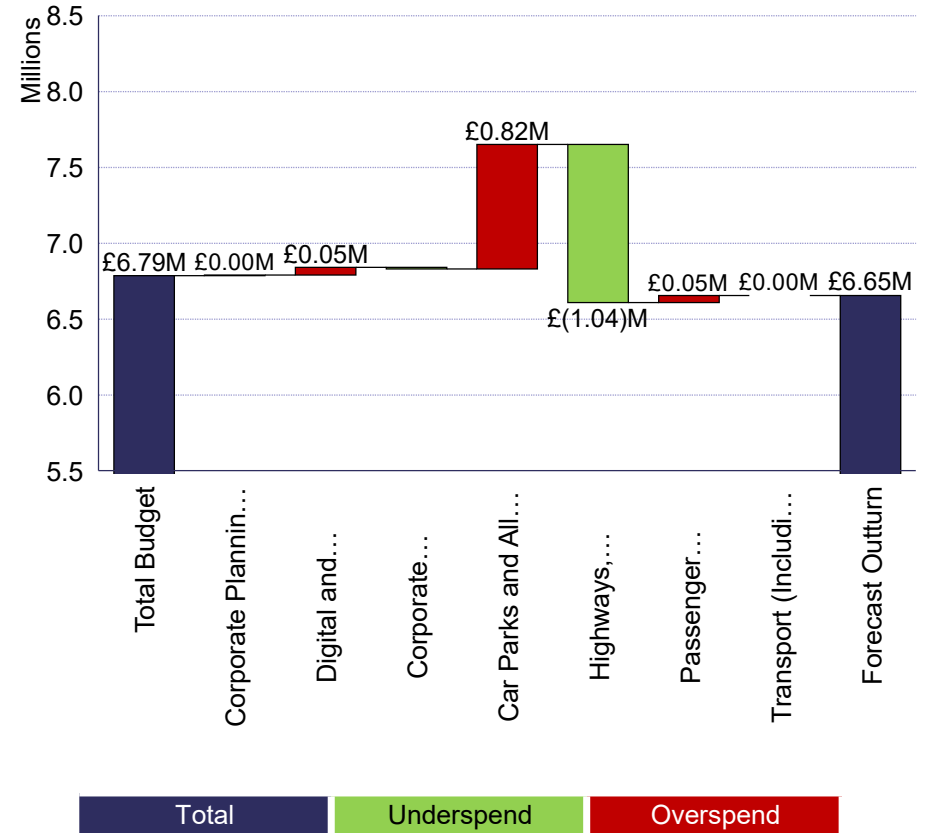
Forecast Favourable Variance

-2.39%

Variance as % of Net Portfolio
Service Budget Envelope

Last Reported Variance £M	Service Area	Revised Budget £M	Forecast Outturn £M	Variance £M
0.008	Corporate Planning and Strategic Direction	1.830	1.835	0.005
0.263	Digital and Technology	5.721	5.770	0.049
0.000	Corporate Governance	0.439	0.429	(0.010)
(0.015)	Transformation and Corporate Project Management	0.740	0.740	0.000
0.000	Emergency Planning & Business Continuity	0.262	0.230	(0.032)
0.648	Car Parks and All Car Parking Matters	(9.074)	(8.254)	0.820
(0.368)	Highways, Structures, Sea Defences, and Engineering	6.850	5.809	(1.041)
0.046	Passenger Transport / Vehicle Fleet	0.030	0.076	0.046
0.050	Transport (Including Transport Policy and Licensing)	(0.012)	(0.011)	0.001
0.632		6.786	6.624	(0.162)

Last Reported Variance £M		Revised Budget £M	Forecast Outturn £M	Variance £M
0.585	Gross Expenditure	22.134	22.118	(0.016)
0.047	Gross Income	(15.348)	(15.494)	(0.146)
0.632		6.786	6.624	(0.162)



The staffing restructure within Digital and Technology had a savings target of £395K. Due to delays in implementation, £100K of this will not be achieved in 2024/25, however the full saving will be achieved in 2025/26 and onwards. The reduction in posts as a result of the restructure means there is now limited capacity to hold vacancies or delay recruitments, however the team have managed to do so and look likely to achieve around two thirds of their vacancy factor of around £100K, reducing the pressure being reported by £66K. The team have also spent more time working on capital projects than anticipated when the budget was set reducing the forecast pressure by a further £50K. A shortfall of around £60K compared to the 2024/25 income budget set is still being reported as a limited number of external customers have reduced or terminated the ICT services they purchase from the Council.

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 was procured. The new contract will commence in February 2025. 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 increases and the need to retain staff.

Car parking income remains very complex to forecast with a number of external environmental factors impacting on the use of parking spaces. Income improved in July with the new 6-9pm charges in zone 1A operating, however the weather in September wasn't very favourable and this recovery has been knocked back. The events programme in the Autumn / Winter has increased activity with November performance in line with the increased budget, but current projections suggest a £215K shortfall against the overall car parking income budget for the year. This income target has been reduced by £250K in recognition of the impact of the poor weather, this is a one-off mitigation in 2024/25 and has been funded from the Parking Income Volatility Reserve.

After a period of rapidly escalating utility costs we are now experiencing a sharp reduction in unit costs; 2024/25 prices for street lighting are now almost half that of 2023/24. When additional budget is required due to inflation it is allocated from contingency, when the budget required reduces due to deflation it is returned to contingency. At this stage of the year £400K has been returned to contingency from the street lighting budget, leaving around 20% of the forecast underspend to be reported against the Highways service line. Expenditure will be monitored throughout the year and further adjustments to the budget and forecasts may be required in this volatile area. Other underspends in this area relate to the amalgamation of projects under the 'Front Door' redesign work which Highways were delivering previously under the 'Public Interface Transformation' heading.

After a period of holding vacancies during the Highways restructure, there is a significant underspend in staffing costs forecast for 24/25 whilst this structure was recruited to. This is supporting the capitalisation target which is being rightsized in the 25/26 budget based on the new staffing structure. It is also anticipated that the full stock of winter grit will not be required this year and this will be rolled over into next year. There has also been an improved in income for PVX's and licences and a review of historic highways deposits.

Deputy Leader: Planning, Housing and the Local Plan

1.59%

of Total Gross Revenue
Service Budget

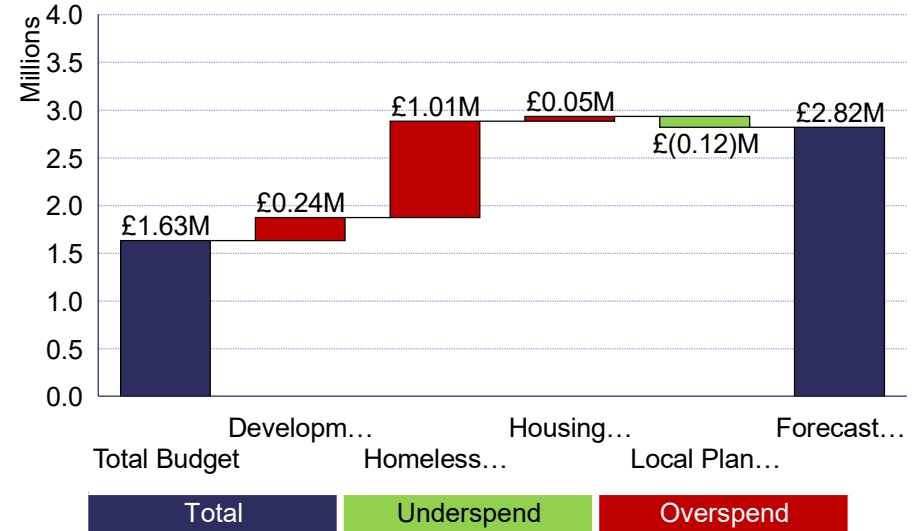
£1.2M

Forecast Adverse Variance

72.72%

Variance as % of Net Portfolio Service
Budget Envelope

Last Reported Variance £M	Service Area	Revised Budget £M	Forecast Outturn £M	Variance £M
0.175	Development Management and Building Control	(0.139)	0.103	0.242
0.768	Homelessness and Rough Sleeping	0.515	1.524	1.009
0.052	Housing Strategy, Management and Development	0.691	0.741	0.050
(0.102)	Local Plan and Planning Policy	0.564	0.449	(0.115)
0.893		1.631	2.817	1.186
0.629	Gross Expenditure	6.096	6.964	0.868
0.264	Gross Income	(4.465)	(4.147)	0.318
0.893		1.631	2.817	1.186



The increase in cases and the costs relating to B&B placements for those presenting as homeless or at risk of becoming homeless continues to be a major problem. The number of people in each household is increasing which brings additional cost and the number of households themselves is significantly greater than the same time period last year. The number of households placed this year to date is almost the same as the full year for 2023/24. This is after a 250% increase from 2022/23 to 2023/24 and an area which many Local Authorities are seeing a significant increase in activity. Work continues to try to transition clients out of these higher cost accommodation arrangements to alternative better VFM solutions.

During the challenging economic environment, the cost of building works is prohibitive for some whilst interest rates remain high. As a result the income target for Development Management and Building Control is at risk. This shortfall is partly offset by staffing vacancies in the team.

There are staffing underspends within the Planning Policy team and CIL administration income has also been allocated to support the delivery of the Community Infrastructure Levy.

Children, Young People and SEND

31.89%

of Total Gross Revenue
Service Budget

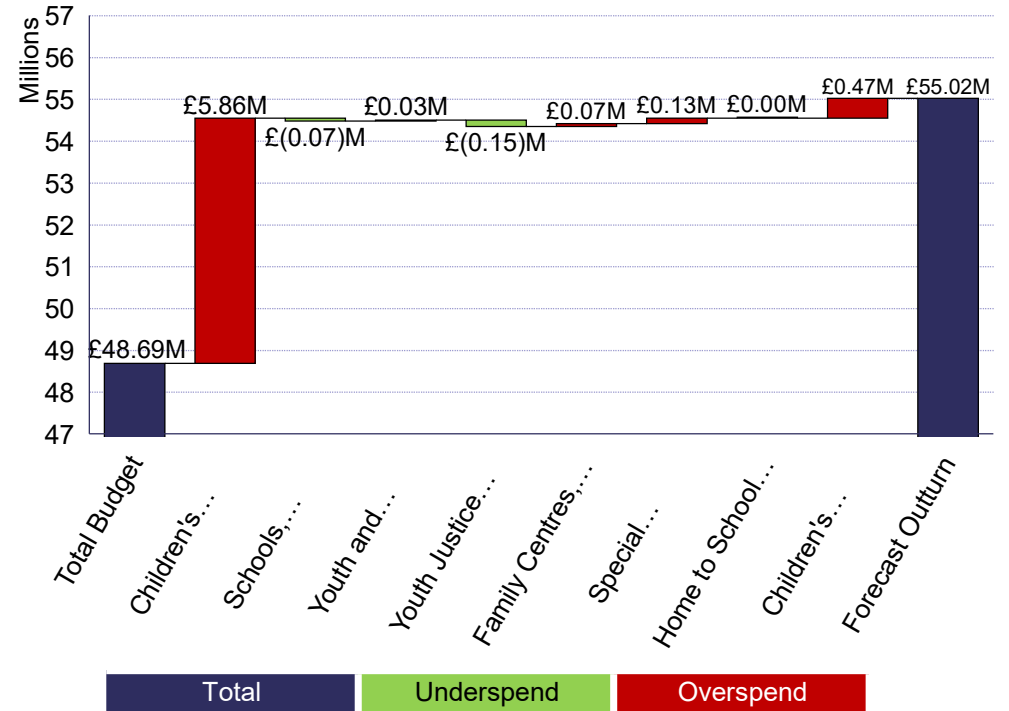
£6.332M

Forecast Adverse Variance

13.01%

Variance as % of Net Portfolio Service
Budget Envelope

Last Reported Variance £M	Service Area	Revised Budget £M	Forecast Outturn £M	Variance £M
4.631	Children's Services	32.202	38.059	5.857
(0.040)	Schools, Education and Learning	0.854	0.784	(0.070)
0.040	Youth and Connexions	0.820	0.848	0.028
(0.160)	Youth Justice Service	0.609	0.456	(0.153)
0.070	Family Centres, Early Years and Childcare	0.909	0.975	0.066
0.150	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities	5.199	5.333	0.134
0.000	Home to School Transport Contract	3.418	3.418	0.000
0.386	Children's Safeguarding	4.674	5.144	0.470
5.077		48.685	55.017	6.332
5.028	Gross Expenditure	122.484	129.162	6.678
0.049	Gross Income	(73.799)	(74.145)	(0.346)
5.077		48.685	55.017	6.332



Significant spend pressures remain on Children Social Care placements (within Children's Services) in the external care sector and cost pressures have continued to increase during the 2024/25. This continues to be driven by complexity of care cases, a residential care market where average cost increases have continued and more high cost care packages required. Southend-on-Sea are not alone in facing this challenge. Huge increases in the costs of externally supported residential care placements is being replicated in the majority of upper tier Local Authorities across the Country.

Whilst other spend pressures are present, this highlights the major area of spend pressure for Children, Young People and SEND. The Council will continue to seek to mitigate these spend pressures where feasible whilst also ensuring the safe and statutory service requirements remain for all vulnerable children. The financial forecast does remain at high risk of further spend volatility, particularly given the costs of residential care placements.

Between Period 6 and Period 8 the main increase movement is related to residential care placements, where the average number of children requiring residential care this year has increased by a further net five placements.

Climate, Environment and Waste

6.29%

of Total Gross Revenue
Service Budget

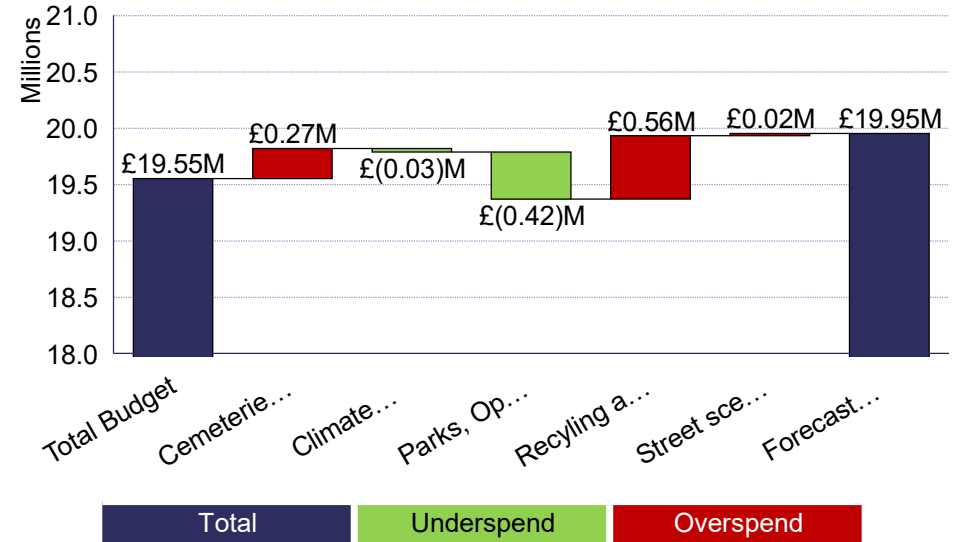
£0.4M

Forecast Adverse Variance

2.05%

Variance as % of Net Portfolio Service
Budget Envelope

Last Reported Variance £M	Service Area	Revised Budget £M	Forecast Outturn £M	Variance £M
0.312	Cemeteries and Crematoria	(1.851)	(1.585)	0.266
(0.058)	Climate action and carbon reduction	0.252	0.221	(0.031)
(0.250)	Parks, Open Spaces, and Grounds Maintenance	5.254	4.837	(0.417)
0.490	Recycling and waste management	14.040	14.603	0.563
0.020	Street scene and cleansing	1.857	1.877	0.020
0.514		19.552	19.953	0.401
(0.007)	Gross Expenditure	24.162	23.953	(0.209)
0.521	Gross Income	(4.610)	(4.000)	0.610
0.514		19.552	19.953	0.401



Household residual waste is forecast to remain at a similar level to 2023/24 which is in line with pre-covid levels but not reducing. The budget is based on a reduction in the volume of residual waste disposed of. The new waste collection contract is expected to contribute to a reduction, once it is awarded and mobilised. There is a likelihood of an increase in the forecast cost of the extension to the collection contract based on the contractual obligations within it. These are still being negotiated with the current contractor.

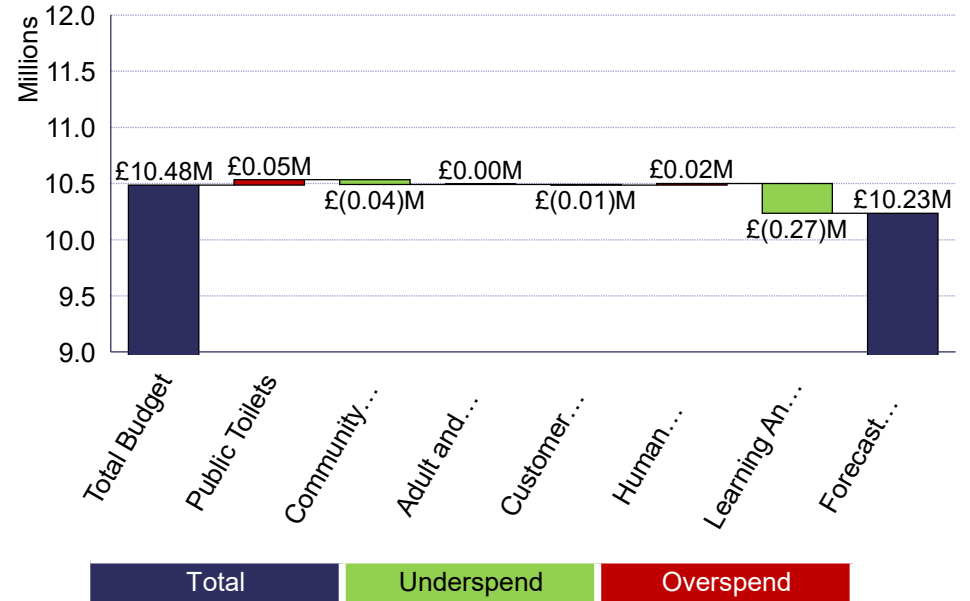
Income is also down at the crematorium due to what appears to be a reduction in the death rate generally across the region. A review of the utilisation of the new refurbished facilities is also being undertaken.

The income budget in the parks and grounds maintenance service is not going to be achieved and to counteract this a number of posts which would have delivered those chargeable services have been held vacant. There is also a forecast reduction in utility costs, materials and vehicle hire.

Community Safety

3.67% of Total Gross Revenue Service Budget **(£0.3M)** Forecast Favourable Variance **-2.40%** Variance as % of Net Portfolio Service Budget Envelope

Last Reported Variance £M	Service Area	Revised Budget £M	Forecast Outturn £M	Variance £M
0.029	Public Toilets	0.569	0.618	0.049
(0.021)	Community Safety, CCTV, Police Liaison and PSPOs	1.577	1.532	(0.045)
0.000	Adult and Community Learning	0.062	0.062	0.000
0.020	Customer Contact	5.147	5.142	(0.005)
(0.003)	Human Resources	2.079	2.095	0.016
(0.183)	Learning And Workforce Development	1.050	0.783	(0.267)
(0.158)		10.484	10.232	(0.252)
(0.149)	Gross Expenditure	14.104	13.873	(0.231)
(0.009)	Gross Income	(3.620)	(3.641)	(0.021)
(0.158)		10.484	10.232	(0.252)



As reported at September (Period 6) there is a forecast underspend on Learning & Workforce Development which is associated with the Graduate Trainee Programme. The 2024/25 budget is for six trainees but there are currently only two trainees in post, there is no intention to recruit to the vacant roles and therefore an underspend of around £180K is expected. In addition to this there is an underspend due to staff vacancies in the core team, the intention had been to recruit to these posts but these will now be held vacant for the rest of the financial year.

Culture, Tourism and Business

2.87%

of Total Gross Revenue
Service Budget

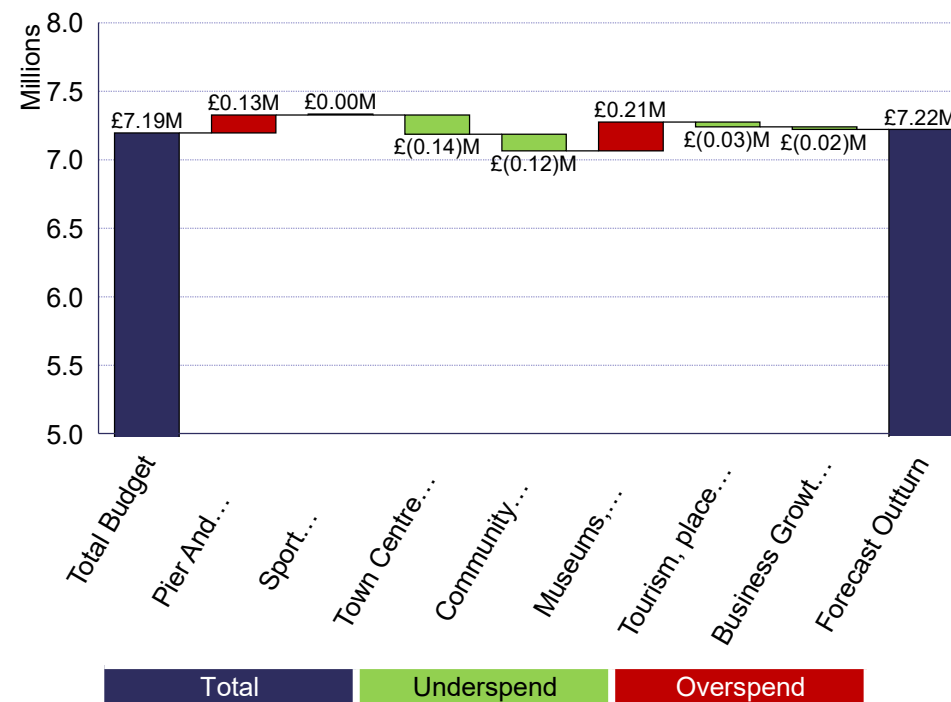
£0.0M

Forecast Adverse Variance

0.38%

Variance as % of Net Portfolio Service
Budget Envelope

Last Reported Variance £M	Service Area	Revised Budget £M	Forecast Outturn £M	Variance £M
0.038	Pier And Foreshore	0.421	0.552	0.131
0.002	Sport Development	0.001	0.001	0.000
(0.098)	Town Centre Management	0.117	(0.023)	(0.140)
(0.193)	Community Assets, Cohesion and Engagement	1.080	0.958	(0.122)
0.224	Museums, Galleries, Theatres, and Libraries	4.640	4.851	0.211
(0.027)	Tourism, place branding, and marketing	0.411	0.377	(0.034)
(0.014)	Business Growth and Economic Development	0.523	0.504	(0.019)
(0.068)		7.193	7.220	0.027
0.124	Gross Expenditure	11.022	11.183	0.161
(0.192)	Gross Income	(3.829)	(3.963)	(0.134)
(0.068)		7.193	7.220	0.027



There has been a £93K adverse movement across the Pier and Foreshore, of this £50K relates to a reduced forecast on Pier Admission and £42k relates to income associated with moorings, boat launches and jet ski launches.

There is a £20K pressure within museum staffing budgets, due to long term sickness within a small team needing to be covered by a combination of agency and overtime. Libraries report a forecast overspend on the cost of cleaning (£18K across all sites) and whilst income from partnership charges is exceeding the budget, there is an overall pressure on income budgets with external income not achieving budgeted levels.

A net £25K pressure continues to be reported against Events, whilst there was an increase in footfall, driving increased parking and potentially Pier admission, there have been periods of bad weather and civil unrest, which may have dissuaded people from visiting.

There is a £94K under spend in the Town Centre Management, caused by a combination of the vacant Town Centre manager post and the BID manager being on maternity leave, with the BID arranging cover. This is resulting in an under spend against the Council's funding for the role.

There is an intentional managed vacancy within the Communities team, which combined with some external funding is driving an underspend of £93K, although £100K of a contract was erroneously omitted from the previous forecast, resulting in an adverse movement this period. There is a £100K pressure reported against the review and restructure of museums, galleries and the wider pier and foreshore teams. This in part (£50K) is being mitigated by the underspend from the period the Director of Culture role was vacant.

Finance, Assets and Investments

20.20%

of Total Gross Revenue
Service Budget

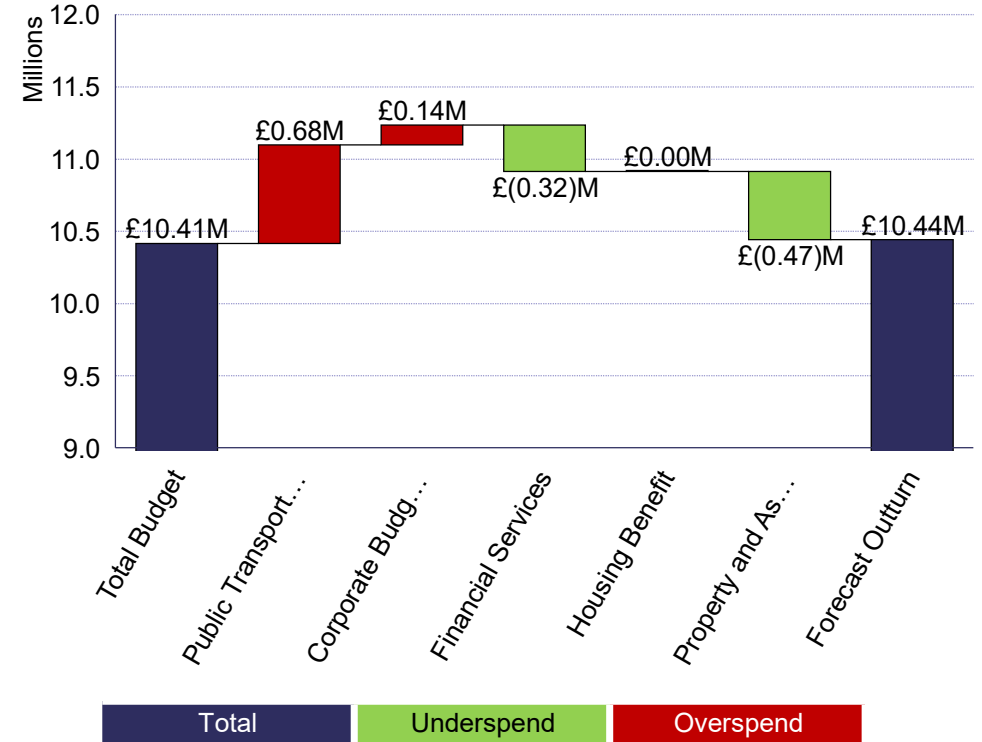
(£0.1M)

Forecast Favourable
Variance

-0.60%

Variance as % of Net Portfolio Service
Budget Envelope

Last Reported Variance £M	Service Area	Revised Budget £M	Forecast Outturn £M	Variance £M
0.282	Public Transport and Concessionary Fares	2.648	3.331	0.683
0.000	Corporate Procurement	1.072	1.033	(0.039)
0.358	Corporate Budget and Resources Planning	2.121	2.259	0.138
0.000	Audit	0.952	0.901	(0.051)
0.000	Council Tax and Business Rates	0.451	0.451	0.000
(0.220)	Financial Services	2.570	2.248	(0.322)
0.000	Housing Benefit	1.919	1.919	0.000
(0.332)	Property and Asset Management	(1.318)	(1.789)	(0.471)
0.000	Grants and Inward Investments	0.000	0.000	0.000
0.088		10.415	10.353	(0.062)
0.893	Gross Expenditure	77.588	78.579	0.991
(0.805)	Gross Income	(67.173)	(68.226)	(1.053)
0.088		10.415	10.353	(0.062)



Total concessionary fare journeys increased by 6.61% last year and the approved savings target will not be delivered due to a notification of a further increase in costs after the 2024/25 budget was approved. This pressure has been reviewed on receipt of the final Q1 and Q2 data which shows and continued increase in journey numbers and cost.

The forecast pressure reported against the Corporate Budget and Resources Planning line consists of the previously reported apprenticeship levy and payments associated with former employees now in receipt of their Local Government Pension. The pressure related to the budgeted recharge to the Housing Revenue Account which is not applicable for financial year 2024/25 that was reported in September (Period 6) has now been funded by a drawdown from the Pensions Reserve.

A forecast surplus is expected on a range of income fees and charges within Financial Services, this will be closely monitored throughout the year. At the same time there are vacancies which have been held (or have been difficult to recruit to) across the teams. One of the long-term vacancies has been permanently recruited to since last reporting and a new staffing structure has been consulted on and agreed, which is designed to help with the capacity challenges the service has been experiencing. Any vacancies will now be held for the remainder of the financial year resulting in a cumulative forecast underspend of around £160K (P6 £120K).

Property and Asset Management, Corporate Procurement and Audit all have increased forecast underspends due to staff vacancies which will be held for the rest of 2024/25.

Regeneration and Major Projects

1.85%

of Total Gross Revenue
Service Budget

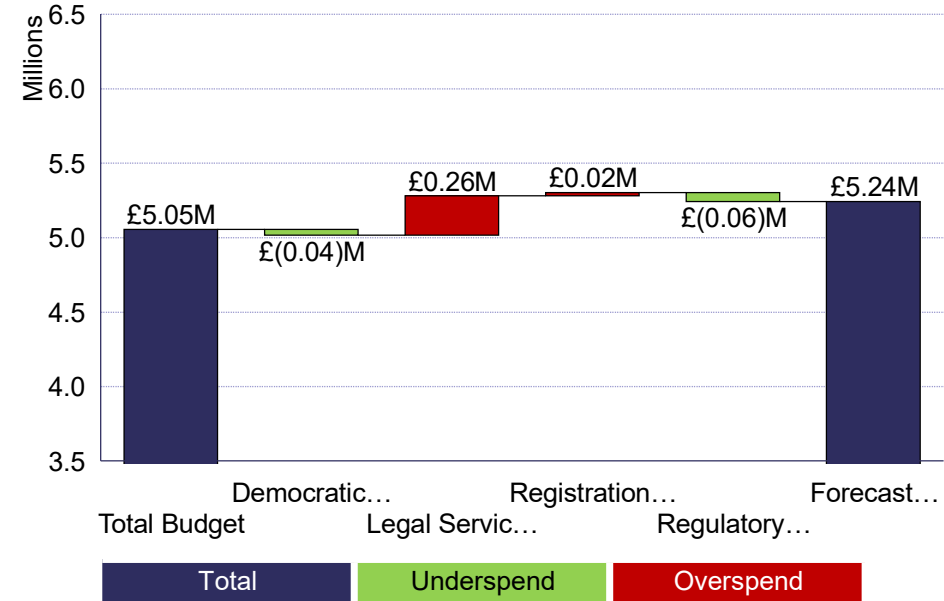
£0.2M

Forecast Adverse Variance

-3.72%

Variance as % of Net Portfolio Service
Budget Envelope

Last Reported Variance £M	Service Area	Revised Budget £M	Forecast Outturn £M	Variance £M
(0.031)	Democratic Services, Civic Affairs, and Constitutional Matters	1.961	1.923	(0.038)
0.136	Legal Services and Land Charges	1.533	1.798	0.265
0.021	Registration Services	(0.122)	(0.101)	0.021
(0.060)	Regulatory Services, Private Sector Housing Standards and Grants	1.681	1.621	(0.060)
0.000	Levelling Up Fund (Revenue)	0.000	0.000	0.000
0.000	Queensway Development	0.000	0.000	0.000
0.066		5.053	5.241	0.188
(0.169)	Gross Expenditure	7.088	7.062	(0.026)
0.235	Gross Income	(2.035)	(1.821)	0.214
0.066		5.053	5.241	0.188



Once the Legal Services restructure had been finalised, recruitment to permanent roles was undertaken, and the September 2024 (period 6) forecast assumed that the roles would all be filled quickly and successfully. Unfortunately, this has not been the case, and some agency contracts have had to be extended to cover roles in the new structure. Due to this the forecast pressure on staffing budgets has increased. As previously reported, the level of income from Land Charges is below budget, this is in line with the reduced planning fee income reported within the Deputy Leader portfolio, and is linked to the challenging economic environment.

There are a number of staffing vacancies within the Regulatory Services and Private Sector Housing teams which are forecast to remain unfilled for part of the year. This is offsetting an anticipated shortfall in income received from a variety of different licences under the Licensing Act and Hackney Carriages / Private Hire.

Social Care and Healthier Communities

25.87%

of Total Gross Revenue
Service Budget

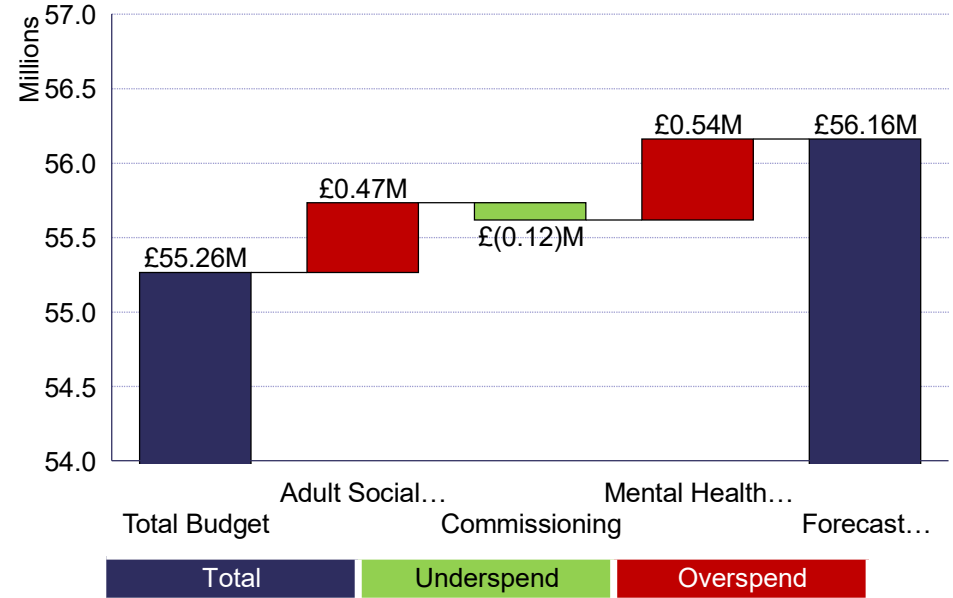
£0.90M

Forecast Adverse Variance

1.62%

Variance as % of Net Portfolio Service
Budget Envelope

Last Reported Variance £M	Service Area	Revised Budget £M	Forecast Outturn £M	Variance £M
0.778	Adult Social Care	45.596	46.066	0.470
0.058	Commissioning	3.988	3.871	(0.117)
0.282	Mental Health Services	5.598	6.141	0.543
0.000	Domestic Abuse	0.000	0.000	0.000
0.000	Drugs and Alcohol Service	0.000	0.000	0.000
0.000	Public Health	0.082	0.082	0.000
1.118		55.264	56.160	0.896
4.293	Gross Expenditure	99.356	104.355	4.999
(3.175)	Gross Income	(44.092)	(48.195)	(4.103)
1.118		55.264	56.160	0.896



A £308K reduction is forecast against Adult Social Care, the position now reflects an estimated dividend payment from Southend Care Limited and the review of various grants and the planned spend against them.

There is an underlying upward trend in the cost of care placements, with new packages resulting in higher costs than those discharging from the system. Additionally, there is an increasing number of residents who are reporting their financial assets are falling below the means testing threshold, thus shifting the financial responsibility of their care costs onto the Council

The forecast for Mental Health placements has increased by £261K since period 6, these relate to additional complex high cost placements having been identified, which includes back dating of payments to providers.

The pressure against the Equipment Service has reduced by £48K to £300K following a review of grant eligible spend, this position recognises as the service is joint funded with health, only part of the savings are due to the Council.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

£0.50M

Forecast Adverse Variance

1.59%

Variance as % of Gross Operating Expenditure

Last Reported Variance £M	Service Area	Revised Budget £M	Forecast Outturn £M	Variance £M	HRA Reserves 2024/25	Opening Balance	Forecast Movement	Closing Balance
0.601	Gross Expenditure	31.609	32.353	0.744	Capital Investment Reserve	27.270	(3.696)	23.574
0.000	Gross Income	(36.430)	(36.672)	(0.242)	Major Repairs Reserve	10.535	0.000	10.535
0.601	NET OPERATING EXPENDITURE	(4.821)	(4.319)	0.502	Repairs Contract Pension Reserve	0.820	0.000	0.820
0.000	Revenue Contribution to Capital	8.015	8.015	0.000	HRA Reserve	3.502	0.000	3.502
(0.601)	Contribution to / (from) Earmarked Reserves	(3.194)	(3.696)	(0.502)	HRA Reserves Total	42.127	(3.696)	38.431
0.000	TOTAL	0.000	0.000	0.000				

There has been a backlog of insurance claims on Housing Revenue Account (HRA) properties which have already been settled but not yet transferred to the HRA. This process is currently underway and the four year time period this relates to will result in a cost to the HRA of £750K. There are also increased subscription fees for the Housing Ombudsman which we are required to pay and a further subscription for the Regulator of Social Housing. It is also expected that additional costs will be incurred on the repairs and maintenance service this year.

These are being offset in 2024/25 by a £200K provision for pension backfunding which although budgeted for, is not required this year as a result of the triennial review of the pension fund. Overall the HRA is a strong financially resilient position.

Due to an increase reserve balance at the end of 24/25, the interest received on that balance (referred to as the Item 8 credit) is higher than anticipated which is resulting in a higher income than expected.

Savings Performance November 2024 (Period 8)

Appendix 1 - Annex 1

Council Ref.	Detail of Proposal	Original Saving £000	Amount at Risk £000	Included in P4 pressure £000	Included in P6 pressure £000	Included in P8 pressure £000	Movement from P6 £000	Exec. Director
ORE-06	Centralisation of Project Managers	100	100	-	-	-	-	EDSC
TPP-01	Concessionary Fares Scheme budget alignment with usage	400	400	246	246	400	154	EDEP
TPP-06	Review Southend Business Improvement District (BID) Service Level Agreement (SLA) to ensure no cost burden to the Council in line with other BID areas.	50	50	-	-	-	-	EDAC
Total		550	550	246	246	400	154	

Council Ref.	Detail of Proposal	Original Saving £000	Amount at Risk £000	Included in P4 pressure £000	Included in P6 pressure £000	Included in P8 pressure £000	Movement from P6 £000	Exec. Director
ORE-03	ICT Restructure	395	100	100	100	100	-	EDSC
TPP-09	Connectivity Savings - achieve fibre connectivity savings across the ci	40	40	-	-	-	-	EDSC
RBA-10	Improve implementation of grassland management strategy	25	25	-	25	25	-	EDEP
Total		460	165	100	125	125	-	

Savings Performance November 2024 (Period 8)

Appendix 1 - Annex 1

Council Ref.	Detail of Proposal	Original Saving £000	Amount at Risk £000	Included in P4 pressure £000	Included in P6 pressure £000	Included in P8 pressure £000	Movement from P6 £000	Exec. Director
COI-02	Vacancy Factor - adjustment required to standardise at 2.5%	775	462	528	528	462	(66)	ALL
EAP-01	Equipment and Assistive Technology Pilots	250	250	250	250	250	-	EDAC
ORE-08	Review and restructure museum, galleries and wider pier and foreshore teams.	100	100	100	100	100	-	EDAC
SOC-01	Parks Service Review	250	250	-	-	-	-	EDEP
TPP-02	Transitional Supported Housing - to reduce costs where there is evidence of voids, lower level support required or where need should ideally be met via the care act.	300	300	-	-	-	-	EDAC
IGC-05	Increase Planning Charges set nationally and are due to increase by around 25%	150	150	110	120	120	-	EDEP
IGC-10	Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Opportunities	50	50	25	25	25	-	EDEP
IGC-15	Filming Opportunities	10	10	10	10	10	-	EDAC
RBA-11	Increased income from Events - opposite side of invest to save item	100	100	-	43	43	-	EDAC
RBA-11	Increased income from Events	65	65	-	65	65	-	EDEP
RBA-12	Southend Pass - 15,000 users by the end of 2024/25	175	175	-	-	-	-	EDEP
RBA-13	Car Parking Charges - increase Zone 1a to £3 per hour	285	285	-	-	-	-	EDEP
RBA-14	Car Parking Zone 1a 6-9pm	520	190	-	-	-	-	EDEP
RBA-15	New Tradesperson Permit - based on 100 permits in 24/25	60	60	-	-	-	-	EDEP
Total		3,090	2,447	1,023	1,141	1,075	(66)	

Overspend Reductions Performance November 2024 (Period 8)

Appendix 1 - Annex 1

Council Ref.	Detail of Proposal	Original Saving £000	Amount at Risk £000	Included in P4 pressure £000	Included in P6 pressure £000	Included in P8 pressure £000	Movement from P6 £000	Exec. Director
OSR-02	Home Care Electronic Monitoring requires review and potential withdrawal from agreement	50	20	-	-	-	-	EDAC
OSR-09	Residential Savings (Children Social Care) - SCC's Purchased Children's Home	250	250	250	250	250	-	EDCPH
OSR-10	Residential Savings (Children Social Care) - strengthened Commissioning and brokerage function for negotiating & reviewing Children Care home fees	200	200	200	200	200	-	EDCPH
OSR-11	Review of Supported Accommodation for UASC 18+	300	300	300	300	300	-	EDCPH
Total		800	770	750	750	750	-	

Council Ref.	Detail of Proposal	Original Saving £000	Amount at Risk £000	Included in P4 pressure £000	Included in P6 pressure £000	Included in P8 pressure £000	Movement from P6 £000	Exec. Director
OSR-06	Legal & Democratic Services - reduce the external legal costs	50	30	50	30	30	-	EDSC
OSR-12	Inhouse Foster Care Offer Model - reduce current reliance on External Foster Carers	500	250	-	250	250	-	EDCPH
OSR-15	Review of Parking Contracting Arrangements - discussions are underway with South Essex Parking Partnership to see if there are opportunities or efficiency	50	50	-	-	50	50	EDEP
Total		600	330	50	280	330	50	

Overspend Reductions Performance November 2024 (Period 8)

Appendix 1 - Annex 1

Council Ref.	Detail of Proposal	Original Saving £000	Amount at Risk £000	Included in P4 pressure £000	Included in P6 pressure £000	Included in P8 pressure £000	Movement from P6 £000	Exec. Director
OSR-03	Repairs and Maintenance - essential works only	25	25	25	25	25	-	EDFR
OSR-06	Legal & Democratic Services - reduce the external legal costs	50	20	-	20	20	-	EDSC
OSR-07	Learning Disability and Mental Health Service Reviews	500	500	500	500	500	-	EDAC
OSR-12	Inhouse Foster Care Offer Model - reduce current reliance on External Foster Carers	500	250	500	250	250	-	EDCPH
Total		1,075	795	1,025	795	795	-	

Cost Avoidance Performance November 2024 (Period 8)

Appendix 1 - Annex 1

Council Ref.	Detail of Proposal	Original Saving £000	Amount at Risk £000	Included in P4 pressure £000	Included in P6 pressure £000	Included in P8 pressure £000	Movement from P6 £000	Exec. Director
N/A		-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total		-	-	-	-	-	-	

Council Ref.	Detail of Proposal	Original Saving £000	Amount at Risk £000	Included in P4 pressure £000	Included in P6 pressure £000	Included in P8 pressure £000	Movement from P6 £000	Exec. Director
CAV-04	Holiday Buy Back up to 10 additional days holiday per year subject to service constraints	150	115	-	-	-	-	EDSC
Total		150	115	-	-	-	-	

Council Ref.	Detail of Proposal	Original Saving £000	Amount at Risk £000	Included in P4 pressure £000	Included in P6 pressure £000	Included in P8 pressure £000	Movement from P6 £000	Exec. Director
CAV-01	Overtime Reduction	200	200	-	-	-	-	ALL
CAV-03	HR Policy Review and employee terms and conditions modernisation.	100	95	-	-	-	-	EDSC
Total		300	295	-	-	-	-	