REVENUE MONITORING REPORT September 2023

GENERAL FUND SUMMARY

Department	End of Year Position: Current Approved Budget £,000	Current Forecast £,000	Net over / (under) spend £,000	Comment on major areas of estimated over / (underspend)
Adult Social Care	65,925	66,401	476	The budget for 2023/24 was set with low net growth. The expected overspend has increased from £0.3m reported at the end of quarter one to £0.48m. This increase is generated from continued pressures from inflation increasing market rates and increased demand for services. Work will continue to attempt to mitigate and manage through the rest of the year.
Chief Executive	12,167	12,068	(100)	The reported variance is unchanged from quarter one. Through successful reduction of contractors and the holding of additional vacancies the CE directorate is forecasting an underspend of £0.1m.
Children's Services	42,734	45,347	2,613	For 2023/24 the main drivers of the variance are from Placement costs and Home to School Transport (HTST). - Nationwide demand in complex placements is driving a higher cost per night than we have seen historically with residential placement costs rising 50% year on year. - Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) government income doesn't cover total costs incurred which account for £0.8m of cost into the service in 2023/24. The average net care cycle cost of each UASC into WBC is c.£0.1m. As the council keeps to it's 0.1% government target number we will need to support a new UASC for each one that ages out, leading to significant growth in former UASC care leavers, a significant future cost to the council if sufficient housing that matches funding isn't found. - HTST accounts for £1.6m of the overspend with SEND HTST places increasing 28% year on year. - Recruitment and capacity continues to be a challenge. Other local LAs are beginning to increase SW salaries to improve turnover and reduce agency works, we are yet to fully understand the full impact of this on our own workforce.
Place & Growth	53,666	54,039	374	The reported variance is due to forecast car parking income being lower than budgeted, predominantly due to delays in the implementation of new parking proposals, combined with the use of temporary staff and increase demand and costs relating to temporary accommodation. Planning income is also down compared to budget and forecast to remain low for the remainder of the year. There are some favourable movements as a result of some additional grant income and vacant posts. Risks exist around the level of planning income, parking income as a result of changes within the service, garden waste income and the level of use of temporary accommodation, exacerbated by asylum seekers and refugees.
Resources & Assets	5,995	6,279	283	Leisure income targets remain under significant pressure following the impacts of COIVD and more recently cost of living pressures. Property rental income also remains under pressure from the external market conditions. The reduced capital programme impacts the work of the property team which is currently being reviewed.
Net Expenditure	**180,487**	**184,133**	**3,646**	

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