

Leicester
City Council

MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW SELECT COMMITTEE

DATE: WEDNESDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER 2023

TIME: 5:30 pm

**PLACE: Meeting Rooms G.01 and G.02, Ground Floor, City Hall, 115
Charles Street, Leicester, LE1 1FZ**

Members of the Committee

Councillor Cassidy (Chair)

Councillors Bajaj, Batool, Dave, March, Porter and Whittle

One Labour Group vacancy

Youth Council Representatives

To be advised

Members of the Committee are invited to attend the above meeting to consider the items of business listed overleaf.

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For Monitoring Officer

Officer contacts:

Francis Connolly (Scrutiny Policy Officer)

Jacob Mann (Democratic Support Officer)

Tel: 0116 454 5843, e-mail: jacob.mann@leicester.gov.uk
Leicester City Council, 115 Charles Street, Leicester, LE1 1FZ

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Further information

If you have any queries about any of the above or the business to be discussed, please contact:

Jacob Mann , Democratic Support Officer on 0116 454 5843.

Alternatively, email jacob.mann@leicester.gov.uk, or call in at City Hall.

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PUBLIC SESSION

AGENDA

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are asked to declare any interests they may have in the business to be discussed.

3. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Appendix A

The minutes of the meeting of the Overview Select Committee held on 13 July 2023 are attached and Members are asked to confirm them as a correct record.

5. PROGRESS ON ACTIONS AGREED AT THE LAST MEETING

To note progress on actions agreed at the previous meeting and not reported elsewhere on the agenda (if any).

6. QUESTIONS, REPRESENTATIONS AND STATEMENTS OF CASE

The Monitoring Officer to report on the receipt of any questions, representations and statements of case submitted in accordance with the

Council's procedures.

7. PETITIONS

The Monitoring Officer to report on any petitions received.

8. TRACKING OF PETITIONS - MONITORING REPORT [Appendix B](#)

The Monitoring Officer submits a report that updates Members on the monitoring of outstanding petitions. The Committee is asked to note the current outstanding petitions and agree to remove those petitions marked 'Petitions Process Complete' from the report.

9. QUESTIONS FOR THE CITY MAYOR

The City Mayor will answer questions raised by members of the Overview Select Committee on issues not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

**10. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING APRIL - JUNE [Appendix C](#)
2023/24**

The Director of Finance submits a report which is the first in the revenue monitoring cycle for 2023/24 and provides early indications of the significant financial pressures the Council is facing this year, and the worsening picture for future years' budgets. The Overview Select Committee is recommended to consider the overall position presented within the report and make any observations it sees fit.

**11. CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING APRIL - JUNE [Appendix D](#)
2023/24**

The Director of Finance submits a report which shows the position of the capital programme at the end of June 2023 (Period 3.) The Overview Select Committee is recommended to consider the overall position presented within the report and make any observations as it sees fit.

12. SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23 [Appendix E](#)

The Director of Delivery, Communications and Political Governance submits a report that presents the Annual Scrutiny Report 2022 – 23 from the Chair of the Overview Select Committee which details the activity performed by the City Council's scrutiny bodies during 2022/23. The Overview Select Committee is asked to review the report and provide any comments / recommendations ahead of consideration by Full Council.

**13. UPDATE ON INFORMAL SCRUTINY - EQUALITIES /
WORKFORCE REPRESENTATION**

The Chair of the Overview Select Committee and the Director of Delivery, Communications and Political Governance to provide a verbal update to reflect

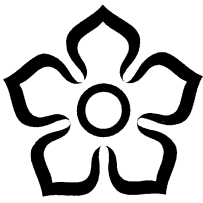
progress to date and the proposed next steps with the work on this area.

**14. OVERVIEW SELECT COMMITTEE WORK
PROGRAMME**

Appendix F

The current work programme for the Committee is attached. The Committee is asked to consider this and make comments and/or amendments as it considers necessary.

15. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS



Leicester
City Council

Appendix A

Minutes of the Meeting of the
OVERVIEW SELECT COMMITTEE

Held: THURSDAY, 13 JULY 2023 at 5:30 pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Cassidy (Chair)
Councillor Cank (Vice Chair)

Councillor Bajaj
Councillor Batool

Councillor Porter
Councillor Whittle

Councillor Dave
Councillor March

Also present:

Sir Peter Soulsby

City Mayor

* * * * *

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to disclose any pecuniary or other interests they may have in the business on the agenda.

There were no declarations of interest.

3. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair welcomed all Members of the Overview Select Committee for the municipal year 2023/24.

The Chair noted that it was intended for the Labour Members of the Committee to switch halfway through the municipal year and the Chairs of the other 3 Commissions would sit on the Committee. Chairs of Commissions not on the Committee would still be invited to attend informally when a subject related to their Commission was on the agenda.

The Chair encouraged Members to engage in positive and constructive manner during their time on the Committee and stated that the role of Scrutiny was to be a critical friend for the Executive rather than political opposition.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

AGREED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2023 be confirmed as a correct record.

5. PROGRESS ON ACTIONS AGREED AT THE LAST MEETING

It was noted that the Council was engaging with Eyres Monsell Primary School to undertake surveys of their toilet block.

It was noted that the minutes referred to Corporate Parenting training as part of the Members induction programme following the election, it was noted that a training session would be held on Monday 4 September.

6. MEMBERSHIP OF THE OVERVIEW SELECT COMMITTEE 2023/24

The Membership of the Committee for 2023/24 was noted.

7. DATES OF MEETINGS OF THE OVERVIEW SELECT COMMITTEE 2023/24

The dates of meetings for 2023/24 were noted.

8. QUESTIONS, REPRESENTATIONS AND STATEMENTS OF CASE

The Monitoring Officer reported that no questions, representations and statements of case had been submitted in accordance with the Council's procedures.

9. PETITIONS

The Monitoring Officer reported that no petitions had been received.

10. TRACKING OF PETITIONS - MONITORING REPORT

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report which provided an update on the status of outstanding petitions against the Council's target of providing a formal response within three months of being referred to the Divisional Director.

AGREED:

That the status of the outstanding petitions be noted, and to remove those petitions marked 'Petition Complete' Ref: from the report.

11. OVERVIEW SELECT COMMITTEE PORTFOLIO OUTLINE

The Director of Delivery, Communications, and Political Governance and the Director of Finance gave a verbal presentation on the portfolio of the Overview Select Committee, it was noted that:

- The Overview Select Committee was the parent committee for the different Scrutiny Commissions of the Council. Therefore, the focus of the Committee was on wider Corporate Services such as Finance, HR, Estates, and Legal.
- The Committee also looked at multi-service issues such as Covid-19 or the cost of living.
- A focus of the Committee was on Equalities. Work was ongoing to refresh the Council's Equality Strategy and any update on that would go through the Committee. Additional training to Committee Members on Equalities was available. All Scrutiny reports came with Equalities implications considered.
- The Committee would receive financial monitoring reports on a regular basis.

There was discussion on work the Committee could take to look further into Equalities issues in the Council. It was agreed to consider this further under the Work Programme item later in the meeting.

In response to a suggestion that Executive Lead Members attend the Committee it was noted that Executive Lead Members attended the Scrutiny Commission for their portfolio areas and generally only the City Mayor attended the Committee. However a Executive Member may attend if an item of relevance to their portfolio was on the agenda.

ACTION:

The Committee thanked Officers for the overview.

12. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING OUTTURN 2022/23

The Director of Finance submitted the final report for the monitoring cycle for 2022/23 and reports performance against budget for the year.

The Director of Finance presented the report, it was noted that:

- The report presented a £4.4m overspend, this was a reduction on the estimate in the previous period.
- Cost pressures were around increased staff pay, energy costs, and long-term income loss from Covid.
- The HRA was overspent by £8.2m.
- All earmarked reserves had been reviewed at the end of the financial year. As part of this a small amount was withdrawn from departmental

- reserves and would be used as part of the managed reserves strategy.
- The report included a list of proposed savings.

In response to questions and comments from Members it was noted that:

- NHS funding for ASC that was unspent went into reserves, this funding was intended to fund joint-NHS projects in future years. Some Government grants had conditions which required a certain amount to be put into reserves to support future years expenditure.
- The Council maintained an insurance fund reserve. This was due to the Council self-insuring to a certain amount and this was funded from the reserve. Every 3 years the fund is reviewed which was why a certain amount had been released into the Capital Programme. The insurance fund was currently at £6m.
- With regards to bringing extra income into the HRA by lowering the number of void properties, there were a significant number of vacancies in Housing Repairs which there was great difficulty in filling. Therefore, to decrease void-time agency workers were being used.
- Regarding losses in income in parking charges, income had increased in the last few years however still had not returned to pre-Covid levels.
- On Sunday parking, it was almost universal across the country to charge for Sunday parking. The concern with free parking was that spaces would be taken up by workers rather than visitors. The Sunday parking charges would be reviewed after being in place for 12 months.
- ASC income was not separately reported as it was offset by the expenditure for those required to pay for their care.
- The increase in street lighting costs was caused by increased energy prices. This increase was decreased by now using LED lights.
- It was advised that grant funding to support homelessness and asylum seekers was for projects that spent more than one financial year and this was why they were transferred to reserves.
- There was an underspend in concessionary fares, this was because less people were traveling on buses and therefore the Council did not have to cover as much concessionary fare cost.
- On the future of the Park and Ride service, it was noted it was a partner scheme with the County Council. The service had not yet bounced back from the pandemic, but it was hoped that it would do and that the service would have a future.
- With regard to options for catering services, City Catering was an in-house provider that schools could chose to use. Charges were considered in light of the amount the Government paid schools for free school meals.
- In order to attract new market traders, the Market was receiving a major redevelopment which would start soon.
- Prices for Active Leicester membership were available to view online. Membership numbers continued to grow.
- If a ringfenced fund was spent in a given year it could be rolled onto the next year. However, the Designated Schools Grant was currently in a deficit position so work was ongoing with DfE to resolve this.

- With regard to unaccompanied asylum seeking children, a number were assigned to Leicester Children's Services by the Home Office.
- There was a 30% increase in journey costs for SEND children who used taxi services despite only a 10% increase in fare costs. This was due to the nature of journeys changing with typically longer journeys now. Reducing the cost of these journeys remained a major priority for the Council.

It was suggested that budget monitoring reporting could include the initial budget projections alongside the current projections and actuals.

Members commented that as much as an overspend was concerning, an underspend was also equally concerning as it could mean services are not being delivered to residents due to staff vacancies. The City Mayor noted that it was inevitable that there would be overspend and underspend in a budget, however current underspend and overspend levels were a very small percentage of the overall budget. The City Mayor praised Finance Officers for their accurate projections which secured low levels of overspend and underspend.

Outstanding issues that Officers would send responses regarding following the meeting were detail on the additional landfill costs and details on the joint NHS projects.

AGREED:

That the Committee notes the report and asks Officers and the Executive to consider comments made by the Committee and respond to outstanding questions.

13. CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING - APRIL-MARCH 2022/23

The Director of Finance submitted a report to show the position of the capital programme at the end of March 2023 (Period 12).

The Director of Finance presented the report, it was noted that:

- There were continued pressures in the construction industry leading to delay and cost pressures. Decisions relating to those pressures were included in the report.
- The report contained a number of other decisions as usual for the capital monitoring report.
- The only Capital project marked as red was Greener Homes as all of the Housing Associations in the scheme had pulled out.

In response to questions and comments from Members it was noted that:

- The redevelopment of the Jewry Wall Museum was progressing well and was expected to be completed on-time. It had previously been delayed due to the contracted constructor going into administration.

- The project on SEND PRUs had been pushed back 6 years from the original completion date, this was due to a combination of issues managing multiple sites, and the expansion of the scheme.
- On children's homes, the Extra Care policy provision for adult social care had been used to provide funding.
- In terms of the Haymarket Theatre redevelopment, the history of the status of the Theatre was noted. The City Mayor noted that the current position was that the Theatre was not in use and needed extra work to lighting and accessibility to bring it up to modern standards. It was noted that different options for future management of the Theatre were being considered and Members views on the matter were welcome. The City Mayor also stated that he intended to invite all Councillors on a site visit to the Theatre.
- Three significant schemes had were being undertaken due to receipt of significant Levelling Up Funding.
- On expenditure from Right to Buy sales, these sales were well below market value. A portion of those receipts had to be paid to the Government.
- Slippage on the Parks and Open Spaces spending was a result of work on the Victoria Park Bandstand and on Rally Park.
- There had been additional costs to the District Heating metering programme for surveying works. This would lead to additional charges for users getting meters installed.

Outstanding issues that Officers would send responses regarding were the Greener Homes scheme, and the difference in Right to Buy sales to market value.

AGREED:

That the Committee notes the report and asks Officers to consider Members comments and respond to outstanding questions.

14. REVIEW OF TREASURY MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES 2022/23

The Director of Finance submitted a report to review how the Council conducted its borrowing and investments during 2022/23.

The Director of Finance presented the report, it was noted that borrowing and investments had been impacted by various market factors including Bank of England interest rates increase. Some borrowing had been repaid shortly after the years' end to Barclays, this resulted in revenue savings of £1m a year.

In response to a question from a Member regarding a loan to a textiles company, it was noted that this was included in the report as a loan to Ethically Sourced Products who were up to date with repayments.

AGREED:

That the Committee notes the report.

15. INCOME COLLECTION APRIL 2022 - MARCH 2023

The Director of Finance submitted a report which detailed progress made in collecting debts raised by the Council during the 2022-23. It also set out details of debts written off under delegated authority that had not been possible to collect after reasonable effort and expense.

The Director of Finance presented the report, it was noted that all departments that dealt with debt were actively supporting those struggling with debt

In response to questions from Members it was noted that:

- The benefit of employing more Parking Enforcement Officers was clear and it had been shown that there was considerable public support for more parking enforcement.
- Debt write-offs for Parking Enforcement included initial costs and additional fees accrued over time. These write-offs were often in cases where the drivers couldn't be traced.
- On the option of using debt recovery firms to get back at least some outstanding debt, it would have to be understood how the debt would be recovered by any potential company as there was a policy around Stop the Knock.
- There were currently approximately 40 Parking Enforcement Officers.
- On the option of extending Parking Enforcement powers to City Wardens, it was felt that City Wardens would not support this as a lot was already expected of them.
- On the debt of £251k written off for Arcadia Group who had liquidated. This was due to them building up business rates for a number of sites which were not eligible for small business relief. When a business typically went into liquidation there was a queue for recovering money and Councils tended to be low on that queue which was why that money had not been recovered at all.
- For those in rent arrears, the eviction rate remained extremely low thanks to the work of the Income Management team.

AGREED:

1. That the Committee notes the report.
2. That further information be circulated regarding parking enforcement staffing figures.

16. QUESTIONS FOR THE CITY MAYOR

The City Mayor noted that Councillor Porter had suggested at a recent Full Council meeting that as part of the new Scrutiny configuration, a session be held before every meeting of the Overview Select Committee dedicated to questions for the City Mayor. The suggestion was that in the hour before the

Committee meeting all Members would be invited to come and ask questions without prior notice.

The City Mayor stated that he agreed with the principles of this and was happy to proceed with holding the session before the next Committee meeting.

It was suggested that while Members would not have to give advanced notice of their specific questions, that it would be helpful if some indication was given beforehand as to which areas the questions would be on so that relevant Executive Members could be present.

It was noted that following the first session that the format could be reviewed.

AGREED:

That preparations be made for a Questions for the City Mayor session to take place 1 hour before the future meetings of the Overview Select Committee.

17. OVERVIEW SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

It was noted that a formal work programme was not yet in place and was still in early stages. Comments and suggestions from Members would be considered for inclusion.

There was extensive discussion on how the Committee should undertake its work to scrutinise the Council on Equalities. The City Mayor welcomed this and stated that he would be happy for the Council's record on this to be examined.

The particular area suggested to be examined on this occasion was representation in the Council workforce at different levels.

There was discussion on various options for the next steps of this work, it was agreed that an informal briefing session would be held which would provide detail of the Council's corporate equality duty and to present some initial data relating to the Council's workforce representation.

Other areas suggested for inclusion on the work programme were the cost of living, customer services, and the Council wide picture on recruitment.

AGREED:

1. That an informal briefing session on demographic representation in the Council workforce at different levels be prepared.
2. That other suggestions for items to be included in the Committee's work programme be considered by the Chair and Officers.

18. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There being no other items of urgent business, the meeting closed at 8.06pm.

Tracking of Petitions – Monitoring Report

Overview Select Committee

Date of meeting: 20 September 2023

Lead officer: Katie Jordan

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All Wards – Corporate Issue
- Report author: Katie Jordan
- Author contact details: Katie.Jordan@leicester.gov.uk
- Report version number: 1

1. Purpose of the Report

To provide Members with an update on the current status of responses to petitions against the Council's target of providing a formal response within 3 months of being referred to the Divisional Director.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is asked to note the current status of outstanding petitions and to agree to remove those petitions marked 'Petition Process Complete' from the report.

3. Detailed report

The Committee is responsible for monitoring the progress and outcomes of petitions received within the Council. An Exception Report, showing those petitions currently outstanding or for consideration at the current Overview Select Committee meeting is attached.

The Exception Report contains comments on the current progress on each of the petitions. The following colour scheme approved by the Committee is used to highlight progress and the report has now been re-arranged to list the petitions in their colour groups for ease of reference:

- **Red** – denotes those petitions for which a pro-forma has not been completed within three months of being referred to the Divisional Director.
- **Petition Process Complete** - denotes petitions for which a response pro-forma has sent to the relevant Scrutiny Commission Chair for comment, subsequently endorsed by the Lead Executive Member and the Lead Petitioner and Ward Members informed of the response to the petition.
- **Green** – denotes petitions for which officers have proposed a recommendation in response to a petition, and a response pro-forma has been sent to the relevant Scrutiny Commission Chair for comment, before being endorsed by the Lead Executive Member.
- **Amber** – denotes petitions which are progressing within the prescribed timescales, or have provided clear reasoning for why the three-month deadline for completing the response pro-forma has elapsed.

In addition, all Divisional Directors have been asked to ensure that details of **all** petitions received direct into the Council (not just those formally accepted via a Council Meeting or

similar) are passed to the Monitoring Officer for logging and inclusion on this monitoring schedule.

6. Financial, legal, equalities, climate emergency and other implications

There are no legal, financial or other implications arising from this report.

7. Background Papers – Local Government Act 1972

The Council's current overall internal process for responding to petitions.

8. Summary of appendices:

Appendix 1 – Table of Current petitions.

9. Is this a private report (If so, please indicate the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)?

No

10. Is this a “key decision”? If so, why?

No

Date Petition referred to Divisional Director	Received From	Subject	Type - Cncr (C) Public (P)	No. of Sig	Ward	Date Receipt Reported to Council (C) / Committee (Cttee)	Lead Divisional Director	Current Position	Scrutiny Chair Involvement	Date of Final Response Letter Sent to Lead Petitioner	Current Status
21/03/2023	Frederick John Ray	Save Hansom Taxis!	(p)	163	Castle		Andrew L Smith	Pettion is currently being investigated by officers, whilst still in planning stage.			GREEN
03/05/2023	Shital Adata	Say NO to a Smokehouse next to Shree Hindu Temple & Community Centre	(p)	339	North Evington		Andrew L Smith	Petition has been verified and is with an officer for the pro-forma to be created.			GREEN
10/05/2023	Ben Glass	Knighton Area Experimental Traffic Order 2022 (TME 2980) Craighill Road Closure	(p)	79	Knighton		Andrew L Smith	Petition has been verified and is with an officer for the pro-forma to be created.			GREEN
15/05/2023	Abdul Karim	Steps to be demolished to stop antisocial behaviour on Mercury Close.	(p)	15	Wycliffe		Caroline Tote	Petition has been verified and is with an officer for the pro-forma to be created.			GREEN

Executive Decision- Revenue Budget Monitoring April-June 2023/24

Decision to be taken by: City Mayor

Decision to be taken on: 20th September 2023

Lead director/ officer: Amy Oliver, Director of Finance

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All
- Report author: Kirsty Cowell
- Author contact details: kirsty.cowell@leicester.gov.uk
- Report version number: 1

1. Summary

This report is the first in the monitoring cycle for 2023/24 and provides early indications of the significant financial pressures the Council is facing this year, and the worsening picture for future years' budgets.

The monitoring exercise has identified an overall net forecast overspend of £12.7m against the latest approved budget. There are £17.0m of cost pressures, partially offset by £4.3m of lower than budgeted costs and additional income.

The £17.0m of cost pressures are:

- £9.9m in Education and Children's Services, of which £9.2m is increased costs of children looked after where placement costs have increased faster than budgeted.
- £4.9m in City Development and Neighbourhoods, of which £3m is additional costs of temporary accommodation for homeless households and £1.2m is the higher costs of waste management after the use of a provision set aside for this purpose.
- £2.2m likely additional costs of the local government pay award over and above the budget provision, based on the current pay offer.

The £4.3m of lower than budgeted costs and additional income are:

- Additional income of £0.3m in Sports Services
- An expected £3m lower cost of energy, compared to the budget provision.
- Underspends of £1.0m in corporate budgets.

The net £12.7m overspend can be met from departmental earmarked reserves.

However, it should be noted that departmental reserves are one-off resources and will not be available in future years - while the underlying cost pressures will continue into future years unless action is taken. It remains imperative that significant savings are identified as soon as possible to safeguard the Council's longer-term financial position.

Management action has been identified resulting in savings of £1.8m per year (by 2025/26), which can be approved now. Details are in Appendix C.

In total, savings identified since the budget was set have reduced expected spend by £2.8m in the current year (assuming the savings in Appendix C are approved). This will allow the call on managed reserves this year to be reduced from the budgeted amount, originally £34.1m.

2. Recommended actions/decision

2.1 The Executive is recommended to:

- Note the emerging picture detailed in the report.
- Approve the reductions to budgets described in Appendix C and for the in-year underspend to be transferred to the Managed Reserve Strategy, and delegate authority to the Director of Finance to determine the specific budget ceilings affected.

2.2 The OSC is recommended to:

Consider the overall position presented within this report and make any observations it sees fit.

3. Scrutiny / stakeholder engagement

N/A

4. Background and options with supporting evidence

The General Fund budget set for the financial year was £382.7m, before the use of managed reserves. Following savings identified since the budget was set, this has been updated to £380.4m.

Appendix A summarises the original budget, current budget and anticipated spending in 2023/24.

Appendix B provides more detailed commentary on the forecast position for each area of the Council's operations.

Appendix C details in-year budget savings, which are now ready to be implemented.

5. Detailed report

See appendices.

6. Financial, legal, equalities, climate emergency and other implications

6.1 Financial implications

This report is solely concerned with financial issues.

6.2 Legal implications

This report is solely concerned with financial issues.

6.3 Equalities implications

Under the Equality Act 2010, public authorities have statutory duties, including the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) which means that, in carrying out their functions they have to pay due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't and to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't.

Protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. There are no direct equality implications arising out of this budget monitoring report.

Equalities Officer, Surinder Singh, Ext 37 4148

6.4 Climate Emergency implications

There are no climate emergency implications directly associated with this report, as it is a budget monitoring report.

However, where proposals are brought forward in order to make additional savings required, any climate emergency implications should be considered and addressed while proposals are being developed, and should be identified in the appropriate decision reports at the time. The Sustainability Team may be able to help departments with assessing implications as part of the evaluation of proposals ahead of report preparation.

Where any necessary capital funding can be identified or secured, the potential role of invest-to-save energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in helping to address revenue budget pressures while also reducing carbon emissions is also worth noting.

Duncan Bell, Change Manager (Climate Emergency). Ext. 37 2249

6.5 Other implications (You will need to have considered other implications in preparing this report. Please indicate which ones apply?)

No other implications are noted as this is a budget monitoring report, and therefore no policy changes are proposed.

7. Background information and other papers:

Report to Council on the 22nd February 2023 on the General Fund Revenue budget 2023/24.

8. Summary of appendices:

Appendix A – Period 3 (April-June) Budget Monitoring Summary

Appendix B – Divisional Narrative – Explanation of Variances

Appendix C – Shows the latest tranche of in-year budget savings

9. Is this a private report (If so, please indicate the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)?

No

10. Is this a “key decision”? If so, why?

Yes – recurrent savings in excess of £0.5m.

Revenue Budget at Period 3 (April – June), 2023-24

Table A

2023-24	Original Budget £000's	Current Budget £000's	Forecast £000's	Variance £000's
Financial Services	12,702.5	12,505.0	12,505.0	0.0
Information Services	10,791.9	10,769.2	10,999.2	230.0
Human Resources & Delivery, Communications & Political Governance	9,737.4	9,416.5	9,186.5	(230.0)
Legal Services	3,752.8	3,751.2	3,751.2	0.0
Corporate Resources & Support	36,984.6	36,441.9	36,441.9	0.0
Planning, Development & Transportation	14,294.7	13,994.6	14,764.8	770.2
Tourism Culture & Inward Investment	4,558.2	3,713.6	3,719.4	5.8
Neighbourhood & Environmental Services	36,214.9	37,527.9	38,746.6	1,218.7
Estates & Building Services	4,927.2	4,966.5	4,966.5	0.0
Departmental Overheads	575.8	575.4	575.4	0.0
Housing Services	4,634.9	4,635.5	7,606.6	2,971.1
City Development & Neighbourhoods	65,205.7	65,413.5	70,379.3	4,965.8
Adult Social Care & Safeguarding	170,181.8	170,149.6	175,745.7	5,596.1
Adult Social Care & Commissioning	(18,061.4)	(18,508.6)	(24,104.7)	(5,596.1)
Sub-Total Adult Social Care	152,120.4	151,641.0	151,641.0	0.0
Strategic Commissioning & Business Support	2,385.5	2,322.9	2,035.2	(287.7)
Learning Services	19,596.5	19,503.4	20,887.0	1,383.6
Children, Young People & Families	71,231.0	71,206.1	80,457.3	9,251.2
Departmental Resources	1,976.3	2,037.3	1,557.5	(479.8)
Sub-Total Education & Children's Services	95,189.3	95,069.7	104,937.0	9,867.3
Total Social Care & Education	247,309.7	246,710.7	256,578.0	9,867.3
Public Health & Sports Services	23,940.6	24,247.2	24,501.0	253.8
Total Operational	373,440.6	372,813.3	387,900.2	15,086.9
Corporate Budgets	34,929.8	33,930.8	32,136.5	(1,794.3)
Capital Financing	2,792.1	2,292.1	2,275.1	(17.0)
Total Corporate & Capital Financing	37,721.9	36,222.9	34,411.6	(1,811.3)
Public Health Grant	(28,448.1)	(28,650.7)	(29,169.5)	(518.8)
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	382,714.4	380,385.5	393,142.3	12,756.8

1.1 Changes since the original budget are summarised in the table below:

	Total General Fund £000's
Original budget	382,714
Savings approved - Period 9 monitoring 22/23	(1,113)
Savings approved - Outturn 22/23	(1,216)
Latest budget	380,385

1.2 The original budgets split between employees, running costs and income are available at

<https://www.leicester.gov.uk/media/50bbavij/budget-summary-2023-2024.pdf>

Divisional Narrative – Explanation of Variances

Corporate Resources and Support

Corporate Resources Department is forecasting to spend £36.4m. The position after the planned use of reserves is a breakeven position:

1. Finance

1.1. The Financial Services Division is forecasting to break even.

2. Information Services (IS), Human Resources (HR), Delivery Communications & Political Governance (DCPG) and Legal, Registration & Coronial Services

2.1. Taken together IS, HR, DCPG and Legal, Registration & Coronial Service are forecasting to spend to budget after the planned use of reserves.

2.2. The HR service is forecasting a £230k underspend, resulting from vacancies across various areas together with additional traded income. This will support Information Services to reduce the call on reserves for new IT equipment.

2.3. The forecast takes account of the planned use of reserves for Information Services (to fund new equipment) and Electoral Services following the council and mayoral election in May 2023.

2.4. Coronial and registrar services are forecasting to spend £0.6m as per the budget, after support from corporate budgets of £0.45m, as in previous years.

3. City Catering

3.1. City Catering faced significant headwinds in 2022/23 with increasing food costs and pay inflation, together with lower levels of uptake of school meals. Meal price increases have previously been kept to a minimum, but pay and food inflation meant that at the end of 2022/23 the cost of producing meals was more than the prices charged to schools.

3.2. New charging arrangements are in place from August this year and together with some internal re-organisation of staffing this is forecast to significantly reduce the deficit this year from £1m in 2022/23 to £0.5m which will be funded from the school catering reserve. When in place for the full year 2024/25 the new arrangements are intended to enable the catering service to be fully financially sustainable without the use of one-off reserves.

City Development and Neighbourhoods

The department is forecasting to spend £70.4m, some £5.0m above budget. However, it is proposed to contribute £3.0m of departmental reserves and grants towards increased homelessness costs, which would reduce the overspend to £2.0m.

4. Planning, Development & Transportation

4.1. The division is forecasting to spend £14.8m, resulting in an overspend of £0.8m. An income shortfall of £0.9m is expected across parking services, in on and off-street parking and penalty charge notices. There is a £1.5m forecast overspend on bus services, including supported bus services and park & ride, compounded by lower than budgeted income from bus lane enforcement. The pressures on parking and bus services are expected to be fully offset by a £2.4m underspend on concessionary fares. In a continuation of pressures being experienced in previous years reflecting the economic downturn, fewer major planning applications being submitted is currently predicted to lead to an income shortfall of £0.7m. Savings are being identified to address the budget gap, along with mitigating measures for the current financial year.

5. Tourism, Culture & Inward Investment

5.1. The division is forecasting to spend £3.7m and after the planned use of reserves totalling £0.6m will result in a breakeven position. Whilst cost of living pressures may have an adverse impact on income levels across the service, these will be managed to achieve a balanced outturn position.

6. Neighbourhood & Environmental Services

6.1. The division is forecasting to spend £38.7m, which is expected to result in an overspend of £1.2m after additional funding of £1.8m for waste management is transferred from corporate budgets.

6.2. Overall, waste management costs are £3.0m higher than budget. Higher than expected inflation has resulted in contractual payments under the waste PFI contract being £0.5m higher than budgeted. The volume of waste being sent to landfill increased significantly during covid, which continues to be the case; the additional cost of associated landfill tax is expected to be £1.2m. A technical change imposed by HMRC on the calculation of landfill tax payable on certain types of waste is expected to have a £0.9m impact for the year. Separately, additional costs of £0.4m are being incurred due to legislative changes in the treatment and haulage of contaminated waste, along with smaller pressures within the service.

- 6.3. As volumes continue to remain high, £1.8m has been transferred from a provision included in the corporate budget to offset the costs of additional inflation and landfill tax. This reduces the net overspend to £1.2m.
- 6.4. Costs will be monitored throughout the year, with the potential for the overspend to reduce as the impact of legislative changes becomes clearer. In addition, savings are being sought to manage the impact and work towards a breakeven position by the year end.

7. Estates & Building Services

- 7.1. The division is forecasting to spend £5.0m and after the use of reserves totalling £0.2m will result in a breakeven position. Whilst a number of pressures persist, including a shortfall of income within the Corporate Estate and on fee income within the Capital Projects Team, and higher costs continuing to be incurred on vacant buildings, these are being managed through savings on vacant posts.

8. Departmental Overheads

- 8.1. This area holds budgets for added years' pension costs and departmental salaries. This is forecast to break even.

9. Housing General Fund

- 9.1. The division is forecasting to spend £7.6m, £3m in excess of budget. Growth in the cost of homelessness is the main reason and is a significant national issue: the pressure is likely to be ongoing. Specifically, the number of homeless families in Leicester continues to add to the cost of temporary accommodation, the gross cost of which is expected to exceed £3m this year. Grants and reserves will be used to manage this pressure, eliminating the overspend this year. Work continues to find longer-term resolutions.

10. Housing Revenue Account

- 10.1. The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is a ring-fenced income and expenditure account relating to the management and maintenance of the Council's housing stock. The HRA is forecast to break even. Revenue is also used for capital spending, which is reported separately within the capital monitoring report.
- 10.2. Income from core rent and service charges is expected to be on target for the year.
- 10.3. The Repairs and Maintenance service is forecast to overspend by £1.7m. Whilst there are vacant posts generating underspends of £0.5m, these will be more than offset by the use of contractors, costing £0.9m. Materials and running costs are expected to add a further £0.8m, particularly in voids where there is a

continued focus on turning properties around; this focus also results in a reduction in income from capital charges of £0.5m. An increase in disrepair claims will create a pressure of £1m. This will be resolved by the introduction of fixed recoverable costs, but in the meantime, it is proposed to fund this from reductions in the capital budget.

10.4. Management and Landlord Services are expected to underspend by £1.9m. The price of gas supplying the district heating network has fallen since the budget was set. This will reduce the subsidy to households being borne by the HRA by an estimated £2.3m, from the budgeted £3.9m to an estimated actual cost of £1.6m. A reduction in the forecast number of property sales through Right to Buy will reduce income to fund the administration cost by £150k. Separately, the Council Tax payable on void properties is likely to be £250k higher than budgeted.

10.5. The HRA makes contributions towards general fund activities as well as being charged for a fair proportion of the Council's overheads. These are expected to be £0.2m more than the budget due to inflationary increases for these services.

Adult Social Care

11. Adult Social Care

11.1. Adult social care is forecasting to spend £151.7m as per the budget.

11.2. In March 2023 DLUHC announced the 2023/24 allocations for the market sustainability and improvement fund (MSIF) for local authorities. Although the implementation of the charging aspects of the reforms to adult social care have been delayed until October 2025, the government has provided the MSIF to allow local authorities to increase fee rates to providers to ensure they are sustainable and to build capacity against the backdrop of the fair cost of care exercises carried out in 2022.

11.3. Leicester received £3.6m and all of this has been used to supplement existing fee increases funded by the Council to better reflect the impact of inflation on provider costs seen in 2022 and forecast for 2023. Due to the technical accounting treatment of these grants, a variance is reported on the Social Care & Safeguarding and Social Care & Commissioning budget lines, but these net off to zero.

11.4. A further Workforce Improvement grant of £2.4m was announced at the end of July. This has not been included in the reported figures at this stage, although there is likely to be additional spend matching the grant and hence no net effect on the budget.

- 11.5. The Council and the Integrated Care Board (ICB) have also received funds to support discharge from hospitals into social care. The combined total is £4.8m which is being spent on additional intermediate home care, bed based intermediate care, residential care and workforce recruitment and retention.
- 11.6. There has been a 1.3% net increase in the number of people receiving adult social care by the end of June compared to April taking actual numbers from 5,423 to 5,492. The increase in working age adults was 1.5% and older people 1.1%. The budget assumes an overall growth in numbers of 4% for the year.
- 11.7. Of those receiving care at the start of the year, 19% have had their care package cost increased on average by 9% year to date. Whilst the proportion of people with care package changes at the same time last year was similar, the care package increase percentage was significantly higher last year at 20%. This is encouraging although it is too early in the year to be clear whether this will be sustained. There is a backlog of outstanding reviews and this may have an impact on the number and size of package changes in the remaining 9 months of the year.
- 11.8. At this stage of the year net package costs are forecast to be as per the budget.
- 11.9. There are a limited number of vacancies within care management and these are being managed with agency staff. There are no other significant issues within the preventative services.

Education and Children's Services

12. Education and Children's Services

- 12.1. The department is forecasting to overspend by £9.9m. This is substantially due to the cost of children looked after and other placements forecast to be £9.2m more than the budget. In addition, there are a range of other overspends totalling £2.7m, partly offset by staff vacancy savings of £2.0m.
- 12.2. The £9.2m additional cost of children looked after will be funded on a one-off basis this year through the use of the social care and education earmarked reserves. However, clearly there is a significant issue for 2024/25 which will need to be addressed as part of the forthcoming budget setting process.
- 12.3. As outlined in the 2022/23 outturn report, there was a significant increase in the average cost of placements by the end of March 2023. This was a result of a greater proportion of new high cost semi-independent and external residential placements in the second half of the year; significant cost increases to existing high needs placements through a combination of

greater support needs and provider cost pressure with a lack of alternative placements available; finally, a number of existing placements broke down with the young person needing greater support levels and therefore higher cost provision.

- 12.4. These events in the second half of 2022/23 coupled with price rises at the start of the new financial year (including a 12% increase in the national minimum fostering rates which affects special guardianships as well as foster carers) resulted in the placement cohort at 1st April 2023 forecast to cost £7.4m more in the current year than was budgeted for. The average placement cost per annum for the cohort at 1st April was £60k, £10k higher than the budget and with 10 more places than budgeted for.
- 12.5. The impact of high-cost placements has continued into the first 3 months of 2023/24 with 3 new expensive residential placements. Those that left care in the period were in lower cost provision. There has also been the cost impact of further placement breakdowns in the first 3 months with, for example, 3 children moving to high-cost residential provision.
- 12.6. Net growth in placement numbers this year to date is 6, taking the total placements excluding special guardianships to 674 at the end of June. The 674 includes 55 Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC), one less than at the start of the year. The forecast assumes that net growth for the rest of the year will continue at the same rate, i.e. 24 for the year compared to 10 in the budget.
- 12.7. Whilst the £7.4m additional cost of the cohort at the start of the year will not change, the other elements of the forecast are clearly sensitive to expectations for the remaining 9 months of the year. For example, whether or not the recent intake of higher cost placements is or is not sustained results in a forecast overspend range of between £9.2m and £10.3m.
- 12.8. There are currently 149 residential and semi-independent placements which make up 22% of the total placements of 674, but these 22% incur 70% of the placement costs.
- 12.9. External residential costs are currently averaging £279k p.a. per placement, whilst in-house residential care averages £207k p.a. and semi-independent £125k. All other placements now average £35k p.a. This emphasises the extent to which high-cost placements influence the total placement cost. These expensive placements will be reviewed shortly by an external consultancy to determine whether they match the need of the child. Further work is also being done to assess the current level of contributions from the ICB for those children with mental health needs.

- 12.10. In addition to the £9.2m overspend from placement costs, a number of other over and under-spend items are expected as outlined below.
- 12.11. A £0.96m overspend is forecast from the continuing pressure on SEN home to school transport, with taxi journey price inflation the main factor driving up costs with journeys now costing an average of £13.7k p.a. per child. There are also pressures on the home to school taxi budget for children looked after, an increased demand for disabled children's respite service and more demand for legal and translation services for social care. New statutory guidance for local authorities effective from September this year means that the Education Welfare Service can no longer charge schools for the majority of its existing casework which whilst currently traded, will become a Council statutory duty. This will cost an estimated £0.35m, for which no new burdens funding is being provided. These pressures total some £2.7m.
- 12.12. The overspends are partially offset by underspends of £2m as a result of a number of staffing vacancies across early help (in advance of reviews), in social care (20 agency social workers are being employed to cover vacancies) and in administration which continues to struggle with high staff turnover and difficulties in recruitment.
- 12.13. The remaining overspend of £9.2m will be funded on a one-off basis this year through the use of the social care and education earmarked reserves. However, clearly there is a significant issue for 2024/25 which will be addressed as part of the forthcoming budget setting process.
- 12.14. The pressure on the high needs block (HNB) of the dedicated schools grant (DSG) continues. The number of requests for education, health and care (EHC) plans continues at unprecedented levels following the lull during the pandemic. In the calendar year 2022, 788 requests were received with a record in a single month of 100 in December. The number of requests in 2022 was 44% higher than in 2019 the last full year prior to the pandemic. The equivalent national figure is 37%. Numbers of requests in 2023 to May are 40% higher so far than the equivalent period in 2022 with another record of 104 requests received in May 2023.
- 12.15. The DfE has increased the HNB allocation by £7.5m in 2023/24 to £79m. Forecast expenditure for the HNB in 2023/24 is based on the forecast EHC plans and probable placement type taking into account the current capacity constraints of the system. Overall funded placements are forecast to increase by 8.3% to 3,756, with a significant increase in expensive independent placements (189 compared to 124 in 2022/23) and a further increase in mainstream placements. Inflation has also been included within the budget, generally at 3.4% as per the guidance provided by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).

- 12.16. The high level of independent placements means that forecast HNB expenditure rises to £85.9m, 12.8% more than in 2022/23, resulting in a forecast in-year deficit of £6.9m. This would take the cumulative DSG deficit to £12.9m at the end of 2023/24.
- 12.17. The Council is in the process of completing a deficit recovery management plan which will incorporate the most recent forecast of EHC plan numbers up to 2029/30. The deficit recovery management plan will be presented to Schools' Forum at its next meeting in September.
- 12.18. The DfE will continue to use the Safety Valve programme to intervene with those councils which have the highest DSG deficits; the Delivering Better Value in SEND is another programme for those with lower deficits and is delivered by Newton Consulting. Leicester is not yet part of either of these programmes.
- 12.19. In March 2023, the DfE released the SEND and AP (Alternative Provision) improvement plan. This followed on from the SEN green paper but there was little additional information in the improvement plan with regards to making the system financially sustainable and no new announcements on revenue funding. The main issue remains the continued annual increase in net EHC plans as outlined above. The current level and continued increase in demand is unsustainable. Further expansion of in-house provision is limited and our recent application for an additional special free school was surprisingly not approved by the DfE. This means further reliance on independent provider placements is required in the short term which are significantly more expensive. These issues and our approach to reducing demand for high-cost placements through further inclusivity in the mainstream schools system and early intervention will form the basis of our discussions about the deficit management recovery plan with the DfE.

Public Health and Sports Services

13. Public Health

- 13.1. Public Health is forecasting to spend £22.2m, after the use of £1.3m of reserves. The remaining forecast overspend of £0.5m is offset by additional grant income, shown on the separate budget line for Public Health Grant in Appendix A. This is due to the impact of the (belated) 2022/23 NHS pay award on externally contracted services.
- 13.2. The 2023/24 NHS pay settlement affecting external public health contracts has been finalised at 5%. This will be funded by the ICB as a one-off in 2023/24, so has no net impact on costs this year. The on-going cost will be

funded by a permanent additional allocation to the main public health grant, which will be addressed when setting the 2024/25 budget.

14. Sports Services

- 14.1. Sports Services are forecasting an underspend of £0.3m reducing the net cost to the Council to £2.3m.
- 14.2. Income from leisure centres is forecast to be £0.5m more than the budget of £6.6m. The service implemented a fee increase of 12% from May this year and now has 12,000 health and fitness members, a target which was reached ahead of schedule. The refurbishments completed in January 2023 at Spence Street and Braunstone have contributed to reaching this target with Braunstone in particular increasing its members by 1,000, a 33% increase.
- 14.3. There are currently around 8,000 learn to swim members and whilst there is further demand, growth is being constrained because of continued difficulties in recruiting and retaining swim instructors.
- 14.4. To resource the additional activity, more staffing is required, including health and fitness instructors at Evington. Together with continued price pressure on consumables including chemical water treatments, this results in unbudgeted costs of £0.2m which partially offset the extra income.

Corporate Items & Reserves

15. Corporate Items

- 15.1. The corporate budgets cover the Council's capital financing costs, items such as audit fees, bank charges, contingencies and levies. This budget is currently forecasting an underspend of £1.8m.
- 15.2. The local government employers have made a pay offer of a flat rate of £1,925 per FTE on all pay points, from 1 April 2023. The initial modelling estimates that this will cost approximately £11.2m, some £2.2m more than budgeted. The pay award has not yet been accepted, and this figure will increase if a higher settlement is reached. The budget for pay awards is held centrally until finalised.
- 15.3. This overspend has been offset by a forecast saving of £3m in energy costs. Provision for additional energy costs was made centrally in the approved budget.
- 15.4. There are further underspends of £1.0m, mainly from additional recharges to the HRA and business rates revaluations.

- 15.5. A corporate contingency of £3.6m remains in the budget for unforeseen pressures.
- 15.6. Capital Financing income is forecast to be on budget: interest rates on investments are higher than forecast, but this is offset by lower cash balances reducing the amount of interest receivable. The situation around investment returns remains volatile and will continue to be monitored.

Savings Identified

- 1.1 As members are aware, the funding outlook for 2024/25 and beyond is bleak. Directors continue to identify and make savings during the course of 2023/24, which help reduce the scale of expected future deficits. Savings have already been reported in the 2022/23 monitoring reports. and in the 2023/24 budget report it was noted the Council need to continue to find savings in future budgets, to manage the impact of government funding settlements which are expected to be inadequate.
- 1.2 Where savings are made as part of a service review, decisions will be taken in the normal manner through a decision report. Where savings are incidental or can be made through management action, it is proposed to continue our previous practice of seeking approval to budget adjustments through routine budget monitoring reports.
- 1.3 Approval is sought to make the following budget adjustments:

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
	£000's	£000's	£000's
<u>City Development and Neighbourhood savings</u>			
Efficiency savings in building management	86	439	439
Management Savings in Regulatory Services and additional income	100	200	200
Review of running costs and charges for services across landscape services and parks & grounds maintenance	-	156	156
Cost savings and new income in cycling/walking promotion service	40	106	106
Efficiency savings within Fleet and Passenger Transport Services	126	206	206
Total City Development & Neighbourhood savings	352	1,107	1,107
<u>Corporate resources & Support savings</u>			
Efficiency savings resulting from staffing reviews	128	463	648
Additional income from expanding car leasing framework to other authorities	-	20	20
Total Corporate resources & Support savings	128	483	668
TOTAL PROPOSED SAVINGS	480	1,590	1,775

Executive Decision Capital Budget Monitoring April-June 2023/24

Decision to be taken by: City Mayor

Decision to be taken on: 20th September 2023

Lead director/officer: Amy Oliver, Director of Finance

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All
- Report author: Kirsty Cowell , Head of Finance
- Author contact details: Kirsty.cowell@leicester.gov.uk

1. Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to show the position of the capital programme at the end of June 2023 (Period 3).
- 1.2 This is the first capital monitoring report of the financial year. Two further quarterly reports and an outturn report will be presented as the year progresses.
- 1.3 As reported in the previous year's monitoring reports, many projects have delayed completion dates and face additional costs due to volatility in the construction industry and inflationary pressures. The limited labour and resourcing issues facing contractors' capacity levels is impacting tender price returns. Some work programmes will manage this through their current budget by deferring planned work. When this is not possible it is reported in the monitoring and decisions are taken as necessary. It is anticipated these additional cost pressures will continue to be an issue for the foreseeable future.

2. Recommended actions/decision

- The Executive is recommended to:
 - Note total spend of £25m for the year to date.
 - Approve the following additions:
 - £1,800k for Connecting Leicester, funded by Active Travel Fund grant, See Appendix A, Planning, Development & Transportation, Para 2.1.
 - £457k for the additional works required at the Dawn Centre, which are to be funded by borrowing, see Appendix A, Housing (HRA), Para 2.3.
 - Approve the following transfer:
 - £385k for Council Housing - Disabled Adaptations & Improvements, funded by a transfer from Goscote House Demolition, see Appendix B, Para 3.8

- Approve the following policy provision releases:
- Release £250k from the other HRA schemes policy provision to HRA revenue for concrete repair works on the St Matthews Centre.
- Approve the following saving:
- £1,000k reduction from HRA Council Housing - External Property Works, to HRA Revenue to fund Disrepair costs, see Appendix B, Para 3.9

The OSC is recommended to:

- Consider the overall position presented within this report and make any observations it sees fit.

3. Scrutiny / stakeholder engagement

N/a

4. Background and options with supporting evidence

4.1 The 2023/24 Capital programme was initially approved by Council on 22nd February 2023. It has subsequently been amended (including the 2022/23 outturn).

The capital programme is split in the following way:

- (a) Schemes classified as '**immediate starts**', which require no further approval to commence; and
- (b) A number of separate '**policy provisions**' which are not released until specific proposals have been approved by the Executive.

4.2 Immediate Starts are further split into:

- (a) **Projects**, which are discrete, individual schemes such as a road scheme or a new building. Monitoring of projects focusses on delivery of projects on time and the achievement of milestones. Consequently, there is no attention given to in-year financial slippage;
- (b) **Work Programmes**, which consist of minor works or similar on-going schemes where there is an allocation of money to be spent during a particular year. Monitoring of work programmes focusses on whether the money is spent in a timely fashion;
- (c) **Provisions**, which are sums of money set aside in case they are needed, where low spend is a favourable outcome rather than indicative of a problem;

(d) **Schemes which are substantially complete.** These schemes are the tail end of schemes in previous years' capital programmes, usually consisting of small amounts of money brought forward from earlier years.

4.3 A summary of the total approved 2023/24 capital programme as at Period 3 is shown below:

	£000
Projects	183,096
Work Programmes	223,781
Provisions	191
Schemes Substantially Complete	2,880
Total Immediate Starts	409,948
Policy Provisions	27,134
Total Capital Programme	437,082

4.4 The following changes have occurred to the capital programme since period 1:

	£000
Electric Bus Investment and Grant	2,973
SEND Feasibility Studies	210
Study Zones	135
Net Movements	3,318

These movements are included in the table at 4.3 above.

4.5 The following appendices to this report show progress on each type of scheme:

- Appendix A – Projects
- Appendix B – Work Programmes
- Appendix C – Provisions
- Appendix D – Projects Substantially Complete
- Appendix E – Policy Provisions

4.6 This report only monitors policy provisions to the extent that spending approval has been given, at which point they will be classified as projects, work programmes or provisions.

4.7 Capital Receipts

4.7.1 At Period 3, the Council has realised £5.0m of General Fund capital receipts, of which £4.6m relates to ringfenced receipts required for repayment of borrowing on the Ashton Green and Waterside developments.

4.7.2 “Right to Buy” receipts from sales of council housing have amounted to £4.6m received in year.

5. Detailed report

N/A

6. Financial, legal, equalities, climate emergency and other implications

6.1 Financial implications

This report is solely concerned with financial issues.

Kirsty Cowell, Head of Finance, 37 2377

6.2 Legal implications

There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

Kevin Carter, Head of Law - Commercial, Property & Planning. 37 4197

6.3 Equalities implications

Under the Equality Act 2010, public authorities have statutory duties, including the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) which means that, in carrying out their functions they have to pay due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't and to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't.

Protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. People from across all protected characteristics will benefit from the improved public good arising from the capital programme. At this time, there are no further equality implications as these have already been identified for the proposals agreed and submitted.

There may be future projects, arising from the report and its recommendations, which would benefit from further consideration of the equalities implications and possibly a full equality impact assessment in certain circumstances. Whether an Equalities Impact Assessment is required will be dependent upon how work develops and whether the changes are likely to have a disproportionate impact on any protected group; this is usually the case where there are significant changes or a reduction in provision.

Equalities Officer, Surinder Singh, ext. 37 4148

6.4 Climate Emergency implications

There are no climate emergency implications directly associated with this report , as it is a budget monitoring report.

It should be noted that many of the key actions available to the council to reduce carbon emissions and ensure resilience to climate change require capital investment. So, the content of the capital programme and its successful delivery are critical to the authority's climate emergency response.

Duncan Bell, Change Manager (Climate Emergency). Ext. 37 2249

6.5 Other implications (You will need to have considered other implications in preparing this report. Please indicate which ones apply?)

No other implications are noted as this is a budget monitoring report, and therefore no policy changes are proposed.

7. Background information and other papers:

Capital Programme 2023/24 approved by Council on 22nd February 2023.

Housing Revenue Account Budget (including Capital Programme) 2023/24 approved by Council on 22nd February 2023.

8. Summary of appendices:

- Appendix A – Projects
- Appendix B – Work Programmes
- Appendix C – Provisions
- Appendix D – Projects Substantially Complete
- Appendix E – Policy Provisions

9. Is this a private report (If so, please indicate the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)?

No.

10. Is this a “key decision”? If so, why?

Yes. Expenditure exceeding £1m is proposed which has not been specifically approved by Council.

PROJECTS

1. Summary

1.1 As stated in the cover report, the focus of monitoring projects is physical delivery, i.e. whether they are being delivered on time, on budget and to the original specification. This appendix summarises progress on projects. Project summaries provided by departments/divisions are shown on pages 12-23 within this Appendix.

Department / Division	Remaining Budget £000	2023/24 Spend £000
Planning, Development & Transportation	95,816	12,341
Tourism, Culture & Inward Investment	36,297	1,323
Neighbourhood & Environmental Services	4,548	19
Estates & Building Services	14,050	1,023
Housing	0	0
Adult Social Care	2,510	0
Children's Services	21,809	1,001
Public Health	0	0
Housing Revenue Account	8,066	232
Total	183,096	15,939

1.2 A list of the individual projects is shown in the table on pages 9-10 of this report. This also summarises the progress of each project. Attention is drawn to expected completion dates and any project issues that have arisen.

1.3 A colour-coded rating of progress of each project has been determined, based on whether the project is progressing to the latest approved delivery and cost plan as expected, and whether it is still expected to complete within budget.

1.4 The ratings used are:

- (a) **Green** Successful delivery of the project on time, within budget, to specification and in line with original objectives seems very likely. There are no major issues that appear to threaten delivery significantly.
- (b) **Amber** Successful delivery of the project on time, within budget, to specification and in line with original objectives appears probable. However, some risks exist, and close attention will be required to ensure these risks

do not materialise into major issues threatening delivery. Alternatively, a project is classed as amber if some insubstantial slippage or minor overspend is probable.

- (c) **Red** Successful delivery of the project on time, within budget, to specification and in line with original objectives appears to be unachievable. The project is expected to require redefining, significant additional time or additional budget.
- (d) **Blue** The project is substantially complete.
- (e) **Purple** The project is on hold, for reasons which have nothing to do with management of the capital programme. Examples include reconsideration of whether the project is still needed as originally proposed, or withdrawal of a funder.

2. Summary of Individual Projects

Dept/ Division	Project	Remaining Budget (£000)	2023/24 Spend (£000)	Forecast O/(U)spend (£000)	Original Completion Date	Forecast Completion Date	Previous Reported RAG Rating	Project RAG Rating @ P3
CDN (PDT)	Connecting Leicester	32,627	4,001	0	Nov-20	Dec-24	Green	Amber
CDN (PDT)	Waterside Strategic Regeneration Area	3,793	179	0	Mar-23	Jun-26	Green	Green
CDN (PDT)	St George's Churchyard	558	4	0	Aug-18	Jul-24	Amber	Green
CDN (PDT)	City-wide Parkmap TRO review, signs and lines upgrades	83	25	0	Mar-21	Aug-23	Green	Blue
CDN (PDT)	North West Leicester Regeneration Area	60	12	0	Mar-22	Dec-23	Green	Green
CDN (PDT)	High Streets Heritage Action Zones	808	40	0	Apr-24	Mar-24	Amber	Green
CDN (PDT)	Saffron Brook	280	136	0	Mar-23	Jun-23	Green	Blue
CDN (PDT)	Leicester Railway Station - Levelling up	20,878	366	0	Mar-24	Feb-25	Amber	Amber
CDN (PDT)	Electric Bus Investment	7,903	5,023	0	Dec-23	Sep-24	Green	Green
CDN (PDT)	Pioneer Park - Levelling Up	25,031	2,555	0	Dec-24	Dec-24	Amber	Green
CDN (PDT)	Land South of Midland Street	1,145	0	0	Sep-22	Sep-23	Green	Blue
CDN (PDT)	Ashton Green Access Road	2,250	0	0	Dec-24	Dec-24	Green	Green
CDN (PDT)	St Paul's Church	400	0	0	Aug-25	Aug-25	N/A	Green
CDN (TCI)	Jewry Wall Museum Improvements	10,004	766	0	Mar-23	Aug-24	Green	Green
CDN (TCI)	Leicester Market Redevelopment	9,762	88	0	Dec-21	Oct-24	Green	Amber
CDN (TCI)	Onsite Construction Skills Hub	706	85	0	Dec-22	Mar-25	Amber	Green
CDN (TCI)	Leicester Museum and Art Gallery Phase 1	2,091	52	0	Mar-22	Jun-26	Green	Green
CDN (TCI)	Growth Hub	343	305	0	Jun-23	Jun-23	Green	Blue
CDN (TCI)	Fashion Technology Academy	120	8	0	Aug-23	Aug-23	Green	Blue
CDN (TCI)	De Montfort Hall	722	12	0	Mar-22	Mar-24	Green	Green
CDN (TCI)	Pilot House - Levelling Up	12,281	0	0	Mar-24	Feb-25	Amber	Amber
CDN (TCI)	Ugandan Asians – 50 Year Anniversary Commemoration	268	7	0	Jun-23	Mar-24	Amber	Amber
CDN (NES)	Library Self Access Rollout	587	0	0	Sep-24	Sep-24	Green	Green
CDN (NES)	St Margaret's Pastures Skate Park	334	7	0	Jan-23	Apr-24	Amber	Amber
CDN (NES)	Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs)	3,106	9	0	Mar-25	Mar-25	Green	Green
CDN (NES)	Spinney Hills Park - Levelling Up	196	3	0	Mar-24	Mar-24	Green	Green
CDN (NES)	African Caribbean Centre Maintenance	60	0	0	Jan-24	Jan-24	N/A	Green
CDN (NES)	Ash Die Back Equipment	130	0	0	Sep-23	Sep-23	N/A	Green
CDN (NES)	Study Zones	135	0	0	Mar-24	Mar-24	N/A	Green
Total		136,661	13,683	0				

Dept/ Division	Project	Remaining Budget (£000)	2023/24 Spend (£000)	Forecast O/(U)spend (£000)	Original Completion Date	Forecast Completion Date	Previous Reported RAG Rating	Project RAG Rating @ P3
CDN (EBS)	Estate Shops	496	16	0	Mar-22	Oct-23	Green	Amber
CDN (EBS)	Haymarket Theatre - Internal Completion Works	301	0	0	Mar-21	Sep-23	Amber	Amber
CDN (EBS)	Aylestone Leisure Centre PV Panels	595	310	(140)	Aug-22	Jun-23	Green	Blue
CDN (EBS)	Changing Places - Disabled Facilities Toilets	305	0	0	Mar-24	Mar-24	Green	Green
CDN (EBS)	Malcolm Arcade Refurbishment	1,353	9	0	Nov-23	Nov-23	Green	Green
CDN (EBS)	Bosworth House	675	580	0	Aug-23	Jun-23	Amber	Blue
CDN (EBS)	Replacement Cladding Phoenix Square	9,570	108	0	Dec-24	Sep-25	Green	Amber
CDN (EBS)	St Nicholas Wall	460	0	0	Sep-24	Sep-24	N/A	Green
CDN (EBS)	Aikman Avenue District Heating	195	0	0	Dec-23	TBC	N/A	Purple
CDN (EBS)	Phoenix Arts Car Park	100	0	0	Mar-25	Mar-25	N/A	Green
SCE (ASC)	Extra Care Schemes	2,510	0	0	Aug-20	Jan-26	Green	Green
SCE (ECS)	Additional SEND Places (including Pupil Referral Units)	11,404	493	0	Jan-24	Sep-25	Amber	Amber
SCE (ECS)	Overdale Infant and Juniors School Expansion	3,255	455	0	Nov-21	Mar-24	Amber	Amber
SCE (ECS)	Pindar Nursery	841	3	0	Mar-23	TBC	Purple	Purple
SCE (ECS)	S106 Additional School Places	434	0	0	Sep-23	Aug-24	Green	Green
SCE (ECS)	Tiny Forests in Leicester Schools	53	0	0	May-23	May-23	Green	Blue
SCE (ECS)	Children's Homes Refurbishments	900	41	0	Sep-23	Jul-24	Amber	Amber
SCE (ECS)	Expansion of Children's Homes	2,037	8	0	May-23	Dec-24	Green	Amber
SCE (ECS)	Winstanley Contact Centre	685	1	0	Apr-24	Apr-24	Green	Green
SCE (ECS)	Education System Re-tender	2,200	0	0	Mar-26	Mar-26	Green	Green
Total (excluding HRA)		175,030	15,707	(140)				
CDN (HRA)	New House Build Council Housing	550	0	0	Apr-23	Mar-25	Green	Green
CDN (HRA)	Tower Block Sprinkler Systems	1,004	221	0	Apr-22	Oct-23	Green	Amber
CDN (HRA)	Property Conversions	170	0	0	Mar-22	Mar-24	Green	Green
CDN (HRA)	Bridlespur Way Refurbishment	300	0	0	Mar-23	Jan-24	Green	Green
CDN (HRA)	Greener Homes	667	0	0	Mar-22	Jun-23	Green	Blue
CDN (HRA)	Dawn Centre Reconfiguration	1,043	11	457	May-23	Jun-24	Amber	Amber
CDN (HRA)	St Matthews Concrete Works	1,300	0	0	Mar-24	Sep-24	Green	Amber
CDN (HRA)	District Heating Metering	3,032	0	0	Jan-24	Jan-24	Amber	Green
Total HRA		8,066	232	457				
Total (including HRA)		183,096	15,939	317				

Commentary on Specific Projects

- 3.1 Explanatory commentary for projects that are not currently progressing as planned, or for which issues have been identified, is provided in the next pages. This has been defined as any scheme that has a RAG Rating other than “green” or “blue”.

Capital Programme Project Monitoring 2023/24 P3

Planning, Development & Transportation

1. Projects Summary

Project Name	Remaining Budget (£000)	Over / (Under) Spend (£000)	Original Completion Date	Forecast Completion Date	RAG Rating
Connecting Leicester	32,627	0	March 2024	Dec 2024	A
Waterside Strategic Regeneration Area	3,793	0	March 2023	June 2026	G
St George's Churchyard	558	0	Aug 2018	July 2024	G
City-wide Parkmap TRO review, signs and lines upgrades	83	0	March 2021	Aug 2023	B
North West Leicester Regeneration Area	60	0	March 2022	Dec 2023	G
High Streets Heritage Action Zones	808	0	April 2024	March 2024	G
Saffron Brook	280	0	March 2023	June 2023	B
Leicester Station Improvements – Levelling Up	20,878	0	March 2024	Feb 2025	A
Electric Bus Investment	7,903	0	Sep 2024	Sep 2024	G
Pioneer Park – Levelling Up	25,031	0	Dec 2024	Dec 2024	G
Land South of Midland Street	1,145	0	Sep 2022	Sep 2023	B
Ashton Green Access Road	2,250	0	Dec 2024	Dec 2024	G
St Paul's Church	400	0	Aug 2025	Aug 2025	G
Total	95,816	0			

- 2. Projects Commentary** (for **all** projects rated Amber, Red or Purple).
- 2.1. Connecting Leicester** – The expected completion date of the overall Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) project, which is made up of a number of schemes, has been extended to allow for additional works at Red Hill Circle. Some individual schemes are taking longer than planned, for example undetected utilities were identified on the A50 site during construction, which required liaison with the utility company. This report seeks the approval of £1,800k funded from Active Travel Fund grant to improve active travel infrastructure at Rally Park.
- 2.2. Leicester Station Improvements – Levelling Up** – We are expecting further delays to the forecast completion date, due to the lease surrender negotiations with existing tenants taking longer than originally expected and it is anticipated that the appointment of a contractor will be affected by national construction inflation.

Capital Programme Project Monitoring 2023/24 P3

Tourism, Culture and Inward Investment

1. Projects Summary

Project Name	Remaining Budget (£000)	Over / (Under) Spend (£000)	Original Completion Date	Forecast Completion Date	RAG Rating
Jewry Wall Museum Improvements	10,004	0	March 2023	Aug 2024	G
Leicester Market Redevelopment	9,762	600	Dec 2021	Oct 2024	A
Onsite Construction Skills Hub	706	0	Dec 2022	March 2025	G
Leicester Museum and Art Gallery Phase 1	2,091	0	March 2022	June 2026	G
Growth Hub	343	0	June 2023	June 2023	B
Fashion Technology Academy	120	0	Aug 2023	Aug 2023	B
De Montfort Hall	722	0	March 2022	March 2024	G
Pilot House – Levelling Up	12,281	0	March 2024	Feb 2025	A
Ugandan Asians – 50 Year Anniversary Commemoration	268	0	June 2023	March 2024	A
Total	36,297	600			

2 Projects Commentary (for **all** projects rated Amber, Red or Purple)

2.1 Leicester Market Redevelopment – As reported on other schemes, inflationary pressures being experienced nationally across the construction industry are causing budgetary pressures. As a result, it is expected that this scheme is going to require additional funding at some point in the future and a decision will be sought once the exact amount is known.

2.2 Pilot House – Levelling Up – The projected completion date has been extended to February 2025. This is due to the time taken to enter into contract with the main contractor.

2.3 Ugandan Asians – 50 Year Anniversary Commemoration – The community sculpture is due to be installed by September 2023. A crowd funding campaign will be launched for complementary landscaping works surrounding the artwork, which are expected to complete by March 2024.

Capital Programme Project Monitoring 2023/24 P3

Neighbourhood and Environmental Services

1. Projects Summary

Project Name	Remaining Budget (£000)	Over / (Under) Spend (£000)	Original Completion Date	Forecast Completion Date	RAG Rating
Library Self Access Rollout	587	0	Sept 2024	Sept 2024	G
St Margaret's Pastures Skate Park	334	0	Jan 2023	April 2024	A
Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs)	3,106	0	March 2025	March 2025	G
Spinney Hills Park - Levelling Up	196	0	March 2024	March 2024	G
African Caribbean Centre Maintenance	60	0	Jan 2024	Jan 2024	G
Ash Die Back Equipment	130	0	Sept 2023	Sept 2023	G
Study Zones	135	0	March 2024	March 2024	G
Total	4,548	0			

2. Projects Commentary (for **all** projects rated Amber, Red or Purple).

2.1 St Margaret's Pastures Skate Park – Submission of the planning application has been delayed due to the flood risk assessment and final drainage designs being subject to approval from the Environment Agency.

Capital Programme Project Monitoring 2023/24 P3

Estates and Building Services

1. Projects Summary

Project Name	Remaining Budget (£000)	Over / (Under) Spend (£000)	Original Completion Date	Forecast Completion Date	RAG Rating
Estate Shops	496	0	March 2022	Oct 2023	A
Haymarket Theatre - Internal Completion Works	301	0	March 2021	Sept 2023	A
Aylestone Leisure Centre PV Panels	595	(140)	Aug 2022	June 2023	B
Changing Places - Disabled Facilities Toilets	305	0	March 2024	March 2024	G
Malcolm Arcade Refurbishment	1,353	0	Nov 2023	Nov 2023	G
Bosworth House	675	0	Aug 2023	June 2023	B
Replacement Cladding Phoenix Square	9,570	0	Dec 2024	Sept 2025	A
St Nicholas Wall	460	0	Sept 2024	Sept 2024	G
Aikman Avenue District Heating	195	0	Dec 2023	TBC	P
Phoenix Arts Car Park	100	0	March 2025	March 2025	G
Total	14,050	(140)			

2. **Projects Commentary** (for **all** projects rated Amber, Red or Purple).

- 1.5 **Estate Shops** - All works have been completed with the exception of one site, where completion of spalling concrete works requires the temporary closure of businesses. This has caused further delays, whilst arrangements are made for access.
- 1.6 **Haymarket Theatre - Internal Completion Works** – Additional works are currently taking place following the condition survey, which has impacted the completion date originally envisaged.
- 1.7 **Replacement Cladding Phoenix Square** – Forecast completion date changed to September 2025 due to supply chain delays experienced by the principal contractor.
- 1.8 **Aikman Avenue District Heating** – This scheme is currently on hold due to a contractual dispute.
- 1.9 **Aylestone Leisure Centre PV Panels** – This project is almost complete with a projected underspend of £140k. The underspend is largely because the projected contingency and risk allocation was not required.

Capital Programme Project Monitoring 2023/24 P3

Adults

1. Projects Summary

Project Name	Remaining Budget (£000)	Over / (Under) Spend (£000)	Original Completion Date	Forecast Completion Date	RAG Rating
Extra Care – Two Schemes	2,510	0	Aug 2020	Jan 2026	G
Total	2,510	0			

2. Projects Commentary (for **all** projects rated Amber, Red or Purple).

Capital Programme Project Monitoring 2023/24 P3

Children's Services

1. Projects Summary

Project Name	Remaining Budget (£000)	Over / (Under) Spend (£000)	Original Completion Date	Forecast Completion Date	RAG Rating
Additional SEND Places (including Primary Pupil Referral Unit)	11,404	0	Jan 2024	Sept 2025	A
Overdale Infant and Juniors School Expansion	3,255	0	Nov 2021	March 2024	A
Pindar Nursery	841	0	March 2023	TBC	P
S106 Additional School Places	434	0	Sept 2023	Aug 2024	G
Tiny Forests in Leicester Schools	53	0	May 2023	May 2023	B
Children's Homes Refurbishments	900	0	Sept 2023	July 2024	A
Expansion of Children's Homes	2,037	0	May 2023	Dec 2024	A
Winstanley Contact Centre	685	0	April 2024	April 2024	G
Education System Re-tender	2,200	0	March 2026	March 2026	G
Total	21,809	0			

2. Projects Commentary (for **all** projects rated Amber, Red or Purple).

2.1 Additional SEND Places – As previously reported, following a review of the requirements for the scheme which includes the Rowans (Ellesmere), Knighton Lane (Leicester Partnership School) and the Armadale Centre (Netherhall School), it should be noted that the revised options are likely to require additional funds. A decision to increase the budget will be sought once the additional costs have been determined.

- 2.2 Overdale Infant and Juniors School Expansion** – Unforeseen ecological site conditions delayed entering into contract. Badgers resulted in a delayed start date whilst a mitigation strategy was introduced, and a section of the works has been further delayed awaiting badger relocation in line with Natural England requirements.
- 2.3 Pindar Nursery** – This scheme is currently on hold, as pupils remain located at Pindar Nursery whilst waiting for the Netherhall SEND scheme to be completed.
- 2.4 Children's Homes Refurbishments** – Additional design requirements linked to the expansion programme have increased the amount of up-front design required as well as time required onsite, leading to an extended completion date. The additional works will be contained within the budget.
- 2.5 Expansion of Children's Homes** – The scheme has been delayed due to additional design works to maximise sustainability outcomes within the approved budget.

Capital Programme Project Monitoring 2023/24 P3

Housing (HRA)

1. Projects Summary

Project Name	Remaining Budget (£000)	Over / (Under) Spend (£000)	Original Completion Date	Forecast Completion Date	RAG Rating
New Build Council Housing	550	0	April 2023	March 2025	G
Tower Block Sprinklers	1,004	0	April 2022	Oct 2023	A
Property Conversions	170	0	March 2022	March 2024	G
Bridlespur Way Refurbishment	300	0	March 2023	Jan 2024	G
Greener Homes	667	0	March 2022	June 2023	B
Dawn Centre Reconfiguration	1,043	457	May 2023	June 2024	A
St Matthews Concrete Works	1,300	0	March 2024	Sept 2024	A
District Heating Metering	3,032	0	Jan 2024	Jan 2024	G
Total	8,066	457			

2. Projects Commentary (for all projects rated Amber, Red or Purple).

2.1 Tower Block Sprinklers – This project has been delayed due to difficulties in obtaining access to all properties within the tower blocks.

2.2 Greener Homes – There is a forecast underspend on the scheme due to difficulties obtaining energy performance certificates for a number of properties. The exact amount of underspend is to be determined once the final claim has been submitted.

2.3 Dawn Centre Reconfiguration – The tender process has been elongated due to a difficulty in identifying a suitable contractor. In addition, further work has been identified that is required for the effective delivery of the scheme including amendments to

pipework and fire doors. Inflation has compounded these additional costs and, approval for an addition of £457k to the budget is requested, to be funded through borrowing.

2.4 St Matthews Concrete Works – The project to carry out concrete repairs has been delayed due to other operational pressures. The planning work has commenced, with further work underway towards going out to the market to secure a contractor to deliver the first phase. The delayed start means that the completion date is now expected to be September 2024.

2.5 District Heating Metering – This is a complex scheme. The completion date is presently shown as January 2024, however in due course, elements of the scheme may slip.

WORK PROGRAMMES**1. Summary**

- 1.1 As stated in the cover report, work programmes are minor works or similar on-going schemes where there is an allocation of money to be spent during a particular year. Monitoring of work programmes focusses on whether the money is spent in a timely fashion.

Department / Division	Approved to spend in 23/24 £000	2023/24 Spend £000	Slippage £000	Over/(under) Spend £000
City Development & Neighbourhoods	1,806	36	0	0
Planning, Development & Transportation	12,184	872	130	(50)
Tourism, Culture & Inward Investment	1,166	61	646	0
Neighbourhood & Environmental Services	1,034	18	0	0
Estates & Building Services	8,087	400	1,223	0
Housing General Fund	11,968	530	5,677	0
Adult Social Care	0	0	0	0
Children's Services	17,273	1,312	6,729	0
Total (excluding HRA)	53,518	3,229	14,405	(50)
Housing Revenue Account	46,181	5,304	600	(615)
Total (including HRA)	99,699	8,533	15,005	(665)

2. Summary of Individual Work Programmes

Work Programme	Dept/ Division	Approved £000	2023/24 Spend £000	Slippage £000	Over/(under) Spend £000
Feasibility Studies	CDN	1,806	36	0	0
Transport Improvement Works	CDN (PDT)	4,120	257	0	0
Bus Engine Retrofitting	CDN (PDT)	412	0	0	0
Air Quality Action Plan	CDN (PDT)	240	163	0	0
Highways Maintenance	CDN (PDT)	4,238	230	0	0
Flood Strategy	CDN (PDT)	300	30	0	0
Local Environmental Works	CDN (PDT)	400	106	0	0
Legible Leicester	CDN (PDT)	51	0	0	0
Potential Strategic Development Sites Assessment	CDN (PDT)	1,275	79	0	0
Architectural & Feature Lighting (Grant)	CDN (PDT)	196	0	130	0
Front Wall Enveloping	CDN (PDT)	200	0	0	0
Transforming Cities Work Programmes	CDN (PDT)	341	0	0	0
Campbell Street Feasibility Study	CDN (PDT)	186	0	0	0
Conservation Building Grants	CDN (PDT)	71	0	0	0
Street Nameplates City Branding Programme	CDN (PDT)	67	7	0	0
Environment Agency Feasibility Studies	CDN (PDT)	87	0	0	(50)
Heritage Interpretation Panels	CDN (TCI)	217	37	0	0
Cank St Feasibility	CDN (TCI)	3	0	0	0
Local Shopping Centres Reopening & Improvement Programme Grants	CDN (TCI)	946	24	646	0
Parks Plant and Equipment	CDN (NES)	298	16	0	0
Parks and Open Spaces	CDN (NES)	327	0	0	0
Franklyn Fields Public Open Space	CDN (NES)	409	2	0	0
Property & Operational Estate Capital Maintenance Programme	CDN (EBS)	6,679	379	1,223	0
Green Homes	CDN (EBS)	1,032	0	0	0
Phoenix & Sovereign House	CDN (EBS)	210	0	0	0
Depots Refurbishment	CDN (EBS)	166	21	0	0
Private Sector Disabled Facilities Grant	CDN (HGF)	1,981	329	0	0
Repayable Home Repair Loans	CDN (HGF)	384	0	0	0
Vehicle Fleet Replacement Programme	CDN (HGF)	7,466	201	5,677	0
District Heating Metering	CDN (HGF)	2,137	0	0	0
School Capital Maintenance	SCE (ECS)	17,029	1,312	6,729	0
Foster Care Capital Contribution Scheme	SCE (ECS)	244	0	0	0
Total (excluding HRA)		53,518	3,229	14,405	(50)
Council Housing - New Kitchens and Bathrooms	CDN (HRA)	2,000	280	0	0
Council Housing - Boiler Replacements	CDN (HRA)	2,300	945	0	0
Council Housing - Rewiring	CDN (HRA)	1,610	134	0	0
Council Housing - Disabled Adaptations & Improvements	CDN (HRA)	922	316	0	385
Council Housing - Insulation Works	CDN (HRA)	82	0	0	0
Council Housing - External Property Works	CDN (HRA)	1,950	0	600	(1,000)
Council Housing - Fire and Safety Works	CDN (HRA)	724	0	0	0
Community & Environmental Works	CDN (HRA)	1,349	34	0	0
Affordable Housing - Acquisitions	CDN (HRA)	28,600	3,504	0	0
Affordable Housing - RPs & Others	CDN (HRA)	4,765	0	0	0
Public Realm Works	CDN (HRA)	1,629	91	0	0
Feasibility Study for Sheltered Housing	CDN (HRA)	250	0	0	0
Total HRA		46,181	5,304	600	(615)
Total (including HRA)		99,699	8,533	15,005	(665)

3. **Commentary on Specific Work Programmes**

- 3.1 Explanatory commentary for work programmes not currently progressing as planned, or for which issues have been identified is provided below. For monitoring purposes this has been defined as any scheme where budgets have significantly changed, where spend is low or where material slippage is forecast.
- 3.2 **Architectural & Feature Lighting** – Grant recipients continue to request that works are delayed due to the current economic climate.
- 3.3 **Environment Agency Feasibility Studies** – Progress on all three projects has been delayed, mostly due to external partners having to prioritise other projects. The underspend is due to one of the schemes being at risk of having to return the funding as a result of these delays.
- 3.4 **Local Shopping Centres Reopening & Improvement Programme** – Work is continuing on priority areas, while plans for further works will be finalised in due course.
- 3.5 **Property and Operational Estate Capital Maintenance** – The slippage is due to the supplier for the energy efficiency works having limited capacity to deliver the decarbonisation of council buildings this financial year. These will be completed in future years.
- 3.6 **Vehicle Replacement Programme** – Estimated slippage of £5.7m is due to the continued global factors affecting the supply of new vehicles and increased delivery lead times. The specification of some vehicles that require replacing are currently being reviewed to utilise resources. Internal resource issues have led to delays in the ordering process.
- 3.7 **School Capital Maintenance** – Similar to Property and Operational Estate Capital Maintenance, the slippage is principally due to the supplier for energy efficiency works having limited capacity to deliver the decarbonisation of school buildings. These will be completed in future years.
- 3.8 **Disabled Adaptations** - Disabled adaptations are demand led and based on an assessment by Adult Social Care. The number of requests is high and the average cost per adaptation is increasing due to inflationary pressure within the

construction industry. It is requested that the underspend on Goscote House be reallocated to this budget to meet current demand.

- 3.9 **External Property Works** - Delays in procuring a roofing contractor have meant that the programme hasn't fully started with only emergency works being undertaken. Procurement options are being explored to complete the full year's roof and soffits programme and thereby reduce the £600k slippage currently forecast. The capital programme includes £1m provision for window and door replacements. However, it is requested that this budget be transferred to revenue to focus on the priority area of managing disrepair costs.

PROVISIONS**1. Summary**

- 1.1 As stated in the cover report, provisions are sums of money set aside in case they are needed, where low spend is a favourable outcome rather than indicative of a problem.
- 1.2 As at the end of Period 3, none of the budgets for capital provisions had been spent.
- 1.3 Normally provisions are there if needed. The sums below are for the 2023/24 financial year.

Provision	Dept/ Division	Approved £000	2023/24 Spend £000	2023/24 Total £000	Remaining Budget £000
Empty Homes Purchase	CDN (HGF)	50	0	0	50
Early Years - Two Year Olds	SCE (ECS)	141	0	0	141
Total		191	0	0	191

PROJECTS SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETE**1. Summary**

- 1.1 As at the end of Period 3, the following schemes were nearing completion. The budgets are the unspent amounts from previous years' capital programmes, mainly as a result of slippage.

Project	Dept/ Division	Approved £000	2023/24 Spend £000	Over/(Under) Spend £000
Leicester North West Major Transport Scheme	CDN (PDT)	89	0	0
Pioneer Park	CDN (PDT)	16	10	0
Pioneer Park Commercial Workspace (formerly Dock 2)	CDN (PDT)	63	0	0
St Margaret's Gateway	CDN (PDT)	1	0	0
Stocking Farm Community Shop	CDN (PDT)	41	0	0
Gresham Business Workspace	CDN (TCI)	40	0	0
Abbey Pumping Station	CDN (TCI)	0	0	0
Library RFID Self-Service System	CDN (NES)	11	4	0
Library Improved Self-Access Pilot	CDN (NES)	10	0	0
Abbey Park Precinct Wall	CDN (NES)	46	2	(15)
Digital & Performance Suite	CDN (NES)	15	7	0
11-15 Horsefair Street	CDN (EBS)	45	0	0
Haymarket House, Car Parks & Lifts	CDN (EBS)	173	0	0
Haymarket Bus Station - Toilet Expansion and Refurbishments	CDN (EBS)	58	2	0
Energy Efficiency Technology	CDN (EBS)	0	0	0
Leycroft Road Energy Reduction Works	CDN (EBS)	88	0	0
African Caribbean Centre	CDN (EBS)	23	0	0
Goscote House Demolition	CDN (HRA)	785	89	(385)
Additional Primary School Places	SCE (ECS)	63	0	0
Glebelands Primary School Modular Building	SCE (ECS)	33	0	0
Expansion of Oaklands Special School	SCE (ECS)	1,189	380	0
Leisure Centres Phase 2	PH	91	91	0
Total		2,880	585	(400)

POLICY PROVISIONS**1. Summary**

1.1. As at Period 3, the following policy provisions were still awaiting formal approval for allocation to specific schemes.

Department/ Division	Policy Provision	Amount £000
CRS	New Ways of Working	1,887
CDN (PDT)	Strategic Acquisitions	3,207
CDN (TCII)	Tourism & Culture	50
CDN (TCII)	Highways, Transport & Infrastructure	4,494
CDN (TCII)	Leicester Museum and Art Gallery (LMAG)	3,656
CDN (NES)	Library Investment	1,000
CDN (Various)	People & Neighbourhoods	392
SCE (ECS)	New School Places	4,673
SCE (ASC)	Extra Care Schemes	3,426
Other	Black Lives Matter	435
All	Programme Contingency	2,914
Total (excluding HRA)		26,134
CDN (HRA)	Other HRA Schemes	1,000
Total HRA		1,000
Total (including HRA)		27,134

1.2. Releases from policy provisions since the 2022/23 Outturn (reflected in the tables above) are listed below:

- £250k for Schools Capital from New School Places
- £275k for Bosworth House from the programme contingency

Scrutiny Annual Report 2022-23

Decision to be taken by:
Full Council

Decision to be taken on/Date of meeting:
Full Council – 28 September 2022
Overview Select Committee – 20 September 2023

Lead director/officer:
Miranda Cannon
Director – Delivery, Communications and Political
Governance

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All
- Report author: Francis Connolly, Scrutiny Support Manager
- Author contact details: Francis.Connolly@leicester.gov.uk
- Report version number: 1

1. Summary

- 1.1. This report provides a summary of the Scrutiny Annual Report 2022-23.
- 1.2. The Chair of the Overview Select Committee has developed a report that details the activity performed by the City Council's scrutiny bodies during 2022/23. The report does not primarily cover scrutiny work that has been undertaken since May 2023, though there are references to ongoing and proposed scrutiny activity.

2. Recommended actions/decision

- 2.1 Full Council is asked to note the report and endorse the work of scrutiny during 2022-23.
- 2.2 The Overview Select Committee is asked to review the report and provide any comments/recommendations ahead of consideration by Full Council.

3. Scrutiny / stakeholder engagement

- 3.1 The report details a summary of work and outcomes from scrutiny across OSC and the range of commissions during 2022-23.
- 3.2 Although it is a decision of Full Council to approve the scrutiny annual report, given that it covers the work and operation of scrutiny, it is appropriate for it to be subject to consideration by the Overview Select Commission ahead of its submission to Full Council.

4. Background and options with supporting evidence

- 4.1 The main report begins with an introduction by Councillor Ted Cassidy, Chair of the Overview and Select Committee.
- 4.2 It then provides general detail of the scrutiny structure, format and operation during the previous year.
- 4.3 The report includes a separate section for each of the nine scrutiny bodies during 2022-23, setting out the key achievements and highlights for each committee/commission and also refers to some of the ongoing and proposed work.
- 4.4 The report is designed to serve as a summary of activity. Full detail of the activity of each scrutiny body can be found via <https://bit.ly/3P7AOEh>

5. Detailed report

The full 'Scrutiny Annual Report 2022-23' is included on the subsequent pages.

6. Financial, legal, equalities, climate emergency and other implications

6.1 Financial implications

There are no financial implications associated with the preparation of the Annual Scrutiny Report, beyond the use of existing resources.

(Kirsty Cowell, Head of Finance)

6.2 Legal implications

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report

(Kamal Adatia, City Barrister & Head of Standards)

6.3 Equalities implications

Under the Equality Act 2010, public authorities have a Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) which means that, in carrying out their functions, they have a statutory duty to pay due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Act, to advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't and to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't.

Protected Characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report and equalities implications would have been considered for each of the areas mentioned when reports

have been presented to the scrutiny commissions throughout the timeframe referred to in the report.

Kalvaran Sandhu, Equalities Manager

6.4 Climate Emergency implications

There are no significant climate emergency implications directly associated with this report.

Aidan Davis, Sustainability Officer, Ext 37 2284

6.5 Other implications (You will need to have considered other implications in preparing this report. Please indicate which ones apply?)

N/A

7. Background information and other papers:

None

8. Summary of appendices:

Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23

9. Is this a private report (If so, please indicate the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)?

No

10. Is this a “key decision”? If so, why?

No

Leicester City Council Scrutiny Report 2022-23

Message from the Chair of the Overview Select Committee, 2022-23

Once again, I am delighted to have served as Chair of the Overview Select Committee during 2022-23 and am very pleased to present a report that sets out an extensive range of work by our scrutiny committees and commissions.

This year, there was a greater sense of normality across scrutiny as the programme in recent years had rightfully been largely dominated by examining how the council and the city had responded to the implications brought about by the covid pandemic. Although we ensured that scrutiny continued to examine the major impacts arising from the pandemic, this presented less distraction which allowed a greater focus on policy development and performance monitoring across all commission areas and we ensured that members had more opportunities to scrutinise those issues and services that were subject to significant public interest.

I continue to be impressed with the volume and quality of scrutiny and the number of recommendations by scrutiny to the Council's Executive and to our key partners. I am once again thankful for the involvement and contributions of the City Mayor and his team, along with officers from across the organisation in supporting and equipping our scrutiny function. I am also particularly thankful for the level of engagement from our health sector partners, and I remain committed to engaging with decision-makers beyond the local authority. In addition, I was particularly pleased with the level of involvement of young people representatives who regularly participated in several of our scrutiny bodies.

At Leicester, we take great pride in our scrutiny, and we aim to examine those issues that are central to the lives of the people in our city. We have this year continued to scrutinise the key strategic priorities of the City Council, and have investigated many matters in detail, setting up some separate informal scrutiny work to allow a broader range of evidence to be gained by commissions. Examples of this include some focussed work on the local-level response to the national 'Housing Crisis', an investigation into the barriers preventing women to participate in sport and leisure opportunities and a piece of work to understand the increasing cost of Adult Social Care packages.

I look forward to developing scrutiny throughout 2023/24. It goes without saying that all local authorities continue to face a mounting degree of pressure and challenge, and in a city such as ours, it is essential that my colleagues and I are ready to examine the implications of the circumstances that we face and to help to influence decision-making to support our residents and enhance our city.

Councillor Ted Cassidy MBE – Chair of the Overview Select Committee

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Glossary

The following abbreviations are used to describe each scrutiny body:

ASC: Adult Social Care Scrutiny Commission

CYPE: Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny Commission

EDTCE: Economic Development, Transport and Climate Emergency Scrutiny Commission

HCLT: Heritage, Culture, Leisure and Tourism Scrutiny Commission

HSC: Housing Scrutiny Commission

HWB: Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Commission

JHSC: Joint Health Scrutiny Committee

NS: Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Commission

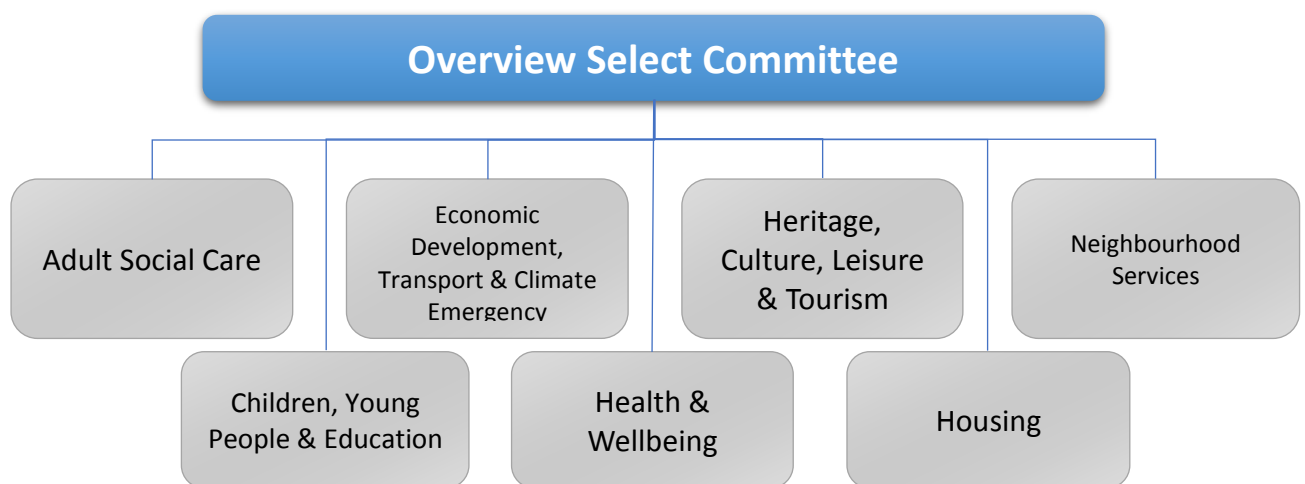
OSC: Overview Select Committee

Introduction

What is Scrutiny?

The Centre for Public Scrutiny defines scrutiny as “the activity by one elected or appointed organisation or office examining and monitoring all or part of the activity of a public sector body with the aim of improving the quality of public services. A public sector body is one that carries out public functions or spends public money. Scrutiny ensures that executives are held accountable for their decisions, that their decision-making process is clear and accessible to the public and that there are opportunities for the public and their representatives to influence and improve public policy.” As such, it is important that scrutiny is an essential part of ensuring that the council and its partners remain effective and accountable.

Leicester City Council’s Scrutiny Structure



As highlighted here, the council continued with the model of an Overview Select Committee supported by seven scrutiny commissions covering all facets of the council’s business. Since May 2021, the City Council has also acquired responsibility for leading the support to the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Joint Health Scrutiny Committee; an arrangement that rotates on a bi-annual basis between Leicester City Council and Leicestershire County Council.

For the 2023/24 municipal year, there will be changes to the scrutiny structure and this will be reflected in future versions of the annual report.

Report Structure

This annual report covers the period between May 2022-May 2023 and summarises some of the key activity and areas of influence by scrutiny throughout the year.

The report provides detail of the work of the Overview Select Commission, and each of the seven City Council scrutiny commissions along with the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Joint Health Scrutiny Committee. The annual report does not intend to draw out a large quantity of detail or highlight each recommendation, and instead sets out some of the key achievements by the scrutiny bodies, examining areas of influence and work undertaken as part of focussed reviews or task and finish work. Full detail of each scrutiny meeting can be found by accessing relevant agendas, and minutes via <https://bit.ly/3P7AOEh>

The report also does not intend to provide full detail of what is covered by each of the scrutiny bodies. Detail of the configuration of scrutiny at Leicester City Council can be accessed via <https://www.leicester.gov.uk/your-council/decisions-meetings-and-minutes/overview-and-scrutiny/our-scrutiny-system/>

By its very nature, scrutiny examines some work over a more considerable period of time, and this report also points to those strands of work that will continue or may emerge throughout 2023/24. This is reflected as part of the commission summary pages throughout the report.

Overview of Scrutiny 2022/23

In total, there were 55 public meetings across the nine scrutiny bodies. This was supplemented by further work performed by members in the form of separate scrutiny task group meetings or additional briefing sessions on topics of significance.

All meetings took place in person at the City Council's committee rooms at City Hall, though a hybrid set-up was initiated to allow some non-voting participants to join remotely. Most meetings were comprised of approximately seven elected members, with some commissions being supplemented by co-opted members or standing invitees. The Chairs of the scrutiny bodies throughout 2022/23 were as follows:

Overview Select Committee – Councillor Ted Cassidy
Adult Social Care – Councillor Rashmikant Joshi
Children, Young People and Education – Councillor Misbah Batool
Economic Development, Transport and Climate Emergency – Cllr Ashiedu Joel
Heritage Culture Leisure and Tourism – Councillor Elaine Halford
Health and Wellbeing – Councillor Elaine Pantling
Joint Health Scrutiny Committee – Councillor Elaine Pantling
Housing – Councillor Paul Westley
Neighbourhood Services – Councillor Aminur Thalukdar

The commissions and committees continued to examine several strands of work that featured previously, particularly in relation to pandemic recovery, but also in respect of

other key strategic priorities and emerging priorities. As in previous years, a significant proportion of scrutiny related to the consideration of executive decisions prior to them being taken, including scrutiny of the annual budget setting process and an in-depth examination of Local Plan proposals ahead of submission of the draft plan to the Planning Inspectorate. This equips scrutiny to challenge, support and influence the City Council's decision-making processes and remains a prime role of the scrutiny function. Scrutiny also strives to examine issues that emerge throughout the year that have significant implications for the people of Leicester. The work overseen by OSC in relation to the cost-of-living crisis is one of many examples where scrutiny has responded quickly in considering the implications and potential solutions for a notable emerging issue.

Many of the scrutiny bodies have also performed an extensive level of work in addition to that taking place as part of formal scrutiny meetings. Several focussed task group reviews continued throughout 2022/23 and others were also initiated during the year. It is commonplace for the suggestion behind this work to originate at a formal meeting, often when it is apparent that the level of scrutiny required is extensive and requires a more detailed process of evidence-gathering. Examples of this work include the Housing Scrutiny Commissions' work in understanding more about the local impacts of the national housing crisis and the Heritage, Culture, Leisure and Tourism Scrutiny Commission's investigation into barriers preventing women participating in sports and leisure opportunities. Upon the completion of all task group work, the relevant decision-maker submits a report back to a commission meeting that details a response to the scrutiny recommendations.

Scrutiny continues to gather the majority of its evidence from City Council service departments, though it has always been necessary for this to be supplemented with input from other organisations and stakeholders. During 2022/23, scrutiny sought evidence from a range of partners, particularly across the health sector and via housing tenant representatives. Moreover, the process of empowering the voice of young people across scrutiny was developed during 2022/23, with representatives regularly participating in OSC, CYPE and HWB.

During the 2023/24 scrutiny year, there are ambitions to expand public and stakeholder engagement as part of the scrutiny process, particularly when performing more in-depth investigations and inquiries. Scrutiny chairs will also be considering a broader range of methodologies when carrying out such informal scrutiny.

The following pages document some of the key achievements and highlights of each of Leicester's nine scrutiny bodies, drawing on areas of significance during the past year and referring to some of the priorities for taking scrutiny forward during 2023/24.

Overview Select Committee

The Overview Select Committee is the City Council's overarching scrutiny body. The committee primarily scrutinises the work overseen by the City Mayor, the council's strategic priorities and cross-cutting issues including equalities, property and the Council's finances. The Committee also engages with leaders and decision makers from key partner organisations across the city.

The major Overview Select Committee scrutiny developments during 2022/23 included:

The Survey of Leicester - the Committee closely examined the findings of the survey to ensure that efficient services were being provided to city residents. Some issues cited that required further investigation were the level of people who experience loneliness and the number of residents who were not digitally literate. It was recommended that the commissions considered relevant information arising from the survey outcomes in more detail.

Council Budget Monitoring - scrutiny continued to carry-out regular monitoring of council budgets. The committee was reassured by officers that accurate budget forecasts would alleviate their concerns relating to Adult Social Care services meeting the increasing demands in the city. The committee was also able to question the financial viability of the major capital developments across the city. OSC also carried influence on the decision surrounding the proposed changes to the district heating charges for council housing residents and requested some alternative proposals to support tenants which were agreed.

Leicester's Marketplace - OSC debated the purchase of property within the vicinity of Leicester Market, which resulted in a withdrawal of a formal proposal to review the decision, as OSC were satisfied that officers and the City Mayor had provided adequate evidence and reasoning for the purchase.

Leicester Draft Local Plan - the committee collated scrutiny comments and recommendations from all the commissions contributing to the final drafting of the local plan. Examples of recommendations included requesting that the council should act to minimise the impact of new developments on existing inequalities, to preserve green spaces as much as possible and for new housing developments to consider increasing the minimum space standards.

Cost of Living Crisis - The Cost-of-Living Crisis was of great concern to members across the commissions and OSC received regular updates concerning initiatives and financial assistance available to help people and families. Scrutiny was given a greater understanding of the plethora of support schemes established by officers and volunteers, with particular praise being given to the Pop-Up-Pantries initiative to provide meals for children. There was also great interest in the work between the council and schools in supporting those families with the greatest level of need and members developed enhanced knowledge of the avenues of support that they could promote to constituents.

Possible Overview Select Committee Scrutiny plans for 2023/24 include:

- **Council Budget monitoring** – Scrutiny to continue to examine council budgets on an ongoing basis.
- **Cost of Living Crisis**– to continue to receive updates on the council's response to the crisis at appropriate points.
- **Key Strategic Priorities** – to receive a report that outlines the priorities set out for the new electoral term.
- **Customer Services** – to understand more about the channels of customer service and how the city council is transforming the overall customer experience.
- **Corporate Estate Annual report** – to receive a further report on corporate estate management.

Adult Social Care Scrutiny Commission

This commission focuses on matters relating to the delivery of statutory adult social care functions, such as care services to allow independence in own homes, care services for those that require care away from home and policies that underpin a broad range of social care issues.

The key Adult Social Care scrutiny developments during 2022/23 included:

Health and Social Care Reforms - Commission members were keen to hear about the latest developments and the implications of the reforms on city residents. This included the implementation plans and the ongoing funding challenges for councils providing adult social care services.

Scrutiny Review into 'Cost of Care and Budget Impacts' - Members completed an investigation that examined the implications of increased care package costs and the ways of managing budget pressures, with particular focus on the impact on service users. The commission produced its own report that detailed several recommendations for consideration. Also related to this work, members welcomed separate briefings on several complex key topics to better understand the issues and impacts regarding market stability plans and fair cost of care.

Draft Carers Strategy - Scrutiny influenced the consultation outcomes of the strategy by raising issues relating to community engagement behind the strategy and probed into the reasoning behind barriers to engagement. As a result, further work was undertaken with scrutiny throughout the year, and there was also a general recommendation for the council to review the corporate consultation / public engagement processes with a view to exploring different approaches in the future.

Leicester Local Plan and Extra Care Accommodation Needs – when examining the Leicester draft local plan, members raised issues relating to future planning of adult social care and developments in the city e.g.: the future requirement for extra care accommodation as per the council's adopted strategy on this matter.

Performance and Monitoring and Assurance Plans - Scrutiny continued to monitor the performance of major areas of service delivery. Members praised the social care service for the well-prepared assurance plans for adult social care.

Cost of Living Crisis Impacting on Adult Social Care Services- The commission scrutinised key topics in the media such as the 'cost of living crisis' impacting on adult social care services in the city and the care homes inspection processes. Members keenly carried out joint scrutiny for cross-cutting topics (with the Health & Wellbeing scrutiny commission), such as Winter Care planning and understanding more clearly the new integrated care structures for Leicester.

Possible Adult Social Care Scrutiny plans for 2023/24 include:

- **Recommissioning of Homecare**– scrutiny is keen to play a part in the process of establishing new contracts for future service provision.
- **ASC Service Assessments/Inspections** – the commission intends to continue to have oversight of external service assessments and inspections.
- **Joint Scrutiny work** – to examine a number of issues alongside the Public Health and Health Integration Scrutiny Commission including mental health service provision, substance misuse, winter planning and safeguarding adults.

Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny Commission

The Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny Commission is responsible for examining children's social care, education & attainment and support provision for children and young people and families. Diocesan, trade union and school governor representatives work with elected members on this Commission.

Key scrutiny developments during 2022/23 included:

Children out of School - the commission examined this matter and were informed there had been a significant increase in the number of children classified as home-educated, with the impact of COVID being considered as a significant factor in the increase.

Continued Response to the Covid Pandemic – a Public Health-led report was presented to the commission that set out the impact of the pandemic on children and young people in the East Midlands.

Education Performance Report 2022 - The commission considered a strategic view of the performance of schools across the city in the context of the economic background of communities in the city, and the continuing impact of the effects of COVID on schools and communities. This included examining key data sets relating to performance across various key stages, between different demographics and in comparison with other local authorities.

Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) – a number of key policies in relation to SEND support were examined throughout the year, including SEND school transportation arrangements.

Youth Justice Plan 2022-23 – members inspected the annual plan which highlighted the positive impact of the council's work with young people in the criminal justice system.

Possible CYPE scrutiny plans for 2023/24 include:

Family Hubs – to understand more about the programme for developing hubs across the city and how they will serve to extend early-years provision into communities.

Implications from the Pandemic – to develop an understanding of the outcomes of studies into the wider impacts of the pandemic, particular in relation to children and young people.

Provision of Taxi Framework for Vulnerable People – to consider further scrutiny in relation to the support provided to children and families.

Children's Safeguarding – to continue to have the opportunity to examine the current arrangements to ensure that children and young people in Leicester are safe and protected.

Economic Development, Transport and Climate Emergency Scrutiny Commission

This commission reviews a range of matters which include regeneration, public transport and cycling provision, adult learning and job provision and climate emergency policy.

The key scrutiny developments during 2022/23 included:

Traffic Regulation Orders – scrutiny of TROs has become standard practice and has served as a method for increasing public engagement by examining relevant schemes and issuing comments to be taken into account in the decision-making process. Scrutiny influenced the delivery of the Lutterworth bus lane extension scheme as well as a transport development along Beauville Drive.

Leicester’s Draft Local Plan – this commission made a number of recommendations that related to ensuring that that climate change, carbon neutral and air quality issues were appropriately considered for future planning and new developments in the city.

Transport and Connecting Leicester Projects – scrutiny praised the Leicester Bus Partnership’s work in the city concerning the improvements to the bus services network and the launch of the new Green Hopper free city centre bus service. Scrutiny examined major future transport plans and development projects such as the railway station improvement plans and the continuing development of the waterside area.

Energy Costs and Cost of Living - scrutiny of the council budget raised concerns surrounding the impact of rising inflation, a surge in energy costs and the rising cost of living that will affect businesses and families across the city.

Employment Hubs and Construction - members were interested in the progress of employment hubs and work relating to the enhancement of construction skills that had been carried out to help younger people. Future updates on the outcomes were requested.

Place Marketing and Inward investment – scrutiny praised and congratulated officers for achieving a major award for its place marketing work.

Possible EDTCE scrutiny plans for 2023/24 include:

- **Transport and Connecting Leicester** – to receive further reports on the transport plans and major development projects.
- **Carbon Neutral Roadmap** – to develop understanding in relation to achieving targets relating to the council’s climate emergency and zero carbon plans.
- **Employment, Adult Skills & Learning** – to understand more about the provision of services across the city.
- **Flood Protection** – to learn more about how the council and its partners are working to protect the city against major flooding.

Heritage, Culture, Leisure and Tourism

Scrutiny Commission

This commission is responsible for scrutinising a range of service areas which include parks and play areas, museums & heritage interpretation, festivals & events and sports services.

The key scrutiny developments during 2022/23 included:

Review into ‘Encouraging Women to participate in Sports and Physical Activities in the city’ – scrutiny undertook investigatory work on this matter which involved sports and leisure activities and sought views from the public. A series of recommendations were agreed that related to combining fitness activities with other activities such as health promotion and family events, engaging local people as mentors and community champions to support and empower women, and exploring a range of new initiatives with providers.

Heritage & Museums – Scrutiny praised the expansion of the heritage panels project to include a greater provision within neighbourhoods. Members carried out a site visit of the Jewry Wall museum development project to help monitor progress and also contributed ideas for when the project is complete, such as exploring more ways in integrating learning opportunities with schools and educational establishments.

Tourism and Hotel Industry – the commission made inquiries relating to post-pandemic recovery of the industry, particularly in relation to hotel occupancy.

Sports and Physical Activities Strategy – members influenced the development of this strategy with comments and suggestions and by dovetailing valuable evidence from the ‘women in sports’ review findings. There was particular keenness in enhancing the awareness of opportunities available to different communities across the city.

Sports Capital Programme - scrutiny expressed concerns about the impact of the rising energy costs on the running of sports and leisure facilities. Members welcomed the programme of improvements and refurbishments across leisure centres across the city, particularly the steps undertaken to source renewable energy.

Possible scrutiny plans for 2023/24 include:

- **Women in Sport review report** – to receive a report back from Executive on progress on actions and recommendations made by scrutiny.
- **Arts Council National Portfolio funding 2023-26** - following the good news of securing the Arts Council funding, this area of work to come back to scrutiny for a progress report during 2023/24.
- **Tourism and Hotel industry** – further examination of the latest position regarding the overall tourism offer in Leicester.

Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Commission

This commission is responsible for examining the health services received by all Leicester residents, which includes the services provided by the local authority's public health team along with those delivered by the NHS and health sector partners.

The key Health and Wellbeing scrutiny developments during 2022/23 included:

Covid and the Vaccination Programme - commission members monitored the latest position and challenges, including substantial datasets and the take-up of the vaccines across the city.

Rough sleepers Drug and Alcohol Treatment Programme - joint work with Housing scrutiny was carried out, including a site visit to fully understand how the new grant funded programme supported homeless and vulnerable people.

Leicester Care, Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022 – 2027 - Members praised the development of the strategy and were interested in exploring alternatives to take forward the work e.g. advocating young people as leaders in the community and supporting schools to promote healthy lives.

Task Group Review Report - 'The Experiences of Black People Working in Health Services in Leicester and Leicestershire' – local leaders thanked scrutiny for an extensive report that was considered very important for making future progress. At the centre of this work were recommendations around improving workforce monitoring systems, considering alternative delivery mechanisms for mandatory training and for organisations to consider how development opportunities are better facilitated.

School Nursing Provision – members contributed views and suggestions in terms improvements to future provision and suggested that the best way to promote school nursing and the services provided was through greater face-to-face provision at schools.

NHS Winter Urgent and Emergency Care Provision - Scrutiny acknowledged that Leicester currently had one of the highest 999 core rates in the country, along with one of the smallest conversion rates. Members praised NHS health sector staff and welcomed new initiatives. However, scrutiny raised concerns about the lack of community engagement and suggested there was more that could be done to improve people's perceptions about health services.

Possible Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny plans for 2023/24 include:

- **Health Inequalities update – Impact on the cost-of-living crisis** – to closely examine health inequality implications arising from the cost-of-living crisis.
- **Leicester Care, Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022 to 2027** – the commission to continue to monitor progress annually.
- **Task Group review report into 'The experiences of Black People working in Health Services in Leicester and Leicestershire'** – response report required from health partners on progress on actions / recommendations.
- **Mental Health Strategy** – to examine the services and support available alongside the Adult Social Care Scrutiny Commission.

Housing Scrutiny Commission

The Housing Scrutiny Commission examines a wide range of issues relating to Housing and Homelessness. This covers council services as well as issues affecting private sector housing and housing associations. The commission actively engages with tenants and residents when conducting its business and it is common for reports to reflect the views of tenant participation groups.

Key housing scrutiny developments during 2022/23 included:

Housing Crisis in Leicester - The Commission reported its task group findings following an investigation into the impact that the national housing crisis has had in the city. The work of the commission and witnesses helped to inform the basis of a decision taken by the council in November 2022 to declare a housing emergency in the city. The right to buy policy, coupled with the lack of an adequate social housing new-build programme, were highlighted as two of several key factors behind the crisis.

Continued Pandemic Recovery – The members of the commission continued to be concerned that the lockdown and its aftermath, including inflation, poverty and a continuing shortage of affordable social housing would present huge problems for tenants. The council continued to demonstrate to scrutiny a range of effective measures to helping tenants manage debt.

Damp and Mould – Members became aware of the issues of health of tenants being affected by damp and mould. Specialist work was being undertaken to tackle the issues, which included some fresh investment and an enhanced referral process.

Anti-social Behaviour Team - The structure for how the department worked with other departments across the council to provide a team which was able to deal with cases of anti-social behaviour was devised and developed following a commission working party which reported last year.

Council Tenant Involvement - Tenant representatives continued to be involved in consultations on many matters presented to scrutiny including the proposals for annual rent-setting. When considering policy in other areas such as housing repairs and empty homes in the city, the commission considered the views of and implications on tenants and leaseholders.

Possible scrutiny plans for 2023/24 include:

Damp and Mould – further work is likely to be carried out in relation to the impact of damp and mould in homes and the solutions in response to the problems.

District Heating – to understand how the new district heating metering programme is being carried out and the implications on tenants and residents.

Housing Allocation Policy – to examine in greater detail the policies and processes behind allocating council homes to tenants.

Previous Task Group Work – a continued focus on the response to recommendations arising from the Housing Crisis and Anti-Social Behaviour Team review work.

Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Joint Health Scrutiny Committee

In addition to Leicester City Council's Health Scrutiny Commission, health services are also scrutinised on a regional basis with elected members from Leicestershire County Council and Rutland County Council.

The major Joint Health scrutiny developments during 2022/23 included:

Integrated Care System – The Committee sought assurance that following legislative changes outlined in the Health & Care Act 2022, elected members and relevant health organisations be represented on the Integrated Care Board that was established on 1 July 2022 for the delivery of NHS care.

University Hospitals Leicester – The Committee examined numerous matters regarding Leicester's hospitals, including their financial accounts, service performance (with a particular focus towards maternity services), complaints process, CQC well-led inspection, and proposals for site reconfiguration. Members sought assurance that the proposed reconfiguration programme was still progressing and that a critical pathway be scrutinised in the future.

Transforming Care Plans for Learning Disabilities Services – The Committee considered updates in relation to improving performance in services for those with learning disabilities or autism and agreed to champion the importance of supporting all people across the region. The committee made a number of recommendations including enhancing links with GP practices.

Access to Primary Care – The Committee heard about the implications for residents across the region in accessing primary care. Members raised issues about telephone contracts, private practice and travel to hubs.

Pandemic Recovery & Vaccination Programme – The Committee considered various updates in relation to the vaccination programme for the region. It was agreed that it was important for focused work to be undertaken locally to fill the communication gap to promote vaccine uptake and ensure vaccines were available where needed.

Continued Partnership Working – The Committee continued to engage with other health providers serving the region including the new operating model and specialist practitioners at East Midlands Ambulance Service, the re-procurement of the Non-Emergency Patient Transport Service and those within Dentistry.

Possible scrutiny plans for 2023/24 include:

- **UHL Developments** - To seek further clarity and understanding of the processes at UHL in terms of reconfiguration, structures, financial position and reviewing complaints.
- **ICS 5-year Forward View** - To monitor the Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland Integrated Care System and consider the 5-year forward view plan.
- **Inspection Outcomes** - to further examine required improvements in relation to the LPT CQC inspection.
- **Access to GP Practices** - To develop a greater understanding of access to GP surgeries and dental services.

Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Commission

The Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Commission is responsible for examining many of the everyday services that people access within their own communities, including the provision of libraries, community centres, environmental and enforcement services. This commission also holds responsibility for looking at voluntary and community sector support and issues relating to community safety and community cohesion.

The major scrutiny developments during 2022/23 included:

Selective Licensing Scheme - The Commission was involved in the development of a new selective licensing scheme for private sector rented housing covering parts of the city, which aims to improve standards and safety of homes, thereby also improving the health and wellbeing of tenants.

Textile Factories –Scrutiny continued its interest in examining the extent of pollution from particular factory outlets in the city. Members learnt about the action that had been taken by the city council and made a series of recommendations in terms of future monitoring activity.

Community Safety Partnership - The Commission gained insight into the work of the Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Team (CrASBU), both in terms of the work within the range of communities across the city, but also the way in which its work had become embedded in the work of the council's housing management. Setting up a unit with the help of the housing and neighbourhood services scrutiny commissions had been one of the recommendations from a previous task group drawn from the commissions which looked at how the issue sat not just within housing estates run by the council but across the various communities in the city. The commission also examined the new partnership strategy for tackling knife crime in Leicester.

Domestic abuse – Safe Accommodation Strategy - The commission received a report on the setting up of a safe housing strategy for victims of domestic abuse. The work was as a result of the passing of the 2021 Domestic Abuse Act, though it was noted that the council already had more far-reaching and supportive programmes in place. Members praised the work done in helping to protect domestic abuse victims.

Possible scrutiny plans for 2023/24 include:

- **Voluntary and Community Sector Engagement Strategy** – to examine the new strategy for the city and to understand it's objectives.
- **Ward Community Engagement** – to undertake scrutiny in relation to future ways of conducting ward member engagement across Leicester.
- **Leicester's Tree Strategy** – to review progress and future work relating to the city's tree strategy.
- **Regulatory Services** – to continue to examine and monitor a series of key enforcement services operated by the City Council and its partners.

Contacting Scrutiny

For more information please contact the Scrutiny Team via **scrutiny@leicester.gov.uk**.

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<https://www.leicester.gov.uk/your-council/decisions-meetings-and-minutes/overview-and-scrutiny/>

Overview Select Committee
Work Programme 2023 – 2024

Meeting Date	Item	Recommendations / Actions	Progress
13 July 2023	1. Revenue Outturn 2022/23 2. Capital Outturn 2022/23 3. Income Collection April 2022 – March 2023 4. Review of Treasury Management Activities 2022/23 5. Overview of OSC	1. A number of requests for further information/clarification were sought. 2. A number of requests for further information/clarification were sought. 3. That further information be circulated regarding parking enforcement staffing figures. 5 To conduct some additional informal scrutiny in relation to corporate equalities/workforce representation	1. A note that summarised responses was sent to members on 5 September. 2. A note that summarised responses was sent to members on 5 September. 3. This has been provided and was included in the information sent to members on 5 September 5 Initial informal work has commenced and an update will be provided to OSC on 20 September.

Meeting Date	Item	Recommendations / Actions	Progress
20 September 2023	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Revenue Monitoring Period 2. Capital Monitoring Period 3 3. Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23 4. Informal Scrutiny update - Equalities/workforce monitoring 		
9 November 2023	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Update on work in response to Cost-of-Living Crisis 2. Customer Services Overview (or 14 December) 		

Meeting Date	Item	Recommendations / Actions	Progress
14 December 2023	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Corporate Equality Strategy2. Customer Services Overview (or 9 November)3. Revenue Monitoring Period 64. Capital Monitoring Period 65. Income Collection Report – Half-Yearly6. Treasury Report – Half Yearly		
6 February 2024	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Budget		

Meeting Date	Item	Recommendations / Actions	Progress
11 April 2024	1. Revenue Monitoring Period 9 2. Capital Monitoring Period 9		

Forward Plan Items (suggested)

Topic	Detail	Proposed Date
Child Poverty Overview	Suggested as a potential future item at OSC on 13 July	TBC
Recruitment Challenges/Vacant Posts	Suggested as a potential future item at OSC on 13 July	TBC