

Leicester
City Council

MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW SELECT COMMITTEE

DATE: THURSDAY, 11 APRIL 2024

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)

Councillor Surti (Vice-Chair)

Councillors Bajaj, Dave, Dawood, Joel, Porter and Waddington

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.

For Monitoring Officer

***Officer contacts:
Francis Connolly***

Leicester City Council, 115 Charles Street, Leicester, LE1 1FZ

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- ✓ where filming, to (via the Chair of the meeting) ensure that those present are aware that they may be filmed and respect any requests to not be filmed.

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

Pages 1-8

The minutes of the meeting of the Overview Select Committee held on 8 February 2024 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 Pages 9-14

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- Pages 15-32
DECEMBER 2023/24**

The Director of Finance submits the third report in the monitoring cycle for 2023/24 and provides an update on the financial pressures faced by the Council.

The Committee is recommended to consider the overall position presented within this report and make any observations it sees fit.

**11. CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING -APRIL-DECEMBER Pages 33-66
2023/24**

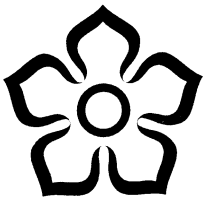
The Director of Finance submits a report to show the position of the capital programme at the end of December 2023 (Period 9).

The Committee is recommended to consider the overall position presented within this report and make any observations it sees fit and note the quarterly prudential indicators presented in Appendix F.

**12. OVERVIEW SELECT COMMITTEE WORK Pages 67-73
PROGRAMME**

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.

13. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS



Leicester
City Council

Item 4

Minutes of the Meeting of the
OVERVIEW SELECT COMMITTEE

Held: THURSDAY, 8 FEBRUARY 2024 at 5:30 pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Cassidy (Chair)
Councillor Surti (Vice Chair)

Councillor Bajaj
Councillor Dave

Councillor Dawood
Councillor Joel

Councillor Porter
Councillor Waddington

Also present:

Sir Peter Soulsby

City Mayor

* * * * *

8. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

9. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, the interest was not considered so significant that it were likely to prejudice the Councillor's judgement of the public interest. The Member was not, therefore, required to withdraw from the meeting.

10. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Chair's announcements.

11. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

It was noted that Cllr Dave's attendance had been omitted from the record of

the previous meeting.

AGREED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2024 be confirmed as a correct record.

12. PROGRESS ON ACTIONS AGREED AT THE LAST MEETING

It was noted that members had received detail separately in respect of progress on actions agreed at the previous meeting.

13. 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.

14. PETITIONS

The Monitoring Officer reported that no petitions had been received.

15. 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.

16. QUESTIONS FOR THE CITY MAYOR

There were no questions for the City Mayor.

17. DRAFT REVENUE BUDGET 2024/25

The Director of Finance submitted the City Mayor's proposed Draft Revenue Budget 2024/25, which would be submitted for a decision to Full Council on 21 February 2024.

It was noted that comments on the revenue budget from scrutiny commissions had been published with the document pack, along with an addendum published more recently that covered the comments arising from scrutiny commission meetings held within the last week.

The City Mayor introduced the item and stated that the City Council was encountering an incredibly challenging period. Over the past decade, services other than social care had experienced a 50% reduction in their budgets and

this had been managed extremely prudently. He stated that unlike several comparator authorities, a S114 notice had not been served, and although this was not imminently anticipated, the long-term outlook was concerning, with the council's reserves to be spent during 2024/25. He reported that a series of difficult decisions would be required to be taken over the forthcoming year.

The Director of Finance further introduced the item and confirmed that the City Mayor was proposing a balanced budget to Full Council, and that further significant action was required for 2025/26. She also noted that the current version of the report would be amended for Full Council to account for impacts resulting from implementing the increase in National Living Wage, homelessness pressures and government funding announcements.

In response to comments and questions from members, the following points were raised:

- The City Mayor had previously enquired about options around selling artefacts held by the Arts and Museums service. He had been advised that doing so would result in a loss of funding and recognition towards museums and that the benefits of selling artefacts were outweighed by these factors. He stated that he was unaware of other local authorities embarking on such ventures.
- It was not meaningful to make comparisons with the proposed budget against the City Council's budget a decade ago and in the years proceeding. It was confirmed that during that period, costs associated with ASC provision had risen by over £100million.
- A sum of £25.5 was proposed for contingencies and this largely covered costs that related to the local government pay award and energy price pressures.
- The City Council suffered more in comparison to other authorities in respect of the existing council tax bandings and this impacted on tax collection levels. It was pointed out that a 1% increase in council tax would yield £1.4million; a sum small in comparison to other local authorities who imposed a 1% increase.
- It was widely acknowledged that there was significant demand on ASC budgets. Considerable efforts to introduce measures address the pressures were ongoing.
- It was also confirmed that the City Council was undertaking joint departmental approaches when considering ways to deliver budgets for services.
- The increased cost of home to school transport provision, particularly for SEND children and looked after children impacted severely on the City Council's budget. The City Mayor stated that a nation-wide initiative to tackle the issue would be helpful. He also suggested that the issue continued to be examined by the Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny Commission
- Within the draft budget for 2024/25, there was no proposal to reduce funding towards adventure playgrounds though guarantees could not be

given that the current level of funding would remain in subsequent years. The City Mayor confirmed that discussions had taken place with the providers and that these would continue.

- In respect of the serving of S114 notices, the City Mayor confirmed that if the Director of Finance felt that if the City Council could not meet its liabilities, then she would be required to issue a notice. He also pointed out that the notice prevented councils from going bankrupt. Should a notice be serviced, there would be a requirement to hold a Full Council meeting within two weeks which would then result in stopping all non-statutory and non-contractually committed spending. He explained that this position had been adopted in Nottingham and Birmingham and referred to the severe impact that this had in those cities. He stated that the City Council would continue to try to avoid the imposition of a S114 notice and had been reassured by the Director of Finance that a budget could be set this year without the need to serve a notice, but that this position could not be guaranteed for future years given that the council's reserves were due to be exhausted.
- In response to a request for a list of all discretionary services provided by the City Council, it was confirmed a definitive list could not be easily provided as there was not always a clear distinction between statutory and discretionary service provision.
- It was suggested that the detail of future in-year budget saving proposals be shared with the relevant scrutiny commissions.

AGREED:

- (1) That the recommendations for Full Council be noted by the commission; and
- (2) That the detail of future in-year budget saving proposals be considered by relevant scrutiny commissions.

18. DRAFT CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2024/25

The Director of Finance submitted a Draft Capital Programme for 2024/25 which would be considered by Full Council on 21 February 2024.

It was noted that the programme had been considered by all scrutiny commissions, with the exception of the Public Health and Health Integration Scrutiny Commission. The comments from the scrutiny meetings had been made available to committee members.

The City Mayor reported that some of the challenges within the City Council's revenue budget were likely to be reflected in the capital budget in future years. He stated that some other local authorities had permission to bolster their revenue budget in the short-term by using resource within their capital programme, and although the City Council did not have such permission, the council could use discretionary provision to use funding allocated for capital for revenue purposes in future years to help avoid the imposition of a S114 notice. Should this be undertaken, it would in turn have a significant impact on the

capital programme in future years.

A question was raised in respect of whether there could in future years be an increase in the capital funding for the routine works programme. It was stated that the sums proposed for 2024/25 were broadly similar to those provided in recent years, and that suggestions from members in terms of how additional capital funding could be generated were welcomed. In respect of the local environmental works (LEW) programme, it was highlighted that a significant amount of work was required to deliver the schemes within the programme, and whilst suggestions for an increase in capital finance for these would be welcomed, given that the workforce for those delivering LEW had been heavily reduced, an expanded programme could present some delivery challenges,

In response to a further point in relation to a recent highways scheme in the Aylestone area of the city, the City Mayor confirmed that he had received positive feedback from residents. He also stated that the Front Walls Enveloping scheme had enabled significant improvements to front boundary walls of houses and had transformed a number of neighbourhoods.

AGREED:

- (1) That the recommendations for Full Council be noted by the committee; and
- (2) That the comments raised by scrutiny commissions be noted by the committee.

19. DRAFT HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (INCLUDING CAPITAL PROGRAMME) 2024/25

The Director of Housing submitted a report setting out the proposed Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget (including Capital Programme) for 2024/25, which would be considered by Full Council on 21 February 2024.

The report had also been considered by the Housing Scrutiny Commission on 9 January 2024, and comments from the commission were provided to committee members.

The Director of Housing made the following points in introducing the report:

- The proposals within the report were for the charges to tenants and leaseholders for services they received to be representative of the underlying cost of the service being provided.
- It was a legal requirement for a balanced budget to be set for the HRA.
- A rent increase of 7.7% for HRA tenants was being proposed. It was noted that 60% of tenants were in receipt of housing benefit or equivalent, which would cover the proposed increase.
- A 7.7% increase for garage rents was proposed.
- A 6.7% increase in service charges was proposed.
- A 10.1% reduction in Way lighting service charge was proposed

- A 5% increase was proposed for hostel rent
- A 5% increase was also proposed for Gipsy and Traveller plot rents.
- A reduction in the charges for district heating was being proposed, including a 29% reduction in the variable charge for metered heat and a 24% reduction in the fixed metered charges.
- A capital budget for 2024/25 of £25.86m was proposed which included £10.86m investment in the council housing stock.
- The proposals had been supported by the Tenants and Leaseholders Forum and had also been considered by the Housing Scrutiny Commission.

The Chair acknowledged the significant amount of positive work proposed within the programme. In response to further comments and questions from members, the following points were raised:

- The increase proposed for hostel rents and service charges were set to cover increased costs for the provision offered by the Dawn Centre, and a 5% increase was therefore required. The proposed 5% increase for Gipsy and Traveller plot rents was set in the same way, to cover actual costs of running the sites.
- It was anticipated that a further 225 properties would be sold under the right to buy scheme. This equated to approximately £1.2m in rent.
- A further 10 housing craft apprentices would be recruited, which took the total number to 40 operatives. The vacancy level of staff operatives now stood at under 10, which represented a dramatic reduction.
- Housing voids stood at the lowest level for many years, with less than 2% of the council's housing stock being currently empty.
- It was noted that the proposals considered at the last OSC meeting in respect of supporting families and people facing homelessness would be taken to a future meeting of Full Council. The enhanced rough sleeper provision would be kept under review.

AGREED:

- (1) That the recommendations for Full Council be noted by the committee; and
- (2) That the comments of the Housing Scrutiny Commission be noted by the committee.

20. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2024/25

The Director of Finance submitted a report that set out the proposed strategy for managing the Council's borrowing and cash balances during 2024/25 and for the remainder of 2023/24.

The Director of Finance provided a brief overview of the paper, together with an overview of the Investment Strategy 2024/25 (Item 14) and the Treasury Policy 2024/25 (Item 15).

It was explained that treasury management was the process by which the City Council's borrowing was managed and how cash balances were invested.

In response to comments and questions from members, the following points were raised:

- Within the Council's Finance division, there were staff who led specifically on treasury management activity and were continually trained on this area of work. The Council's also employed independent treasury advisors who provided expert opinion in respect of investment management.
- The money earmarked for treasury management and investment activity was not taken directly from the City Council's revenue budget, though early loan repayment as outlined in the report would enable a saving to be made from the revenue budget.
- In respect of the Council's loan repayment to Barclays, the City Council negotiated an early repayment programme, which enabled a saving which would not have been made if it was paid at a later date.
- In a similar vein, the City Council would consider early repayment opportunities for the 2 LOBO (Lender Option Borrower Option) loans with Dexia that amounted to £20million.
- It was made clear that there was no proposal to invest a full £30million into commercial property funds. The City Council had discretion to invest up to that amount. The Director of Finance agreed to make references to this clearer in the version of the report presented to Full Council.
- It was also suggested that a training session for members in relation to treasury management and investment activity would be arranged in advance of Full Council on 21 February.

AGREED:

- (1) That the Treasury Management Strategy 2024/25 be noted by the committee
- (2) That references to investment options of up to £30million into commercial property funds be made clearer in the version of the report presented to Full Council; and
- (3) That a training session for members be set up in advance of Full Council in relation to the City Council's treasury management and investment activity.

21. INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2024/25

The Director of Finance submitted a report that defined the Council's approach for making and holding investments, other than those made for normal treasury management purposes.

It was noted that during consideration of Item 13 (Treasury Management

Strategy 2024/25), it was agreed that a training session for members in relation to treasury management and investment activity would be set up in advance of Full Council on 21 February.

AGREED:

- (1) That the report be noted by the committee; and
- (2) That a training session for members be set up in advance of Full Council in relation to the City Council's treasury management and investment activity.

22. TREASURY POLICY 2024/25

The Director of Finance submitted a report which gave a framework for the governance of the Council's borrowing and investments, and it updated the framework previously approved by Council.

It was noted that the policy stated how treasury management activity was governed and was supported by an annual strategy.

It was also noted that this report was not prepared on an annual basis and was brought to scrutiny and Full Council approximately every three years.

There were no specific points raised by members in relation to this report.

AGREED:

That the report be noted ahead of a Full Council decision on 21 February.

23. OVERVIEW SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The work programme for the Committee was noted.

24. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of other urgent business.

Tracking of Petitions – Monitoring Report

Overview Select Committee

Date of meeting: 11 April 2024

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	Current Status
10/05/2023	Ben Glass	Knighton Area Experimental Traffic Order 2022 (TME 2980) Craighill Road Closure	(p)	79	Knighton		Andrew L Smith	The Proforma and final letter were being finalised to send to the lead petitioner.	AMBER
15/05/2023	Abdul Karim	Steps to be demolished to stop antisocial behaviour on Mercury Close.	(p)	15	Wycliffe		Caroline Tote	The Proforma and final letter were being drafted to send to the lead petitioner.	AMBER
21/06/2023	Valerie Spence	Residential Parking Only in Shaeffer Court	(p)	5	Beaumont Leys		Andrew L Smith	The Proforma and final letter were being drafted to send to the lead petitioner.	AMBER
10/12/2023	Suzanne Buckman	Aquafit petition	(p)	20	Beaumont Leys		Sean Atterbury	The proforma and final had been sent to the lead petitioner.	COMPLETE
11/01/2024	Mr Sharma	Harrison Road CCTV	(p)	79	Rushey Mead	C	Sean Atterbury	The proforma has been drafted and sent to the scrutiny chair for comment and signature.	GREEN
22/01/2024	Mr Joshi	Council Tax 2024/25	(p)	28	Rushey Mead	C	Sean Atterbury	Petition sent to lead Directors, additional support received from the monitoring officer.	GREEN

04/03/2024	Mr Sharma	Walking track in Rushey Fields	(p)	104	Rushey Mead	C	Sean Atterbury	Petition sent to lead Directors.	GREEN
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**Executive Decision-
Revenue Budget
Monitoring
April-December
2023/24**

Decision to be taken by: City Mayor

Decision to be taken on: 11 April 2024

Lead director/ officer: Amy Oliver, Director of Finance

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All
- Report author: Catherine Taylor
- Author contact details: catherine.taylor@leicester.gov.uk
- Report version number: 1

1. Summary

This report is the third in the monitoring cycle for 2023/24 and provides an update on the financial pressures faced by the Council.

The overall position shows a net overspend of £2.1m; this does not fairly represent the significant financial pressures the Council is facing.

As previously reported, the Council continues to see significant cost pressures totalling £21.1m. This is largely offset by £15.4m of underspends and additional income, and the use of the corporate contingency of £3.6m towards overspends in temporary accommodation and children's services.

The £21.1m of cost pressures are:

- £12.2m in Education and Children's Services, of which £11.9m relates to increased costs of children looked after, where placement costs remain high.
- £6.3m in City Development and Neighbourhoods. Homelessness is seeing additional pressures of £6.9m, offset by additional grant of £1.4m; and £0.6m is the higher costs of waste management.
- £2.5m additional costs of the local government pay award over and above the budget provision.
- £0.1m other cost pressures in Sports Services

The £15.4m of lower than budgeted costs and additional income are:

- A £5.8m underspend on adult social care, following significant change and improvement work designed to reduce people's need for formal care, social work assessment, and commissioning practice. Further details are given in Appendix B, section 11.
- A £3.3m underspend on capital financing costs, due to higher interest rates and cash balances than previously forecast;
- Additional income of £0.7m in Sports Services due to continued growth and retention in health and fitness memberships. The budget is reduced from 2024/25 to reflect this;
- An expected £3.2m lower cost of energy, compared to the budget provision;
- Underspends of £2.4m in corporate budgets.

Departmental reserves are being used to meet overspends where possible, and £13.7m has been identified. The balance will be funded from the projected underspends. Remaining underspends will be used to increase reserves available to support future years' budgets.

A further £4.5m has been identified as one-off resources that can be added to managed reserves (this is not included in the net £2.1m overspend mentioned above).

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 £0.7m 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 £3.5m in the current year. 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 in-year transfer to reserves described in Appendix B; para 15.1.
- Approve the reductions to budgets described in Appendix C, 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, including the savings identified in a report to OSC on 9th November, this has been updated to £379.2m.

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 summarises the savings and other resources that have been identified.

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. It is important to note that currently no policy changes have been proposed but the possibility remains that the Council may need to consider changes to existing services going forward. If this is the case, the Council's equality impact process should be used to evaluate the potential equalities impact of any proposed changes.

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 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 service 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.

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?)

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 22 February 2023 on the General Fund Revenue budget 2023/24.

Period 3 Monitoring report presented to OSC on 20 September 2023

Budget Savings report presented to OSC on 9 November 2023

Period 6 Monitoring report presented to OSC on 14 December 2023

8. Summary of appendices:

Appendix A – Period 9 (April-December) Budget Monitoring Summary

Appendix B – Divisional Narrative – Explanation of Variances

Appendix C – In-year budget savings to be approved

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 – savings in excess of £500k per year

Revenue Budget at Period 9 (April – December), 2023-24

Table A

2023-24	Original Budget £000's	Current Budget £000's	Forecast £000's	Variance £000's
Financial Services	11,259.4	11,806.6	11,870.2	63.6
Information Services	10,791.9	11,072.7	11,988.7	916.0
Corporate Services	9,787.0	9,959.5	9,054.7	(904.8)
Legal, Coronial & Registrars	5,146.3	5,456.0	5,381.2	(74.8)
Corporate Resources & Support	36,984.6	38,294.8	38,294.8	0.0
Planning, Development & Transportation	14,294.7	16,805.4	16,805.8	0.4
Tourism Culture & Inward Investment	4,558.2	4,702.6	4,702.6	0.0
Neighbourhood & Environmental Services	36,214.9	39,875.8	40,492.8	617.0
Estates & Building Services	4,927.2	6,378.1	6,695.7	317.6
Departmental Overheads	575.8	582.4	582.4	0.0
Housing Services	4,634.9	4,993.8	10,369.4	5,375.6
City Development & Neighbourhoods	65,205.7	73,338.1	79,648.7	6,310.6
Adult Social Care & Safeguarding	170,181.8	175,608.1	170,796.6	(4,811.5)
Adult Social Care & Commissioning	(18,061.4)	(22,141.8)	(23,086.1)	(944.3)
Sub-Total Adult Social Care	152,120.4	153,466.3	147,710.5	(5,755.8)
Strategic Commissioning & Business Support	2,385.5	2,428.7	2,296.6	(132.1)
Learning Services	19,596.5	19,967.7	21,165.6	1,197.9
Children, Young People & Families	71,231.0	73,893.4	85,255.8	11,362.4
Departmental Resources	1,976.3	1,794.1	1,589.2	(204.9)
Sub-Total Education & Children's Services	95,189.3	98,083.9	110,307.2	12,223.3
Total Social Care & Education	247,309.7	251,550.2	258,017.7	6,467.5
Public Health & Sports Services	23,940.6	26,912.5	26,312.2	(600.3)
TOTAL OPERATIONAL	373,440.6	390,095.6	402,273.4	12,177.8
Corporate Budgets	35,429.8	15,899.5	9,175.5	(6,724.0)
Capital Financing	2,292.1	2,292.1	(960.0)	(3,252.1)
Total Corporate & Capital Financing	37,721.9	18,191.6	8,215.5	(9,976.1)
Public Health Grant	(28,448.1)	(29,064.8)	(29,169.5)	(104.7)
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	382,714.4	379,222.4	381,319.4	2,097.0

NB Corporate Resources & Support management has been restructured, and budgets have been restated from previous monitoring reports

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)
Savings approved - Period 3 monitoring 23/24	(480)
Savings approved - Savings Report OSC 09/11/23	(683)
Latest budget	379,222

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

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

Divisional Narrative – Explanation of Variances

Corporate Resources and Support

Corporate Resources Department is forecasting to spend £38.3m as per the budget. The position after the planned use of reserves is a breakeven position:

1. Finance

1.1. The Financial Services Division is forecasting to spend £13.5m as per the budget.

2. Corporate Services and Legal, Registration & Coronial Services

2.1. Taken together Corporate Services 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 £603k underspend, resulting from vacancies across various areas together with additional traded income. DCPG is also forecasting an underspend of £313k, again resulting mainly from vacancies. This combined underspend of £916k 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 £0.4m, as in previous years.

3. City Catering

3.1. New charging arrangements for schools have been put in place by City Catering from August this year. Some internal re-organisation of staffing will also take place this year. Both of these actions are being undertaken to deal with the financial deficit the service incurred in 2022/23. The forecast deficit this year is £0.82m and this will be funded from the school catering reserve.

City Development and Neighbourhoods

The department is forecasting an overspend of £6.3m on a net budget of £73.3m. It is proposed that £2.8m of departmental reserves be used towards increased homelessness costs, reducing the overspend to £3.5m.

4. Planning, Development & Transportation

- 4.1. The division is forecasting to break even. This represents a significant improvement on the £0.3m overspend forecast at Period 6 and is a reflection of further review and analysis of the division's finances. The consistent underspend on concessionary fares has helped to counter-act wider pressures within the division.
- 4.2. There is a £1.5m forecast overspend on bus services, including supported bus services and park & ride, compounded by a shortfall in income through bus lane enforcement. The overspend on parking and bus services are expected to be more than offset by a £2.3m underspend on concessionary fares.
- 4.3. In a continuation of recent pressures, linked to wider economic factors, a reduction in the number of major planning applications being submitted is expected to lead to an income shortfall of £0.5m. Other minor overspends across the division total a further £0.3m, resulting in an overall break-even position.

5. Tourism, Culture & Inward Investment

- 5.1. The division is forecasting a break-even position for the year. Income levels across the service continue to be adversely affected by cost-of-living pressures, but costs are being managed in order to deliver a balanced outturn position.

6. Neighbourhood & Environmental Services

- 6.1. The division is forecasting an overspend of £0.6m, compared with the £0.7m overspend forecast at Period 6.
- 6.2. Waste management costs continue to exceed the budget by £0.5m, due to additional contracted costs for sand and grit recycling and paint disposal. Furthermore, a contractual mechanism has been triggered relating to the Gypsum Close Waste Recycling Centre meaning an incurrence of extra staffing costs.
- 6.3. Pressures within Regulatory Services remain at £0.1m, particularly due to increased staffing costs and income shortfalls within Building Control. A further £0.1m overspend within Parks & Open Spaces results from extensive boiler repairs at Gilroes Crematorium.

- 6.4. The service continues to endeavour to deliver savings and manage costs to offset these pressures but it is unlikely that the full deficit will be recovered.

7. Estates & Building Services

- 7.1. The division is forecasting an overspend of £0.3m, an adverse movement from the overspend of £0.2m at Period 6. Whilst savings on vacant posts continue to offset some of the pressures being experienced by the division, there is a £0.6m overspend in the Corporate Estate that has developed since P6. This is predominantly due to under-recovery of service charges, as well as there being a backlog on the lease reviews. The division is anticipating delivering a balanced position by the end of the financial year.

8. Departmental Overheads

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

9. Housing General Fund

- 9.1. The number of homelessness presentations continues to add to the cost of temporary accommodation. Not only have costs increased, but this trajectory is forecast to continue throughout the remainder of the year. This is expected to cost £6.9m above budget; the increase of £0.4m from the position reported at period 6 is, in part, reflective of government's fast-tracking of asylum decisions. The use of £1.5m of grants and £2.8m of reserves will partially offset the pressure this year; work continues to find longer-term resolutions to this nationally recognised issue.

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 underspend by £1.9m compared to a breakeven position at period 6. It is proposed that this be held in reserve to support the future provision of affordable housing. 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, other than for district heating, which is reported below.
- 10.3. The Repairs and Maintenance service is forecast to overspend by £1m. Whilst there are vacant posts generating underspends of £1.1m, these will be partially offset by the use of contractors, costing £0.7m. Materials and running costs are expected to add a further £1.1m of unbudgeted costs, particularly in voids where

there is a continued focus on turning properties around. This focus has also involved reprioritising staff from other work, which has resulted in a reduction in income from capital charges of £0.3m.

- 10.4. Management and Landlord Services are expected to underspend by £3.2m. A £3.2m net underspend is expected in the District Heating scheme as a result of reductions to the price of gas and the introduction of metering. The extent of this has been offset by properties being subsidised for a longer period of time during the year. A reduction in the forecast number of property sales through Right to Buy will reduce income to fund the administration cost by £0.2m. Separately, the Council Tax payable on void properties is likely to be £0.2m 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 £0.3m 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 £147.7m, £5.8m less than the budget. £3.5m of this underspend relates to a reduction in the forecast gross package costs and £2.3m relates to increased income from fees and joint funding from health.
- 11.2. Gross package cost budgets were increased by £32.9m from £160.7m in 2022/23 to £193.6m in 2023/24. The forecast cost is now £190.1m, £3.5m less than the budget. This is due to a combination of a reduction in the growth of new people receiving care, a reduction in the growth in need of people already receiving care and a higher than expected of return of funds to the LA where people have not needed to fully utilise their direct payment funded care package.
- 11.3. The budget included net growth in numbers of people receiving adult social care of 4% overall, with 2% for older people and 7% for working age adults. Prior to the pandemic the net growth in older people was rising steadily. There was a net reduction in the first year of the pandemic 2020/21, followed by net growth in 2021/22 and a net reduction in 2022/23. At period 9 there has been a net reduction in older people of 1.5%, driven by a reduction in the number of new entrants (rather than higher numbers of leavers).
- 11.4. Net growth in the working age cohort was variable prior to the pandemic. In the first year of the pandemic 2020/21, net growth rose to 7% driven mainly by an increase in those adults with mental health issues. Growth has remained at

around 7% post the pandemic but to date in 2023/24, driven mainly by lower numbers of new mental health cases, growth has been lower at 4%.

- 11.5. Given that we are now at period 9, with only 3 months remaining, the forecast has been adjusted compared to period 6, on the assumption that the trend in lower growth will be sustained for at least this financial year, giving an in-year underspend of £1.9m.
- 11.6. The growth in need of people with existing care packages drives significant cost increases and has been discussed in previous monitoring reports. The overall growth in need is determined by the proportion of those receiving care at the start of the year that have their package changed together with the level of average increase in that package. To date the proportion of people with package changes is in line with the previous year at 36%, however the average package increase is significantly lower at 13% compared to 20% this time last year and 12% in the budget. The budget assumption for growth in need was challenging. Significant work is being undertaken to meet this challenge and includes reviewing existing working practices and identifying best practice and embedding that across all social work teams together with increasing alternative non-adult social care provision to support increased needs. This includes change and improvement designed to reduce people's need for formal care, social work assessment, and commissioning practice. The period 9 forecast has been revised on the basis that there is greater certainty that the current trend to date will be sustained at least to the end of the financial year resulting in a cost increase of £6.5m, £0.9m more than the budget of £5.6m. This is a significant improvement compared to the period 6 forecast.
- 11.7. The extent to which those funds received in the form of direct payments to cover care costs are not required and returned to the LA, varies from year to year and is difficult to budget for. The forecast for this year is £4.6m, £1.6m more than the budget of £3m. To set this in context, the annual cost of direct payments commissioned this year is £57.4m.
- 11.8. The items discussed in the above paragraphs together with the impact of in year adjustments to package costs that were in place at the start of the year, combine to result in the forecast £3.5m (1.8%) underspend in gross package costs.
- 11.9. Both fee income from people contributing to the cost of their care and the extent of joint funded income from the ICB are now, as at period 9, forecast to exceed the budget by £1.1m (5%) and £1.2m (9%) respectively. The impact of annual package cost increases and changes to the cohort on fee income is difficult to budget for as it depends on the impact of individual financial assessments. Similarly, the change in the number of eligible joint funded and section 117 funded cases from one year to the next is also difficult to budget for and therefore the general approach to this has been a prudent one when setting the budget.

- 11.10. Whilst there are some variations in expenditure compared to the budget in the other departmental areas of care management, preventative services, commissioning, contracting and other support teams, the net impact does not contribute to the overall forecast underspend.

Education and Children's Services

12. Education and Children's Services

- 12.1. The department is forecasting to spend £110.3m, an overspend of £12.2m; similar to that reported at period 6. £10.9m of this overspend will be funded from social care and education earmarked reserves on a one-off basis, leaving a net overspend of £1.3m. As outlined in the period 6 report the overspend is mainly due to the cost of children looked after and other placements.
- 12.2. Social care continues to experience a greater proportion of new high-cost placements than was anticipated in the budget, coupled with cost escalation through placement breakdowns and pressure from providers regarding fees with limited placement availability. In the 4 years from 2019/20 to 2022/23 average annual new placement costs reduced from £44k to £40k. In 2023/24 there has been a step change with average entry costs now £70k year to date, £30k more than the budget.
- 12.3. Whilst there have been increases in the average unit price of new entrants by type of provision, this only contributes £2k of this £30k increase. The remaining £28k is a result of the increase in the proportion of new external residential placements (10.9% compared to 2.3% in 2022/23) and semi-independent placements (15.1% compared to 12.1% in 2022/23). This reflects a year in which the needs and complexity of those entering care has been exceptionally high.
- 12.4. Whilst unit costs have increased, there has been essentially no change in overall numbers with a net reduction of 2 in the number of placements year to date. This includes an increase of 12 in unaccompanied asylum seeker children (UASC), meaning that non – UASC placements have reduced by 14 since the start of the year.
- 12.5. The forecast assumes a continuation of the trend rate of new entrants and leavers and a continuation of the average entrant unit cost for the remainder of this year. As a result of this, the revised total placement cost is now forecast to be £11.9m more than the budget.
- 12.6. The consultancy firm Impower have almost concluded their work which included an analysis of placements and the match between costs and assessed needs. This 'valuing care' model has been applied to a large cohort of children in higher

cost placements (182, 20% of the overall population), and has identified several cohorts of placements that are now the subject of targeted activity to address mismatches in cost versus level of need to generate savings. This work will take place alongside an extensive review of our internal resources (fostering and children's homes) to ensure that the capacity and resilience of these are maximised. The valuing care model will be expanded to cover all placements. Business cases will also be put forward for capital investment to expand our internal children's home resources over the next 5 years. A review of council resources deployed to prevent entry into care will also be completed with a view to refocusing/retargeting resources to have greater impact for those children and young people at greater risk of becoming looked after. A strengthening of the role of commissioning in sourcing placements will also take place and a tighter focus on contract management and capping cost inflation will be deployed to limit the impact of demands by providers for uplifts.

- 12.7. In addition to the £11.9m overspend from placement costs, a number of other over and under-spend items are expected as outlined below.
- 12.8. A £1.2m overspend is forecast from the continuing pressure on SEN home to school transport, with taxi journey price inflation driving up costs with journeys now costing an average of £13.7k p.a. per child. There are other pressures including on the home to school and contact taxi transport budget for children looked after (£0.8m), an increased demand for disabled children's respite service (£0.3m) and more demand for legal and translation services for social care (£0.6m). 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 pa in a full year but £0.1m this year, for which no new burdens funding is being provided. These other non-placement cost pressures total some £3m.
- 12.9. These overspends are partially offset by underspends of £2.7m as a result of a number of staffing vacancies across early help (in advance of reviews), in social care (31 agency social workers are being employed to cover vacancies) and in administration which continues to struggle with high staff turnover and difficulties in recruitment.
- 12.10. The pressure on the high needs block (HNB) of the dedicated schools grant (DSG) continues, with the number of agreed education, health and care (EHC) plans at around 750 in the academic year 2022/23. This rate is double the level pre-pandemic, and there has been no significant reduction in that rate in the 23/24 academic year to date.
- 12.11. The DfE increased the HNB allocation by £7.5m in 2023/24 to £79m. The period 6 forecast expenditure for the HNB in 2023/24 completed in August 2023 was based on a refreshed forecast of EHC plans and probable placement type taking

into account the current capacity constraints within the system. The forecast expenditure at period 9 has been increased as a result of higher numbers of pupils (16%) than expected requiring support in mainstream settings and at a higher unit cost. Total numbers of pupils requiring additional funding from the HNB is forecast at 3,863, a 10.7% increase compared to 2022/23. Total HNB expenditure is now forecast to be £86.9m resulting in an in-year deficit of £7.9m and a cumulative DSG deficit £13.9m at the end of 2023/24.

12.12. The council has been in discussion with the DfE through the ESFA (Education and Skills Funding Agency) about our draft deficit recovery management plan. The DfE recognised our issues with regards to increasing demand and acknowledged our approach to reducing this demand including through increasing inclusivity in mainstream schools and early intervention. Our initial draft plan is now being revised with the most recent forecast data and the project plan is being finalised for presentation to the Executive for approval. This is an essential piece of work as the current response to the current level of demand is financially unsustainable. Moreover, the significant increases in HNB funding over the past 4 years (averaging over 10% pa), have come to an end, with only a 3% increase in 2024/25 and no plans to increase this in future years.

12.13. The LA is also part of the DfE's SEND and alternative provision (AP) change programme partnership (alongside Leicestershire and Rutland). These partnerships have been set up nationally and are being used by the DfE to develop, test and iterate reforms set out by the DfE in their SEND and AP improvement plan in March 2023. This work will continue in parallel with the work required for the deficit recovery plan.

Public Health and Sports Services

13. Public Health

13.1. Public Health is forecasting to spend £22.4m, £0.1m more than the budget. The forecast overspend of £0.1m 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 has been addressed in setting the 2024/25 budget.

14. Sports Services

- 14.1. Sports Services are forecasting an underspend of £0.7m reducing the net cost to the Council to £3.9m.
- 14.2. Income from leisure centres and facilities is forecast to be £0.6m more than the budget of £6.7m. The increased income is a result of more members and a fee increase of 12% from May this year. Whilst there was a dip in membership numbers in November and December (with 11,451 health and fitness and 7,780 learn to swim members), new membership sales have been buoyant in January as is normal in the leisure and fitness industry. The budget is being adjusted from April 2024 to reflect the increased income.
- 14.3. There have been in-year vacancies and difficulties in recruiting casual staff with supervisors and general managers having to cover some shifts. This has resulted in an underspend on pay of £0.2m. This is offset by additional running costs of £0.1m including continued price pressure on consumables including chemical water treatments, building repair works and locker replacements.

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 £10.0m, plus £4.5m of grant funding that can be transferred into managed reserves.
- 15.2. The local government pay award was finalised on 1st November. The award averaged between 6% and 6.5% of pay, compared to a budget estimate of 5%. The cost of this exceeded the budget by £2.5m.
- 15.3. Conversely, a saving of £3.2m is expected on the provision for additional energy costs, which was made centrally in the original budget. Energy prices, while still high, have reduced globally since the budget was set.
- 15.4. Additional recharges to the HRA, as a contribution to overheads and functions that support both HRA and General Fund services, have generated an additional £0.8m of income to corporate budgets.
- 15.5. The forecasts assume that the corporate contingency budget of £3.6m is fully committed towards overspends in social care and homelessness, as detailed above. Various other provisions and contingency budgets have been reviewed to support the overall budget. This has resulted in a further £1.6m underspend on corporate budgets in the current year (in addition to the contingency).

- 15.6. Capital Financing costs are forecast to be £3.3m below budget. This has improved recently due to higher interest rates and slower than predicted falls in our cash balances. The situation around investment returns remains extremely volatile, particularly in regard to the level of cash balances: for example, a 10% change in cash balance levels can equate to a variance of around £1.2m on this budget. High investment income returns are unlikely to continue in future years as cash balances decline.
- 15.7 The Council has received £4.5m of additional grant that was not budgeted. This includes £3.2m of additional funding from government, £0.5m originally provided for the Covid self-isolation support scheme, and £0.8m announced in February relating to the national surplus on the business rates retention scheme. Approval is sought as part of this report to transfer these sums to the managed reserves.

Savings Identified

- 1.1 As members are aware, future funding outlooks remain bleak and work is ongoing to identify and make savings during the course of 2023/24, which help reduce the scale of future deficits. Savings have been reported in previous monitoring reports and in a separate report to OSC in November and this process is ongoing.
- 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>			
Reduce passenger transport bus fleet	19	38	38
Shopmobility operational savings	-	23	23
Housing Support efficiency savings	-	28	74
De Montfort Hall efficiencies	-	150	150
Arts & Museums - grant to Soft Touch Arts	-	12	12
Neighbourhood & Environmental Services staffing efficiencies	-	170	170
Health & Wellbeing savings			
Recommissioning of Healthy Child programme	-	200	200
Total savings	19	621	667

**Executive Decision
Capital Budget
Monitoring
April-December
2023/24**

Decision to be taken by: City Mayor

Decision to be taken on: 11 April 2024

Lead director/officer: Amy Oliver, Director of Finance

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All
- Report author: Catherine Taylor, Acting Chief Accountant
- Author contact details: catherine.taylor@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 December 2023 (Period 9).
- 1.2 This is the third capital monitoring report of the financial year. An outturn report will be presented following the year end.
- 1.3 As previously reported, many projects are experiencing delays and increased costs due to instability in the construction industry and continued inflationary pressures. 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 report and decisions are taken as required. It is anticipated construction industry uncertainty and cost pressures will continue to be an issue for the foreseeable future.
- 1.4 The CIPFA Prudential Code, which is intended to ensure capital investment plans are affordable, prudent and sustainable, requires a number of indicators to be reported on a quarterly basis. The Code was revised in 2021 and required authorities to follow the revised reporting requirements in the 2023/24 financial year. These indicators are included at Appendix F.

2. Recommended actions/decision

- 2.1 The Executive is recommended to:
 - Note total spend of £94.8m for the year to date.
 - Approve the following additions:
 - £415k for Highways Maintenance, funded by an additional Government Grant, see Appendix B, Para 3.6.
 - £116k for the Leisure Centres Phase 2 overspend, £64k to be funded from the Programme Contingency policy provision and £52k to be funded from the Capital Fund. See appendix D, Para 1.3.

The OSC is recommended to:

- Consider the overall position presented within this report and make any observations it sees fit.
- Note the quarterly prudential indicators presented in Appendix F.

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, financial slippage is not in itself an issue on these projects;
- (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 9 is shown below:

	£000
Projects	188,224
Work Programmes	223,752
Provisions	191
Schemes Substantially Complete	6,870
Total Immediate Starts	419,037
Policy Provisions	21,864
Total Capital Programme	440,901

4.4 The following changes have occurred to the capital programme since period 6:

	£000
Executive Decisions from P6 report	
Green Homes	915
New Build Council Housing	713
Off-site Cloud Backup	388
Network Wi-Fi Replacement	300
Property Conversions	(170)
Director Decisions	
Family Hubs	132
Other	124
Net Movements	2,402

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
- Appendix F – Prudential Indicators

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 9, the Council has realised £7.4m of General Fund capital receipts, of which £6.7m relates to ringfenced receipts on the Ashton Green and Waterside developments.

4.7.2 “Right to Buy” receipts from sales of council housing have amounted to £12.0m received in year.

4.8 Prudential Indicators

This report also presents prudential indicators for the same period, in accordance with the CIPFA code.

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.

Kamal Adatia, Head of Law - City Barrister & Head of Standards

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. 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. People from across all protected characteristics should benefit from the improved public good arising from the capital programme. 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

Following the council's declaration of a climate emergency and ambition to reach net zero carbon emissions for the council and the city, the council has a key role to play in addressing carbon emissions relating to the delivery of its services. This includes through its delivery of capital projects, with buildings being one of largest contributors to the city's carbon emissions.

A number of the projects for addition and transfer with this report have direct climate emergency implications, including the following:

Green Homes – This funding will directly contribute to reducing carbon emissions in the city's private homes through increasing their energy efficiency.

New Build Council Housing – New council housing has been designed to be energy efficient and low carbon, minimising carbon emissions from its use.

Council House Boiler Replacements – This work will reduce carbon emissions from existing council houses through fitting more efficient gas boilers to properties.

Leicester Market Redevelopment – This project has been designed to be energy efficient, including the installation of solar PV panels and a heat pump, minimising carbon emissions.

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?)

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 22 February 2023.

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

2023/24 Capital Monitoring P3 Report presented to OSC on 20 September 2023.

2023/24 Capital Monitoring P6 Report presented to OSC on 14 December 2023.

8. Summary of appendices:

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

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.

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
Corporate Resources	688	0
Planning, Development & Transportation	98,804	37,775
Tourism, Culture & Inward Investment	38,629	4,591
Neighbourhood & Environmental Services	4,471	165
Estates & Building Services	12,994	279
Adult Social Care	2,510	0
Children's Services	22,323	5,673
Housing Revenue Account	7,805	2,216
Total	188,224	50,699

- 1.2 A list of the individual projects is shown in the table on pages 10-11 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 @ P9
CRS	Off-site Cloud Backup	388	0	0	Sep-24	Sep-24	N/A	Green
CRS	Network Wi-Fi Replacement	300	0	0	Dec-24	Dec-24	N/A	Green
CDN (PDT)	Connecting Leicester	35,927	14,536	0	Nov-20	Dec-24	Green	Green
CDN (PDT)	Waterside Strategic Regeneration Area	3,793	1,413	0	Mar-23	Jun-26	Green	Green
CDN (PDT)	St George's Churchyard	558	4	0	Aug-18	Jul-24	Green	Green
CDN (PDT)	High Streets Heritage Action Zones	808	101	(100)	Apr-24	Mar-24	Green	Blue
CDN (PDT)	Leicester Railway Station - Levelling up	20,878	2,293	0	Mar-24	TBC	Amber	Amber
CDN (PDT)	Electric Bus Investment	8,003	8,003	0	Dec-23	May-24	Green	Green
CDN (PDT)	Pioneer Park - Levelling Up	25,031	11,425	0	Dec-24	Sep-24	Green	Green
CDN (PDT)	Land South of Midland Street	1,156	0	0	Sep-22	Dec-23	Amber	Blue
CDN (PDT)	Ashton Green Access Road	2,250	0	0	Dec-24	TBC	Green	Purple
CDN (PDT)	St Paul's Church	400	0	0	Aug-25	Aug-25	Green	Green
CDN (TCI)	Jewry Wall Museum Improvements	10,004	2,342	0	Mar-23	Oct-24	Amber	Green
CDN (TCI)	Leicester Market Redevelopment	9,733	483	0	Dec-21	Dec-24	Amber	Amber
CDN (TCI)	12-20 Cank St Link	2,824	56	0	Jan-25	Jan-25	Green	Green
CDN (TCI)	Onsite Construction Skills Hub	706	75	0	Dec-22	Mar-25	Green	Green
CDN (TCI)	Leicester Museum and Art Gallery Phase 1	2,091	165	0	Mar-22	Jun-26	Green	Green
CDN (TCI)	De Montfort Hall	722	172	0	Mar-22	Mar-24	Green	Blue
CDN (TCI)	Pilot House - Levelling Up	12,281	1,106	0	Mar-24	Feb-25	Green	Green
CDN (TCI)	Ugandan Asians – 50 Year Anniversary Commemoration	268	192	0	Jun-23	Mar-24	Green	Blue
CDN (NES)	Library Self Access Rollout	587	41	0	Sep-24	TBC	Amber	Purple
CDN (NES)	St Margaret's Pastures Skate Park	384	27	0	Jan-23	May-25	Green	Amber
CDN (NES)	Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs)	3,106	60	0	Mar-25	Sep-25	Green	Amber
CDN (NES)	Spinney Hills Park - Levelling Up	199	37	0	Mar-24	Mar-24	Green	Blue
CDN (NES)	African Caribbean Centre Maintenance	60	0	0	Jan-24	Jul-24	Amber	Green
CDN (NES)	Study Zones	135	0	0	Mar-24	Mar-24	Green	Blue
Total		142,592	42,531	(100)				

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 @ P9
CDN (EBS)	Estate Shops	496	19	0	Mar-22	Mar-24	Amber	Blue
CDN (EBS)	Changing Places - Disabled Facilities Toilets	305	38	0	Mar-24	Jun-24	Green	Amber
CDN (EBS)	Malcolm Arcade Refurbishment	1,353	34	0	Nov-23	TBC	Purple	Purple
CDN (EBS)	Replacement Cladding Phoenix Square	9,570	175	0	Dec-24	Sep-25	Green	Green
CDN (EBS)	St Nicholas Wall	460	0	0	Sep-24	Sep-24	Green	Green
CDN (EBS)	Aikman Avenue District Heating	195	0	0	Dec-23	Apr-24	Purple	Green
CDN (EBS)	Phoenix Arts Car Park	100	13	0	Mar-25	Dec-23	Green	Blue
CDN (EBS)	Heathers Industrial Estate	515	0	0	Dec-23	Jan-24	Green	Blue
SCE (ASC)	Extra Care Schemes	2,510	0	0	Aug-20	TBC	Amber	Purple
SCE (ECS)	Additional SEND Places (including Pupil Referral Units)	11,754	2,519	10,300	Jan-24	Sep-25	Amber	Red
SCE (ECS)	Overdale Infant and Juniors School Expansion	3,255	2,247	0	Nov-21	Mar-24	Green	Blue
SCE (ECS)	Pindar Nursery	841	6	0	Mar-23	TBC	Purple	Purple
SCE (ECS)	S106 Additional School Places	519	106	0	Sep-23	Aug-24	Green	Green
SCE (ECS)	Children's Homes Refurbishments	800	110	0	Sep-23	Jul-24	Green	Green
SCE (ECS)	Expansion of Children's Homes	2,037	536	0	May-23	Dec-24	Green	Green
SCE (ECS)	Winstanley Contact Centre	785	83	0	Apr-24	Jun-24	Amber	Green
SCE (ECS)	Education System Re-tender	2,200	59	0	Mar-26	Mar-26	Green	Green
SCE (ECS)	Family Hubs	132	7	0	Mar-26	Mar-26	N/A	Green
Total (excluding HRA)		180,419	48,483	10,200				
CDN (HRA)	New House Build Council Housing	1,577	430	0	Apr-23	Mar-25	Green	Green
CDN (HRA)	Bridlespur Way Refurbishment	300	0	0	Mar-23	Sep-24	Amber	Amber
CDN (HRA)	Dawn Centre Reconfiguration	1,500	27	0	May-23	Oct-24	Amber	Green
CDN (HRA)	St Matthews Concrete Works	1,300	0	0	Mar-24	Sep-24	Green	Green
CDN (HRA)	District Heating Metering	3,128	1,759	0	Jan-24	Jun-24	Amber	Amber
Total HRA		7,805	2,216	0				
Total (including HRA)		188,224	50,699	10,200				

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 P9

Corporate Resources

1. Projects Summary

Project Name	Remaining Budget (£000)	Over / (Under) Spend (£000)	Original Completion Date	Forecast Completion Date	RAG Rating
Off-site Cloud Backup	388	0	Sept 2024	Sept 2024	G
Network Wi-Fi Replacement	300	0	Dec 2024	Dec 2024	G
Total	688	0			

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

Capital Programme Project Monitoring 2023/24 P9

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	35,927	0	March 2024	Dec 2024	G
Waterside Strategic Regeneration Area	3,793	0	March 2023	June 2026	G
St George's Churchyard	558	0	Aug 2018	July 2024	G
High Streets Heritage Action Zones	808	(100)	April 2024	March 2024	B
Leicester Station Improvements – Levelling Up	20,878	0	March 2024	TBC	A
Electric Bus Investment	8,003	0	Sept 2024	May 2024	G
Pioneer Park – Levelling Up	25,031	0	Dec 2024	Sept 2024	G
Land South of Midland Street	1,156	0	Sept 2022	Dec 2023	B
Ashton Green Access Road	2,250	0	Dec 2024	TBC	P
St Paul's Church	400	0	Aug 2025	Aug 2025	G
Total	98,804	(100)			

2. Projects Commentary (for **all** projects rated Amber, Red or Purple; and others as required).

- 2.1. Leicester Station Improvements – Levelling Up** – An updated completion date will be provided following contractor engagement in the Autumn.
- 2.2. Ashton Green Access Road** – This project is currently on hold while the current scope of the works is being revised.

Capital Programme Project Monitoring 2023/24 P9

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	Oct 2024	G
Leicester Market Redevelopment	9,733	0	Dec 2021	Dec 2024	A
12-20 Cank St Link	2,824	0	Jan 2025	Jan 2025	G
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
De Montfort Hall	722	0	March 2022	March 2024	B
Pilot House – Levelling Up	12,281	0	March 2024	Feb 2025	G
Ugandan Asians – 50 Year Anniversary Commemoration	268	0	June 2023	March 2024	B
Total	38,629	0			

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

2.1. **Leicester Market Redevelopment** – Site investigations are expected to complete in April 2024, following the results there could be potential for delay.

Capital Programme Project Monitoring 2023/24 P9

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	TBC	P
St Margaret's Pastures Skate Park	384	0	Jan 2023	May 2025	A
Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs)	3,106	0	March 2025	Sept 2025	A
Spinney Hills Park - Levelling Up	199	0	March 2024	March 2024	B
African Caribbean Centre Maintenance	60	0	Jan 2024	July 2024	G
Study Zones	135	0	March 2024	March 2024	B
Total	4,471	0			

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

2.1 Library Self Access Rollout – The project is on hold until Community Services and Library Needs Assessment is complete following public consultation.

2.2 St Margaret's Pastures Skate Park – Further ecology and archaeology investigations have been completed following consultation and planning approval is expected at the end of March 2024. It's anticipated that construction is now expected to begin in January 2025 and due to complete by May 2025 due to the contractor's capacity.

2.3 Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs) – Majority of the sites will meet the original completion date. However, there is the legislative obligation to protect some protected species, and this may cause delays in some sites. Minor works have been completed at Melbourne Street and the procurement process for a main tenderer at Cedar Road Gardens has started. Resurfacing works to the synthetic carpet have also been completed at Nelson Mandela Park.

Capital Programme Project Monitoring 2023/24 P9

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	March 2024	B
Changing Places - Disabled Facilities Toilets	305	0	March 2024	June 2024	A
Malcolm Arcade Refurbishment	1,353	0	Nov 2023	TBC	P
Replacement Cladding Phoenix Square	9,570	0	Dec 2024	Sept 2025	G
St Nicholas Wall	460	0	Sept 2024	Sept 2024	G
Aikman Avenue District Heating	195	0	Dec 2023	April 2024	G
Phoenix Arts Car Park	100	0	March 2025	Dec 2023	B
Heathers Industrial Estate	515	0	Dec 2023	Jan 2024	B
Total	12,994	0			

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

2.1 Changing Places - Disabled Facilities Toilets – The forecast completion has been delayed due to proposed works on toilets at a listed building requiring planning approval to progress further. This has since been granted and works are forecast to complete by the end of June 2024.

2.2 Malcolm Arcade Refurbishment – There has been a proposed change to the original scope of the works which are being finalised.

Capital Programme Project Monitoring 2023/24 P9

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	TBC	P
Total	2,510	0			

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

- 2.1 **Extra Care – Two Schemes** – This project is currently paused at the procurement stage whilst seeking advice on the council's ability to proceed to the next stage.

Capital Programme Project Monitoring 2023/24 P9

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)	11,754	10,300	Jan 2024	Sept 2025	R
Overdale Infant and Juniors School Expansion	3,255	0	Nov 2021	March 2024	B
Pindar Nursery	841	0	March 2023	TBC	P
S106 Additional School Places	519	0	Sept 2023	Aug 2024	G
Children's Homes Refurbishments	800	0	Sept 2023	July 2024	G
Expansion of Children's Homes	2,037	0	May 2023	Dec 2024	G
Winstanley Contact Centre	785	0	April 2024	June 2024	G
Education System Re-tender	2,200	0	March 2026	March 2026	G
Family Hubs	132	0	March 2026	March 2026	G
Total	22,323	10,300			

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), the additional cost of the requirements have now been determined and funding options are being explored. For the proposed amendments an increase in budget will be sought once a decision on how best to use available resources has been finalised.

2.2 Pindar Nursery – This scheme is currently on hold due to revision of the planned scope of works which will need further decisions.

Capital Programme Project Monitoring 2023/24 P9

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	1,577	0	April 2023	March 2025	G
Bridlespur Way Refurbishment	300	0	March 2023	Sept 2024	A
Dawn Centre Reconfiguration	1,500	0	May 2023	Oct 2024	G
St Matthews Concrete Works	1,300	0	March 2024	Sept 2024	G
District Heating Metering	3,128	0	Jan 2024	June 2024	A
Total	7,805	0			

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

- 2.1 Bridlespur Way Refurbishment** – After starting on site, an infestation was identified which required clearing ahead of the work. The delay meant that contractors had to move onto other jobs. Although the contractors are due back on site shortly, the expected completion date is now September 2024.
- 2.2 District Heating Metering** – Difficulties gaining access to the homes of tenants and leaseholders. The project will conclude as planned in June 24 however internal business as usual arrangements are being set up to permit those tenants and leaseholders who have so far refused/not been available to have a meter to opt back into the scheme.

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	1,841	181	1,400	0
Planning, Development & Transportation	11,753	4,011	1,429	(90)
Tourism, Culture & Inward Investment	1,166	135	649	0
Neighbourhood & Environmental Services	1,034	336	498	0
Estates & Building Services	8,952	2,730	3,006	(160)
Housing General Fund	11,968	1,916	7,170	0
Adult Social Care	0	0	0	0
Children's Services	17,273	5,003	7,944	0
Total (excluding HRA)	53,987	14,312	22,096	(250)
Housing Revenue Account	40,562	25,722	905	48
Total (including HRA)	94,549	40,034	23,001	(202)

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	1,841	181	1,400	0
Transport Improvement Works	CDN (PDT)	4,120	903	600	0
Bus Engine Retrofitting	CDN (PDT)	412	36	376	0
Air Quality Action Plan	CDN (PDT)	240	264	0	24
Highways Maintenance	CDN (PDT)	4,238	1,595	0	0
Flood Strategy	CDN (PDT)	300	196	0	0
Local Environmental Works	CDN (PDT)	400	289	0	0
Legible Leicester	CDN (PDT)	51	11	0	0
Potential Strategic Development Sites Assessment	CDN (PDT)	844	594	47	0
Architectural & Feature Lighting (Grant)	CDN (PDT)	196	0	196	0
Front Wall Enveloping	CDN (PDT)	200	0	180	0
Transforming Cities Work Programmes	CDN (PDT)	341	1	0	0
Campbell Street Feasibility Study	CDN (PDT)	186	80	0	(34)
Conservation Building Grants	CDN (PDT)	71	22	30	0
Street Nameplates City Branding Programme	CDN (PDT)	67	13	0	0
Environment Agency Feasibility Studies	CDN (PDT)	87	7	0	(80)
Heritage Interpretation Panels	CDN (TCI)	217	35	0	0
Cank St Feasibility	CDN (TCI)	3	0	3	0
Local Shopping Centres Reopening & Improvement Programme Grants	CDN (TCI)	946	100	646	0
Parks Plant and Equipment	CDN (NES)	298	109	0	0
Parks and Open Spaces	CDN (NES)	327	108	308	0
Franklyn Fields Public Open Space	CDN (NES)	409	119	190	0
Property & Operational Estate Capital Maintenance Programme	CDN (EBS)	6,679	911	3,006	0
Green Homes	CDN (EBS)	1,947	1,795	0	0
Phoenix & Sovereign House	CDN (EBS)	160	0	0	(160)
Depots Refurbishment	CDN (EBS)	166	24	0	0
Private Sector Disabled Facilities Grant	CDN (HGF)	2,231	1,423	0	0
Repayable Home Repair Loans	CDN (HGF)	134	13	121	0
Vehicle Fleet Replacement Programme	CDN (HGF)	7,466	480	6,563	0
District Heating Metering	CDN (HGF)	2,137	0	486	0
School Capital Maintenance	SCE (ECS)	17,029	4,882	7,944	0
Foster Care Capital Contribution Scheme	SCE (ECS)	244	121	0	0
Total (excluding HRA)		53,987	14,312	22,096	(250)
Council Housing - New Kitchens and Bathrooms	CDN (HRA)	2,000	1,651	0	0
Council Housing - Boiler Replacements	CDN (HRA)	2,800	1,914	0	0
Council Housing - Rewiring	CDN (HRA)	1,610	940	0	0
Council Housing - Disabled Adaptations & Improvements	CDN (HRA)	1,307	1,144	0	48
Council Housing - Insulation Works	CDN (HRA)	82	0	0	0
Council Housing - External Property Works	CDN (HRA)	450	154	0	0
Council Housing - Fire and Safety Works	CDN (HRA)	724	310	0	0
Community & Environmental Works	CDN (HRA)	1,349	185	655	0
Affordable Housing - Acquisitions	CDN (HRA)	24,596	19,162	0	0
Affordable Housing - RPs & Others	CDN (HRA)	4,765	92	0	0
Public Realm Works	CDN (HRA)	629	170	0	0
Feasibility Study for Sheltered Housing	CDN (HRA)	250	0	250	0
Total HRA		40,562	25,722	905	48
Total (including HRA)		94,549	40,034	23,001	(202)

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 **Feasibility Studies** – A review of current feasibility schemes is ongoing to identify the priorities of schemes to be progressed. The slippage is also due to resourcing issues that are being addressed internally.
- 3.3 **Transport Improvement Works** – There is forecasted slippage on this scheme due partly to longer lead times for materials required for construction and prioritisation for delivery and space on the network. Some of the work will therefore be slipped into the next financial year.
- 3.4 **Bus Engine Retrofitting** – This scheme is currently on hold due to a review being taken by DFT to establish whether they will carry on with the scheme.
- 3.5 **Air Quality Action Plan** – The overspend on this scheme is due to unforeseeable additional costs related to the installation and connection of Electric Vehicle Charging points, it is suggested that this will be funded from Transport Improvement Works.
- 3.6 **Highways Maintenance** – This report seeks to add £415k to the Highways Maintenance budget which is funded by an additional government grant (Highways Maintenance Funding: Network North).
- 3.7 **Potential Strategic Development Sites** - Work on this scheme is progressing well, however due to available resources a small proportion of the work planned for this year has now had to be carried forward into the next financial year.
- 3.8 **Architectural & Feature Lighting** – As previously reported, Grant recipients continue to request that works are delayed due to the current economic climate.
- 3.9 **Front Wall Enveloping** – Construction on this scheme is due to take place in 2024/25. This is due to approval of the property owners being required to progress

and this is usually a lengthy process to complete. These approvals are still being sought and can take approximately 6 months.

- 3.10 **Campbell Street Feasibility Studies** – As previously reported, this study is considered complete. However, there is still some expenditure expected but there is a forecasted underspend being reported.
- 3.11 **Conservation Building Grants** – All of the grants for this scheme have been committed; however, some of the claims will be completed in the next financial year at the request of the grant recipient.
- 3.12 **Environment Agency Feasibility Studies** – As previously reported, all three projects in this scheme of works are in the process of being terminated, mostly due to external partners prioritising other projects.
- 3.13 **Local Shopping Centres Reopening & Improvement Programme** – Plans for works at shop fronts located on Welford Road, Melton Road and Netherhall Road have now been identified and are planned for the next financial year due to the current capacity or resources.
- 3.14 **Parks and Open Spaces** – There have been delays with Victoria Park bandstand due to pre-planned works having to be rearranged due to a recent festival. Rally Park Ballcourt has experienced a delay due to additional investigations required around ground contamination and ecology.
- 3.15 **Franklyn Fields Public Open Space** – Reported slippage is due to resources being occupied on priority landscape works and recent wet conditions have prevented the start of some works further.
- 3.16 **Property and Operational Estate Capital Maintenance** – As previously reported, the slippage is due to the long lead times for energy efficiency works required on council buildings, with contractors having limited capacity to deliver the decarbonisation works this financial year. These will be completed in future years. Some planned works to council buildings have slipped to minimise the disruption that they would cause during times of high usage. A decision is also to be made on the priority of pre-planned maintenance works.
- 3.17 **Phoenix & Sovereign House** – Work on access control has been completed at Phoenix House and following condition surveys it has been decided the original scope of works to a platform and passenger lift would not be required.

- 3.18 **Repayable Home Repair Loans** – Resources are currently focused on the delivery of Disabled Facilities Grants resulting in the scheme slipping into the next financial year.
- 3.19 **Vehicle Replacement Programme** – As previously reported forecast slippage is due to the continued global factors affecting the supply of new vehicles and increased delivery lead times. A supplier for passenger assisted vehicles has recently gone into administration which has resulted in proposed orders not being placed and other sources being investigated. Internal resource issues have led to delays in the ordering process.
- 3.20 **District Heating Metering** – Reported slippage is due to difficulties in obtaining access to residents’ homes to install meters. Project remains planned to complete in June 24 with business as usual arrangements set up to enable those without meters to have them installed post this date.
- 3.21 **School Capital Maintenance** – As previously reported, the slippage is principally due to the supplier for energy efficiency works having limited capacity to deliver the decarbonisation of school buildings. This has increased from the previous quarter due to the prioritisation of works and will be completed in future years. In addition to this some works have slipped and being rescheduled around school holidays due to their disruptive nature.
- 3.22 **Council Housing Disabled Adaptations and Improvements (Sheltered Housing Improvements)** – There has been an increased demand this year for minor improvement work in Sheltered Housing relating to health and safety (for example, new carpets or furniture in the communal areas that have failed a fire risk assessment). The overspend of £48k will be funded from forecast HRA revenue underspends.
- 3.23 **Council Housing Communal and Environmental Works (District Heating)** – The technical team that support the delivery of the district heating capital improvements have been redirected to support the installation of heat meters; as such £200k of work will be delayed and carried out during 2024/25. In addition, the £455k payment to LDEC for the connection of Aikman Avenue onto the network is now expected to take place in 2024/25.

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 9, 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 9, 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
St Margaret's Gateway	CDN (PDT)	1	0	0
Stocking Farm Community Shop	CDN (PDT)	30	0	(30)
City-wide Parkmap TRO review, signs and lines upgrades	CDN (PDT)	83	60	0
Saffron Brook	CDN (PDT)	280	133	0
North West Leicester Regeneration Area	CDN (PDT)	60	28	0
Acquisition of Queen St	CDN (PDT)	120	119	(1)
Pioneer Park	CDN (TCI)	16	16	0
Pioneer Park Commercial Workspace (formerly Dock 2)	CDN (TCI)	63	57	0
Gresham Business Workspace	CDN (TCI)	40	27	0
Abbey Pumping Station	CDN (TCI)	0	0	0
Growth Hub	CDN (TCI)	343	305	(38)
Fashion Technology Academy	CDN (TCI)	120	16	(98)
Library RFID Self-Service System	CDN (NES)	11	0	0
Library Improved Self-Access Pilot	CDN (NES)	10	2	0
Abbey Park Precinct Wall	CDN (NES)	46	20	3
Digital & Performance Suite	CDN (NES)	15	15	0
Ash Die Back Equipment	CDN (NES)	130	128	(2)
Haymarket House, Car Parks & Lifts	CDN (EBS)	173	66	0
Haymarket Bus Station - Toilet Expansion and Refurbishments	CDN (EBS)	58	10	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	3	(20)
Aylestone Leisure Centre PV Panels	CDN (EBS)	595	311	0
Bosworth House	CDN (EBS)	675	675	0
Haymarket Theatre - Internal Completion Works	CDN (EBS)	301	134	0
Goscote House Demolition	CDN (HRA)	304	263	0
Greener Homes	CDN (HRA)	667	0	(480)
Tower Block Sprinkler Systems	CDN (HRA)	1,100	1,075	0
Additional Primary School Places	SCE (ECS)	63	0	0
Glebelands Primary School Modular Building	SCE (ECS)	33	1	(32)
Expansion of Oaklands Special School	SCE (ECS)	1,189	292	0
Tiny Forests in Leicester Schools	SCE (ECS)	53	50	(3)
Leisure Centres Phase 2	PH	91	176	116
Total		6,870	3,982	(585)

1.2 **Leisure Centres Phase 2** – As previously reported the forecast overspend is a result of increased inflation on building materials and unforeseen drainage issues. £64k of the overspend will be funded from the Programme Contingency policy provision and the remaining £52k is to be funded from the Capital Fund.

POLICY PROVISIONS**1. Summary**

1.1. As at Period 9, the following policy provisions were still awaiting formal approval for allocation to specific schemes.

Department/ Division	Policy Provision	Amount £000	Savings £000
CRS	New Ways of Working	1,887	0
CDN (PDT)	Strategic Acquisitions	2,572	0
CDN (TCII)	Tourism & Culture	50	50
CDN (TCII)	Highways, Transport & Infrastructure	1,494	1,294
CDN (TCII)	Leicester Museum and Art Gallery (LMAG)	3,621	0
CDN (NES)	Library Investment	1,000	0
CDN (Various)	People & Neighbourhoods	392	0
SCE (ECS)	New School Places	4,673	0
SCE (ASC)	Extra Care Schemes	3,426	0
Other	Black Lives Matter	435	0
All	Programme Contingency	1,564	0
Total (excluding HRA)		21,114	1,344
CDN (HRA)	Other HRA Schemes	750	0
Total HRA		750	0
Total (including HRA)		21,864	1,344

1.2. Releases from policy provisions since the 2023/24 P6 report (reflected in the tables above) are listed below:

- £1,600k for Connecting Leicester from Highways, Transport & Infrastructure
- £1,400k for Leicester Market Redevelopment from Highways, Transport & Infrastructure
- £1,350k for Leicester Market Redevelopment from Programme Contingency

1.3. As shown in the above table, £1.344m can be taken as a saving. £1.334m of this is funded by corporate resources and as outlined in the 2024/25 capital programme it has been recommended that this can be used for future programmes.

Prudential Indicators

Summary

Under the requirements of the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities, Council set each year in February, the prudential indicators for the authority as part of the Treasury Management Strategy and Capital Strategy. Monitoring of prudential indicator is not required to be taken to full council but should be reported as part of the capital monitoring.

1. Debt and the Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary

The Authority is legally obliged to set an affordable borrowing limit (also termed the Authorised Limit for external debt) each year and to keep it under review. In line with statutory guidance, a lower “operational boundary” is also set as a warning level should debt approach the limit.

	2023/24 Authorised Limit £m	2023/24 Operational Boundary £m	Debt at 31/12/23 £m	Complied?
Borrowing	300	245	154	yes
PFI and Finance Leases	175	145	89	yes
Total debt	475	390	243	

Note that the operational boundary is a management tool for in-year monitoring, and it is not significant if the boundary is breached on occasions due to variations in cash flow, and this is not counted as a compliance failure.

2. Maturity Structure of Borrowing

This indicator is set to control the Authority’s exposure to refinancing risk. The upper and lower limits on the maturity of all borrowing were:

	Upper Limit £m	Lower Limit £m	31/12/23 Actual £m	Complied?
Under 12 months	50	nil	nil	yes
12 months and within 24 months	80	nil	20	yes
24 months and within 5 years	140	nil	nil	yes
5 years and within 10 years	140	nil	nil	yes

Note that these figures exclude PFI and finance leases. It also excludes money we hold and manage on behalf of the Fire Authority. The £20m due between 12 months

and 24 months relates to our LOBO loans which could be called in January 2025. All other loans have a maturity profile of over 10 years.

3. Short-term Treasury Management Investments

The Council has an overall limit for investments. We invest mainly in money markets and with other Local Authorities for short-term investments as we are able to call back for cashflow.

4. Long-term Treasury Management Investments

The Council has a limit of £50m for investments in all types of long-term investments such as property funds, long dated bond funds and equities. The total sum of such investments held by the Council as of 31 December 2023 was the £7m we hold in property funds. It is highly unlikely that we will invest further in these funds during the rest of the year or next year.

One of our property funds, Lothbury has suffered a large number of redemption requests which has resulted in withdrawals from the fund being suspended. At the time of writing the fund has a termination date of 31 March 2024. The position regarding the fund is subject to ongoing negotiations but there are 2 outcomes subject to an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM), investors either transfer their holdings into a fund run by UBS or, remain within fund until the termination in May. Once the fund is formally terminated either on the 31 March 2024 or a date in May 2024, the remaining properties will be sold over the next 18 months. The fund has already generated a significant amount of cash from property sales, in readiness for the termination of the fund, and this cash will be repatriated to investors on termination, with monthly repatriations of any income generated and sales of the remaining properties.

5. Gross Debt and the Capital Finance Requirement (CFR)

The underlying need to borrow for capital purposes is called the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). The CFR falls over time as loans are gradually repaid and rises with new borrowing. The historic Housing Revenue Account debt does not have to be repaid and will therefore remain in the CFR.

Statutory guidance is that debt should remain below the capital finance requirement, except in the short term. The authority has complied and expects to continue to comply with this requirement. The total debt including PFI and finance leases (but

excluding money we hold on behalf of the Fire Authority) was £243m whereas our Capital Finance Requirement (CFR) was £591m.

6. Liability Benchmark

The Liability Benchmark compares the underlying need to borrow for capital purposes with the external loans profile over the next 50 years, for existing and approved future expenditure.

We are required to set money aside each year to repay borrowing, this is a revenue budget cost. We would expect the CFR to rise in the medium term due to the planned increased investment in housing. Cash balances continue to decline, and the Council is likely to need to borrow more in the medium term within the CFR, instead of relying on internal borrowing.

After revenue and other balances have been considered, the liability benchmark (the underlying need to borrow for all purposes), is less than the CFR which is the maximum amount that can be borrowed except for very short term cashflow requirements.

7. Compliance with the Council's Treasury Management Strategy

For the operational implementation of the Council's Treasury Management Strategy the most important limits and indicators that need to be monitored throughout the year are:

- The authorised limit – the maximum amount of borrowing that the Council permits itself to have outstanding at any one time.
- The operational limit – a lower limit to trigger management action if borrowing is higher than expected.
- Limits on sums to be invested for more than one year.

These limits are monitored and have been complied with.

Overview Select Committee
Work Programme 2023 – 2024

Meeting Date	Item	Recommendations / Actions	Progress
13 July 2023	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 was 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 	<p>1a) That as outlined above, further responses be provide in relation to the requests by commission members for additional information.</p> <p>1b) That the scrutiny commissions continue to examine the detail of the finances relating to those policy areas of particular significance, as outlined in the report and discussed during the consideration of this item.</p> <p>2a) That further information be provided in relation to right-to-buy properties and progress in relation to Ashton Green; and</p> <p>2b) That consideration be given to convening a site-visit to Ashton Green as suggested by the City Mayor.</p>	<p>1a) A briefing note that summarised progress to all actions has been circulated separately to members.</p> <p>1b) This is being picked up as part of the work programming for relevant scrutiny commissions.</p> <p>2a) This has been covered as part of the briefing note referred to above in 1a.</p> <p>2b) This site visit has now been convened.</p>

Meeting Date	Item	Recommendations / Actions	Progress
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) 3. Budget Savings - update 4. Verbal update on informal work 	<p>1a) That a response to the proposal from young people be provided, 1b) That further information be provided to members as outlined above; and 1c) That scrutiny commissions be asked to look at focussed issues arising from the cost-of-living crisis as appropriate.</p> <p>2a) That responses be provided to members following several information requests outlined above; and 2b) That consideration be given to inviting members to a tour of the Granby Street Customer Services centre.</p> <p>3) That further detail on the process of issuing a Section 114 notice be provided to committee members.</p>	<p>1a) The matter has been taken up with relevant schools 1b) Provided to members 1c) To be considered by scrutiny commissions at the request of scrutiny chairs.</p> <p>2a) Complete 2b) The Chair to consider further.</p> <p>3) Complete</p>

<p>14 December 2023</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Call-in of Executive Decision – Budget Savings 2. Revenue Monitoring Period 6 3. Capital Monitoring Period 6 4. Income Collection Report – Half-Yearly 5. Treasury Report – Half Yearly 	<p>1a) That the call-in be withdrawn and that the Committee supports the implementation of the Executive decision.</p> <p>1b) That further information be provided to members in respect of the total number of deleted posts as a result of all of the savings proposed in the report; and</p> <p>1c) That further information be provided to members in respect of fee increases within Bereavement Services.</p> <p>2) That the overall position presented in the report be noted and that further information on a number of matters raised be provided to members, as outlined above.</p> <p>5a) That further detail with regard to the status of the Lothbury Trust investment be provided to members in due course; and</p> <p>5b) That a revised version of the loans and investments table included in the report be provided to members.</p>	<p>1a) Complete</p> <p>1b and c) Information has been provided separately to members.</p> <p>2) Information has been provided separately to members.</p> <p>5a and b) This information is to be provided to members.</p>
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Meeting Date	Item	Recommendations / Actions	Progress
11 January 2024 SPECIAL MEETING	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Call-in –Demolition of 14-16 Market Place – Creation of New Link and Development Site 2. Call -in – St Martins Phase 2 Improvement Scheme 3. Exceptional Homelessness Pressures on Housing 	<p>3a) That a report regarding the enhanced rough sleeper offer be provided to the Housing Scrutiny Commission and that an Equality Impact Assessment be prepared to accompany this report; and</p> <p>3b) That a comprehensive breakdown in relation to the mix of accommodation units be provided to members of the committee.</p>	<p>3a) To be taken up by the Housing Scrutiny Commission during 2024/25</p> <p>3b) This information is to be provided to members.</p>

Meeting Date	Item	Recommendations / Actions	Progress
8 February 2024	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. General Revenue Budget 2. Capital Programme 3. Housing Revenue Account 4. Treasury Management 5. Investment Strategy 6. Treasury Policy 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) That the detail of future in-year budget saving proposals be considered by relevant scrutiny commissions. 4) That references to investment options of up to £30million into commercial property funds be made clearer in the version of the report presented to Full Council. 5) That a training session for members be set up in advance of Full Council in relation to the City Council's treasury management and investment activity. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To be considered by commissions on an ongoing basis. 4) Complete 5) This session was held in advance of the February meeting of Full Council.
11 April 2024	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Revenue Monitoring Period 9 2. Capital Monitoring Period 9 		

Forward Plan Items (suggested)

Topic	Detail	Proposed Date
Corporate Equality Strategy		Summer 2024
Environmental Impact of Construction Projects		Summer 2024

