

Leicester
City Council

MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW SELECT COMMITTEE

DATE: WEDNESDAY, 19 MARCH 2025

TIME: 5:30 pm

PLACE: Meeting Room G.01, Ground Floor, City Hall, 115 Charles Street, Leicester, LE1 1FZ

Members of the Committee

Councillor Cassidy (Chair)

Councillors Adatia, Batool, Kitterick, March, O'Neill, Osman, Pickering, Porter, Rae Bhatia and Waddington

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

For Monitoring Officer

Officer contacts:

Julie Bryant (Governance Services) and Ed Brown (Governance Services),
e-mail: julie.bryant@leicester.gov.uk or edmund.brown@leicester.gov.uk
Leicester City Council, 115 Charles Street, Leicester, LE1 1FZ

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Further information

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

Julie Bryant and Ed Brown, Governance Services, email julie.bryant@leicester.gov.uk or edmund.brown@leicester.gov.uk, or call in at City Hall.

For Press Enquiries - please phone the **Communications Unit on 0116 454 4151**.

PUBLIC SESSION

AGENDA

NOTE:

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1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To issue a welcome to those present, and to confirm if there are any apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

[Appendix A](#)

The minutes of the meeting of the Overview Select Committee held on 30th January 2025 have been circulated, and Members will be asked to confirm them as a correct record.

4. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair is invited to make any announcements as they see fit.

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, REPRESENTATION AND STATEMENTS OF CASE

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

7. PETITIONS

The Monitoring Officer to report on any petitions received.

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

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

9. CALL IN OF EXECUTIVE DECISION - PROPOSED PURCHASE OF A 134-UNIT CITY CENTRE BUILDING [Appendix C](#)

An Executive decision taken by the City Mayor on 3 March 2025 relating to the proposed purchase of the YoHo building has been the subject of a 6 member call-in under the procedures at Rule 12 of Part 4D, City Mayor and Executive Procedure Rules, of the Council's Constitution.

The Committee is recommended to either:

- a) Note the report without further comment or recommendation. *(If the report is noted the process continues and the call in will be considered at a future meeting of Full Council); or*
- b) Comment on the specific issues raised by the call-in. *(If comments are made the process continues and the comments and call in will be considered at a future meeting of Full Council); or*
- c) Resolve that the call-in be withdrawn *(If the committee wish for there to be no further action on the call-in, then they must actively withdraw it. If withdrawal is agreed the call-in process stops, the call-in will not be considered at a future meeting of Full Council and the original decision takes immediate affect without amendment).*

10. 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.

11. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING APRIL-DECEMBER 2024/25 [Appendix D](#)

The Director of Finance submits the third report in the monitoring cycle for 2024/25 to the end of December 2024.

12. CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING APRIL-DECEMBER 2024/25 [Appendix E](#)

The Director of Finance submits the third capital monitoring report of the financial year. The purpose of this report is to provide the position of the capital programme at the end of December 2024 (Period 9).

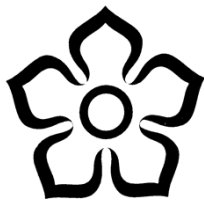
13. COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME - TASK GROUP SCOPING DOCUMENT [Appendix F](#)

The Chair submits a report providing members of the Committee with a proposed scope for the review of the Council Tax Support Scheme and the opportunity to comment on the scope for the review, suggest issues to include and consider joining the group.

14. OVERVIEW SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME [Appendix G](#)

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

15. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS



Leicester
City Council

Appendix A

Minutes of the Meeting of the OVERVIEW SELECT COMMITTEE

Held: THURSDAY, 30 JANUARY 2025 at 5:30 pm

P R E S E N T:

Councillor Cassidy - Chair

Councillor Kitterick
Councillor O'Neill
Councillor Porter
Councillor Westley

Councillor March
Councillor Osman
Councillor Waddington

In Attendance

City Mayor – Sir Peter Soulsby
Deputy City Mayor - Councillor Cutkelvin
Assistant City Mayor - Councillor Sood (online)
* * * * *

87. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Rae Bhatia with Councillor Westley attending as substitute for Councillor Rae Bhatia.

Apologies would also be received from Cllr Adatia, he would join online.
Apologies would also be received from Cllr Pickering, she would join online.

88. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Councillor March raised that she had an ongoing interest in the issue of Council Tax Support should the issue be raised in the meeting.

89. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair advised that the informal scrutiny on Workforce Representation would take place on 4th and 5th of February.

An initial scoping meeting to look at the scope and timelines for a task group regarding Council Tax would be arranged.

90. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

With regard to a request noted in the minutes for information regarding the outside Council Buildings being lit up at night and whether this was still done, this would be looked into.

AGREED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2024 be confirmed as a correct record.

91. PROGRESS ON ACTIONS AGREED AT THE LAST MEETING

A query, was noted during the item on Minutes from the previous meeting, as noted above.

Other progress on actions were reflected in the Work Programme attached to the agenda pack and members had been emailed the details of this progress.

92. QUESTIONS, REPRESENTATION 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.

93. PETITIONS

The Monitoring Officer reported that no petitions had been received.

94. 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. No petitions were marked as 'red'.

AGREED:

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

95. QUESTIONS FOR THE CITY MAYOR

The Chair invited members to raise questions for The City Mayor.

Reference was made to privately owned children's care homes and the associated costs. The City Mayor was invited to provide his view on this and to offer ideas on how to reduce expenditure.

The City Mayor agreed that there was a nationwide issue with costings. Recent government proposals had been promising, particularly the legislative proposals. A presentation, recently received by the Executive, would be forwarded to the commission. There was a good record of developing children's homes in Leicester in a financially prudent way. This provided safe places for young people who were unable to live outside of local authority care. Regarding the recently created Aylestone children's home and other planned homes, provision was being developed to avoid children having to move to other parts of the country. There had been issues with other local authorities placing children within Leicester. The government was beginning to address this practice which would help to prevent subsequent profiteering from the private sector.

AGREED:

That the presentation on Children's Care Homes be shared with the Commission.

96. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET (INCLUDING CAPITAL PROGRAMME) 2025/26

The Director of Housing submitted a report setting out the City Mayor's proposed Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget for 2025/26 prior to it being considered at Full Council on 19th February 2025.

The Overview Select Committee was recommended to make any comments on the report.

The following was noted:

- This was a balanced HRA proposal despite pressures of £5m in the Housing Revenue Account
- To balance the budget there was a proposal of a 2.7% rent increase (this was the maximum allowed by central government.) Anything below the 2.7% would lead to a loss of income and could impact on investment and cause a reduction in services.
- Alongside the rent increase there were proposals for an equivalent 2.7% increases in garage and hostel rents. A 4% increase for Gypsy and Traveller plot rents, a 1.7% increase on service charges (except for a 9.1% reduction in waylighting service charges due to a direct link to electricity costs reductions.
- For District heating, there were now 1900 tenants and 1000 home-

owners supplied through this heating scheme. Almost 1000 were on meters and the remainder were on weekly fixed charges.

- For the charges on properties where there was heat meter separated into fixed and variable charges, there was a forecasted fixed cost reduction of 26%, following the reduction of 24% last year
- For the heat variable charge there was a proposed reduction in charge of 25%, following a 29% reduction last year.
- For those properties without a heat meter, it was proposed that there would be a reduction of 26%
- From a Capital Perspective, this would create a Capital Budget of £40.96m. Of this £30m would relate to new build housing, broken down into loans and right to buy receipts. The remaining £10.9m would go towards additional investment in housing stock.
- The budget consultation had gone out to tenants with the majority in support of the proposals.
- Proposals had then gone on to the Housing Scrutiny Commission with no changes being requested. The next stage would be for proposals to go to Full Council.

The Commission were invited to ask questions and make comments for the officers and the executive to respond. Key points included:

- A recommendation for an amendment to be made was agreed. This being that the City Mayor could reduce charges, but any increase would be subject to a separate decision.
- Following changes to the Right to Buy Scheme there had been an increase in applications. It was anticipated that the amount of sold properties would reduce in the future which in turn would lead to a reduction in the amount of Right to Buy Scheme receipts available to buy/build new houses. Discussions were in place with Homes England to explore how building would continue to be funded.
- Social Housing availability was at around 19.5K currently.
- Maintenance charges in housing such as blocks of flats were still being reviewed, this was a complex piece of work.
- For loft insulation, National Government green schemes were considered as they became available. Work took place in conjunction with the Sustainability Team.
- Regarding the climate emergency, £30m had been used towards highly efficient new affordable housing and new schemes such as Saffron, were the most energy efficient housing and low cost to run. The most Energy efficient boilers were installed, and the capital programme also

supported new roofing and windows and doors to ensure energy efficiency in properties.

AGREED:

- 1) That the recommendations for Full Council be noted by the committee.
- 2) That the comments of the Housing Scrutiny Commission be noted by the committee; and
- 3) That comments made by members of this commission to be taken into account by the lead officers.

That a recommendation be noted for an amendment this being that the City Mayor could reduce service charges but any increase would be subject to a separate decision.

97. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2025/26

The Director of Finance submitted the Draft Capital Programme 2025/26 which would be considered by Council on 19th February 2024.

The Overview Select Committee was recommended to consider the report, and the comments made by the Scrutiny Commissions, and to pass its comments on these to the meeting of Council for consideration.

The City Mayor introduced the item and the following was noted:

- This was a 'slimmed down' Capital programme for two significant reasons:
 - Funds that had been transferred to Capital Funds from Revenue Funds would be transferred back to Revenue.
 - Much of what would need to be done under the Capital Programme would now require borrowing, this would have a Revenue implication.

The Director of Finance gave an overview of the programme, and the following was noted:

- The Capital Programme report included the decision to transfer revenue backed funds, currently in the capital fund, back to revenue.
- There was also the decision to reduce the Capital Programme by £13m. This would lead to a reduction in borrowing, rather than funds becoming available.
- It was one year-budget. Some projects would span across multiple years and a second year was proposed for schools' maintenance, to allow for

timings with the school year.

The Commission were invited to ask questions and make comments for the officers and the executive to respond. Key points included:

- Government grants are often granted for specific purposes. Some grants do not cover full costs, and it was usually necessary for local authorities to meet the remaining funds. Capital grant money could not be used for revenue expenditure. Examples of specific grant funded projects included the Railway Station refurbishment, Pilot House and Pioneer Park.
- A request was made to see the business case for the Richard III café and also for a discussion on the railway station following the unsuccessful first round tenders. The City Mayor was in agreement for further scrutiny around the scheme.
- The local authority had consistently put revenue funds aside to fund capital schemes and this could also be moved back if required. Decisions to move monies to the capital fund were normally taken as part of the Revenue Outturn Report.
- It was confirmed earmarked reserves were in the appendix of the budget setting report.
- Actual borrowing would need to take place for the new capital programme once cash balances were no longer available but undertaken borrowing will be undertaken in planned way.

AGREED:

- 1) That the recommendations for Full Council be noted by the committee.
- 2) That the comments of the Scrutiny Commissions be noted by the committee; and
- 3) That comments made by members of this commission to be taken into account by the lead officers.
- 4) Further details on the business case to be supplied for the Richard III Centre together with further scrutiny prior to commitment to the scheme.
- 5) Further scrutiny to take place on the railway station

98. REVENUE BUDGET 2025/26

The Director of Finance submitted the Draft Revenue Budget 2025/26 which would be considered by Council on 19th February 2025.

The Overview Select Committee was recommended to consider the report, and

the comments made by the Scrutiny Commissions, and to pass its comments on these to the meeting of Council for consideration.

The City Mayor introduced the item and noted the following:

- Since the report was published, news had been received that the government had been able to provide some support for Local Authorities, such as Leicester City Council, who were in precarious financial situations.
- Some Local Authorities had not received such support as it had been aimed at those in the most desperate circumstances who were dealing with rising demands in areas such as social care and homelessness.
- This support would enable the Council to avoid the necessity of asking the government of a Capitalisation Directive as described in the initial report which would have asked to sell assets in order to boost short term revenue.
- The support was tailored in such a way that there would be enough support to avoid a Capitalisation Directive but would not allow Councils to avoid making difficult decisions as reductions in the budget would still be needed.

The Commission were invited to ask questions and make comments for the officers and the executive to respond. Key points included:

- Queries were raised on the assets that would be disposed of.
- With regard to further questions about assets and a request for information on the value of corporate assets in terms of income generation, it was agreed that the Corporate Estate report could be circulated to members.
- It was clarified that the Council would no longer need to seek the emergency package of asking the government for permission to sell assets to fund revenue for the period covered in the report.
- It was clarified that officers regularly sold assets. It was agreed a regular report would be bought on the sale of assets to OSC.
- In response to questions about the original strategy, it was explained that the government support did not change other aspects of the budget strategy.
- In response to queries raised about the risk of a Section 114 notice, it was the understanding of the City Mayor that as long as the Council proceeded with a reduction in overall spend, a Section 114 notice could be avoided in the immediate future, however, the budget would need to be reduced. It was further clarified that within the three-year forecast, a

Section 114 notice was not anticipated but there was still an underlying budget gap.

- With regard to a query about monies from the government support earmarked for Children's Services, it was clarified that this was to help with increasing demand. It was agreed further detail on Social Care Prevention Grant could be circulated to members.
- Issues were raised around adventure playgrounds:
 - Concern was raised that detail was not included regarding the parachute payment to adventure playgrounds and there was keenness for the playgrounds to be protected and their staff to avoid redundancy.
 - Further concern was raised that six months of funding was not sufficient for further funding solutions to be found.
 - In response to this, it was anticipated that funding would cease halfway through the year, this was an extension on the originally planned funding.
 - It was thought that Leicester was one of the few local authorities that continued to support adventure playgrounds.
 - It was thought that other organisations would want the opportunity to step in to provide open-access play.
 - Concerns around continuation were understood, and members would be engaged with on this in the weeks ahead.
 - The revenue budget did not pre-judge a decision on this. The pressure to reduce spend was present, but the specifics would require a separate decision.
 - The procedure for issuing decisions was explained.
 - It was requested that the City Mayor look at how the Council can provide longer term funding for adventure playgrounds and to make a decision on the matter as soon as possible to help to avoid uncertainty.
 - It was understood that a speedy decision would be welcome.
 - It was suggested that if the Council was in a different situation with the budget, then this issue should be thought about again.
 - It was suggested that in the past the Council had been able to avoid closure of facilities in similar situations. It was further suggested that funding for the playgrounds was a small part of Council spending.

- It was suggested that the adventure playgrounds were a unique aspect of the city that made it special. However, statutory frameworks did not account for it, so it would be under pressure. It was requested that this pressure be relieved.
- With regards to the reserves held by the organisations, it was noted that some would be better off than others and that in some cases, the money left in reserves was needed to pay for redundancies as they had been advised to make.
- It was suggested that external funding, such as Lottery funding, was unpredictable.
- It was noted that adventure playgrounds improved the lives of children.
- It was suggested that a working party could look at this issue.

AGREED:

- 1) That the recommendations for Full Council be noted by the committee.
- 2) That the comments of the Scrutiny Commissions be noted by the committee.
- 3) That comments made by members of this commission to be taken into account by the lead officers; and
- 4) That the City Mayor look at how the Council can provide longer term funding for adventure playgrounds and to make a decision on the matter as soon as possible.

Councillor Westley left the meeting during the discussion of this item.

99. TREASURY AND INVESTMENT STRATEGY

The Director of Finance submitted a report proposing a Treasury Policy framework, a Treasury Management Strategy for the governance of the Authority's borrowing and cash balances during 2025/26 and the Investment Strategy defining the Authority's approach to making and holding investments, other than those made for normal treasury management purposes.

The Overview Select Committee was recommended to note the report and make comments to the Director of Finance and the Executive as they wished, prior to Council consideration.

The following was noted:

- The Treasury Policy set policies and practices for example performance measurements.
- The Treasury Strategy set out balances and borrowing, this was linked

to the budget but was for the purpose of expenditure where it was needed.

- With regard to the Investment Strategy, whilst some local authorities invested purely for yield, Leicester City Council looked at regeneration and supporting local business.

The Commission were invited to ask questions and make comments for the officers and the executive to respond. Key points included:

- With regard to a query about the Lender Option Borrower Option loans, these had been repaid. The loan provider had used their option to put the rate up to 6.25%.
- With regard to a query regarding the £30m in Commercial Property Funds, it was clarified that there were no plans for any property fund investments at this time. The report would be updated to reflect this.
- In response to a query about the use of external advisors, it was clarified that information was taken from them and the Council was quite risk-adverse with investments. Unforeseen circumstances such as Covid-19 had complicated matters. A recent procurement had taken place, and the current advisors were now Link.
- In response to a question about the lending of money to the Leicester and Leicestershire Local Enterprise Partnership (LLEP), it was clarified that the LLEP had been an accountable body, the Council were responsible for looking after their funds, this was treated like borrowing, but the money was sat in the Council's accounts.

AGREED:

- 1) That the report be noted.
- 2) That the recommendations for Full Council be noted by the committee; and
- 3) That comments made by members of this commission to be taken into account by the lead officers.

100. OVERVIEW SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

It was requested that a report on the work done surrounding revenues and benefits be brought to the Commission.

It was requested that the Committee be given the opportunity to consider the implications of local government reform.

The work programme was noted

101. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There were being items of other urgent business, the meeting ended at 7:42pm.

Tracking of Petitions – Monitoring Report

Overview Select Committee

Date of meeting: 19th March 2025

Lead officer: Jessica Skidmore

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All Wards – Corporate Issue
- Report author: Jessica Skidmore
- Author contact details: Jessica.Skidmore@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	Lead Divisional Director	Current Position	Current Status
11/04/2024	Cllr Dave	Peebles Way	(c)	45	Rushey Mead	Sean Atterbury	<i>Petition is in the last stages of being finalised and would be sent out for sign off in due course.</i> Petition has been chased and is awaiting update.	RED
17/06/2024	Marcia Stewart	Oakland Avenue	(p)	137	Rushey Mead	Andrew L Smith	<i>Work is underway with the lead officers and the pro-forma is expected to be finalised at the end of September.</i> Petition has been chased and is awaiting update.	RED
15/07/2024	Felicity Larson	Allotment Bonfires	(p)	24	Braunstone Park and Rowley Fields	Sean Atterbury	Petition awaiting Executive member signature before completion.	AMBER
31/10/2024	G Yusuf	St Peter's Car Park	(p)	108	Wycliffe	Andrew L Smith	The Petition pro-forma is in the process of being finalised and will soon be despatched for comment and signature by thee Scrutiny Chair and Executive member.	AMBER
06/12/2024	Lucas Mouat	Renovate Basketball Court in Victoria Park	(P)	21	Castle	Sean Atterbury	Petition sent to Lead Director	AMBER
05/03/2025	Viren Desai	Residential Parking	(p)	124	Belgrave	Andrew L Smith	Petition sent to Lead Director	GREEN

		on Doncaster Road						
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CALL-IN OF EXECUTIVE DECISION

Proposed purchase of a 134-unit City Centre Building

Overview Select Committee – 19 March 2025

COUNCIL – 20 March 2025

REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All
- Report author: Jacob Mann
- Author contact details: Jacob.Mann@leicester.gov.uk
- Report version number: V1

1. Summary

An Executive decision taken by the City Mayor on 3 March 2025 relating to the proposed purchase of the YoHo building has been the subject of a 7-member call-in under the procedures at Rule 12 of Part 4D, City Mayor and Executive Procedure Rules, of the Council's Constitution.

The procedure rules state that a scrutiny committee or any five councillors may request formally that the decision be called-in for a further review by giving notice in writing to the Monitoring Officer within five working days of the decision.

The seven Councillors who signed the call in were: Councillor Kitterick (Proposer), Councillor Sahu (Seconder), Councillor Haq, Councillor Porter, Councillor Westley, Councillor Kennedy-Lount, and Councillor Gregg

2. Recommended actions/decision

The Committee is recommended to either:

- a) Note the report without further comment or recommendation. *(If the report is noted the process continues and the call in will be considered at a future meeting of Full Council);* or
- b) Comment on the specific issues raised by the call-in. *(If comments are made the process continues and the comments and call in will be considered at a future meeting of Full Council);* or
- c) Resolve that the call-in be withdrawn *(If the committee wish for there to be no further action on the call-in, then they must actively withdraw it. If withdrawal is agreed the call-in process stops, the call-in will not be considered at a future meeting of Full Council and the original decision takes immediate affect without amendment).*

Council is recommended to either:

- a) Support the City Mayor's decision, and thus confirming the decision with immediate effect; or
- b) Recommend a different decision to the City Mayor. (The original decision will still stand, unless the City Mayor takes a further decision to amend the original.)

3. Scrutiny / stakeholder engagement

The decision was not considered with a scrutiny commission prior to the decision being made.

4. Background and options with supporting evidence

The Executive Decision Report, Equality Impact Assessment and Decision Notice are attached at Appendix A-C.

5. Detailed report

The call-in submitted to the Monitoring Officer was in the following terms:

"We the undersigned wish to call in the decision to purchase the "YoHo" building in Leicester City Centre for the following reasons.

- 1. This major decision has not undergone a single minute of public scrutiny.*
- 2. The rooms provided are predominantly only 23 sqm, which is well below the National Designated Space Standards, smaller than many hotel rooms and it is envisaged that couples as well as single people will be allocated to this accommodation.*
- 3. We understand that this accommodation will be targeted at people with substance misuse issues, and the concentration of a large amount of people with such issues in cramped quarters in a location in the city centre already blighted by anti-social behaviour will be damaging for the residents of YoHo and the wider city centre.*
- 4. The potential support given for the vulnerable residents of YoHo will be inadequate and has not been properly considered.*
- 5. To make this proposal work, we understand planning changes will be required which could open the door to more poor quality student accommodation being flipped into the "warehousing" of vulnerable people.*
- 6. We understand the purchase price is well above the market rate for similar accommodation in the city centre."*

The Monitoring Officer has confirmed that the call-in satisfies the requirements of the procedure rules and it has, therefore, proceeded as per the process set out at Rule 12 of Part 4D, City Mayor and Executive Procedure Rules of the Council's Constitution.

Where a call-in has been made, officers are to take no further legally binding action, unless the circumstances of Rule 12 (f) are fulfilled, and the matter shall be referred to a meeting of the full Council. Prior to this it shall be referred to the relevant Scrutiny Committee if one is programmed or a special scrutiny committee if one is convened.

The call-in may however be withdrawn if:

The relevant scrutiny committee/commission makes a resolution to withdraw; or

The sponsor and seconder of the call-in inform the Monitoring Officer that they wish the call-in to be withdrawn.

Following consideration of a call-in by Full Council, the original decision will be deemed to be revived in its entirety. Any agreement by the decision maker to change the original decision will require a further formal Executive Decision.

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

6.1 Financial implications

There are no financial implications arising from the call-in beyond those in the decision report.

Signed: Stuart McAvoy, Head of Finance

Dated : 10 March 2025

6.2 Legal implications

The legal implications arising from the call-in are explained in sections 2 and 5 above

Signed: Kamal Adatia, Monitoring Officer

Dated: 10 March 2025

6.3 Equalities implications

There are no comments in addition to those in the decision report.

Signed: Surinder Singh, Equalities Officer

Dated: 11 March 2025

6.4 Climate Emergency implications

There are no further climate emergency implications to those provided in the decision report.

Signed: Duncan Bell, Change Manager (Climate Emergency)

Dated: 11 March 2025

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

None

7. Background information and other papers:

None

8. Summary of appendices:

Appendix A Executive Decision Report – Proposed purchase of a 134-unit City Centre Building dated 3 March 2025

Appendix B Equality Impact Assessment dated 19 August 2024

Appendix C Decision Notice - Proposed purchase of a 134-unit City Centre Building dated 3 March 2025

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

Executive Decision Report

Proposed purchase of a 134-unit City Centre Building

Decision to be taken by: City Mayor

Decision to be taken on: 3 March 2025

Lead director(s): Chris Burgin
Matthew Wallace

Useful information

■ Ward(s) affected: Castle

■ Report authors:

Kathryn Ellis FIRRV – Head of Strategic Property;

Hiren Vaitha MRICS, RICS Registered Valuer – Senior Estates Valuation Surveyor;

Suzanne Collins – Housing Development Officer.

■ Author contact details: ext. 372578; 376062; 375189.

■ Report version number: FINAL

1. Summary

- 1.1 The Council seeks to acquire the freehold interest in Yoh, York Street, Leicester LE1 6BJ to support housing need in the City.
- 1.2 It is the Council's intention to acquire the asset to support fulfilment of the city's housing need.
- 1.3 The Subject Premises purchase price is included within the confidential Appendix A. The acquisition represents value for money for the Council.
- 1.4 The Subject Premises has been valued via two independent external valuations and internally by the Council's own Estates valuer – a summary of these valuations is listed in the confidential Appendix A.
- 1.5 Heads of Terms have been negotiated (and listed in the confidential Appendix E) with the Seller's team that enable the transaction to occur as soon as possible on receipt of a positive decision, which allows the Council to benefit from vacant possession and to realise savings on temporary accommodation costs as early as possible.
- 1.6 Based on the terms as agreed, the acquisition of the Subject Premises would save the Council around £2.6m a year in temporary accommodation costs, starting with immediate effect of occupation.

Should the Council not proceed with the acquisition, it will have to seek to acquire alternative accommodation to alleviate this financial burden, which will take additional time and cost and increased pressure on the housing budget in the short-term and medium-term.

If we determine not to purchase the building, then the Council will likely be unable to comply with statutory obligations that states people should not remain in unsuitable accommodation for more than six weeks. People will continue to live in unsuitable temporary accommodation, impacting on their lives. Each week for which equivalent alternative accommodation is not sourced will cost the Council in the region of £50,000 a week.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 It is recommended that the City Mayor approves the acquisition of the building for the value laid out in the confidential Appendix A, plus Stamp Duty Land Tax and a further £250k for professional fees. This would be financed from Prudential Borrowing under the £45m budget approved by Full Council on 21st March 2024 for property acquisitions into the General Fund.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Subject Premises was built in 2019. The building, which is 7 storeys, consists of 134 units in a single, modern, purpose-built student accommodation block. The building comprises 132 self-contained ensuite bedsits and two 1 bedroomed flats, all of which have ensuite facilities, fully fitted kitchens with integrated appliances and fitted furniture. The building also has a reception and ground floor seating area, onsite laundry facilities, secure bike storage, offices and study space. There are also two wheelchair accessible self-contained studio flats with widened doors and large wet rooms. The optimal city centre location of the building enables occupiers to capitalise from all of the benefits of city centre living, being close to all amenities, transport hubs and health and leisure facilities, making it an ideal acquisition for the council's housing need.
- 3.2 There is a need for self-contained one bed units, and the purchase of this block will meet the current number of single households that require initial temporary accommodation.
- 3.3 It will be used for singles who are either homeless, at risk of homelessness, or otherwise have critical housing needs that render their current home unsuitable. It is planned that people placed in this unit would reside here for between 3 months and 18 months maximum as temporary accommodation.

Having access to self-contained accommodation would enable clients to cook and clean for themselves, as well as develop other independent living skills, in readiness for settled accommodation. When comparing the fact that we have people that are placed in B&Bs because the Council cannot find any accommodation options for them, these units which are self-contained with their own kitchen and bathing facilities, give people their own safe space.

Those placed in hotels without their own independent facilities for long periods of time result in worsening outcomes. Often these individuals have very poor life skills around maintaining their own home. The smaller size therefore provides them with a chance to have a manageable space they can cope with maintaining in readiness for permanent settled accommodation.

The building does not adhere to Nationally Described Space Standards (NDSS). However, temporary accommodation, hostels and supported housing does not have to adhere to NDSS. The building and flats are of a very high modern standard with inclusive facilities that provide for an attractive and light environment. With a self-contained kitchen and separate bathroom this

provides for greater opportunities for independent living and a large progression domestically from B&B or hotel accommodation.

3.4 The acquisition of the YoHo building will substantially meet the needs of temporary accommodation. It is recognised that B&B type of accommodation is unsuitable for this function, beyond very short emergency stays, and can have a detrimental impact upon those that reside in it.

3.5 Like many councils across the country, due to a lack of available suitable move on accommodation, currently Leicester City council is struggling to comply with its statutory obligations under the 2003 Homelessness Regulations which state that people should not remain in B&B accommodation for greater than 6 weeks. Buying the building will enable the Council to move almost all singles out of unsuitable B&B accommodation into suitable, temporary accommodation.

3.6 **Valuation**

The property, excluding furniture and white goods, was valued by the Council's internal RICS Registered Valuer, and has been confirmed with two further external valuations based on private rented sector and existing use as student accommodation. All valuation details are included in the confidential not for publication Appendix A and Appendix C (1-3) attached. The current purchase price represents excellent value for money for the Council.

The current purchase price includes all furniture, fixtures, fittings, white goods and equipment and is justifiable within the range of the market valuations. Subject to Executive Approval to proceed with the acquisition, the Council would complete all residual financial, technical, and legal due diligence.

The unit price included in the confidential Appendix A represents excellent value, provides best consideration, and favourably compares to the purchase price of this type of acquisition that are currently being acquired in the City.

4. Details of Scrutiny

None

5. Financial, legal and other implications

5.1 Financial implications

The total cost of the acquisition is set out in Appendix A, including the purchase price, Stamp Duty and fees. The budget for the purchase is already approved within the General Fund capital programme, following the report on exceptional homelessness pressures which added £45m through the Council meeting on 21st March 2024. The purchase and all associated costs of acquisition would be financed using prudential borrowing over a 50-year period.

Through the acquisition of an additional 134 units of accommodation, it is anticipated that there will be financial benefits to the General Fund through reduced expenditure on temporary accommodation. The net benefit to the Council is expected to be in the region of £2.6m per year.

Stuart McAvoy – Head of Finance

19.02.2025

5.2 Legal implications

Acquisition

1. Ordinarily, the Council would acquire land and property for the provision of housing accommodation pursuant to Sections 9 and 17 of the Housing Act 1985 (as amended). However, the Full Council decision in February 2024 authorised acquisition utilising General Funds for homelessness and SAP purposes. The acquisition of this building would therefore be proposed under the Council's general powers under the Local Government Act 1972 supported by the Localism Act 2011.
2. A full title investigation and due diligence exercise have been initiated but would require to be finalised with a satisfactory report on title prior to exchange of contracts and completion of any purchase.
3. From the terms of the report, the property is currently unoccupied, and the intention is for the Council to acquire the freehold title with vacant possession.
4. Student accommodation and temporary accommodation both fall within the Sui Generis planning category, although planning permission will be required for a change from student to temporary accommodation. The Heads of Terms have made provision for this.
5. The Council has a fiduciary duty to its taxpayers in relation to proper stewardship of public monies. It is noted that Red Book valuations have been obtained for the Property.

Zoe Iliffe, Principal Lawyer (Property, Highways & Planning)

19.02.2025

5.3 Climate Change and Carbon Reduction implications

Housing is one of the largest sources of carbon emissions in Leicester, responsible for 33% of emissions. Following the city council's declaration of a Climate Emergency in 2019, and its aim to achieve carbon neutrality, addressing the emissions from housing is vital to the council's efforts to reduce carbon emissions. This is particularly important within the council's own housing stock where it has the greatest level of control.

Opportunities to ensure that this purchase will provide energy efficient low carbon housing should be investigated as relevant, which is likely to depend on the status of the building at the time of purchase. This could include consideration of the levels of insulation, use of low energy lighting and appliances and the installation of low carbon heating and renewables and potential improvements that could be made.

Achieving a high level of energy efficiency would reduce the energy bills and carbon emissions of the property and could also increase its value and the level of comfort for occupants.

Aidan Davis, Sustainability Officer
19.02.2025

5.4 Equalities Implications

When making decisions, the Council must comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) (Equality Act 2010) by paying due regard, when carrying out their functions, to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Act, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a 'protected characteristic' and those who do not.

In doing so, the council must consider the possible impact on those who are likely to be affected by the recommendation and their protected characteristics. Protected Characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.

Provision of good quality affordable homes for local people that help to address current provision, both in terms of lack of availability and suitability are likely to have positive impacts in terms of the aim of the PSED to advance equality of opportunity for people from across all protected characteristics. In order to demonstrate that the consideration of equalities impacts has been taken into account in the development of the proposals and as an integral part of the decision-making process, an Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken which is attached at **Appendix D**.

By providing affordable housing where peoples' needs are met in a community setting there is also potential to better foster good relations between those who

share a protected characteristic and those who do not. It is important that inclusive design principles are adhered to in any development of the property.

Surinder Singh, Equalities Officer
19.02.2025

5.5 Other Implications

None

Background information and other papers:

6. Summary of appendices:

Not for Publication – Appendix A – Confidential financial information

Appendix B – Location Plan

Not for Publication – Appendix C1-3 – Internal/External Valuations

Appendix D – Equality Impact Assessment

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

No. However, Appendix A and C (1-3) are marked “Not for Publication” because they contain exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended: i.e., “Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information)”.

8. Is this a “key decision”?

Yes

9. If a key decision, please explain reason

Expenditure on an individual site (acquisition of land/buildings and/or construction) for Affordable Housing which exceeds £1m.

Appendix B – Location Plan



Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Tool:

Title of proposal	ACQUISITION OF THE YOHO BUILDING 11 YORK STREET TO DEAL WITH EXCEPTIONAL HOMELESSNESS PRESSURES ON HOUSING TO BE HELD IN THE GENERAL FUND
Name of division/service	Housing
Name of lead officer completing this assessment	Suzanne Collins
Date EIA assessment commenced	19/8/24
Date EIA assessment completed (<i>prior to decision being taken as the EIA may still be reviewed following a decision to monitor any changes</i>)	19/8/24
Decision maker	e.g. City Mayor
Date decision taken	

EIA sign off on completion:	Signature	Date
Lead officer	Suzanne Collins	19/8/24
Equalities officer (has been consulted)	Kalvaran Sandhu	20/9/24
Divisional director	Chris Burgin	19/8/24

Please ensure the following:

- a) That the document is **understandable to a reader who has not read any other documents** and explains (on its own) how the Public Sector Equality Duty is met. This does not need to be lengthy but must be complete and based in evidence.
- b) That available support information and data is identified and where it can be found. Also be clear about highlighting gaps in existing data or evidence that you hold, and how you have sought to address these knowledge gaps.
- c) That the equality impacts are capable of aggregation with those of other EIAs to identify the cumulative impact of all service changes made by the council on different groups of people.
- d) That the equality impact assessment is started at an early stage in the decision-making process, so that it can be used to inform the consultation, engagement and the decision. It should not be a tick-box exercise. Equality impact assessment is an iterative process that should be revisited throughout the decision-making process. It can be used to assess several different options.
- e) Decision makers must be aware of their duty to pay 'due regard' to the Public Sector Equality Duty (see below) and 'due regard' must be paid before and at the time a decision is taken. Please see the Brown Principles on the equality intranet pages, for information on how to undertake a lawful decision-making process, from an equalities perspective. Please append the draft EIA and the final EIA to papers for decision makers (including leadership team meetings, lead member briefings, scrutiny meetings and executive meetings) and draw out the key points for their consideration. The Equalities Team provide equalities comments on reports.

1. Setting the context

Describe the proposal, the reasons it is being made, and the intended change or outcome. Will the needs of those who are currently using the service continue to be met?

The HRA is currently under pressure to reduce the number of singles and childless couples in hotel and bed and breakfast accommodation. There is a need for self-contained one bed units, and the purchase of this block will meet the 124 single households that require short-term accommodation.

YoHo would be used as stepped accommodation (initial accommodation that is used temporarily to settle homeless people before finding permanent accommodation), as a Local Authority we recognise this cannot be used as long-term permanent accommodation. It will be used for singles and childless couples who are either homeless, at risk of homelessness, or otherwise have critical housing needs that render their current home unsuitable.

Having access to self-contained accommodation would enable clients to cook and clean for themselves, as well as develop other independent living skills, or simply a period of respite/recovery in a very psychologically different environment, in readiness for settled accommodation. When comparing the fact that we have people that are placed in B&Bs because we cannot find any accommodation options for them, these units which are self-contained with their own kitchen and bathing facilities, give people their own safe space.

Those placed in hotels without their own independent facilities for long periods of time results in a much worse scenario. Often these individuals have very poor life skills around maintaining their own home. The smaller size therefore provides them with a chance to have a manageable space they can cope with maintaining in readiness for permanent placement.

A level of tenancy support would be provided, dependent on the needs of each individual case, and a recovery method would be in place to reduce the support as skills increase. A mixture of support needs would be identified to balance best use of the stock with managing communities, ranging from high/medium to none. A pathway would be created to enable routes for tenants to move-on as soon as practicably possible.

Length of stay is temporary, however, on occasion, length of stay may be longer where support workers have identified individual complex needs. The YoHo building does not adhere to Nationally Described Space Standards (NDSS). However, temporary accommodation, hostels and supported housing does not have to adhere to Nationally Described Space Standards (NDSS). The building and flats are considered to be of a very high modern standard with inclusive facilities that provide for a spacious and light environment. With a self-contained kitchen and separate bathroom this provides for greater opportunities for independent living than B&B or hotel accommodation.

The building itself was built in 2019, is 7 storeys, currently consists of 134 units in a single modern purpose-built student building comprising of 132 self-contained en-suite bedsits and two x 1 bedroomed flats; plus, a reception and ground floor seating area, onsite laundry facilities, secure bike storage, offices and study space. There are also 2 x fully wheelchair accessible units that have widened doors and wet rooms. The building is currently vacant. There are 134 dwellings in the following mix:

132 x bedsits/studios

2 x 1 bed/ 2 person flats

Total = 134 Dwellings

2. Equality implications/obligations

Which aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) are likely be relevant to the proposal? In this question, consider both the current service and the proposed changes.

a. Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation

- How does the proposal/service aim to remove barriers or disproportionate impacts for anyone with a particular protected characteristics compared with someone who does not share the same protected characteristics?
- Is this a relevant consideration? What issues could arise?

Student accommodation in Use Class C4 or Sui Generis are not required to adhere to NDSS although encouraged it is not mandatory. Nationally Described Space Standards (NDSS) advise that furnished layouts are not required to demonstrate compliance. The units within the YoHo building are all greater than 10% below the minimum of 37m², the building was designed and built as student accommodation. The building flats are modern, of a very high standard with layouts providing a spacious environment.

There is a shortfall of wheelchair accommodation in the city. The Wheelchair demand and supply table dated 31/3/24 advises that the property sizes that show the greatest shortfall are 2 bedrooms and 3 bedrooms (each 30% shortfall) followed by 1 bed-rooms (23%) with 4 beds (17%). When providing affordable accommodation on all sites/opportunities we would seek 10% of affordable housing to be to wheelchair standard. It is acknowledged that this is an existing building and is therefore more difficult to achieve due to the existing layouts/design and structure. It has 2 existing units to wheelchair user standard with wet rooms and widened doors. These will contribute to the overall supply of wheelchair accommodation across the city and provide an opportunity for applicants requiring wheelchair facilities to apply for this accommodation as well as those that are more able.

The proposal is to use the building for temporary accommodation to help to alleviate the Exceptional Homeless Pressures on Housing which will assist the pressure on the housing register and costs to temporary accommodation.

b. Advance equality of opportunity between different groups

- Does the proposal/service advance equality of opportunity for people?
- Identify inequalities faced by those with specific protected characteristic(s).
- Is this a relevant consideration? What issues could arise?

Provision of additional temporary accommodation provides the ability for homeless applicants to have a stepped approach to housing rather than be in bed and breakfast and B&Bs they are able to have their own space and cooking facilities and later transition to more secure accommodation. Additionally it will reduce the cost of bed and breakfast for the council.

Provision of the opportunity for tenants to obtain the skills required to sustain their own secure tenancy in the future.

The building does have lifts therefore those with mobility issues would not be disadvantaged as they will have access to the lifts. There is also the opportunity to use the ground floor units.

As well as meeting some needs, it is acknowledged that this purchase will not however meet any family housing needs (more than 2 person households – our biggest evidence need) this need will be met through other current development routes monitored by the Housing Development Team.

c. Foster good relations between different groups

- Does the service contribute to good relations or to broader community cohesion objectives?
- How does it achieve this aim?
- Is this a relevant consideration? What issues could arise?

The use of the building has been considered and in order to foster good relations between different groups the building has no limits on age and will be available to all 18+ so they will be a mix of different age groups within the building. All units will be allocated on a needs basis via the Housing Allocation policy and process. Appropriate tenancy management to reflect the target client group(s) will be resourced and it will be allocated on a sensitive let basis with appropriate support where identified provided.

3. Who is affected?

Outline who could be affected, and how they could be affected by the proposal/service change. Include people who currently use the service and those who could benefit from, but do not currently access the service. Where possible include data to support this.

Existing applicants who may struggle to sustain secure tenancies where they have no intensive support will be positively affected as they will be identified as applicants that have a history of unsuccessful tenancy sustainment and could be identified for the supported housing accommodation where they could be more fully supported in all aspects of maintaining a tenancy to promote future tenancy sustainment when they are ready to move on to a general/secure tenancy.

Existing homeless applicants that come through the single homeless pathway route would be positively affected as they would have the opportunity of being rehoused within the building and have the benefit of support where required.

Having access to self-contained accommodation would enable clients to cook and clean for themselves, as well as develop other independent living skills, or simply a period of respite/recovery in a very psychologically different environment, in readiness for settled accommodation. When comparing the fact that we have people that are placed in B&Bs because we cannot find any accommodation options for them, these units which are self-contained with their own kitchen and bathing facilities, give people their own safe space.

Those placed in hotels without their own independent facilities for long periods of time results in a much worse scenario. Often these individuals have very poor life skills around maintaining their own home. The smaller size therefore provides them with a chance to have a manageable space they can cope with maintaining in readiness for permanent placement.

4. Information used to inform the equality impact assessment

- What **data, research, or trend analysis** have you used?
- Describe how you have got your information and what it tells you
- Are there any gaps or limitations in the information you currently hold, and how you have sought to address this? E.g. proxy data, national trends, equality monitoring etc.

Leicester City Local Housing Need Assessment 2022 [Leicester City Local Housing Needs Assessment Update Addendum 2022](#)

[2 - HENA-Exec-Summary-June-22.pdf \(nwleics.gov.uk\)](#)

Leicester City Council Housing Register – provides information on the make up of the waiting list in relation to types of applicants and the type and size of accommodation they are seeking. (see ‘Who Gets Social Housing Report’).

Who Gets Social Housing Report – provides information on the last 12 months of lets relating to the types of applicants that received offers of accommodation. [FAQs about what happens after your housing application is registered \(leicester.gov.uk\)](#)

Wheelchair Demand and Supply Table 31/3/24 (Taken from LCC Housing Needs Assessment/Housing Register demand and current supply).

Tenancy Management Tenancy Sustainment Information – provides statistics on the level of tenancy sustainment within current LCC tenancies.

Draft new Local Plan – highlights development opportunities to assist in addressing the housing land shortage issue - [Core Strategy Adopted June 2014.indd \(leicester.gov.uk\)](#)

5. Consultation

Have you undertaken consultation about the proposal with people who use the service or people affected, people who may potentially use the service and other stakeholders? What did they say about:

- What is important to them regarding the current service?
- How does (or could) the service meet their needs? How will they be affected by the proposal? What potential impacts did they identify because of their protected characteristic(s)?
- Did they identify any potential barriers they may face in accessing services/other opportunities that meet their needs?

The housing needs and requirements of Leicester City Housing Applicants are assessed via the reports and evidence above. However, there has been ongoing consultation from January 2023 with The Housing Options Service, Tenancy Management Service and Housing Technical Services and Finance throughout the process. The contribution to meeting the need for exceptional homelessness pressures on housing would have a positive impact in that it will increase temporary housing stock available, reduce the need for using bed and Breakfast and hotels, rental income. It will also contribute to the reduction of temporary accommodation costs and provide an opportunity for those who struggle to sustain tenancies to gain the skills and have the support to move forward to obtaining their own secure tenancy in the future. The Director of Housing, Heads of Service and various other Officers have viewed the building and the flats were considered to be modern, of good quality and with layouts and generous floor to ceiling heights providing a spacious and light environment. It is considered that any new tenants would not be disadvantaged in any way by this. No consultation has taken place directly with applicants as this is not practical.

6. Potential Equality Impact

Based on your understanding of the service area, any specific evidence you may have on people who use the service and those who could potentially use the service and the findings of any consultation you have undertaken, use the table below to explain which individuals or community groups are likely to be affected by the proposal because of their protected characteristic(s). Describe what the impact is likely to be, how significant that impact is for individual or group well-being, and what mitigating actions can be taken to reduce or remove negative impacts. This could include indirect impacts, as well as direct impacts.

Looking at potential impacts from a different perspective, this section also asks you to consider whether any other particular groups, especially vulnerable groups, are likely to be affected by the proposal. List the relevant groups that may be affected, along with the likely impact, potential risks and mitigating actions that would reduce or remove any negative impacts. These groups do not have to be defined by their protected characteristic(s).

Protected characteristics

Impact of proposal:

Describe the likely impact of the proposal on people because of their protected characteristic and how they may be affected. Why is this protected characteristic relevant to the proposal? How does the protected characteristic determine/shape the potential impact of the proposal? This may also include **positive impacts** which support the aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

Risk of disproportionate negative impact:

How likely is it that people with this protected characteristic will be disproportionately negatively affected? How great will that impact be on their well-being? What will determine who will be negatively affected?

Mitigating actions:

For disproportionate negative impacts on protected characteristic/s, what mitigating actions can be taken to reduce or remove the impact? You may also wish to include actions which support the positive aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty to advance equality of opportunity and to foster good relations. All actions identified here should also be included in the action plan at the end of this EIA.

a) Age

Indicate which age group/s is/ are most affected, either specify general age group (children, young people, working aged people or older people) or specific age bands.

What is the impact of the proposal on age?

The purchase of the building would provide accommodation for those who are 18+ as per the allocations policy. This ensures that no one will be stopped from moving into the scheme because of their age.

What is the risk of disproportionate negative impact on age?

The building currently consists of 134 units in a single modern purpose-built student building comprising of 132 self-contained en-suite bedsits and two 1 bedroomed flats. This type of accommodation would not be suitable for families therefore single people with children & families would not benefit from the opportunity of this accommodation due to suitability for their household type.

What are the mitigating actions?

The building will be monitored for age profile etc to ensure a sustainable community within the building. Support will be available for tenants depending on their requirements, the ability to move on to more secure accommodation will be in place as with more supported if required.

b) Disability

A person has a disability if she or he has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on that person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. If specific impairments are affected by the proposal, specify which these are. Our standard categories are on our equality monitoring form – physical impairment, sensory impairment, mental health condition, learning disability, long standing illness, or health condition.

What is the impact of the proposal on disability?

The purchase of the building will not provide accommodation which is to wheelchair standard but has 4 x units with wet rooms and accommodation on the ground floor suitable for those with lower mobility needs. This would mean that those who have a disability would currently not be able to have an opportunity to move into the building unless there is any future reconfiguration. The units would be allocated as required for this type of accommodation.

What is the risk of disproportionate negative impact on disability?

The building has lifts so applicants with mobility issues would have the opportunity to be considered for upper floor accommodation as well as those on the ground floor. The units would be allocated as per a needs basis for this type of accommodation.

What are the mitigating actions?

There is a shortfall of wheelchair accommodation in the city. The Wheelchair demand and supply table dates 31/3/24 advises that the property sizes that show the greatest shortfall are 2 and 3 bedrooms (30% shortfall for each) followed by 1 bedrooms (23%) and with 4 beds at (17%). When providing ne affordable accommodation on all sites/opportunities we would seek 10% of affordable housing to be to wheelchair standard. It is acknowledged that this is an existing building and is therefore more difficult to achieve full wheelchair access due to the existing layouts/design and structure. It has 4 existing properties that have wet rooms although have not been confirmed are to full wheelchair user standard.

There is limited scope to address disability initially in the layout of the building. Less mobile applicants or those that require wheelchair accommodation could be offered the ground floor and the units with wet rooms where applicable, which is allocated as per a needs basis.

There may be potential in the future to reconfigure some of the ground floor units to wheelchair standard if the building allows and needs are still required and the funding streams/budgets in the area support this. Units of these types in any schemes on the ground floor and the wheelchair units are allocated on a needs basis for those who require that type of accommodation. Applicants requiring wheelchair accommodation can apply to Leicester Homechoice and 10% wheelchair accommodation is requested to be secured through planning gain sites. Housing also have an adapt to let project for identified cases.

c) Gender reassignment

Indicate whether the proposal has potential impact on trans men or trans women, and if so, which group is affected. a trans person is someone who proposes to, starts, or has completed a process to change his or her gender. A person does not need to be under medical supervision to be protected.

What is the impact of the proposal on gender reassignment?

None known

What is the risk of disproportionate negative impact on gender reassignment?

None known

What are the mitigating actions?

All properties offered to identified applicants through the homelessness route.

d) Marriage and civil partnership

Please note that the under the Public Sector Equality Duty this protected characteristic applies o the first general duty of the Act, eliminating unlawful discrimination, only. The focus within this is eliminating discrimination against people that are married or in a civil partnership with regard specifically to employment.

What is the impact of the proposal on marriage and civil partnership?

None known

What is the risk of disproportionate negative impact on marriage and civil partnership?

None known

What are the mitigating actions?

All properties offered to identified applicants are through the homelessness route.

e) Pregnancy and maternity

Does the proposal treat someone unfairly because they're pregnant, breastfeeding or because they've recently given birth.

What is the impact of the proposal on pregnancy and maternity?

None known

What is the risk of disproportionate negative impact on pregnancy and maternity?

There are no 2-bedroom flats, and the majority of allocations are therefore likely to go to single people, couples or singles and not families.

What are the mitigating actions?

Young mothers with Children and families are able to apply for suitable accommodation through Leicester HomeChoice

f) Race

Race refers to a group of people defined by their race, colour, and nationality (including citizenship) ethnic or national origins. A racial group can be made up of two or more distinct racial groups, for example Black Britons, British Asians, British Sikhs, British Jews, Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers.

What is the impact of the proposal on race?

None known

What is the risk of disproportionate negative impact on race?

None known

What are the mitigating actions?

All properties offered to identified applicants through the homeless route on a needs basis

g) Religion or belief

Religion refers to any religion, including a lack of religion. Belief refers to any religious or philosophical belief and includes a lack of belief. Generally, a belief should affect your life choices or the way you live for it to be included in the definition. This must be a belief and not just an opinion or viewpoint based on the present state of information available and;

- be about a weighty and substantial aspect of human life and behaviour
- attain a certain level of cogency, seriousness, cohesion, and importance, and
- be worthy of respect in a democratic society, not incompatible with human dignity and not in conflict with fundamental rights of others. For example, Holocaust denial, or the belief in racial superiority are not protected.

Are your services sensitive to different religious requirements e.g., times a customer may want to access a service, religious days and festivals and dietary requirements

What is the impact of the proposal on religion or belief?

None known

What is the risk of disproportionate negative impact on religion or belief?

None known

What are the mitigating actions?

All properties offered to identified applicants are through the homeless route on a needs basis

h) Sex

Indicate whether this has potential impact on either males or females.

What is the impact of the proposal on sex?

There is a higher percentage of single males than females on the housing register so females will likely be impacted to a greater extent with regards to opportunity of offer.

What is the risk of disproportionate negative impact on sex?

There is a risk offers will be made predominately to males however this is monitored and because allocations are on a needs basis and via sensitive let process this is minimal.

What are the mitigating actions?

All properties offered to identified applicants are through the Homeless route and on a needs basis. A sensitive let process will also be put in place to ensure a balanced community within the building.

i) Sexual orientation

Indicate if there is a potential impact on people based on their sexual orientation. The Act protects heterosexual, gay, lesbian or bisexual people.

What is the impact of the proposal on sexual orientation?

None known

What is the risk of disproportionate negative impact on sexual orientation?

None known

What are the mitigating actions?

All properties offered to identified applicants are through the Homeless route on a needs basis

7. Summary of protected characteristics

a. Summarise why the protected characteristics you have commented on, are relevant to the proposal?

The purchase of the YOHO building would meet the need of the exceptional homeless pressures on housing and be held in the general fund. It would greatly reduce the pressures on temporary accommodation costs.

Whilst there is some minimal impacts with regards to the buildings physical structure on those with mobility issues and of an older age group which may have mobility issues, there is ground floor accommodation available 2 x units to wheelchair user standard with wet rooms and widened doors, these units are allocated to persons with needs for these unit types.

Overall the proposed purchase of the building would have a positive impact both to the addition to the temporary accommodation stock and the ability of applicants to receive an offer of accommodation instead of being placed in B&B which will contribute to relieving the pressure on the temporary accommodation costs and providing opportunities for applicants to improve their skills around sustaining a tenancy prior to moving to more settled permanent accommodation.

b. Summarise why the protected characteristics you have not commented on, are not relevant to the proposal?

There should be no disproportionate negative impact as a result of the purchase of the YOHO building as the properties will be allocated to applicants on a needs basis. [Welcome to the Leicester City Council Housing Allocations Policy Manual](#)

8. Armed Forces Covenant Duty

The Covenant Duty is a legal obligation on certain public bodies to 'have due regard' to the principles of the Covenant and requires decisions about the development and delivery of certain services to be made with conscious consideration of the needs of the Armed Forces community.

When Leicester City Council exercises a relevant function, within the fields of healthcare, education, and housing services it must have due regard to the aims set out below:

a. The unique obligations of, and sacrifices made by, the Armed Forces

These include danger; geographical mobility; separation; Service law and rights; unfamiliarity with civilian life; hours of work; and stress.

b. The principle that it is desirable to remove disadvantages arising for Service people from membership, or former membership, of the Armed Forces

A disadvantage is when the level of access a member of the Armed Forces Community has to goods and services, or the support they receive, is comparatively lower than that of someone in a similar position who is not a member of the Armed Forces Community, and this difference arises from one (or more) of the unique obligations and sacrifices of Service life.

c. The principle that special provision for Service people may be justified by the effects on such people of membership, or former membership, of the Armed Forces

Special provision is the taking of actions that go beyond the support provided to reduce or remove disadvantage. Special provision may be justified by the effects of the unique obligations and sacrifices of Service life, especially for those that have sacrificed the most, such as the bereaved and the injured (whether that injury is physical or mental).

Does the service/issue under consideration fall within the scope of a function covered by the Duty (healthcare, education, housing)? Which aims of the Duty are likely to be relevant to the proposal? In this question, consider both the current service and the proposed changes. Are members of the Armed Forces specifically disadvantaged or further disadvantaged by the proposal/service? Identify any mitigations including where appropriate possible special provision.

There should be no disproportionate negative impact on Armed Forces as a result of the purchase of the YOHO building as the allocations policy is central in allocating the properties to applicants on a needs basis, the allocations policy includes Armed Forces as a priority group.

[Welcome to the Leicester City Council Housing Allocations Policy Manual](#)

9. Other groups

Other groups

Impact of proposal:

Describe the likely impact of the proposal on children in poverty or any other people who we may consider to be vulnerable, for example people who misuse substances, care leavers, people living in poverty, care experienced young people, carers, those who are digitally excluded. List any vulnerable groups likely to be affected. Will their needs continue to be met? What issues will affect their take up of services/other opportunities that meet their needs/address inequalities they face?

Risk of disproportionate negative impact:

How likely is it that this group of people will be negatively affected? How great will that impact be on their well-being? What will determine who will be negatively affected?

Mitigating actions:

For negative impacts, what mitigating actions can be taken to reduce or remove this impact for this vulnerable group of people? These should be included in the action plan at the end of this EIA. You may also wish to use this section to identify opportunities for positive impacts.

a. Children in poverty

What is the impact of the proposal on children in poverty?

None specific known, not family accommodation.

What is the risk of negative impact on children in poverty?

None specific known, not family accommodation.

What are the mitigating actions?

Other family accommodation is available via alternative funding routes and development such as planning gain sites and registered providers developments and LCC newbuild schemes all of which ensure that the rents are an 'affordable rent'

b. Other vulnerable groups

What is the impact of the proposal on other vulnerable groups?

None known

What is the risk of negative impact on other vulnerable groups?

None known

What are the mitigating actions?

None known

c. Other (describe)

What is the impact of the proposal on any other groups?

None known

What is the risk of negative impact on any other groups?

None known

What are the mitigating actions?

None known

10. Other sources of potential negative impacts

Are there any other potential negative impacts external to the service that could further disadvantage service users over the next three years that should be considered? For example, these could include:

- other proposed changes to council services that would affect the same group of service users;
- Government policies or proposed changes to current provision by public agencies (such as new benefit arrangements) that would negatively affect residents;
- external economic impacts such as an economic downturn.

None known

11. Human rights implications

Are there any human rights implications which need to be considered and addressed (please see the list at the end of the template), if so, please outline the implications and how they will be addressed below:

The rights contained in Articles 6, 8 and 14 are those which are most relevant:

Article 6: Right to a fair trial

Article 6 is an absolute right. Everyone has the right to a fair and public hearing, before an independent and impartial tribunal, within a reasonable time. This right applies where someone's private rights are at stake, such as in contractual or property disputes.

Article 8: Right to respect for private life, family life and the home

Everyone has the right to respect for their private and family life and also the right to respect for their home and correspondence. 'Private life' has a very wide meaning. People should be able to live in privacy and be able to live their life in the way that they choose. Their personal information should be kept private and confidential. The right to respect for a person's home is not a right to housing, but is a person's right to access and live in their home without intrusion or interference.

Article 14: Prohibition of discrimination

This means that everyone must have equal access to the other rights contained in the HRA, regardless of their race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, political views or any other personal characteristic.

The council's Housing Allocations Policy, monitors offers and lets.

12. Monitoring impact

You will need to ensure that monitoring systems are established to check for impact on the protected characteristics and human rights after the decision has been implemented. Describe the systems which are set up to:

- monitor impact (positive and negative, intended and unintended) for different groups
- monitor barriers for different groups
- enable open feedback and suggestions from different communities
- ensure that the EIA action plan (below) is delivered.

If you want to undertake equality monitoring, please refer to our [equality monitoring guidance and templates](#).

Once the building has been purchased and is operational it would become part of the general fund stock, there will be an agreement in place between EBS and Housing regarding its use and there will be processes in place in relation to lettings that will be monitored through Housing Options Service and the Property Lettings Team, 'Who Gets Social Housing'. There is also the ability through NEC, the Housing Management Computer System, to provide breakdown reports of offers and lets made.

13. EIA action plan

Please list all the equality objectives, actions and targets that result from this assessment (continue on separate sheets as necessary). These now need to be included in the relevant service plan for mainstreaming and performance management purposes.

Equality Outcome	Action	Officer Responsible	Completion date
To ensure those with mobility issues and requiring wheelchair user accommodation have the opportunity to be offered accommodation in the building.	When offering properties to identified applicants from the housing register the allocations policy is applied and they are allocated on the basis of need. The building has 2 units to wheelchair user standard with level access shower/wet rooms and widened door facilities available for this needs group. There may also be a possibility in the future to reconfigure some of the units to provide additional wheelchair user units depending on resources.	Housing Options, Property Lettings Team Housing technical Services	Ongoing as part of lettings monitoring. Ongoing as part of building maintenance and review informed by need.
The building is for 18+ but it is recognised that there is a lift available for those of an older age group who are more likely to have difficulty with stairs.	When offering properties to identified applicants from the housing register the allocations policy is applied and they are allocated on the basis of need. The building has some ground floor and units with wet room facilities for this needs group.	Housing Options, Property Lettings Team	Ongoing as part of lettings monitoring

Equality Outcome	Action	Officer Responsible	Completion date

Human rights articles:

Part 1: The convention rights and freedoms

Article 2: Right to Life

Article 3: Right not to be tortured or treated in an inhuman or degrading way

Article 4: Right not to be subjected to slavery/forced labour

Article 5: Right to liberty and security

Article 6: Right to a fair trial

Article 7: No punishment without law

Article 8: Right to respect for private and family life

Article 9: Right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion

Article 10: Right to freedom of expression

Article 11: Right to freedom of assembly and association

Article 12: Right to marry

Article 14: Right not to be discriminated against


Part 2: First protocol

Article 1: Protection of property/peaceful enjoyment

Article 2: Right to education

Article 3: Right to free elections

RECORD OF DECISION BY CITY MAYOR OR INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE MEMBER

1.	Decision title	Proposed purchase of a 134-unit City Centre Building
2.	Declarations of interest	None
3.	Date of decision	3 March 2025
4.	Decision maker	City Mayor
5.	Decision taken	To approve the acquisition of the YoHo building as agreed in the confidential Appendix A. To be financed from the £45m budget approved by Full Council on 21 st March 2024 for property acquisitions into the General Fund.
6.	Reason for decision	To increase the supply of emergency homelessness single and childless couple accommodation and to release pressure on temporary accommodation in the Housing Register.
7.	A) KEY DECISION Yes/No? b) If yes, was it published 5 clear days in advance? Yes/no	A) Yes B) Yes
8.	Options considered	We continue to pursue all other funding routes for the provision of additional affordable housing.
9.	Deadline for call-in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 members of a scrutiny commission or any 5 councillors can ask for the decision to be called-in. Notification of call-in with reasons must be made to the monitoring officer 	10 March 2025
10.	Signature of decision maker (City Mayor or where delegated by the City Mayor, name of executive member)	

Executive Decision- Revenue Budget Monitoring April-December 2024/25

Overview Select Committee

Decision to be taken by: City Mayor

Decision to be taken on: 19 March 2025

Lead director: Amy Oliver, Director of Finance

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All
- Report author: Karen Linnet
- Author contact details: karen.linnett@leicester.gov.uk
- Report version number: 1

1. Summary

This report is the third in the monitoring cycle for 2024/25 and updates the forecasts presented to this committee in December. The overall forecast net underspend is £5.4m, a significant improvement to the period 6 forecast of £3.4m overspend.

The main areas of overspend are those already identified in previous reports and include:

- Provision for homeless households, where a £7.0m overspend is forecast (an improvement of £0.4m since period 6)
- Costs of SEN home to school transport and respite payments for disabled children are forecast to overspend by £1.7m.

These are offset by a number of underspends, of which the most significant are:

- Children's are forecasting a underspend a £2.3m (£0.8m at period 6), due to staff vacancies and the number of children that are looked after remaining stable.
- Adults are forecasting an underspend of £6.8m (£3.3m at period 6), this is due to difficulties to recruiting to staff vacancies and joint funding of placements with the NHS. It is important to note that this is 4.3% variance against the net budget, 2.6% variance against the gross budget.

It is important to remember the continuous transformation work that is ongoing within homelessness, social care and education to mitigate the growing demand in services.

The budget strategy agreed at Council in February 2025 set savings targets for Divisions. Appendix C notes the management action that has been taken resulting in savings towards the targets.

The cumulative deficit on Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding continues to grow and is forecast to be some £26.4m by March 2025. A time-limited "statutory override" means this does not currently impact the resources available for other services.

2. Recommended actions/decision

2.1 The Executive is recommended to:

- Note the emerging picture detailed in the report.
- Approve the transfers to managed reserve and transformation reserve of the one-off funding identified in paragraph 11.7 and 5.4.
- Note the savings achieved by Officers to achieve their budget saving targets,

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 £429.0m, before the use of managed reserves. Following savings identified since the budget was set, this has been updated to £405.3m.

- Appendix A summarises the original budget, current budget and anticipated spending in 2024/25.
- Appendix B provides more detailed commentary on the forecast position for each area of the Council's operations.
- Appendix C summary of the directors savings taken to date.
- Appendix D summarises the latest forecasts for managed reserves.

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

5.1 Financial implications

This report is solely concerned with financial issues.

Signed: Kirsty Cowell

Dated: 24/02/2025

5.2 Legal implications

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

Signed: Kevin Carter, Head of Law – Commercial, Property & Planning

Dated: 25 February 2025

5.3 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. This report is the third in the

monitoring cycle for 2024/25 and updates the forecasts presented to this committee in December.

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 assessment process should be used to evaluate the potential equalities impact of any proposed changes. The aforementioned cost pressures and ongoing identified savings should take into account equality considerations.

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.

Signed: Equalities Officer, Surinder Singh, Ext 37 4148

Dated: 24 February 2025

5.4 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.

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

Dated: 24.02.25

5.5 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.

6. Background information and other papers:

Report to Council on 21 February 2024 on the General Fund Revenue budget 2024/25

Revenue Outturn Report for 2023/24 presented to OSC on 31 July 2024

Revenue Monitoring Period 3 Report presented to OSC on 26 September 2024

Revenue Monitoring Period 6 Report presented to OSC on 12 December 2024

7. Summary of appendices:

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

Appendix B – Divisional Narrative – Explanation of Variances.

Appendix C – Updated reserves position.

8. 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

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

No.

Revenue Budget at Period 9 (April – December) 2024-25

Table A

2024-25	Original Budget £000's	Current Budget £000's	Forecast £000's	Variance £000's	Variance %
Financial Services	11,167.3	11,502.8	11,428.8	(74.0)	
Information Services	11,062.7	11,305.3	11,305.3	0.0	
Human Resources & Delivery, Communications & Political Governance	7,534.0	9,751.4	8,414.6	(1,336.8)	
Legal Services	6,309.6	5,947.5	5,703.1	(244.4)	
Corporate Resources & Support	37,073.6	38,507.0	36,851.8	(1,655.2)	(4.3%)
Planning, Development & Transportation	14,251.3	16,313.7	16,122.1	(191.6)	
Tourism Culture & Inward Investment	3,801.1	4,574.2	4,274.5	(299.7)	
Neighbourhood & Environmental Services	38,456.4	43,646.6	43,798.0	151.4	
Estates & Building Services	4,397.7	6,055.9	6,401.1	345.2	
Departmental Overheads	582.4	588.0	588.0	0.0	
Housing Services	15,098.6	15,384.8	22,350.7	6,965.9	
City Development & Neighbourhoods	76,587.5	86,563.2	93,534.4	6,971.2	8.1%
Adult Social Care & Safeguarding	196,402.1	188,772.3	185,908.0	(2,864.3)	
Adult Social Care & Commissioning	(22,989.5)	(31,015.1)	(34,916.3)	(3,901.2)	
Sub-Total Adult Social Care	173,412.6	157,757.2	150,991.7	(6,765.5)	(4.3%)
Strategic Commissioning & Business Support	2,428.7	2,214.1	1,678.0	(536.1)	
Learning Services	21,967.7	22,510.6	23,927.2	1,416.6	
Children, Young People & Families	89,413.2	91,092.5	86,786.4	(4,306.1)	
Departmental Resources	1,794.1	955.3	849.6	(105.7)	
Sub-Total Education & Children's Services	115,603.7	116,772.5	113,241.2	(3,531.3)	(3.0%)
Total Social Care & Education	289,016.3	274,529.7	264,232.9	(10,296.8)	(3.8%)
Public Health & Sports Services	24,965.6	23,009.8	23,009.8	0.0	0.0%
Total Operational	427,643.0	422,609.7	417,628.9	(4,980.8)	(1.2%)
Corporate Budgets	29,089.2	10,396.5	10,752.8	356.3	
Capital Financing	2,118.0	2,118.0	1,308.3	(809.7)	
Total Corporate & Capital Financing	31,207.2	12,514.5	12,061.1	(453.4)	(3.6%)
Public Health Grant	(29,832.1)	(29,832.1)	(29,832.1)	0.0	
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	429,018.1	405,292.1	399,857.9	(5,434.2)	(1.3%)

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

	Total General Fund £000's
Original budget	429,018
Savings approved - Period 9 2023/24	(621)
Savings approved - Period 3 2024/25	(23,105)
Latest budget	405,292

1.2 The original budgets split between employees, running costs and income are available at: [2024/25 Budget Summary \(leicester.gov.uk\)](https://leicester.gov.uk/2024/25-Budget-Summary)

Divisional Narrative – Explanation of Variances

Corporate Resources and Services

Corporate Resources Department is forecasting to spend £37m, underspending by £1.6m compared to the budget. This is a further improvement on the £0.5m underspend reported at Period 6.

1. Finance

1.1 The Financial Services Division is forecasting a small underspend of £0.1m.

2. Corporate Services

1.2 Taken together Corporate Services are forecasting to spend £19.8m, £1.3m under budget, after the planned use of reserves.

1.3 The HR service is forecasting a £0.7m underspend, resulting from staffing vacancies together with higher than budgeted income, including amounts charged to schools.

1.4 2.3 DDaT is set to breakeven after the planned use of £1.4m of reserves, previously set aside for the purchase of IT equipment.

1.5 2.4 The remainder of Corporate Services has a £0.8m underspend as a result of vacancies across various areas of the service.

1.6 2.5 Through effective cost management as the service closes, City Catering is now projecting an overspend of £0.1m, compared with £0.4 presented at Period 6, which will be offset by use of the school catering reserve.

1.7 2.6 The forecast takes account of the planned use of reserves for Electoral Services for any unfunded costs following the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) election in May 2024 and the UK Parliamentary General Election in July 2024.

3. Legal, Coronial and Registrars, Members and Democratic Services

3.1 The service is forecasting to spend £5.9m, which is £0.1m under budget, in line with Period 6. This arose from vacancies earlier in the year within Democratic Services, which have now been filled.

3.2 Coronial and registrar services are forecasting to spend £0.7m as per the budget, after the use of earmarked reserves of £0.2m and support from corporate budgets of £0.2m, as in previous years.

City Development and Neighbourhoods

The department is forecasting to spend £99.5m, some £7m above budget, after the use of the corporate provision towards homelessness costs. Most of this is arising from increasing temporary accommodation costs. The position for each division is as follows:

4. Planning, Development & Transportation

- 4.1. The division is forecasting to spend £16.1m resulting in a £0.2m underspend by year end. This has improved from the breakeven position reported at Period 6.
- 4.2. Government funding via the BSIP (Bus Service Improvement Plan) grant has helped to maintain a high level of tendered bus service provision and to support other bus related measures such as Park and Ride. Expenditure on concessionary fares is forecast to be significantly higher than last financial year, due to higher amounts payable to bus operators arising from an updated calculation model being issued by central government. However, an underspend of £1.1m is still anticipated on concessionary fares.
- 4.3. There has been a small improvement for both on-street and off-street parking income. But we are continuing to experience pressures in off-street parking of £0.4m, this has been mostly offset by an increase in penalty charge notice income of £0.3m.
- 4.4. In a continuation of previous reported pressures, a reduction in the number of major planning applications being submitted has led to a predicted income shortfall of £0.7m. This is partially offset by under-spends of £0.2m within the planning service, principally from staffing vacancies.
- 4.5. An overspend of £0.3m is expected in relation to the running of bus stations with CCTV, cleaning charges and rates anticipated to be higher than budget.

5. Tourism, Culture & Inward Investment

- 5.1. The division is forecasting to spend £4.3m, resulting in a £0.3m underspend by year end. This is an improvement on the breakeven position reported at Period 6.
- 5.2. Markets are currently anticipating a net overspend of £0.2m, driven by a shortfall in income whilst development works continue to the central market area. This has been offset by a £0.2m underspend within economic development. There is a £0.1m overspend at the Haymarket Theatre due to ongoing, unforeseen repair work. This, however, has been offset by a £0.3m underspend for De Montfort Hall due to increased ticket receipts and expanding the range of shows offered.
- 5.3. There is a further £0.1m of underspend across the division due to vacant posts.

- 5.4. The forecast underspend incorporates the early delivery of £0.2m in savings relating to De Montfort Hall, Festivals and Events and Divisional Management. In addition to the core underspend shown here, an underspend of £1.17m is expected on grants across the service. It is proposed that £0.7m is moved to the Transformation reserve, with the remainder going to managed reserves.

6. Neighbourhood & Environmental Services

- 6.1. The division is forecasting to spend £43.8m resulting in a £0.2m overspend, in line with the Period 6 report.
- 6.2. Regulatory services are forecasting to overspend by £0.2m due to shortages in staffing, reducing the generation of building control income and necessitating the use of an external contractor.
- 6.3. Leisure Centres are expecting to underspend by £0.2m with improvements to various income streams. This has helped to offset a £0.1m overspend on higher landfill tax resulting from increases in waste tonnage. A small overspend of £0.1m is also expected within community safety.
- 6.4. The forecast divisional overspend incorporates the early delivery of £0.6m in savings relating to Sports, Standards and Development and Parks and Open Spaces.

7. Estates & Building Services

- 7.1. The division is forecasting to spend £6.4m, resulting in a £0.3m overspend by year end. This has improved from the £0.5m overspend at Period 6.
- 7.2. Within the Corporate Estate, there are £0.4m of extra staffing costs being incurred to support ongoing lease reviews which will, in time, lead to the generation of additional income. There is also a £0.1m overspend on property repairs due to more extensive works being required than anticipated alongside other small pressures relating to energy costs and building cleaning. Work is ongoing to manage these within the current financial year.
- 7.3. An organisational review within soft facilities management has led to a £0.2m underspend on staffing costs. This has helped to partially offsetting the overspend within the Corporate Estate.
- 7.4. The forecast divisional underspend incorporates the early delivery of £0.4m in savings relating to Operations and the Corporate Estate.

8. Departmental Overheads

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

9. Housing General Fund

- 9.1. The division is forecasting to spend £28.4m, which is an anticipated £7m overspend by the end of the financial year. This includes the use of the £6m provision in the budget for 2024/25. This is an improvement from the £7.3m overspend reported at Period 6 due to additional grant income being received.
- 9.2. As previously reported, increased costs of provision for homeless households are a national issue. The increased presentations of homelessness cases in the city continues to add financial pressure to the service due to grant funding and housing benefit being insufficient to cover the rising costs of temporary accommodation. A further £10.6m budget was allocated for 2024/25 to ease the burden in this area, however temporary accommodation costs are expected to reach £23.5m.
- 9.3. Actions are already being taken to mitigate these pressures – it is estimated that the overspend would have been around £10m without any mitigating action. Frequent reviews of this area are being undertaken and further work is continuing 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 £2m for the year, compared to the £1.4m underspend presented at Period 6. Revenue is also used for capital spending, and this is reported separately within the capital monitoring report.
- 10.2. Income from core rent and service charges is expected to generate an underspend of £0.2m due to a reduction in voids.
- 10.3. The HRA incurs the cost of interest on its debt and receives income from interest on the cash balances which it holds. Interest on borrowing is forecast to be below budget by £0.7m to a reduction in interest rates. Furthermore, interest receivable will be £0.5m above budget due to the HRA holding higher cash balances.
- 10.4. The Repairs and Maintenance service is forecast to overspend by £0.5m. Whilst there are vacant posts generating underspends of £1.1m, these are partially offset by using contractors to complete remedial works, costing £0.5m. There

have been increased disrepair claims and associated costs in defending and dealing with these claims, creating a pressure of £0.7m. Running costs are set to be above budget by £0.6m due to rising premises costs at the metalwork shop, scaffold hire costs to facilitate necessary repairs and the purchase of updated health and safety equipment. There has been an additional saving of £0.2m on materials due to prices stabilising and more cost-effective alternatives being sought

- 10.5. Management and Landlord Services are expected to underspend by £1.1m. A £0.6m underspend is expected due to vacancies across the services. There will be a £0.4m saving relating to IT system development, as some modules are now not being implemented until the next financial year. There are other small underspends of £0.1m relating to savings on court fees due to reduced evictions and the pay award costing slightly less than budgeted.
- 10.6. 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 on budget for the year.

Adult Social Care

11. Adult Social Care

- 11.1. Adult Social Care is forecasting to spend £151m against a net budget £157.7m, resulting in a forecast underspend of £6.8m. Members will recall that there is significant transformation work underway to find lower cost alternatives to providing formal care and a decision to reduce budget to reflect some of this work was taken earlier in the year.
- 11.2. There continues to be difficulties in recruiting full time social workers, social care practitioners and commissioning staff, with vacancies across the social work teams. Whilst agency staff are being used, the overall impact of these vacancies and new staff taking time to work up their pay grade leads to a forecast underspend of £3.2m. Managers within the directorate are working to recruit to vacant posts as soon as possible and are reviewing staffing capacity to ensure resource and need match more accurately.
- 11.3. Although forecast package costs continue to increase, ASC have been working to increase the number of referrals made to health for joint funding from Health of both standard and fast-track packages of care where there is a perceived health need. This follows evidence that Leicester's rate of Continuing Healthcare (CHC) funding per head of population was significantly low in comparison to comparator local authorities and the national position across England. The increased health contribution relates to both review of existing individuals and funding for new individuals. Income of £3.5m is attributable

mainly to a rise in health contributions for packages after increasing the number of referrals made for CHC funding.

- 11.4. In 2023/24, significant progress was made towards the target of reducing the number of new people supported each year by finding alternatives to providing formal care, despite a continued increase in the requests for support. As a result, the assumptions on net growth for 2024/25 had been reduced from 2% to 0% for older people and from 7% to 5% for the working age cohort. As at end of December, the actual net growth in the number of working age adults being supported is 6.12% but the growth in the number of older people being supported is now -0.36% i.e. below the standstill target of 0%. Overall, 5,494 people were being supported at the end of December compared to the full year target of 5,490 and this is a reduction of 21 people to the 5,515 figure as at end of September.
- 11.5. Significant progress was also seen in 2023/24 regarding reducing the cost impact of growth in need. The target in 2024/25 is more stringent at 2% growth. This is currently showing a continuation of the upward trajectory seen in previous quarters and stands at 4.63% and is contributing to a higher gross spend on package costs; however this is subsequently offset by forecast increases to income from charging through people assessed to contribute to the costs of their care package and higher levels of income recharged to Health for joint funded individuals.

Education and Children's Services

12. Education and Children's Services

- 12.1. The services overall are forecasting to spend £113.2m, £3.5m less than the budget. The main areas of overspend relate to SEN home to school transport and direct payments to parents with disabled children for respite. Placement costs for children looked after are currently forecast below budget, although this could change once again as the year progresses. There are vacancies across several services.
- 12.2. The SEN home to school transport forecast expenditure is £16m, £1m more than the budget. Average passenger numbers using taxis was circa 816 a reduction from the first half of the year, however we continue to see increase demand for under 16 transport. This has been slightly offset by the reduced demand for post-16 transport in 2024/25 academic year. Changes to the post-16 SEN transport policy have been delayed, pending further consultation.
- 12.3. Direct payments to parents of disabled children for respite care are forecast to increase again this year. Whilst the budget was increased for 2024/25, the cumulative impact of last year's increase and this year's forecast increase

results in a budget shortfall of £0.7m. A review of eligibility criteria will take place this year with a view to having a revised policy in place.

- 12.4. Looked after children and other placement costs are forecast as £2.3m below the £56m budget. Average costs have fallen due to placements in lower cost accommodation. There has been no net growth in the number of placements in the year to date, with 607 placements at the end of December. Some 60 young people aged 18+ were also being supported. Although an underspend is forecast, the situation could change as the year progresses as both numbers and costs are highly volatile.
- 12.5. £2.9m of savings are forecast, due in the main to staffing vacancies across the department. Managers are working to recruit to vacant posts as soon as possible and are reviewing staffing structures as vacancies are creating significant work pressures.
- 12.6. The cumulative DSG reserve deficit was £9.6m at the end of March 2025. In the last four years prior to 2024/25, the high needs block (HNB) funding had increased by more than 10% annually. This helped offset growth in demand and cost inflation, but the underlying deficit remained. Demand for SEN support continues to outstrip the available resources and the Council's DSG reserve has been run down.
- 12.7. The years of significant increases to the HNB funding allocation from the Government ended in 2024/25. The allocation was increased by 3.3% to £81.6m in 2024/25, which has all been used to towards inflationary increases.
- 12.8. Meanwhile, the number of requests for EHC plans in the academic year 2022/23 reached a record high of 990 with 756 agreed for assessment. The number of new plans agreed for statutory assessment in the academic year 2023/24 are significantly lower at 605 which is good news. Nevertheless, such a reduction only makes the longer-term situation less financially unsustainable than would otherwise be the case. This is because the current funding levels are inadequate for the total cohort of young people across all year groups that are now being supported. With effectively zero real terms funding growth, the in-year deficit increases significantly as the cohort increases. The current year deficit is currently forecast to be around £16.8m, which would take the cumulative deficit at 31 March 2025 to £26.4m.
- 12.9. The service has put in place a range of strategies to mitigate the cost impact of the growth in demand for and complexity of SEN support as part of the HNB Management Recovery Plan and Transformation Project. Leicester is also part of the DfE's SEND and alternative provision change programme, alongside Leicestershire and Rutland for the East Midlands region.

Public Health

13. Public Health

- 13.1. The Public Health Service is forecasting to spend £23m as per the budget. Some small variances at service level offset each other.
- 13.2. In previous years, the national funding for the NHS pay settlement (Agenda for Change) flowed from NHS England and the ICBs to the providers in the first year. It was then built into the following year's public health grant, and councils varied their contracts with providers accordingly. However, for the 5.5% pay award in the current year, the public health grant is to be increased, and local authorities will be expected to vary contracts with providers in-year. The in-year increase in public health grant has been confirmed of £601k which will be distributed to providers.
- 13.3. As reported at period 6, additional government grants of some £6m are expected in 2024/25, significantly more than in previous years. This targeted funding allows further investment in specific services including Substance Misuse, Stop Smoking and 0-19 Children's. The grants are all ringfenced and monitored through regular returns to the funder and are subject to clawback if unspent.

Corporate Items & Reserves

14. Corporate Items

- 14.1. 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 a small underspend of £0.5m, after adjusting the budget for the demographic pressures contingency. The pay award for 2024/25 has been agreed in October 2024, and is broadly in line with the forecast included.
- 14.2. Mid-year estimates predict a shortfall on housing benefit subsidy, relating to supported accommodation where rents can be significantly higher than the maximum amount of subsidy paid by the government. The issue has been increasing in recent years, and we understand it is shared by many authorities across the country. This is likely to lead to an overspend estimated at £2.5m this financial year. The government has opened a consultation of changing the regulations which could provide additional avenues of challenge for future years.
- 14.3. Capital financing costs are expected to be £0.8m below budget. The underspend is largely the result of cash balances being higher than forecast at budget and interest rates remaining higher than budgeted.

14.4. The original budget contained £0.5m to fund discretionary (hardship) relief for council taxpayers outside the main CTSS scheme. This support is now being funded from government grant received via the Household Support Fund.

14.5. Other variances in corporate budgets include:

- An expected shortfall of £0.6m on grants from central government to reimburse the effect of changes to business rates. This is offset by a £0.5m business rates reimbursement for the vacant Greyfriars property.
- A £0.2m overspend on coroners' costs.

14.6. In period 3 the demographic pressures contingency was reduced to £2m; the forecast includes use of this contingency, although work continues to mitigate costs and the need to utilise this.

14.7. Unexpected one-off funding has been identified totalling some £3.2m, consisting of:

- £2.1m of backdated business rates rebates on the Council's properties, following successful appeals made to the Valuation Office;
- £0.85m of additional grant funding announced in February relating to the national surplus on the business rates retention scheme;
- £0.25m of prior year provision identified as no longer required following a balance sheet review exercise.

This report contains a recommendation to transfer these amounts to managed reserves to support the budget strategy in future years.

Savings Identified

- 1.1 As members are aware, when we set the budget for 2025/26 there was savings targets set for Divisions. Since setting the budget Directors have been working on actions they can take to achieve the savings. This report identifies where Directors have been able to take actions to achieve their savings.
- 1.2 The table below provides detail on savings achieved by Directors towards their savings targets approved at Council in February 2025.

	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
<u>Tourism and Culture Inward Investment</u>			
Growth in Theatre Income	132	132	132
Festivals & Events - underspend against current budget	50	50	50
Divisional Management cost reduction	32	32	32
	214	214	214
<u>Neighbourhoods and Environmental Services</u>			
Sports - increased membership income	330	330	330
Leycroft Rd Administration Costs	185	185	185
Ice Cream Concessions	25	25	25
Capitalisation of project team costs	190	190	190
NES Subtotal	730	730	730
<u>Estates and Building Services</u>			
Review of Operations staffing	220	220	220
Haymarket Shopping Centre Operations	150	150	150
EBS Subtotal	370	370	370
Total Savings Reported	1,314	1,314	1,314

Reserves Position

- 1.1 When the 2024/25 budget was set, an estimated £53.9m was available to support the budget strategy, and the budget gap for the year was estimated at £61m, requiring the use of £7.1m of the emergency General Fund balance. In the 2023/24 outturn reported to committee in July 2024, additional one-off resources and savings identified had improved the position somewhat, and the emergency balance was no longer forecast to be required in 2024/25.
- 1.2 The budget adjustments and variances included in this report have further updated the position as shown below:

	£m	£m
Resources available 1 April 2024		80.6
Add: additional one-off transfers		10.0
Rates pool funding expected		6.0
Required for 2024/25 budget:		
As set (February 2024)	61.0	
Savings identified	(23.7)	
		(37.3)
Underspend as forecast in this report		5.4
Forecast for 1 April 2025		64.7

- 1.3 The 2025/26 budget and capital programme reports approved in February also approved the release of £90m from the capital reserve and £20.1m from other earmarked reserves; these are not included in the table above.

Executive Decision Capital Budget Monitoring April-December 2024/25

Overview Select Committee

Decision to be taken by: City Mayor

Decision to be taken on: 19 March 2025

Lead director: Amy Oliver, Director of Finance

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All
- Report author: Karen Linnett
- Author contact details: karen.linnett@leicester.gov.uk
- Report version number: 1

1. Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the position of the capital programme at the end of December 2024 (Period 9).
- 1.2 This is the third capital monitoring report of the financial year. There will be an outturn report presented to this committee, reporting on the capital programme.
- 1.3 As reported in the previous year's monitoring reports many capital projects have experienced delays in progress and increased costs. This has been attributable to instability in the construction industry, limited contractor capacity and continued inflationary pressures. New pressures in schemes, where possible will be managed within project contingencies and revised scope of works while maintaining the desired project outcomes. When this is not possible it is reported in the monitoring report and decisions are taken as required.
- 1.4 This report incorporates reductions to the 2024/25 capital programme and financing as approved by Council on 19 February 2025.

2. Recommended actions/decision

- 2.1 The Executive is recommended to:
 - Note the following:
 - Total spend of £92.1m for the year.
 - The progress in delivery of major projects, as shown at Appendix A.
 - The progress on spending work programmes, as shown at Appendix B.
 - The provisions that remain unspent as shown at Appendix C.
 - Approve the addition 950k for property acquisitions in the HRA, financed from £475k grant funding (from an extension to the Local Authority Housing Fund Round 3) and £475k of prudential borrowing.
 - Note the prudential indicators presented in Appendix F.

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

- 4.1 The 2024/25 Capital programme was initially approved by Council on 21 February 2024. It has subsequently been amended (including the 2023/24 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 previous years' capital programmes, usually consisting of small amounts of money brought forward from earlier years.

4.3 A summary of the total approved 2024/25 capital programme budget and the spend at period 9 in the year is shown below:

	Budget £000	Spend £000
Projects	154,984	39,875
Work Programmes	96,691	43,311
Provisions	2,795	545
Schemes Substantially Complete	12,226	8,388
Total Immediate Starts	266,551	92,119
Policy Provisions	18,297	0
Total Capital Programme	284,848	92,119

4.4 A summary of the total approved 2024/25 capital programme budget and the resources that are funding them:

	£000s					
	Projects	Work Programmes	Provisions	Substantially Complete	Policy Provisions	Total
HRA - Budget	3,786	48,170	1,178	232	750	54,116
GF - Budget	151,053	48,521	1,617	11,994	17,547	230,732
Total	154,839	96,691	2,795	12,226	18,297	284,848
Ringfenced - HRA	650	5,738	-	232	750	7,370
Unringfenced - HRA	3,136	42,432	1,178	-	-	46,746
Total HRA	3,786	48,170	1,178	232	750	54,116
Ringfenced - GF	38,146	4,923	558	2,303	2,460	48,390
Unringfenced - GF	112,907	43,598	1,059	9,691	15,087	182,324
Total GF	151,053	47,521	1,617	11,994	17,547	230,732

The unringfenced funding, in the above table, includes amounts where budget commitments have been made.

4.5 The following changes have occurred to the capital programme since period 6 2024/25, these movements are included in the table at 4.3 above:

	Budget £000
Decisions since P6 2024/25	
Pilot House - Levelling Up	1,300
Pioneer Park – Levelling Up	(1,300)
Haymarket Theatre Works– UKSPF	901
Jewry Wall Museum Improvements	750
The Curve Remedial Works	732
De Montfort Hall Works – UKSPF	251
Property and Operational Estate Capital Maintenance	204
Tiny Forests in Leicester Schools and Parks	158
<u>Approved at Council as part of 2025/26</u>	
<u>Capital Programme</u>	
- Operational Estate	(1,000)
- Malcolm Arcade	(1,300)
- Fleet Programme	(2,000)
- Connecting Leicester	(3,200)
- <u>Policy Provision's</u>	
Highways and Transport	
Infrastructure	(200)
Programme Contingency	(1,700)
New Ways of Working	(1,887)
Strategic Acquisitions	(2,192)
Directors Decisions	
Connecting Leicester - S106	147
Other	95
Net Movements	(10,241)

4.6 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

4.7 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.

4.8 Capital Receipts

4.8.1 At Period 9, the Council has realised £6.9m of General Fund capital receipts, of which £1.5m relates to receipts on the Waterside development. The receipts received in relation to the Waterside development pay for spending on the development. Included in capital receipts is the return of investment into the Lothbury Property fund of £2.1m.

4.8.2 “Right to Buy” receipts from sales of council housing have amounted to £8.7m. Whilst the number of sales in the first half of this year were relatively low, the changes to scheme eligibility in November 2024, have resulted in a large increase in the number of applications; this is likely to increase the number of sales over the next 12 months as the applications are processed. The impact of the changes to scheme eligibility will reduce sales in future years, as indicated by the number of applications received following the change in November 2024.

4.9 Prudential Indicators

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

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

5.1 Financial implications

This report is solely concerned with financial issues.

Signed: Kirsty Cowell, Head of Finance, ext. 37 2377

Dated: 21 February 2025

5.2 Legal implications

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

Signed: Kevin Carter, Head of Law – Commercial, Property & Planning

Dated: 25 February 2025

5.3 Equalities implications

Under the Equality Act 2010, public authorities have statutory duties, including the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) which means that, in carrying out their functions they have

to pay due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't and to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't.

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

People from across all protected characteristics should benefit from the improved public good arising from the capital programme. The purpose of this report is to provide the position of the capital programme at the end of December 2024. At this time, there are no further equality implications as these will have already been identified for the proposals agreed and submitted.

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

Signed: Equalities Officer, Surinder Singh, ext. 37 4148

Dated: 24 February 2025

5.4 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, as projects involving buildings and infrastructure often present significant opportunities for achieving carbon savings or climate adaptations and are an area where the council has a high level of control.

Notable projects in the current programme expected to achieve climate benefits / high standards of environmental performance include Pioneer Park, Pilot House, Leicester

Urban Natural Flood Management, PV panels at Evington Leisure Centre, Aikman Avenue District Heating project and Connecting Leicester.

It is important that the climate implications and opportunities of all projects and work programmes are considered on a project-by-project basis, both during the development phase and when decisions are made.

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

Dated: 20.02.25

5.5 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.

6. Background information and other papers:

- Capital Programme 2024/25 approved by Council on 21 February 2024.
- Housing Revenue Account Budget (including Capital Programme) 2024/25 approved by Council on 21 February 2024.
- Capital Outturn 2023/24 presented at Overview Select Committee on 31 July 2024.
- Capital Monitoring April - September 2024/25 presented at Overview Select Committee on 12 December 2024. This report was presented to the Council on 16 January 2025 under call-in of executive decision arrangements.
- Capital Programme 2025/26 approved by Council on 19 February 2025.

7. 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

8. 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.

9. 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 in the remainder of this Appendix.

Department / Division	Remaining Budget £000	2024/25 Spend £000	Forecast (Under)/over Spend £000
Planning, Development & Transportation	34,534	11,225	0
Tourism, Culture & Inward Investment	36,580	12,364	0
Neighbourhood & Environmental Services	5,769	378	0
Estates & Building Services	17,358	8,188	0
Housing General Fund	44,995	3,417	0
Children's Services	11,817	4,231	0
Housing Revenue Account	3,786	72	0
Total	154,839	39,875	0

- 1.2** A list of the individual projects is shown in the table below. 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)	2024/25 Spend (£000)	Forecast O/(U)spend (£000)	Original Completion Date	Forecast Completion Date	Previous Reported RAG Rating	Project RAG Rating @ P9
CDN (PDT)	Connecting Leicester	12,984	7,559	0	Mar-24	Dec-27	Amber	Amber
CDN (PDT)	Waterside Strategic Regeneration Area	2,293	213	0	Mar-23	Jun-26	Green	Green
CDN (PDT)	St George's Churchyard	229	63	0	Aug-18	Jul-25	Amber	Amber
CDN (PDT)	Leicester Railway Station - Levelling up	17,867	3,267	0	Mar-24	TBC	Amber	Red
CDN (PDT)	St Paul's Church	400	0	0	Aug-25	Dec-26	Green	Purple
CDN (PDT)	Land South of Phoenix	380	0	0	Jun-25	Jun-25	Green	Green
CDN (PDT)	Leicester Urban Natural Flood Management	217	123	0	Mar-27	Mar-27	Green	Green
CDN (PDT)	Heritage Development Trust	164	0	0	Mar-25	Mar-26	Green	Amber
CDN (TCI)	Jewry Wall Museum Improvements	6,590	3,408	0	Mar-23	Jun-25	Amber	Green
CDN (TCI)	Leicester Market Redevelopment	8,676	1,056	0	Dec-21	Dec-26	Purple	Amber
CDN (TCI)	12-20 Cank St Link	2,683	9	0	Jan-25	May-26	Purple	Amber
CDN (TCI)	Leicester Museum and Art Gallery Phase 1	6,025	383	0	Mar-22	Jun-26	Green	Green
CDN (TCI)	Pilot House - Levelling Up	11,481	7,167	0	Mar-24	May-25	Amber	Green
CDN (TCI)	Climate Change Retail Scheme	165	61	0	Mar-25	Mar-25	Green	Green
CDN (TCI)	Community Digital Grant	135	128	0	Mar-25	Mar-25	Green	Green
CDN (TCI)	Community Asset Transfer	130	20	0	Mar-25	Mar-25	Green	Green
CDN (TCI)	De Montfort Hall	695	132	0	Mar-22	Mar-26	Blue	Green
CDN (NES)	Library Self Access Rollout	542	51	0	Sep-24	Mar-26	Green	Green
CDN (NES)	St Margaret's Pastures Skate Park	397	53	0	Jan-23	Sep-25	Green	Amber
CDN (NES)	Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs)	2,962	232	0	Mar-25	Apr-26	Green	Green
CDN (NES)	Depot Relocation	200	29	0	Mar-25	Sep-25	Green	Amber
CDN (NES)	Pest & Dogs Depot Relocations	48	0	0	Mar-25	TBC	Amber	Red
CDN (NES)	Leisure Centre Improvements	1,072	0	0	Dec-25	TBC	Amber	Amber
CDN (NES)	Green Libraries Project	150	11	0	Mar-25	Jun-25	Green	Green
Total		76,485	23,965	0				

Dept/ Division	Project	Remaining Budget (£000)	2024/25 Spend (£000)	Forecast O/(U)spend (£000)	Original Completion Date	Forecast Completion Date	Previous Reported RAG Rating	Project RAG Rating @ P9
CDN (NES)	PV Panels at Evington Leisure Centre	186	0	0	Mar-25	Mar-25	Green	Green
CDN (NES)	Saffron Lane Athletics Stadium S106 Improvements	212	2	0	Mar-25	Jul-25	-	Green
CDN (EBS)	Estate Shops	477	211	0	Mar-22	Sep-25	Amber	Amber
CDN (EBS)	Replacement Cladding Phoenix Square	10,684	7,418	0	Dec-24	Sep-25	Green	Green
CDN (EBS)	St Nicholas Wall	396	22	0	Sep-24	Jul-25	Amber	Green
CDN (EBS)	Aikman Avenue District Heating	195	0	0	Dec-23	TBC	Purple	Purple
CDN (EBS)	Boston Road	1,516	53	0	Jul-25	Mar-26	Amber	Amber
CDN (EBS)	SuDS in Schools	50	7	0	Mar-25	Mar-25	Green	Green
CDN (EBS)	The Curve Remedial Works	2,200	0	0	Oct-25	Oct-25	-	Green
CDN (EBS)	Tiny Forests in Leicester Schools and Parks	158	0	0	Mar-25	Mar-25	-	Green
CDN (EBS)	Haymarket Theatre - Internal Completion Works	1,007	477	0	Mar-21	Jun-25	Blue	Green
CDN (EBS)	Gilroes Cemetery	675	0	0	Sep-25	Sep-25	-	Green
CDN (HGF)	Housing Acquisitions - SAP	44,995	3,417	0	Aug-25	Dec-25	Green	Amber
SCE (ECS)	Additional SEND Places (including Pupil Referral Units)	7,711	3,472	0	Jan-24	Sep-27	Red	Red
SCE (ECS)	Pindar Nursery	833	5	0	Mar-23	TBC	Amber	Purple
SCE (ECS)	Expansion of Children's Homes	1,192	315	0	May-23	Sep-25	Green	Green
SCE (ECS)	Education System Re-tender	2,081	439	0	Mar-26	Mar-27	Green	Amber
Total (excluding HRA)		151,053	39,803	0				
CDN (HRA)	Bridlespur Way Refurbishment	370	23	0	Mar-23	Jun-25	Amber	Amber
CDN (HRA)	Dawn Centre Reconfiguration	1,461	14	0	May-23	May-25	Green	Amber
CDN (HRA)	St Matthews Concrete Works	1,500	35	0	Mar-24	Oct-25	Amber	Green
CDN (HRA)	Council Housing - District Heating	455	0	0	Dec-23	TBC	-	Purple
Total HRA		3,786	72	0				
Total (including HRA)		154,839	39,875	0				

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 2024/25 Period 9

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	12,984	0	Mar-24	Dec-27	A
Waterside Strategic Regeneration Area	2,293	0	Mar-23	Jun-26	G
St George's Churchyard	229	0	Aug-18	Jul-25	A
Leicester Station Improvements – Levelling Up	17,867	0	Mar-24	TBC	R
St Paul's Church	400	0	Aug-25	Dec-26	P
Land South of Phoenix	380	0	Jun-25	Jun-25	G
Leicester Urban Natural Flood Management	217	0	Mar-27	Mar-27	G
Heritage Development Trust	164	0	Mar-25	Mar-26	A
Total	34,534	0			

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

2.1. Connecting Leicester – The programme started in 2015 and continues to expand to take on delivery of projects as funding becomes available from DfT, the forecast completion date has been extended to reflect this.

2.2. St George's Churchyard – The project has faced further delays due to unexpected site conditions, bad weather and supply chain disruptions. However, the project is now making good progress.

- 2.3. Leicester Station Improvements – Levelling Up** – This is a very large and complex contract. The response from contractors able to deliver this sort of scheme reflected the state of the construction industry at the time. The contracting approach is being carefully reviewed and is subject to detailed discussion with a range of potential contractors. There is confidence that when the contract is reissued in the coming months it will be attractive to the market and we will receive competitive bids. An appointment is expected by the end of the year.
- 2.4. St Paul’s Church** – The project has been delayed as the owner dissolved the company after the issuance of the initial Urgent Works Notice on the property. The condition of the building continues to deteriorate and officers plan to serve a further Urgent Works Notice and Full Repair Notice, which triggers a Compulsory Purchase Order.
- 2.5. Heritage Development Trust** – There have been delays due to resource challenges, but the project is steadily progressing. We anticipate completion by March 2026.

Capital Programme Project Monitoring 2024/25 Period 9

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	6,590	0	Mar-23	Jun-25	G
Leicester Market Redevelopment	8,676	0	Dec-21	Dec-26	A
12-20 Cank St Link	2,683	0	Jan-25	May-26	A
Leicester Museum and Art Gallery Phase 1	6,025	0	Mar-22	Jun-26	G
Pilot House – Levelling Up	11,481	0	Mar-24	May-25	G
Climate Change Retail Scheme	165	0	Mar-25	Mar-25	G
Community Digital Grant	135	0	Mar-25	Mar-25	G
Community Asset Transfer	130	0	Mar-25	Mar-25	G
De Montfort Hall	695	0	Mar-22	Mar-26	G
Total	36,580	0			

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

2.1 Leicester Market Redevelopment - Following public consultation support for a new scheme, final designs, new planning applications and detailed costs are being developed. Subject to planning permission and a formal decision to proceed, work could start on site in Summer 2025 with the new market open by the end of 2026.

2.2 12-20 Cank Street link - Subject to final costings, works are planned to start in August 2025.

Capital Programme Project Monitoring 2024/25 Period 9

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	542	0	Sep-24	Mar-26	G
St Margaret's Pastures Skate Park	397	0	Jan-23	Sep-25	A
Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs)	2,962	0	Mar-25	Apr-26	G
Depot Relocation	200	0	Mar-25	Sep-25	A
Pest & Dogs Depot Relocations	48	0	Mar-25	TBC	R
Leisure Centre Improvements	1,072	0	Dec-25	TBC	A
Green Libraries Project	150	0	Mar-25	Jun-25	G
PV Panels at Evington Leisure Centre	186	0	Mar-25	Mar-25	G
Saffron Lane Athletics Stadium S106 Improvements	212	0	Mar-25	Jul-25	G
Total	5,769	0			

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

2.1 St Margaret's Pastures Skate Park - Pre-commencement work is required following the planning approval conditions. The planning conditions have been approved in January 2025, with the first contractor starting work in February 2025, this will be ongoing for 4-6 weeks. This will be followed by works completed by the skatepark contractor. This is anticipated to be completed by the end of summer 2025.

2.2 Depot Relocation - Procurement failed to secure a contractor. A further procurement exercise is underway to procure a suitable contractor.

2.3 Pest & Dogs Depot Relocations – Our focus for this team has been a colocation of services, a suitable location has been found at the Public Lighting depot at Salter Street and officers are working with estates to progress requirements for the move.

2.4 Leisure Centre Improvements – The scope of the current programme continues to be reviewed to utilise the funding in the most efficient way and to maximise income generation and revenue savings. An initial feasibility report and estimated costs to upgrade Leicester leys Leisure Centre has been received, this is currently being assessed.

Capital Programme Project Monitoring 2024/25 Period 9

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	477	0	Mar-22	Sep-25	A
Replacement Cladding Phoenix Square	10,684	0	Dec-24	Sep-25	G
St Nicholas Wall	396	0	Sep-24	Jul-25	G
Aikman Avenue District Heating	195	0	Dec-23	TBC	P
Boston Road	1,516	0	Jul-25	Mar-26	A
SuDS in Schools	50	0	Mar-25	Mar-25	G
The Curve Remedial Works	2,200	0	Sep-25	Oct-25	G
Tiny Forests in Leicester Schools and Parks	158	0	Mar-25	Mar-25	G
Haymarket Theatre - Internal Completion Works	1,007	0	Mar-21	Mar-26	G
Gilroes Cemetery	675	0	Sep-25	Sep-25	G
Total	17,358	0			

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

2.1 Estate Shops –There have been delays in carrying out the remaining work due to limited resources across the division, we are currently prioritising these resources to carry out the works and we are now awaiting quotes for the works.

2.2 Aikman Avenue District Heating – The original plans to develop the heating network are not considered sustainable by the new District Heating provider. Negotiations are underway to determine how to proceed.

2.3 Boston Road – There is a delay to the forecast completion date at the site due to carry out specialist surveys. The works are now expected to be completed March 2026.

Capital Programme Project Monitoring 2024/25 Period 9

Housing General Fund

1. Projects Summary

Project Name	Remaining Budget (£000)	Over / (Under) Spend (£000)	Original Completion Date	Forecast Completion Date	RAG Rating
Housing Acquisitions - SAP	44,995	0	Aug-25	Dec- 25	A
Total	44,995	0			

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

2.1 Housing Acquisitions - SAP – The £45m budget is for the acquisition of 225 units of temporary accommodation. Positively, this number of units are expected to be purchased by August 2025, with sufficient budget remaining to acquire further units by December 2025.

Capital Programme Project Monitoring 2024/25 Period 9

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)	7,711	0	Jan-24	Sep-27	R
Pindar Nursery	833	0	Mar-23	TBC	P
Expansion of Children's Homes	1,192	0	May-23	Sep-25	G
Education System Re-tender	2,081	0	Mar-26	Mar-27	A
Total	11,817	0			

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

2.1 Additional SEND Places – The approved scheme includes works at Ellesmere, Lansdowne Road and the Armadale Centre (Nether Hall School). The result of feasibility studies has meant that changes to schemes are required. The revised schemes will require additional funding compared to the original estimates, noting also the ongoing inflationary pressures in the construction sector. As schemes come forward, this funding can initially be found from within the overall approval; and as the programme progresses, the scope of the schemes will be adjusted where possible to ensure that costs align to the available remaining funding. Should further funding come to be needed, this funding could be found from the uncommitted element of the ring-fenced High Needs Capital grant allocations. Any necessary approvals will be sought as the details and options are developed.

2.2 Pindar Nursery – Work on this has been put on hold whilst we await the outcome of the children's centres review.

2.3 Education System Re-tender – The project remains within budget but has been delayed by a year due to the cyber incident. The planned resources for the migration mapping between March and August 2024 were diverted to recovery efforts in early March. Following the recovery, a new contract with a supplier for data mapping was initiated. The finalisation of this contract postponed the mapping to August 2026. Additionally, the education system can only undergo changes every August due to statutory and reporting requirements, causing further delays.

Capital Programme Project Monitoring 2024/25 Period 9

Housing (HRA)

1. Projects Summary

Project Name	Remaining Budget (£000)	Over / (Under) Spend (£000)	Original Completion Date	Forecast Completion Date	RAG Rating
Bridlespur Way Refurbishment	370	0	Mar-23	Jun-25	A
Dawn Centre Reconfiguration	1,461	0	May-23	May-25	A
St Matthews Concrete Works	1,500	0	Mar-23	Oct-25	G
Council Housing - District Heating	455	0	Dec-23	Mar-26	P
Total	3,786	0			

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

2.1. Bridlespur Way – The work on Bridlespur Way is still ongoing and is now anticipated to complete in June 2025. The work on the flats is now being scheduled in line with flats becoming vacant to reduce the impact on Homelessness Services.

2.2. Dawn Centre Reconfiguration – Due to the initial program running under budget, additional work has been identified to further improve the centre. The revised programme is anticipated to be completed by May 2025.

2.3. Council Housing - District Heating – The original plans to develop the heating network are not considered sustainable by the new District Heating provider. Negotiations are underway to determine how to proceed.

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 24/25 £000	2024/25 Spend £000	Slippage £000	Over/(under) Spend £000
City Development & Neighbourhoods	1,805	181	470	0
Planning, Development & Transportation	12,354	6,051	1,385	0
Tourism, Culture & Inward Investment	968	187	240	0
Neighbourhood & Environmental Services	790	483	69	0
Estates & Building Services	5,249	1,829	2,354	(95)
Housing General Fund	11,118	2,942	1,573	0
Children's Services	16,237	3,591	6,958	0
Total (excluding HRA)	48,521	15,264	13,049	(95)
Housing Revenue Account	48,170	28,047	1,823	150
Total (including HRA)	96,691	43,311	14,872	55

2. Summary of Individual Work Programmes

Work Programme	Dept/ Division	Approved £000	2024/25 Spend £000	Slippage £000	Over/(under) Spend £000
Feasibility Studies	CDN	1,805	181	470	0
Transport Improvement Works	CDN (PDT)	4,628	1,499	0	0
Bus Engine Retrofitting	CDN (PDT)	376	0	376	0
Air Quality Action Plan	CDN (PDT)	43	42	0	0
Highways Maintenance	CDN (PDT)	5,048	3,441	585	0
Flood Strategy	CDN (PDT)	300	199	0	0
Festival Decorations	CDN (PDT)	50	0	0	0
Local Environmental Works	CDN (PDT)	400	343	0	0
Legible Leicester	CDN (PDT)	31	0	15	0
Potential Strategic Development Sites Assessment	CDN (PDT)	568	483	0	0
Architectural & Feature Lighting (Grant)	CDN (PDT)	50	0	50	0
Front Wall Enveloping	CDN (PDT)	394	0	359	0
Transforming Cities Work Programmes	CDN (PDT)	339	0	0	0
Conservation Building Grants	CDN (PDT)	82	40	0	0
Street Nameplates City Branding Programme	CDN (PDT)	45	4	0	0
Heritage Interpretation Panels	CDN (TCI)	221	10	0	0
Local Shopping Centres Reopening & Improvement Programme Grants	CDN (TCI)	747	177	240	0
Parks Plant and Equipment	CDN (NES)	368	297	0	0
Parks and Open Spaces	CDN (NES)	188	81	0	0
Franklyn Fields Public Open Space	CDN (NES)	234	105	69	0
Property & Operational Estate Capital Maintenance Programme	CDN (EBS)	4,965	1,751	2,351	0
Green Homes	CDN (EBS)	142	0	0	(95)
Depots Refurbishment	CDN (EBS)	142	78	3	0
Private Sector Disabled Facilities Grant	CDN (HGF)	2,061	1,165	252	0
Repayable Home Repair Loans	CDN (HGF)	121	0	121	0
Vehicle Fleet Replacement Programme	CDN (HGF)	8,271	1,777	1,200	0
Action Homeless' Supported Living Scheme	CDN (HGF)	665	0	0	0
School Capital Maintenance	SCE (ECS)	14,944	3,591	6,838	0
Brook Mead Academy Capital Contribution	SCE (ECS)	1,000	0	0	0
Foster Care Capital Contribution Scheme	SCE (ECS)	293	0	120	0
Total (excluding HRA)		48,521	15,264	13,049	(95)
Council Housing - New Kitchens and Bathrooms	CDN (HRA)	2,800	1,279	600	0
Council Housing - Boiler Replacements	CDN (HRA)	2,500	1,298	0	0
Council Housing - Rewiring	CDN (HRA)	1,610	925	0	0
Council Housing - Disabled Adaptations & Improvements	CDN (HRA)	1,200	762	0	0
Council Housing - Insulation Works	CDN (HRA)	50	49	0	150
Council Housing - External Property Works	CDN (HRA)	1,008	340	0	0
Council Housing - Fire and Safety Works	CDN (HRA)	822	460	0	0
Community & Environmental Works	CDN (HRA)	1,234	321	447	0
Affordable Housing - Acquisitions	CDN (HRA)	29,696	17,565	0	0
Public Realm Works	CDN (HRA)	1,338	493	664	0
Feasibility Study for Sheltered Housing	CDN (HRA)	112	0	112	0
New House Build Council Housing	CDN (HRA)	5,800	4,555	0	0
Total HRA		48,170	28,047	1,823	150
Total (including HRA)		96,691	43,311	14,872	55

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** – There are a number of schemes which are progressing well. However, a few schemes have been reprioritised and focussed to support financial challenges and focus.
- 3.3 **Bus Engine Retrofitting** – Following a review by DFT, we are required to hold onto this underspend for possible future air quality monitoring and/or exit related costs.
- 3.4 **Highways Maintenance** – The council were awarded a grant from DFT for a programme of works related to traffic signalling. The schemes related to this grant have been planned and the work is due to be carried out in the 25/26 financial year.
- 3.5 **Architectural & Feature Lighting** – There are several projects in the pipeline, and we continue to work with third parties to progress these through to delivery.
- 3.6 **Front Wall Enveloping** – There is slippage on this scheme due to complexities in contacting property owners. Asbestos surveys will complete in the current year, with the main construction works planned for 2025/2026.
- 3.7 **Local Shopping Centres Reopening & Improvement Programme Grants** – We have commitments on a number of schemes and other schemes are being worked up, but these have yet to be fully signed off. Progress has been made with allocating shop front grant, but payments will not be processed until next year. Works around two neighbourhood areas is underway and nearly complete, the remaining areas and works will be completed next financial year.
- 3.8 **Property and Operational Estate Capital Maintenance** – As previously reported, the forecast slippage on this programme is due to the prioritisation of the Curve the Haymarket Shopping centre projects, with re-profiling of other work.
- 3.9 **Green Homes** – An underspend of £95k has been detailed for the work programme, with work expected to be complete by financial year end. The unspent grant will be returned to the Department of Energy, Security and Net Zero. These are external grants.

- 3.10 **Private Sector Disabled Facilities Grant** - 50 cases have been agreed, with completion timelines of up to 12 weeks. Given the timeframe and the financial year end in March, some of the funds are due to slip into next year.
- 3.11 **Repayable Home Repair Loans** – As previously reported, resources have been focused on the delivery of Disabled Facilities Grants resulting in the scheme slipping into the next financial year.
- 3.12 **Vehicle Fleet Replacement Programme** – The slippage in the Fleet replacement schedule occurs as a result of the time taken to procure vehicles from the market. It takes on average 18 months from specification to delivery and if the complexity and scale of the vehicle requirements are significant it can be longer than this. A number of factors contribute to this including the UK now being a European quota country limiting the pool of vehicles available in the UK and increasing competition in the market with those undertaking large scale procurements being more attractive to suppliers. Fleet have undertaken a number of projects to lessen the impact of this including using new procurement frameworks to make our tenders more competitive in this market.
- 3.13 **School Capital Maintenance** – The forecasted slippage is due to unforeseen additional works required at two schools, delaying the planned works. Re-piping works are required which we were not able to be complete over the summer holidays, due to contractor capacity. Additional works are being carried out during term time to ensure minimal disruption to the educational environment.
- 3.14 **Foster Care Capital Contribution Scheme** - Two projects have been committed to, value of circa £125k. Spend to date of circa £48k and expected to slip the rest, but further projects are currently under review.
- 3.15 **Council Housing – New Kitchens and Bathrooms** – Due to the limited capacity of our contractors, the priority has been to focus on (1) remedial works to property acquisitions and (2) void properties, to alleviate demand for housing and pressure on temporary accommodation costs. With this, slippage of £600k will carry forward into 2025/26.
- 3.16 **Council Housing – Insulation Works** – As previously reported, there is currently a £150k overspend forecast due to increased demand for top ups of loft insulation. Revenue underspends have been identified to finance this work.

- 3.17 **Council Housing Communal and Environmental Works (including District Heating)** – As reported at Period 6, the technical team has been focussed on delivery of heat meter installations. The slippage of £300k will help to support the improvements and capital repair work of the heating network. Some of the smaller communal projects across the HRA estates have been delayed into 2025/26 with slippage of £147k being forecast.
- 3.18 **Public Realm Works – St Matthews and St Peters** – Following some recent engagement with ward Councillors the programme has been adjusted and reprofiled leading to slippage of £664k, works are due to start in the spring.
- 3.19 **Feasibility Study for Sheltered Housing** – This project hasn't commenced due to technical resource being allocated to key priorities within Housing. The £112k budget for this programme will be slipped into 2025/26.

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 Normally provisions are there if needed. The sums below are for the 2024/25 financial year.

Provision	Dept/ Division	Approved £000	2024/25 Spend £000	Remaining Budget £000
Early Years - Two Year Olds	SCE (ECS)	593	0	593
District Heating Metering	CDN (HGF)	1,024	0	1,024
District Heating Metering	CDN (HRA)	1,178	545	633
Total		2,795	545	2,250

PROJECTS SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETE**1. Summary**

Project	Dept/ Division	Approved £000	2024/25 Spend £000	Over/(Under) Spend £000
Network Wi-Fi Replacement	CRS	300	109	0
Off-site Cloud Backup	CRS	388	0	0
City-wide Parkmap TRO review, signs and lines upgrades	CDN (PDT)	14	2	0
High Streets Heritage Action Zones	CDN (PDT)	133	135	2
Land South of Midland Street	CDN (PDT)	21	0	0
Electric Bus Investment	CDN (PDT)	8	0	0
Pioneer Park - Levelling Up	CDN (PDT)	7,432	6,476	0
Pioneer Park Commercial Workspace (formerly Dock 2)	CDN (TCI)	44	45	1
Gresham Business Workspace	CDN (TCI)	9	1	0
Ugandan Asians – 50 Year Anniversary Commemoration	CDN (TCI)	154	0	0
Abbey Park Precinct Wall	CDN (NES)	12	14	0
Spinney Hills Park - Levelling Up	CDN (NES)	12	8	0
Spinney Hills Park	CDN (NES)	150	23	0
African Caribbean Centre Maintenance	CDN (NES)	20	20	0
Study Zones	CDN (NES)	94	10	0
Haymarket House, Car Parks & Lifts	CDN (NES)	107	106	0
Haymarket Bus Station - Toilet Expansion and Refurbishments	CDN (EBS)	48	49	(1)
Leycroft Road Energy Reduction Works	CDN (EBS)	88	0	0
Aylestone Leisure Centre PV Panels	CDN (EBS)	284	24	(260)
Phoenix Arts Car Park	CDN (EBS)	46	9	(29)
Changing Places - Disabled Facilities Toilets	CDN (EBS)	192	90	0
Leisure Centre Air Handling Units	CDN (EBS)	31	0	0
Additional Primary School Places	SCE (ECS)	58	23	0
Expansion of Oaklands Special School	SCE (ECS)	879	109	0
Overdale Infant and Juniors School Expansion	SCE (ECS)	382	128	0
Tiny Forests in Leicester Schools	SCE (ECS)	3	0	0
Family Hubs	SCE (ECS)	3	0	0
S106 Additional School Places	SCE (ECS)	413	47	0
Children's Homes Refurbishments	SCE (ECS)	406	560	355
Winstanley Contact Centre	SCE (ECS)	263	245	0
Goscote Site Carpark	CDN (HRA)	232	155	0
Total		12,226	8,388	68

1.1 As at P9 in the 2024/25 financial year, the following schemes were nearing completion. The budgets are the unspent amounts from previous years' capital programmes, mainly as a result of slippage.

POLICY PROVISIONS**1. Summary**

- 1.1. As at P9 in the 2024/25 financial year, the following policy provisions were still awaiting formal approval for allocation to specific schemes.

Department/ Division	Policy Provision	Amount £000
CRS	New Ways of Working	0
CDN (PDT)	Strategic Acquisitions	0
CDN (TCII)	Tourism & Culture	10
CDN (TCII)	Highways, Transport & Infrastructure	0
CDN (NES)	Library Investment	1,000
CDN (EBS)	Growing Spaces	301
CDN (Various)	Match Funding	3,000
CDN (Various)	People & Neighbourhoods	392
SCE (ECS)	New School Places	3,673
SCE (ASC)	Extra Care Schemes	5,936
Other	Black Lives Matter	435
All	Programme Contingency	2,800
Total (excluding HRA)		17,547
CDN (HRA)	Other HRA Schemes	750
Total HRA		750
Total (including HRA)		18,297

- 1.2. There are no additions to policy provisions since the 2024/25 P6 report. There have been reductions to policy provisions resulting from the Council decision on 19 February in the capital programme 2025/26 report and the reduced amounts are shown in the table above for New Ways of Working; Strategic Acquisitions; Highways, Transport & Infrastructure; and Programme Contingency.

Prudential Indicators

Summary

Under the requirements of the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities, the full Council sets prudential indicators for the authority at the beginning of each year as part of the Treasury Management Strategy and Capital Strategy. This appendix reports on compliance during the year.

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.

	2024/25 Authorised Limit £m**	2024/25 Operational Boundary £m**	Debt at 31/12/24 £m	Complied?
Borrowing	320	250	174	yes
PFI and Finance Leases	175	145	86*	yes
Total debt	495	395	260	

* Provisional subject to 2023/24 accounts audit

2. Maturity Structure of Borrowing

This indicator is set to control the Authority’s exposure to refinancing risk (i.e. not having to repay too much and then borrow again at the same time). The upper and lower limits on the maturity of all borrowing were:

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

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 the money back for any immediate spending needs. Further details on the limits can be found in the mid-year Treasury report to Overview Select Committee.

4. Long-term Treasury Management Investments

The Council has a limit of £50m for long-term investments. The total sum of such investments held by the Council as of 31 December 2024 was £4.9m* which we hold in property funds, the limit was therefore complied with. It should be noted that the Council received 4 repayment of investment instalments up to 31 December 2024 totalling £1.586m following the termination of the fund in April 2024. Further details are available in Treasury report presented to Council on 19 February 2025.

*After the four instalments from the Lothbury fund

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

The underlying need to borrow for capital purposes is called the Capital Financing Requirement (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 continue to comply with this requirement.

6. Liability Benchmark

The Liability Benchmark forecasts the underlying need to borrow for capital purposes over the next 50 years, to make sure it remains within the CFR. Our forecasts suggest we will comply with this requirement.

Leicester City Council Scrutiny Review

Council Tax Support Scheme

A review of the Overview Select Committee

March 2025

Background to scrutiny reviews

Determining the right topics for scrutiny reviews is the first step in making sure scrutiny provides benefits to the Council and the community.

This scoping template will assist in planning the review by defining the purpose, methodology and resources needed. It should be completed by the Member proposing the review, in liaison with the lead Director and the Governance Services Manager. Governance Support Officers can provide support and assistance with this.

In order to be effective, every scrutiny review must be properly project managed to ensure it achieves its aims and delivers measurable outcomes. To achieve this, it is essential that the scope of the review is well defined at the outset. This way the review is less likely to get side-tracked or become overambitious in what it hopes to tackle. The Commission's objectives should, therefore, be as SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic & Time-bound) as possible.

The scoping document is also a good tool for communicating what the review is about, who is involved and how it will be undertaken to all partners and interested stakeholders.

The form also includes a section on public and media interest in the review which should be completed in conjunction with the Council's Communications Team. This will allow the Commission to be properly prepared for any media interest and to plan the release of any press statements.

Scrutiny reviews will be supported by a Governance Support Officer.

Evaluation

Reviewing changes that have been made as a result of a scrutiny review is the most common way of assessing the effectiveness. Any scrutiny review should consider whether an on-going monitoring role for the Commission is appropriate in relation to the topic under review.

To be completed by the Member proposing the review. (Filled out by Senior Governance Officer on behalf of the Chair).		
1.	Title of the proposed scrutiny review	Council Tax Support Scheme
2.	Proposed by	Cllr Ted Cassidy – Chair, Overview Select Committee
3.	Rationale Why do you want to undertake this review?	<p>In January the Council implemented a simplified “banded” council tax support scheme intended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • make it easier to apply for and understand support; • reduce the number of times we make changes to amounts awarded; • increase support to the most vulnerable households; • make the scheme easier to administer; • make the system work better for those receiving universal credit (UC); and • reduce the overall costs of the scheme to help the Council address future budget deficits. <p>Following the meeting OSC would like to monitor the progress of the implementation and understand what the implications of the changes are.</p>
4.	Purpose and aims of the review What question(s) do you want to answer and what do you want to achieve? (Outcomes?)	<p>Following the presentation of the new proposal to OSC, it was requested that a group be formed to look into the working of the new support system and the impacts of the changes on the Council and on Council Tax payers.</p> <p>This will allow Councillors to monitor the new scheme as it is implemented, making assessments from the data gathered on how well it is working and who may benefit and who may lose out from the new system, and to consider if anything needs to be changed.</p>
5.	Links with corporate aims / priorities How does the review link to corporate aims and priorities?	The changes to the scheme were to simplify the scheme for those receiving council tax support and to assist the Council with its financial strategy.
6.	Scope Set out what is included in the scope of the review and what is not. For example which services it does and does not cover.	<p>The review will consider the data collected regarding the roll-out of the new scheme.</p> <p>This data can be used to assess how successful the new scheme has been, and to ascertain which citizens of Leicester have benefitted, and which have lost out compared to the previous scheme.</p> <p>From this analysis, recommendations may be made in terms of how the scheme could be amended.</p>

7.	<p>Methodology Describe the methods you will use to undertake the review.</p> <p>How will you undertake the review, what evidence will need to be gathered from members, officers and key stakeholders, including partners and external organisations and experts?</p>	<p>The review will take place in three parts:</p> <p>Part 1 – A meeting in June 2025 will provide members with an overview of the new system and how it compares to the previous system and alternative models.</p> <p>Part 2 – A meeting will take place in July 2025 to provide Councillors with updated statistics and to analyse the data to ascertain how the new scheme has affected citizens.</p> <p>Part 3 – A meeting in August 2025 will allow members to digest the data and make recommendations on how those who have lost out could be helped, and whether any alternatives could be explored.</p> <p>The review report will be shared at OSC around September 2025.</p>
	<p>Witnesses Set out who you want to gather evidence from and how you will plan to do this.</p>	<p>The review will gather evidence from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local authority officers managing the scheme.
8.	<p>Timescales How long is the review expected to take to complete?</p>	<p>The Review will last from June 2025 to September 2025</p>
9.	<p>Resources / staffing requirements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance Support Officers will facilitate the review. • Finance Officers will provide data and information.
10.	<p>Review recommendations and findings</p> <p>To whom will the recommendations be addressed? E.g. Executive / External Partner?</p>	<p>Recommendations will be directed to the Executive for consideration and implementation.</p>
11.	<p>Likely publicity arising from the review - Is this topic likely to be of high interest to the media? Please explain.</p>	<p>The new Council Tax Support scheme is likely to attract local media attention as it affects a large number of residents.</p>
12.	<p>Publicising the review and its findings and recommendations How will these be published / advertised?</p>	<p>The final report will be published on the local authority's website as part of the OSC papers and shared with the Council's Executive.</p>

13.	How will this review add value to policy development or service improvement?	The review is aimed at scrutinising the implementation of the new Council Tax Support scheme with any recommendations hoping to add value to that process.
Comments from the relevant Director		
14.	Observations and comments on the proposed review	If changes to the scheme are proposed for 2026/27, they will need to consider the financial consequences and allow time for consultation prior to Council approval by the end of Jan 2026.
	Name	Amy Oliver
	Role	Director of Finance
	Date	4 th March 2025
To be completed by the Governance Services Manager		
15.	Will the proposed scrutiny review / timescales negatively impact on other work within the Scrutiny Team?	I am comfortable that Governance Services can support this review and that we have enough resource to facilitate it. The timeframe is tight and enough attention to allow completion of the final report should be kept in mind, so that the impacts of the review can be factored in as per the Director of Finance's comments.
	Name	Kalvaran Sandhu, Governance Services Manager
	Date	06.03.25

**Overview Select Committee
Work Programme 2024 – 2025**

Meeting Date	Item	Recommendations / Actions	Progress
31 July 2024	1. Overview of OSC Portfolio 2. Revenue Outturn 2023/24 3. Capital Outturn 2023/24 4. Income Collection April 2023 – March 2024 5. Review of Treasury Management Activities 2023/24 6. Corporate Equality Strategy 7. Scrutiny Annual Report 2023/24	2a. Information to be provided on whether Post-16 Home to School SEND transport would be offered outside the three-mile rule. 2b. Clarification to be sought on any guidance from government on voluntary services via the Education Support Officer and any communication with the government on SEND Transport. 2c. Information to be given on the outcomes of APs. 6a. Members to be kept updated on progress. 6b. Any specific examples of issues to be included going forward to be sent to the relevant officer. 6c. Other groups to be engaged with in order to open wider communication. 6d. Workforce statistics to be included in presentation.	2a. Response sent to members 2c. Response sent to members. 6a. Ongoing 6b. Ongoing 6c. Ongoing 6d. To be presented to members on 3 rd December.

Meeting Date	Item	Recommendations / Actions	Progress
26 September 2024	1. Questions for City Mayor 2. Revenue Monitoring Period 3 3. Capital Monitoring Period 3	1a. Figures on returns from Travelodge above Haymarket to be provided. 1b. Consideration be given to the issue of better coordination between Highways and Street Cleansing so as to ensure that risky drains are regularly unblocked, and leaves cleaned to avoid flooding. 1c. Follow up on issue surrounding the Leys Building and find out how long the development will take to complete. 1d. Consideration be given to informal scrutiny on call centres through the C&N Commission. 1e. To be looked into as to whether funding for libraries was reduced and whether new books were still being purchased. 2a. Report to be provided on the pressures in homelessness and the progress of the £45m acquisition programme. 2b. To be established as to where department are with recommendations on SEND transport. 3a. OSC asked for an update on the estate's shops capital programme and if there was any other funding available for shops works.	1b. Written response sent to member concerned. 1c. This has been followed up. Response sent to member concerned. 1d. No need for informal scrutiny as this will be considered in the Customer Services report. 1e. Response sent to members 2a. Report added to workplan – Other info sent separately to members. 2b. Response sent to members 3b. Response sent to members.

Meeting Date	Item	Recommendations / Actions	Progress
		3b. S106 Contributions to be considered for helping to fund MUGA in Beaumont Leys.	

Meeting Date	Item	Recommendations / Actions	Progress
12 December 2024	1. Questions for City Mayor 2. Update on Temporary Accommodation Pressures & £45m Acquisition Programme 3. Council Tax Support Scheme – Update on model consulted on. 4. Revenue Monitoring Period 6 5. Capital Monitoring Period 6 6. Income Collection Report – Half-Yearly 7. Treasury Report – Half Yearly	1a. Youth Reps to invite Cllrs and City Mayor to schools and colleges to engage with Young People (including Castle Mead Academy) 1b. Statistics on home-educated children to be circulated to members of the Committee 2a. Figures of non-vulnerable singles to be circulated to members. 2b. A note on the issues around whether housing benefit covers the costs of temporary accommodation to be produced. 2c. A request to undertake Councillor briefing to aid understanding of the issue around homelessness. 2d. Breakdown to be provided on substance abuse and mental health services provided. 2e. Breakdown to be provided on asylum seekers in families and singles. 2f. Councillors were advised if they had individual cases of people being in temporary accommodation for extended periods then to send them to Chris, so additional information can be provided. 2g. Numbers to be provided on people who moved from temporary accommodation into private	1a. Invite will be sent after new Youth Council sworn in. 1b. Stats sent to members. 2a. Figures circulated to members. 2b. Information sent to members. 2c. Training session booked. 2c. Information sent to members. 2e. Information sent to members. 2f. Ongoing. 2g. Information sent to members. 2h. Information sent to members.

Meeting Date	Item	Recommendations / Actions	Progress
		<p>accommodation due to a lack of suitable council housing.</p> <p>2h. More information to be provided on Greyfield sites.</p> <p>2i. Supported living model to be considered as an item going forward.</p> <p>3a. Paper to be sent to members before Full Council detailing the scheme. To include details of alternative schemes.</p> <p>3b. Further briefings to be offered.</p> <p>3c. Members to contact Cllr Russell with questions.</p> <p>3d. Find out as to whether the Council is still paying to light empty buildings.</p> <p>3e. Interest rate on loan for Ethically Sourced Products Ltd to be ascertained and when is the remaining principle due for repayment.</p>	<p>2i. A joint report by Social Care & Housing is already proposed to be submitted to Scrutiny commission on the matter of Supported Housing.</p> <p>3a. Complete.</p> <p>3b. Complete.</p> <p>3c. Ongoing.</p> <p>3d. Information sent to members.</p> <p>3e. Information sent to members.</p>

Meeting Date	Item	Recommendations / Actions	Progress
30 January 2025	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes of Previous Meeting Questions for City Mayor HRA Budget Capital Programme General Revenue Budget 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Update to be provided on whether the outside of buildings was still lit. Presentation on Children's homes to be shared with the Committee. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendation that an amendment be made whereby if district heating charges were to be increased it would be a decision of Full Council. As per the amendment made at Council in Feb 24. Issue of maintenance charges to come to Housing Scrutiny. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> An update to be provided to EDTCE scrutiny on the railway project. Business case for the KRIII Café capital project should be considered at Scrutiny before the scheme is started. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Corporate Estate Report to be shared with the Commission. Detail of the conditions attached to the Social Care Prevention Grant to be circulated. OSC requested that the CM made a decision in relation to adventure playgrounds as soon as possible. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Information sent to members. Circulated to members. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendation amended for Council. On forward plan for Housing Scrutiny Commission. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> On forward plan for EDTCE Scrutiny Commission. On forward Plan for Culture and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To be considered by OSC. Information sent to members.

Meeting Date	Item	Recommendations / Actions	Progress
	6. Treasury & Investment Strategy 7. Work Programme	5d. A working group is to be set up to look at the future funding of adventure playgrounds. 6. Wording to be added to clarify that there are no plans of any property fund investments at this time. 7a. A report to be provided on the work completed in Revenues and Benefits. 7b. The Committee is given the opportunity to consider the implications of local government reform.	5d. Informal meeting took place on 13 th February. 6. Amended. 7a. Added to workplan. 7b. Added to workplan – date TBC
19 March 2025	1. Revenue Monitoring Period 9 2. Capital Monitoring Period 9 3. Council Tax Support Task Group – Scope		
1 May 2025	1. Children's Homes and Planning Issues 2. Corporate Estate Report	1. To look at work completed in this area. As requested at the meeting of 30 January 2025. 2. PDCC Members and representatives from the DfE, CQC and Ofsted to be invited.	

Forward Plan Items (suggested)

Topic	Detail	Proposed Date
Revenue Outturn 2024/25	To go to first meeting of new municipal year.	
Capital Revenue Outturn 2024/25	To go to first meeting of new municipal year.	
Domestic and Sexual Violence Needs Assessment.	To go to first meeting of new municipal year.	
Revenues and Benefits	To go to first meeting of new municipal year.	
Customer Services Update	To go to first meeting of new municipal year.	
Income Collection 2024/25	To go to first meeting of new municipal year.	
Treasury Management Annual Report 2024/25	To go to first meeting of new municipal year.	
Update on Asset Sales		September 2025
Local Government Reform		TBC
Update on Workforce Representation Informal Scrutiny Work		TBC
Environmental Impact of Construction Projects	As requested previously during the 2023/24 municipal year	TBC
City Mayor's Strategic Priorities		TBC