Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING:	**Cabinet**	
MEETING DATE:	**9th November 2023**	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE: E 3468
TITLE:	**Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring, Cash Limits and Virements – April 2023 to September 2023**	
WARD:	**All**	

AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM

List of attachments to this report:

Appendix 1 – Revenue Monitoring Commentary

Appendix 2 – Key Scheme Capital Monitoring Commentary

Appendix 3 (i) & 3 (ii) – Proposed Revenue Virements & Revised Revenue Cash Limits 2023/24

Appendix 4 (i) & 4 (ii) – Capital Virements & Capital Programme by Portfolio 2023/24

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

a) Revenue budget

The Revenue budget outturn is currently forecast to be £6.50m over budget.

Demand-led placement and package costs continue to cause a significant pressure in Children's Services. Combined with pressures on Home to School Transport arising from market pressures, including reduced availability of drivers, cost inflation and reduced tendering activity for many routes, the service is currently forecasting a £4.58m over budget position.

Pressures in the Corporate Estate service linked to the holding costs of vacant buildings and the costs of maintaining the estate, increased costs coupled with reduced income in the Commercial Estate, and temporary accommodation costs exceeding that which can be offset through housing benefit subsidy, are further adding to the adverse forecast financial position.

High levels of visitor numbers to Bath city centre have resulted in a strong first half of the year for both Heritage and Parking services income, while higher interest rates and reprofiling of borrowing costs have resulted in favourable forecast capital financing and interest variances, which partially mitigate the aforementioned pressures.

In addition, there is an in-year Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) placement pressure of £6.80m on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). The local Authority has agreed with the Department for Education (DfE) a Safety Valve Programme plan that will provide additional support and funding to the Local Authority, to eradicate the deficit over several years.

Savings of £14.4m were included in the 2023/24 budget. At present £10.6m savings are forecast as delivered, with the remainder either being mitigated through alternative measures, or included as unachievable in the service forecasts. Savings delivery will be monitored closely through the year and management action plans identified when delivery is at risk.

In light of the forecast over budget position, urgent recovery actions are being developed to manage the in-year financial position. Directors are continuing to develop mitigation plans, while corporate cost control measures are being put in place to prevent the need to utilise reserve funding at year-end.

b) Capital budget

The current position of the 2023/24 Capital Programme is a forecast of £98.9m against approved budget of £132.7m. The variance of £33.8m reflects anticipated rephasing of schemes into future years.

c) Council Tax and Business Rates

The current forecast on Council Tax is for an in year collection fund deficit of £0.06m mainly due to LCTSS costs being slightly above budget. The Council's share of the deficit is £0.05m and this represents a negative variance of less than 0.1% against the 2023/24 forecast income.

The current in year forecast for the Business Rate element of the collection fund is for a surplus of £0.19m, of which the council's share is £0.18m.

d) Council Reserves

The Council holds general unearmarked reserves of £12.6m, this is held corporately to manage in year financial pressures that cannot be mitigated within existing budget levels.

1 THE ISSUE

1.1 This report presents the financial monitoring information for the Authority as a whole for the financial year 2023/24, using information available as at the end of September 2023.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet is asked:

2.1 To note the 2023/24 revenue budget position (as at the end of September 2023).

2.2 To note the revenue virements listed for information only in Appendix 3(i).

2.3 To note the capital year-end forecast detailed in paragraph 3.26 of this report;

2.4 To note the changes in the capital programme including capital schemes that have been agreed for full approval under delegation listed in Appendix 4(i).

3 THE REPORT

3.1 The Budget Management Scheme requires that the Cabinet consider the revenue and capital monitoring position four times per year.

REVENUE BUDGET

3.2 Service Directors have been asked to outline the actual expected outturn for the year and the reasons to date for over / under budget forecasts. For revenue budgets which are forecast to be over budget, the Directors are expected to seek compensating savings to try and bring budgets back to balance.

3.3 A summary by Portfolio of the revenue position as at the end of the first quarter is shown in the table below:

Portfolio	**Revised Budget £'m**	**Year End Forecast £'m**	**Variance Over / (Under) £'m**
Leader of Council	(0.34)	(0.33)	0.01
Climate Emergency and Sustainable Travel	1.33	1.19	(0.14)
Council Priorities and Delivery	9.08	9.11	0.03
Resources	10.13	10.69	0.56
Economic And Cultural Sustainable Development	(1.98)	(3.58)	(1.60)
Adult Services	59.65	62.85	3.20
Children's Services	31.80	36.38	4.58
Highways	(1.31)	(2.57)	(1.26)
Neighbourhood Services	24.23	24.94	0.72
Built Environment and Sustainable Development	2.46	2.88	0.41
Quarter 1 Forecast Outturn Variance	**135.06**	**141.56**	**6.50**

Note1: Some of the figures in this table are affected by rounding.

3.4 The current **year-end** forecast is £6.50m over budget position.

3.5 In light of the forecast over budget position and the increase since the Q1 report, urgent recovery action is now required consisting implementation of specific controls on recruitment to vacant posts and expenditure controls on all non essential spend. In addition, Directors continue to actively develop mitigation plans to manage this position in year. In the event that the overspend is not fully mitigated, the Council's Revenue Budget Contingency reserve and unearmarked reserves would need to be utilised. These reserves would need replenishing in future years. An updated position will be provided in the Quarter 3 monitoring report.

Portfolio Commentary

3.6 Key variances and associated actions by Portfolio are as follows, a more detailed breakdown can be found in Appendix 1:

Leader of the Council *(£0.01m over budget, no change from previous quarter)*

The Leader of the Council portfolio holds the Housing Delivery Vehicle, Emergency Planning and External Affairs and Partnerships budgets. There is a minor cost pressure relating to corporate subscriptions forecast within External Affairs and Partnerships.

Climate Emergency and Sustainable Travel *(£0.14m under budget, £0.04m favourable movement)*

Recovery of staff costs from projects in the Environmental Monitoring team is causing a favourable financial position for the portfolio.

Council Priorities and Delivery *(£0.03m over budget, £0.01m favourable movement)*

Some minor staffing pressures in Human Resources (£0.02m) and Corporate Governance (£0.04m) are partially offset by a small salary underspend in Corporate Strategy and Communications (£0.03m).

Resources *(£0.56m over budget, £0.47m adverse movement)*

Unmet savings targets in Legal services are contributing to a £0.15m pressure within the service, while increased use of temporary accommodation for the homeless is provided at a cost higher than the claimable subsidy, resulting in a forecast £0.58m overspend in Housing Benefit Subsidy. The IT service is forecasting a £0.15m pressure relating to high contract inflation, and Commercial Estate has both staffing pressures and a shortfall in budgeted rental income totalling £0.85m. These pressures are partially offset by an under-budget forecast on borrowing costs as a result of reprofiling capital programme spend (£0.80m), and increased income from investment interest (£0.30m) as a result of higher interest rates than anticipated at budget setting.

Economic And Cultural Sustainable Development *(£1.60m under budget, £1.93m favourable movement)*

Heritage Services' visitor numbers continue to perform strongly this year, with admission and retail income net of costs forecast to be £2.14m in excess of the budgeted target. The Corporate Estate is forecasting an adverse budget position of £0.50m resulting from high costs of un-let buildings and an ongoing savings target to reduce maintenance costs across the estate.

Adult Services including Leisure *(£3.20m over budget, £3.03m adverse movement)*

The forecast position for Adult Social Care is £3m over budget after £2.4m use of reserves to cover underlying services overspends. The forecast use of reserves is to cover adverse variances in the Learning Disability and Autism (LDA) Pooled

Service (£2.1m) and Older Peoples Services (£0.3m). These adverse variances reflect the impact of both the increase in the number of packages now being seen (activity and cost) and the known demand in year. Work continues to review this activity.

Whilst success has been achieved in working with clients to identify alternative solutions, the joint review of the funding sources within the LDA pooled arrangements is not progressing as planned and the achievement is now at risk. The forecast over budget variance of £3m recognises this risk.

An established interim pathway is in place and is a continuation from the last 2 years. Whilst the numbers currently in this arrangement have been high, this was forecast for the first quarter and the requirements for long term care after this interim pathway are now being seen in the Older peoples service forecast. A reducing trend is now being seen.

Leisure Services are currently forecasting an overspend of £0.2m, this is due to the level of fee income being received being below the expected value.

Children's Services ***(£4.58m over budget, £1.29m adverse movement)***

There are two main drivers of this over budget position, firstly the continuing cost and demand pressures from 2022/23 across the demand-led placement and package budgets, and secondly the increasing pressures from ongoing cost and demand increases across Home to School Transport (HTST).

Demand-led placement pressures are due to a mix of increased demand, especially around Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children (UASC) and increased packages of care and support costs needed, due to the increased needs our Children and Young People continue to present with. There are also continued increased costs because of the complex packages of care needed for those with the highest need in the Disabled Children's Team (DCT). In total these areas are £4.30m over budget. The biggest area of pressure is UASC which is £1.41m over budget (an increase of £1.01m versus Quarter 1), driven by increases in numbers. The other principal areas of pressure are packages of care to support those not in care to remain so (£0.82m over budget), Independent Foster Carers (£0.70m over budget), DCT (£0.64m over budget) and Residential (£0.76m over budget).

The £4.30m pressure across the demand-led budgets has been partially mitigated by an additional £1.01m in-year savings. This is in addition to the £1.19m planned Transformation savings being delivered in 2023/24 already budgeted. The in-year savings are a result of focussed work across multiple areas, with £0.51m being delivered to date and a further £0.50m in train to be delivered by the end of the financial year.

The new academic year's routes have increased the HTST over budget position by £0.23m, with an overall pressure of £1.01m. This is due to significant pressure from ongoing market forces creating cost pressures when procuring HTST, including reduced availability of drivers, cost inflation and reduced tendering activity for many routes. The HTST project board is now well established and is actively developing and pursuing mitigations in response to the over budget position.

Schools DSG *(£6.80m over budget, plus an overspend of £13.45m carried forward from 2022/23)*

The DSG has a forecast overspend of £6.80m in 2023/24 made up of significant pressures on Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND). The SEND pressures are estimated based on current pupils identified with Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans of £7.90m however mitigating actions have identified £1.10m of savings. The £6.80m overspend exceeds the planned Safety Valve Programme position by £3.00m. The latest Quarterly submission to the DfE detailed this and highlighted that the plan would still come to balance but later than the original plan.

The Local Authority has agreed with the DfE a Safety Valve Programme plan that will provide additional support and funding to the Local Authority to eradicate the deficit over several years. In 2022/23 the DfE provided an additional £7.68m of DSG funding to support the pressures in SEN and have committed to providing a further £11.54m over the next 6 years including £1.65m in 2023/24.

Further work on opening the provision of local SEND places at schools in the area will help reduce the pressure and extensive analysis of the specific cost pressures is being conducted to look to reduce the overspend.

Capital Bids for new free schools as part of a DfE programme have been successful for a new Special School and funding towards a new Residential Special School has also been agreed. A further bid for an Alternative Provision School is in the pipeline and an outcome to this bid is expected shortly. These capital projects will result in significant additional provision locally that will ease the financial burden of utilising independent specialist provision.

Any overspend on the DSG is currently ringfenced to the grant allocation and the DfE have issued guidance to restrict the supporting of the pressures from council revenue funding. This ring fence has been extended by the DfE and DCLG until March 2026.

Highways *(£1.26m under budget, £0.63m favourable movement)*

Parking income is exceeding budget across the majority of locations. This, combined with a number of staff vacancies, means the service is forecasting a £0.74m favourable budget position. Street-works income within the Network and Traffic Management service is also over and above budgeted levels, which combined with staffing underspends totals a £0.31m favourable variance.

Neighbourhood Services (£0.72m over budget, £0.25m adverse movement)

Pressure on staffing budgets is creating a £0.44m pressure in the Waste service, while forecast underachievement of income throughout Public Protection services is adding a further £0.18m pressure.

Built Environment and Sustainable Development (£0.41m over budget, £0.12m adverse movement)

Market conditions are having an adverse impact on both Planning (£0.17m) and Building Control (£0.20m) income.

REVENUE BALANCES, CONTINGENCY AND RESERVES

3.7 The current Employer's national pay offer for 2023/24 is estimated at 7%, which is significantly higher than the 4% increase included in the budget. Consequently, all corporate contingency budgets have been earmarked to fund the gap which is currently estimated at £2.4m. Service budgets will be adjusted once the final pay award is agreed.

3.8 The current forecast revenue position includes planned and approved use of earmarked reserves as set out in the table below.

Key Reserves

3.9 The following table shows the balances of key reserves at the beginning of the year, planned use, and expected balance at the year-end based on current forecast:

	Balance as at 01/04/2023 £'m	Projected Use/ Commitments / Transfers £'m	Estimated Balance 31/03/2024 £'m
Revenue Budget Contingency	3.47	(0.27)	3.20
Financial Planning and Smoothing Reserve	3.20	(0.69)	2.51
Transformation Investment Reserve	1.89	(1.89)	0.00
Covid Contingency Reserve (Govt grant)	3.35	(3.35)	0.00
Restructuring & Severance Reserve	1.81	0.00	1.81

Reserves and Flexible Capital Receipts

Flexible Capital Receipts are being utilised for revenue spend that results in ongoing revenue savings. A five-year estimated use of £11.5m was agreed as part of budget setting in February 2023, this has now been updated to reflect the re-profiled requirement and re-phasing into 2023/24 as follows:

	Actual Usage 2017/18 to 2021/22 £'m	Actual Usage 2022/23 £'m	Available Balance £'m	Est Total Usage £'m
Flexible Capital Receipts	8.09	0.16	3.25	11.50

3.10 Commitment has been approved to allocate £1.35m to the Council's "Being our Best" programme that will identify future organisational efficiencies.

3.11 Unapplied capital receipts of £3.843m were carried forward from 2022/23, with under a £1,000 received so far in 2023/24 and £9m budgeted.

General Fund Un-Earmarked Reserve

3.12 The General Fund Un-Earmarked Reserve is retained to meet the Council's key financial risks. The risk assessment has set a range of between £11.6m and £12.8m to meet those risks in the 2023/24 financial year. The reserve has a current uncommitted balance of £12.6m in line with the level reported in the 2023/24 Budget Report.

SAVINGS PERFORMANCE

3.13 The 2023/24 revenue budget approved savings of £14.38m. Delivery of these savings will be monitored throughout the year, with £10.57m forecast as achieved at the end of September, representing 73% delivery. Of the £3.92m not currently achieved, £0.06m are being mitigated through savings elsewhere in the respective service, £0.12m of savings are delayed and £3.74m are resulting in unavoidable pressures.

3.14 The Council's financial position, along with its financial management arrangements and controls, are fundamental in continuing to plan and provide services in a managed way, particularly in light of the medium-term financial challenge. Close monitoring of the financial situation provides information on new risks and pressures in service areas, and appropriate management actions are then identified and agreed to manage and mitigate those risks.

Revenue Budget Virements

3.15 Any revenue budget virements which require Cabinet approval are listed in Appendix 3(i). Technical budget adjustments are also shown in Appendix 3(i) for information purposes, as required by the Budget Management Scheme. This is further summarised at a portfolio and cash limit level in Appendix 3(ii).

COUNCIL TAX, COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT AND BUSINESS RATES

3.16 The 2023/24 tax base allowed for the same number of recipients as at the end of November 2022 to continue into 2023/24 with budgeted costs of LCTS set at £10.26m. The cost at the end of September is slightly above budget at £10.30m. This is currently £0.04m above the budget estimate which would lead to a Council Tax Collection Fund deficit if the position remained at this level at year end. The number of working age claimants at the end of September was 5,883 compared to the budget assumption of 5,803 and the number of Pensioner claimants was 3,406 compared to the budget assumption of 3,469.

3.17 The actual outturn position on LCTSS and the impact on the Council Tax collection fund will depend on a number of variables, including the change in number of claimants and the period claimants remain eligible for support whilst seeking employment and this will continue to be monitored closely during the remainder of the year.

3.18 The non LCTSS elements of the Collection Fund are also trending broadly in line with budget with a slight deficit of £0.02m currently forecast based on the position to end of September. Taking this and the LCTSS position together, the current forecast is for an in year £0.06m deficit on the Collection Fund in respect of Council Tax, of which the Council's share is £0.05m. This represents a negative variance of less than 0.1% against the 2023/24 forecast income.

3.19 The Council's share of the reduced 2022/23 Council Tax Collection Fund final outturn position of £0.34m, as reported to Cabinet in July has been reflected in the Medium Term Financial Strategy update which is also being reported to this meeting.

Business Rates

3.20 The government announced, as part of the Chancellor's Autumn Statement in November 2022, that it would introduce a new retail, hospitality, and leisure business rate relief scheme for 2023/24. This follows previous relief schemes for these businesses that operated since 2020/21. The 2023/24 scheme provides for 75% business rates relief, capped at £110,000 per business for eligible properties.

3.21 The Council will be recompensed for the reduction in business rate income arising from this relief via a s31 compensation grant. As at the end of September, retail relief of £6.6m had been granted against the £5.9m budgeted.

3.22 Empty property relief was £3.8m at the end of the first quarter, this has increased to £4.6m as at the end of September which remains below the £4.8m allowance included when setting the business rate income forecast for 2023/24. The forecast overall impact on the business rates collection fund position including reliefs will continue to be reviewed during the remainder of the year.

3.23 The current in year forecast for the Business Rate element of the collection fund is for a surplus of £0.19m, of which the council's share is £0.18m.

3.24 Section 31 grant income from Business rate compensation grants is currently forecast to be £1.3m above budget, this relates to increased relief granted in respect of Retail Relief and the Supporting Small Business Rate Relief.

3.25 As set out in the Budget Report, any surplus or deficit on the Business Rate Collection Fund and associated income will be transferred to or from the Business Rates Reserve for consideration as part of the Business Rates calculations for future years and this position will be reflected in the 2024/25 budget. The balance on the Business Rate Reserve as at 1st April 2023 was £8.7m, this includes the £7.24m transfer from the reserve approved in the 2023/24 budget report.

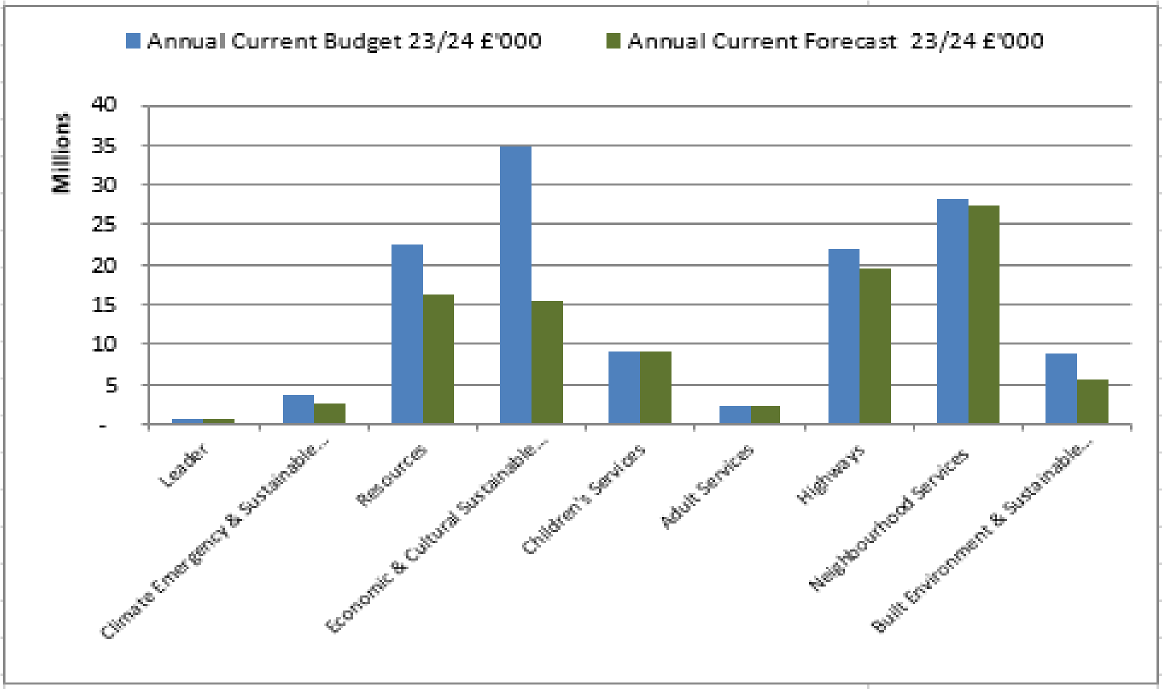
CAPITAL BUDGET

3.26 The current position of the 2023/24 Capital Programme is a forecast of £98.9m against approved budget of £132.7m, a variance of £33.8m, mainly forecast to be re-phased to future years. A significant part of the variance is related to a £15.5m forecast under budget position for Bath Quays North in the Economic and Sustainable Development Portfolio with most spending paused whilst a review is undertaken with the development partner. The following table show a summary of the current position by Cabinet Portfolio. The full breakdown of the Capital Programme by Portfolio can be found in Appendix 4(ii) with key scheme commentary in Appendix 2. Appendix 4(i) sets out budget changes actioned since the last Cabinet Meeting.

Portfolio Summary Monitor	**Annual Current Budget 2023/24** **£'000**	**Forecast 2023/24** **£'000**	**In-Year Variance 2023/24** **£'000**	***Forecast Re-phasing to 2024/25*** ***£'000***
Leader	638	638	-	-
Climate Emergency & Sustainable Travel	3,721	2,534	(1,188)	1,188
Resources	22,542	16,249	(6,294)	6,294
Economic & Cultural Sustainable Development	34,848	15,429	(19,418)	19,418
Children's Services	9,150	9,150	-	-
Adult Services	2,424	2,424	-	-
Highways	22,103	19,472	(2,630)	2,630
Neighbourhood Services	28,239	27,422	(817)	722
Built Environment Sustainable Development	8,991	5,587	- 3,404	3,404
Grand Total	132,656	98,904	(33,751)	33,657

Note2: Some of the figures in this table are affected by rounding

The graph below illustrates the value and forecast against budget for all in year capital budgets by Cabinet Portfolio:



Capital Commentary

3.27 The key in-year variance on the programme being:

- **Climate Emergency & Sustainable Travel** - £1.2m under budget variance due to later contractor engagement on the Bath River Line project.

- **Resources**- £6.3m under budget variance with lower take-up of loans by Aequus in respect of Property Company Investment (£2.8m) and slower progress in the Commercial Estate Refurbishment Programme (£3.5m).
- **Economic & Cultural Sustainable Development**- £19.4m under budget variance from pause in Bath Quays North (£15.5m) and re-phasing of Bath Western Riverside (£6.6m).
- **Highways** £2.6m under budget variance mainly due to the re-alignment of Liveable Neighbourhoods Programme with WECA grant submission (£1.2m) and City Centre Security measures for Upper Borough Wall reprogrammed into 2024/25 (£1.2m).
- **Neighbourhood Services** - £0.8m under budget variance mainly arising from delivery delays for Vehicle purchases. There is also an anticipated underspend on leisure schemes including Keynsham Sport Centre (£100k).
- **Built Environment & Housing Sustainable Development** - £3.4m under budget variance in the Social Housing Rent Programme as the majority of the programme of conversion and refurbishment works at the Argle Works property will now take place in 2024/25.

RISKS

The key risks to the budget were outlined in the Councils 2023/24 Budget Report, in compliance with the Council's decision-making risk management guidance. These have been reviewed and are listed below, along with any additional emerging risks:

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Risk Management Update
Operational budget pressures due to latent demand and backlog	Possible	High	There is the risk of built-up demand on Council services and backlog post pandemic. This may result in one-off cost pressures to clear the backlog.
Long term impacts on the Councils Commercial Estate over and above anticipated levels.	Likely	High	There are continuing risks in the retail & hospitality sector from rising inflation and a challenging labour market, so this is impacting market rent levels and the income from Council tenants.
Contract inflationary pressure	Likely	High	With increase in wage, energy and fuel costs, Council contracted services are at risk of above budget price increases. This is an economic risk that has been recognised in the budget with a corporate inflation contingency for known areas that cannot be mitigated through activity management.
Volatility in income from Heritage Services.	Possible	Medium	Continue to monitor income levels and impact on business plan in light of changing customer expectations and international travel. Current in year income performance is strong with net income forecast to be £2.14m above budget.
Impact on Reserves	Possible	High	Without additional government grant in recognition of unfunded inflationary pressures there is the risk that Council reserve levels are not enough to manage in-year and future years risk.
Interest rates increase	Likely	Medium	A reserve is available for borrowing to manage market risk and long-term borrowing costs have been factored into the longer-term MTFS. Borrowing rates have continued to increase since the budget was set, as the Bank of England tackles more persistent inflation pressures. The latest forecast from our treasury management advisors is that longer term borrowing rates will eventually start to fall from current levels once service inflation and wage growth eases, with Bank of England rate cuts forecast from Q3 of 2024. However, rates will remain relatively higher than in the past with continued elevated volatility. The Council will continue to consider shorter term borrowing options alongside the PWLB.
Volatility and uncertainty around business rates	Likely	High	The impacts of the current economic challenges will increase the volatility and uncertainty around business rate income. In 2023/24 this risk will be partly offset by the extension of the business rate relief scheme for Retail, Leisure and Hospitality businesses. We continue to monitor arrears, CVAs, and liquidations with a specific reserve held to manage in-year volatility.
Capital projects not delivered resulting in revenue reversion costs or liabilities from underwriting agreements	Possible	High	The Council has a number of projects within this category. These risks will continue to be monitored and reported. An assessment is made as part of the budget process to ensure that revenue reserves are sufficient to meet these risks. The capital programme methodology looks to de-risk projects wherever possible.
Changes to Government Policy that affects future funding	Likely	High	Need to monitor and continue to highlight impact

Brexit risks	Likely	Medium	The short to medium term impacts of Brexit on the Councils supply chain and labour market may result in contractual cost pressures from customs tariffs that previously did not apply.
Funding pressures through WECA, CCG and other partners	Possible	Medium	Ensure good communication links with partner organisations.
Capital receipts in the areas identified are insufficient to meet target	Possible	Medium	There is a risk that a depressed market will impact on current values.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

4.1 The annual medium-term financial planning process allocates resources across services with alignment of these resources towards the Council's corporate priorities. This report monitors how the Council is performing against the financial targets set in February 2023 through the Budget setting process.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

5.1 The financial implications are contained within the body of the report.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

6.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision-making risk management guidance.

6.2 The substance of this report is part of the Council's risk management process. The key risks in the Council's budget are assessed annually by each Director, with these risks re-assessed regularly as part of the budget monitoring process.

7 CLIMATE CHANGE

7.1 The Medium Term Financial Strategy and budget process aligns resources towards the corporate priorities and objectives set out in the Corporate Strategy, which includes tackling the climates emergency. This report monitors the Council's financial performance against those budgets. and therefore does not include any decisions that have a direct impact on Climate Change.

8 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

8.1 None

9 CONSULTATION

9.1 Consultation has been carried out with the Cabinet Member for Economic Development & Resources, Directors, Section 151 Finance Officer, Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer.

9.2 Consultation was carried out at meetings and via e-mail.

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Background papers	N/A
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