

Appendix 1 - Revenue Monitoring Commentary Quarter 1 2024/25

Portfolio Number and Description	Cashlimit Number and Description	Current Budget £000	Quarter 1 Published Forecast £000	2024/25 Outturn Variance Over / (Under) £000	Outturn Variance Analysis	Outturn Recovery Plan		
Detailed Analysis of Budgets for Leader of Council								
P04	Leader of Council	1112	Housing Delivery Vehicle	(1,000)	(1,000)	0	No variance reported	Not applicable
P04	Leader of Council	1119	Emergency Planning	698	694	(4)	No material variance reported	Not applicable
P04	Leader of Council	1136	External Affairs & Partnerships	0	0	0	No variance reported	Not applicable
P04	Leader of Council			(302)	(306)	(4)		
Detailed Analysis of Budgets for Climate Emergency and Sustainable Travel								
P27	Climate Emergency and Sustainable Travel	1127	Environmental Monitoring (Air Pollution)	202	163	(39)	Favourable staffing variance due to vacancies and recovery of staff time charged to projects	Not applicable
P27	Climate Emergency and Sustainable Travel	1135	Transport Planning, Policy and Sustainable Transport	449	449	0	Significant spend has been incurred with consultants due to the lack of B&NES staff resource to develop statutory transport policies to support the Local Plan. Recruiting to this post will reduce the reliance on consultants to complete this statutory work. Overspends will be further offset by charging against project costs where possible.	Mitigation of costs by recharging to relevant capital projects and supervision fees where appropriate.
P27	Climate Emergency and Sustainable Travel	1137	Green Transformation	614	609	(4)	No material variance reported	Not applicable
P27	Climate Emergency and Sustainable Travel Total			1,265	1,222	(44)		
Detailed Analysis of Budgets for Council Priorities and Delivery								
P32	Council Priorities and Delivery	1047	Human Resources & Organisational Development	284	265	(19)	No material variance reported	Not applicable
P32	Council Priorities and Delivery	1132	Business Change	760	760	0	No variance reported	Not applicable
P32	Council Priorities and Delivery	1143	Corporate Office	1,841	1,824	(17)	Small underspend resulting from staffing vacancies.	Not applicable
P32	Council Priorities and Delivery Total			2,885	2,848	(37)		
Detailed Analysis of Budgets for Resources								
P19	Resources	1032	Information Technology	6,971	6,971	0	No variance reported	Not applicable
P19	Resources	1040	Finance	2,334	2,334	0	No variance reported	Not applicable
P19	Resources	1041	Revenues & Benefits	2,064	2,095	31	Staffing pressures are the key reason for the adverse forecast variance.	Staffing costs will be closely monitored and any savings opportunities will be realised.
P19	Resources	1042	Risk & Assurance Services	1,481	1,481	0	No variance reported	Not applicable
P19	Resources	1053	Council Solicitor & Democratic Services	2,805	2,912	107	A legacy savings target remains undelivered.	Whilst the savings target will not be achieved, vacancy management and discretionary spend will be monitored closely to assess mitigation opportunities.
P19	Resources	1054	Hsg / Council Tax Benefits Subsidy	405	506	101	On-going budget pressure due to temporary accommodation being provided at a cost higher than the claimable subsidy.	Continued investment into our own temporary accommodation provision will reduce reliance on more expensive alternatives such as B&Bs.
P19	Resources	1055	Capital Financing / Interest	4,906	4,356	(550)	Income from investment interest is currently forecast to be £250k greater than budgeted levels. This is mainly due to the Bank of England continuing to maintain the higher Base Rate for longer than was anticipated at the time the budget was set, resulting in the achievement of higher rates of return on investments.	Not applicable
P19	Resources	1056	Unfunded Pensions	1,388	1,388	0	No variance reported	Not applicable
P19	Resources	1057	Corporate Budgets including Capital, Audit and Bank Charges	(441)	(538)	(97)	Unbudgeted grant income relating to business rates received in-year.	Not applicable
P19	Resources	1058	Magistrates	12	12	0	No variance reported	Not applicable
P19	Resources	1059	Coroners	550	550	0	No variance reported	Not applicable
P19	Resources	1060	Environment Agency	262	262	0	No variance reported	Not applicable
P19	Resources	1061	West of England Combined Authority Levy	5,194	5,194	0	No variance reported	Not applicable
P19	Resources	1081	Commercial Estate	(12,436)	(12,436)	0	No variance reported	Not applicable
P19	Resources	1118	Procurement & Commissioning	330	227	(103)	Staffing vacancies across the service.	Not applicable
P19	Resources Total			15,826	15,314	(511)		

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Detailed Analysis of Budgets for Economic And Cultural Sustainable Development						
P33 Economic And Cultural Sustainable Development	1018 Heritage Services	(12,242)	(12,242)	0	No variance reported	Not applicable
P33 Economic And Cultural Sustainable Development	1037 Property Services	614	587	(27)	Small underspend resulting from staffing vacancies	Not applicable
P33 Economic And Cultural Sustainable Development	1038 Corporate Estate Including R&M	4,502	5,459	958	On-going "strategic hold" of surplus and un-occupied buildings mean estate running costs remain high, resulting in the target to reduce corporate estate operating costs of £500k through rationalising and reducing assets not being achieved. Cleaning and security services costs also contribute to the adverse financial position. The overspend has been partially mitigated by staff vacancies and prioritising urgent reactive maintenance only.	Strategic hold decisions are proceeding to disposal with an anticipated reduction in the adverse position from capital receipts generated and reductions in associated holding costs.
P33 Economic And Cultural Sustainable Development	1039 Traded Services	0	0	0	No variance reported	Not applicable
P33 Economic And Cultural Sustainable Development	1052 Regeneration	(678)	(115)	563	Rental income shortfall and undelivered savings target is creating an adverse variance for the service.	The pressure on the adverse variance is expected to reduce following recent letting activity, once incentives have played through. Remaining accommodation is actively being marketed and may further improve the adverse position.
P33 Economic And Cultural Sustainable Development	1109 World Heritage	122	118	(4)	No material variance reported	Not applicable
P33 Economic And Cultural Sustainable Development	1121 Events and Active Lifestyles	380	428	47	Events staffing pressures are the key reason for the adverse forecast variance.	The Events team are working hard to achieve additional income. Limited scope to find savings within the service. Expenditure being closely monitored and any savings opportunities will be realised.
P33 Economic And Cultural Sustainable Development	1126 Visit Bath	76	76	0	No variance reported	Not applicable
P33 Economic And Cultural Sustainable Development	1128 Business & Skills	388	384	(5)	No material variance reported	Not applicable
P33 Economic And Cultural Sustainable Development Total		(6,837)	(5,305)	1,533		
Detailed Analysis of Budgets for Adult Services						
P20 Adult Services	1019 Leisure	289	300	10	Forecast income from current Leisure contract falls short of budget.	Contract changes are being explored (in light of recent VAT advice) that will increase fee income.
P20 Adult Services	1036 Adults Substance Misuse (DAT)	70	70	0	No variance reported	Not applicable
P20 Adult Services	1073 Adults & Older People-Mental Health Commissioning	9,739	9,406	(334)	Difficulties in recruitment & retention is anticipated to generate a one-off saving in excess of £200k. Good fee income recovery action is generating over £100k in savings.	Not applicable
P20 Adult Services	1086 Adult Care Commissioning	1,066	1,054	(12)	One-off underspends resulting from staff vacancies	Not applicable
P20 Adult Services	1088 Older People & Physically Disabled Purchasing	12,758	13,336	578	Demand for social care services has risen - in May 2024 the number of social care funded packages of care is higher than at any point in 2023. Cost of living pressures have also resulted in providers taking a more robust approach on pricing.	All placements and packages of care are now being reviewed at Social Care Practice Forum, to ensure they represent best outcomes, before funding is approved.
P20 Adult Services	1091 Learning Disabilities Commissioning	16,468	16,468	0	Demand for care along with complexity of needs and costs of living price rises are all creating pressures on the LD and autism budgets. Partner contribution to Pool still being worked through £3.6M	Discussions ongoing with ICB over funding of the complex care packages. All placements and packages of care are now being reviewed at Social Care Practice Forum, to ensure they represent best outcomes, before funding is approved.
P20 Adult Services	1093 Physical Disability, Hearing & Vision	3,661	3,673	12	Complexity of care and cost of living pressures (interim pathway) have created budget pressures.	All placements and packages of care are now being reviewed at Social Care Practice Forum, to ensure they represent best outcomes, before funding is approved. A number of existing cases are going through Court of Protection to resolve the appropriate package of support.
P20 Adult Services	1094 Public Health	0	0	0	No variance reported	Not applicable
P20 Adult Services	1110 Better Care Fund	(2,090)	(2,090)	0	No variance reported	Not applicable
P20 Adult Services	1113 CCG B&NES CHC and FNC Payments	0	0	0	No variance reported	Not applicable
P20 Adult Services	1114 Community Equipment	254	254	0	No variance reported	Not applicable
P20 Adult Services	1123 Safeguarding Adults	2,368	2,405	37	Staffing pressures are the key reason for the adverse forecast variance.	Staffing costs will be closely monitored and any savings opportunities will be realised.
P20 Adult Services	1124 Community Resource Centres & Extra Care Income	8,953	8,671	(282)	Robust management controls on backfilling vacancies and use of agency staff, along with strong fee income has resulting in a service delivery forecast below budget.	Not applicable
P20 Adult Services	1141 Social Care	7,281	7,281	0	No variance reported	Not applicable
P20 Adult Services Total		60,817	60,828	10		

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Detailed Analysis of Budgets for Children's Services								
P21	Children's Services	1076	Children, Young People & Families	18,860	21,042	2,182	£2.1m pressure across all demand led budget areas. This pressure occurs as follows; Residential Care £2.4m, Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children Care (UASC) £0.5m, spend to support those not in care £0.4m, Disabled Children Care (DCC) £0.1m. These overspends are offset by under budget positions from other areas such as Independent Foster Care (£0.1m), and reduced spend versus our contingent budget for costs of the Joint Agency Pool (JAP) (£0.9m). It should be noted that the reduced spend in JAP has a strong correlation with increased spend in DCC, as this is where support and care for our most complex children will be funded from, if not in JAP. There is also £0.1m staffing pressures as a result of the need to cover vacancies with more expensive agency workers. These pressures are net of £0.6m in-year mitigations, and include the delivery of £0.96m budgeted transformation savings across the demand led budget areas. £2.6m demand led budget pressures continued from 23/24, due to ongoing increased demand and complexity of supporting our children and young people.	Detailed monitoring of UASC numbers and costs. Continued monitoring and scrutiny of high risk areas, predominantly demand led budgets, savings targets and agency spend. £0.6m in-year recovery forecast in addition to £0.96m base budgeted transformation savings. A Business Case containing the cost reduction strategies to be implemented over a 3 year time period has been completed and will be reviewed by ELT on 21st June 24.
P21	Children's Services	1077	Inclusion & Prevention	2,383	2,383	(0)	Forecast assumes delivery of £0.15m budgeted savings.	Not applicable
P21	Children's Services	1078	Education Transformation	4,311	4,469	157	£0.11m pressure from Teachers Pensions continuing from 23/24. Balance of pressure relates to staffing, where agency usage is needed to cover vacancies and respond to demand.	Staffing costs will continue to be closely monitored and any savings opportunities will be realised.
P21	Children's Services	1079	Schools Budgets	(1,434)	(1,434)	0	Although the Quarter 1 forecast for Dedicated School Grant (DSG) shows a balanced position, the deficit carried into this year on the balance sheet was £22.263m The overspend of the DSG last year was £8.8m.	The deficit is being address via the Safety Value project in conjunction with the Department for Education (DFE). A new Safety Valve agreement has been submitted to the DFE which when agreed (pending the election) will reinstate the Safety Valve payments amounting to £1.65m per annum.
P21	Children's Services	1116	Integrated Commissioning - CYP	2,431	2,466	35	The forecast pressure has arisen from increased contract costs to ensure statutory services are provided. Budgeted savings of £0.35m are forecast to be achieved.	Continued scrutiny of all departmental and contract costs.
P21	Children's Services	1117	Safeguarding - CYP	90	90	0	No variance reported	Not applicable
P21	Children's Services	1142	Home to School Transport	9,311	9,407	96	Based on available April data the service are forecasting a financial pressure resulting from the volume of home to school transport required to fulfill statutory duties this financial year.	Home to school transport processes are being reviewed end to end to ensure the most efficient and effective delivery of our statutory responsibility in a challenging market place
P21	Children's Services Total			35,953	38,423	2,470		
Detailed Analysis of Budgets for Highways								
P34	Highways	1103	Transport & Parking Services - Parking	(8,846)	(9,465)	(619)	Favourable forecast on parking income, with a strong start to the year across most off street locations	Not applicable
P34	Highways	1129	Clean Air Zone	0	0	0	Income levels continue to show indications of anticipated downturn due to improvements in vehicle compliance as expected with the scheme, however still just exceeding budget levels due to continuing higher levels of penalty charge income and debt recovery.	As the scheme moves into the final stage of the original project timeline without a confirmed replacement scheme, the levels of income will continue to fall, removing any surplus and increasing the call on the reserve. Service resources overall will reduce to match the workload.
P34	Highways	1133	Network & Traffic Management	680	680	0	Pressures on IT costs and signals maintenance. Offset by vacancy management and increased income	Not applicable
P34	Highways	1134	Highway Maintenance	6,867	6,867	0	No variance reported	Not applicable
P34	Highways	1144	Park and Ride	(473)	(473)	0	No variance reported	Not applicable
P34	Highways Total			(1,771)	(2,390)	(619)		

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Detailed Analysis of Budgets for Neighbourhood Services								
P05	Neighbourhood Services	1089	Community Safety	190	187	(3)	No material variance reported	Not applicable
P05	Neighbourhood Services	1101	Neighbourhoods & Environment - Waste & Fleet Services	19,896	20,851	955	The forecast overspend comprises two components; pressures on staffing budgets totalling £855k; and increased running costs from retaining Ashmead and Locksbrook depots totalling £98k	Staffing costs will be closely monitored and any savings opportunities will be realised.
P05	Neighbourhood Services	1102	Neighbourhoods & Environment - Parks & Bereavement Services	1,949	2,000	51	Parks & Bereavement are seeing staffing pressures across the service.	Staffing costs will be closely monitored and any savings opportunities will be realised.
P05	Neighbourhood Services	1115	Registrars Service	(103)	(86)	17	A small forecast pressure on budgeted income levels.	Continued promotion of service offer to generate additional income
P05	Neighbourhood Services	1122	Customer Services (Including Libraries)	2,723	2,771	48	A £100k savings target to reduce costs of customer services across the organisation through digitalisation is forecast as partially achieved at this stage in the year.	Initiatives are underway to assess the potential for digitalisation and process redesign across the organisation which will drive out further savings opportunities.
P05	Neighbourhood Services	1139	Public Protection	1,220	1,251	31	Staffing pressures in the Dog Warden function is the main reason for the adverse forecast variance.	Limited scope to find savings within the service to offset income shortfall. Expenditure being closely monitored and any savings opportunities will be realised.
P05	Neighbourhood Services Total			25,875	26,974	1,099		
Detailed Analysis of Budgets for Built Environment and Sustainable Development								
P35	Built Environment and Sustainable Development	1029	Housing	1,316	1,304	(12)	Small underspend resulting from staffing vacancies	Not applicable
P35	Built Environment and Sustainable Development	1106	Development Management	1,317	1,308	(9)	No material variance reported	Not applicable
P35	Built Environment and Sustainable Development	1138	Building Control	(119)	(44)	75	Pressures on Building Control income due to current market conditions, slightly reduced due to staff savings.	Limited scope to find savings within the service to offset income shortfall. Expenditure being closely monitored and any savings opportunities will be realised.
P35	Built Environment and Sustainable Development Total			2,514	2,568	54		
Council Total				136,225	140,176	3,951		