

Title: Budget Outturn Report

Committee: Operational Services Committee

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1.0 Issue

- 1.1 This report provides Members with details of the financial position for services under the Operational Services Committee.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 Members are requested to note that the Committee had a revenue overspend of £195,163, when compared to its approved budget of £7,134,292.
- 2.2 Members are further requested to note that the Committee had capital programme spend of £1,869,054. This is an underspend of £2,858,721 when compared to its revised budget.

3.0 Background / Options

- 3.1 Under Financial Regulations each policy committee is required to consider projections of financial performance against both its revenue and capital budget on a quarterly basis.
- 3.2 This is the final report for the 2024/25 financial year and details actual expenditure incurred and income received as of 31st March 2025.

Revenue

- 3.3 The revenue budget for each service that falls under the stewardship of this Committee has been reviewed with appendix 1 detailing the variance on each service line.
- 3.4 The net revenue expenditure for Committee at yearend is £7,329,455. This is an overspend of £195,163 when compared to the approved budget. This is the combination of the forecast variations on service lines, as detailed in the table below.

Service	Variance £	Explanation
Building Control	£75,671	<p>The variance is the consequence of reduced income due to a decline in applications.</p> <p>Declining application numbers have been felt across the whole building control industry nationwide. It is hoped that the positive declarations from Government around relaxing planning requirements and their extremely high new housing building numbers will result in an upturn in applications during 2025/26.</p>
Community Projects & Grants	(£16,068)	Four facilities grants were awarded this year, but the sum of these was still less than the budget available.
Customer Services	(£44,524)	Delays in recruiting staff caused an underspend on salaries. There was also an underspend of the Website development budget, where further work will be undertaken in 2025/26.
Environmental Services	(£51,745)	Following the restructure of the service in October 2024, some costs have been allocated onto other budget lines.
Leisure Centre	(£38,809)	The Management Fee received from GLL increased during the year as activity at the Hive has increased.
Licensing-Env Services	(£71,453)	Licensing fees are set to recover the total cost of the service including corporate overheads. Income received has covered nearly 80% of the combined budget and shows as a surplus / underspend on the operational budget overall.
Planning	£353,578	<p>Planning income is below budget. Due to the uncertainty within the housing market (and changes to planning legislation which are due imminently) and the fact that the Council has a strong 5-year housing land supply, has resulted in a lower number of speculative development applications.</p>

Recycling	(£22,045)	With uncertainty around the cost of the new MRF contract at the point the budget was being prepared, a contingency was built into the budget to ensure resource was available. In the event, not all of this contingency was required.
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Capital

- 3.5 The revised capital budget for Operational Services stands at £4,727,775 including net slippage of £381,234 brought forward from 2023/24 including mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG) of £388,864 and additions of £71,576.
- 3.6 The outturn position for Committee is £1,869,054, a net underspend of £2,858,721. There are underspends on several projects; one relates to the purchase of Waste bins, £1,000,000 was built into the budget as a contingency for buying new refuse bins when the Government's Strategic Waste Review progressed, replacing the black sacks currently used in the district. With the implementation date of the Review, Spring 2026, these will not now be purchased until the 2025/26 financial year, as will the vehicles that are required for the new collection process. The second underspend is on the Bereavement Centre, (£1,001,342), where work on the ground will start in 2025/26, so less was spent in 2024/25 than was forecast when the budget was set.
- 3.7 The DFG grant was £520,505 underspent; this will be carried forward to be spent in 2025/26.
- 3.8 There is an overspend on vehicles for the parks and gardens team within ECTC (£345,044). New vehicles have been purchased for the new schools' contract that ECTC was successful in winning. These vehicles are purchased by the Council, funded from Section 106 contributions, with the costs then being charged onto ECTC over the vehicles' expected life.

4.0 Arguments / Conclusions

- 4.1 The Committee's net revenue position at the end of the financial year was an overspend of £195,163.

5.0 Additional Implications Assessment

- 5.1 In the table below, please put Yes or No in each box:

Financial Implications Yes	Legal Implications No	Human Resources (HR) Implications No
Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) No	Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA) No	Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) No

5.2 Financial Implications

The Committee overspend has been incorporated into the overall Council Finance Report, and that will be presented to Finance and Assets Committee on the 26th June 2025.

6.0 Appendices

6.1 Appendix 1 – Revenue budget outturn report – 31st March 2025.

6.2 Appendix 2 – Capital budget outturn report – 31st March 2025.

7.0 Background Documents

Council Budget approved by Full Council on the 20th February 2024.