TITLE: Budget Monitoring Report

Committee: Operational Services Committee

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Issue

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

Recommendations

2. Members are requested to note that the Committee is currently projecting a year-end underspend of £114,000 on its revenue budget of £8,368,382

3. Members are further requested to note that the Committee has a projected capital programme outturn of £9,535,966. This includes slippage from 2025/26 and additional budget for Wheelie Bins and Food Waste Caddies.

Background/Options

4. 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

5. This is the first quarterly report for the 2026/27 financial year and details actual expenditure incurred and income received as of 30th June 2026 and the current projection as to the yearend position is an underspend of £114,000.

Revenue

6. The revenue budget for each service that falls under the stewardship of this Committee has been reviewed with appendix 1 detailing the current variance and forecast outturn for each service line.

7. The significant variances of actual spend compared to profiled budgeted spend at the end of June 2026, where no variance is forecast for yearend, are detailed in the table on the next page:

Service	Variance £	Explanation
Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)	(£36,866)	CIL transactions are treated as a revenue income or expense during the year, but any balance on the account at yearend, is transferred to reserve.
Community Projects & Grants	(£23,580)	Facility improvement grants weren't paid in the first quarter.
Crematorium	(£42,722)	The favourable variance is primarily due to the timing of expenditure against the 2026/27 budget. The variance is therefore expected to reduce as expenditure is incurred during the remainder of the financial year.
Environmental Health	(£94,611)	The favourable variance is mainly due to the timing of grant income relating to the MHCLG Renters' Rights Act, received/recognised earlier than anticipated.
Care & Repair	£55,992	Disabled Facility Grant improvements to clients' homes in Fenland have been carried out in the first quarter of the year, the invoices for these will be raised in quarter two.
Homelessness	£295,579	The variance is mainly due to grant income being received later in the financial year than in previous years. The position is expected to improve as the grant income is received.
Marketing & Grants	(£25,866)	The favourable variance is due to 2025/26 accrued expenditure not yet being paid in the current financial year.
Refuse Collection Refuse Recycling	(£22,778) (£167,630)	The favourable variance is due to payments being made later than originally anticipated.
Traveller Sites	£12,740	The variance is due to income being transferred in Quarter 2 and is therefore a timing difference.

8. The net revenue expenditure for this Committee at yearend is forecast to be £8,254,382. This is an underspend of £114,000 when compared to the approved budget.

Building Regulations	£40,000	There has, however, been a change in the type of application, from new dwellings and larger extension projects to smaller extension and conversions. These attract less fees, which has resulted in less fee income than anticipated. A full fee review has taken place, and new fees will be implemented during the second half of the year which address some of the shortfall, plus new charges regulations will allow us to make charges for work which currently we have to offer free of charge (FOC)
Emergency Planning	£16,000	This relates to the council's increased contribution towards the Cambridge & Peterborough Local Reliance Forum.
Licensing	(£100,000)	The licensing team continues to expand due to additional work entering the department. The discretionary fees continue to be monitored and are formally reviewed annually in November. It is forecast that the service will underspend at year end. This underspend will support the corporate charges incurred by the service outside of the direct Licencing budget
Planning	(£70,000)	A strong start to the year with some large applications and pre-app enquiries received with associated PPA agreements to allow the Council to be able to resource accordingly. The Planning service has reduced its reliance on temporary staff and has filled a number of its vacancies with permanent staff members.

Capital

9. The revised capital budget for Operational Services stands at £9,535,966, including slippage of £5,772,063 brought forward from 2025/26. This includes £27,506 for Conservation Area Schemes – 2nd round, £1,032,993 for Refuse & Cleansing Vehicles, £786,909 for Wheelie Bins, £168,147 for Food Waste Caddies, £188,116 for Mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants, £39,157 for Empty Properties, Discretionary DFGs, Minor Works and Home Repair Assistance, and £3,529,235 for the Bereavement Centre.

10. The current forecast for Committee is a balanced budget position on capital at yearend.

Arguments/Conclusions

11. The current forecast is that the Committee's net revenue position will be a £114,000 underspend at the end of this financial year.

Additional Implications Assessment

12. 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**

13. You only need to put 'Yes' in the above boxes, if the content of your report has **new or additional** implications relating to the listed areas. You do not need answer yes, if the proposals do not impact upon current finance or staffing levels or do not have new/changed legal requirements. If you put yes in any of the boxes, you need to give a brief summary of the implications under the relevant heading, for example:

Financial implications

14. The Committee's underspend has been incorporated into the overall 2026/27 Council Finance Report, which is to be presented to Finance and Assets Committee on the 24th September 2026. Any over or underspend at yearend, will be transferred to the Surplus Savings Reserve to assist in balancing the budget in future years.

Appendices

15. Appendix 1 – Revenue budget monitoring report – 30th June 2026.

Appendix 2 – Capital budget monitoring report – 30th June 2026.

Background documents

Council Budget as approved by Full Council on the 24th February 2026.