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Meeting: Corporate Scrutiny Committee
Date: Thursday 29th June, 2023
Time: 7.00 pm
Venue: Council Chamber, Corby Cube, George Street Corby NN17 1QG


The meeting will be available for the public to view live at the Democratic Services North Northants YouTube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/c/DemocraticServicesNorthNorthantsCouncil>

To members of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Lyn Buckingham (Chair), Councillor Lora Lawman (Vice-Chair), Councillor Jim Hakewill, Councillor Richard Levell, Councillor Paul Marks, Councillor Zoe McGhee, Councillor Steven North, Councillor Dr Anup Pandey and Councillor Russell Roberts

Substitutes: Councillor Cedwien Brown, Councillor Emily Fedorowycz, Councillor Anne Lee, Councillor Macauley Nichol, Councillor Elliot Prentice, Councillor Simon Rielly, Councillor Joseph Smyth, Councillor Malcolm Ward and Councillor Malcolm Waters

Agenda			
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Urgent Items			
To consider any items of business of which notice has been given to the Proper Officer and which the Chair considers to be urgent, pursuant to the Local Government Act 1972			
07	Close of Meeting		
Adele Wylie, Monitoring Officer North Northamptonshire Council  Proper Officer 21 June 2023			

This agenda has been published by Democratic Services.

Committee Administrator: Louise Tyers

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ITEM	NARRATIVE	DEADLINE
Members of the Public Agenda Statements	Requests to address the meeting must be received by 5pm two clear working days before the meeting. Statements must relate to matters detailed on the meeting agenda. You will have a maximum of three minutes in which to make your statement and you will make it at the start of the agenda item.	5pm Monday 26 June 2023
Member Agenda Statements	Requests to address the meeting must be received by 5pm two clear working days before the meeting. Statements must relate to matters detailed on the meeting agenda. You will have a maximum of three minutes in which to make your statement and you will make it at the start of the agenda item.	5pm Monday 26 June 2023

If you wish to register to speak, please contact the committee administrator

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Members are reminded of their duty to ensure they abide by the approved Member Code of Conduct whilst undertaking their role as a Councillor. Where a matter arises at a meeting which **relates to** a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, you must declare the interest,

not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless granted a dispensation.

Where a matter arises at a meeting which **relates to** other Registerable Interests, you must declare the interest. You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting but must not take part in any vote on the matter unless you have been granted a dispensation.

Where a matter arises at a meeting which **relates to** your own financial interest (and is not a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest) or **relates to** a financial interest of a relative, friend or close associate, you must disclose the interest and not vote on the matter unless granted a dispensation. You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting.

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If Members have any queries as to whether a Declaration of Interest should be made please contact the Monitoring Officer at – monitoringofficer@northnorthants.gov.uk

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Corporate Scrutiny Committee 29 June 2023

Report Title	Background to the new Scrutiny Arrangements and Terms of Reference for the Committee
Report Author	Adele Wylie, Executive Director of Customer and Governance adele.wylie@northnorthants.gov.uk Ben Smith, Head of Democratic Services ben.smith@northnorthants.gov.uk

Are there public sector equality duty implications?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information (whether in appendices or not)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Applicable paragraph number/s for exemption from publication under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972	

List of Appendices

Appendix A – Corporate Scrutiny Committee Terms of Reference

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To set out the changes to the Council's scrutiny arrangements following the decision of full Council on 30th March 2023, particularly in regard to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. Scrutiny has an important role in ensuring that the Executive is held to account and that key decisions are made in an appropriate manner, taking all relevant factors into account.
- 2.2. It is important that scrutiny is focused and effective, helping to ensure that policy making is improved and efficiency of delivery of services to the public maximised.

2.3. It was proposed by the Democracy and Standards Committee and approved by full Council on 30th March 2023 that a Corporate Scrutiny Committee be created, effective from the annual meeting of the Council held on 25th May 2023. This new committee sits alongside three other scrutiny bodies within the new scrutiny structure.

3. Recommendations

3.1. It is recommended that the Corporate Scrutiny Committee:-

- (a) notes the new scrutiny arrangements for the Council which came into effect in May 2023; and
- (b) notes its new terms of reference.

3.2. *Reason for Recommendations – To allow members of the new Committee to be briefed on its new arrangements and terms of reference.*

3.3. *Alternative Options Considered – Not applicable to this report.*

4. Report Background

4.1. North Northamptonshire Council operates an executive model of governance and is required under statute to operate at least one scrutiny committee.

4.2. The purpose of the scrutiny function is to influence policies and decisions made by the Executive and other organisations delivering services to the public.

4.3. Four bodies make up the new scrutiny arrangements in the Council's Constitution and governance. These are:-

4.4. Scrutiny Management Board

4.4.1. The Board comprise the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the three Scrutiny Committees (see below for details) and will strategically drive forward the scrutiny function. The Board will manage the workload of the scrutiny committees, agree agenda items and the Workplan, complete the Annual Scrutiny Report and lead on the member development programme for scrutiny members. It will also determine call-in requests.

4.5. Health Scrutiny

4.5.1. The Council has a statutory duty to scrutinise health. The formation of a standalone health scrutiny committee provides for the Council to be able to strategically review how the integration of health, public health and social care

is working to ensure maximum outcomes can be achieved for the benefit of the public.

4.6. Place and Environment Scrutiny Committee

4.6.1. In relation to the Council's corporate objectives around Place and Economy it is recognised that there are a number of significant projects ongoing and some key elements of service delivery requiring regular review of performance e.g. the highways contact.

4.7. Corporate Scrutiny Committee

4.7.1. The Corporate Scrutiny Committee will mirror the work of the old Finance and Resources Committee, in that it will scrutinise finance and performance which are integral to each other. It will also scrutinise external partnerships and companies such as the Children's Trust. Previously the Children's Trust was scrutinised across Committees which did not allow members to collate a rounded view of it.

4.7.2. In addition to the above, full Council also agreed the following key areas as the basis of scrutiny for this Committee:-

- i) Corporate performance data;
- ii) Council Owned Buildings and Resources;
- iii) Enabling Services e.g., IT (Information Technology);
- iv) Outside Bodies;
- v) Customer Services;
- vi) Complaints.

4.7.3. The full terms of reference for this Committee are attached as Appendix A to this report.

5. Issues and Choices

5.1. The decision made to create an overarching Scrutiny Management Board together with the clear and focussed terms of reference for each of the three scrutiny committees, including the Corporate Scrutiny Committee, is designed to ensure greater effectiveness and transparency in relation to the workload of the scrutiny function within the council.

6. Next Steps

6.1. The Scrutiny Management Board is due to hold a workshop over the summer, 2023, at which it will consider presentations on the challenges, pressures and opportunities within each of the scrutiny areas of the Council, and review the work programme from the previous year to consider topics for inclusion in the Annual Workplan based upon criteria.

- 6.2. The outcome of the Workshop will be communicated to this Committee's next meeting, together with topics included in the Committee's annual workplan.

7. Implications (including financial implications)

7.1. Resources and Financial

- 7.1.1. There are no discernible resource or financial implications arising from this report.

7.2. Legal and Governance

- 7.2.1. The Council is required to establish at least one scrutiny committee. The proposal approved by full Council on 30th March 2023 enhances the role of scrutiny within the Council and provides additional support in meeting the Council's responsibilities detailed under statute and within statutory guidance.

7.3. Relevant Policies and Plans

- 7.3.1. The adoption of the proposals by full Council has assisted in meeting the good practise highlighted in the Government's statutory guidance on overview and scrutiny within local government and assists in ensuring that there is appropriate scrutiny of the Council's objectives set out in the approved Corporate Plan.

7.4. Risk

- 7.4.1. None identified in this report. The new scrutiny arrangements build on the foundations of scrutiny within the Council established since May 2021 and has ensured an expansion of capacity.

7.5. Consultation

- 7.5.1. Prior to the full Council making its decision on new scrutiny arrangements for the Council, initial proposals were considered by the Constitutional Working Group (CWG) at its meetings on 24th October 2022 and on 6th March 2023. The Democracy and Standards Committee then endorsed the proposals for wider internal and external consultation at its meeting on 7th November 2022 and considered responses at its meeting on 13th March 2023.
- 7.5.2. All members were given the opportunity to comment upon the proposals and provide feedback.

7.6. Consideration by Executive Advisory Panel

- 7.6.1. Not applicable.

7.7. Consideration by Scrutiny

7.7.1. Scrutiny members were consulted as part of the review process now completed.

7.8. Equality Implications

7.8.1. None impacting on the nine protected characteristics defined in the Equality Act 2010.

7.9. Climate Impact

7.9.1. Not applicable to this report.

7.10. Community Impact

7.10.1. Not applicable to this report.

7.11. Crime and Disorder Impact

7.11.1. Not applicable to this report.

8. Background Papers

8.1. [Council's Constitution](#)

8.2. [Report to full Council – 30th March 2023 \(Minute 215 refers\)](#)

Appendix A

The following is an extract from the [Council's Scrutiny Procedure Rules, Part 7.1 of the Constitution](#). It sets out, in an abbreviated form, the terms of reference considered particularly relevant to the work of the Place and Environment Scrutiny Committee.

General Terms of Reference for Scrutiny Committees

Within their remits as set out below;

- 1.1. Review decisions made by the Council, Executive, Committees and Officers (except for regulatory decisions)
- 1.2. Review the performance of the Council in relation to policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas.
- 1.3. Question Executive Members about decisions and performance within their portfolio whether in comparison with corporate objectives over a period of time, or in relation to decisions (except for regulatory decisions).
- 1.4. Review the performance of other public bodies in the area and invite reports from them by asking them to address the relevant Scrutiny Committee about their activities and performance.
- 1.5. Question and gather evidence from any person with their consent.
- 1.6. Make recommendations to Council or the Executive arising from work undertaken by a Scrutiny Committee.
- 1.7. Recommend that a decision made but not yet implemented, be reconsidered by the Executive through the Call In Procedure administered by the Scrutiny Management Board.
- 1.8. Provide responses to Councillors Call for Action.
- 1.9. Collaborate with other Scrutiny Committees and other bodies undertaking similar functions outside the Council.
- 1.10. Agree the terms of reference and details of Panels once they have been added to the Annual Workplan by the Scrutiny Management Board.

2. Corporate Scrutiny - Terms of Reference

- 2.1. To review and scrutinise the Revenue Budget, Capital Programme and Housing Revenue Account.

2.2. To undertake the budget review process and ensure that budget proposals are subject to rigorous challenge.

2.3. To review and scrutinise the following areas;

- i) Corporate performance data;
- ii) Council Owned Buildings and Resources;
- iii) Enabling Services e.g., IT (Information Technology)
- iv) Outside Bodies;
- v) Customer Services;
- vi) Complaints;
- vii) Northamptonshire Children's Trust;
- viii) Partnerships.

3. Members

3.1. There shall be 9 elected members of each Scrutiny Committee.

3.2. Relevant training shall be undertaken by members as determined by the Scrutiny Management Board.

6. Substitutions

6.1. Named substitutes are allowed and must undertake relevant training as determined by the Scrutiny Management Board.

7. Chairmanship

7.1. The Chair and Vice Chair of each Committee shall be appointed at the annual meeting of Council. If a vacancy for Chair or Vice Chair of a committee occurs in year, the committee at its next ordinary meeting shall elect/appoint to the vacant post for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

8. Quorum

8.1. The quorum for each committee shall be a quarter of voting members, but no less than 4 members unless otherwise specified.

9. Meetings

11.1 Scrutiny Committee meetings will be held bi-monthly.

11.2 Extraordinary (Special) meetings of a Scrutiny Committee may be called by the Proper Officer, in consultation with the Chair of the relevant committee, subject to the normal provisions under the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and the Council's Constitution.

12. Agenda for meetings of the Scrutiny Committees

- 12.1 Matters to be considered will be set out in an agenda, together with appropriate and relevant supporting papers.
- 12.2 Any member of the Committee shall be entitled to request, in writing, that an item be included on the agenda. Any such item shall be considered by the Scrutiny Management Board, and they will determine whether it can be included.
- 12.3 Similarly, the Leader or an individual member of the Executive may give notice in writing requesting an item to appear on an agenda of a Scrutiny Committee, relating to their area of responsibilities. The Scrutiny Management Board will decide how the item should be considered and whether it can be included.
- 12.4 Any other Councillor may write to the Statutory Scrutiny Officer to request an item to appear on an agenda of a Scrutiny Committee. The Scrutiny Management Board will decide whether it can be included.

13 Reports from the Relevant Scrutiny Committee

- 13.1 Once recommendations have been formed, the relevant Scrutiny Committee may submit a formal report for consideration by the Executive (if the proposals relate to an executive function and are consistent with the existing budgetary and policy framework), or to the Council as appropriate (if the recommendation would require a departure from or a change to the agreed budget and policy framework).
- 13.2 The Council or the Executive shall consider the report of the Scrutiny Committee at the next available meeting. The Council or the Executive shall respond to the Scrutiny Committee within two months (or following the next available meeting in the case of the Council) of it being submitted.

14. Panels

- 14.1 The Scrutiny Management Board may add Panels to the Annual Workplan and determine which Committee shall be responsible for the Panels work. Panels should be used to ensure that the relevant Committee is having an impact and meeting its statutory duties.
 - 14.1.1 There shall be a maximum of 4 Panels established at any one time across all Committees unless the Scrutiny Management Board agrees that there are exceptional circumstances (taking into consideration resource implications and advice from the statutory Scrutiny Officer). This will exclude long standing Panels.

15 Councillor Call for Action

- 15.1 Any member of the Council may submit a Councillor Call for Action using the

appropriate form.

- 15.2 The Councillor Call for Action is intended to be a process of last resort and therefore a member must demonstrate that reasonable steps have been taken to resolve the matter including a response from the relevant Executive Member and the Head of Paid Service or his/her nominee.
- 15.3 Only if reasonable steps have been evidenced will the Councillor Call for Action be placed on the agenda of the relevant Scrutiny Committee by the Scrutiny Management Board. It is for the Scrutiny Committee to determine how it wishes to respond to the Councillor Call for Action and in the case of refusal to undertake a review then reasons must be provided.

16 The Party Whip

- 16.1 It is generally accepted that the Party Whip should be suspended in respect of Scrutiny matters. However, when considering any matter in respect of which a member of the Scrutiny Committee is subject to a formal party whip, the Councillor must declare the existence of the whip, and the nature of it before the commencement of the Committee's deliberations on the matter. The declaration, and the detail of the whipping arrangements, shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

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Corporate Scrutiny Committee 29th June 2023

Report Title	Key Performance Indicator Report Period 1 (April) 2023/24
Report Author	Janice Gotts, Executive Director of Finance Email: Janice.Gotts@northnorthants.gov.uk
Executive Member	Cllr Lloyd Bunday Portfolio Holder for Finance and Transformation

List of Appendices

Appendix A –Detailed Key Performance Indicator Report for Period 1 2023/24 (April 2023)

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To provide members with an update on the Council's performance across a wide range of services, as measured by Key Performance Indicators, with the aim of informing scrutiny.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report provides an assessment of the Council's performance in relation to Key Performance Indicators for 2023/24 as at period 1.
- 2.2 A detailed assessment of the performance of services as measured by Key Performance Indicators for period 1 has been included as **Appendix A**.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Corporate Scrutiny Committee note the performance of the Council and its services as outlined in the appendix of this report, and use the information provided to aid the process of scrutiny.

4. Report Background

Context

- 4.1 The availability of accurate, timely and relevant information about the performance of services is good practice. It enables operational and policy decisions to be made, and it informs healthy debate and scrutiny of services.

Performance Report

- 4.2 A detailed assessment of the performance of services as measured by Key Performance Indicators for period 1 has been included as **Appendix A**. This includes comments / exception reports on each of the performance indicators reported.
- 4.3 56 Key Performance Indicators are reported for this period of which are reported on a monthly basis.
- 4.4 The list of Key Performance Indicators to be reported throughout this financial year (2023-24) was approved at Executive Committee in March and can be found in item 405 ([Performance Management and Reporting Arrangements 2023-24](#)).
- 4.5 The Council have identified that the data underpinning vacancy statistics provided in previous reports is not currently accurate. The Human Resources team are working with service managers, and with systems colleagues from across the ERP partnership, to review and revise its vacancy data and our approach to managing it. The 'vacancies' statistics included in previous workforce performance information has therefore been excluded from this report. We expect complete and accurate vacancy statistics to be available from Period 3 2023/24. Similarly, the data underpinning total agency spend (with the exception of Opus spend) is undergoing a data cleanse to ensure that it can be reported in line with the KPI proposal for 2023/24.
- 4.6 Queries raised by Members on the content of this report will be responded to within 12 working days of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee meeting.

5. Issues and Choices

- 5.1 There are no issues or choices arising from this report.

6. Implications (including financial implications)

6.1 Resources and Financial

- 6.1.1 There are no direct resource or financial implications arising from this report. However, the financial performance of the Council is an important metric when gauging how the Council is performing. The scarcity of resources inevitably means there is a trade-off between performance and economy. The goal is to ensure that efficiency, economy and effectiveness are maximised within realistic parameters.

6.2 Legal

- 6.2.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

6.3 Risk

- 6.3.1 There are no significant risks associated with the recommendations of this report.
- 6.3.2 There are risks associated with not scrutinising the performance of the Council. The Council’s Key Performance Indicators and associated reporting regime form an important part of the Council’s corporate governance arrangements. Robust scrutiny and challenge is a healthy feature of any large, outcome-focused organisation.
- 6.3.3 There are other risks associated with performance indicators. Data quality, for example, is an important consideration. The decisions the Council makes will be impaired by poor quality information. The Council is therefore working to ensure that data quality arrangements are built into the chain of information that underpins performance reporting. This will continue to be an area of careful focus for the Council as it further embeds and develops its performance management arrangements.

6.4 Consultation

- 6.4.1 Formal consultation was carried out in the development of the Corporate Plan.
- 6.4.2 Informal consultation with relevant stakeholders, including Executive Members was completed for the Key Performance Indicators included in this report.
- 6.4.3 Informal consultation with relevant stakeholders will continue to take place as we continue to develop the Council’s Performance Management Framework.

6.5 Climate Impact

- 6.5.1 The Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2021 and has developed a range of actions to address this challenge. The Council continues to develop a set of indicators that provide information about how it is meeting its key commitment to helping deliver a green and sustainable environment.
- 6.5.2 The Council currently measure and report on the following Greener, Sustainable Environment performance indicators:

Indicator Reference Number	Indicator Name	Frequency
GSE01	Number of E-Scooter trips	This was measured monthly in 2022-23 and is to be measured quarterly in 2023-24.
GSE02	Number of E-Scooter users	This was measured monthly in 2022-23 and is to be measured quarterly in 2023-24.
GSE03	Co2 savings from E-Scooters	This was measured monthly in 2022-23 and is to be measured quarterly in 2023-24.

GSE04	Number of electric vehicle charging points publicly available	This was reported on once a year in 2022-23 and featured in the P7 (October) report. It is to be measured quarterly in 2023-24.
GSE05	Number of electric vehicles per charge point	This was reported on once a year in 2022-23 and featured in the P7 (October) report. It is to be measured quarterly in 2023-24.
GSE06	Fly tipping: number of fly tips reported	This is reported quarterly.
GSE07	Percentage of waste diverted from landfill	This is reported quarterly.
GSE08	Co2 saving from Delivery Robots	This is a new KPI for 2023-24 and is to be reported quarterly.
GSE09	Volume of pesticides used within NNC grounds services operations	This is a new KPI for 2023-24 and is to be reported quarterly.
GSE10	Habitat area improved for pollinators (hectares)	This is a new KPI for 2023-24 and is to be reported annual.

6.5.3 The Assets & Environment service area have developed a Carbon Management Plan which was considered and approved by Executive at their meeting on the 22nd December 2022. The Tree Management and Care Policy and Pollinator Strategy was considered and approved by the Executive at an earlier meeting on the 25th August 2022. These policies will consider the Council's commitment to achieving Net Zero by 2030 and provide appropriate performance indicators to measure progress to achieving this target where possible. This will include indicators that measure the councils carbon emissions along with other environmental projects currently being developed.

6.6 Community Impact

6.6.1 Council services that are performing well will have a significant positive impact on the local community. The monitoring and scrutiny of the Council's performance plays an important role in both understanding this impact and in driving future performance improvement.

7. Background Papers

7.1 [Performance Indicator Report P12 2022-23 \(March\)](#) reported at the Scrutiny Commission meeting on the 23rd May 2023.

7.2 [Performance Management and Reporting Arrangements 2023-24](#) reported at the Executive Meeting on the 16th March 2023.



North Northamptonshire Council Performance Report - April 2023

Key to Performance Status Colours

Progress Status Key:
Green - On target or over-performing against target
Amber - Under-performing against target but within 5% corporate tolerance (or other agreed tolerance as specified)
Red - Under-performing against target by more than 5% (or other agreed tolerance as specified)
Dark Grey - Data missing
Grey - Target under review
Turquoise - Tracking Indicator only

Children's Trust Progress Status Key:
Green - At target or better
Amber - Below target - within tolerance
Red - Below target - outside tolerance
Grey - No RAG

Direction of Travel Key	
An acceptable range = within 5% of the last period's performance	
↑G	Performance has improved from the last period – Higher is better
↓G	Performance has improved from the last period – Lower is better
↑	Performance has deteriorated but is still on or above target or within an acceptable range of 5% of the last period – Lower is better
→	Performance has stayed the same since the last period
↓	Performance has deteriorated but is still on or above target or within an acceptable range of 5% of the last period – Higher is better
↑R	Performance has deteriorated from the last period – Lower is better
↓R	Performance has deteriorated from the last period – Higher is better
↑	Actual increased - neither higher or lower is better
⇔	Actual has stayed the same since the last period - neither higher or lower is better
↓	Actual decreased - neither higher or lower is better

Children's Trust Direction of Travel Key	
↑G	Performance improved since last month
→	Performance the same as last month
↓A	Performance declined since last month

Performance Terminology key

TBC	To be confirmed
TBD	To be determined
n/a	Not applicable
Actual	The actual data (number/percentage) achieved during the reporting period
Benchmark	A comparator used to compare the Council's performance against. The 2020/21 average for Unitary Councils in England has been used where available unless otherwise stated.
Numerator	Number as part of the percentage calculation which shows how many of the parts indicated by the denominator are taken. See example below.
Denominator	The total number which the numerator is divided by in a percentage. See example below.
EXAMPLE Performance Indicator	% Calls answered
Numerator	Number of calls answered
Denominator	Total number of calls received

Place & Economy

Key Commitment	Ref No.	Description of Performance Indicator	Infographic / Chart	Benchmark	Year to Date 2022-23			Direction of Travel (since previous period)	Polarity	Target	Tolerance	Comments		
					Year to Date 2022-23	March 2022/23	April 2023/24							
Growth & Regeneration														
Safe and thriving places	STP15	Percentage of major planning applications determined within 13 weeks (or within agreed extension of time)		88% (Q3 2021/22 All English Authorities - LG Inform)	92.93%	89%	100%	↑G	Higher is better	90%	85% - 90%	Performance this month is 100% and maintains year to date performance above target.		
					92 out of 99	8 out of 9	2 out of 2							
Safe and thriving places	STP16	Percentage of minor planning applications determined within 8 weeks (or within agreed extension of time)		83% (Q3 2021/22 All English Authorities - LG Inform)	83.04%	82.00%	86.05%	↑G	Higher is better	85%	80% - 85%	Performance this month is above target and the national benchmark. Planning officer capacity remains challenging but recruitment is to take place shortly to try and help alleviate this.		
					377 out of 454	41 out of 50	37 out of 43							
Safe and thriving places	STP17	Percentage of other (including householder applications) planning applications determined within 8 weeks (or within agreed extension of time)		85% (Q3 2021/22 All English Authorities - LG Inform)	85.67%	83.95%	85.07%	↑G	Higher is better	88%	83% - 88%	Performance has improved this month but remains below target, although marginally above the national benchmark. Planning officer capacity remains challenging but recruitment is to take place shortly to try and alleviate this.		
					1082 out of 1263	68 out of 81	57 out of 67							
Highways & Waste														
Safe and thriving places	STP29	Number of Defects Outstanding on the network (at end of period), split by category		n/a	N/A	N/A	5406	N/A	Lower is better	No target - tracking indicator only	N/A	The number of carriageway defects tends to be highest at this time of year following the winter period, this is a national phenomenon. As it outlined in STP30, the service is seeking to improve on this position during the spring months. P3 defects are particularly high owing to customer reports; these will be fixed within 28 days of inspection. (This indicator was not reported during 2022/23 because the data was not available, it will now be provided monthly)		
					P1 (Target response time within 24 hours)	N/A	N/A						0	N/A
					P2 (Target response time within 7 days)	N/A	N/A						30	N/A
					P3 (Target response time within 28 days)	N/A	N/A						1421	N/A
					P4 (Target response time within 26 weeks)	N/A	N/A						3955	N/A
Safe and thriving places	STP30	Number of Defects Repaired in the network in period, split by category		n/a	17376	1234	1317	↑G	Higher is better	No target - tracking indicator only	N/A	The overall number of repairs completed is higher this month than in the previous month. Performance is better with regard to P3 and P1 repairs, but performance has fallen with regard to P2 and P4 repairs. This is owing to the increase in demand, which has been greater than the available resources. The highways team is addressing this situation with the highways contractor.		
					P1 (Target response time within 24 hours)	30	2						4	↑G
					P2 (Target response time within 7 days)	1045	137						79	↓R
					P3 (Target response time within 28 days)	9100	642						862	↑G
					P4 (Target response time within 26 weeks)	7201	453						372	↓R
Safe and thriving places	STP31	Percentage of defects responded to within the timeframes specified, split by category		n/a	95.41% (16579 out of 17377)	96.92% (1197 out of 1235)	76.77% (1011 out of 1317)	↓R	Higher is better	P1 and P2 97.5% P3 and P4 90%	No Tolerance	Despite repairing more defects this period than last month, the service has not been able to complete all P3&P4 repairs within the target response time. The highways team is addressing this situation with the highways contractor.		
					P1 (Target response time within 24 hours)	100% (30 out of 30)	100% (2 out of 2)						100% (4 out of 4)	→
					P2 (Target response time within 7 days)	99.62% (1041 out of 1045)	100% (137 out of 137)						98.73% (78 out of 79)	↓
					P3 (Target response time within 28 days)	93.54% (8512 out of 9100)	96.42% (619 out of 642)						74.94% (646 out of 862)	↓R
					P4 (Target response time within 26 weeks)	97.15% (6996 out of 7201)	96.90% (439 out of 453)						76.07% (283 out of 372)	↓R

Children's Services

Key Commitment	Ref No.	Description of Performance Indicator	Infographic / Chart	Benchmark	Year to Date	March	April	Direction of Travel (since previous period)	Polarity	Target	Tolerance	Extra detail on PI	Comments
					2022-23	2022/23	2023/24						
Children's Trust (This data is for the whole of Northamptonshire)													
Better, brighter futures	BBF05 (KPI 2)	% of referrals with a previous referral within 12 months		22.7% (All English Authorities 2021 - LAIT)	29% (8,922)	30% (767)	TBD	TBD	Lower is better	29%	25% - 40%		
Better, brighter futures	BBF06 (KPI 3)	% of single assessments authorised within 45 working days		88% We are in the process of identifying more up to date benchmark data for this PI.	94% (9,704)	95% (825)	TBD	TBD	Higher is better	85%	85% - 95%		
Better, brighter futures	BBF07 (KPI 8)	% Children in care with three or more placements in the previous 12 months		9% (All English Authorities 2020/21 - LG Inform)	11.0% (1,231)	11.0% (1,231)	TBD	TBD	Lower is better	10%	5% - 15%		
Better, brighter futures	BBF08 (KPI 9)	% of young people now aged 17 - 21 and in employment, education or training who were looked after when aged 16		53% (All English Authorities 2020/21 - LG Inform)	63% (694)	63% (694)	TBD	TBD	Higher is better	55%	50% - 60%		
Better, brighter futures	BBF09 (KPI 10)	% of young people now aged 17 - 21 and living in suitable accommodation who were looked after when aged 16		89% (All English Authorities 2020/21 - LG Inform)	95% (694)	95% (694)	TBD	TBD	Higher is better	90%	85% - 95%		
Better, brighter futures	BBF27	% of initial child protection conferences held within 15 days of a strategy discussion being initiated			New as corporate KPI for 2023-24	New as corporate KPI for 2023-24	TBD	TBD		TBD			
Better, brighter futures	BBF28	Number of children with a Child Protection Plan			New as corporate KPI for 2023-24	New as corporate KPI for 2023-24	TBD	TBD		TBD			
Better, brighter futures	BBF29	Number of children in care			New as corporate KPI for 2023-24	New as corporate KPI for 2023-24	TBD	TBD		TBD			

Children's Services

Key Commitment	Ref No.	Description of Performance Indicator	Infographic / Chart	Benchmark	Year to Date	March	April	Direction of Travel (since previous period)	Polarity	Target	Tolerance	Extra detail on PI	Comments
					2022-23	2022/23	2023/24						
Learning, Skills & Education													
Better, brighter futures	BBF18b	% of EHC (education health care) plans completed in month issued within 20 weeks (including exceptions)	<p>Legend: Actual 2023/24 (blue triangle), Actual 2022/23 (red circle), Trend (grey line)</p>	57.9% All English Authorities 2021 - LAIT)	51.8%	75.7%	67.9%	↓R	Higher is better	Target under review	n/a	Year to date is the academic year to date (Sept to July) Benchmark data is available from DfE, either via the Local Authority Interactive Tool or via other official DfE releases	
Better, brighter futures	BBF20	State Schools Admissions - percentage of young people getting 1st, 2nd or 3rd preference for primary applications	<p>Legend: Actual (blue triangle)</p>	Benchmark data is available from DfE, either via the Local Authority Interactive Tool or via other official DfE releases	98.50% (3799 out of 3857)	98.63% (3741 out of 3793)	n/a annually reported	↑G	Higher is better	N/A - Tracking	n/a	TBC	Results very similar to the last two years.
Better, brighter futures	BBF21	State Schools Admissions - percentage of young people getting 1st, 2nd or 3rd preference for secondary applications	<p>Legend: Actual (blue triangle)</p>	Benchmark data is available from DfE, either via the Local Authority Interactive Tool or via other official DfE releases	95.15% (3983 out of 4186)	95.20% (4022 out of 4225)	n/a annually reported	↑G	Higher is better	N/A - Tracking	n/a	TBC	Consistently, over 95% of applicants receive a place at one of their preference schools
Better, brighter futures	BBF22	Number of children without a school place	<p>Legend: Actual 2022-23 (red circle), Actual 2023-24 (blue triangle)</p>	TBC	n/a Not reported until Nov 22 - Monthly thereafter	76	100	↑R	Lower is better	Target under review	n/a	TBC	This measure is in the process of being amended to include, a) children without a school place in admissions process for mainstream schools, b) children without a school place in the EIP service and c) children without a school place with SEN. Naturally, this change will mean an increase in volume because the definition of the measure has been widened. It is hoped that this will be in place from May 2023 reporting onwards.
Better, brighter futures	BBF32	Current number of home educated children	855 Elective Home Educated Children		New as corporate KPI for 2023-24	New as corporate KPI for 2023-24	855	N/A	No polarity	N/A - Tracking	n/a		
Better, brighter futures	BBF33	Number of children currently missing from education (Year 1-11)	142 Children currently missing from Education		New as corporate KPI for 2023-24	New as corporate KPI for 2023-24	142	N/A	Lower is better	N/A - Tracking	n/a		

Adults & Housing

Key Commitment	Ref No.	Description of Performance Indicator	Infographic / Chart	Benchmark	Year to Date 2022-23	March 2022/23	April 2023/24	Direction of Travel (since previous period)	Polarity	Target	Tolerance	Comments
Adult Social Care												
Active, fulfilled lives	AFL03	Percentage of New Requests for Services (all ages) where Route of Access was Discharge from Hospital, that had a sequel of short term services to maximise independence (ST-MAX i.e. reablement)		2021/22 SALT Report: - England: 37%	34%	34%	34%	→	Higher is better	35%	5% points	There were 2 new requests for people aged 18-64 and 66 for people aged 65 and over. The proportion change from previous month was less than 1% and is slightly under our 2023/24 target.
					752 out of 2191	752 out of 2191	68 out of 199					
Active, fulfilled lives	AFL06	Total number of open Deprivation of liberty Safeguard cases		n/a	1250	1250	1251	↑	Lower is better	No target - tracking indicator only	N/A	The number of open DoLS cases remained stable compared to last period (+1 case).
Active, fulfilled lives	AFL07	Long-term support needs met by admission to residential and nursing care homes, per 100,000 population (older people 65 years +)		2021/22 SALT Report: - East Midlands: 562 - England: 539	667.18	667.18	56.39	↓G (compared to April last year)	Lower is better	Year end target: 564 Monthly target: 47	TBD - for now applied standard 5%	There have been 37 admissions. There were 24 admissions following an assessment for new people and 13 as a result of change in setting following a review. The average monthly growth in 2022/23 was 55 per 100k which is slightly less than our current rate however there were fewer admissions compared to the same period previous year (64.1 per 100k). This is a cumulative measure which increases throughout the financial year and resets each financial year. Although the result for April is above the monthly target the performance compared to same period in the previous year has improved. A year-end data review was carried out and found some potential issues with reported admissions. As a result, the actual admissions rate is likely to be lower. The Business Intelligence team will work with Adult Social Care colleagues to review the data recording process, make any necessary changes and/or suggest additional guidance for recording in order to accurately reflect actual admissions.
Active, fulfilled lives	AFL08	Number of people who were prevented from requiring statutory care, or whose need was reduced Delaying and reducing the need for care and support having received short term services to maximise independence (ST-MAX services)		84.6% East Midlands Average, we are in the process of identifying more up to date benchmark data for this PI.	76.50%	76.50%	60.30%	↓R	Higher is better	80%	5% points	The rate is lower than expected compared to 2022/23 trend which typically ranged between 74-77% however with few people included in the cohort, the impact on rates can be significant. There were 6 additional people in the cohort compared to the same period last year.
					624 out of 816	624 out of 816	41 out of 68					

Adults & Housing

Key Commitment	Ref No.	Description of Performance Indicator	Infographic / Chart	Benchmark	Year to Date 2022-23	March 2022/23	April 2023/24	Direction of Travel (since previous period)	Polarity	Target	Tolerance	Comments
Housing Services												
Active, fulfilled lives	AFL12	Number of rough sleepers - single night snapshot		12 (All English Authorities 2021 - LG Inform)	n/a	20	18	↑G	Lower is better	9	9 to 12	During the month of April our single night figure was 18 which is a slight decrease from March but higher than for the same period last year. Within our revised Ending Rough Sleeping Plan for this year, DLUHC have agreed a target of 9 for North Northants for 2023/24 which is challenging but reflects our focus to keep reducing rough sleeping numbers locally. Also DLUHC are implementing a new data performance framework from May 23 which includes more prescriptive definitions in order for the data to be more comparable between areas. Prevention will be the main focus going forward and also understanding the cohort complexities to ensure the team are referring into the right provision to reduce failure.
Active, fulfilled lives	AFL13	Number of households whose homelessness was prevented		n/a	255	27	24	↓R	Higher is better	252 (21 per month)	18-21	Performance continues to fluctuate between months due to a variety of factors. This reflects the difficulties the Housing Options Team are having trying to secure accommodation solutions, particularly in the private sector in order to prevent or relieve households homelessness locally. There is a recognised need for the team to move its focus further upstream to maximise homelessness prevention opportunities and an action plan is being developed in this regard.
Active, fulfilled lives	AFL14	Number of households whose homelessness was relieved		n/a	314	37	22	↓R	Higher is better	300 (25 per month)	22-25	Performance continues to fluctuate between months due to a variety of factors. This reflects the difficulties the Housing Options Team are having trying to secure accommodation solutions, particularly in the private sector in order to prevent or relieve households homelessness locally. There is a recognised need for the team to move its focus further upstream to maximise homelessness prevention opportunities and an action plan is being developed in this regard.
Active, fulfilled lives	AFL15	Total number of homeless approaches		n/a	4778	581	413	↓	N/A	Tracking - monitoring levels of demand only	N/A	3,863 households approached the Council as homeless during 2021/22, which is an average of 320 approaches per month. In comparison a total of 4,778 households approached the Council as homeless during 2022/23. This is an increase of just over 900 for the year, with an average of 400 approaches per month reflecting the increased demands on the Housing Options Team. There has been a reduction in the number of approaches in April 23 in comparison to March 23.
Active, fulfilled lives	AFL17	Total number of households living in temporary accommodation		n/a	n/a	231	244	↑R	Lower is better	200	No tolerance	As previously reported, the number of households living in temporary accommodation continues to rise because of sustained increased demand and limited options for move on. The housing teams are doing all they can to negotiate with landlords, friends and family etc to prevent or delay the need for temporary accommodation. A meeting was held on 5/5/23 to review the flow through TA and as a wider Housing Strategy and Solution Team to consider what actions will help remove and reduce barriers to TA move on and an action plan is currently being drafted. Please note this figure is for statutory duty placements only and does not include the additional cohort of rough sleepers accommodated using discretionary powers.
Active, fulfilled lives	AFL18	Number of households with family commitments living in bed and breakfast accommodation		n/a	n/a	3	2	↓G	Lower is better	0	No tolerance	The temporary accommodation team continues to work hard to keep under daily review any cases where households with family commitments have been placed in B&B in an emergency, so that more suitable move on accommodation can be offered as quickly as possible. For reference households with family commitments are a) a pregnant woman; (b) with whom a pregnant woman resides or might reasonably be expected to reside; or, (c) with whom dependent children reside or might reasonably be expected to reside.
Active, fulfilled lives	AFL24	Number of Temporary Accommodation placements out of NN area	2 placements outside of North Northants		New for 2023-24	New for 2023-24	2	N/A	Lower is better	0	No tolerance	This is a new indicator, to monitor the number of homeless households placed in temporary accommodation provision outside of the North Northants area as the aim is to accommodate homeless households locally where possible. Both households that are living out of area are in the neighbouring area of West Northamptonshire. The temporary accommodation team is doing all it can to move the households back in area as quickly as possible.

Adults & Housing

Key Commitment	Ref No.	Description of Performance Indicator	Infographic / Chart	Benchmark	Year to Date 2022-23	March 2022/23	April 2023/24	Direction of Travel (since previous period)	Polarity	Target	Tolerance	Comments
Safe and thriving places	STP38	Percentage of rent collected	<p>Actual 2022/23: 92.54% Actual 2023/24: 90.55%</p>		141307978.48 out of 152707189.83	141307978.48 out of 152707189.83	2937018.79 out of 3243355.78	↓R	Higher is better	97%	5%	There has been a slight drop in collection rates from last month across NNC but an increase in comparison to the same time period last year for the Corby area. In Kettering please note the April collection rate does not include Universal Credit payments from 28th - 30th which amounts to a further £25k income received as they were processed after the bank holiday. This would increase Kettering's percentage to 91.26% if recorded which is a normal rate of collection based on recent performance.
Safe and thriving places	STP12	Number of (council house) dwellings vacant and ready to let at month end	<p>Actual 2022/23: 5 Actual 2023/24: 6</p>	n/a	n/a	5	6	↑R	Lower is better	10	10 to 15	At the end of April there was 3 properties in Corby and 3 in Kettering that were ready to let. The weekly void meetings are helping to ensure that this number is kept to a minimum and even though there has been a slight increase since March the total number of 6 remains within the target set.
Safe and thriving places	STP36	Number of voids - Kettering Area	<p>Actual 2022/23: 58 Actual 2023/24: 71</p>	n/a	n/a	58	71	↑R	Lower is better	No target - tracking indicator only	N/A	This indicator provides a snapshot at the month end of the number of void properties in the process. There has been an increase in number for Kettering area and Corby area remains similar so a total of 158 voids at the end of April 23.
		Number of voids - Corby Area	<p>Actual 2022/23: 85 Actual 2023/24: 87</p>	n/a	n/a	85	87	↑R	Lower is better	No target - tracking indicator only	N/A	
Safe and thriving places	STP37a	Average time taken to re-let NNC standard void properties	62.6 days to re-let standard void		New KPI for 2023-24	New KPI for 2023-24	62.6 days	N/A	Lower is better	56 days	56 to 60 days	For 2023/24 void properties will be reported by standard and major properties for NNC. This will help remove the impact a long term major void has when been empty for a long time and provide a more accurate reflection of void turnaround for standard properties. In April 23 Kettering and Corby areas each let 17 standard properties, so a total of 34 voids now re-occupied of which had been void for a total of 2,129 days. Whilst the team have adopted the new ways of reporting from 1st April, there is still a number of standard voids coming through for reletting that were not being processed in line with the new target times that have been adopted. It will therefore take a few months to get all of these legacy standard voids through to reletting.
Safe and thriving places	STP37b	Average time taken to re-let NNC major void properties	257.2 days to re-let major void		New KPI for 2023-24	New KPI for 2023-24	257.2 days	N/A	Lower is better	No target - tracking indicator only	N/A	Only 2 major void properties let in Kettering in April, totalling 515 days void for 2 properties which explains the extremely high average time taken.
Safe and thriving places	STP08	% of properties with a valid gas safety certificate	<p>Actual 2022/23: 99.7% Actual 2023/24: 99.7%</p>	TBD	n/a	7893 out of 7917	7888 out of 7911	→	Higher is better	100%	99.5% and above is green, 99% and above is amber	Only 23 properties out of total 7,911 properties did not have a valid gas certificate as at 30/04/2023. 20 of these properties are in the Corby area and 14 of which are in the legal stages for court dates, 4 properties have warrants which were due to be executed on 02/05/2023, 1 property has had final letter pending application for warrant and 1 property has been inspected but requires a replacement part and re-service. 3 properties in Kettering are awaiting certificates. The team are limited to the number of properties that can be taken to court each fortnight to obtain right of entry warrants, so this impacts compliance rates.

Adults & Housing

Key Commitment	Ref No.	Description of Performance Indicator	Infographic / Chart	Benchmark	Year to Date 2022-23	March 2022/23	April 2023/24	Direction of Travel (since previous period)	Polarity	Target	Tolerance	Comments
Safe and thriving places	STP04	Number of active households on Keyways (as at 1st month)		n/a	n/a	4967	5146	↑	N/A - Tracking	N/A - monitoring levels of demand	N/A	This provides a snapshot of the number of applicants active on the Council's Housing Register (Keyways). New applications still remain higher than the same time last year in comparison in April 23 there was 2,937 active applicants on the register showing the month on month increase during 2022/23. Please note that as applications are made active, previously active applications have the status changed to pending, suspended, closed, and housed. This figure therefore is not how many applications are being assessed in total. Annual renewals are currently suspended due to staff resources. Once in place this will reduce the active total due to applicants non-contact and change of circumstances.
Safe and thriving places	STP05	Number of new Keyways applications received		n/a	6675	752	606	↓	N/A - Tracking	N/A - monitoring levels of demand	N/A	606 new applications received in April 23 in comparison to 475 for the same time period last year which represents a 28% increase in new Keyways applications. However there has been a decrease from the previous months in which for the last quarter of 2022/23 each months total was over 700 new applications received.
Safe and thriving places	STP39	Number of repair jobs awaiting completion	1210 repair jobs awaiting completion		New KPI for 2023-24	New KPI for 2023-24	1,210	N/A	N/A - Tracking	N/A - monitoring levels of demand	N/A	This is a new measure to help monitor the current repairs jobs awaiting completion outside of the backlog jobs listed at the 1/3/23. A snapshot at the end of April shows there was a total of 1,210 repair jobs across Kettering and Corby that are awaiting completion. Within the Corby area there was a significant number of backlog jobs booked in for the month of April which made a good indent on the total outstanding backlog jobs but has created an increase in the number of current responsive repairs awaiting completion. This was a situation that we expected to happen based on the lag between setting up the backlog project team from commencing in May and the 1st March 2023 date for the ring fencing of jobs for the backlog project. The team will monitor closely from now on whether the responsive repairs team are staffed to be able to manage the level of new jobs received each month or not. Name changed for ease of understanding - it was approved as "Repairs backlog - Number of repair jobs awaiting completion"
Safe and thriving places	STP40	Number of repair jobs awaiting completion which are outside of target timescale	554 repairs awaiting completion which are outside of timescale		New KPI for 2023-24	New KPI for 2023-24	554	N/A	N/A - Tracking	N/A - monitoring levels of demand	N/A	This is also a new measure to help monitor the current repairs jobs that are outside of target times. Again the lag between shifting backlog work off of the regular responsive repairs teams and onto the newly created backlog team is seen as the main reason why there are already a number of jobs post 1st March 2023 that are out of target time. The team will monitor closely from now on whether the responsive repairs team are staffed to be able to manage the level of new jobs received each month or not. Name changed for ease of understanding - it was approved as "Repairs backlog - of which outside of target timescale"

Finance Services

Key Commitment	Ref No.	Description of Performance Indicator	Infographic / Chart	Benchmark	April 2022/23	Year to Date 2022-23	March 2022/23	April 2023/24	Direction of Travel (since previous period)	Polarity	Target	Tolerance	Comments
Revenues & Benefits													
Modern Public Services	MPS05	% of council tax collected in the year debit raised		95.92% (All English Authorities 2020/21 - LG Inform)	10.10% (YTD) 112.22% achieved of the monthly target (9.00%)	96.80% (YTD) 98.78% achieved of the monthly target (98.00%)	96.80% (YTD) 98.78% achieved of the monthly target (98.00%)	10.80% (YTD) 120% achieved of the monthly target (9.00%)	↑G	Higher is better	98% (Annual target)	No tolerance	Performance is above target and above last years collection at this stage, which represents a strong start to the year. Close monitoring will continue due to the impact of the cost of living crisis.
					£22,951,095.93 (collected in Apr)	£221,225,298.98 (collected in year)	£31,140,655.48 (collected in Mar)	£26,153,692.42 (collected in Apr)					
Modern Public Services	MPS04	% of business rates collected in the year debit raised		93.74% (All English Authorities 2020/21 - LG Inform)	9.46% (YTD) 105.11% achieved of the monthly target (9.00%)	97.05% (YTD) 99.03% achieved of the monthly target (98.00%)	97.05% (YTD) 99.03% achieved of the monthly target (98.00%)	9.84% (YTD) 109.33% achieved of the monthly target (9.00%)	↑G	Higher is better	98% (Annual target)	No tolerance	Performance is above target and above last years collection at this stage, which represents a strong start to the year. Close monitoring will continue due to the impact of the cost of living crisis.
					£13,849,332.48 (collected in Apr)	£198,696,152.07 (collected in year)	£4,557,575.55 (collected in Mar)	£15,960,525.06 (collected in Apr)					

Customer & Governance

Key Commitment	Ref No.	Description of Performance Indicator	Infographic / Chart	Benchmark	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Year to Date	February	March	Direction of Travel (since previous period)	Polarity	Target	Tolerance	Comment
					22-23	22-23	22-23	22-23	2022-23	2022/23	2022/23					
Information Governance																
Modern Public Services	MPS12	% of Freedom of Information (FOI) Requests completed in 20 working days		80.08% (Average of 40 Unitary Councils 2021/22 - benchmarking exercise conducted by Brighton and Hove Council)	91.73%	90.18%	82.55%	65.20%	80.97%	64.52%	85.43%	↑G	Higher is better	90%	85% - 90%	This month/reporting period has seen a significant improvement to a level which is nearer to the target figure and within tolerance levels. This is especially pleasing in view of the increased number of requests received for this period. A new case management system went live on 18 April which, once bedded in, will assist in streamlining procedures. This indicator is reported one month in arrears.
					233 out of 254	202 out of 224	175 out of 212	193 out of 296	715 out of 883	60 out of 93	88 out of 103					
Modern Public Services	MPS13	% Environmental Information Regulation (EIR) Requests completed in 20 working days		TBD	97.44%	95.76%	98.25%	92.33%	95.72%	97.87%	100.00%	↑G	Higher is better	90%	Tolerance 85% - 90%	Whilst the team has constantly achieved above target levels in relation to handling EIRs, this reporting period sees a 100% success rate. This again, is especially pleasing owing to a further increase in the number of requests received and handled. This indicator is reported one month in arrears.
					494 out of 507	407 out of 425	281 out of 286	289 out of 313	1343 out of 1403	92 out of 94	128 out of 128					
Modern Public Services	MPS14	% Individual Rights requests completed within statutory timescale (Data Protection (DP) Right to Access requests)		TBD	90.2%	96.4%	91.9%	61.90%	87.13%	0.00%	83.33%	↑G	Higher is better	90%	85% - 90%	This month/reporting period has seen a significant improvement in the handling of SARs, and whilst not within tolerance levels, it is in a positive direction. The team is handling a significant/increased number of requests associated with legal claims for housing disrepair which can involve a substantial amount of data to review and redact and thus timeconsuming. This indicator is reported one month in arrears.
					55 out of 61	53 out of 55	57 out of 62	26 out of 42	176 out of 202	0 out of 6	15 out of 18					

CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 29 June 2023

Report Title	Draft Outturn 2022/23
Report Author	Janice Gotts Executive Director of Finance and Performance Janice.gotts@northnorthants.gov.uk
Lead Member(s)	Councillor Lloyd Bunday, Executive Member for Finance and Transformation

List of Appendices

Appendix A – Budget Forecast 2022/23 as at Period 12

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The attached report is for consideration by this Committee. It sets out the draft outturn for 2022/23 and was presented to the Executive at its meeting on 8th June 2023.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. This report requests that the Committee to note and comment on the report in Appendix A as presented to the Executive Committee on 8th June 2023.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. It is recommended that the Corporate Scrutiny Committee:
- a) Note and comment on the report attached as Appendix A.
- 3.2. Reason for Recommendations – to note the draft outturn position for 2022/23 and consider the impact on this year and future years budgets.

4. Report Background

- 4.1. Shown in **Appendix A** is the draft outturn report as presented to the Executive at its meeting on 8th June 2023. The monitoring report sets out the material financial issues identified since the 2022/23 budget was set in February 2022.
- 4.2. The Draft Outturn position for the General Fund is showing an overspend of £965k and an underspend of £701k for the Housing Revenue Account.

5. Issues and Choices

- 5.1. There are no specific choices for this Committee arising from this report. The Committee is requested to scrutinise the financial position in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

6. Implications (including financial implications)

6.1. Resources and Financial

- 6.1.1. The financial implications are set out in the report in Appendix A.

6.2. Legal

- 6.2.1. As outlined in the report in Appendix A.

6.3. Risk

- 6.3.1. As outlined in the report in Appendix A.

6.4. Consultation

- 6.4.1. As outlined in the report in Appendix A.

6.5. Climate Impact

- 6.5.1. As outlined in the report in Appendix A.

6.6. Community Impact

- 6.6.1. As outlined in the report in Appendix A.

7. Background Papers

- 7.1.1. As outlined in the report in Appendix A.

EXECUTIVE 8th June 2023

Report Title	Budget Forecast Outturn 2022-23 at Period 12
Report Authors	Janice Gotts, Executive Director of Finance and Performance Janice.gotts@northnorthants.gov.uk
Lead Member	Councillor Lloyd Bunday, Executive Member for Finance and Transformation

Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there public sector equality duty implications?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information (whether in appendices or not)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Applicable paragraph number for exemption from publication under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1974	

List of Appendices

Appendix A – Savings Schedule

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The revenue budgets (2022/23) and Medium-Term Financial Plans for North Northamptonshire Council for the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account were approved by Council at its meeting on 24th February 2022. The purpose of this report is to set out the draft outturn position 2022/23 for the Council for the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account.
- 1.2. This monitoring report sets out the material financial issues identified since the 2022/23 budget was set in February 2022 and is based on the draft outturn for 2022/23.
- 1.3. Some areas remain unchanged from the previous report; however, the detail of these variances is included within the report for completeness.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report provides commentary on the Council's draft financial revenue outturn position for 2022/23, the General Fund is showing an overspend of £965k and the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is forecast to come in £473k underspent.

- 2.2 There are a number of areas which could impact on the forecast outturn that are still being finalised, these include the charging arrangements for the lead/host arrangements between West Northamptonshire Council and North Northamptonshire Council following the Local Government Reorganisation across the County, with work continuing between the two authorities to confirm the charges.
- 2.3 The Councils draft outturn reflects an overspend of £965k as a result of the Council's prudent and strong financial management the Council have been able to absorb most of the pressures from the Childrens Trust which is the Council's largest single contract and are reporting an overspend of £21.387m. The Cost to this Council is £9.444m and reflects how the contract sum is split between North Northamptonshire Council (44.16%) and West Northamptonshire Council (55.84%). This is a significant achievement taking into account the pressures the Council has had to manage owing to the significant levels of inflation which has led to increased costs, alongside this there is recognition that the demand for services has increased as a result of the current economic climate.
- 2.4 The remainder of the Council's contingency budget was applied in Period 7 to reduce the in-year impact of the costs arising from Home to School Transport alongside the pressures from the pay award which exceeded the budget expectations of 3%. The Council also has reserves available to call on for any balance remaining, however, the Council has sought to achieve in- year mitigations in the first instance.

3. Recommendations

3.1 It is recommended that Executive:

- a) Note the Council's draft outturn position for the General Fund 2022/23 which is an overspend of £965km and the Housing Revenue Account 2022/23 which is an underspend of £473k as summarised in section 4, alongside the further analysis which is set out in Section 5 and Section 6 of this report.
- b) Approve the following transfers to reserves which are reflected in the draft outturn position.

Transfer to reserves included within individual Directorates:

- Place & Economy Grants (Section 5.45) - £287k
- Planning Reserve (Section 5.45) - £143k
- Capital General Fund (MRP – Section 5.62) - £3.043m
- Members Empowerment Fund (Section 5.83) - £104k

Transfer to Earmarked Reserves from Available Resources:

- Business Rates Risk Reserve (Section 5.86) - £2.728m

- c) Note the assessment of the 2022/23 savings as shown in Appendix A.

3.2 Reason for Recommendations – to note the draft outturn position for 2022/23, approve the transfer to reserves and consider the impact on this year and future years budgets.

- 3.3 Alternative Options Considered: The report focuses on the forecast revenue outturn against budget for 2022/23 and makes recommendations for the Executive to note the current budgetary position as such there are no specific choices within the report.

4. Report Background

General Fund

- 4.1 The Council's Revenue Budget for 2022/23 was set at the Council meeting on 24th February 2022. The overall draft outturn for the General Fund for 2022/23, is a forecast overspend of £965k against a budget of £300.075m. This is summarised in the table below;

General Fund Forecast Outturn 2022/23			
	Net Budget £000	Forecast Position at 31/03/2023 £000	Forecast Variance £000
Net Available Resources	300,075	299,593	(482)
Total Corporate Budgets	26,494	26,494	0
Children & Education	64,501	72,755	8,254
Adults, Communities & Wellbeing Services	118,971	119,397	426
Place & Economy	60,511	60,031	(480)
Enabling & Support Services	29,598	21,881	(7,717)
Total Directorate Budgets	273,581	274,064	483
Total Budget	300,075	300,558	483
Net Position	(0)	965	965

Note – Favourable variances are shown in brackets

- 4.2 The net budget approved by Council was increased by £4.168m from £295.907m to £300.075m in Period 3. This reflects the use of earmarked reserves of £3.938m which was approved by the Executive at the meeting on 14th July 2022 and was to mitigate pressures relating to Home to School Transport, short-term vehicle leasing costs, commercial income for grounds maintenance and facilities management from the previous Wellingborough NORSE contract, and Knuston Hall. The Executive also approved a further contribution of £230k from the Public Health Reserve to underwrite the potential shortfall in the School Holiday Food Voucher Scheme over the Summer break.
- 4.3 The draft outturn for Period 12 is an overspend of £965k this is a favourable movement of £2.897m since the last report to the Executive (Period 11) where an overspend of £3.862m was reported. The following table summarises the movement within the Directorates which amounts to £483k – the net available resources reduced by £482k which has resulted in a draft outturn of £965k.

	Report Ref	Net Budget	P11 Forecast Variance	Movement in Forecast	P12 Forecast Variance
		£000	£000	£000	£000
Children & Education		64,501	8,431	(177)	8,254
Assistant Director of Education	5.7	7,153	619	(1,016)	(944)
Commissioning & Partnerships	5.8	57,348	9,050	839	9,198
Adult Services		118,971	(911)	1,337	426
Adult Services	5.19	107,784	(380)	311	(69)
Public Health	5.30	138	(138)	0	(138)
Housing	5.31	3,394	(746)	483	(263)
Communities	5.31	7,655	353	543	896
Place & Economy		60,511	1,776	(2,256)	(480)
Assets & Environment	5.42	2,708	(395)	(1,301)	(1,696)
Growth and Regeneration	5.44	4,192	110	(555)	(445)
Highways & Waste	5.46	50,279	1,908	278	2,186
Regulatory Services	5.48	2,274	153	(620)	(467)
Directorate Management	5.50	1,058	0	(58)	(58)
Enabling & Support Services		56,092	(5,434)	(2,283)	(7,717)
Finance & Performance	5.51	34,720	(3,081)	(2,161)	(5,242)
Chief Executive	5.65	9,547	(496)	5	(491)
Customer & Governance	5.67	11,192	(1,406)	(394)	(1,800)
Transformation	5.84	633	(451)	267	(184)
Total		300,075	3,862	(3,379)	483

Housing Revenue Account

- 4.4 The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is a separate ring-fenced account within the Council for the income and expenditure associated with its housing stock. The HRA does not directly impact on the Council's wider General Fund budget or on the level of council tax. Income to the HRA is primarily received through the rents and other charges paid by tenants and leaseholders.
- 4.5 Within North Northamptonshire prior to 1st April 2021 there were two HRA accounts, covering the sovereign Councils of Kettering and Corby respectively. As part of the move to a single unitary council for North Northamptonshire, there was a statutory requirement to create a single HRA for the area. Whilst North Northamptonshire Council must only operate one HRA it will, for a period of time, operate two separate Neighbourhood Accounts, these being:

- the Corby Neighbourhood Account - responsible for the stock that was managed by Corby Borough Council and
- the Kettering Neighbourhood Account - responsible for the stock that was managed by Kettering Borough Council.

4.6 The Council's overall draft outturn forecast for the Housing Revenue Account is a forecast underspend of £701k (Period 11 - £140k overspend) against the approved budget of £36.270m. This is summarised in the table below and further details are set out in Section 6.

Housing Revenue Account Forecast Outturn 2022/23				
Directorate	Budget			Draft Forecast Outturn Variance at 31/03/23
	Expenditure	Income	Net	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Corby Neighbourhood Account	20,141	(20,141)	0	(521)
Kettering Neighbourhood Account	16,129	(16,129)	0	(180)
Net Position 2022/23 (under)/over	36,270	(36,270)	0	(701)

National Context

- 4.7 The national, and indeed the global, economy continues to see significant inflationary pressures, with energy prices pushed to record levels, which in turn has contributed to high inflation. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Bank of England has taken action to get inflation under control; this in part has resulted in higher interest rates.
- 4.8 The Bank of England increased the Base Rate by 0.25% to 4.25% on the 23rd March 2023. This was the eleventh consecutive increase since December 2021 and the rate is at its highest level for 14 years (November 2008 – 3.00%). The rate was increased for the twelfth consecutive time by 0.25% on 11th May to 4.50%.
- 4.9 The inflation figures for March 2023 are slightly lower than in February 2023. The 12-month CPI figure for March was 10.1% (February – 10.4%) and the 12-month RPI figure for March was 13.4% (February 13.8%).
- 4.10 Councils like most organisations continue to see the impact of price rises, particularly around fuel and energy costs (for example, the street lighting PFI). A number of services are provided under contract, and the Authority is experiencing some pressure from suppliers regarding current arrangements and any new contracts entered in to. As part of the budget setting for 2022/23, the Council included growth to address forecast inflationary increases in light of the position known at the time. However, the significant and continuing increase in the rate of inflation has added further pressure to the 2022/23 position which has been taken into account for the 2023/24 budget.

- 4.11 Further risk to Local Government funding comes from the high street as individuals have less disposable income and businesses face high energy and supply costs. This poses a risk for the Council's future income generation from business rates should businesses cease to trade. It may also see more people seeking to access Council Tax Support and other financial support which could reduce the overall Council Tax yield.
- 4.12 Alongside this there is a recognition that the demand for services may increase which will need to be taken into account as part of financial and service planning.
- 4.13 The context of the national and global economy along with potential changes to the local government financial landscape in the future through reforms are key considerations for the Council as it continues to deliver its services and were key considerations in developing the 2023/24 draft budget proposals and Medium-Term Financial Plan.

5. Overview of Forecast Position 2022/23

Available Resources and Corporate Costs

- 5.1 The Council is responsible for the collection of local taxes (Council Tax and Business Rates). At the end of March 2023 96.80% of Council Tax had been collected (March 2022 – 96.33%). Business Rates collection was 97.05% at the end of March 2023 (March 2022 – 95.77%). It should be noted that in 2021/22 there were technical changes to the collectable debit owing to how COVID Retail Relief was applied. Initially reliefs for the period April 2021 to March 2022 were granted at 100% and then in July 21 the reliefs were adjusted to 50% for the period July 2021 to March 2022 in line with the requirements of the scheme, this meant that where businesses had received retail relief, bills for the year were reissued in July and in effect businesses commenced payments from this point rather than April giving rise to slightly shorter collection periods in 2021/22.

Corporate Resources

- 5.2 The total net budget for Corporate Resources is £26.494m which consists of the contingency budget and budgets for treasury related costs.
- 5.3 The contingency budget is held to meet unknown or unplanned / unbudgeted costs. The contingency budget for 2022/23 was £4.750m and the contingency budget had been used in full as at Period 7. This did present a risk to the Council for the remaining five months as any further pressures would not be able to be met through the contingency budget. The following Table provides a summary of how the contingency budget has been used in 2022/23.

Contingency	Executive Meeting	Amount £'000
Total Contingency Budget		4,750
Virements		
Maintained Nursery Schools	29/03/22	(650)
Increments	14/07/22	(1,150)
Energy Costs	27/09/22	(500)

Contingency	Executive Meeting	Amount £'000
Pay award	22/12/22	(1,532)
Release to support bottom line forecast position	22/12/22	(918)
Balance		0

Directorate Budgets

- 5.4 This section of the report provides an analysis of the forecast variations against the 2022/23 General Fund for each of the Directorates as set out in the table at paragraph 4.3.

Children's Services Directorate

- 5.5 The budget for Children's and Education Services includes the Commissioning and Partnerships including Northamptonshire Children's Trust and Education Services not funded by the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).
- 5.6 The draft outturn position for the Children's and Education Services is an overspend of £8.254m (Period 11 - £8.431m overspend). The draft outturn position consists of a net underspend of £944k (Period 11 - £619k underspend) in Education Services and an overspend of £9.198m (Period 11 - £9.050m overspend) in Commissioning and Partnerships, which also includes the Northamptonshire Children's Trust contract sum.

Education

Assistant Director of Education	£'000
Expenditure	12,848
Income	(5,695)
Net Budget	7,153
Forecast	6,209
Variance	(944)

- 5.7 The forecast underspend relating to Education Services comprises of the following variances.
- The Teacher's Pension Strain was disaggregated between the North and West, the 2021/22 budget assumed a split 44% North and 56% West which was in line with the contract sum. The budget for the North is £1.109m. It has further increased to £1.165m in-year following the contingency budget that has been provided for the inflationary pay rise recently approved for 2022/23. The Council is billed on quarterly basis, and the service have now received the final invoice for the year, totalling £848k. This has resulted in a forecast underspend of £317k (Period 11 - £320k underspend).
 - The Teachers' Pension strain is funded from DSG and the amount of DSG funding was previously understated, resulting in additional DSG income of £628k (Period 11 - £473k underspend).

- The School Improvement Monitoring and Brokering Grant was budgeted at £226k. This grant should have been disaggregated between the North and West; however, the full grant was reflected in the North. The actual grant is being phased out and 2022/23 is the final year that it will be paid – the amount that will be received has reduced to £61k in 2022/23, which has to be transferred to the appropriate budget area – resulting in a pressure of £226k (Period 11 - £165k pressure).
- The Education Health and Care (EHC) service is continuing to rely heavily on interim workers to fulfil its statutory obligations. This is due to an increased level of need being identified as a result of the impact of COVID, a high number of vacancies, and backlog of historic assessments. The service had intended to phase out the existing agency staff by December 2022, however, due to the time it has taken to finalise the substantive Children’s Services structure, this will now not be completed until April 2023 at the earliest. The service is now looking to recruit and upskill staff to ensure the future needs of children, young people and their families can be met. The Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) has approved a total contribution of £1.166m from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) to mitigate some of the COVID related pressures in EHC, which results in a net pressure of £309k (Period 11 - £553k pressure).
- The Teachers’ Pension is mainly funded via the DSG, with the exception of those teachers who were employed post 2013. The budget was permanently transferred to the Corporate Finance area, where pension strain budgets are held centrally, and given in-year spend in Children’s Services areas, this has resulted in a pressure of £25k (Period 11 – £34k pressure).
- The Education Psychology service are required to cover additional school-commissioned work to reduce risks of exclusion and non-engagement with education for highly vulnerable children and young people. This has resulted in a net benefit of £40k (Period 11 - £15k saving).
- There is a forecast pressure of £144k (Period 11 - £144k pressure) relating to unachievable income in Educational Psychology (£31k), Safeguarding in Education (£111k) and Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (£2k). In addition, there are other minor variances across the services which result in a net pressure of £28k (Period 11- £16k savings).
- There is budgetary provision of £691k which was to meet any unforeseen pressures this has been used in full to mitigate the financial pressures being forecast and this position is unchanged from Period 11.

Commissioning and Partnerships

5.8 The net revenue budget for Commissioning and Partnerships is set out in the table below, this includes the Northamptonshire Children’s Trust.

Commissioning and Partnerships	£'000
Expenditure	62,670
Income	(5,322)
Net Budget	57,348
Forecast	66,546
Variance	9,198

5.9 Commissioning and Partnerships is forecasting a pressure of £9.198m (Period 11 - £9.050m Pressure). The main reason for the forecast overspend relates to pressures at the Children's Trust where the forecast overspend is £21.387m (Period 11 - £20.988m overspend). The cost to the Council based on a NCT overspend of £21.387m is £9.444m, this reflects how the contract sum is split between North Northamptonshire Council (44.16%) and West Northamptonshire Council (55.84%).

5.10 The main pressure within the Children's Trust relates to placements for children in care – this amounts to £16.825m (Period 11 - £16.641m). The market and availability of placements remains challenging. The placements budget will continue to be closely monitored during 2023/24 as it remains extremely volatile both locally and nationally. The following table provides further detail around the pressure from placements in both Period 12 and Period 11 and shows the movement between these two periods.

Placement Type	Net Budget	Projected Outturn	Variance	Variance	Movement
	£'000	P12 £'000	P12 £'000	P11 £'000	£'000
In House Fostering	8,542	8,425	(117)	(145)	28
Agency Foster Care Placements	14,924	16,488	1,564	1,594	(30)
Residential Placements	17,216	24,778	7,562	7,390	172
Supported Accommodation	3,312	8,965	5,653	5,601	52
18+ Agency Placements	4,806	4,918	112	211	(99)
Welfare Secure	308	367	59	41	18
Disabled Children's Placements	3,814	5,596	1,782	1,779	3
UASC	4,569	4,875	306	255	51
Remand Secure	274	178	(96)	(85)	(11)
Total	57,765	74,590	16,825	16,641	184

5.11 There are also pressures on transport costs of £801k (Period 11 - £801k), this is as a result of an increase in fuel costs. There is a risk that the inflation on transport costs could be above current levels and the recent increase in covid infections, may reduce the opportunities to reduce demand, which could adversely impact the 2023/24 budget.

- 5.12 The current staffing budget across the Trust reflects a pressure of £1.900m (Period 11 - £1.900m Pressure). This reflects increases in relation to the uplift in agency rates, which have seen an average increase of 5%. The main pressure relates to the pay award which was budgeted at 2% and reflected in the contract sum but based on the national pay award of £1,925 per employee amounts to around 6.3%.
- 5.13 The Trust are continuing to use a managed social care team, which will provide additional capacity to the safeguarding service, ensuring that social care caseloads continue at a manageable level. The draft outturn reflects an additional pressure of £728k (Period 11 - £728k), and North Northants Council's share is £321k and West Northants Council's share is £407k.
- 5.14 The Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman made a decision on the historic treatment and compliance on Special Guardianship Allowances. This ruling has resulted in a forecast pressure of £844k (Period 11 - £844k Pressure).
- 5.15 There are other variances within the Children's Trust which amount to a pressure of £289k (Period 11 - £74k Saving).
- 5.16 The Children's and Education Services remaining in the Council include the Intelligent Client Function for the Northamptonshire Children's Trust and the Local Authority statutory education functions as listed below:
- Education Inclusion
 - Education Psychology
 - Support for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
 - School Improvement
 - Virtual Schools (lead in the North Northamptonshire Unitary Authority)
 - School admissions and school place planning
 - Early Education and Child Care
- 5.17 The forecast underspend relating to Commissioning and Partnership Services comprises of the following variances:
- The Council's share of the NCT contract agreement in 2022/23 is £60.7m. Included within the contract sum was an amount for support services provided to NCT by both North and West Northamptonshire Councils, of which the Council budgeted to receive £1.758m. This assumed support services were provided in line with how the contract sum had been split. However, the Council provided less support services than budgeted, this is in line with those provided in the previous year and has reduced the Council's income to £1.211m, resulting in a pressure of £547k (Period 11 - £601k).
 - There is a favourable variance of £172k which relates to the budget provision being higher than the contract sum with NCT this is unchanged to what was reported in Period 11.
 - There is a forecast underspend of £209k (Period 11 - £255k underspend) across Commissioning and Partnerships, of which £268k relates to

staffing (Period 11 - £247k saving). The remaining £59k represents minor pressures (Period 11 - £8k savings).

- There was budgetary provision of £412k (Period 11 - £412k) following the disaggregation of NCC this budget has not been utilised and is being reflected as a saving.

5.18 The Children’s Trust Budget is monitored in year through regular meetings between officers of both North and West Northamptonshire Councils and the Trust.

Adults, Communities and Wellbeing Directorate

5.19 The revenue budget covers Adult Social Services, Community Services and Public Health and Wellbeing. The changes following the Leadership Review and change in responsibilities have not yet been reflected in the financial monitoring and will be picked up in due course. The details of the forecast outturn position are set out in the paragraphs which follow.

Adults, Communities and Wellbeing Directorate

Adult Social Care, Safeguarding and Wellbeing and Commissioning and Performance Services

Adult Social Care	£'000
Expenditure	139,300
Income	(31,516)
Net Budget	107,784
Forecast	107,715
Variance	(69)

5.20 Under the 2014 Care Act, local authority Adults Services have a responsibility to make sure that people aged over 18 years who live in their areas are provided with personal day to day care (helping people get dressed, washed, going to the bathroom, eating etc) where they cannot do things for themselves or access family support. The service also provides other physical or psychological support to people with disabilities in order to help them live a full life. The overriding responsibility is to keep people safe and protect them from harm or neglect.

5.21 Care can take in many forms and can be provided directly by the Council, through contracted organisations or families can receive a personal budget to buy suitable care for themselves. Although receiving formal or long-term care is subject to people meeting the Council’s eligibility criteria, the service also has a key responsibility for helping people to stay independent and preventing or delaying the need for care.

5.22 The service has supported an uplift award of 6.5% to care providers for providing care packages on framework rates during 2022/23, this is expected to cost approximately £2.7m during the year which has been met through additional investment in Adult Social Care as part of the 2022/23 budget setting process.

- 5.23 Within Adult Social Care there is £3.6m for demographic growth of which £0.5m relates to Mental Health Services; these are driven by the forecast number of additional people requesting care. The past four years' growth in adult social care costs in Northamptonshire have tended to be driven by two factors, general market inflation (predominately wage related) and acute care needs for existing clients, rather than increased clients due to demographic changes. However, it is too early to confirm whether this trend will continue in North Northamptonshire.
- 5.24 To support with the implementation of the Adult Social Care reform £852k of grant has been allocated in 2022/23. The impacts of social care reform include the introduction of the care cap of £86k from October 2023, which is a lifetime contribution of care costs, impact of means testing and fair funding for self-funder – following the Autumn Budget announcement on 17th November this has now been delayed until 2025. It also includes the introduction of fair cost of care.
- 5.25 In addition to this a new grant has been awarded to support local authorities to prepare for reform in Adult Social Care for NNC this is an additional £98k and Members approved the inclusion of this funding and additional expenditure at the July Executive meeting.
- 5.26 The existing savings programme includes saving proposals being delivered over a number of financial years. These include savings proposals that formed part of the Future Northants Transformation Programme covering:
- Admissions Avoidance Service (£0.647m), which is a new service (initially funded by the business rates pilot fund) provided by Adult Social Care with health partners. The Admission Avoidance care model focuses on patients/clients presenting at acute hospitals with relevant conditions who can be rapidly assessed, diagnosed and treated without being admitted to a ward, if clinically safe to do so. Currently the Crises Response Team supports the back door discharges at the acute hospitals, where Admission Avoidance will focus on the significant opportunity to provide care on/at the front door to avoid hospital admissions and care costs increases client outcomes.
 - Strength Based Working Project (£2.2m) which is the Transformation of Adults Services pathways and processes to ensure focus on client outcomes, independence, better decision making, and best practice approaches reduce delays and spend.
 - Other savings include the increased use of PPP block purchased beds (£0.932m) this will involve reducing the spend within the independent market and increase the use of the beds for hospital discharges.
- 5.27 The current forecast is an underspend of £69k (Period 11 - £380k underspend). NNC is in receipt of a number of grants that are available to support with Winter Pressures and Hospital Discharge. These include the original Winter funding of £1.868m, the Adult Social Care Discharge Fund announced on 22nd September 22 of £3.242m and the further allocation off the Discharge Funding for Step Down that was announced on 9th January 2023 which has a Northamptonshire system wide allocation of £2.5m of which North Northamptonshire received £200k towards residential block care beds.

- 5.28 This additional income has enabled NNC to cover the additional winter demand on the service as well as enabling us to manage demand by the investment in preventive and reablement services.
- 5.29 Similar, to the previous reports, the current monitoring identifies a number of pressures within working aged adults, this is being offset by savings within services for older people, work is continuing to realign these budgets and to understand the potential risks into 2023-24, particularly in light of inflation and changes in demand.

Public Health

- 5.30 Public Health and Wellbeing is forecasting an underspend of £138k this reflects the split between grant and expenditure and that Public Health costs are fully funded through the Public Health grant. The in year underspent against the Public Health Ring fenced Grant is estimated to be around £1.9m this underspend will be transferred to the Public Health reserve to fund future planned Public health initiatives. There has also been a drawdown from reserves to fund projects that were planned for 2022-23.

Public Health	£'000
Expenditure	44,693
Income	(44,555)
Net Budget	138
Forecast	0
Variance	(138)

Housing & Communities

- 5.31 Housing and Community Services includes provision of housing services and support for homeless people. It also includes libraries, cultural facilities (such as museums, theatres, art galleries and heritage sites), sports and leisure facilities (such as swimming pools, tennis courts, golf, playing pitches, indoor courts/sports halls etc), archaeological archiving and activities and access to parks and open spaces for play and recreation. The Service is also responsible for community grants as well as providing education and outreach services and advice and support.

Communities	£'000
Expenditure	15,708
Income	(8,053)
Net Budget	7,655
Forecast	8,551
Variance	896

Housing	£'000
Expenditure	7,034
Income	(3,640)
Net Budget	3,394

Forecast	3,131
Variance	(263)

- 5.32 The forecast includes a pressure of £53k (Period 11 - £95k pressure) relating to the under achievement of income at the Lodge Park Sports Centre in Corby, this has not yet recovered to pre pandemic levels.
- 5.33 The forecast includes a pressure from Corby International Pool of £515k (Period 11 - £299k pressure). Increases of electricity and gas costs have been partly off-set with additional income and staffing savings.
- 5.34 Community Safety has a pressure of £183k the main pressure relates to inflationary pressures for CCTV and associated running costs.
- 5.35 There are pressures on the running costs for the community centres which amount to £69k.
- 5.36 The Council provided support of £621k to external leisure providers, £556k was funded from reserves and £65k was met from existing resources resulting in a net nil impact.
- 5.37 There are other minor pressures within Communities totalling £76k which is an increase of £87k from Period 11 where a saving of £11k was reported.
- 5.38 There are savings on staff costs of £320k which result from the salary costs being capitalised against the Disabled Facilities Grant (£296k Period 11).
- 5.39 There are savings of £183k (Period 11 - £200k) within the homelessness service where housing policies have been harmonised these are offset by additional pressures of £182k within the homelessness service which amount to a net saving of £1k.
- 5.40 There are other minor pressures within Housing Services which amount to £58k.

Place and Economy

- 5.41 The Place and Economy budget covers the following four functional areas plus Management Costs:
- Assets and Environment
 - Growth and Regeneration
 - Highways and Waste
 - Regulatory Services

Outlined below are the details of the variances across each service area.

Assets and Environment

- 5.42 Assets and Environment, includes Facilities Management, Property Estate Management, Energy and Fleet Management, Grounds Maintenance, Parks and Open Spaces and On and Off-street parking enforcement. It also includes

Asset and Capital Management of the Council's corporate assets and capital programmes, together with the effective management of the Council's strategic assets and landholdings. Key income and cost drivers include footfalls to the high street for parking income, number of visitors to parks and heritage sites, demand for commercial rental spaces, use of office space and use of energy.

Assets and Environment	£'000
Expenditure	23,339
Income	(20,631)
Net Budget	2,708
Forecast	1,012
Variance	(1,696)

5.43 The Assets and Environment Service is forecasting a saving of £1.696m (Period 11 - £0.395m Saving). The main variances within the Service are outlined below.

- **Country Parks and Outdoor Learning** (£383k Saving – Period 11 £257k Saving).
This relates to a projected saving of £357k (Period 11 - £232k Saving) at Knuston Hall. The main variances relating to Knuston Hall comprises of net savings in running costs of £241k plus salary savings of £488k. These savings are offset by the associated loss of income relating to the closure of the facility totalling £372k. There is also a projected saving of £26k (Period 11 - £25k Saving) within Country Parks relating to additional income from increased footfall.
- **Grounds Maintenance** – (£103k Saving – Period 11 £78k Saving)
There are additional costs incurred on specialist waste disposal of £46k (as a result of market volatility on costs of disposal), a one-off spend to purchase equipment and tools of £90k. These are offset by a one-off grant of Local Authority Tree Fund grant of £89k, additional grounds maintenance income of £25k through the capitalisation of works and salary savings due to vacancies of £125k.
- **Car Parks (Corby/Kettering/ENC)** – (£207k Saving – Period 11 £84k Saving)
This relates to the cost of Business Rates £65k, for the Corby Car Parks for which no budgetary provision had been included within the legacy authority. This is mitigated by net salary savings due to vacancies and additional income totalling £272k.
- **Public Realm** (£68k Pressure – Period 11 £70k Pressure)
This relates to additional staffing costs for works in respect of the Corby Town Investment Plan for which there is no budget.
- **Property and Facilities Management** – (£1.654m saving – Period 11 £739k Saving)
The majority of the pressure in this area relates to an overspend on utilities across the service, which amounted to £1.3m, as a result the Council's corporate contingency included £500k for utility pressures and this was

drawn down in Period 5 to partially offset this pressure resulting in an overspend of £800k. At Period 12 the outturn has reduced to £800k resulting in an overall pressure on Utilities of £300k after allowing for the use of the corporate contingency. The service is continuing to look at ways to mitigate any pressures in 2023/24. Other net savings/pressures include the following:

- Savings in Facilities Management (FM) relating to NNDR of £176k, savings on salaries of £362k, running costs of £249k and additional rent of £189k.
- There is a pressure in Property Management of £85k due to a loss of income at 1 -6 Eaton Walk and a saving on garage repairs of £64k.
- There are further savings in Property management which include additional rental income of £296k, additional back rent of £291k and £412k savings on salaries.
- **Fleet Vehicles** – (£47k Pressure – Period 11 £85k Pressure)
This relates to an estimated increase in the cost of fuel £273k, and an increase in leasing costs of £131k for 2 extra vehicles this is partially offset by salary savings of £20k and an underspend on fleet costs of £260k. There are further minor savings amounting to £39k.
- **Parking (Bus Lane Enforcement)-** (£650k Pressure – Period 11 £698k Pressure)
There is a reduction in the forecasted income from bus lane enforcement of £258k and pressures in relation to the car parking service due to loss of income of £392k.
- **Street Lighting and Assets Managed** – (£114k Saving – Period 11 - £90k saving) There is a reduction in spend due to lower than anticipated costs associated with operating the service including salaries £48k, operational running costs of £60k and additional income of £6k.

Growth and Regeneration

- 5.44 Growth and Regeneration includes Planning Services, Economic Development, Growth and infrastructure, Regeneration, Digital Infrastructure, Climate Change and Flood and Water Management. Key income/costs drivers include local demand and volume of Planning services, including major development fees, availability of Planning resources e.g., Surveyors and demand for economic activities.

Growth and Regeneration	£'000
Expenditure	7,608
Income	(3,416)
Net Budget	4,192
Forecast	3,747
Variance	(445)

- 5.45 The Growth and Regeneration Service is forecasting a saving of £445k (Period 11 – £110k pressure). The main variances within the Service are outlined below.

- **Planning Policy** – (£166k Saving – Period 11 £120k Saving)

This comprises of increased income of £375k and other net minor savings of £57k, offset by an increase in staffing costs of £91k and agency costs of £75k. This is also partially offset by a reduction in income of £100k due to income no longer being received from the Joint Planning Unit, resulting in an overall net saving of £166k. In addition there is an underspend of £143k on specialist and one-off work being undertaken by the Planning Service, the underspend has been transferred to the Planning Reserve to manage one-off specialist work in future years, this has a net nil impact on the Service. There are also a number of grants which have not been utilised in year and have been transferred to reserves for use in future years – these amount to £287k.

- **Development Management** – (£398k Pressure – Period 11 £417k Pressure)
This comprises a projected overspend on staffing of £350k and £365k on legal and professional fees and other minor pressures of £16k. This is partially offset by an increase in Planning income of £333k.
- **Economic Development** – (£92k Saving – Period 11 £63k Saving)
This comprises of a salary underspend of £150k due to staff vacancies and reduction in professional fees £69k, partially offset by £47k reduction on Market income, and an increase in rates of £55k and minor increases in supplies and services of £25k.
- **Environment Planning, Transport Management and Climate** – (£585k Saving – Period 11 £124k Saving)
There is an underspend against the Climate budget of £482k. This is the result of needing to firstly develop and agree a Carbon Management Plan for the authority against which spend of the budget could be allocated to ensure its use to fund the projects necessary to reduce the Council's carbon footprint. The Carbon Management Plan was approved by Executive in December 2022, since which the funding of a variety of projects have been agreed from this budget including for example Corporate Properties Energy and Decarbonisation Surveys, the employment of a Residential Energy Efficiency & Energy Officer and the funding of battery-operated equipment for Grounds Maintenance. The Climate budget is fully funded from reserves and when the budget was set it was recognised that the timing of spend could vary as such any underspends would be carried forward into the 2023/24 financial year to ensure that resources are available to fund the Councils commitment to invest £1m over the three-year period (2022/23 – 2024/25). As the budget is funded from reserves this has a net nil impact in 2022/23. There is also an underspend of £124k which relates to a legacy budget and staff savings of £59k. There are further savings of £33k relating to professional fees and minor savings of £4k. This is partial offset by additional agency costs within Flood & Water Management of £117k.

Highways and Waste

- 5.46 Highways and Waste includes street cleaning, waste and recycling collections and disposals, including the household waste and recycling centres and Transport Management. The highways services maintain the extensive network of public roads, footpaths, and rights of way, including highway related infrastructure such as streetlights, traffic signals, bridges, gullies, and highway trees. Services also include School Transport and Concessionary fares. Key cost drivers include the tonnes of waste materials collected from households,

businesses, and litter bins for recycling and disposal, variations to costs per tonnage, investment on various highway assets, as well as the impact of extreme weather conditions, school age population for school transport and the agility of the older population for concessionary fares.

Highways and Waste	£'000
Expenditure	58,452
Income	(8,173)
Net Budget	50,279
Forecast	52,465
Variance	2,186

5.47 The Highways and Waste Service is forecasting a pressure of £2.186m (Period 11 - £1.908m). Officers looked to mitigate the in-year pressures detailed below through a number of means. The variances within the Service are outlined below:

- **Highways and Traffic Management** – (£678k Pressure – Period 11 £643k Pressure)

There is a forecast pressure of £634k for streetlighting (which includes the estimated energy price cap reduction), and a further £48k for Netcom traffic signals, these are both as a result of increasing energy costs. There are net savings of £4k. Officers are looking at how to mitigate the streetlighting pressure through investment in LED lighting, therefore reducing the energy usage and costs. The Council has invested an additional £1.468m into Council's Highway's function to improve important elements of the Highways across North Northamptonshire this additional investment has been funded through the Council's Transformation Reserve – resulting in a net nil impact on the Council's budget.
- **Waste Management** – (£990k saving– Period 11 £748k Saving)

This relates to a saving of £144k on domestic waste disposal costs as a result of the tonnage levels being lower than forecast. There is additional income of £253k relating to a one-off performance payment from the contractor relating to the diversion of tonnages from landfill and also a £47k saving on inspection and assessment charges, offset by a £49k pressure on adhoc waste as a result of changes to legislation relating to disposing of upholstered furniture. An overall saving of £595k on the Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) resulting from fluctuations in tonnages and disposal charges.
- **Refuse and Recycling** – (£482k Pressure – Period 11 £477k Pressure)

There is an increased pressure around new contract increases in recycling of £343k. There are also ongoing salary pressures of £222k and this is mitigated in part by additional income from bulky waste of £83k.
- **Home to School transport** - (£2.441m Pressure). An overall pressure on the Home to School transport budget of £3.359m (£200k is on mainstream transport, £3.186m is on SEND transport and a saving of £27k on other). This is in addition to the overspend of £2.392m reported in Period 2 for this area. The Executive at the meeting on 14th July agreed to underwrite these

pressures through the use of reserves. The increase in overspend of £3.359m was partially offset by £918k from the corporate contingency – reducing the pressure to £2.441m.

The increased costs relating to Home to School transport, are a result of a continued increase in children with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) requiring specialist transport in line with Educational Health and Care Plans (EHCP) which has been rising nationally and reflected in local demand pressures. This is coupled with an increase in contract prices following the hyper-inflation of fuel, the shortage of drivers and passenger assistants, and the state of the transport sector following the Covid pandemic. More broadly, the limited availability of SEND facilities in North Northamptonshire also increases the distances travelled by children, which results in increased costs for routes.

This increase has arisen because contracts are put in place for the start of the academic year in September with a tranche of late applications processed during September ready for implementation after half-term (end of October). It is at this point that all contracts are in place and operating, that the team are able to confirm all contractual arrangements and costs for the rest of the academic year. Some further applications do occur throughout the academic term so further contracts may be required, but the numbers are significantly fewer than in September and October

- **Transport and Contract Management** – (£425k Saving – Period 11 £813k Saving). There are pressures of £423k relating to Kier contract overheads, offset by £200k underspend on Active Travel, salary savings of £150k, additional bus subsidies grant of £184k and a projected underspend of £314k which relates to a saving on concessionary fares as we are paying operators a fixed annual rate based on pre-Covid levels (i.e., an average for the actual number of journeys in the winter months prior to the COVID-19 outbreak - December 2019 to February 2020 – as per the current methodology set by the Department for Transport (DFT)). The Executive on 22 April 2022 agreed to reimburse bus operators for concessionary travel at 100% of pre-Covid levels until 30th September 2022 and then at 90% of pre-Covid levels until 31st March 2023.

Regulatory Services

- 5.48 Regulatory Services includes Bereavement Services, Building Control, Emergency Planning, Environmental Health, Trading Standards, and the Travellers Unit. The main income and cost drivers include the local economy and market for Building Control income, age/morbidity demographic rate for bereavement services (burials and cremations), public health demand for Environmental Health services, and legal/statutory obligations for building regulations and licensing.

Regulatory Services	£'000
Expenditure	7,142
Income	(4,868)
Net Budget	2,274
Forecast	1,807
Variance	(467)

5.49 Regulatory services are forecasting a saving of £467k (Period 11 £153k Pressure) The variances within the Service, are outlined below:

- **Building Control** (£16k Saving – Period 11 £13k Pressure)
 This is made up of a projected salary underspend of £246k due to vacancies, offset by the cost of employing agency staff to cover a number of these vacancies of £162k, resulting in a net saving of £84k. There is a loss of income of £86k relating to Building Control and Local Land charges and minor savings on supplies and services of £18k.
- **Environmental Health** (£220k Saving– Period 11 £195k Saving)
 This relates to a salary underspend on vacancies of £421k and increased income of £24k, this is partially offset by increased agency costs of £217k. and minor pressures of £8k.
- **Licencing** (£242k Saving – Period 11 £189k Saving)
 This relates to a salary underspend due to vacant posts of £180k offset by agency costs of £71k, and further savings on professional fees £34k and additional income of £99k.
- **Resilience** (£153k Saving – Period 11 £103k Saving)
 The underspend relates to staffing vacancies due to vacant posts.
- **Trading Standards** (£3k Pressure – Period 11 £34k Pressure)
 Net overspend relating to the employment of an IT consultant Project Manager to oversee the implementation of the Trading Standards Database disaggregation North/West, and migration from the current server based to a Cloud based (CX software) solution. These are offset against a combination of salary underspends and additional income.
- **Bereavement Services** (£155k Pressure – Period 11 £562k Pressure)
 This relates to a loss of income of £24k in the service at Wellingborough and Kettering Crematorium. There is also a £90k pressure on the gas budget and a £69k pressure on the Supplies and Services budget this is partially offset by net minor savings of £28k.
- **Highways and Private Sewers and Countywide Travellers Unit** (£6k Pressure – Period 11 £32k Pressure)
 This relates to pressures on Street Lighting and electricity following the increase in utility costs.

Place and Economy Management

- 5.50 This area includes the management costs for the Place and Economy Directorate and has transformation savings due to vacancies of £58k.

Directorate Management	£'000
Expenditure	1,058
Income	0
Net Budget	1,058
Forecast	1,000
Variance	(58)

Enabling and Support Services

- 5.51 Enabling and Support Services consists of the following main grouping of services, which also cover a number of corporate budget areas:
- Finance, Procurement and Revenues and Benefits Service
 - Chief Executive – Policy and Communications
 - Human Resources and Governance
 - Transformation, Customer Services & IT

Finance, Performance, Procurement and Revenues and Benefits Service

Finance & Performance	£'000
Expenditure	106,187
Income	(71,467)
Net Budget	34,720
Forecast	29,478
Variance	(5,242)

- 5.52 There is a pressure of £62k (Period 11 - £75k) arising within the Lead Authority finance operations functions. This follows from a detailed review of the service forecasts with the service lead and a consequent reduction in the estimated recharge from partner authorities. This pressure is offset by an underspend of £537k (Period 11 - £450k) in relation to the disaggregation of legacy pension budgets.
- 5.53 There is a saving in borrowing costs of £579k (Period 11 - £601k) due to lower levels of external borrowing than originally forecast. In addition, the interest receivable is £2.105m above budget due to the increases in interest rates (Period 11 - £1.100m) during 2022/23. Over the last 4 months alone, the interest rates have increased by 1.25%, as this takes time to filter through, in particular, to money market funds. Therefore, it was not possible to fully reflect the improvement in interest rates in the forecast until confirmation of rates applied for this period.
- 5.54 There is a saving of £288k within Finance resulting from savings on staffing as a result of vacancies being carried through the year. There are further savings of £265k relating to specialist professional consultancy budgets.

- 5.55 There is a saving of £186k within the Procurement function. This arises from staff savings of £246k due to vacancies partially offset by pressures resulting from unachievable income targets of £67k and minor savings of £7k.
- 5.56 The Council held central budgets for staffing related costs this included a corporate vacancy factor which allowed for the estimated savings made through general staff turnover, together with changes in National Insurance contributions – this amounts to a £633k pressure in the corporate budget but overall is netted off against the staffing underspends across the Council.
- 5.57 There are pressures within the corporate budget relating to the provision for bad debts (£200k), insurance premiums (£300k) and unachievable historical income targets (£409k). These are offset against centrally held savings of £1.517m this includes £1.150m relating to increments the additional cost of this is reflected within the Directorates, there is also a net saving of £267k from services which are funded by specific grants and this funding is used to meet additional increases in pay, there is a further £100k which relates to an historical contingency budget from a legacy authority which results in a net saving of £608k.
- 5.58 As part of the Final Finance Settlement announcements, the Government confirmed that it would be redistributing £100m from the levy account surplus for the Business Rates Retention System in 2022/23. This is as a result of the levy payments made by authorities being greater than the safety net payments being made by the Government to authorities which has generated a surplus. North Northamptonshire Council will receive a payment of £476k.
- 5.59 There is a saving of £301k in the Internal Audit service, resulting from the new service delivery model and vacancies carried in year (Period 11 - £299k).
- 5.60 There are savings within the Revenue and Benefits function of £603k. Of this £162k relates to savings on staffing, £285k relates to additional income funding and £164k relates to the recovery of historic on court fees. These savings are offset by minor pressures of £8k.
- 5.61 There is salary savings within the Performance team of £147k (Period 11 - £131k) from vacancies carried within year. Within the Enabling services Transformation function there is a saving of £304k as a result of vacancies carried in year and the timing of recruitment. These savings were previously reported as part of the centralised Transformation function, with the posts being funded from reserves. As a result there is a nil impact on the outturn.
- 5.62 The Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) reflects the minimum amount a Council must charge to the revenue budget each year to set aside a provision for repaying borrowing. The amount required for 2022/23 is estimated to be £3.043m less than budget. The draft outturn reflects the transfer of £3.043m to the General Fund – Capital Reserve as such no variance is reflected in the Directorate as the underspend has been used to increase the amount held in the Capital Reserve.

- 5.63 There is a pressure of £217k resulting from the disaggregated budgets of the former County Council which incorporated savings that are no longer deemed as deliverable.
- 5.64 There are other minor savings totalling £59k.

Chief Executive's Office and IT

Chief Executive	£'000
Expenditure	9,600
Income	(53)
Net Budget	9,547
Forecast	9,056
Variance	(491)

- 5.65 There is a net saving of £512k across Executive Support, Communications and the Web team (Period 11 - £519k). This results from staff savings through vacancies of £524k, which are partially offset by minor pressures of £12k.
- 5.66 Within the IT function, there are staff savings of £66k, together with further savings of £345k on software licences and a contribution from Public Health of £70k for support services. Along with other minor net savings of £54k the total savings within the IT function are £535k. Offsetting this, there are pressures of £556k of which £465k relates to Inter Authority charging for shared services and £91k relates to staffing recharges that can no longer be charged to capital budgets. This results in a net pressure of £21k (Period 11 £23k pressure).

Customer and Governance

Customer and Governance	£'000
Expenditure	13,583
Income	(2,391)
Net Budget	11,192
Forecast	9,392
Variance	(1,800)

- 5.67 There are savings of £705k within HR, which are partially offset by additional costs of £86k for Agency workers.
- 5.68 There are savings of £98k relating to the timing of Hay work for the pay and grading project. This work is expected to be completed in the 2023/24 financial year.
- 5.69 There is a pressure of £92k relating to the delivery of the payroll function.
- 5.70 There are income pressures of £240k within HR as a result of disaggregation.
- 5.71 There is a £195k contribution from Public Health for Payroll and HR support, which reflects the costs associated with providing Public Health.
- 5.72 There are minor savings within HR of £63k.

- 5.73 Within the Legal and Governance service there is a saving on salary costs of £1.293m, partially offset by Agency costs of £1.142m, this provides a net saving of £151k.
- 5.74 There is an pressure of £160k in the Coroner's Service, related to the usage of The Leys cold storage facility, which was brought into use in late 2021/22 (Period 11 - £139k Pressure).
- 5.75 There is a saving of £206k within Legal Services relating to income being higher than budgeted (Period 11 - £170k).
- 5.76 There is a £152k contribution from Public Health for support services which reflects the costs associated with providing Public Health.
- 5.77 There is additional income of £279k within Registration Services, this is as a result of the service offer being expanded which has resulted in additional income streams (Period 11 - £100k).
- 5.78 There is a saving within the professional services budget of £146k (Period 11 - £115k).
- 5.79 There are minor savings within Governance Services of £75k.
- 5.80 There is a pressure of £31k within the Customer Services team arising from the issuing of blue badges (Period 11 - £38k). This issue results from the disaggregation of the County Council's budget.
- 5.81 The draft outturn reflects a saving on Customer Services salaries of £319k (Period 11 - £309k underspend) due to vacant posts.
- 5.82 There are further minor savings within Customer Services of £20k.
- 5.83 An amount of £104k relating to the Empowerment Fund has been transferred to reserves this is shown as a cost within the Directorate and enables this resource to be available in 2023/24.

Transformation

Transformation	£'000
Expenditure	633
Income	0
Net Budget	633
Forecast	449
Variance	(184)

- 5.84 Following the leadership restructure the service transformation team moved from operating on a centralised service delivery model to a decentralised service delivery model. Variances formerly reported within the transformation directorate have been reported within the relevant services. Some legacy costs and budgets, such as those relating to the costs associated with staffing changes have remained within the directorate. The draft outturn reflects an

underspend of £188k on salaries, which is in part offset by minor pressures of £4k, resulting in a net saving of £184k.

Available Resources

- 5.85 The total net available resources to fund the 2022/23 budget was originally budgeted at £295.907m this was then increased by £4.168m to £300.075m. The increase of £4.168m reflects transfers from reserves which have not been reflected within the Directorates, further details relating to this are set out in Section 4.2.
- 5.86 The growth from Business Rates is forecast to have reduced by £1.383m – growth is accounted for over a three-year period and 2022/23 will see the Council account for a surplus of £2.728m the available resources reflect this growth but also reflect a transfer to the Business Rates Retention Reserve of £2.728m – resulting in a net nil impact.
- 5.87 The Business Rates Retention Reserve was set up to manage and smooth timing risks associated with Business Rates. A pressure of £4.363m will be reflected in 2023/24 and will require a contribution from the reserve and a surplus of £252k will be recognised in 2024/25 which will require a contribution to the reserve. It should be noted that the growth from Business Rates is still to be audited and could change as a result of the audit.
- 5.88 The variance on the available resources relates to a lower amount being transferred from reserves – this amounts to £482k and section 5.45 provides further details.

6. Housing Revenue Account

- 6.1 Within North Northamptonshire prior to 1st April 2021 there were two HRA accounts, covering the sovereign Councils of Kettering and Corby respectively. As part of the move to a single unitary council for North Northamptonshire, there was a statutory requirement to create a single HRA for the area. Whilst North Northamptonshire Council must only operate one HRA it will, for a period of time, operate two separate Neighbourhood Accounts (Corby Neighbourhood Account and the Kettering Neighbourhood Account).

Corby Neighbourhood Account

- 6.2 The forecast position for the Corby Neighbourhood Account at the end of Period 12 shows an underspend of £521k (Period 11 - £175k underspend) This is summarised in the following table:

Corby Neighbourhood Account			
	Current Budget 2022/23	P12 Projection 2022/23	Variance
	£000	£000	£000
INCOME			
Rents - Dwellings Only	19,480	19,426	54
Service Charges	641	595	46
HRA Investment Income	20	20	0
Total Income	20,141	20,041	100
EXPENDITURE			
Repairs and Maintenance	5,676	5,781	105
General Management	5,275	4,654	(621)
HRA Self Financing	2,125	2,061	(64)
Revenue Contribution to Capital	3,876	4,376	500
Transfer To / (From) Reserves	1,972	1,472	(500)
Special Services	763	619	(144)
Other	454	557	103
Total Expenditure	20,141	19,520	(621)
Net Operating Expenditure	0	(521)	(521)

- 6.3 The draft outturn for rental income is an overall pressure of £54k; this consists of a pressure on rental income of £62k due to the increase in void levels, which is offset by a small improvement of £8k on rental income due to a reduction in ongoing Right to Buy Sales in the year, reflecting the current economic climate.
- 6.4 The pressure on service charge income of £46k is due to inflationary pressures of £19k and pressures of £27k relating to a combination of optional emergency alarm charges not being taken up in the sheltered schemes and service charges on void properties.
- 6.5 The net underspend on expenditure amounts to £621k. This underspend is due to savings from vacant post during the year of £484k, a £248k reduction in the cost of the insurance premium due to the impact of increasing the amount of insurance excess, a saving on supplies and services of £284k, and a £66k reduction in contingency to cover the pay award. There is also a saving in interest payments of £64k on new loans not taken. These savings offset increases in repairs and maintenance costs of £182k, the under-recovery of other income of £292k, an increase in the bad debt provision of £36k and other minor adverse variations of £15k.
- 6.6 In year there has been an increase in the Revenue Contribution to Capital, this as a minimum must equal the depreciation charge and because of an increase in property values the deprecation charge has increased by £500k, this increase has been funded through attributable debt contribution to reserves.

Kettering Neighbourhood Account

- 6.7 The forecast position for the Kettering Neighbourhood Account at the end of Period 12 shows an underspend of £180k (Period 11 - £315k overspend). This is summarised in the following Table:

Kettering Neighbourhood Account			
	Current Budget 2022/23	P12 Projection 2022/23	Variance
	£000	£000	£000
INCOME			
Rents - Dwellings Only	15,679	15,674	5
Service Charges	443	444	(1)
HRA Investment Income	7	7	0
Total Income	16,129	16,125	4
EXPENDITURE			
Repairs and Maintenance	4,025	4,133	108
General Management	2,857	2,947	90
HRA Self Financing	4,513	4,513	0
Revenue Contribution to Capital	2,728	3,008	280
Transfer To / (From) Reserves	208	(72)	(280)
Special Services	1,146	948	(198)
Other	652	468	(184)
Total Expenditure	16,129	15,945	(184)
Net Operating Expenditure	0	(180)	(180)

- 6.8 The draft outturn for rental income from dwellings is £5k lower than budget, this consists of a rent gain of £36k as a result of the Right to Buy Sales being 8 less the budgeted amount of 30 in 2021/22 and Right to Buy Sales being 14 less than the budgeted amount of 30 resulting in additional rental income of £62k, resulting in a higher rental yield of £98k. The reduction in the number of Right to Buy Sales is reflective of the current economic climate. There is an increase in the void rate which has increased the void loss by £103k. There is a minor favourable variance on service charge income of £1k resulting in income being £4k lower than budget.
- 6.9 The forecast position for Period 12 is a reduction in expenditure of £184k. Salary costs are £125k higher than budget due to the use of agency staff and the pay award being higher than budgeted, Stock costs are £247k higher due to inflationary price increases, rates on vacant properties are £36k higher than budget. This pressure is offset by Repairs and maintenance costs being £126k lower than budget, services being £19k lower than budget, subcontractor costs being £102k lower than budget due to services being brought back in-house, grants being £36k lower than budget due to fewer home move grants being taken up, transport cost being £32k underbudget, a reduction in the bad debt provision of £70k and the unused contingency of £150k. There is an increase in the Revenue Contribution to Capital, this as a minimum must equal the depreciation charge and as a result of an increase in property values the depreciation charge has increased by £280k – this increase has been funded

through attributable debt. There are other minor underspends of £57k.

- 6.10 There could be further changes to the two Neighbourhood Accounts when the actual stock valuations are confirmed as part of the final accounts process. Any changes to the valuations and the subsequent depreciation charge would be offset by utilising the attributable debt from Right to Buy Sales.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1 The draft forecast outturn for 2022/23 is an overspend of £965k which is a favourable movement of £2.867m since Period 11 where an overspend of £3.862m was reported.
- 7.2 The prior year outturn position and accounts of the former Northamptonshire County Council and Corby Borough Council are yet to be reported and formally signed off. The Council may be required to consider any legacy issues arising as a result of the closedown and subsequent audits. Further updates relating to this will be provided at future meetings of the Executive.
- 7.3 This is a draft outturn position. The financial position will be subject to external audit.

8. Implications (including financial implications)

8.1 Resources, Financial and Transformation

- 8.1.1 The financial implications are set out in this report. The draft outturn forecast position for the General Fund is an overspend of £965k (Period 11 - £3.862m) and the Housing Revenue Account is forecasting an underspend of £473k (Period 11 - £140k overspend).

8.2 Legal and Governance

- 8.2.1 The provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 set out requirements for the Council to set a balanced budget with regard to the advice of its Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer).
- 8.2.2 The robustness of the budget estimates and the adequacy of the proposed reserves were considered under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 prior to the Council agreeing its 2022/23 budget.

8.3 Relevant Policies and Plans

- 8.3.1 The budget provides the financial resources to enable the Council to deliver on its plans and meet corporate priorities as set out in the Council's Corporate Plan.

8.4 Risk

- 8.4.1 The deliverability of the 2022/23 Revenue Budget was monitored by Budget Managers and Assistant Directors. Where any variances or emerging pressures were identified during the year mitigating actions were sought and management interventions undertaken.

8.4.2 This is the draft outturn position. The final position will be subject to external audit certification.

8.4.3 Details of pressures, risks and mitigating actions implemented were provided as part of the finance monitoring reports.

8.4.4 The Council held a contingency and a number of reserves to help safeguard against the risks inherent within the budget for 2022/23. Where required pressures and other movements were included as part of the Council's 2023/24 budget and medium-term financial plan approved by Council at its meeting on 23rd February 2023.

8.5 **Consultation**

8.5.1 The 2022/23 budget was subject to consultation prior to approval by Council in February 2022.

8.6 **Consideration by Executive Advisory Panel**

8.6.1 Not applicable.

8.7 **Consideration by Scrutiny**

8.7.1 The budget monitoring reports were presented to the Finance and Resources Scrutiny Committee for review during the course of 2022/23 after they have been presented to the Executive Committee. Future reports including this report will be presented to Corporate Scrutiny.

8.8 **Equality Implications**

8.8.1 There are no specific issues as a result of this report.

8.9 **Climate and Environment Impact**

8.9.1 Among the new Council's priorities will be putting in place plans to improve the local environment and tackle the ongoing climate emergency. Where these have a financial impact then it will be reflected in the budget.

8.10 **Community Impact**

8.10.1 No distinct community impacts have been identified because of the proposals included in this report.

8.11 **Crime and Disorder Impact**

8.11.1 There are no specific issues arising from this report.

9 Issues and Choices

- 9.1 The report focuses on the draft revenue outturn against budget for 2022/23 and makes recommendations for the Executive to note the draft outturn position as such there are no specific choices within the report.

10 Background Papers

- 10.1 The following background papers can be considered in relation to this report.

Final Budget 2022/23 and Medium-Term Financial Plans, including the Council Tax Resolution, North Northamptonshire Council, 24th February 2022.

Monthly Budget Forecast Reports to the Executive.

Directorate	Proposal Title	Proposal Description	Category	2022/23 £000	RAG
Adults, Communities & Wellbeing	Shaw PPP	Reduction in number of residential placements made in the independent sector owing to increase utilisation beds in PPP properties.	Demographic/service demand	(497)	A
Adults, Communities & Wellbeing	Shaw PPP	Increase utilisation of capacity within discharge to access	Demographic/service demand	(441)	A
Adults, Communities & Wellbeing	VCS Delivery	Front door direction to Voluntary Care Sector (VCS) delivery as appropriate.	Contract & Other Inflation	(110)	A
Adults, Communities & Wellbeing	Contract Rationalisation	Review of smaller contracts for efficiencies	Contract & Other Inflation	(60)	A
Adults, Communities & Wellbeing	Extra care expansion	Contract Rationalisation	Transformation	(180)	A
Adults, Communities & Wellbeing	CCG Discharge Packages Covid 19	Reversal of one off Covid Pressure in 2021/22	Covid pressures	(3,399)	G
Adults, Communities & Wellbeing	Rapid response falls & admission avoidance service	A new service (initially funded by business rate pilot fund) provided by health, social care and East Midlands Ambulance Service providing support following falls in the home to reduce hospital admissions and likelihood of long term social care.	Full year effects of previous decisions	(647)	G
Adults, Communities & Wellbeing	Strengths based working	Transformation of adult social care pathways and processes to ensure focus on client outcomes, independence, better decision making and best practice approaches to reduce delays and spend.	Full year effects of previous decisions	(2,153)	A
Adults, Communities & Wellbeing	Theatre Interim Mgt Costs	Reduction in Contract Costs relating to the Castle Theatre	Full year effects of previous decisions	(98)	G
Adults, Communities & Wellbeing	Leisure	Reversal of one off Covid Pressure in 2021/22	Covid pressures	(962)	G
Place & Economy	Enterprise Centre Business Case	Increase in income based on appointed operators business case.	Full year effects of previous decisions	(178)	R
Place & Economy	Subscriptions	Rationalisation of subscriptions in Planning Services	Contract & Other Inflation	(8)	G
Place & Economy	Commercial Income	Part reversal of one off Covid Pressure in 2021/22	Covid pressures	(572)	G
Place & Economy	additional income	Garage Income	Covid pressures	(10)	R
Place & Economy	Bus Lane Enforcement	Income not included within base budget for 2021/22 following disaggregation	Technical changes	(482)	R
Place & Economy	Structure - Assets & Environment	Assets & Environment Service Improvement and Redesign	Transformation	(95)	A
Place & Economy	Promote food waste	Benefit of promoting the food waste service in the Corby East Northants Area	Demographic/service demand	(40)	A
Place & Economy	Commercial Income	Additional income from Enterprise / Innovation Centres	Demographic/service demand	(50)	R
Place & Economy	Reduction in costs asset portfolio	Efficiency savings from temporary building hibernation.	Transformation	(84)	A
Place & Economy	Household Waste Collection	Reversal of one off Covid Pressure in 2021/22	Covid pressures	(25)	G
Place & Economy	Concessionary Fares	Removal of surplus budget for Concessionary Fares based on forecast underutilisation of the scheme.	Full year effects of previous decisions	(118)	G
Place & Economy	Highways Contract Procurement	Partial release of the budget for the procurement which was originally included within the 2021-22 MTFP for the new highways services contract.	Contract & Other Inflation	(275)	G
Place & Economy	Structure - Waste	Service Improvement and Redesign to create a single tier waste authority.	Transformation	(70)	R
Place & Economy	Land charges	Adjustment to budget to reflect the closure of Land and Property Data Project	Full year effects of previous decisions	(48)	G
Place & Economy	Restructure	Rationalisation of service provision	Transformation	(69)	A
Enabling & Support Services	Housing Benefit Subsidy	Additional income relating to Housing Benefit Subsidy	Technical changes	(148)	G

Enabling & Support Services	Business Rates Cost of Collection	Additional income in relation to costs of collection for business rates	Technical changes	(53)	G
Enabling & Support Services	Blue badge income	Additional income not budgeted for due to the disaggregation of NCC	Contract & Other Inflation	(29)	G
Enabling & Support Services	Local Elections	Removal of expenditure included in base for local elections	Legislative changes	(450)	G
Enabling & Support Services	Local Elections	Contribution to reserves for future local elections	Technical changes	(150)	G
Enabling & Support Services	Replacement of Case Management System & Telephone System	Case management system replacement & Telephony	Transformation	(264)	A
Enabling & Support Services	Treasury Investments	Increase investments in property funds	Technical changes	(500)	G

CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 29 June 2023

Report Title	Capital Forecast 2022/23 as at Period 12
Report Author	Janice Gotts Executive Director of Finance and Performance Janice.gotts@northnorthants.gov.uk
Lead Member(s)	Councillor Lloyd Bunday, Executive Member for Finance and Transformation

List of Appendices

Appendix A – Capital Forecast 2022/23 as at Period 12

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The attached report is for consideration by this Committee. It sets out the Capital Forecast 2022/23 as at Period 12 and was presented to Executive at its meeting on 8th June 2023.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. This report requests that the Committee to note and comment on the report in Appendix A as presented to Executive Committee on 8th June 2023.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. It is recommended that the Corporate Scrutiny Committee:
- a) Note and comment on the report attached as Appendix A.
- 3.2. Reason for Recommendations – to note the forecast financial position for 2022/23 as at Period 12 and consider the impact on this year and future years budgets.

4. Report Background

- 4.1. Shown in **Appendix A** is the capital monitoring report for Period 12 presented to Executive at its meeting on 8th June 2023. The monitoring report sets out the material financial issues identified since the 2022/23 budget was set in February 2022. This is based on the draft outturn position as at the end of March 2023, together with the proposed budget carry forward into 2023/24 capital programme.
- 4.2. The Period 12 forecast position, following the review and reprofiling of budgets

as part of the 2023/24 budget setting process, is as follows:

- General Fund: underspend of £29.8m
- Housing Revenue Account: underspend of £8.7m

5. Issues and Choices

5.1. There are no specific choices for this Committee arising from this report. The Committee is requested to scrutinise the financial position in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

6. Implications (including financial implications)

6.1. Resources and Financial

6.1.1. The financial implications are set out in the report in Appendix A.

6.2. Legal

6.2.1. As outlined in the report in Appendix A.

6.3. Relevant Policies and Plans

6.3.1. As outlined in Appendix A

6.4. Risk

6.4.1. As outlined in the report in Appendix A.

6.5. Consultation

6.5.1. As outlined in the report in Appendix A.

6.6. Consideration by Executive Advisory Panel

6.6.1. As outlined in the report in Appendix A

6.7. Consideration by Scrutiny

6.7.1. As outlined in the report in Appendix A.

6.8. Equality implications

6.8.1. As outlined in the report in Appendix A.

6.9. Climate Impact

6.9.1. As outlined in the report in Appendix A.

6.10. Community Impact

6.10.1.As outlined in the report in Appendix A.

6.11. **Crime and Disorder Impact**

6.11.1.As outlined in the report in Appendix A.

7. **Background Papers**

7.1.1. As outlined in the report in Appendix A.

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EXECUTIVE 8th June 2023

Report Title	Capital Outturn 2022/23 – Provisional Outturn as at Period 12
Report Authors	Janice Gotts, Executive Director of Finance and Performance Janice.gotts@northnorthants.gov.uk
Lead Member	Councillor Lloyd Bunday, Executive Member for Finance and Transformation

Key Decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there public sector equality duty implications?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information (whether in appendices or not)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Applicable paragraph number for exemption from publication under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1974	

List of Appendices

Appendix A – General Fund Provisional Capital Outturn 2022/23

Appendix B – HRA Provisional Capital Outturn 2022/23

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report sets out the provisional capital outturn position for 2022/23 for North Northamptonshire Council (NNC), and the subsequent proposed carry forward requests due to the rephrasing of scheme expenditure profiles.
- 1.2 This report also includes requests to approve schemes, which during the process of closing the year end for 2022/23, have been identified as capital expenditure and need to be reclassified and included within the Council's Capital Programme.
- 1.3 The report also details the latest revised capital budgets (2022/23) for the General Fund (GF) and the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Programme, including new schemes which have been approved since 1st April 2022.

- 1.4 The report also updates the outturn position for 2021/22, based on the provisional outturn reported to Executive in July 2022.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report sets out the draft 2022/23 outturn for the capital programme. The position is provisional as the annual statutory audit of accounts for the authority is still to be completed. As part of the outturn process, active capital schemes have been identified which will carry forward and form part of the revised capital programme for 2023/24.

- 2.2 This report also identifies a small number of projects which should be reclassified as capital. These technical amendments relate to projects which either:

- were inherited from the legacy authorities and due to different policies and accounting conventions adopted, these projects were not included within the legacy capital programmes which transferred to the new Council.

Or,

- following year-end review of the nature of the spend, accounting conventions state that the spend is capital in nature and therefore these require transferring into the capital programme.

- 2.3 Within the report there is a commentary on the Council's current financial outturn position for 2022/23 for both the GF and the HRA Capital Programmes. A number of the schemes were inherited from the North Northamptonshire legacy Councils into the new Unitary Council with effect from 1st April 2021. It should also be recognised that the final outturn position may be affected by any changes arising from the outstanding audit for Northamptonshire County Council for 2020/21, Corby Borough Council for 2020/21 and North Northamptonshire Council audits for 2021/22 and 2022/23.

- 2.4 The Council will continue to assess and refine its capital profiling as part of the capital monitoring for 2023/24.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Executive:
- a. Note the update to the provisional capital outturn for the General Fund (GF) Capital Programme and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Programme for 2021/22.
 - b. Note the provisional capital outturn position for the General Fund (GF) Capital Programme and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Programme for 2022/23.

- c. Approve the proposed capital carry forwards 2022/23 into 2023/24 for the GF and HRA capital programmes as detailed in Appendices A and B.
- d. Approve year end budget adjustments for the GF as shown in **Appendix A**.

3.2 Reasons for Recommendations: This is in line with the Council's constitution and financial regulations in relation to governance.

3.3 Alternative Options Considered: By not approving these recommendations there would be an adverse impact on service provision in North Northamptonshire.

4. Report Background

4.1 The Capital Programme is the Council's plan for investing in assets to efficiently deliver its statutory services, and to improve and shape the local infrastructure of North Northamptonshire, with the benefits lasting over several years.

4.2 Resources come from several sources including Government grants, capital receipts from surplus land and buildings, revenue contributions, other external contributions and borrowing. The Council is required to set a balanced revenue budget and therefore must ensure that where borrowing is proposed to fund the cost of capital that the cost of servicing the debt is affordable within the Council's revenue budget.

4.3 The Council captures its projected capital expenditure within the Capital Programme to monitor the same, help to control costs and ensure transparency. Given that the Capital Programme is approved by Executive, changes to it are also approved by Executive unless authority has been delegated in accordance with the Council's constitution.

4.4 This report provides an update to the Capital Programme 2022/23 as adopted by the Council in February 2022, and updates provisional outturn figures for 2021/22 as reported to Executive in July 2022.

4.5 The programme has been split into three areas:

- General Fund Committed Capital Programme containing schemes approved by predecessor councils, the majority of which are in the process of being delivered.
- General Fund Development Pool containing schemes which are in the early stages of their lifecycle and are not ready to commence. The Development Pool comprises the schemes that the Council would be prepared to take forward, subject to final negotiations, confirmation and evidencing of funding and submission of robust business cases to the Capital Approvals Board for approval by Cabinet.

- Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme which contains schemes that are either committed or in their early stages of their life cycle.

Capital Approval Process

4.6 The Capital Approval Governance process for North Northamptonshire Council was presented to the Finance and Governance Scrutiny Committee on 13th July 2021. The process aims to:

- provided greater emphasis on the link to strategic priorities and achievement of benefits and outcomes.
- ensure each submission identifies any contribution to reducing carbon and/or how the development or investment will support a zero-carbon agenda.

4.7 The governance process consists of Directorate Portfolio Boards which develop schemes and then submit business cases to the Strategic Capital Board. Each scheme requiring approval to enter the development pool or as a commitment in the main programme must submit a business case setting out the requirement for funding, how it meets the Council's strategic priorities, benefits identification include environmental benefits, risk analysis and expected outcomes.

4.8 The Strategic Capital Board meets monthly to scrutinise new proposals and progress/risks in relation to schemes already in delivery as well as update on potential schemes which may be in the future pipeline. The board is chaired by the Executive Director of Finance and consists of the other Directors and finance/project management support.

4.9 In line with the agreed process, schemes progress from the Strategic Capital Board to be considered by the Deputy Leader and the Executive Member for Finance and Transformation. Following review, the capital scheme proposals are reported to Executive for approval each month through the Capital Update Report. These proposals will be changes to the programme for the year as originally approved by Executive.

5. Issues and Choices – Update to Draft Outturn 2021/22 and Draft Outturn 2022/23

2021/22 Update to Draft Capital Outturn GF

5.1 The draft outturn for 2021/22 was presented to Executive in July 2022. As part of this outturn, and in line with International Accounting Standards, assumptions were made in terms of the final year end positions, based on the information available at the time. Since then, and as part of our continual review of all capital schemes, there have been a number of adjustments required to the reported 2021/22 position that impacts both the reported outturn figure and the budget figure. The table below sets out the updated position, and are detailed within **Appendix A:**

Table 1

Directorate	Draft P12 Outturn 2021/22					Revised P12 Draft Outturn 2021/22				
	Original Budget	Revised Budget	P12 Outturn	Variance to Budget	Proposed Budget C/fwd.	Amendment to P12 Outturn 21/22	Revised P12 Outturn 21/22	Amendment to Revised Budget 21/22	Revised 21/22 budget	Amended C/fwd. into 22/23
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Place	20,412	53,337	23,185	(30,152)	30,152	(58)	23,127	*(117)	53,220	30,093
Children & Education	8,971	21,020	10,340	(10,680)	10,680	67	10,407	0	21,020	10,613
Adults, Communities and Wellbeing	11,784	25,991	11,140	(14,851)	14,851	(1)	11,139	0	25,991	14,852
Enabling and Support Services	2,245	3,034	790	(2,244)	2,244	(360)	430	0	3,034	2,604
Total	43,413	103,378	45,455	(57,854)	57,919	(353)	45,102	(117)	103,265	58,163

Draft Capital Outturn P12 2022/23

5.2 The outturn for 2022/23 in respect of the GF Capital Programme shows a revised capital budget position of £109.3m, including slippage and in-year approved programmes. The spend is £35.4m, which represents movement (slippage/underspend) of £73.9m against the revised budget. The table below sets out the position by Directorate.

Table 2

Directorate	General Fund Capital Programme Draft P12 outturn 2022/23									
	Original Budget	Re-Profile/ Slippage from prior years plus 21/22 amendments (Table 1 £353k)	Approved in year	Year End Approvals	Revised Budget	P9 Outturn	P12 Out-turn - YTD Actuals	Movement to P9	Variance to Budget	Proposed Budget C/fwd.
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Place and Economy	2,472	30,259	33,025	24	65,780	26,083	22,260	(3,823)	(43,520)	(14,954)
Children and Education	6,544	5,079	2,730	477	14,830	8,666	5,834	(2,832)	(8,996)	(7,997)
Adults, Communities and Wellbeing Services	4,796	* Note 1 15,452	1,998	116	22,361	6,977	6,884	(93)	(15,477)	(5,447)
Enabling and Support Services	2,520	2,604	1,210	0	6,334	1,106	452	(654)	(5,883)	(1,501)
Total	16,332	53,394	38,963	617	109,305	42,832	35,430	(7,402)	(73,876)	(29,898)

* Note 1 – Adjusted by £580k, increase in budget for Rough Sleepers programme, approved at Council in November 2021 and carried forward into 22/23

5.3 The range of schemes delivered or in progress during 2022/23 include support for housing and homelessness (including rough sleeping), Alfred East Museum Extension, Heritage Action Zone, a number of school related improvements such as continuing the work on a new Primary School at Stanton Cross which is due to complete in 2023/24, infrastructure related schemes such as the Isham

Bypass, A43 Urban Extension, Hanwood Park Junctions in Kettering and maintenance schemes across a number of roads within North Northamptonshire as well as the finalisation of the main works on the Chester House Estate, which opened successfully in October 2021.

- 5.4 A significant proportion of the capital programme delivered in 2022/23 includes projects that were already in flight within the legacy authorities as well as new schemes. Focus has also been on those projects which have grant funding in order to ensure that any grant terms and conditions are met and minimise any potential risk of repayment/loss of grant.
- 5.5 As noted above, a significant proportion of the budget was not spent in 2022/23 as initially planned. The detail of the position against each scheme is set out in **Appendix A**. Reasons for the movement against budget vary and include delays due to discoveries on site, either during or in advance of works, finalising agreements and resource availability.
- 5.6 However, as part of the budget setting for 2023/24, all service areas were requested to review their projects within the capital programme in order to confirm the likely profile of spend, together with a consistent approach in how schemes are shown within the capital programme (Up front whole life costs v's profiled over medium-term financial plan). As reported to Executive in the P9 Outturn report in February 2023, £43m of budget was reviewed and re-profiled into the 2023/24 budget, therefore the proposed carry forward request from 2022/23 is only £29.9m out of the reported underspend of £73.9m.

Approval at Year End – Increase to Capital Programme including Reclassified Capital Expenditure

- 5.7 In reviewing revenue expenditure and grant funding there were items of expenditure identified that should have been shown as a capital project. Also, one scheme with additional S106 funding was identified. In total £617k has been identified to be reclassified/added to the capital programme, the adjustments are required for the following:

Table 3

Directorate	Scheme	Budget Increase £'000	Fully funded?	Comment
Place	Energy Saving Scheme	24	Yes - External Grant	Existing energy saving project which is fully funded by grant funding
Children & Education	Stanton Cross Primary School	137	Yes - S106 Contribution	Additional spend requirements identified which is fully funded by S106 Contributions
Children & Education	Schools Minor Works	340	Yes - Insurance Claim	Monies received from insurance pay out for a school roof repair, to be added back into budget where spend was originally made.
Adults, Communities and Wellbeing	Chester House Estate	98	Yes - External Grant	Items of capital spend identified within revenue, which is fully funded by external grant that can be applied to capital or revenue expenditure.
Adults, Communities and Wellbeing	Discover North Northants Tourism Hub 2022-23	18	Yes - External Grant	Items of capital spend identified within revenue, which is fully funded by external grant that can be applied to capital or revenue expenditure.
Total		617		

5.8 For the General Fund capital programme expected funding sources have been identified to cover the MTFS capital budget requirements, including the original MTFS budget of £16.3m, together with funding for the slippage (£53.5) and in-year approved schemes (£39.2m). Below shows the expected funding for the in-year expenditure for 2022/23 (note this is estimated until the 2022/23 Statement of Accounts work is complete).

Table 4

Directorate	Discretionary Funding	Capital Reserves	Capital Grants	Total
Place and Economy	767	4,131	17,362	22,260
Children and Education	2	0	5,833	5,834
Adults, Communities and Wellbeing Services	1,427	569	4,889	6,884
Enabling and Support Services	138	280	34	452
Total	2,334	4,980	28,117	35,430

Development Pool

5.9 As part of reviewing all capital schemes to determine the carry forward budget that is required, the following schemes have been identified to transfer into the development pool, where there are uncertainties over the timing or scope of delivery, and therefore a further business case will be needed in the future to request approval back into the capital programme if the scheme is to progress.

Table 5

Directorate	Scheme	£'000
Place	Future Fleet (Ex- Wellingborough Norse)	397
Place	Residential Zones / CPE	20
Place	Electric Vehicle Charging	64
Place	CPO Fund (potential to be re-purposed for Smiths Land Scheme)	601
Adults	Social Care system replacement	939
Adults	Castle Theatre	740
Adults	Rockingham Road Pavillion	300
Adults	Empty Properties	308
Adults	Burton Latimer Community Leisure	790
TOTAL		4,160

HRA Capital Programme

2021/22 Update to Draft Capital Outturn HRA

5.10 The draft outturn for 2021/22 was presented to Executive in July 2022. As part of this outturn, and in line with International Accounting Standards, assumptions were made in terms of the final year end positions, based on the information available at the time. Since then, and as part of our continual review of all capital schemes, there have been a number of adjustments required to the reported 2021/22 position that impacts both the reported outturn figure and the budget carry forwards to ensure the correct costs are reflected in the correct financial period. The table below sets out the updated position:

Housing Account	Original Budget	Budget C/wd	Revised Budget	Original P12 Outturn	Revised P12 Outturn	Variance to draft outturn	Revised Budget C/fwd
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Corby	7,638	5,618	13,256	3,543	3,691	(148)	9,565
Kettering	6,104	5,971	12,075	6,122	7,433	(1,311)	4,642
Total	13,742	11,589	25,331	9,665	11,124	(1,460)	14,207

Draft HRA Capital Outturn 2022/23

5.11 The outturn for the HRA Capital Programme shows a revised a budget for 2022/23 of £28.3m, including slippage from 2021/22 of £14.3m and approvals in year of £0.610m. The outturn is showing a spend of £9.6m, which represents an underspend of £18.7m compared to budget, and which will be reviewed and re-profiled considering the latest position. Detailed analysis by project shown in **Appendix B**.

Table 6

Housing Revenue Account 2022/23									
	Original Budget	Slippage*	Revised Budget		P12 Outturn	P9 Outturn	Variance to Budget	Budget re-profiled as part of 2023/24 budget setting	Revised estimated variance to reprofiled budget
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Corby	8,968	9,733	0	18,701	5,192	8,043	(13,509)	(7,803)	(5,706)
Kettering	4,333	4,642	610	9,585	4,373	3,843	(5,212)	(2,202)	(3,010)
Total	13,301	14,375	610	28,286	9,564	11,886	(18,722)	(10,005)	(8,717)

5.12 As noted above, a significant proportion of the budget was not spent in 2022/23 as initially planned. The detail of the position against each scheme is set out in **Appendix B**. Some schemes are forecast to underspend due to experiencing delays in finalising new contractual arrangements and implications arising from architecture plans, but the more significant change is the reprofiling of the

housing development programme for new build properties which is currently being reviewed by officers.

- 5.13 As part of the 2023/24 budget setting and Medium-Term Financial Planning process, several budgets have been identified to either be reprofiled into the next financial year to align with realistic dates of delivery, or to be allocated to the development pool for reconsideration and further updated business cases. Therefore, of this £18.7m estimated slippage/underspend, £10.0m of this underspend relates to schemes that have been reviewed/ reprofiled into the Capital Programme or Development Pool for 2023/4, resulting in a revised budget carry forward of £8.7m.

6 Next Steps

- 6.1 If approved, the proposed carry forwards will be added to the approved 2023/24 Capital Programme, as adopted by Council in February 2023. Any further adjustments required as a result of the outstanding audits for legacy authorities and the Council for 2021/22 and 2022/23 will be reported back to Executive.

7 Implications (including financial implications)

7.1 Resources, Financial and Transformation

- 7.1.1 The financial implications are set out in the detail of the report.

7.2 Legal and Governance

- 7.2.1 The council must utilise funding and deliver schemes in line with the restrictions and requirements as set out in the agreements linked to that funding and the requirements as set out in the Council's Constitution, in particular the budget setting and policy framework and the financial regulations.

7.3 Relevant Policies and Plans

- 7.3.1 The schemes provide a strategic fit with the Council's priorities as set out within the corporate plan.

7.4 Risk

- 7.4.1 The deliverability of the 2022/23 Capital Programme is monitored by the relevant accountable project manager and senior officer. There are a number of risks to be managed throughout the year and these are highlighted in the paragraphs below.

- 7.4.2 With most capital projects there is a risk that delays, and cost increases may arise as a result of the impact of inflation. Generally, this relates to the supply

and price of materials with projects requiring increased lead in times. Whilst every attempt is made to cost these implications into the project, the risks remain. However, it must be recognised that the current “Cost of Living Crisis” has driven up the level of inflation, which is much higher than in previous periods and indeed when funding bids were originally submitted. This therefore poses a risk to the deliverability of the projects as originally envisaged, where reductions to the scope of projects may be required to ensure budgets are not overspent.

7.4.3 If any overspends or emerging pressures are identified during the year for whatever reason, then mitigating actions will be sought and management interventions undertaken.

7.4.4 There is a risk in relation to funding, particularly S106 where works may be required to take place in advance of S106 triggers/funding being payable. This occurs where a road or school is needed to provide infrastructure for the first residents/businesses utilising the site. Where this is the required, the Council will fund costs at risk in relation to the funding being received to reimburse its costs.

7.5 **Consultation**

7.5.1 The 2022/23 Capital Strategy and Capital Programme were subject to consultation prior to approval by the North Northamptonshire Shadow Authority in February 2020.

7.6 **Consideration by Executive Advisory Panel**

7.6.1 Not applicable

7.7 **Consideration by Scrutiny**

7.7.1 The report will be considered at a future meeting of the Finance and Resources Scrutiny Committee.

7.8 **Equality Implications**

7.8.1 None specific within this report

7.9 **Climate and Environment Impact**

7.9.1 The climate impact of each capital project will be considered and managed within the relevant scheme.

7.9.2 A number of the capital schemes include initiatives to offset/reduce carbon impact as a priority for the Council and in recognition of the Climate Emergency declared by the Council.

7.10 Community Impact

7.10.1 These proposals can be considered to have a positive impact on the community as the Capital Programme delivers the infrastructure to support, educate, connect and regenerate communities. This includes enhancing the cultural offer and promoting a positive environmental impact.

7.11 Crime and Disorder Impact

7.11.1 None specific within this report

8. Background Documents

8.1 The following background papers can be considered in relation to this report:

Capital Programme Budget 2022/23, North Northamptonshire Council, 24th February 2022

[Capital cover report.pdf \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

Capital Programme Budget 2023/24, North Northamptonshire Council, 23rd February 2023

[Capital Programme Report 2023-26 - Feb Council.pdf \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

Capital Outturn 2021-22 – Draft Outturn as at Period 12, Executive, 14th July 2022

[P12 Draft Capital Outturn Report vdraft - report to Exec Members 1.pdf \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

General Fund Capital Programme

Appendix A

	Original Budget	Budget C/fwd inc £117k 21/22 adj	Amendment to P12 Outturn 21/22	Approved in year	Year End Approvals	Revised Budget	P12 Out-turn YTD Actuals	P9 Outturn	Movement to P9	Variance to Budget	Proposed Budget C/fwd.
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
DIRECTORATE - PLACE											
Department For Transport - Capital Maintenance	0	1,060	0	8,404	0	9,464	8,175	9,248	(1,073)	(1,289)	(1,289)
Street Lighting LED Upgrade 2022-23	0	0	0	3,033	0	3,033	0	25	(25)	(3,033)	(3,033)
Isham Bypass	0	1,451	(2)	1,573	0	3,022	2,184	1,451	733	(837)	(837)
A43 Corby Link Road	100	586	(25)	0	0	661	157	162	(5)	(503)	83
Integrated Transport Block	0	1,058	0	251	0	1,309	364	2,058	(1,694)	(946)	(395)
Northamptonshire Superfast Broadband	1,563	1,800	0	0	0	3,363	1,504	2,054	(550)	(1,859)	(550)
Shire Lodge Cemetery Extension	0	812	0	0	0	812	581	757	(176)	(231)	(231)
High Street - Heritage Action Zone	0	1,983	0	504	0	2,487	2,292	2,200	92	(195)	(195)
Corby Town Fund - 6th Form College	0	0	0	9,500	0	9,500	2,571	2,000	571	(6,929)	(2,179)
Corby Town Fund - Train Station to Town Centre	0	0	0	8,055	0	8,055	0	100	(100)	(8,055)	(100)
Corby Town Fund	0	975	0	0	0	975	0	25	(25)	(975)	(25)
Garden Communities 2022-23	0	0	0	1,428	0	1,428	0	750	(750)	(1,428)	(1,428)
Priors Hall Sustainable Urban Extension- A43/Steel Road junction	0	2,728	0	0	0	2,728	1,732	2,000	(268)	(996)	(996)
Stock Improvement & Compliance	250	496	0	0	0	746	72	420	(348)	(674)	(78)
New Depot	0	2,000	0	0	0	2,000	0	0	0	(2,000)	0
CPO Fund	0	601	0	0	0	601	0	0	0	(601)	0
Tithe Barn Road Office Refurbishment	0	2,521	0	0	0	2,521	0	10	(10)	(2,521)	0
Wellingborough Norse	0	418	190	0	0	608	211	25	186	(397)	0
S106 FUNDING - CYCLE & PEDESTRIAN	0	736	0	0	0	736	376	200	176	(360)	(360)
East Kettering (Hanwood Park) Junctions D & E	0	1,693	0	0	0	1,693	42	19	23	(1,651)	23
All other schemes (individual budgets under £500k)	560	9,283	(107)	277	24	10,036	1,997	2,579	(582)	(8,039)	(3,366)
TOTAL PLACE	2,472	30,201	56	33,025	24	65,778	22,260	26,083	(3,823)	(43,518)	(14,954)

	Original Budget	Budget C/fwd inc £117k 21/22 adj	Amendment to P12 Outturn 21/22	Approved in year	Year End Approvals	Revised Budget	P12 Out-turn YTD Actuals	P9 Outturn	Movement to P9	Variance to Budget	Proposed Budget C/fwd.
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
DIRECTORATE - CHILDREN AND EDUCATION											
Stanton Cross Primary School	4,564	(1,054)	(21)	0	137	3,626	3,626	4,184	(557)	(0)	(0)
Devolved Formula Capital 2022-2023	0	0	0	837	0	837	837	0	837	(0)	(0)
Schools Minor Works	968	1,392	(25)	0	340	2,925	698	1,101	(404)	(2,228)	(1,492)
East Northants Restructure - Prince William Academy phase 3 works	0	4,173	0	0	0	4,173	360	360	0	(3,813)	(3,813)
Isebrook SEND College School expansion	0	522	(6)	341	0	857	30	837	(807)	(827)	(827)
Childrens Residential Home Provision 2022-23	0	0	0	762	0	762	0	762	(762)	(762)	(762)
Children's Trust	1,012	0	0	(187)	0	825	0	400	(400)	(825)	(225)
All other schemes (individual budgets under £500k)	0	113	(13)	977	0	825	284	1,022	(738)	(541)	(877)
TOTAL CHILDREN AND EDUCATION	6,544	5,146	(65)	2,730	477	14,830	5,834	8,666	(2,832)	(8,996)	(7,997)

	Original Budget	Budget C/fwd inc £117k 21/22 adj	Amendment to P12 Outturn 21/22	Approved in year	Year End Approvals	Revised Budget	P12 Out-turn YTD Actuals	P9 Outturn	Movement to P9	Variance to Budget	Proposed Budget C/fwd.
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
DIRECTORATE - ADULTS											
Housing and Homelessness Prevention	2,000	3,424	0	(3,711)	0	1,713	215	250	(35)	(1,498)	1,502
Refugee Resettlement Programme 2023	0	0	0	3,711	0	3,711	0	0	0	(3,711)	(3,711)
Disabled Facilities Grant NNC	1,900	2,669	12	662	0	5,243	2,148	2,000	148	(3,095)	0
GLaM	0	1,964	(59)	546	0	2,451	2,405	2,361	44	(46)	(46)
Social Care system replacement	0	939	0	0	0	939	0	0	0	(939)	0
Capitalisation of Community Equipment	540	44	4	0	0	588	0	0	0	(588)	0
Castle Theatre	0	740	0	0	0	740	0	0	0	(740)	0
Burton Latimer Community Leisure	0	790	0	0	0	790	0	0	0	(790)	0
Rough Sleepers Accommodation RSAP	0	1,160	0	0	0	1,160	618	580	38	(542)	(542)
All other schemes (individual budgets under £500k)	356	3,719	44	790	116	5,018	1,498	1,786	(293)	(3,520)	(2,650)
TOTAL ADULTS	4,796	15,450	1	1,998	116	22,355	6,884	6,977	(97)	(15,470)	(5,447)

	Original Budget	Budget C/fwd inc £117k 21/22 adj	Amendment to P12 Outturn 21/22	Approved in year	Year End Approvals	Revised Budget	P12 Out-turn YTD Actuals	P9 Outturn	Movement to P9	Variance to Budget	Proposed Budget C/fwd.
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
DIRECTORATE - Enabling Services											
IT Strategy	2,000	0	0	0	0	2,000	0	0	0	(2,000)	0
All other schemes (individual budgets under £500k)	520	2,244	360	1,210	0	4,327	452	1,106	(654)	(3,875)	(1,501)
TOTAL ENABLING	2,520	2,244	360	1,210	0	6,327	452	1,106	(654)	(5,875)	(1,501)

	Original Budget	Budget C/fwd inc £117k 21/22 adj	Amendment to P12 Outturn 21/22	Approved in year	Year End Approvals	Revised Budget	P12 Out-turn YTD Actuals	P9 Outturn	Movement to P9	Variance to Budget	Proposed Budget C/fwd.
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Total General Fund Capital Programme	16,332	53,041	353	38,962	617	109,305	35,430	42,832	(7,406)	(73,876)	(29,898)

Directorate - Housing	Original Budget	Revised Budget C/fwd.	Approved Budget in year	Virements	Revised Budget	P12 Actual Outturn	P9 Outturn	Movement to P9	Variance to Budget	Budget reviewed/re-profiled as part of 2023/24 budget setting	Revised estimated variance to reprofiled budget
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Housing Corby											
New Build	5,300	8,234	0	0	13,534	2,138	4,018	(1,880)	(11,396)	(7,803)	(3,593)
Decent Homes - Electrical Upgrades	1,032	512	0	0	1,544	520	1,188	(668)	(1,024)	0	(1,024)
Central Heating Renewal	503	50	0	0	553	250	641	(391)	(303)	0	(303)
Heath & Safety and Fire Precautions	615	146	0	0	761	199	411	(212)	(562)	0	(562)
Improving access for disabled people	180	79	0	0	259	317	167	150	58	0	58
Property Stores Project	0	0	0	163	163	84	145	(61)	(79)	0	(79)
Decent Homes - Kitchen & Bathroom Renewal	187	187	0	0	374	481	496	(15)	107	0	107
External Door Replacements	107	26	0	0	133	157	143	14	24	0	24
HRA - Wall Finishes [CBC]	100	22	0	0	122	366	182	184	244	0	244
HRA - Unallocated Labour & Overheads [CBC]	750	291	0	(163)	878	600	614	(14)	(278)	0	(278)
Environmental Improvements	194	156	0	0	350	70	28	42	(280)	0	(280)
HRA Housing Management System [CBC]	0	30	0	0	30	10	10	0	(20)	0	(20)
Total Corby Housing	8,968	9,733	0	0	18,701	5,192	8,043	(2,851)	(13,509)	(7,803)	(5,706)

Directorate - Housing	Original Budget	Revised Budget C/fwd.	Approved Budget in year	Virements	Revised Budget	P12 Actual Outturn	P9 Outturn	Movement to P9	Variance to Budget	Budget reviewed/re-profiled as part of 2023/24 budget setting	Revised estimated variance to reprofiled budget
Kettering Housing											
Decent Homes - Kitchen & Bathroom Renewal	400	198	0	0	598	435	362	73	(163)	0	(163)
Central Heating Renewal	500	(10)	0	0	490	417	317	100	(73)	0	(73)
Roof Renewals	100	280	0	0	380	205	206	(1)	(175)	0	(175)
Improving access for disabled people	200	(19)	0	0	181	231	226	5	50	0	50
Decent Homes - Electrical Upgrades	400	75	0	0	475	361	222	139	(114)	0	(114)
External Door Replacements	50	60	0	0	110	99	96	3	(11)	0	(11)
Voids Repairs and Improvements	400	16	0	0	416	500	378	122	84	0	84
External Insulation	100	57	0	0	157	30	25	5	(127)	0	(127)
Environmental Improvements	100	79	0	0	179	87	78	9	(92)	0	(92)
Sheltered Housing - "Sparkle" Programme	50	55	0	0	105	58	54	4	(47)	0	(47)
Window Renewal	100	33	0	0	133	17	19	(2)	(116)	0	(116)
Heath & Safety and Fire Precautions	20	16	0	0	36	49	47	2	13	0	13
New Build	1,913	3,802	610	0	6,325	1,882	1,813	69	(4,443)	(2,000)	(2,443)
Total Kettering Housing	4,333	4,642	610	0	9,585	4,373	3,843	530	(5,212)	(2,000)	(3,212)
Total Housing Revenue Account	13,301	14,375	610	0	28,286	9,564	11,886	(2,322)	(18,722)	(9,803)	(8,919)