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Meeting: Corporate Scrutiny Committee
Date: Tuesday 12th December, 2023
Time: 7.00 pm
Venue: Council Chamber, Corby Cube, George Street, Corby, Northants, NN17 1QG

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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

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<p>Adele Wylie, Monitoring Officer North Northamptonshire Council</p>  <p>Proper Officer 4 December 2023</p>			

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	<p>If you want to address one of the Scrutiny Committees you will need to give two full working days notice before the meeting.</p> <p>You can make a statement which must relate to an agenda item and you will be expected to attend the meeting to read out your statement. You will have a maximum of three minutes to make your statement and it will be made at the start of the relevant agenda item. Your statement will be considered during the subsequent debate.</p>	5pm Thursday 7 December 2023
Member Agenda Statements	<p>If you want to address one of the Scrutiny Committees you will need to give two full working days notice before the meeting.</p> <p>You can make a statement which must relate to an agenda item and you will be expected to attend the meeting to read out your statement. You will have a maximum of three minutes to make your statement and it will be made at the start of the relevant agenda item. Your statement will be considered during the subsequent debate.</p>	5pm Thursday 7 December 2023

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Minutes of a Meeting of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee

At 7:00pm on Tuesday 10 October 2023

Held in the Council Chamber, Corby Cube, George Street, Corby

Present:

Members

Councillor Lora Lawman (Vice Chair, in the Chair)

Councillor Jim Hakewill

Councillor Zoe McGhee

Councillor Paul Marks

Councillor Russell Roberts

Officers

Janice Gotts – Executive Director of Finance and Performance

Adele Wylie – Executive Director of Customer and Governance (Monitoring Officer)

David Watts – Executive Director of Adults, Health Partnerships and Housing

Graeme Kane – Interim Executive Director of Place and Economy

Jane Bethea – Director of Public Health

Guy Holloway – Assistant Chief Executive

Mark Dickenson – Assistant Director of Finance and Strategy

Claire Edwards – Assistant Director of Finance Accountancy

Lucy Hogston – Assistant Director of Revenues and Benefits

Tom Barden – Head of Performance, Intelligence and Partnerships

Louise Tyers – Senior Democratic Services Officer

Also Present

Councillor Lloyd Bunday – Executive Member for Finance and Transformation

18. Apologies for Non-Attendance

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Councillors Lyn Buckingham, Richard Levell, Steven North and Anup Pandey.

19. Members' Declarations of Interest

The Chair invited those who wished to do so to declare any interests in respect of items on the agenda.

The following declarations were made:

Councillors	Item	Nature of Interest	DPI	Other Interest
Lora Lawman	Key Performance Indicators Report (Periods 3 and 4)	Is a member of the Corporate Parenting Board.		Yes

20. Notification of Requests to Address the Meeting

There were no requests to address the meeting.

21. Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 August 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 August 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

22. Key Performance Indicators Report 2023/24 (Period 3 and 4)

The Head of Performance, Intelligence and Partnerships presented the report which provided an update on the Council's performance across a wide range of services. The report provided a detailed assessment of the Council's performance in relation to Key Performance Indicators for 2023/24 for periods 3 and 4 (June and July 2023).

Comments on several specific indicators were made, including:

- Number of children currently missing from education (BBF33) and Number of children without a school place (BBF22) – members highlighted that this was a significant issue. Many of the children affected were on an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or received free school meals so were very vulnerable. Members were keen to understand what was being done to tackle this issue and how these young people were being supported. The Executive Director of Adults, Health Partnerships and Housing, who would shortly also be undertaking the role of Interim Director of Children's Services, advised that he would shortly be holding some meetings with the team and would provide feedback.

RESOLVED:

To note the performance of the Council and its services.

23. Forecast Draft Outturn for 2023/24 (Period 4)

The Assistant Director of Finance and Strategy presented the report which set out the draft outturn for 2023/24 as at Period 4. The report set out the material financial issues which had been identified since the budget had been set in February 2023.

The forecast outturn position for the General Fund was an overspend of £7.354m and an overspend of £16k for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). The Dedicated Schools Grant was forecasting a £4m overspend.

The Children's Trust were forecasting an overspend of £22.954m, of which the cost to the Council was £10.136m. The main pressure within the Children's Trust related to placements for children in care.

During discussion on the report, the following key points were made:

- i. Members questioned whether it was now time to extricate the Council from the contract with the Children's Trust. The Executive Director of Adults, Health Partnerships and Housing advised that it was the Council's wish to provide these services directly in the future, however the current arrangements were by direction

of the Department for Education. The challenge to both councils was that they carried the risk but could not influence.

RESOLVED:

To note the draft outturn report for 2023/24.

24. Indicative Budget Timeline and Scrutiny Process 2024/25

The Assistant Director of Finance and Strategy presented the report which set out the 2024/25 budget setting process and scrutiny arrangements. The report provided an overview of the budget timeline for the 2024/25 budget process, which included an update on the proposed arrangements for scrutiny.

The Council was required to set a balanced General Fund Budget and the levels of Council Tax for 2024/25 at its meeting in February 2024. It would also set a balanced HRA Budget and rent levels, along with a Capital Programme for both the General Fund and HRA.

The following indicative timetable for the setting of the budget was proposed and would be subject to amendment in light of government announcements and other potential changes:

Key Dates	Activity
<i>During Year</i>	<i>Budget Monitoring reports produced which will be presented to Executive and Corporate Scrutiny.</i>
30 October 2023 to 20 November 2023	Phase 1 Scrutiny - Committee to have dedicated session with Service Directors and separately the Children’s Trust to understand the current in year position for the budgets, which will inform the requirement for 2024/25.
7 November 2023	<i>Children’s Trust</i> - Business and Budget Plan proposals discussed at Operational Commissioning Group
21 November 2023	<i>Children’s Trust</i> - Business and Budget Plan proposals discussed at Strategic Commissioning Group
22 November 2023	Autumn Statement will outline the government’s plans for spending, taxation and borrowing for 2024/25.
30 November 2023	<i>Children’s Trust</i> - Final date for draft budget proposals to be agreed
4 December 2023	<i>Children’s Trust</i> - Phase 2 Scrutiny session – to review the Children’s Trust 2024/25 budget
w/c 18 December 2023	Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement expected
21 December 2023	Draft Budget 2024/25 report presented to Executive. Consultation on the budget will commence following the meeting and subject to Executive approval.

Key Dates	Activity
	Draft Schools Budget (Dedicated Schools Grant) to Schools Forum. <i>Children's Trust</i> – Corporate Scrutiny Committee feedback to December Executive
8 January 2024 to 19 January 2024	Phase 2 Scrutiny – Committee to scrutinise the Council's Budget Proposals with sessions for each Directorate. To include presentation to Corporate Scrutiny on the overarching draft budget proposals. HRA rent increase consultation to tenants' forums / representatives.
15 January 2024	<i>Children's Trust</i> - Latest date that the Council is required to seek approval of the contract sum
18 January 2024	Budget Update to Executive following the Local Government Finance Settlement, if it is not announced before the December draft budget report.
23 January 2024	Corporate Scrutiny Committee to consider report on the feedback from the Scrutiny Task and Finish Groups.
26 January 2024	Budget consultation ends (proposed date)
8 February 2024	Updated Budget reports, including feedback from Scrutiny, presented to Executive for approval and recommendation on to Council
22 February 2024	Setting of the Budget - Suite of Budget Reports presented to Council for approval

Phase 1 of scrutiny would look at the in-year position and the detail of the current budgets and activity as well as general pressures and opportunities. This would include any updates with regard to government funding arrangements and any other proposals. Phase 2 would take place once the 2024/25 draft budgets proposals had been reported to the Executive, which was expected to be on 21 December 2023. The Scrutiny process would complete in January 2024 to feed into the updated budget report to Executive on 8 February 2024.

During discussion on the report the following key points were made

- In response to a question from Members, officers confirmed that the draft Children's Trust budget proposals had been received.
- Members questioned how vulnerable residents would be affected due to the budget savings requirements. The Assistant Director of Finance and Strategy advised that key services would be provided to residents. An Equalities Impact Assessment would be developed throughout the process to assess the impact on residents.

RESOLVED to note:

- (i) the proposed timeline for the setting of the budget.
- (ii) the proposed budget setting and scrutiny arrangements for the Children's Trust.

- (iii) the overall indicative timeline for the budget setting for the Council.
- (iv) the proposal for the scrutiny of the Council's budgets.

25. Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2024/25

The Assistant Director of Revenues and Benefits presented the report which provided an update on the Local Council Tax Support Scheme for 2023/24 and proposed a scheme for 2024/25.

Each Local Authority was required to determine a Local Council Tax Support Scheme (LCTSS). Local discretion related to the maximum level of support available to working age claimants, and therefore the minimum percentage of the Council Tax bill they were expected to meet. Council agreed at its meeting in November 2022 that the minimum contribution for 2023/24 would be 25%. It was proposed to keep the LCTSS the same for 2024/25 at 25%.

Members wished to thank the Assistant Director and her staff for all their work in trying to help our vulnerable residents.

RESOLVED:

To recommend the proposed Local Council Tax Support Scheme for 2024/25 to the Executive.

26. Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Annual Report 2022/23

The Executive Director of Customer and Governance presented the report which provided the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Annual Report (LGSCO) for 2022/23 and which provided the final stage for complaints about councils and social care.

The LGSCO had received 64 complaints in respect of NNC in 2022-23, compared to 55 the previous year. The number of complaints received by the LGSCO broken down by service area was:-

Service area	2021-22	2022-23
Adult Care Services	6	8
Benefits & Tax	8	3
Corporate & Other Services	N/A	8
Education & Children's Services	16	22
Environmental Services & Public Protection & Regulation	5	9
Highways & Transport	3	2
Housing	8	6
Planning & Development	9	6
Total	55	64

The LGSCO had noted that it welcomed the Council's agreement for and implementation of seven cases in 2022-23. However, it was disappointed that the Council had not completed four of them within the agreed timescales. It also noted that some information requested from the Council was provided late.

In response, officers were now implementing revised procedures to ensure that all LGSCO queries were responded to on time, and were also ensuring that where action was agreed, it was taken within the agreed timescales. It was therefore expected that these improvements would be noted in the LGSCO's annual report next year.

During discussion on the report the following points were made:

- i. It was noted that complaints to the Housing Ombudsman were not included in the report. The Executive Director of Customer and Governance advised that the Housing Ombudsman did not provide an annual report but now that these complaints would be managed through the Corporate Complaints Team, they would be included in future reports to the Committee.
- ii. It was noted that the highest number of complaints related to EHCPs and members questioned what was being done to improve performance. In response, the Executive Director of Adults, Health Partnerships and Housing undertook to get updates and would pick this issue up outside of the meeting.

RESOLVED:

To note the content and recommendations of the LGSCO'S annual review letter for 2022/23.

27. Scrutiny Work Plan for Corporate Scrutiny Committee

The Corporate Scrutiny Committee received the Scrutiny Work Plan as it related to the Committee.

During discussion on the report the following points were made:

- i. A member questioned the exclusion of the agreed review into Green Burials on the Work Plan. The review had been agreed by both Full Council and the former Scrutiny Commission. The Chair agreed to refer the matter back to the Scrutiny Management Board.

RESOLVED:

- (i) To note the Scrutiny Work Plan as it relates to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee.
- (ii) That the Chair and Vice Chair refer the matter of Green Burials back to the Scrutiny Management Board.

28. Close of Meeting

The Chair thanked members and officers for their attendance and closed the meeting.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm.

Chair

Date

Corporate Scrutiny Committee 12th December 2023

Report Title	Northamptonshire Children's Trust Budget Monitoring Report – Period 6
Report Author	David Watts, Executive Director of Adults, Health Partnerships and Housing (DASS) & Interim DCS
Relevant Executive Member	Councillor Scott Edwards, Lead Member for Children, Families, Education and Skills

List of Appendices

Appendix A – NCT Finance Report P6

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The report provides the period 6 budget monitoring and forecast outturn position for Northamptonshire Children's Trust (NCT).

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The Period 6 budget monitoring report contains a detailed review of the financial position of NCT as at the 30th September 2023.
- 2.2 The report details variances at individual service level, service demand pressures and proposed mitigations.
- 2.3 The report also provides an update on the delivery of the agreed savings programme.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Scrutiny Commission:
- a) Note the contents of the P6 budget monitoring report and offer comment.

4. Report Background

- 4.1 NCT, as part of the Service Delivery Contract (SDC), provides a monthly budget report to the Children's Trust Operational Council Group and quarterly report to the Children's Trust Strategic Group.

- 4.2 The budget report details variances at individual service level, service demand pressures, proposed mitigations, progress to deliver the agreed savings programme and the forecast outturn position.

5. Issues and Choices

- 5.1 The key issues are:
- a) The impact on children's services budgets both locally and nationally of increased demand and complexity.
 - b) The lack of sufficiency of placement options for children in care.
 - c) The continued challenges around social worker recruitment and the pressures on staffing budgets.

6. Implications (including financial implications)

6.1 Resources, Financial and Transformation

- 6.1.1 To note the year end forecast overspend position of NCT, the mitigations that have been proposed and the respective financial year outturn position.

6.2 Legal and Governance

- 6.2.1 There are no legal implications arising from the proposals.

6.3 Relevant Policies and Plans

- 6.3.1 The delivery of NCT services supports the following Council priorities identified in the Corporate Plan:
- a. Active, fulfilled lives
 - b. Better brighter futures
 - c. Safe and thriving places

6.4 Risk

- 6.4.1 NCT provides a detailed risk register as part of its governance arrangements and is reported and monitored by the respective Trust committees and shared with the Children's Trust Operational Group on a quarterly basis. The key strategic risks are detailed in the Trusts business plan.

6.5 Consultation

- 6.5.1 N/A

6.6 Equality Implications

- 6.6.1 There are no equality implications arising from the proposals.

6.7 Climate Impact

- 6.7.1 There are no climate impacts arising from the proposals.

6.8 Community Impact

6.8.1 Effective children's social care, early help and youth offending services supports communities in North Northamptonshire.

6.9 Crime and Disorder Impact

6.9.1 There are no crime and disorder impacts arising from the proposals.

7. Background Papers

7.1 Northamptonshire Children's Trust 2023/24 - 2026/27 Business Plan

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Intelligent Client Function (ICF)

Northamptonshire Children's Trust

Budget Monitoring

Period 06 – September 2024

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Appendix A



**North
Northamptonshire
Council**



**Northamptonshire
Children's Trust**



**West
Northamptonshire
Council**

Content

1. Key messages/High level movement
2. Operational Group - Key messages and recommendations
3. Actions
4. Key Risks
5. NCT Mitigations
6. Contract Sum
7. Costs Outside of the Contract Sum
8. In Year Contract Sum Change Requests
9. Savings Delivery

10. Valuing Care+ Monitoring
11. Revenue Budget Monitoring
12. MTFP – Pressures & Savings
13. Capital Budget Monitoring
14. Invoice Cashflow Monitoring
15. Year End
16. Audit

1. Key messages/High level movement

Key Messages

Contract Sum Budget Heading	Contract sum £000's	Contract Change Requests £000's	Revised Contract sum £000's	Projected Outturn Position £000's	Variance £000's	Additional Funding £000's	Variance £000's	Movement from P5 £000's	Notes
Staffing	49,732	1,007	50,739	52,522	1,783	1,087	696	498	The contract change request relates to the Pay Award of £1.007m and the additional funding relates to the innovate teams of £1.087m. Staffing budgets are forecasting to overspend by £0.696m due to the continued pressure on recruitment and use of agency staff and the inherited vacancy factor of £3.269m.
Other Non-staffing Costs	358	0	358	358	0	0	0	0	Continued review of non-essential spend and reviews or mileage arrangements through the use of technology and utilisation of multi sites.
Placements	65,376	0	65,376	85,575	20,199	0	20,199	0	See detailed analysis under section 11 of this report.
Contracts	5,001	0	5,001	5,001	0	0	0	0	Risk around above inflation cost for contracts. Impact of continuation of short breaks contract.
Children's Homes	3,767	0	3,767	3,896	129	0	129	0	The forecast overspend mainly relates to Arnold house due to the level of staffing required to meet the complex needs of young people resident in this provision. Phoenix House has incurred additional agency costs this year to cover maternity leave. Challenges remain to maintain staffing ratios, around recruitment and through the use of agency/peri staff.
Legal	4,788	0	4,788	5,299	511	0	511	0	Forecast at current demand levels. Risk remains around increasing fee rates and shareholders status.
Adoption	7,776	0	7,776	7,643	-133	0	-133	0	Implementation of ombudsman's decision is factored into all projections. All historic payments have been made and included into the projection.
Transport	2,870	0	2,870	3,043	173	0	173	0	Based on current information provided through Transport SLA. Risk around increasing demand and above than budgeted inflation costs.
Other Care	6,799	0	6,799	6,799	0	0	0	82	Current service reviews, risks around increasing demand and Joint funding arrangements with Health. The increase this month relates to the increased costs of care provision for the cases within the Duty and Assessment teams due to cost of living inflation.
NCT Central	-762	0	-762	-997	-235	0	-235	-235	Risks around funding of demand led pressures and passporting of Funding. Delays in receipt of this funding will impact on the ability to continue investment and achieve savings target.
Support Services	5,233	0	5,233	5,233	0	0	0	0	Figure provided by the Local Authorities for the delivery of the services to the Trust including the occupation of buildings. A review will take place of all services prior to the agreement of the 2024/25 contract sum negotiations.
Total	150,938	1,007	151,945	174,372	22,427	1,087	21,340	345	

2. Operational Group - Key messages and recommendations

(populated as agreed at Pre OG Finance Meeting)

Key Messages

- 1) The development and robustness of finance projections for placements spend and forecasting have been agreed following a series of workshops with finance colleagues. Significant pressures in this area relating to the full year impact of placements in 2022/23 and ongoing increasing demand.
- 2) The agreed Contract Sum for 22/23 was £141.429m. It has been agreed that to account for the full year impact of demand led pressures as agreed as part of the 2023/24 budget the contract sum is to increase to £150.938m. It has subsequently been agreed to increase the contract sum to £151.945 to include the pay award for 2023/24. The full pressures from 2022/23 are not included in the original contract sum, these are reflected in the outturn report for 2023/24.
- 3) NCT are reporting a variance of £21.340m net of £1.087m for the managed teams. This does not include additional requests arising from NCT repositioning, risk of non delivery of savings and £2.844m for historic Joint Funding. NCT have submitted a type 1 in year change request allowing them to make an improved offer to the unions for a pay award for 2023/24. This amounts to additional funding of £1.007m which has been implemented and agreed and included in the revised contract sum figure of £151.945m.
- 4) Significant challenges in the recruitment of permanent social workers with increasing costs related to agency staff and managed teams. A Recruitment and Retention summit was held to discuss issues and a task and finish group has been established to develop a strategy.
- 5) Work ongoing with pathfinder to finalize the legal charges for the 2023/24 financial year following the ending of the agreement with North and West and the changes to the shareholding agreement.
- 6) Implementation of the new recharges for support services delivered to the trust, including occupation costs and property requirements for the Trust. Savings of £200k linked to the Trust property strategy.

Recommendations

1. To note the key messages above
2. To urgently resolve the outstanding payments
3. Agree to report variances as per previous years clearly showing where additions to the contract sum have been agreed in a separate column.
4. To note the associated risks that sit outside of the reported pressures as set out in point 3 above.

3. Actions – Carried Over

Ref	Date	Action	Owner	Planned date for completion	Current position	Next Steps
1	Jan-23	NCT to reconfigure budgets in ERP.	A Tagg	Aiming for end November 2023	NCT and NNC have met with the Business Systems Team to review progress. Meeting with WNC colleagues has taken place and actions agreed to start implementing the changes onto ERP.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action from Business Systems and NCT to meet to implement. Additional support from the Councils may be needed. NCT to confirm changes required to ERP.
Page 19	Mar-23	Payment of Outstanding passported grants to the Trust	R Woodward/ Mark Dickenson	Oct-23	Outstanding 21/22 – All income now agreed. Awaiting purchase orders from NNC for £476k. 22/23 – Still outstanding and in final stages of agreeing outstanding amounts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NNC to raise purchase orders for outstanding income relating to 2021/22 and 2022/23.
	Apr-23	NCT to submit written request to WNC and NNC requesting outstanding balances for 2022/23.	A Tagg	Complete	Letter sent on the 21st June 2023 Action now complete	
	Jun-23	NCT to submit written request to WNC and NNC requesting outstanding balances for 2023/24.	A Tagg	Jun-23	Letter sent on the 21st June 2023 Action complete for agreed contract sum 2 payment of £9.509m but the balance of £8.350m remains outstanding.	
5	Jun-23	22/23 OAS type one in year change request	A Tagg	Jun-23	Agreed by JOB Admin completed by ICF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NNC – have provided NCT with a PO# WNC and NCT are meeting 6/7 - PO's for additional demand and OAS

3. Actions – New actions in period

Ref	Date	Action	Owner	Planned date for completion	Current position	Next Steps
6	4 th July	1. Risks – Agree what RAG means.	All	By P3 report	Completed	
7	4 th July	To agree the creation of a plan for Benchmarking of children’s social care costs	OG	TBC	Benchmarking was discussed at SG in May and June. Some informal enquiries have been made by North S.151. Issues with comparing like for like and out of date information.	To be considered by OG and agree next steps
8	4 th July	Date for the MTFP to be provided by NCT to be agreed.	Andrew Tagg	August 2023 - TBC	Previous it was agreed for this to be provided by NCT to the Councils by end of Q1 (June 23). To note: Schedule 5 financial mechanism does set out some provision for providing MTFP.	NCT to discuss internally and write to ICF/Councils proposing if the MTFP can be provided earlier than Sept 23 as part of Contract Sum.
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4. Key Risks

Date	Risk	Owner	Value of risk	RAG	A. Impact 1(Low) - 5 (High)	B. Likelihood 1(Low)- 5 (High)	Combined score (AxB)	Mitigation
June 23	21/22 & 22/23 – Joint Funding Protocol income not materialising v level of bad debts		£2.844m	Yellow				Ongoing discussions with the ICB, escalated through the process in place. Robust evidence provided to support the funding requests. The lack of an agreed protocol and the case by case analysis provides a challenge. Full additional evidence provided to CCG on the 21 st June.
May 23	23/24 – Additional Risks to forecasts / Joint Funding Protocol		£0.627m	Red				This saving was proposed through the development of the MARP protocol. Each case will be reviewed on a case by case basis with an improved process through MARP , which will require each organisation to contribute to the placement. The non-delivery of this saving has been factored into the forecast outturn position.
May 23	23/24 Transport costs		£0.173m	Yellow				Based on figures provided by the councils and subject to forecast demand levels. Work ongoing to finalise the SLA and improved transport commissioning
July 23	23/24 Placements costs		£20.199m	Yellow				Based on forecasting and demand levels as agreed in the financial modelling. Risks remain around forecasting and complexity given the around this incredibly volatile area, with significant variations between each package of support.
Sept 23	23/24 Continuation of managed teams.		£1.087m	Yellow				Ongoing discussions and negotiations on agreed rates to obtain discounted rate. A change control has been submitted
Sept 23	23/24 Agreement of Pay Award		£1.007m	Green				Subject to agreement by councils and acceptance by the workforce. The pay award is in line with the offer made by West Northamptonshire. This offer was sent to the unions on the 21 st July and has now been agreed.
Oct 23	23/24 Legal Services non agreement of current discounted rates.		£1.348m	Yellow				Ongoing discussions with pathfinder. New collaboration agreement due to be proposed by pathfinder. No immediate increase from the 1 st July 2023. Risks remain around non shareholder/preferential rates. Meetings with Pathfinder awaiting their revised proposal as at the end of July, no response has been received therefore the risk is reducing. Discussions with pathfinder
Oct 23	Delivery of 2023/24 savings (RED). Included in the forecast		£1.247m	Red				See Savings Section 9. Updated September 2023 position. This includes the risk related to Joint Funding Protocol of £0.627m shown above. The red savings have been included in the outturn forecast
Oct 23	Delivery of 2023/24 savings (amber)		£2.292m	Yellow				See savings Section 9. Updated September 2023 position. Positive progress in the circle to success. Reduction will be based on actual achieved

5. NCT Mitigations (where not included as a risk)

Mitigation	Owner	Planned date for completion
1) Continued review of children homes capacity and exploring additional options for increased capacity as part of the capital programme	SLT	Ongoing
2) Explore additional supported accommodation and provision for housing for care leavers. Details submitted too both councils, specific workstream as part of project within West Northamptonshire . Opportunities to reduce the high levels of spend in this area as part of a joint transformation board.	SLT	Ongoing
3) Ongoing work with councils to reduce accommodation costs – A number of sites have been visited and proposals to reduce our footprint will be included in the contract sum negotiations	SLT	Ongoing
4) Review of all current placements – Positive progress in the Circle to success project and package reductions. Monitored through the circle to success project board	SLT	Individual placement are reviewed
5) Development of Early Help Offer as part of the transformation workstream	SLT	Ongoing
6) Transport workshops to review commissioning of transport – project group to be established following initial discussions	SLT	TBC

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6. Contract Sum 2023/24

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The Children's Trust Contract Sum 2023/24	100%	44.16%	55.84%
	Total	North	West
	£m	£m	£m
2022/23 Rebased Contract Sum	148.613	65.628	82.985
Fostering Cost of Living	0.103	0.045	0.058
Placements	5.295	2.338	2.957
Demand Growth	1.195	0.528	0.667
Staffing Adjustments	1.119	0.494	0.625
Other Adjustments	2.285	1.009	1.276
2023/24 Pay Award	1.007	0.445	0.562
Gross Budget	159.617	70.487	89.130
NCT savings (No dependency)	1.215	0.537	0.678
Council dependency savings	3.257	1.438	1.819
Improving Outcomes Transformation project (year 1)	3.200	1.413	1.787
Gross Contract Sum 2023/24	151.945	67.099	84.846
Less Support services	5.233	2.311	2.922
Net Contract Sum Approved at SCG on 30th November 2022	146.712	64.788	81.924

7. Costs Outside of the Contract Sum

Agreed One-Off items outside of 23/24 Contract Sum	Year	Value	Savings attached	Comments	Date Paid to NCT
Early Help (year 2)	2023/24	£0.400m	£1.9m (over 2 years)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is recommended that SG agree for the ICF to work with NCT to assess the use and impact of year 1 funding prior to releasing year 2 funding with NCT providing a refreshed/updated business case if required 	
Foster Care (year 2)	2023/24	£0.250m	£1.1m (over 2 years)		
Children's Homes Implementation	2023/24	£0.293m	£0.600m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business case to be provided by NCT 	
Valuing Care+	2023/24	£1.300m	£3.800m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programme plan to be finalised, expected savings to be ratified 	

8. In Year Contract Sum Change Requests

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Description	Year	Date Requested	Value	Savings attached	Current Position	Date Change Control Agreed	Date Paid to NCT
Structural Deficit 2022/23	22/23	May 23	£8.350m	£0	£7.888m placements, £0.174m Children's Homes, £0.365m Legal, £0.173m transport & - £0.250 other.		
Employee Pay Award	23/24	May 23	£1.007m	£0	Pay award has been paid in September 2023.		
Managed Teams	23/24	July 23	£1.087m	£0	Change request submitted and agreed.		
Structural external placement	23/24	May 23	£12.311m	£0	Forecast overspend at P5 is £20.199m, £7.888m relates to 2022/23 structural deficit.		
Variable - Transport drawdown payment	23/24	May 22	£0	£0	Current forecast overspend of £0.173m is 2022/23 structural deficit.		
Variable - Legal drawdown payment	23/24	May 22	£0.146m	£0	Forecast overspend at P5 is £0.511m, £0.365m relates to 2022/23 structural deficit.		

Note – Agree process for payments in 2023/24 relating to historic pressures and emerging in year pressures.

9. Savings Delivery – 2023/24

Savings Proposals		2023/24	Red	Amber	Green	Mitigations	Total (A,G,M)	Comments
	SRO	£'000						
Review of Social Care transport, journey planning and contact through the Asset a management strategy	Andrew Tagg	100	0	100	0	0	100	Workshop to be held on the procurement and efficiency in transport journey planning. Working with external providers to ensure providers are delivery transport as part of there weekly fee charges. Development of local provision to remove transport costs.
Review of placements supply (Homes)	Louise De Chiara	600	0	600	0	0	600	Based on current schedule of children's Homes places coming on stream. Additional capacity above savings target, linked to Circle to Success project savings as more local provision is developed to reduce reliance on the independent sector
Increase provision in supported accommodation	Louise De Chiara	240	0	179	61	0	240	Additional capacity for supported accommodation to reduce the costs in provision through the private sector. Partnership with the university underway
Review of Business Operations	Andrew Tagg	70	0	0	70	0	70	Part of the business admin review to more from a centralised model to direct service level , reducing management costs
Review of Children's Legal Costs	Olivia Ives	100	0	100	0	0	100	Ongoing implementation of best practice following the review undertaken in Nov 2022
Review of Contracts	Louise De Chiara	100	0	0	100	0	100	Review of contracts
Asset Management Strategy	Colin Foster	200	0	200	0	0	200	The property aspirations for NCT have been submitted to allow the rationalisation of buildings. A geographical spread across the county will deliver travel savings on mileage and contact.
Increase in In house Fostering	Olivia Ives	620	620	0	0	0	620	A coordinated plan aimed at increasing the capacity and utilisation of existing carers. Review of the capacity of the current operating model to recruit and support a larger inhouse foster carer community. Creation of a new Foster Friendly Offer with contributions from the wider partnership. Revised comms and marketing plan aligned to a modern fostering agency. Capital plan to support carers.

Review of External placements to develop effective Joint Funding Commissioning	Olivia Ives/Andrew Tagg	627	627	0	0	0	627	Review terms of reference for the Multi Agency Resource panel. Agree a joint funding protocol with partners (Health and Education). Identification of Cohort and develop pipeline of cases for MARP. Revised and improved referral process. QA process for MARP cases
Review of Care provision	Olivia Ives	200	0	0	200	0	200	Review of care packages and continued work with Health partners around funding packages. Focus work on disabled children care packages
Review of Non Essential Budgets including mileage, supplies and provisions.	Andrew Tagg	50	0	0	50	0	50	Review of non essential spend through improved governance arrangements. Review of non essential travel
Review of Learning Development/ Social work academy	Louise De Chiara	65	0	0	65	0	65	Coordination of Social work academy and learning and development functions
Implementation of treasury management strategy	Andrew Tagg	900	0	0	900	0	900	£13m currently in investment. Payment of outstanding income and demand led pressures will allow the investment to £20m to achieve the remaining target. Timely passporting of grants and in year pressures will impact on delivery.
TOTAL		3,872	1,247	1,179	1,446	0	3872	
Additional Valuing care (see NCT 35)	Olivia Ives	3,200	0	1,113	2,087	0	3,200	See Valuing care programme board savings delivery forecast. Delivery based on medium assurance delivery. Potential mitigation from review of packages
Supporting families to stay together - valuing care (see NCT 18)	Debbie Lloyd	600	0	0	600	0	600	valuing care programme - cost avoidance element of the programme
TOTAL SAVINGS		7,672	1,247	2,292	3,533	0	7,672	

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10. Valuing Care+ Savings Delivery Monitoring - £3.800m

Circle to Success



Finance dashboard

Total weekly placement costs for C2S cohort



Current weekly difference
£73,153

Forecasted savings 23/24

Cost savings
£3,677,074

Cost avoidance
£1,166,330

Actual savings 23/24

Cost savings
£1,120,832

Cost avoidance
£23,585

Forecasted savings by intervention for 23/24

Step down to fostering	Reunification	Step down to SGO	Placement stabilisation	Edge of care	Reducing time in care	Permanence
£1,592,754	£1,257,597	£39,933	£786,359	£181,917	£0	£74,997

Forecasted savings 24/25

Cost savings
£7,944,160

Cost avoidance
£2,498,860

Actual savings 24/25

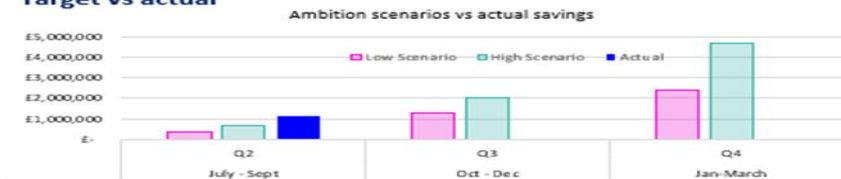
Cost savings
£1,416,514

Cost avoidance
£23,331

Actual savings by intervention for 23/24

Step down to fostering	Reunification	Step down to SGO	Placement stabilisation	Edge of care	Reducing time in care	Permanence
£571,788	£549,044	£-	£-	£-	£-	£23,585

Target vs actual



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11. Revenue Budget Monitoring – Summary

NCT Monitoring Summary	Budget 2023/24													
	To Capture Any Budget Movement and Ensure correct Governance Process has been followed													
Description	Original Budget	P05	P06	Movement	P05 Actuals	%	P06 Actuals	%	P05 Forecast Outturn	P06 Forecast Outturn	Movement	P05 Forecast Variance	P06 Forecast Variance	Movement
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	%	£'000	%	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Total	150,938	150,938	151,945	1,007	71,724	47.5%	87,019	57.3%	174,027	174,372	345	23,089	22,427	-662
Less Income	-8,817	-8,817	-8,817	-	-3,674	41.7%	-3,674	41.7%	-8,817	-8,817	-	-	-	-
Net Total	142,121	142,121	143,128	1,007	68,051	47.9%	83,346	58.2%	165,210	165,555	345	23,089	22,427	-662
NNC	62,761	62,761	63,205	444	30,051	47.9%	36,805	58.2%	72,957	73,109		10,196	9,904	
WNC	79,360	79,360	79,923	563	38,000	47.9%	46,540	58.2%	92,253	92,446		12,893	12,523	

11. Revenue Budget Monitoring - Summary

NCT Monitoring Summary	Budget 2023/24													
Description	Original Budget	P05	P06	Movement	P05 Actuals	%	P06 Actuals	%	P05 Forecast Outturn	P06 Forecast Outturn	Movement	P05 Forecast Variance	P06 Forecast Variance	Movement
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	%	£'000	%	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Staffing	49,732	49,732	50,739	1,007	24,863	50.0%	30,849	60.8%	52,024	52,522	498	2,292	1,783	-509
Other non staffing costs	358	358	358	-	149	41.7%	179	50.0%	358	358	-	-	-	-
Placements	65,376	65,376	65,376	-	32,986	50.5%	39,951	61.1%	85,575	85,575	0	20,199	20,199	0
Contracts	5,001	5,001	5,001	-	1,176	23.5%	1,329	26.6%	5,001	5,001	-	-	-	-
Children's Homes	3,767	3,767	3,767	-	1,749	46.4%	2,216	58.8%	3,896	3,896	0	129	129	0
Legal	4,788	4,788	4,788	-	1,926	40.2%	1,991	41.6%	5,299	5,299	-	511	511	-
Adoption	7,776	7,776	7,776	-	3,317	42.7%	4,070	52.3%	7,643	7,643	-	-133	-133	-
Transport	2,870	2,870	2,870	-	540	18.8%	588	20.5%	3,043	3,043	-	173	173	-
Other Care	6,799	6,799	6,799	-	5,278	77.6%	6,269	92.2%	6,717	6,799	82	-82	0	82
NCT Central - Other budget	-762	-762	-762	-	-260	34.1%	-421	55.3%	-762	-997	-235	-	-235	-235
Support Services / SLA	5,233	5,233	5,233	-	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	5,233	5,233	-	-	-	-
Total	150,938	150,938	151,945	1,007	71,724	47.5%	87,019	57.3%	174,027	174,372	345	23,089	22,427	-662
Less Income	-8,817	-8,817	-8,817	-	-3,674	41.7%	-3,674	41.7%	-8,817	-8,817	-	-	-	-
Total	142,121	142,121	143,128	1,007	68,051	47.9%	83,346	58.2%	165,210	165,555	345	23,089	22,427	-662
NNC	62,761	62,761	63,205	444	30,051	47.9%	36,805	58.2%	72,957	73,109		10,196	9,904	
WNC	79,360	79,360	79,923	563	38,000	47.9%	46,540	58.2%	92,253	92,446		12,893	12,523	

11. Revenue Budget Monitoring – Staffing

Overview	Explain what costs are included in here
ERP Ledger Codes	Various
Agreed budget	£50.739m
YTD Actuals	£30.849m
Forecast	£52.522m
Current Variance	£1.783m
Previous Variance	£2.292m
Movement in Variance	£-0.509m
Actuals Period Covered	April to September 2023
Basis of Forecast	Projections based on actual mix of agency, vacant and permanent staffing structure configuration. The additional pay award is included in the forecast.
Risk in Forecasts	There is a vacancy factor of £3.269m across all teams. There are a large number of vacancies across the social work teams which are being covered by agency staff. Increasing agency rates above 4% contract sum allocation.
MTFP Impact - 2024/25	To be reviewed.

Reasons for Variance	Mitigations
<p>The agreed budget has increased by £1.007m this month to reflect the Pay award.</p> <p>A change control has been submitted re the continuation of the managed teams which is forecast of £1.087m.</p> <p>The movement in variance relates to additional budget of £1.007m less additional staffing costs of £0.498m. These additional costs have arisen due to the vacancy factor which is not fully achievable and use of agency staff to cover vacancies.</p> <p>The recruitment of social workers is a key challenge both locally and nationally. There is a shortage of social workers across the country, with the agency market and the associated costs attracting a greater number of social workers. NCT remains competitive with its pay and agency rates and regular benchmarking is undertaken. However, we are starting to see an increase in neighboring authorities increasing their rates through significant retention and pay increases to social care staff.</p> <p>The actuals year to date are high compared to forecast as the grants funding a large portion of the staffing costs have not yet been received.</p>	<p>Reduced employee contributions rates as agreed in the contract sum</p> <p>Restructures planned for commissioning, Business support and central operations to manage the savings targets and vacancy factor applied to this area. The vacancy factor inherited as part of the contract sum was 14% for business support arrangements.</p> <p>The contract sum submission will look to address this historic funding issue</p>



Team Summary – September 2023

	Full Establishment						SW Posts Only					SW Sickness	
	Numbers	%						%					
Grouped Teams	Grand Total	Vacancy	Permanent	Agency	Office Holder	Casual /Zero Hours	Grand Total	Vacancy	Permanent	Agency	Relief	Absence Rate	Fte Days per Fte Employee (12m to Sep 23)
Integrated Support Service & Admin Team	102	19.6%	80.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	-						
SQAS Business Support Team	29	6.9%	89.7%	3.4%	0.0%	0.0%	-						
Child Protection Officers	15	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	15	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%		
Independent Reviewing Officers	21	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	21	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%		
NQSW Academy Team	8	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%	1.26
Strengthening Families North	41	4.9%	95.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0						
Strengthening Families West	62	9.7%	90.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	-						
Strengthening Families SEND	8	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	-						
Youth Offending Team	77	20.8%	79.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0						
MASH	56	8.9%	73.2%	17.9%	0.0%	0.0%	27	3.7%	63.0%	33.3%	0.0%	6.1%	15.40
EDT	24	20.8%	58.3%	8.3%	0.0%	12.5%	21	23.8%	52.4%	9.5%	14.3%	13.4%	33.97
Duty & Assessment	63	19.0%	39.7%	39.7%	0.0%	1.6%	57	21.1%	33.3%	43.9%	1.8%	2.6%	6.63
DCT	32	6.3%	84.4%	9.4%	0.0%	0.0%	30	6.7%	83.3%	10.0%	0.0%	3.3%	8.45
Safeguarding North	69	11.6%	69.6%	18.8%	0.0%	0.0%	57	12.3%	64.9%	22.8%	0.0%	3.6%	9.12
Safeguarding West	75	21.3%	54.7%	22.7%	0.0%	1.3%	63	22.2%	49.2%	27.0%	1.6%	5.6%	14.12
CiC - Court Teams (N1/2 and W1/2)	53	24.5%	45.3%	30.2%	0.0%	0.0%	47	23.4%	42.6%	34.0%	0.0%	0.6%	1.47
CiC Teams (non-court teams)	70	12.9%	77.1%	10.0%	0.0%	0.0%	63	11.1%	77.8%	11.1%	0.0%	3.9%	9.92
CiC North (all teams)	59	11.9%	66.1%	22.0%	0.0%	0.0%	52	11.5%	63.5%	25.0%	0.0%	2.3%	5.83
CiC West (all teams)	52	26.9%	55.8%	17.3%	0.0%	0.0%	48	22.9%	58.3%	18.8%	0.0%	4.5%	11.53
Leaving Care	39	15.4%	84.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	8	12.5%	87.5%	0.0%	0.0%	3.1%	7.75
Childrens Homes	184	21.7%	48.4%	0.5%	0.0%	29.3%	2	0.0%	50.0%	50.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.00
Adoption & Post Adoption Support	70	20.0%	60.0%	0.0%	14.3%	5.7%	23	8.7%	60.9%	30.4%	0.0%	2.4%	6.11
Fostering Teams (inc Friends & Family Support)	85	24.7%	52.9%	4.7%	9.4%	8.2%	26	19.2%	61.5%	19.2%	0.0%	9.0%	22.86
Separated Children	16	18.8%	62.5%	18.8%	0.0%	0.0%	12	8.3%	75.0%	16.7%	0.0%	1.3%	3.27

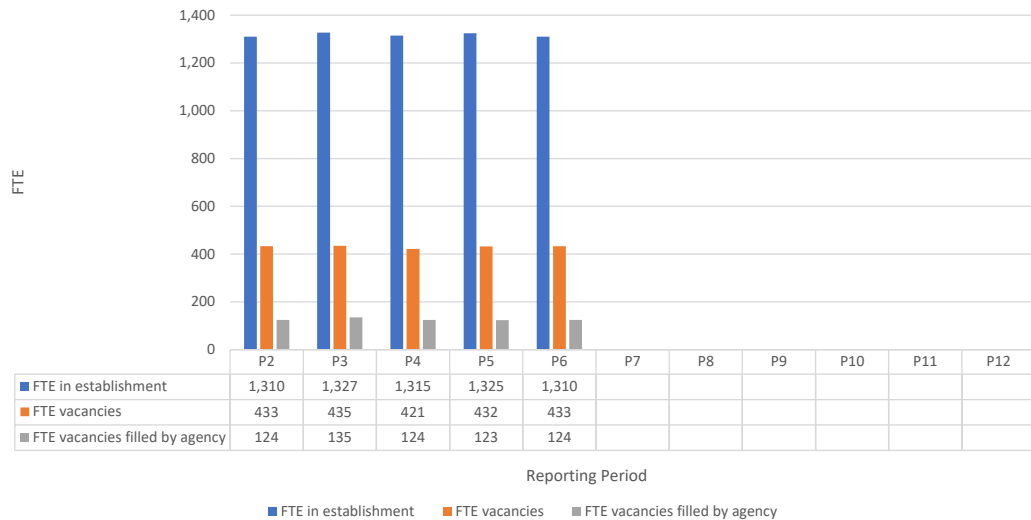
Total Vacancy Factor - £3.269m

11. Revenue Budget Monitoring – Staffing

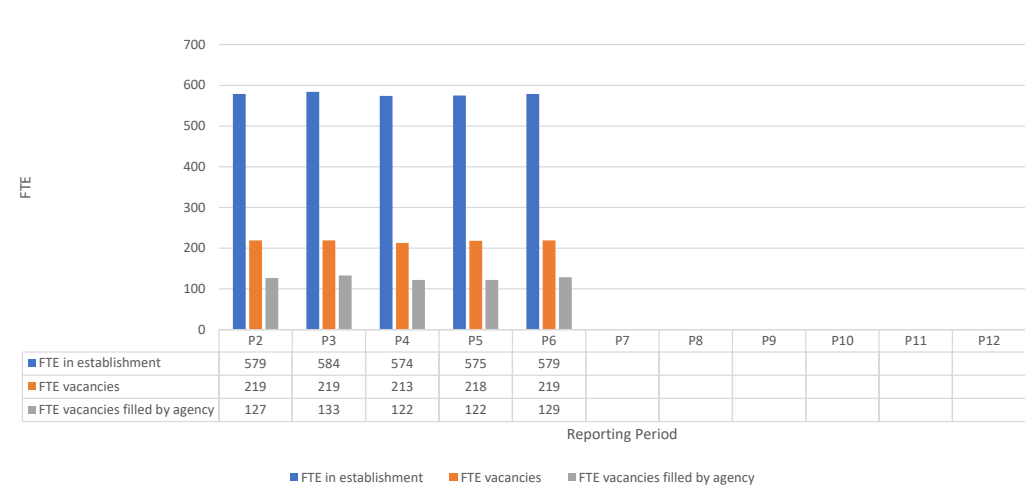
Service	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	P8	P9	P10	P11	P12	Average
FTE in establishment		1,323	1,327	1,323	1,325	1,310							
FTE vacancies		429	435	429	432	433							
FTE vacancies filled by agency		127	135	127	123	124							
% Agency Usage		9.6%	10.2%	9.6%	9.3%	9.5%							

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Graph to show monthly trend of NCT Establishment - All Posts



Graph to show monthly trend of NCT Establishment - SW Posts



11. Revenue Budget Monitoring – Other Non Staffing

Overview	Explain what costs are included in here
ERP Ledger Codes	Various
Agreed budget	£0.358m
YTD Actuals	£0.179m
Forecast	£0.358m
Current Variance	£0
Previous Variance	£0
Movement in Variance	£0
Actuals Period Covered	April to September 2023
Basis of Forecast	Forecast in line with YTD actuals.
Risk in Forecasts	None at present.
MTFP Impact - 2024/25	To be reviewed.

Reasons for Variance	Mitigations
No variance reported for P6.	

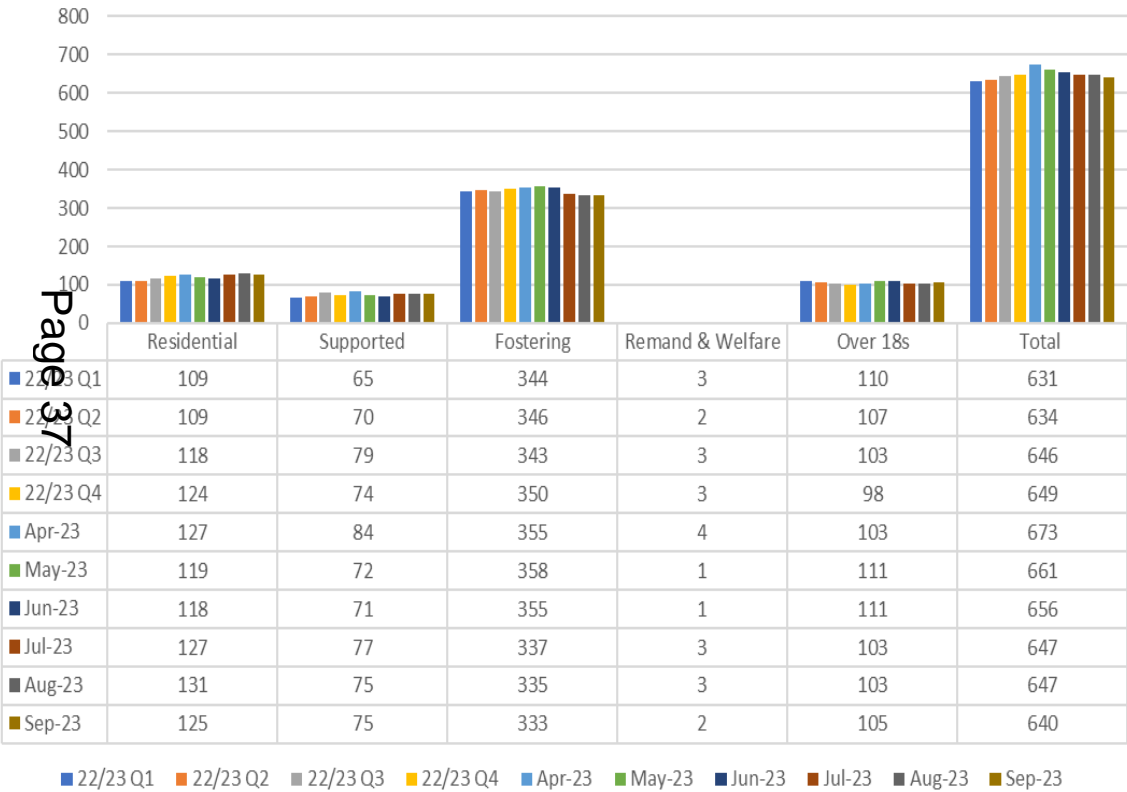
11. Revenue Budget Monitoring – Agency Placements

Overview	Explain what costs are included in here
ERP Ledger Codes	Various
Agreed budget	£65.376m
YTD Actuals	£39.951m
Forecast	£85.575m
Current Variance	£20.199m
Previous Variance	£20.199m
Movement in Variance	£0
Actuals Period Covered	April to September 2023
Basis of Forecast	Forecast based on the database as at 1 st October 2023. This has been adjusted for young people turning 18 during the financial year. Further growth has been included of £0.758m and has been calculated using placement trends over the last 2 years. This forecast assumes all savings will be achieved.
Risk in Forecasts	Forecast demand is higher than currently estimated. The savings identified against placements are not fully achieved. Income from ICB is not received at forecasted levels.
MTFP Impact - 2024/25	To be reviewed.

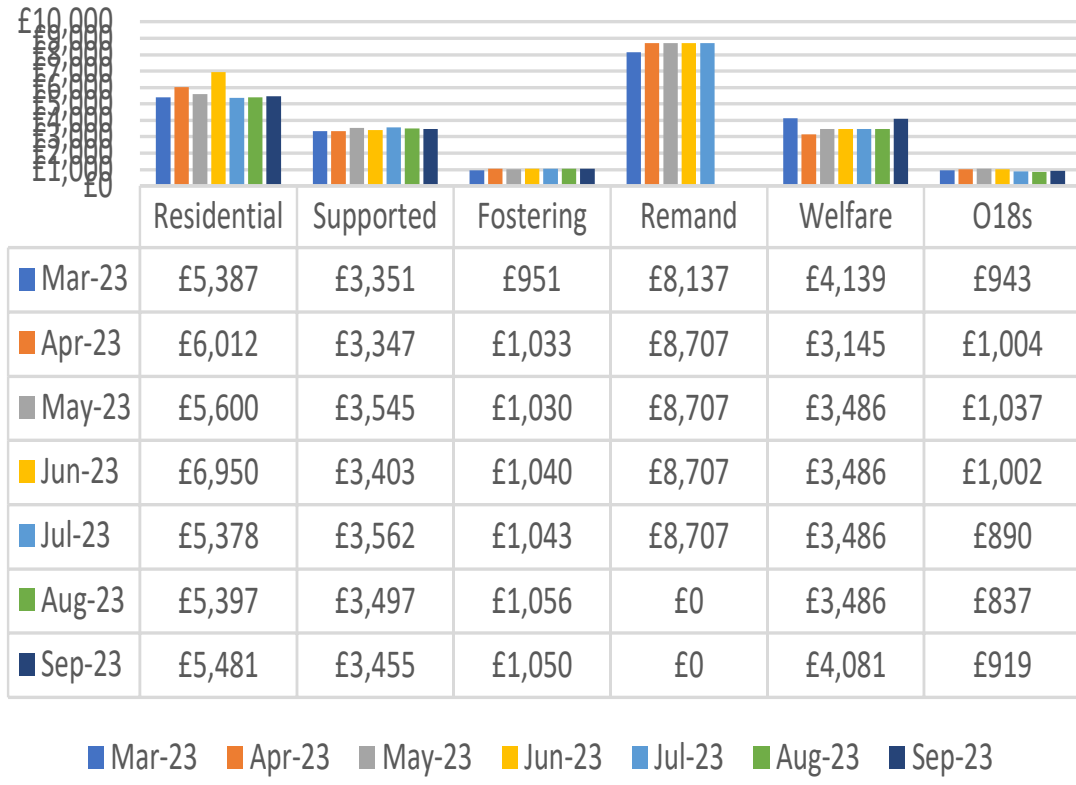
Reasons for Variance	Mitigations
<p>The forecast variance of £20.199 is shown in more detail in the placements table below.</p> <p>The forecast overspend is as a result of the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Increased package costs due to inflation and more complex care needed for young people. The average weekly cost of providing care has increased significantly over the last year. -A number of placements started towards the end of 2022/23 and would only of been a part year impact last year. The full year impact is reflected in the current forecasts for 2023/24. -Demographic Growth – The original forecasts included £3.245m of growth in agency placements. This is updated on a monthly basis. <p>The number of packages has reduced to 640 this month as shown in the chart below relating to the net impact of new packages, ended packages, package changes including the ongoing savings work. This has been reflected in the forecast spend against packages this month, however the forecast has remained the same due to growth and savings being included with the forecast.</p> <p>Actuals to date are low compared to forecast as the majority of invoices are paid in arrears.</p>	<p>NCT has continued to develop its placement sufficiency strategy and the use of external placements strategy.</p> <p>NCT has submitted a capital bid to increase capacity of in-house provision and is working with property colleagues to identify additional properties as part of the placement sufficiency strategy.</p> <p>The Multi Agency Resource Panel was reviewed, and a new term of reference was proposed in July 2022. A review by People Too has indicated that social care currently picks up 96% of all care costs, which is high compared statistical neighbours and national. The refreshed the terms of reference, we are currently working through all joint funded cases to review allocations and finalise the protocol. The increased contributions from partners which had been forecast have now been removed from the provisional outturn position and impacted on the outturn position for 22/23. As part of the contract sum negotiations increased levels of contributions were accepted as part of the savings proposals from NCT.</p>

11. Revenue Budget Monitoring – Agency Placements

Number of packages in 2022/2023 & P1-P5 2023/2024



Weekly Average Cost



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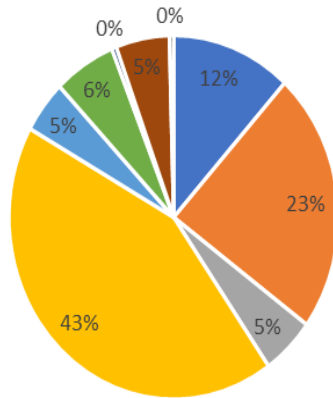


11. Revenue Budget Monitoring – Homes for Children

Placement Type	Expenditure Budget	Projected Outturn	Variance – This period	Variance – Last period	Mix – This period	Mix – Last period
In house Fostering	£8.532m	£8.599m	£0.067m	£0.067m	0.3%	0.3%
Agency Fostering	£16.895m	£18.654m	£1.759m	£1.781m	8.6%	8.6%
Independent Residential	£31.087m	£38.319m	£7.232m	£7.434m	36%	36%
Supported Accommodation	£3.400m	£13.662m	£10.262m	£10.424m	50.5%	50.5%
18+Agency Placements	£4.400m	£5.752m	£1.352m	£0.887m	4.3%	4.3%
Welfare Secure	£0.339m	£0.127m	£-0.212m	£-0.212m	-1%	-1%
UASC	£3.812m	£3.812m	£0	£0	0%	0%
Remand Secure	£0.300m	£0.485m	£0.185m	£0.261m	1.3%	1.3%
Total	£68.765m	£89.410m	£20.645m	£20.642m	100%	100%
Grant Income/Contributions	£3.389m	£3.835m	£0.446m	£0.443m		
Net Total	£65.376m	£85.575m	£20.199m	£20.199m		

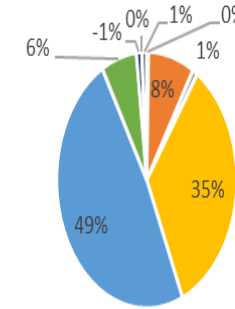
11. Revenue Budget Monitoring

Split between internal and external placement provisions based on budget



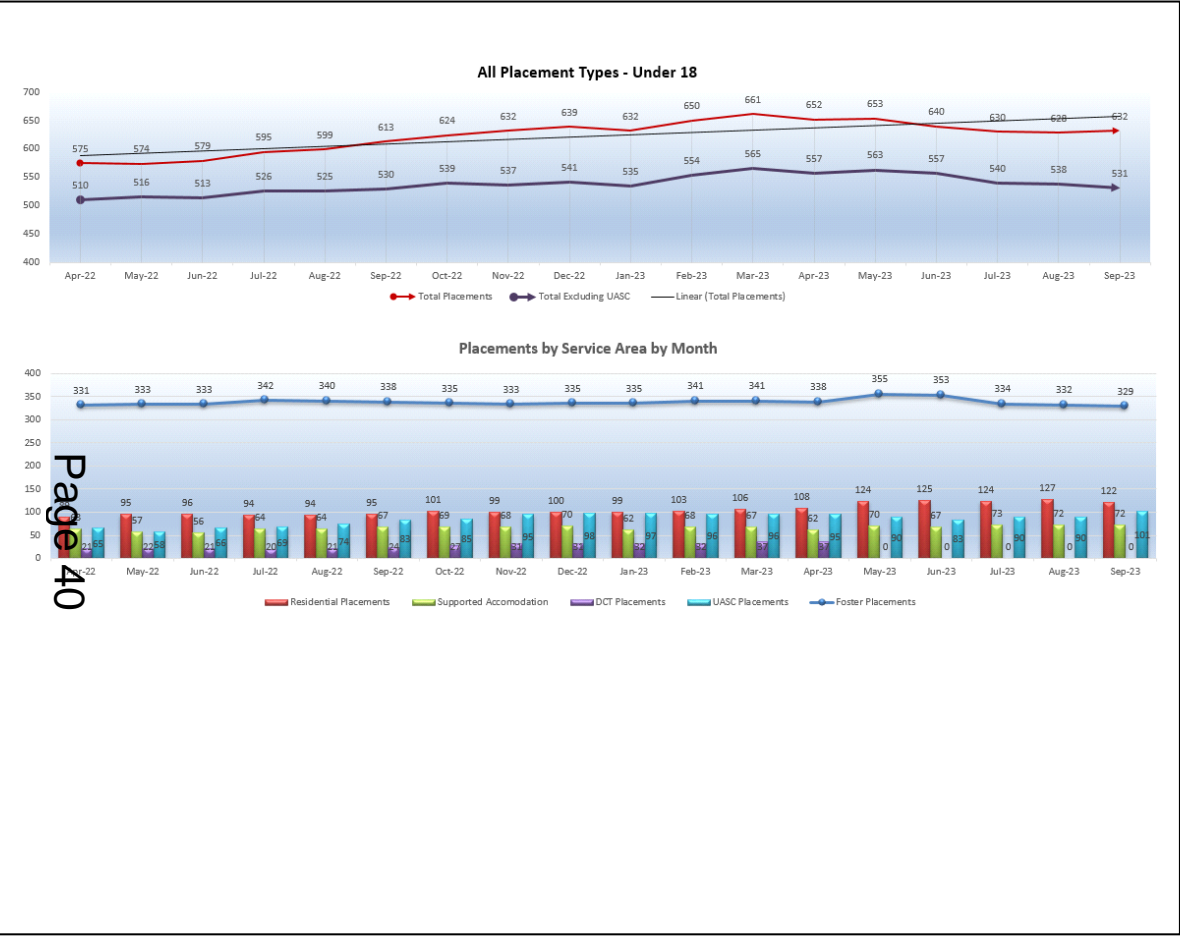
- In house Fostering
- Agency Fostering
- In house Residential
- Independent Residential
- Supported Accommodation
- 18+ Agency Placements
- Welfare Secure
- UASC
- Remand Secure

Split between internal and external placement provisions based on forecast variance

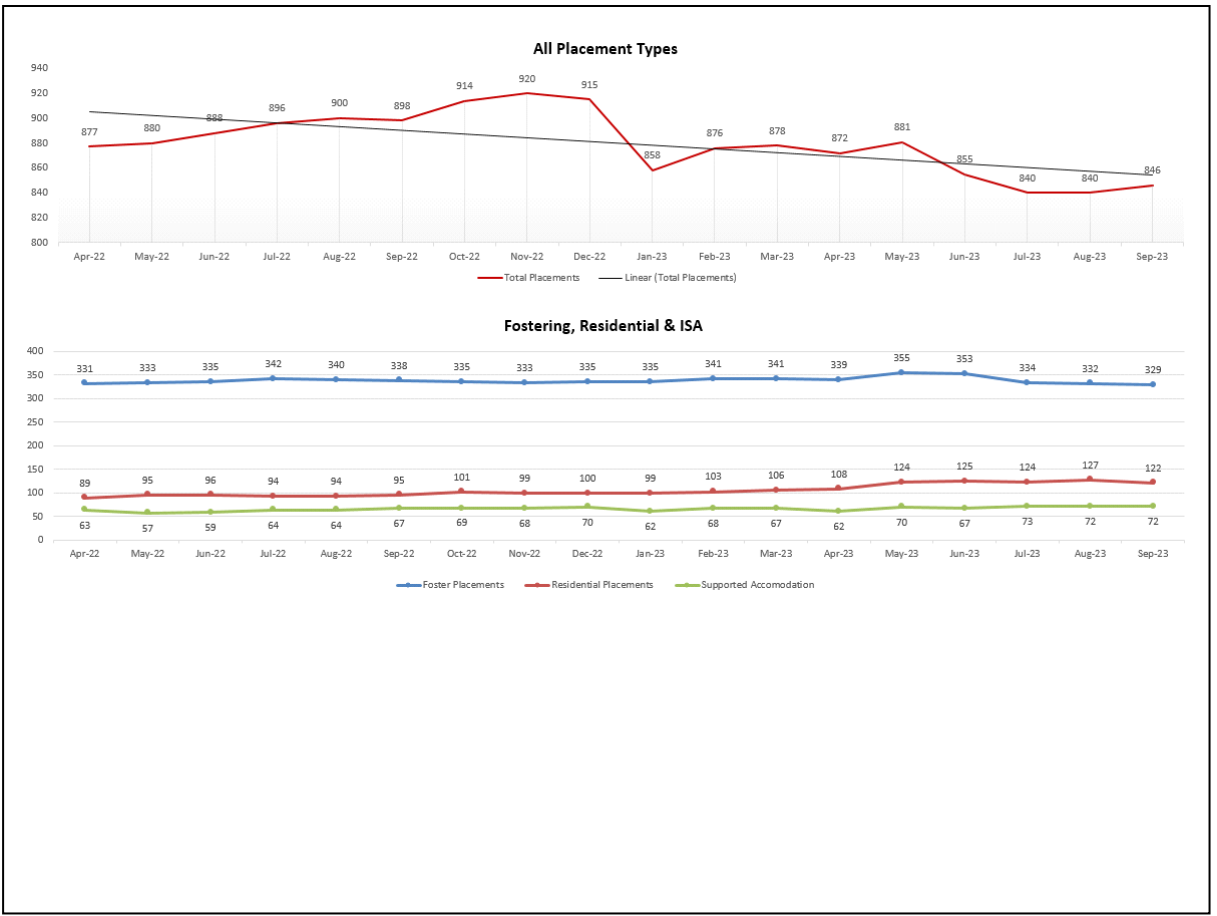


- In house Fostering
- Agency Fostering
- In house Residential
- Independent Residential
- Supported Accommodation
- 18+ Agency Placements
- Welfare Secure
- UASC
- Remand Secure

11. Revenue Budget Monitoring – Homes for Children



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11. Revenue Budget Monitoring – Homes for children

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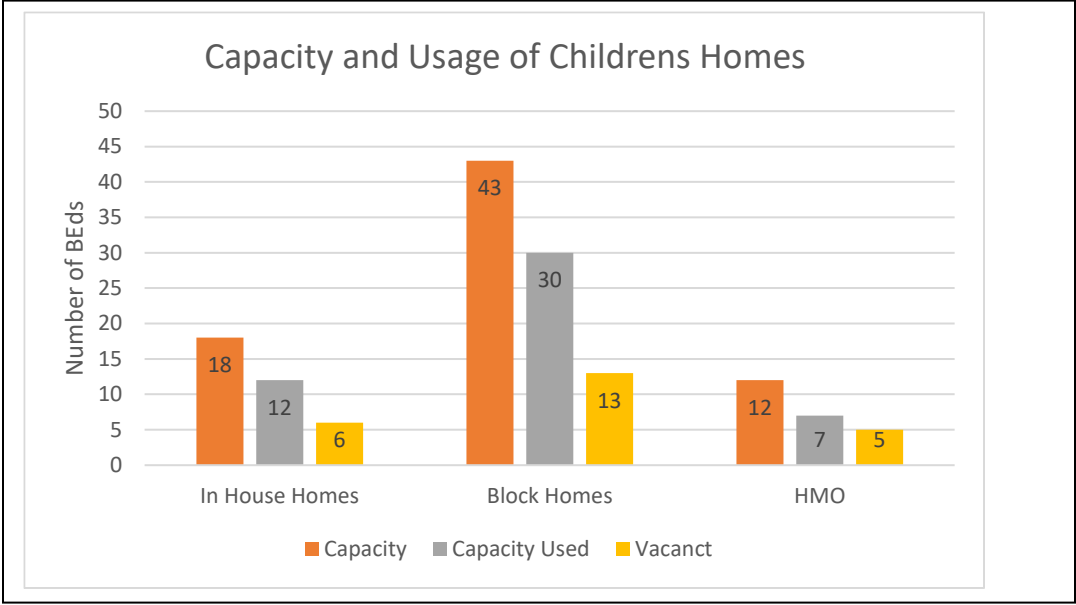
Internal Placement, Managed Provision & Block Contract

These tables show the utilization of in-house, block contract and managed provision.

Internal Service Values	Period	Capacity	Capacity Used	Vacant	Utilization	Notes
Arnold House		3	2	1	67%	10/01/2023 - Arnold will remain at 3 placements so capacity changed to reflect this
Raven House		3	3	0	100%	10/01/2023 – Reduced capacity (3) due to staffing
Welford House		6	4	2	67%	
Thornton House		2	1	1	50%	
Phoenix House		4	2	2	50%	
Total for Residential		18	12	6	67%	

HMO Provision	Period	NCT Bed Capacity	NCT Used Capacity	Vacant	NCT Block Utilization	Notes
Adams Avenue		0	0	0	0%	Closed
Hog Street		6	2	4	33%	
Stapson Avenue		6	5	1	83%	
Totals		12	7	5	58%	

Provision Name	Home Capacity	NCT Home Capacity	NCT Used Capacity	Vacant	NCT Block Utilization	Comments
Abbey House	5	5	5	0	100%	
Buckby House	5	4	3	1	75%	
Danetree House	2	2	2	0	100%	
Eversley House	5	5	5	0	100%	
Franklin House	2	2	2	0	100%	
Hatton House	5	3	2	1	67%	
Lansdowne House	5	5	4	1	80%	Second bed blocked ref. N1376099
Poppy House	1	1	1	0	100%	
Wallis House	5	5	1	4	20%	Second bed blocked ref. N0917733
Harpury House	5	5	4	1	80%	
Lillibet House	3	3	1	2	33%	New three bed emergency provision
Burtone House	3	3	0	3	0%	New three bed emergency provision
Totals	46	43	30	13	70%	



11. Revenue Budget Monitoring – Contracts

Overview	Explain what costs are included in here
ERP Ledger Codes	Various
Agreed budget	£5.001m
YTD Actuals	£1.329m
Forecast	£5.001m
Current Variance	£0
Previous Variance	£0
Movement in Variance	£0
Actuals Period Covered	April to September 2023
Basis of Forecast	Cost of existing contracts
Risk in Forecasts	None at present
MTFP Impact - 2024/25	To be reviewed.

Reasons for Variance	Mitigations
<p>No variance reported for P6.</p> <p>Actuals to date are low compared to forecast as the contracts for 2023/24 are being paid in arrears</p> <p>Contracts are forecast on budget, work is ongoing with providers to maintain current provision. Pressure from providers around reconfiguration of service provision is intensifying given inflation pressures. Contractual inflation was incorporated into the contract sum and has been passported to providers.</p> <p>The shorts breaks contract has been extended for the 23/24 financial year, NCT is mitigating the additional costs following a review of other contracts and mitigating actions. A risk remains around any additional increase following the finalisation of pay negotiations within the health service. As contracts expire following the novation to NCT as part of the commissioning strategy, NCT will look to recommission and reconfigure provision in line with priorities and available resources.</p>	<p>NCT launched a Commissioning Strategy and Framework 2021-25 setting out our overall vision and plan to use commissioning to contribute to the delivery of our Business Plan, and to improve outcomes for children, young people, and families and to support our staff to do their work effectively and efficiently. The Commissioning Strategy and Framework is also intended to inform our Board, stakeholders, partners and our staff of the purpose of our commissioning; our expectations of commissioned services; how they align with and support our service delivery function; our approach to commissioning; what good commissioning looks like; what we intend to commission over the next four years and how we will know what difference we have made for children, young people and families in Northamptonshire as a result ensuring value for money in the use of resources.</p>

11. Revenue Budget Monitoring – Children’s Homes

Overview	Explain what costs are included in here
ERP Ledger Codes	Various
Agreed budget	£3.767m
YTD Actuals	2.216m
Forecast	£3.896m
Current Variance	£0.129m
Previous Variance	£0.129m
Movement in Variance	£0
Actuals Period Covered	April to September 2023
Basis of Forecast	Mainly staffing budgets.
Risk in Forecasts	Staffing expenditure makes up 90% of the budget allocation with pressures around agency and sickness. Recruitment in this area is a significant challenge given the salary levels.
MTFP Impact - 2024/25	To be reviewed.

Reasons for Variance	Mitigations
<p>The forecast overspend mainly relates to Arnold house due to the level of staffing required to meet the complex needs of young people resident in this provision. Phoenix House has incurred additional agency costs this year to cover maternity leave of the service manager.</p> <p>The spend to date is high compared to forecast as this relates to the use of agency staff across the homes which has reduced significantly.</p> <p>The increase in forecast spend relates to increased payroll costs to meet the needs of young people in the homes.</p>	<p>A review of the children’s homes budgets will be taken during 2023/24.</p> <p>Alternative delivery options are been developed as part of a strategic partnership</p>

11. Revenue Budget Monitoring – Legal

Overview	Explain what costs are included in here
ERP Ledger Codes	Various
Agreed budget	£4.788m
YTD Actuals	£1.991m
Forecast	£5.299m
Current Variance	£0.511m
Previous Variance	£0.511m
Movement in Variance	£0
Actuals Period Covered	April to September 2023
Basis of Forecast	The forecast is based on the current level of demand and continued delivery of improvement measures.
Risk in Forecasts	Risk around additional increases in charges and the impact of the application of non shareholder rates.
MTFP Impact - 2024/25	To be reviewed.

Reasons for Variance	Mitigations
<p>The overspend relates to inflationary costs and increasing demand for legal services.</p> <p>Actuals to date are low compared to forecast as the legal invoices are paid in arrears.</p> <p>Increasing demand and complexity of cases and the implementation of the fee increase of 4% implemented from November 2022. workshops have been held with pathfinder around there billing, there remains concern around this with the potential for retrospective charges and late billing.</p> <p>Significant risks around the provision of legal services for 23/24 and future years</p>	<p>NCT has taken legal advice on the Shareholder matter and NCT has challenged the in year uplift in May 2023 outside of the normal November 2023 uplift.</p> <p>Despite the increased demand the transformation workstream has had a number of successes in terms of cost mitigation and also improving the understanding of the data.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our 3 biggest areas of focus in FY22-23 were Counsel (QC & Junior), Expert fees and emails in. These 3 areas are £245k underspent compared to last year. • Acknowledging that demand has increased there are 90 more matters billed to DEC 2022 than DEC 2021. With an average cost per matter last FY of £1115 – that is worth £100k. • Removal of Pathfinder attendance as standard from weekly Gateway meetings at the start of the financial year avoided c£90k in billed time.

11. Revenue Budget Monitoring – Adoption

Overview	Explain what costs are included in here
ERP Ledger Codes	Various
Agreed budget	£7.776m
YTD Actuals	£4.070m
Forecast	£7.643m
Current Variance	-£0.133m
Previous Variance	-£0.133m
Movement in Variance	£0
Actuals Period Covered	April to September 2023
Basis of Forecast	See table on the right.
Risk in Forecasts	Cost of adoption allowances is increasing which could potentially put pressure on the budget.
MTFP Impact - 2024/25	To be reviewed.

Reasons for Variance

The current forecast variance is to underspend by £0.133m as a result of a reduction in other care adoption costs, which has been reported this month.

Table below sets out how the forecast has been calculated.

Expenditure	2023/2024				
	Baseline	Growth	Baseline & Growth	Weekly Cost	Forecast 2023/2024
SGO	588	25	613	198.48	£6,343,782
RO	63	-16	47	144.17	£353,300
Adoption	78	-20	58	228.5	£691,011
Total Allowances	729	-11	718	571.15	£7,388,094
Other Costs					£254,906
Total allowances & other costs					£7,643,000

11. Revenue Budget Monitoring – Transport

Overview	Explain what costs are included in here
ERP Ledger Codes	Various
Agreed budget	£2.870m
YTD Actuals	£0.588m
Forecast	£3.043m
Current Variance	£0.173m
Previous Variance	£0.173m
Movement in Variance	£0
Actuals Period Covered	April to September 2023
Basis of Forecast	Based on current information provided through the transport SLA.
Risk in Forecasts	Increased demand and inflation on transport increasing above current levels.
MTFP Impact - 2024/25	To be reviewed.

Reasons for Variance	Mitigations
<p>The forecast overspend relates to increased cost as a result of inflationary pressures.</p> <p>Actuals to date are low due to accruals from 2022/23. In addition to this the social care transport invoices are paid in arrears.</p> <p>Improvement in the invoicing and forecasting arrangements would improve the budget monitoring in this area</p>	<p>A workshop has been arranged to review transport procurement arrangements as part of the finalization of the SLA for the delivery of social care workshop. The aim of this workshop is to ensure that the service requirements can be delivered and to seek efficiencies in the procurement of transport.</p> <p>Within NCT, the transport hub will continue to seek efficiencies and manage demand. Detailed below are a summary of the current actions of the transport hub.</p> <p>The service has implemented the Transport hub to review all transport arrangements and historic provision. Each case is reviewed annually. To ensure best value all transport provision is directed through the hub, to ensure the most effective provision is put in place and transport arrangements can be amended or withdrawn following changes in circumstances.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Review of historic eligibility and arrangements. •Improved management information and route planning. •The service is working with its external providers to ensure transport related expenditure is not duplicated through the analysis of the placement fees. •A savings target of £100k is built into the budget as part of the savings programme.

11. Revenue Budget Monitoring – Other Care

Overview	Explain what costs are included in here
ERP Ledger Codes	Various
Agreed budget	£6.799m
YTD Actuals	£6.269m
Forecast	£6.799m
Current Variance	£0
Previous Variance	-£0.082m
Movement in Variance	£0.082m
Actuals Period Covered	April to September 2023
Basis of Forecast	Expenditure incurred to date.
Risk in Forecasts	Risk around increasing demand and joint funding arrangements with Health.
MTFP Impact - 2024/25	To be reviewed.

Reasons for Variance	Mitigations
<p>The forecast underspend relates to non-placement costs across the service which includes ICB income for direct payment and day care packages. The increase this month relates to the increased costs of care provision for the cases within the Duty and Assessment teams due to cost of living inflation.</p> <p>Actuals to date are high compared to forecast as some of the payments made under other care are paid in advance, for example direct payments made to families. In addition, the forecast income against these packages has not yet been received.</p>	<p>Review of all current packages</p> <p>Work with providers around best value of contracts and improved commissioning arrangements</p> <p>Joint Funding work with providers from Health and Education</p>

11. Revenue Budget Monitoring – NCT Central

Overview	Explain what costs are included in here
ERP Ledger Codes	Various
Agreed budget	-£0.762m
YTD Actuals	-£0.421m
Forecast	-£0.997m
Current Variance	-£0.235m
Previous Variance	£0
Movement in Variance	-£0.235m
Actuals Period Covered	April to September 2023
Basis of Forecast	Forecast based on investments currently in place.
Risk in Forecasts	Funding of demand led pressures and passporting of funding. Delays in receipt of funding will impact on the ability to continue investment and achieve savings target. Investment dependent and timely payment of contract sum funding
MTFP Impact - 2024/25	To be reviewed.

Reasons for Variance	Mitigations
No variance reported for P6. Current Investments in Treasury Bonds now total £15m.	When the outstanding funding in relation to the 2022/23 financial year and an improved process for the payment of passthrough grants for the 2023/24 financial year. This will allow the Trust to invest the additional funding to achieve the savings target of £900k. the cash flow of the trust is dependent on the timely payment of funding to the Trust.

11. Revenue Budget Monitoring – Support Services

Overview	Explain what costs are included in here
ERP Ledger Codes	Various
Agreed budget	£5.233m
YTD Actuals	£0
Forecast	£5.233m
Current Variance	£0
Previous Variance	£0
Movement in Variance	£0
Actuals Period Covered	April to September 2023
Basis of Forecast	Forecast to budget.
Risk in Forecasts	None at present
MTFP Impact - 2024/25	To be reviewed.

Reasons for Variance	Mitigations
<p>No variance reported for P6.</p> <p>The actuals to date are £0 as the invoices are paid later in the year.</p> <p>Finalisation of agreed recharges for the 2023/24 financial year. No proposed changes to the delivery of the current SLA for the 2023/24</p>	<p>Support services review as part of the 2024/25 contract sum arrangements.</p> <p>Finalisation of the Transport SLA. This is still not finalised following the disaggregation the transport arrangements in November 2022.</p> <p>Property strategy around the requirements of NCT to deliver services across Northamptonshire. Savings are linked to reducing the overall property requirements.</p>

12. MTFP - Summary

Summary	2023/24 Budget			2024/25 Budget			2025/26 Budget			2026/27 Budget		
	Expenditure	Income	Net budget	Expenditure	Income	Net budget	Expenditure	Income	Net budget	Expenditure	Income	Net budget
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Staffing	49,732	3,105	46,627									
Other non-Staff costs	358	0	358									
Placements (inc. Fostering)	65,376	5,046	60,330									
Contracts	5,001	0	5,001									
Children's Homes	3,767	0	3,767									
Legal	4,788	0	4,788									
Adoption	7,776	100	7,676									
Transport	2,870	566	2,304									
Other care	6,799	0	6,799									
NCT Central - Other budget	-762	0	-762									
Support Services / SLA	5,233	0	5,233									
Grand Total	150,938	8,817	142,121	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

12. MTFP - Pressures

Category	Proposal Title	Proposal Description	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000
Total Pressures			0	0	0	0

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12. MTFP - Savings

NCT Ref	Description	LA Dep	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000
NCT01	Review of Social Care Staffing	Y	£0m	£	£0.500	£0.500
NCT02	Review of Social Care Transport	Y	£0.100m	£0.100m	£0.100m	-
NCT 03a	Review of placements supply	Y	£0.600m	£1.200m	£1.200m	-
NCT 03b	Supporting families to stay together	Y	£0.600m	£0.700m	£0.700m	£0.700m
NCT04	Increase provision in supported accommodation	Y	£0.240m	£0.240m	£0.240m	-
NCT05	NCT Service Review	Y	£0m	£0.240m	£0.240m	-
NCT08	Review of Business Operations	Y	£0.70m	£0.180m	£0.180m	£0.090m
NCT10	Review and digitalisation of conferences & admin costs	Y	£0m	£0.045m	£0.045m	-
NCT11	Review of Children's Legal Costs	Y	£0.100m	£0.600m	£0.600m	-
NCT12	Review of Contracts	Y	£0.100m	£0.100m	£0.100m	-
NCT13	Asset Management Strategy	Y	£0.200m	£0.100m	£0.100m	-
NCT14	Increase in In house Fostering	Y	£0.620m	£1.000m	£1.000m	-



North
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Northamptonshire
Children's Trust



West
Northamptonshire
Council

12. MTFP - Savings

NCT Ref	Description	LA Dep	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000
NCT15	Review of External placements to develop effective Joint Funding Commissioning	N	£0.627m	£0.627m	-	-
NCT16	Consolidate Business Analyst team	N	£0m	-	-	-
NCT06	Review of Care Costs	N	£200m	-	-	-
NCT07	Review of Non Essential Budgets including mileage, supplies and provisions.	N	£0.050m	£0.050m	£0.050m	£0.050m
NCT09	Review of Learning Development/ Social work academy	N	£0.065m	-	-	-
NCT07	Implementation of Treasury Management Policy	N	£0.900m	-	-	-
NCT18	Targeted work with Children in Complex Settings	Y	£3.200m	-	-	-
Total			£7.672	£5.014m	£5.055m	£1.340

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13. Capital – To be updated as part of finance reviews

Agreed Capital Items	Value	Year	NNC Approval	WNC Approval	RAG	Current position	Next steps
John Greenwood Shipman	WNC NNC	22/23	Yes	Yes	G	WNC - Approved NNC - Approved	NCT to project manage delivery with WNC Property Services
New 4 bed children's home	WNC NNC	22/23	Yes	Yes	G	WNC - Approved NNC – Approved Site yet to be identified	NCT to project manage delivery with WNC & NNC Property Services
Thornton House	Total - £123,890 WNC 55.84% - £69,180.18 NNC 44.18% - £54,743.60	23/24	Yes	In progress	G	WNC - NNC – Approved by Children's & Strategic Capital Board	WNC - CAB/ELT 20th Feb NNC – Full Council March 23
Different Funded Project (matched funded)	WNC - TBC NNC – TBC	22/23	TBC	Yes	G	WNC – In main budget approvals NNC - TBC	NCT to project manage delivery with WNC Property Services
Fostering Rolling Programme		23/24	In progress	In progress	G	WNC – NNC -	WNC – Full Council March 23 NNC – Full Council March 23

Future Requests

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14. Invoicing and Cashflow Management

Date		NNC		WNC		Total
Apr'23	£	5,204,583.33	£	6,581,166.67	£	11,785,750.00
May'23	£	5,204,583.33	£	6,581,166.67	£	11,785,750.00
Jun'23	£	5,204,583.33	£	6,581,166.67	£	11,785,750.00
Jul'23	£	6,604,308.13	£	8,351,108.53	£	14,955,416.67
Aug'23	£	5,554,514.53	£	7,023,652.13	£	12,578,166.67
Sep'23	£	5,554,514.53	£	7,023,652.13	£	12,578,166.67
Oct'23	£	5,813,917.73	£	7,351,665.62	£	13,165,583.36
Nov'23	£	5,591,572.13	£	7,070,511.20	£	12,662,083.34
Dec'23	£	5,591,572.13	£	7,070,511.20	£	12,662,083.34
Jan'24	£	5,591,572.13	£	7,070,511.20	£	12,662,083.34
Feb'24	£	5,591,572.13	£	7,070,511.20	£	12,662,083.34
Mar'24	£	5,591,572.13	£	7,070,511.20	£	12,662,083.34
Grand Total:	£	67,098,865.60	£	84,846,134.44	£	151,945,000.00

15. Year End

Year-End Tasks	NNC & WNC Requirements	Timetable
Year-End accruals alignment between NCT, NNC and WNC.	Both councils will work with the ICF and NCT to ensure that all accruals can be substantiated.	TBC
True Ups (In scope) between NNC and WNC: Buyback Income Grants & Partnership Contributions	NNC and WNC will work with the ICF to ensure that all True Ups are aligned to the contract sum splits.	TBC
Establish Intercompany Year-End Positions between NCT, NNC and WNC	All three entities will liaise with the ICF to establish InCo balances as at 31.03.2023.	TBC
Inter Authority Arrangements: reviewed & agreed.	NNC and WNC to adhere to agreed IAA and work with the ICF where challenges are raised.	TBC



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16. Audit

Track actions agreed as part of:

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Corporate Scrutiny Committee 12th December 2023

Report Title	Key Performance Indicator Report Period 6 (September / Quarter 2) 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 6 2023/24 (September / Quarter 2 2023)

Appendix B – Workforce Data Period 6 2023/24 (September / Quarter 2 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 6.
- 2.2 A detailed assessment of the performance of services as measured by Key Performance Indicators for period 6 has been included as **Appendix A**.
- 2.3 The organisation's workforce data for period 6 is provided within **Appendix B**.

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 appendices 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 6 have been included as **Appendix A**. This includes comments / exception reports on each of the performance indicators reported.
- 4.3 The organisation's workforce data for period 6 is provided within **Appendix B**. This is the first report which contains workforce data for 2023/24. The format and presentation of this data will continue to develop and evolve over time to ensure it is meaningful for members to accurately inform strategic decision making moving forward.
- 4.4 101 Key Performance Indicators are reported for this period, of which 46 are reported on a monthly basis, 54 on a quarterly basis and 1 on a half-yearly basis.
- 4.5 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](#)).
- 4.6 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 is reported quarterly.
GSE02	Number of E-Scooter users	This is reported quarterly.
GSE03	Co2 savings from E-Scooters	This is reported quarterly.
GSE04	Number of electric vehicle charging points publicly available	This is reported quarterly.

GSE05	Number of electric vehicles per charge point	This is reported quarterly.
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 reported quarterly.
GSE09	Volume of pesticides used within NNC grounds services operations	This is reported quarterly.
GSE10	Habitat area improved for pollinators (hectares)	This is a new KPI for 2023-24 and is to be reported annually.

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 P3 & 4 2023-24 \(June July\)](#) reported at the Corporate Scrutiny Committee meeting on the 10th October 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 - September / Q2 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	Statutory Reporting Required? (Yes / No)	Benchmark	Quarter 1 23-24	Quarter 2 23-24	Year to Date 2023-24	July 2023/24	August 2023/24	September 2023/24	Direction of Travel (since previous period)	Polarity	Target	Tolerance	Comments
Assets & Environment																
Modern Public Services	MPS24	Rate of return on investment portfolio (%)		No	n/a	5.55%	5.54%	5.54%	n/a reported Quarterly	n/a reported Quarterly	5.54%	↓	Higher is better	5.41%	4.91% - 5.41%	The Commercial stock continues to perform well. Occupancy rate has slowed in the smaller retail units but we are now starting to see some progress to the demand so should have a positive effect on this KPI
Modern Public Services	MPS25	Total rental income from commercial estate (£)		No	n/a	£13,564,047.00	£13,526,339.00	£13,526,339.00	n/a reported Quarterly	n/a reported Quarterly	£13,526,339.00	↓	Higher is better	£13,000,918	£12,358,472.1 - £13,000,918 (-5%)	The commercial stock continues to be in demand as a whole although some of the tenants in smaller units are feeling the financial economic pressures. We have a mix of portfolio class which reduces the Council's exposure to one sector. We have forecast increased rental income over the MTFP and are looking to improve this further in the coming months with some potentially significant Rent Reviews currently being worked on.
Greener, Sustainable Environment	GSE09	Volume of pesticides used within NNC grounds services operations		No		28L	66L	94L	n/a reported Quarterly	n/a reported Quarterly	66L	↑R	Lower is better	250L (Annual) 62.5L (Quarterly)	25%	This is the raw chemical usage, 0.25L/10L dilution rate.
Growth & Regeneration																
Safe and thriving places	STP15	Percentage of major planning applications determined within 13 weeks (or within agreed extension of time)		Yes (we have set the target higher than statutory level)	94% (Mean Average CIPFA Near Neighbours - LG Inform Q4 2022/23)	92.31%	82.35%	86.67%	75%	75%	100%	↑G	Higher is better	90%	85% - 90%	Performance this month has improved, but relatively low case numbers for major applications mean that performance remains volatile. Year-to-date performance is slightly below target but within tolerance. Since the number of applications is relatively low at this stage, individual case performance significantly impacts the overall results.
Safe and thriving places	STP16	Percentage of minor planning applications determined within 8 weeks (or within agreed extension of time)		Yes (we have set the target higher than statutory level)	97% (Mean Average CIPFA Near Neighbours - LG Inform Q4 2022/23)	73.91%	84.54%	79.37%	81.82%	86.49%	85.19%	↓	Higher is better	85%	80% - 85%	Performance this month is above target. Planning officer capacity remains challenging, but a forthcoming recruitment campaign is hoped to assist and result in improved longer-term performance.
Safe and thriving places	STP17	Percentage of other (including householder applications) planning applications determined within 8 weeks (or within agreed extension of time)		Yes (we have set the target higher than statutory level)	88% (Mean Average CIPFA Near Neighbours - LG Inform Q4 2022/23)	83.81%	85.83%	84.77%	89.02%	85.33%	83.51%	↓	Higher is better	88%	83% - 88%	Performance has dropped this month, and is slightly below target, but within tolerance. Planning officer capacity remains challenging, with incoming officers focusing on minor applications.
Safe and thriving places	STP19	Total number of planning applications received - ALL TYPES of applications		No	Not relevant to benchmark.	490	499	989	n/a reported Quarterly	n/a reported Quarterly	499	↑	No polarity	Tracking	N/A	
Safe and thriving places	STP41	% applications determined which were subject to an extension of time		No		37.6% (144 out of 383)	37.5% (138 out of 368)	37.55% (282 out of 751)	n/a reported Quarterly	n/a reported Quarterly	37.5% (138 out of 368)	↓	No polarity	Tracking	N/A	
Safe and thriving places	STP23	Percentage of NNC County Matter (minerals and waste) planning decisions made within the required timescale		Yes	47% (Mean Average CIPFA Near Neighbours - LG Inform Q4 2022/23)	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	n/a reported Quarterly	n/a reported Quarterly	100.00%	→	Higher is better	95%	5%	One application was due and was determined within timescale in this period.

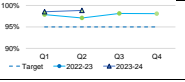


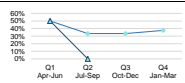
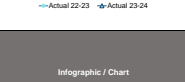
Place & Economy																
Key Commitment	Ref No.	Description of Performance Indicator	Infographic / Chart	Statutory Reporting Required? (Yes / No)	Benchmark	Quarter 1 23-24	Quarter 2 23-24	Year to Date 2023-24	July 2023/24	August 2023/24	September 2023/24	Direction of Travel (since previous period)	Polarity	Target	Tolerance	Comments
Safe and thriving places		% of Full fibre coverage		No (Nationally measured, so able to benchmark)	55.3% (Mean Average CIPFA Near Neighbours - LG Inform Q2 2023/24) 56.2% Q2 2023-24 (England) - Think Broadband	69.3%	75.7%	75.7%	n/a reported Quarterly	n/a reported Quarterly	75.7%	↑G	Higher is better	40% of Premises countywide (Dec 2023) 80% of Premises countywide (Dec 2023)	Dec 2023: <5% Green 5%-10% Amber >10% Red	Strong performance countywide when compared to the average full fibre coverage for the same period in England (75.7% across Northamptonshire compared to 56.2% in England). The 40% full fibre countywide coverage target by December 2023 was achieved early (March 2023). Full fibre coverage in NN exceeded 40% in January 2023, ahead of target. Sights are now set on the countywide 80% target. Full fibre coverage in NN has seen a strong upward trajectory in the last quarter reaching 59.8% compared to 47.8% last quarter. With announced Openreach and CityFibre plans in NN and planned VirginMedia full fibre upgrades, as well as Gigaclear's build in the rural areas, we expect to see improved growth in full fibre coverage in the coming year. Year to date is latest position.
Safe and thriving places	STP22	% of gigabit coverage		No (Nationally measured, so able to benchmark)	82.9% (Mean Average CIPFA Near Neighbours - LG Inform Q2 2023/24) 79.0% Q2 2023-24 (England) - Think Broadband	88.3%	89.9%	89.9%	n/a reported Quarterly	n/a reported Quarterly	89.9%	↑G	Higher is better	75% of premises gigabit capable (Dec 2023) 90% of premises gigabit capable (Dec 2023)	Dec 2023: <5% Green 5%-10% Amber >10% Red	Gigabit capable network coverage continues to steadily increase across Northamptonshire and is performing strongly in comparison to the average for England (89.9% locally compared to 79.0%). In the last quarter coverage has increased from 88.3% to 89.9%, a fraction away from our 90% target. Following the huge gains in gigabit coverage in 2021 when Virgin Media upgraded its network and we saw a leap from 24% to 72% gigabit coverage in a single month, progress has been a steady upward trajectory. Industry focus on full fibre is also driving the gigabit coverage figures as Openreach, Virgin Media, CityFibre and Gigaclear continue to deploy as well as smaller altnets like Swish and Voneus. Coverage in North Northants is also performing well and has reached 88.0% up from 85.3% last quarter.
Greener, sustainable environment	GSE01	Number of E-Scooter trips		No	n/a	131,281	140,797	272,078	n/a reported Quarterly	n/a reported Quarterly	140,797	↑G	Higher is better	Higher than corresponding point in previous year	10%	E-scooter trips increased from Q1 23-24 to Q2 23-24. Year-on-year trend shows slightly decreased popularity with 2023 figures lower than for the same period in 2022. Year to date is cumulative position.
Greener, sustainable environment	GSE02	Number of E-Scooter users		No	n/a	14,785	15,258	30,043	n/a reported Quarterly	n/a reported Quarterly	15,258	↑G	Higher is better	Higher than corresponding point in previous year	10%	E-scooter users increased from Q1 23-24 to Q2 23-24. Year-on-year trend shows a slight decrease in popularity with 2023 user figures lower than for the same period in 2022. This may be due to costs of living and other external factors impacting on discretionary travel and spend. Peak trips continue to be below work. Year to date is cumulative position.
Greener, sustainable environment	GSE03	Co2 saving from E-Scooters (tonnes)		No	n/a	23.4	25.6	49.0	n/a reported Quarterly	n/a reported Quarterly	25.6	↑G	Higher is better	Higher than corresponding point in previous year	10%	CO2 savings increased from Q1 23-24 to Q2 23-24. Year-on-year trend shows a decrease in CO2 savings with figures lower than for the same period in 2022. Year to date is cumulative position.
Greener, sustainable environment	GSE04	Number of electric vehicles charging points publicly available	139 as at end of June	No	N/A	128 (Q4 2022-23)	139 as at end Q1 2023	139 as at end Q1 2023	n/a reported Quarterly	n/a reported Quarterly	139 as at end Q1 2023	↑G	Higher is better	Increase in 10% by end of year. (2.5% by end of Q1)	2%	Source: DT produced data (at end Q1 2023).
Greener, sustainable environment	GSE05	Number of electric vehicles per charge point per 100000 population (national ranking)	38.6 as at end of June	No (Nationally measured, so able to benchmark)	42 (Mean Average CIPFA Near Neighbours - LG Inform Q2 2023)	35.5 (Q4 2022-23)	38.6 (Q1 2023-24)	38.6 (Q1 2023-24)	n/a reported Quarterly	n/a reported Quarterly	38.6 (Q1 2023-24)	↑G	Lower is better	Tracking (aim to decrease in numbers; improve ranking)	N/A	Ranking = 173 out of 309 local authorities (England). Source: DT produced data (at end Q1 2023).
Greener, sustainable environment	GSE08	Co2 saving from Delivery Robots (kg)		No	n/a	1,116	626	1,742	n/a reported Quarterly	n/a reported Quarterly	626	↓	Higher is better	Tracking	N/A	CO2 savings from Delivery Robots have decreased slightly compared to Q1 2023/24. This is due to a change in the process for calculation.
Highways & W&P																
Safe and thriving places	STP29	Number of Defects Outstanding on the network (at end of period), split by category		No - Contractual	n/a	4069	1982	1982	3533	3114	1982	↓G	Lower is better	No target - tracking indicator only	N/A	The number of carriageway defects at the end of the month decreased significantly in September. The roads do not deteriorate as quickly during the summer which has allowed Kier to implement P4 repairs earlier.
		P1 (Target response time within 24 hours)	0			0	0	0	0	→						
		P2 (Target response time within 7 days)	0			2	2	13	4	2	↓G					
		P3 (Target response time within 28 days)	608			91	91	398	281	91	↓G					
Safe and thriving places	STP30	Number of Defects Repaired in the network in period, split by category		No - Contractual	n/a	4953	3957	8910	1575	1372	1010	↓R	Higher is better	No target - tracking indicator only	N/A	The total number of carriageway defects repaired has decreased again this month. The number of P3 and P4 defects requiring repair has continued to fall. This reduction is expected due to fewer overall defects, enabling the contractor to speed up P4 repairs. More of the works identified as requiring a 26 week repair, will have been completed before pothole numbers increase again this winter.
		P1 (Target response time within 7 hours)	6			0	6	0	0	0	→					
		P2 (Target response time within 7 days)	217			202	419	54	127	21	↓R					
		P3 (Target response time within 28 days)	2863			1410	4273	530	518	362	↓R					
Safe and thriving places	STP31	Percentage of defects responded to within the timeframes specified, split by category		No - Contractual	n/a	86.81% (3737 out of 4305)	97.28% (3178 out of 3267)	91.32% (6915 out of 7572)	97.15% (1090 out of 1122)	96.78% (1291 out of 1334)	98.27% (797 out of 811)	↑G	Higher is better	P1 and P2 97.5% P3 and P4 90%	No Tolerance	All targets have been met again this month.
		P1 (Target response time within 24 hours)	100% (6 out of 6)			100% (0 out of 0)	100% (6 out of 6)	N/A (0 out of 0)	N/A (0 out of 0)	100% (0 out of 0)	→					
		P2 (Target response time within 7 days)	99.09% (217 out of 219)			100% (209 out of 209)	99.53% (426 out of 428)	100% (57 out of 57)	100% (128 out of 128)	100% (24 out of 24)	→					
		P3 (Target response time within 28 days)	86.72% (2293 out of 2644)			95.53% (1132 out of 1185)	89.45% (3425 out of 3829)	95.91% (445 out of 464)	94.68% (427 out of 451)	96.3% (260 out of 270)	↑G					
P4 (Target response time within 26 weeks)	85.03% (1221 out of 1436)	98.08% (1837 out of 1873)	92.41% (3058 out of 3309)	97.84% (588 out of 601)	97.48% (736 out of 755)	99.23% (513 out of 517)	↑G									

Place & Economy																
Key Commitment	Ref No.	Description of Performance Indicator	Infographic / Chart	Statutory Reporting Required? (Yes / No)	Benchmark	Quarter 1 23-24	Quarter 2 23-24	Year to Date 2023-24	July 2023/24	August 2023/24	September 2023/24	Direction of Travel (since previous period)	Polarity	Target	Tolerance	Comments
Regulatory Services																
Safe and thriving places	STP34	% of New encampments visited within 1 working day of notification; unless operational difficulties prevent this		No	N/A	N/A Half-Yearly frequency	100%	100%	N/A Half-Yearly frequency	N/A Half-Yearly frequency	100%	→	Higher is better	95%	85% to 94.9%	All encampments were visited within 1 working day either directly by NTU staff or by a partner (e.g. Police)
Safe and thriving places	STP32	% of food establishments in the area broadly compliant with food hygiene law		No (Nationally measured, so able to benchmark)	97.49% (CIPFA Near Neighbours - LG Inform)	97.00%	96.00%	96.00%	96.39%	96.42%	96.00%	↓	Higher is better	95%	90%-95%	The number of broadly compliant businesses has increased slightly since Quarter 1, however there has been an increase in the total number of food businesses which has resulted in a 0.5% decrease in the broadly compliant premises overall. This is reflected as 1% due to rounding. Performance therefore remains relatively consistent and above target.
Safe and thriving places	STP33	% of Local Land Charges searches processed within 10 working days		No reporting required but a Statutory duty	n/a	96.55%	88.01%	92.20%	90.77%	99.11%	77.33%	↓R	Higher is better	95%	85.5% - 95%	Performance in September dropped below the target performance for Local Land Charges. This is due to recent staff changes within our Kettering office and annual leave taken in September.
Safe and thriving places	STP35	% of Rogue trading activities tackled (rogue traders subject to a Trading Standards intervention)		No	Trading standards institute is the national body - look for benchmarks there	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	→	Higher is better	100%	N/A	1 x previously advised re lack of cancellation rights and intimidating behaviour, 1 x formal undertaking due to lack of consumer rights and misdescription of vehicle, 1 x previous history re Under age sales (UAS) of vapes, 1 x previous history re advice and complaints, 1 x non compliant vape and UAS Test Purchase (TP), 3 x UAS TP, 1 x alleged UAS and non compliant vapes seized, 1 x national company not providing allergen information, 1 x Cold calling- Previously advised, 1 x Welfare of animals in market- previously advised, 1 x Underage sales alcohol and vapes- previously advised, 1 x Underage sales of vapes- previously advised, 3 x Seizure of illegal vapes- previously advised, 1 x Food labelling and possession of illegal vapes- previously advised
Safe and thriving places	STP13	Number of Private Sector Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG) cases on waiting list		No	n/a	18	45	63	8	13	45	↑R	Lower is better	TBC	N/A	The number of DFGs on the waiting list has increased in the last two months due to summer annual leave and some disaggregation of staff, plus we have seen an increase of new DT recommendations coming in. This figure fluctuates as previously explained and the current number waiting is manageable
Safe and thriving places	STP14	Number of Private Sector Disabled Facilities Grants completions		No	n/a	62	72	134	32	22	18	↓	Higher is better	168 (14 per month)	TBD	Monthly target continues to be exceeded.

Customer & Governance																																																																																	
Key Commitment	Ref No.	Description of Performance Indicator	Infographic / Chart	Statutory Reporting Required? (Yes / No)	Benchmark	Year to Date 2023-24	Quarter 1 23-24	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Quarter 2 23-24	Direction of Travel (since previous period)	Polarity	Target	Tolerance	Comments																																																																	
Information Governance																																																																																	
Modern Public Services	MPS15	Total number of data breaches <i>A personal data breach is a security incident that has affected the confidentiality, integrity or availability of personal data.</i> There are two types of breaches: • A 'Non-reportable breach' has a low, or no impact on the rights and freedoms of individuals. • A 'Reportable breach' has a significant impact on the rights and freedoms of individuals. These are required to be reported to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO).	<table border="1"> <caption>Total number of data breaches</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Month</th> <th>Non-reportable breaches</th> <th>Reportable breaches</th> <th>Actual 2022-23</th> <th>Actual 2023-24</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Apr</td><td>12</td><td>0</td><td>12</td><td>84</td></tr> <tr><td>May</td><td>10</td><td>0</td><td>10</td><td>33</td></tr> <tr><td>Jun</td><td>12</td><td>0</td><td>12</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>Jul</td><td>18</td><td>0</td><td>18</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>Aug</td><td>17</td><td>0</td><td>17</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>Sep</td><td>12</td><td>0</td><td>12</td><td>51</td></tr> <tr><td>Oct</td><td>11</td><td>0</td><td>11</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>Nov</td><td>12</td><td>0</td><td>12</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>Dec</td><td>4</td><td>0</td><td>4</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>Jan</td><td>6</td><td>0</td><td>6</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>Feb</td><td>18</td><td>0</td><td>18</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>Mar</td><td>18</td><td>0</td><td>18</td><td>0</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Month	Non-reportable breaches	Reportable breaches	Actual 2022-23	Actual 2023-24	Apr	12	0	12	84	May	10	0	10	33	Jun	12	0	12	17	Jul	18	0	18	18	Aug	17	0	17	16	Sep	12	0	12	51	Oct	11	0	11	1	Nov	12	0	12	1	Dec	4	0	4	0	Jan	6	0	6	0	Feb	18	0	18	0	Mar	18	0	18	0	No	n/a	84	33	17	18	16	51	↑R	Lower is better	No target - tracking indicator only	N/A	Whilst there has been an increase in the number of incidents reported to the Data Protection Team, there appears to be no specific reason for the increase, and these have been reported across a variety of service areas. Of those incidents, there have been no reportable breaches to the Information Commissioner's Office this quarter.
		Month		Non-reportable breaches	Reportable breaches	Actual 2022-23	Actual 2023-24																																																																										
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a) Reportable breaches (ICO) <i>(This was MPS23 reported quarterly, now included monthly as part of this performance indicator)</i>	1	1	0	0	0	0	↓G																																																																										
b) Non-reportable breaches	83	32	17	18	16	51	↑R																																																																										
Modern Public Services	MPS16	Number of complaints to Information Commissioners Office (ICO) (with respect to handling of Freedom of Information (FOI) requests following internal review).	<table border="1"> <caption>Number of complaints to Information Commissioners Office (ICO)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Actual 2022-23</th> <th>Actual 2023-24</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Q1 (Apr-Jun)</td><td>3</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 (Jul-Sep)</td><td>2</td><td>n/a</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 (Oct-Dec)</td><td>2</td><td>n/a</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 (Jan-Mar)</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Actual 2022-23	Actual 2023-24	Q1 (Apr-Jun)	3	2	Q2 (Jul-Sep)	2	n/a	Q3 (Oct-Dec)	2	n/a	Q4 (Jan-Mar)	1	1	No	n/a	3	2	n/a (reported quarterly)	n/a (reported quarterly)	n/a (reported quarterly)	1	↓G	Lower is better	Tracking	No tolerance	The ICO reported a complaint they have received regarding a request for information which we deemed to be outside of the appropriate fees limit. On 26/10/23 the ICO advised that No Further Action was being taken by them and the complaint was closed.																																																		
Quarter	Actual 2022-23	Actual 2023-24																																																																															
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Q4 (Jan-Mar)	1	1																																																																															
Modern Public Services	MPS17	Number of complaints to Information Commissioners Office (ICO) upheld by ICO (with respect to handling of Freedom of Information (FOI) requests following internal review).	<table border="1"> <caption>Number of complaints to Information Commissioners Office (ICO) upheld by ICO</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Actual 2022-23</th> <th>Actual 2023-24</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Q1 (Apr-Jun)</td><td>2</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 (Jul-Sep)</td><td>0</td><td>n/a</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 (Oct-Dec)</td><td>0</td><td>n/a</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 (Jan-Mar)</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Actual 2022-23	Actual 2023-24	Q1 (Apr-Jun)	2	2	Q2 (Jul-Sep)	0	n/a	Q3 (Oct-Dec)	0	n/a	Q4 (Jan-Mar)	0	0	No	n/a	2	2	n/a (reported quarterly)	n/a (reported quarterly)	n/a (reported quarterly)	0	↓G	Lower is better	0 per month	No variation																																																			
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Modern Public Services	MPS20	Number of direct disclosure requests (ADR - Access to a Deceased Person's) received	<table border="1"> <caption>Number of direct disclosure requests (ADR - Access to a Deceased Person's)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Actual 2022-23</th> <th>Actual 2023-24</th> <th>Trend</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Q1 (Apr-Jun)</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 (Jul-Sep)</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 (Oct-Dec)</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 (Jan-Mar)</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>5</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Actual 2022-23	Actual 2023-24	Trend	Q1 (Apr-Jun)	1	1	1	Q2 (Jul-Sep)	2	2	2	Q3 (Oct-Dec)	2	2	2	Q4 (Jan-Mar)	5	5	5	No	n/a	n/a (no longer possible to report)	1 (pre 17.04.23 when new software came into use). Now all ADRs are included within the SARs figures	n/a (reported quarterly)	n/a (reported quarterly)	n/a (reported quarterly)	n/a (no longer possible to report)	N/A	N/A	N/A - Tracking	No variation	We will no longer be able to report ADRs as a separate KPI since installing our new software system - it does not identify ADRs as a separate case type and all of these requests will now be logged as SARs.																																													
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Customer & Governance																
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Customer Services																
Modern public services.	MPS30	Total number of Stage 1 complaints received by NNC (excluding children's services complaints)		No	n/a	1136	651	178	138	169	484	↓	Lower is better	No target - tracking indicator only	No target - tracking indicator only	The volume of complaints received has reduced in the last quarter, however there is no clear reason for this as the spread of complaints by service remains consistent with previous quarters.
Modern public services.	MPS32	Total number of complaints escalated to stage 2		No	n/a	43	20	9	4	10	23	↑	Lower is better	No target - tracking indicator only	No target - tracking indicator only	There has been a very small increase in complaints that customers have escalated to stage 2 in this quarter, compared to both the last quarter and the comparable period last year, indicating that customers generally are satisfied with how the Council has resolved matters raised at stage 1 level.
Modern public services.	MPS31	Total number of complaints received by NNC		No	n/a	1179	671	187	142	179	507	↓	Lower is better	No target - tracking indicator only	No target - tracking indicator only	The volume of complaints received has reduced in the last quarter, however there is no clear reason for this as the spread of complaints by service remains consistent with previous quarters.
Modern public services.	MPS34	% of complaints answered within the Service Level Agreement (20 Working days or agreed extension)		No	TBD	68%	74%	49%	70%	73%	62%	↓	Higher is better	90%	81%-90%	Despite a dip in the speed of complaint answering in July, the response rate was significantly better in August and September, and staff are working to ensure that the response rate improves further.
Modern public services.	MPS35	% of complaints upheld		No	TBD	33%	23%	43%	41%	59%	45%	↑	Lower is better	20%	20% - 22%	There has been an increase in upheld complaints, however services are learning from mistakes as well as demonstrating that customer satisfaction remains positive.
Modern public services.	MPS37	Total number of notices received of complaints under investigation by Ombudsman		No	n/a	29	13	7	5	4	16	↑	Lower is better	No target - tracking indicator only	N/A	Volumes still remain low when taking into account the overall number of complaints received.
Modern public services.	MPS39	% of calls answered out of total calls received in customer services		No	n/a	77.71%	76.91%	76.48%	80.95%	78.25%	78.53%	↑	Higher is better	90%	81% - 90%	Slightly below target however with new telephone system, we will be able to use data to better identify peaks across service better and put things in place to increase performance
Modern public services.	MPS40	% Calls answered within 60 seconds in customer services		No	TBD	59.57%	61.56%	57.18%	60.02%	55.49%	57.58%	↓	Higher is better	80%	72% - 80%	Slightly below target however with new telephone system, we will be able to better identify peaks across service better and put things in place to increase performance
Modern public services.	MPS41	Number of customers helped by customer services		No	n/a	296842	152373	49100	47362	48007	144469	↓	N/A	No target - tracking indicator only	N/A	
Modern public services.	MPS42	Number of customer interactions to customer services - split by telephone/face-to-face, email and online form		No	n/a	189759	94577	31770	32114	31298	95182	↓	N/A	No target - tracking indicator only	N/A	This data is for information only

Communities & Public Health													
Key Commitment	Ref No.	Description of Performance Indicator	Infographic / Chart	Statutory Reporting Required? (Yes / No)	Benchmark	Year to Date 2023-24	Quarter 1 23-24	Quarter 2 23-24	Direction of Travel (since previous period)	Polarity	Target	Tolerance	Comments
Communities and Libraries													
Active, fulfilled lives	AFL09	Number of physical visits to libraries		No	n/a	287,275	110,147	131,138	↑G	Higher is better	499,791 annual target Q1 target 21% (104,618) Q2 target 26% (128,492) Q3 target 26% (128,461) Q4 target 28% (138,220)	5%	Visits are exceeding target by 21.5% for quarter 2. We are confident that this position will remain on or over the target.
Safe and thriving places	STP01	Number of new business started with support from the BIPC (Business and Intellectual Property Advice) Northamptonshire		No	n/a	11	2	9	↑G	Higher is better	25 annual target 6.25 Quarterly	4%	The new programme, the UKSPF (UK Shared Prosperity Fund) funded programme, launched in quarter 2 and numbers have seen a significant increase on quarter 1. We anticipate higher returns in quarters 3/4 to meet the target.
Active, fulfilled lives	AFL10	Number of participants in the Summer Reading Challenge	4096 participants in summer reading challenge 2023		n/a	4,096	n/a (reported annually October)	4,096	↑G	Higher is better	3,417	4%	These figures represent the current status, and we are currently awaiting final confirmation that all the data is available. However early indications point to a successful summer.
Safe and thriving places	STP02	Number of satisfactory Anti-Social Behaviour resolutions by North Northamptonshire Council		No	n/a	78.94%	91.66%	57.14%	↓R	Higher is better	87%	5%	Please note this number is only for Corby cases at present. The team is exploring ways to obtain information wider. Cases closed the previous month will be contacted the following month which affects the data for the quarter.
Safe and thriving places	STP03	Number of repeat incidents of reported domestic abuse incidents		No	n/a	200	115	85	↓G	Lower is better	190	5%	The reduction in numbers could be the result of Home Office changes to the way that behavioural crimes such as stalking, controlling and coercive behaviour, and harassment are recorded. They no longer need to be recorded separately, so if an individual victim was reporting several crimes only the most serious now need to be recorded. The Police reports are reviewed and updated which has resulted in Qrt1 total being adjusted.
Connected communities	CNC02	Total amount of funding released via small discretionary grants into organisations	No discretionary funding released via small discretionary grants into organisations Apr-Sep 2023		n/a	0	n/a Half Yearly frequency	0 (% N/A)	→	Higher is better	100%	2%	

Finance Services																		
Key Commitment	Ref No.	Description of Performance Indicator	Infographic / Chart	Statutory Reporting Required? (Yes / No)	Benchmark	Quarter 2 22-23	Quarter 1	Year to Date 2023/24	Quarter 2 2023/24	Direction of Travel (since previous period)	Polarity	Target	Tolerance	Comments				
Finance																		
Modern Public Services	MPS01	% of invoices paid within 30 days		Yes	n/a	97.1%	98.6%	98.7%	98.9%	↑G	Higher is better	95%	Tolerance: TBC	This KPI continues to exceed target and has reported over 98% each month of the quarter.				
						9477 out of 9761	8573 out of 8699	18030 out of 18265	9457 out of 9566									
Modern Public Services	MPS02	Estimated total value of contracts (over the contract term) awarded to local suppliers (post code starting 'NN') following a procurement process being ran equal to and above £100k		No	n/a	70%	96%	49%	0%	↓	N/A	No Target - Tracking Only	No tolerance	In quarter 2, there were seven (7) contracts awarded equal to or exceeding £100,000. - "NVC - Geographic Information System (GIS)" - this contract was procured via a direct award from an external framework, and awarded to one (1) non-local supplier. The awarded contract value was £153,564.50. - "NVC - New Air Conditioning Systems, Nene Valley Crematorium" - this contract was procured via a request for quotation, and awarded to one (1) non-local supplier. The awarded contract value was £116,372.00. - "NVC - Security Information and Event Management (SIEM) Software Solution" - this contract was procured via a direct award from an external framework, and awarded to one (1) non-local supplier. The awarded contract value was £136,000.00. - "NVC - External Legal Advice for Procurement of Treatment & Disposal of Residual Waste and Household Waste Recycling Centres" - this contract was procured via a mini-competition from an external framework, and awarded to one (1) non-local supplier. The awarded contract value was £105,162.50. - "Call Off Under The Older Persons Residential And Nursing Homes Services Dynamic Purchasing System For The Provision Of A Discharge To Assess (DTA), Interim Care Home Service" - this contract was procured via a mini-competition from an internal framework and awarded to two (2) non-local suppliers. The awarded contract value was £152,000.00. - "Provision of Independent Advocacy Services in North Northamptonshire" - this contract was procured via an open tender, and awarded to one (1) non-local supplier. The awarded contract value was £354,000.00. - "Fuel Banker for Fleet Services" - this contract was procured via a direct award from an external framework, and awarded to one (1) non-local supplier. The awarded contract value was £3,330,000.00.				
						£3,036,000 local spend of £4,318,227	Local spend of £3,512,750.00 from a total spend of £3,645,250.00	Local spend of £3,512,750.00 from a total spend of £7,961,348.10	Local spend of £0 from a total spend of £4,316,099.10									
Modern Public Services	MPS03	% count of local suppliers (post code starting 'NN') awarded a contract following a procurement process being ran equal to and above £100k		No	n/a	33%	50%	25%	0%	↓	N/A	No Target - Tracking Only	No tolerance	In quarter 2, there were seven (7) contracts awarded equal to or above £100,000. One contract was awarded to multiple suppliers (2) and all eight (8) suppliers were non-local.				
						2 local out of 6 total suppliers from 6 contracts	1 local supplier out of a total of 2 suppliers from 2 contracts	1 local supplier out of a total of 10 suppliers from 9 contracts	0 local suppliers out of a total of 8 suppliers from 7 contracts									
Key Commitment	Ref No.	Description of Performance Indicator	Infographic / Chart	Statutory Reporting Required? (Yes / No)	Benchmark	September 2022/23	Quarter 2 22-23	Quarter 1 23-24	Quarter 2 23-24	Year to Date 2023/24	July 2023/24	August 2023/24	September 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		Yes, reported on a quarterly basis but no target set by government	96.97% (Mean Average CIPFA Near Neighbours - LG Inform 2022/23)	57.69% (YTD) 103.52% achieved of the monthly target (56.00%)	57.69% (YTD) 103.52% achieved of the monthly target (56.00%)	29.39% (YTD) 104.96% achieved of the target (28.00%)	56.98% (YTD) 101.75% achieved of the target (56.00%)	56.98% (YTD) 101.75% achieved of the target (56.00%)	38.60% (YTD) 101.50% achieved of the monthly target (38.00%)	47.82% (YTD) 101.74% achieved of the monthly target (47.00%)	56.98% (YTD) 101.75% achieved of the monthly target (56.00%)	↑G	Higher is better	98% (Annual target)	No tolerance	Performance is above target, however it is slightly below compared to the same point in time last year. This is likely to be due to the cost of living crisis and we will continue to monitor the situation closely.
						£20,877,879.80 (collected in Sep)	£64,645,002.55 (collected in Q2)	£71,233,944.18 (collected YTD)	£77,038,677.66 (collected in Q2)	£139,272,791.84 (collected YTD)	£22,340,264.84 (collected in July)	£22,433,944.51 (collected in Aug)	£22,264,698.31 (collected in Sep)					
Modern Public Services	MPS04	% of business rates collected in the year debit raised		Yes, reported on a quarterly basis but no target set by government	97.13% (Mean Average CIPFA Near Neighbours - LG Inform 2022/23)	56.80% (YTD) 101.43% achieved of the monthly target (56.00%)	56.80% (YTD) 101.43% achieved of the monthly target (56.00%)	28.92% (YTD) 103.29% achieved of the target (28.00%)	55.72% (YTD) 99.50% achieved of the target (56.00%)	55.72% (YTD) 99.50% achieved of the target (56.00%)	38.79% (YTD) 102.06% achieved of the monthly target (38.00%)	47.38% (YTD) 100.85% achieved of the monthly target (47.00%)	55.72% (YTD) 99.50% achieved of the monthly target (56.00%)	↓	Higher is better	98% (Annual target)	No tolerance	Performance has dropped slightly below target, in the light of the cost of living issues and current economic climate. We will monitor this closely.
						£14,121,077.36 (collected in Sep)	£40,634,451.64 (collected in Q2)	£77,367,457.48 (collected YTD)	£47,700,607.20 (collected in Q2)	£99,697,044.68 (collected YTD)	£17,203,547.42 (collected in July)	£18,601,058.19 (collected in Aug)	£13,194,470.69 (collected in Sep)					

Children's Services																
Key Commitment	Ref No.	Description of Performance Indicator	Infographic / Chart	Statutory Reporting Required? (Yes / No)	Benchmark	Quarter 1 2023-24	Quarter 2 2023-24	Year to Date 2023-24	July 2023/24	August 2023/24	September 2023/24	Direction of Travel (since previous period)	Polarity	Target	Tolerance	Comments
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		Yes (also contractual) - target is contractual but not statutory	21.9% Mean for Northamptonshire Children's Services LAIT near neighbours 2021/22	25.4% (2,583)	26.4% (1,964)	25.8% (4,547)	23.2% (724)	31.0% (616)	25.5% (624)	↑G	Lower is better	29%	25% - 40%	Re-referrals have improved this month better than target. It remains an area of ongoing focus with audit and review for learning. The front door review and subsequent action plan which will be developed with the partnership in October will reduce re-referrals going forward. The dedicated education roles in MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) are working positively with schools to ensure appropriate referrals and complete referrals from schools about their roles and responsibilities. Work with all partners continues to ensure appropriate and robust application of thresholds. Steps have been taken to strengthen the Early Help partnerships with Partnership Support Team (Early Help MASH) being placed in the MASH pods and a leaner step down process. It is anticipated that the strengthened model in MASH and developments in Child & Family Support Services (CFSS) Early Help will continue to support appropriate reduction going forward in addition to the recommendations from external MASH review. COVID: and cost of living crisis has an impact on volume and quality of re-referrals (Trust commentary).
Better, brighter futures	BBF06 (KPI 3)	% of single assessments authorised within 45 working days		Yes (also contractual) - target is contractual but not statutory	88% We are in the process of identifying more up to date benchmark data for this PL	92.9% (2,792)	94.3% (2,695)	93.6% (5,487)	95.3% (1,032)	92.2% (1,033)	96.3% (630)	↑G	Higher is better	85%	85% - 95%	Assessment timescales remain consistently above target and national average, increasing to 96.3% this month. All managers monitor this very closely via daily reports. A narrative is provided for cases that go beyond 45 days and this remains a very small minority. Whilst staffing has presented challenges due to vacancies and staff performance issues in Duty & Assessment Team (DAAT), there is now a positive move towards more appropriate staffing levels being achieved and sustained. In addition to timeliness, we work on increasing the quality of assessments and more effective use of Signs of Safety (SoS) in our interventions (Trust commentary).
Better, brighter futures	BBF07 (KPI 8)	% Children in care with three or more placements in the previous 12 months		Yes (also contractual) - target is contractual but not statutory	10% Mean for Northamptonshire Children's Services LAIT near neighbours 2021/22	11.1% (1,191)	12.4% (1,165)	12.4% (1,165)	11.3% (1,191)	12.1% (1,179)	12.4% (1,165)	↓A	Lower is better	10%	5% - 15%	Performance has declined to 12.4% this month. Consideration of various options to improve sufficiency is continuing, including exploration of capital investment, additional in house resources, as well as improved engagement with the market. Two new emergency homes now operational and valuing care project has started having a positive impact on practice and outcomes for children. Through improved edge of care arrangements, the close oversight on admissions to care, and the developments within placement sufficiency, we are confident we can reduce the need for child to move home as frequently. Positively, Childrens Home Capital Programme application with the Department for Education (DfE) has been successful, and that should also support progress in this area. COVID: Placement sufficiency remains a challenge, sustained performance in this work should also have a positive impact on KPI 7 (Trust commentary).
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		Yes (also contractual) - target is contractual but not statutory	56.95% Mean for Northamptonshire Children's Services LAIT near Neighbours 2021/22	62.7% (684)	65.3% (678)	65.3% (678)	62.9% (685)	63.3% (689)	65.3% (678)	↑G	Higher is better	55%	50% - 60%	This month has seen performance increase to 65.3%, comparing favourably with 58% across England. Focus in this area continues to be driven through arrangements with local colleges, the virtual school and the senior personal advisor (Education and Employment) with further review of contracted arrangements (Prospects) to be undertaken to ensure we have the best approach/ support for young people. Work with councils to ensure Education, Employment & Training (EET) opportunities and support is in place for our care leavers. COVID: has had a significant impact on the mental health and wellbeing of care leavers, targeted work support care leavers to access EET (Trust commentary).
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		Yes (also contractual) - target is contractual but not statutory	89% [All English Authorities 2020/21 - LG Inform]	95.5% (684)	96.0% (678)	96.0% (678)	94.7% (684)	93.3% (689)	96.0% (678)	↑G	Higher is better	90%	85% - 95%	Performance for this month increased to 96.0%, still above the target of 90%. We know that we have some young people in unsuitable accommodation, including a number of young people sentenced to custody, and some who have no accommodation at all. We work hard to address this, iteratively seeking to engage with young people who may see our attempts at support as interference. The care leavers housing protocol is in place and work is being progressed under the governance of a strategic group; this includes a review of the housing panels and engagement with the housing associations. Helpful discussions with colleagues in the Councils is placing the housing sufficiency needs of care leavers as central to their housing strategies. The Accommodation Transitions Panel is now in operation and ensures all young people have a comprehensive, accommodation-focused, shared, and timely transition plan (Trust commentary).
Better, brighter futures	BBF19 (KPI 11)	% of children in care who were placed for adoption within 12 months of an agency decision that they should be adopted		Yes (also contractual) - target is contractual but not statutory	n/a	85.7% (7)	83.3% (6)	84.6% (13)	n/a Quarterly reported	n/a Quarterly reported	83.3% (6)	↓A	Higher is better	72%	57% - 77%	Strengthened family finding and matching processes have been implemented which alongside improved permanency tracking arrangements have supported timely decision-making process and ability to progress adoption placements. The use of foster to adopt placements have also positively influenced this performance indicator. COVID: it has taken longer for courts to hold final hearings which could have a longer term impact on this target (Trust commentary).
Better, brighter futures	BBF27 (KPI 5)	% of initial child protection conferences held within 15 days of a strategy discussion being initiated		Yes (also contractual) - target is contractual but not statutory	84.3% Mean for Northamptonshire Children's Services LAIT near neighbours 2021/22	36.4% (343)	12.2% (287)	25.4% (630)	21.8% (87)	5.4% (130)	12.9% (70)	↑G	Higher is better	81%	66% - 86%	Performance improved slightly this month, but is well below expectations. 83% Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPC) conversion to Child Protection (CP) Plans is positive. Summer data was negatively impacted by high numbers of 1st reviews scheduled after high numbers of ICPCs in April; this impacted on CP Chair availability. In-month, for ICPCs, all new Child Protection Conferences (CPC) had to fit in already busy diaries. CP Chair average caseload remains above 100 (well above recommended levels). Additional temporary CP Chair resource has been recruited, and this will have a positive impact (October). Average no. days from strategy discussion to ICPC in September = 28. There was another high number of ICPCs in August, but this reduced in September. ICPCs are tracked and referring managers are challenged to identify causes of delay and ensure individual, team or whole-service learning is addressed. Staff changes continue to impact on performance combined with high levels of ICPC and reviews. DAAT managers support Social Worker's with additional training on process, recording and requesting strategy discussions and convening conferences. A refreshed duty CP Chair flowchart is in place to assist referring managers with threshold decision-making and this has been shared with all teams (Trust commentary).
Better, brighter futures	BBF28	Number of children with a Child Protection Plan		Yes	565 Mean for Northamptonshire Children's Services LAIT near neighbours 2021/22	714	755	755	702	771	755	↓	No polarity	TBD		At the end of September 2023, 755 children were subject to a Child Protection Plan (CPP), 16 children less than the previous month. Yet, 676 children had a Child Protection Plan in September 2022. Prior to May 2023, there were less than 700 children were in the cohort between. However, an average of 736 children had a Child Protection Plan in the last four months. There are 79 children more in the CPPs cohort than one year ago and 119 more children than two years ago. An average of 693 children were subject to a Child Protection Plan in the last twelve months. By comparison, an average of 615 children had a Child Protection Plan during the same period of last year. 88.5% of children on Child Protection Plan had up to date CP visits in September 2023, an improvement (+6.8 percentage points) compared with the previous month. The proportion of children on plan with up-to-date CP visits is prone to fluctuations; the last twelve months, an average of 86.5% of children on CP plans has up-to-date CP visits. A similar outcome was achieved during the same period of last year (88.4%) and two years ago (88.6%) (Intelligent Client Function commentary).
Better, brighter futures	BBF29	Number of children in care		Yes	1,050 Mean for Northamptonshire Children's Services LAIT near neighbours 2021/22	1,191	1,179	1,165	1,191	1,179	1,165	↓	No polarity	TBD		1,165 children were in care at the end of September 2023, 14 children less than last month. The number of children in care has decreased in the last six months. In the last twelve months, the lowest number of children in care was reported between June 2023-September 2023. September 2023 marks the fourth consecutive month where less than 1,200 children have been recorded in this cohort. Prior to July 2022, the cohort had never exceeded 1,200. So far in 2023-24, an average of 1,191 children have been reported to be in care. An average of 1,211 children have been reported to be in care in the last 12 months, a slightly higher outturn compared with the average during the same period of last year (1,188) and two years ago (1,151). At the end of September 2023, 120 children in care were also identified in the Education Health Care (EHC) cohort. The number of children in care who were also identified in the EHC cohort has decreased by 2 since May 2023 (Intelligent Client Function commentary).

Children's Services

Key Commitment	Ref No.	Description of Performance Indicator	Infographic / Chart	Statutory Reporting Required? (Yes / No)	Benchmark	Quarter 1 2023-24	Quarter 2 2023-24	Year to Date 2023-24	July 2023/24	August 2023/24	September 2023/24	Direction of Travel (since previous period)	Polarity	Target	Tolerance	Comments
Better, brighter futures	BBF18b	% of EHC (education health care) plans completed in month issued within 20 weeks (including exceptions)		Yes (part of SEN 2 return)	37.8% Mean for NNC Children's Services LAIT near neighbours 2021/22	66.7% 96 out of 144	80.6% 150 out of 186	74.5% 246 out of 330	74.1% 43 out of 58	87.7% 64 out of 73	78.2% 43 out of 55	↓R	Higher is better	Target under review	n/a	The summer has allowed the team to focus on writing and finalising plans. Again, this is the impact of the new assessment team which has been piloted as part of the new Educational Health Care (EHC) Team reorganisation. Whilst the team have written and finalised plans, many are finalised on type due to late lead professional advice not allowing the EHC Team time to consult. Requesting Statutory Assessment (RSA) decisions are being made by week 6 (no decisions have been made after 6 weeks). Advice is requested but often not returned until Week 16-17 of the process leaving the EHC team a few days to write the plan and 15 days for the draft to be commented on by the parent. To meet the statutory 20 week timescales, there is no time to send consults for pupils and staff have to amend plans naming a school once they are finalised. The EHC Team are working collaboratively with the Educational Psychology (EP) service and health to try to improve this (Service commentary).
Better, brighter futures	BBF22	Number of children missing education (previously named 'Number of children without a school place')		No		274	313	313	291	316	313	↓G	Lower is better	Target under review	n/a	This includes those children missing from education across School Admissions, Special Educational Needs Support/Education Health Care Services and EIP Services. 313 children were missing education at the end of September 2023. 3 children less than last month. This month marks the second highest volume reported in the five months for which figures are available. 45.7% of children missing education are in School Admissions, 37.1% are in Special Educational Needs (SEN) Support/ Education Health Care (EHC) Services and 17.3% are in Educational, Inclusion & Partnership (EIP) Services. The proportion of the total children missing education has risen by 37% in the last five months. August 2023 accounts for the highest proportion of children missing education. While the lowest proportion of children missing education was recorded in May 2023. In the last five months, an average of 278 children were missing education (Children's Performance Team commentary).
Better, brighter futures	BBF32	Current number of home educated children		Not yet statutory but reported as part of "Elective Home Education/ Children missing in education" data return to DIE.		855	837	837	783	790	837	↑	No polarity	N/A - Tracking	n/a	837 children were electively home educated in September 2023. Following a short period of decrease in Summer Term 2023, the number of electively home educated children has increased over 800. There now 47 children more than last month. There were 664 electively home educated children in September 2022, so the cohort is 20% greater than it was one year ago. The highest number of electively home educated children in the last twelve months was registered in May 2023, when 876 children were home educated. 33% of electively home educated children have been educated at home for more than two years (280 children), 18% for 1-2 years (148 children), 22% for 6-12 months (188 children), 11% for 3-6 months (95 children) and 15% for 0-3 months (126 children) (Children's Performance Team commentary).
Better, brighter futures	BBF33	Number of children who are absent from education for prolonged periods (Previously named 'Number of children currently missing from education (Year 1-11)')		Not yet statutory but reported as part of "Elective Home Education/ Children missing in education" data return to DIE.		103	225	225	165	133	225	↑R	Lower is better	N/A - Tracking	n/a	225 children were absent from education for prolonged periods. Following the summer holidays, the population of children absent from education has significantly increased. A similar trend was observed at the beginning of the academic year 2022-23 when 254 children were absent from education for prolonged periods. 81.8% of children have been absent between 0-3 months (184), 12.4% of children have been absent between 3-6 months (28), 2.2% of children have been absent between 6-12 months (5), 3.6% of children have been absent between 1-2 years (8). There are now 11% fewer children absent from education than there were at the beginning of the academic year 2022-23. An average of 150 children were absent from education for prolonged periods in the last twelve months (Children's Performance Team commentary).
Better, brighter futures	BBF36	% Education Health Care Plan Annual Reviews completed within 4 weeks of meeting		Statutory Duty but not reported		67.2% 507 out of 754	N/A reported one month in arrears	66.2% 661 out of 998	64.2% 154 out of 240	0.0% 0 out of 4	N/A reported one month in arrears	↓R	Higher is better	N/A - Tracking	n/a	A new Annual Review (AR) template has been designed and training organised for all settings (Early Years (EY), primary, secondary, college, Out of Authority (COA), independent, special) for the 28th September. The team feel that updated training is needed to all settings to improve the standard of annual reviews being returned to the team. Clear expectations and a consistent approach will be shared – this should make the amendments completed by the EHC team much more streamlined. The weekly data dashboard illustrates the returned annual reviews and we can see the types of settings where annual reviews are not being completed – again with the new team organisation, we will be able to contact settings and challenge this. The caseworkers have been allocated a group of settings and have issued a spreadsheet of the AR's due date for 2023-24 academic year and highlighted if previous AR's are out of time. The annual review team manager has developed a system for monitoring these moving forward. The annual review team leader will complete the weekly data dashboard and capture any issues arising – these will be discussed at the weekly leadership team meeting. This system will enable the team to give a % for each setting of the return AR data which again will enable to learn to challenge and ensure that AR's are taking place consistently in all settings (Service commentary). The 0% result for August is due to the fact that Education Health Care Plan reviews are not carried out during August when schools are closed.
Better, brighter futures	BBF30	Percentage of Early Years PVI Settings (non-domestic) judged as Good or Outstanding by Ofsted/ISI		No		99.0% 99%	98%	98%	n/a reported Quarterly	n/a reported Quarterly	98%	↓	Higher is better	N/A - Tracking	n/a	98.0% of Early Years PVI settings excluding domestic were rated as Good or Outstanding by OFSTED at the end of the September, actually the lowest proportion since November 2022 (91.6%). Perfect performance of 100% was achieved between December 2022 and February 2023. Prior to December 2022, performance was less stable. May 2022 saw 70.8% of settings excluding domestic were rated as Good or Outstanding. The subsequent seven months produced a period of instability but with performance usually under 95%. Since then performance of at least 98% has been achieved (Children's Performance Team commentary).
Better, brighter futures	BBF31	Percentage of Early Years PVI Settings Childminders judged as Good or Outstanding by Ofsted		No		100.0% 99%	99%	99%	n/a reported Quarterly	n/a reported Quarterly	99%	↓	Higher is better	N/A - Tracking	n/a	After five months in which 100% of PVI (Private, Voluntary or Independent) childminder settings were rated as Good or Outstanding by OFSTED, performance declined fractionally to 99.4% at the end of September. Even so, it was the tenth successive month with at least 99% of PVI childminder settings holding either of the top two OFSTED ratings. Prior to December 2022, performance was less impressive. Only once in seven months were more than 86% of PVI childminder settings rated as Good or Outstanding by OFSTED, with a low of 70.4% reported in May 2022 (Children's Performance Team commentary).

Adults & Housing																	
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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)		No	The source data is from the SALT (Statutory) return. There are no gov targets. This indicator is included in our regional benchmarking.	2021/22 SALT Report: - England: 37%	38%	40%	40%	38%	39%	40%	↑G	Higher is better	35%	5% points	BI comments: There were 31 new requests for people aged 18-64 and 438 for people aged 65 and over. There is positive growth year to date, with the rate higher than those reported throughout 2022/23 and above year-end target. Service Manager Comments: Demand on all pathways is exceeding Capacity modelling for Better Care Fund (BCF).
						229 out of 602	469 out of 1163	469 out of 1163	310 out of 811	388 out of 986	469 out of 1163						
Active, fulfilled lives	AFL04	Number of new safeguarding concerns received per month		Yes	(Annually in the SAC (Safeguarding Adults Collection) return)	n/a - there are differences in what authorities record as a 'concern'	1119	N/A Reporting one month in arrears	1852 (Apr-Aug)	365	361	N/A Reporting one month in arrears	↓	No polarity	No target - tracking indicator only	N/A	BI comments: The number of new concerns received remained stable from the previous period and remains notably higher than the average seen over the previous financial year (318).
Active, fulfilled lives	AFL05	New safeguarding concerns determined to be enquiries (both 442 and other) (A 542 enquiry must take place if there is reason to believe that abuse or neglect is taking place)		Yes	(Annually in the SAC (Safeguarding Adults Collection) return)	n/a	162	N/A Reporting one month in arrears	293 (Apr-Aug)	61	70	N/A Reporting one month in arrears	↑	No polarity	No target - tracking indicator only	N/A	BI comments: There was a notable increase in the proportion of concerns determined to be enquiries (+9). The proportion seen (19%) still remains slightly below the average seen over the previous financial year (22%).
Active, fulfilled lives	AFL06	Total number of open Deprivation of liberty Safeguard (DoLS) cases		Yes	(Annually)	n/a	1267	1305	1305	1292	1286	1305	↑	Lower is better	No target - tracking indicator only	N/A	BI comments: The number of open Deprivation of liberty Safeguard (DoLS) cases increased slightly (+19). This still remains notably lower than the average observed across the previous financial year (330 fewer).
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 +)		No	The source data is from the SALT (Statutory) return. There are no gov targets. This indicator is included in ASCOF, (Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework) regional benchmarking and BCF (Better Care Fund) returns.	546.17 (Mean Average CIPFA Near Neighbours - LG Inform)	135.6	263.7	263.7	169.2	221	263.7	↓G	Lower is better	Year-end target: 564 Monthly target: 47	TBD - for now applied standard 5%	BI comments: This is a cumulative measure which increases throughout the financial year; resetting each April. A year-end data review was carried out and found some potential issues with reported admissions. The Business Intelligence team have supported Adult Social Care teams to correct admission data and have implemented change to sourcing data to more accurately reflect actual admissions. The year to date admissions are 173; 131 admissions following an assessment for new people, 4 following an episode of reablement for new people, 2 following an episode of reablement for existing people, and 36 as a result of change in setting following a review. Average monthly growth is 46.1
Active, fulfilled lives	AFL08	Number of people who were prevented from requiring statutory care, or whose need was reduced		No	The source data is from the SALT (Statutory) return. There are no gov targets. This indicator is included in ASCOF and regional benchmarking.	84.6% East Midlands Average, we are in the process of identifying more up to date benchmark data for this PI. This is an 'Office for Local Government' OFLOG Metric	71.40%	73.0%	73.0%	72.1%	74.4%	73.0%	↓	Higher is better	80%	5% points	BI comments: The rate shows positive growth from April to August but saw a slight reduction in September. The rate remains lower than expected compared to 2022/23 trends, which typically ranged between 74-77%. There is a higher proportion of people accessing reablement support as a result of hospital discharge when compared to the same period previous year, along with higher proportions of these requiring long term support following their reablement episode, contributing to lower than expected performance.
						152 out of 213	348 out of 477	348 out of 477	217 out of 301	287 out of 386	348 out of 477						

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Active, fulfilled lives	AFL12	Number of rough sleepers - single night snapshot		Yes (DLUHC monthly rough sleeping survey, and target agreed with our RSI adviser from DLUHC)	7 (Mean Average CIPFA Near Neighbours - LG Inform)	16	13	n/a	13	12	13	↑R	Lower is better	9	9 to 12	During the month of September, there has been a steady flow of rough sleepers (13 single night), with a high proportion of new Rough Sleepers. The single night data was taken from the last outreach session in September so the team are working with this new cohort to establish the cause and support needs. The team are focusing on prevention work as much as possible, linking in with our cohort that have been placed and liaising with the providers if there are concerns around failure. Our long-term rough sleepers, (which is measured if seen 3 or more months of last 12 months) remains fairly high at 9 for the month which although is a reduction from last month as we have placed some within our Rough Sleeper accommodation Programme (RSAP) units. The RSAP project is aimed at our Multiple exclusion homelessness cohort working with the Housing First principles.
Active, fulfilled lives	AFL13	Number of households whose homelessness was prevented		Yes (DLUHC - quarterly H-CLIC returns, no target set)	101 (Mean Average CIPFA Near Neighbours - LG Inform) Demand in some areas must be much higher.	75	63	138	24	17	22	↑G	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 action plan is being developed in this regard.
Active, fulfilled lives	AFL14	Number of households whose homelessness was relieved		Yes (DLUHC - quarterly H-CLIC returns, no target set)	75 (Mean Average CIPFA Near Neighbours - LG Inform) Demand in some areas must be much higher.	86	82	168	22	24	36	↑G	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 action plan is being developed in this regard.
Active, fulfilled lives	AFL15	Total number of homeless approaches		Yes (DLUHC - quarterly H-CLIC returns, no target set)	n/a	1468	1404	2872	525	449	430	↓	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. 4,778 households approached the Council as homeless during 2022/23. This is an increase of just over 900, and an average of 400 approaches per month. Currently the Housing Options Team have a live caseload of 1,141 cases. During September there was a slightly further decrease in the number of approaches from 449 to 430, this still remains high compared with the previous year.
Active, fulfilled lives	AFL16	Number of households accepted as owed the main housing duty		Yes (DLUHC - quarterly H-CLIC returns, no target set)	63 (Mean Average CIPFA Near Neighbours - LG Inform)	108	130	238	n/a	n/a	130	↑	N/A	286 (72 per quarter)	TBD (currently using standard 5%)	This measure indicates the number of households that have been accepted by the Council as homeless due to being unintentionally homeless, eligible for assistance and have a priority need and for which the Council has been unable to achieve a positive housing solution during the prevention and relief stages of the process (AFL 13 and AFL 14). While an increase in positive prevention and relief cases by Housing Options Teams leads to more households leaving the homeless process before this stage, the ever increasing demand for service and focus on supporting prevention and relief cases have contributed to an increase in main duty acceptances in Q2 compared to the Q1.
Active, fulfilled lives	AFL17	Total number of households living in temporary accommodation		Yes (DLUHC - quarterly H-CLIC returns, no target set)	202 (Mean Average CIPFA Near Neighbours - LG Inform)	n/a	n/a	n/a	233	230	239	↑	Lower is better	245	No tolerance	The number of households living in temporary accommodation remains fairly stable. We are starting to see the delivery of units through the Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF) programme for homeless Afghan and Ukrainian families. As these placements will need to be retained on homelessness and temporary accommodation caseloads because of tenancy/letting issues, a future rise in the number of households living in temporary accommodation should be expected (LAHF round 1 should deliver 30 homes by November 2023, and a further 11 homes under LAHF round 2 will follow in 2024). This figure includes 4 LAHF units. 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		Yes (DLUHC - quarterly H-CLIC returns, no target set)	11 (Mean Average CIPFA Near Neighbours - LG Inform)	n/a	n/a	n/a	5	2	1	↓G	Lower is better	5	No tolerance	As at 30/09/2023 there was one household with family commitments living in B&B; a woman with a child placed on 22/09/2023. This family is due to sign for self contained accommodation imminently (02/10/2023) leaving us with zero households with family commitments living in B&B. Note: 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	AFL19	Number of rough sleepers rehoused into accommodation		Yes (DLUHC monthly rough sleeping survey, no target set)	n/a	23	20	43	n/a Quarterly reported	n/a Quarterly reported	20	↓R	Higher is better	84 per year (7 per month/ 21 per quarter)	No tolerance	The Rough Sleeping Team continue to work hard to secure successful move on for rough sleepers within North Northants. Within the first two quarters of 23/24 there has been 43 rough sleepers rehoused into accommodation. During September the team helped to secure accommodation for 4 rough sleepers.

Adults & Housing

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Active, fulfilled lives	AFL24	Number of Temporary Accommodation placements out of NN area		Yes (DLUHC - quarterly H-CLIC returns, no target set)	TBD	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	1	1	→	Lower is better	3	No tolerance	The household that was recorded as living out of area on 30/09/2023 has since moved out of Temporary Accommodation. As at 02/10/2023 there are no households living in TA outside of North Northamptonshire.
Safe and thriving places	STP38	Percentage of rent collected		No	n/a	96.37	97.28%	97.28%	96.08%	97.34%	97.28%	↓	Higher is better	97%	5%	This is a cumulative rent collected as a percentage of rent owed figure. The amount of rent collected as a percentage of rent owed has remained above target in September 2023. In the Kettering area the September period does not include Universal Credit direct arrears recovery received on 28.09.23 as not processed by finance till October. Enforcement action still on 3 month wait from courts. Intensive work on rent collection will continue over the forthcoming winter months.
Safe and thriving places	STP11	Number of (council housing) lettings completed		Yes (Annual LAHS return to DLUHC, no target set)	n/a	137	131	268	48	42	41	↓	No polarity	No target - tracking indicator only	N/A	The number of lets in July (48), August (42) and September (41) remained steady. The weekly voids meeting has proven effective in managing voids as they arise and progress into the letting stage.
Safe and thriving places	12	Number of (council house) dwellings vacant and ready to let at month end		Yes (Annual LAHS return to DLUHC, no target set)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	10	8	8	→	Lower is better	10	10 to 15	At the end of September there were 8 properties Ready to Let. The weekly void meetings are helping to ensure that this number is kept to a minimum.
Safe and thriving places	STP38	Number of voids - Kettering Area		No	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	60	64	69	↑R	Lower is better	No target - tracking indicator only	N/A	This indicator provides a snapshot at the month end of the number of live Housing Revenue Account (HRA) voids. At the end of September there was a slight increase in the number of voids. The overall NNC snapshot was at 126 compared with 120 as at the end of August. Note: This is the number of HRA voids only and does not include non-HRA temp, acquisitions or Out of Management properties.
		Number of voids - Corby Area		No	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	65	56	57	↑				

Adults & Housing

Key Commitment	Ref No.	Description of Performance Indicator	Infographic / Chart	Statutory Reporting Required? (Yes / No)	Benchmark	Quarter 1 23-24	Quarter 2 23-24	Year to Date 2023-24	July 2023/24	August 2023/24	September 2023/24	Direction of Travel (since previous period)	Polarity	Target	Tolerance	Comments
Safe and thriving places	STP37a	Average time taken to re-let NNC standard void properties		Yes (Annual LAHS return to DLUHC)	8 weeks (56 days) House Mark	60.9 days	57.8 days	57.8 days	59.5 days	58.8 days	57.8 days	↓G	Lower is better	56 days	56 to 60 days	From April 2023 onwards, void turnaround time is reported by standard and major properties for NNC. The figure reported is the cumulative average turnaround time for those properties let in the month. This will help remove the impact of a long-term major void when it has been empty for a long time and provide a more accurate reflection of void turnaround for standard properties. In September 23, there were 29 standard void properties let. The total number of void days for these 29 properties was 1489 days, which provides a monthly average turnaround for September of 51.3 days. This has brought the cumulative average turnaround time down to 57.8 days, which is within the target tolerance.
Safe and thriving places	STP37b	Average time taken to re-let NNC major void properties		No	n/a	217 days	248 days	248 days	301 days	243 days	248 days	↑	Lower is better	No target - tracking indicator only	N/A	In September 2023 there were 9 major void properties let. These 9 properties had a total number of void days of 2448. The number of void days for these properties meant there was a slight increase in the overall cumulative average void days to 248 days. Using turnaround days for major voids at the present time is not the best indicator as there is no set approach to how major voids are resourced has been agreed. Number of major voids may be a more appropriate indicator to monitor.
Safe and thriving places	STP08	% of properties with a valid gas safety certificate		Yes (Regulator of Social Housing - TSM, no target set)	n/a	99.8%	99.8%	99.8%	99.8%	99.6%	99.8%	↑G	Higher is better	100%	99.5% and above is green, 99% and above is amber	As at the end of September, 19 out of total 7,898 properties did not have a valid gas certificate. Of the 19 properties outstanding, six are in the Corby area, with one was serviced on 29/09/2023 and awaiting Landlord Gas Safety Record (LGSR). One property was serviced on 02/10/2023, one property we are executing right to entry warrant on 03/10/2023 and three properties have a court date booked for 24/10/2023 to obtain right of entry warrants. In the Kettering area, one property is now void, and the remaining outstanding properties are going through the legal process to gain warrants for access. (We are limited in the number of properties we can take to court each fortnight to obtain right of entry warrants, so this can impact compliance).
Safe and thriving places	STP09	Total number of emergency repairs completed		Yes	n/a	1259	1331	2590	405	424	502	↑	N/A - Tracking	N/A - monitoring levels of demand	N/A	This indicator measures the number of Emergency Responsive Repairs only which have been completed during the month. The number of emergency responsive repairs completed in July (405), August (424) and September (502) have been increasing month on month.
Safe and thriving places	STP10	Total number of non-emergency repairs completed		(Regulator of Social Housing - TSM, no target set)	n/a	1442	1886	3328	557	730	599	↓	N/A - Tracking	N/A - monitoring levels of demand	N/A	This indicator measures the number of Non-Emergency Responsive Repairs only which have been completed during the month. There was a spike in the number of non-emergency responsive repairs completed in August (730) from (557 in July), this has reduced again to 599 in September.
Safe and thriving places	STP04	Number of active households on Keyways (as at 1st month)		No	n/a	5263	5642	n/a	5349	5527	5642	↑	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). Total housing applications active have only slightly increased this month due to a number of applications being set to 'housed' following some administration work, however new applications being received remains high. It is important to 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 who have had no-contact with the council or have experienced a change of circumstances.
Safe and thriving places	STP05	Number of new Keyways applications received		No	n/a	1850	1793	3643	643	582	568	↓	N/A - Tracking	N/A - monitoring levels of demand	N/A	Last month saw 568 new applications which was a small decrease on the previous month, however, still higher than the same month last year which was 530. The year-to-date average stands at 607, in contrast to last year's average of 490 for the same period.
Safe and thriving places	STP39	Number of repair jobs awaiting completion		No	n/a	1,188	1,326	n/a	1,266	1,223	TBD	↑	N/A - Tracking	N/A - monitoring levels of demand	N/A	On review of the data, an error in the figures has been picked up. The 2023-24 data is currently being reviewed by the team and the data and commentary will be updated as soon as possible.
Safe and thriving places	STP40	Number of repair jobs awaiting completion which are outside of target timescale		No	n/a	762	1015	n/a	844	671	TBD	↑	N/A - Tracking	N/A - monitoring levels of demand	N/A	On review of the data, an error in the figures has been picked up. The 2023-24 data is currently being reviewed by the team and the data and commentary will be updated as soon as possible.

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North Northamptonshire Council Performance Report - September / Q2 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

Customer & Governance

Organisational workforce data from Human Resources

Key Commitment	Ref No.	Description of Performance Indicator	Infographic / Chart	Statutory Reporting Required? (Yes / No)	Benchmark	Year to Date 2023-24	Quarter 1 2023-24	Quarter 2 2023-24	Direction of Travel (since previous period)	Polarity	Target	Tolerance	Comments
Modern Public Services	MPS06	Average number of working days lost per Full time Equivalent (FTE) employee (short term)		No	13.1 (Mean average GIPFA near neighbours 2020/21)	1.5 Fte days lost per Fte employee	0.7 Fte lost per Fte employee	0.8 Fte lost per Fte employee	↑R	Lower is better	Full year 3.3 (0.83 per quarter)	15% (up to 0.95 per quarter)	Sickness levels for both short-term and long-term have increased since last quarter, which is to be expected as we enter the autumn/winter months.
	MPS07	Average number of working days lost per Full time Equivalent (FTE) employee (long term)		(Nationally Reported so able to benchmark)	9.9 (LG English Unitary national average 21/22)	4.12 Fte days lost per Fte employee	1.9 Fte days lost per Fte employee	2.3 Fte days lost per Fte employee	↑R	Lower is better	Full year 6.5 (1.63 per quarter)	15% (up to 1.87 per quarter)	
Modern Public Services	MPS11	Amount of Spend on Agency Staff within each Directorate (TOTAL SPEND - finance data, including opus spend and off-contract spend)		No		£11,001,303	£5,172,498	£5,828,805	↑R	Lower is better	No target - tracking indicator only	N/A	

Customer & Governance

Organisational Workforce data from Human Resources

Data as at 30th September 2023			Adults, Health Partnerships and Housing	Chief Executive Office	Childrens Services	Customer & Governance	Finance & Performance	Place and Economy Services	Transformation	NNC Total
Employees	MPS08	<i>Headcount</i>	1366	61	203	226	181	637		2674
		<i>Fte</i>	1165.43	55.85	118.19	196.63	166.11	596.41		2298.62
Posts	MPS44	<i>Headcount</i>	1792	78	281	335	255	836		3577
		<i>Fte</i>	1839.73	75.72	269.49	305.54	240.66	772.48		3503.62
Vacancies	MPS09	<i>Number*</i>	46	0	2	10	0	6		64
Agency	MPS10	<i>Temporarily Covering Vacancies</i>	172	12	43	25	27	60		339
	MPS45	<i>Supernumerary</i>			20			19		39
	MPS11	<i>Total Agency Spend (£000s)</i>	£1,852	£167	£1,335	£522	£351	£1,574	£28	£5,829
Absence (Quarterly and Projected are shown as Fte days lost per Fte employee)	MPS49	<i>% of workforce to have sickness**</i>	30%	5%	15%	24%	18%	23%		26%
	MPS50	<i>No' of emp'ees to hit trigger***</i>	165		8	15	9	51		248
	MPS07	<i>Qtly (LT)</i>	2.8	0.5	1.2	1.9	1.7	2.0		2.3
	MPS06	<i>Qtly (ST)</i>	1.0	0.4	0.6	0.9	0.4	0.8		0.8
	MPS51	<i>Projected</i>	14.0	2.2	7.1	9.5	6.4	10.1		11.3
Voluntary Turnover	MPS46	<i>No' of Voluntary Leavers (Employees)</i>	41	2	6	2	3	16		70
		<i>% of workforce (quarterly)</i>	3.0%	3.3%	3.0%	0.9%	1.7%	2.5%		2.6%
		<i>Rolling Voluntary T/O</i>	13.0%	13.4%	13.4%	8.5%	9.8%	10.5%		11.9%
Starters	MPS48	<i>No' of Starters (Employees)</i>	109	2	12	10	4	25		162
		<i>% of workforce (quarterly)</i>	8.0%	3.3%	5.9%	4.4%	2.2%	3.9%		6.1%

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Absence Benchmark - 9.9 (Long Term 6.5, Short Term 3.4)

Turnover Benchmark - 12.7%

Employee, Post, Vacancy and Agency Worker data is as at the end of the quarter - number of agency workers is provided by the service
Agency Spend, Absence, Leavers and Starters data is the combined monthly figure for the quarter

* vacancies currently advertised on e-recruitment

** Average employee headcount for the quarter divided by the number of unique resource ID's to have had sickness for the quarter

*** unique resource ID's to have hit a trigger for the quarter

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CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 12 December 2023

Report Title	Forecast Draft Outturn for 2023/24 at 30 th September 2023 (Period 6)
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 2023/24 as at Period 6

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The attached report is for consideration by this Committee. It sets out the forecast outturn for 2023/24 at Period 6 and was presented to the Executive at its meeting on 16th November 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 16th November 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 outturn position as at 30th September (Period 6) for 2023/24 and consider the impact on this year and future years budgets.

4. Report Background

- 4.1. Shown in **Appendix A** is the forecast outturn report as presented to the Executive at its meeting on 16th November 2023. The monitoring report sets out the material financial issues identified since the 2023/24 budget was set in February 2023.
- 4.2. The forecast Outturn position for 2023/24 at 30th September 2023 (Period 6) for the General Fund is an overspend of £7.575m and an overspend of £52k for the

Housing Revenue Account, the Dedicated Schools Grant is forecasting a £6.404m overspend.

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 16th November 2023

Report Title	Budget Forecast 2023-24 at Period 6
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 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 (2023/24) 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 23rd February 2023. The purpose of this report is to set out the forecast outturn position for the Council for 2023/24 for the General Fund the Housing Revenue Account and the Dedicated Schools Grant.
- 1.2. This monitoring report sets out the material financial issues identified since the 2023/24 budget was set, based on the income and expenditure as at the end of September 2023 (Period 6) and reflects the views of the Assistant Directors and budget managers within the Directorates.
- 1.3. As part of the ongoing monitoring process, work will continue to examine income and expenditure and activity data, against the available budgets to support the position presented and help to shape the medium-term financial plan.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report provides commentary on the Council's forecast for the revenue outturn position 2023/24. This is an early indication based on information available as at Period 6 (September 2023) – the forecast position for each of the funds is as follows:
- General Fund - overspend of £7.575m - (Period 5 - £7.821m).
 - Housing Revenue Account – overspend of £52k – (Period 5 – £15k).
 - Dedicated Schools Grant is forecasting a pressure of £6.404m (Period 5- £4.995m).
- 2.2 The forecast is based on the emerging data for 2023/24 and the Council will continue to assess and refine the position on a regular basis using the latest intelligence available. The forecast presented in this report is based on the best available data and information of the operations of the Council and represents the view of the Budget Holders and Directors.
- 2.3 In order to help safeguard the financial position of the Council, officers will continue to seek efficiencies in year to offset the forecast overspend. The Council has a contingency budget and reserves available to call on to help fund in-year pressures, however, it will look to achieve alternative mitigations in the first instance before these are applied.
- 2.4 National factors continue to be challenging and the Council, like its residents and businesses are facing inflationary pressures which impacts on the cost of services with CPI in September 2023 at 6.7%. UK interest rates have been left unchanged at 5.25% after the Bank of England said price rises were slowing faster than expected. Interest rates were already at their highest for 15 years. The Bank of England had previously raised rates for the past 14 times in a row.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Executive:
- a) Note the Council's forecast outturn position for 2023/24 as summarised in Section 4, alongside the further analysis, risks and other considerations as set out in Section 5 to Section 7 of the report.
 - b) Note the assessment of the current deliverability of the 2023/24 savings proposals in **Appendix A**.
- 3.2 Reason for Recommendations – to note the forecast financial position for 2023/24 as at Period 6 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 2023/24 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 2023/24 was set at the Council meeting on 23rd February 2023. The overall outturn forecast for the General Fund for 2023/24, as at Period 5 is a forecast overspend of £7.575m (Period 5 - £7.821m) against a budget of £339.035m. This is summarised in the Table below.

General Fund Forecast Outturn 2023/24				
Description	Net Budget	Forecast Position 31/03/24	Forecast Variance 31/03/24	Forecast Variance 31/03/24
	£'000	£'000	£'000	%
Net Available Resources	339,034	339,034	0	0.00
Total Corporate Budgets	29,603	24,447	(5,156)	(17.42)
Children & Education	69,711	80,831	11,120	15.95
Adults, Health, Partnerships and Housing	124,132	127,152	3,020	2.43
Public Health & Communities	8,370	8,110	(260)	(3.11)
Place & Economy	69,339	67,982	(1,357)	(1.96)
Enabling & Support Services	37,879	38,087	208	0.55
Total Directorate Budgets	309,431	322,162	12,731	4.11
Total Budget	339,034	346,609	7,575	2.23

Note – Favourable variances are shown in brackets.

- 4.2 The forecast position at Period 6 is an overspend of £7.575m (Period 5 - £7.821m). The following table summarises the overspend.

	Report Ref	Net Budget	P5 Forecast	Movement in Forecast	P6 Forecast	
		£000	£000	£000	£000	%
Children & Education		69,711	10,618	502	11,120	15.95
Assistant Director of Education	5.14	5,397	537	280	817	15.14
Commissioning & Partnerships	5.16	1,034	(115)	70	(45)	(4.35)
Northamptonshire Childrens Trust - NNC Only	5.19	63,280	10,196	152	10,348	16.35
Adults, Health, Partnerships & Housing		124,132	3,020	0	3,020	2.43
Adult Services	5.33	99,229	2,250	1,436	3,686	3.71
Safeguarding and Wellbeing	5.36	9,043	0	0	0	0.00
Commissioning & Performance	5.38	13,368	770	(1,436)	(666)	0.00
Strategic Housing, Development and Property Services	5.40	2,492	0	0	0	0.00
Public Health & Communities		8,370	(260)	0	(260)	0.00
Public Health	5.43	0	0	0	0	0.00
Communities & Leisure	5.46	8,370	(260)	0	(260)	0.00
Place & Economy		69,339	(1,124)	(233)	(1,357)	0.00
Assets & Environment	5.49	4,150	(845)	(125)	(970)	0.00
Growth and Regeneration	5.51	4,375	268	3	271	6.19
Highways & Waste	5.53	57,258	(330)	(57)	(387)	0.00
Regulatory Services	5.55	2,911	(217)	(54)	(271)	0.00
Directorate Management	5.57	645	0	0	0	0.00
Enabling & Support Services		37,879	360	(152)	208	0.55
Finance & Performance	5.58	15,535	120	(22)	98	0.63
Chief Executive's Office	5.60	1,305	38	(381)	(343)	0.00
Chief Information Officer	5.62	10,309	268	30	298	2.89
Human Resources	5.64	3,726	31	0	31	0.83
Legal & Democratic Services	5.66	4,999	(81)	381	300	6.00
Customer Services	5.68	2,005	(16)	(160)	(176)	0.00
Corporate Costs	5.2	29,603	(4,793)	(363)	(5,156)	0.00
Total		339,034	7,821	(246)	7,575	2.23

Note – Favourable variances are shown in brackets.

- 4.3 The net budget was increased by £482k from £336.590m in Period 2 to £337.072m in Period 3. This reflects the use of the Climate Change reserve to support the development and operation of climate change projects and initiatives which was approved by the Executive at the meeting on 12th July 2023.

4.4 The net budget was increased in Period 6 by £1.962m from £337.032m to £339.034m. This reflects the use of the Transformation Reserve to fund the Education Case Management System (£1,362m) and the Development and Regulatory Case Management System (£600k).

Housing Revenue Account

4.5 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.

4.6 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.

4.7 The Council's overall outturn forecast for the Housing Revenue Account as at Period 6, is a forecast overspend of £52k (Period 5 - £15k overspend) against the approved budget of £38.752m. This is summarised in the table below and further details are set out in Section 6. It is important to note that this is subject to continual review.

Housing Revenue Account Forecast Outturn 2023/24				
Directorate	Budget			P6 Forecast Variance at 31/03/24
	Expenditure	Income	Net	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Corby Neighbourhood Account	21,481	(21,481)	0	20
Kettering Neighbourhood Account	17,271	(17,271)	0	32
Net Position 2022/23 (under)/over	38,752	(38,752)	0	52

Dedicated Schools Grant

4.8 The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is a ringfenced grant allocated to Local Authorities by the government to support a range of education related services.

- 4.9 The Council's overall outturn forecast for the DSG as at Period 6, is a forecast pressure of £6.404m (Period 5 - £4.995m) the Net Spend is forecast to be £127.067m against the approved budget of £120.663m. This is summarised in the table below and further details are set out in Section 7. It is important to note that this is subject to continual review.

Dedicated Schools Grants Forecast Outturn 2023/24							
Block	Gross Budget	July DSG Allocation Adjustment	Revised Budget	Recoupment	Net Budget	Forecast Net Spend	Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Schools Block	270,284	0	270,284	222,910	47,374	47,374	0
Central Schools Block	3,287	0	3,287	0	3,287	3,287	0
High Needs Block	57,851	74	57,925	11,082	46,843	53,247	6,404
Early Year Block	23,541	(382)	23,159	0	23,159	23,159	0
Total	354,963	(308)	354,655	233,992	120,663	127,067	6,404

National Context

- 4.10 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.
- 4.11 The Bank of England kept the Base Rate unchanged at 5.25% on the 2nd November 2023. There had previously been fourteen consecutive increases since December 2021 and the rate is at its highest level for 15 years (February 2008 – 5.25%).
- 4.12 The 12-month CPI figure for September 2023 is 6.7% which is unchanged to the CPI in August 2023. There has been a slight reduction in the 12-month RPI figure in September 2023 where the figure was 8.9% compared to 9.1% in August 2023.
- 4.13 Councils like most organisations have experienced the impact of significant 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 2023/24, the Council included growth to address forecast inflationary increases in light of the position known at the time.
- 4.14 Further risk to Local Government funding comes from the high street as individuals have less disposable income and businesses face higher 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. The continued increases in interest rates also have an impact on the number of new homes that are being occupied which can also have an adverse impact on the Council Tax yield.

- 4.15 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.
- 4.16 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 for 2023/24 and will be key considerations in developing the 2024/25 draft budget proposals and the Medium-Term Financial Plan.

5. Overview of Forecast Position 2023/24

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 September 56.98% of Council Tax had been collected (September 2022 – 57.69%). Business Rates collection was 55.72% at the end of September 2023 (September 2022 – 56.80%).

Corporate Resources

- 5.2 The total net budget for Corporate Resources is £29.603m. The composition of the budget together with the forecast variances are shown in the following Table.

Description	Net Budget	P6 Forecast Variance	
		£'000	%
	£'000	£'000	%
Corporate Contingency	3,746	0	0.00
Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)	7,970	0	0.00
Pay Contingency	5,708	0	0.00
Pay and Grading Review	2,479	0	0.00
Treasury	8,830	(5,156)	(58.39)
Bad Debts Provision	870	0	0.00
Total	29,603	(5,156)	(17.42)

- 5.3 The Council's Corporate Contingency Budget for 2023/24 is £3.746m, which represents around 1% of the net budget. The contingency budget is held to meet unknown or unplanned / unbudgeted costs. At this stage the Contingency Budget is currently assumed to be used in full during the year. This will include inflationary and demand pressures as well as helping to offset the potential additional cost of the pay award, as the offer by the employers already exceeds the pay inflation allowed.
- 5.4 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. This has been calculated as £7.970m which was an increase of £1.538m from 2022/23 and ensures that the provision is aligned to the MRP policy moving into the medium term.

- 5.5 The Council has set aside £5.708m in 2023-24 as a Pay Contingency to allow for annual increments and potential pay changes of 4%, with the final requirement determined by the outcome of pay negotiations, and the cost of increments. This budget will be allocated in 2023-24 once these have been agreed. The Pay award will exceed the budget as the offer by the employers already exceeds the pay inflation allowed. The forecast outturn will be updated following the conclusion of the national pay negotiations.
- 5.6 Additionally, a pressure of £2.479m was included in the 2023-24 budget, which reflected the initial costings for the implementation of the Pay and Grading review for staff recruited to interim contracts with North Northamptonshire Council, which is predominantly staff that have been appointed since 1st April 2021. Other staff transferred across to the new unitary authority on their existing terms and conditions through TUPE arrangements. The proposals for the new pay and grading structure are yet to be agreed. At this stage the forecast costs are expected to be delivered within budget.
- 5.7 The net Treasury Management Budget for 2023/24 is £8.830m. The composition of the budget and the forecast outturn is as follows:

Description	Net Budget	P6 Forecast Variance
£'000	£'000	£'000
Investment Income	(3,173)	(5,810)
Borrowing Costs	11,273	0
Other Treasury Management costs	730	654
Total	8,830	(5,156)

- 5.8 The movement for investment income reflects the increase in the Bank of England base rate on future investments and is based on an average cash balance of £175.6m at a weighted average rate of 5.04% for a full year. This offsets the additional pressure of £654k; relating to increased bank charges of £232k, unrealised internal interest income of £267k and recovery of debt management expenses of £155k.
- 5.9 If interest rates remain high over the longer term this will also create risk in relation to acquiring new loans to finance future capital programmes. The current PWLB rate for borrowing over a 30-year period is around 6%, for every £1m borrowed this would be an additional interest payable of £60,000.
- 5.10 There continues to be risks around the overall cash and loan position for North Northamptonshire, not only from a volatile marketplace, but also due to the outstanding legacy audits for 2020/21 and the disaggregation of the opening position from Northamptonshire County Council. Any changes in these risks and balances will be reflected in future forecasts.
- 5.11 The bad debt provision for 2023/24 amounts to £870k – the bad debts position is based on the age of the debt which reflects the risks associated with the collection of the debt and is forecast to be delivered on budget.

Directorate Budgets

- 5.12 This section of the report provides an analysis of the forecast variations against the 2023/24 General Fund for each of the Directorates as set out in the table at paragraph 4.2.

Children's Services Directorate

- 5.13 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).

Assistant Director of Education

- 5.14 The **Assistant Director of Education** is responsible for all learning, pupil attainment and achievement and school improvement functions. The forecast outturn position for the **Assistant Director of Education** is set out in the following table (Period 5 - £537k).

Assistant Director of Education	£'000
Expenditure	9,760
Income	(4,363)
Net Budget	5,397
Forecast	6,214
Variance	817

- 5.15 The forecast variance relating to the **Assistant Director of Education** is set out in the following Table and explanations for the variances are provided in the table below.

Ref	Description	Budget	Forecast Variance	
			£'000	%
		£'000	£'000	
1	Employees	8,176	1,200	14.68
2	Supplies and Services	1,259	(196)	(15.57)
3	Income	(4,363)	(299)	6.85
4	Other budgets	325	112	34.46
	Total	5,397	817	15.14

- 1) The budget pressure within Education Services predominantly relates to staffing costs. The Education Health and Care (EHC) service is continuing to rely heavily on interim workers to fulfil its statutory obligations. This is due to increasing level of need, a high number of vacancies, and backlog of historic assessments. The service has planned to gradually phase out the existing agency staff from July 2023. This will require recruiting and taking the initiative to actively upskill the existing staff to ensure the future needs of children, young people and their families can be met. Whilst there are service areas with substantial amount of savings on salaries, particularly Educational Entitlement (£104k), Governance (£178k), Specialist Support (£345k), the

salary budget forecast pressure in EHC (£1.540m), and other service areas (£287k) results in a net pressure of £1.2m.

- 2) The forecast underspend for supplies and services of £196k relates to the reduced forecast spend on professional fees and hired services (£113k) and external legal fees (£53k) in Strategic Planning and Education Health Care service areas. In addition, there are other net minor savings of £30k. The Strategic Planning is one of the service areas contributing to the significant forecast overspend of £1.2m on salaries. As such, the forecast underspend of £113k will be used to partly mitigate the service's salary budget pressure.
- 3) Income has a forecast net benefit of £299k of which £338k relates to Teachers' Pension. The budget was set at £468k, while the forecast DSG contribution is £806k. Also, the School Improvement Monitoring and Brokering grant has now ceased, leaving the service with a pressure of £227k. Additionally, the EHC team is benefiting from the use of the residual Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) of £220k. The funding will partly mitigate the staffing pressure associated with support to the most vulnerable Children and Young People. There are other net minor pressures of £32k across the services.
- 4) In respect of the other budget areas, there is a pressure of £111k. There has been an increase in the spend against Educational Psychologist Trainees and the service is anticipating an increased bursaries payment to the respective cohort, resulting in a pressure of £45k. There are other net pressures of £66k, of which £83k relates to internal contributions and recharges that are not practically chargeable since the disaggregation of the budget between the North and the West.

Assistant Director Commissioning and Partnerships

5.16 The **Assistant Director of Commissioning and Partnerships** leads the commissioning functions for Children's Services across North Northamptonshire and the contract management of the Northamptonshire Children's Trust and the commissioning of education services. The Children's and Education Services remaining with the Council includes the Intelligent Client Function (ICF) for the Northamptonshire Children's Trust and the Local Authority statutory education functions as follows:

- 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 outturn position for the **Assistant Director of Commissioning and Partnerships** (excluding the Children's Trust) is set out in the following Table (Period 5 - £115k)

Assistant Director of Commissioning and Partnerships	£'000
Expenditure	1,179
Income	(145)
Net Budget	1,034
Forecast	989
Variance	(45)

5.18 The forecast variance relating to the **Assistant Director Commissioning and Partnerships** (excluding the Children's Trust) is set out in following Table and explanations for the variances are provided below the Table.

Ref	Description	Budget	Forecast Variance	
			£'000	%
1	Employees	1,142	(71)	(6.22)
3	Income	(145)	0	0.00
4	Other budgets	37	26	70.27
	Total	1,034	(45)	(4.35)

- 1) The Commissioning and Partnerships is forecasting a net savings of £71k on staffing. The directorate is currently undertaking a staffing restructure which will include a realignment of budgets across Children's Services. Whilst the directorate is striving to spend within the approved budget provision, the outcome of the restructure will determine the subsequent forecast spend for the service.
- 2) The service is expecting to receive the budgeted income of £145k in full. The income predominantly relates to DSG funding allocation and partner contributions to Information Advice and Support Service (IASS) and Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP) services.
- 3) The service will be responsible for external legal fees to support the contract management of Northamptonshire Children's Trust. This was not initially budgeted, therefore resulting in a pressure of £30k. There are other minor savings of £4k.

Northamptonshire Children's Trust

5.19 The forecast outturn position for the **Northamptonshire Children's Trust** is set out in the following Table (Period 5 - £10.196m)

Northamptonshire Children's Trust	£'000
Expenditure	67,645
Income	(4,365)
Net Budget	63,280
Forecast	73,628
Variance	10,348

5.20 The forecast variance relating to the **Northamptonshire Children’s Trust** is set out in following Table and explanations for the variances are provided below the Table.

Ref	Description	Budget	Forecast Variance	
			£'000	%
1	Third Party Payments	67,645	10,348	15.30
2	Income	(4,365)	0	0.00
	Total	63,280	10,348	16.35

5.21 The Northamptonshire Children’s Trust delivers children’s social care and targeted early help on behalf of North Northamptonshire Council and West Northamptonshire Council. The Councils set the strategic outcomes and priorities and the Trust is responsible for delivering those outcomes. Services provided by the Trust include:

- Targeted early help services to children and families.
- Front door and safeguarding services
- Support and placements for Children in Care
- Support and placements for Disabled Children
- In house fostering and residential provision
- Commissioning of external placements and contracts
- Commissioned legal services and transport for children in care.

5.22 The total contract value for the Childrens Trust is £150.938m. The Councils share of this is £66.654m this reflects how the contract sum is split between North Northamptonshire Council (44.16%) and West Northamptonshire Council (55.84%).

5.23 The Children’s Trust are forecasting an overspend of £23.434m – this is an increase of £345k to that previously reported to the Executive where the forecast pressure was £23.089m. The cost to the Council based on an overspend of £23.434m is £10.348m. If these pressures are not mitigated this will pose a significant financial risk to the Council. The Trust are looking at potential mitigations, however there is a risk that this position could worsen before year end. A key risk is the delivery of the efficiency savings of £7.632m which formed part of the contract sum. At present, the Trust is forecasting that £4.159m of these savings are at risk of non-delivery, this could increase the overall pressure from £23.434m to £27.593m. The following table summarises the contract sum and the forecast variances (excluding the risk on savings).

Description	Contract Sum	Forecast Variance Period 5	Movement	Forecast Variance Period 6	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	%
Staffing	49,732	2,292	498	2,790	5.61
Other non staffing costs	358	0	0	0	0.00
Placements	65,376	20,199	0	20,199	30.90
Contracts	5,001	0	0	0	0.00
Children's Homes	3,767	129	0	129	3.42
Legal	4,788	511	0	511	10.67
Adoption	7,776	(133)	0	(133)	(1.71)
Transport	2,870	173	0	173	6.03
Other care	6,799	(82)	82	0	0.00
NCT Central - Other budget	(762)	0	(235)	(235)	30.84
Support Services / SLA	5,233	0	0	0	0.00
Total	150,938	23,089	345	23,434	15.53

5.24 The main pressure within the Children's Trust relates to placements for children in care – this amounts to £20.199m and is unchanged to that reported in Period 5, however there has been movement across the type of placement. The market and availability of placements remains challenging. The placements budget will continue to remain under pressure as it remains extremely volatile both locally and nationally. The Trust is working on how these pressures can be mitigated this year and how this can be reduced in future years. The following table provides further detail around the pressures from placements.

Description	Contract Sum	Forecast Variance Period 5	Movement	Forecast Variance Period 6	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	%
In House Fostering	8,532	67	0	67	0.79
Agecny Fostering	16,895	1,781	(22)	1,759	10.41
Independent Residential	31,087	7,434	(202)	7,232	23.26
Supported Accommodation	3,400	10,424	(162)	10,262	301.82
18+ Agency Placements	4,400	887	465	1,352	30.73
Welfare Secure	339	(212)	0	(212)	(62.54)
UASC	3,812	0	0	0	0.00
Remand Secure	300	261	(76)	185	61.67
Income	(3,389)	(443)	(3)	(446)	13.16
Total	65,376	20,199	0	20,199	30.90

5.25 The contract sum included a pay provision of 4%, this was in line with the provision that both North and West Northamptonshire Council included in their budgets. NCT are not aligned to national pay negotiations and a proposed offer aligned to West Northamptonshire Council would require additional funding of

£1.007m a formal offer has been accepted by the Unions and this is reflected in the outturn. The forecast outturn also reflects a pressure of £1.087m for managed teams. A change control request to increase the contract sum by £2.094m has been made. In addition, there are further staff related pressures of £696k.

- 5.26 The legal services budget remains a challenge with increasing demand and additional inflationary costs in this area. The budget forecast is a projected overspend of £511k this is unchanged to Period 5.
- 5.27 There are also pressures on transport costs of £173k, this is unchanged from Period 5 and is as a result of inflationary pressures above the net contract sum of £2.870m. There is a risk that the inflation on transport costs could be above current levels. There are further minor savings which amount to £239k.
- 5.28 As part of the contract negotiations, it was agreed an amount of £2.243m was included for one off investments – the Council’s share of this was £991k – whilst this is subject to detailed Business Cases being provided from the Trust it is currently forecast that this will be delivered within budget.
- 5.29 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, Health Partnerships and Housing

- 5.30 The revenue budget within this section covers Adult Social Services, Health Partnerships and Housing (excluding the HRA).
- 5.31 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.
- 5.32 Care can take 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.

Assistant Director of Adult Services

- 5.33 The **Assistant Director of Adult Services** is responsible for the strategic planning, engagement, operational and statutory delivery of Adult Social Care This includes the independent care budgets for all people aged over 18 and the social care and reablement teams. The forecast outturn position for the **Assistant Director of Adult Services** is set out in the following table (Period 5 £2.250m overspend)

Assistant Director of Adult Services	£'000
Expenditure	118,666
Income	(19,437)
Net Budget	99,229
Forecast	102,915
Variance	3,686

5.34 The forecast outturn relating to the **Assistant Director of Adult Services** is set out in the following table. The overspend assumes most savings detailed in Appendix A are achieved in year. However, £0.617m of the savings for the increase of the utilisation of Shaw PPP beds for Discharge to Assess is assumed to be at risk of delivery. These savings will continue to be tracked, and any further impact of the achievability will form part of future reports.

Ref	Description	Budget	Forecast Variance	
			£'000	%
			£'000	%
1	Employees	8,527	0	0.00
2	Third Party payments	95,277	3,986	4.18
3	Transfer Payments	14,258	0	0.00
4	Income	(19,437)	(300)	1.54
5	Other budgets	604	0	0.00
	Total	99,229	3,686	3.71

- 1) The employee related costs are currently forecast to be delivered on budget.
- 2) The main areas of spend in relation to Third Party Payments are in respect of independent care spend including Residential and nursing care for both 65+ year old and the 18-64 years old clients.

The service is seeing a significant increase in service demand. Client numbers have increased since April 2022 by 25% in the 65+ cohort and 15% in the 18-64 cohort with similar costs to existing cohorts. Previously there had been 14 years of stable demand in the 65+ cohort so this level of increase is unprecedented.

During 2022-23 the council received an additional £6m of one-off funding which mitigated the pressures of this increased demand, however there are currently no indications that there will be further grant funding that will offset this growth.

Thackley Green transferred on 1st July 2023 and is still in the transition stage and not yet a full capacity. This will result in additional independent care costs in the short term but will generate savings in future years.

As of September 2023, increased spend controls are being introduced within adult social care to aim to mitigate the increased demand, however it is prudent to highlight a negative movement in the forecast as a result of this demand. It is important to note that whilst an additional £1.436m risk is being

forecast at Period 6 compared to Period 5. The financial risk is higher, however this is after mitigations have been applied across the directorate these mitigations and interventions will be closely monitored.

- 3) The transfer payments relate to direct payments these costs are currently forecast to be delivered on budget.
- 4) The main areas of income include client contributions to care costs. This is forecast that an additional £300k is received.
- 5) The main area of spend shown as Other include client transport and other support costs this is forecasted to be delivered on budget.

5.35 Due to the volatile nature of the Adults Social Care budget, there may be further emerging risks whilst we progress through the financial year. This may include an unexpected increase in demand during the winter period, e.g., an increase in flu and other respiratory diseases, unexpected provider failures, additional pressures from acute hospitals, changes in caseload and adverse weather. Mitigations would be sought to manage these pressures including, in exceptional circumstances, the use of reserves. This is an area the Council will continue to monitor closely.

Assistant Director of Safeguarding and Wellbeing

5.36 The **Assistant Director of Safeguarding and Wellbeing** is responsible for the strategic planning, engagement, operational and statutory delivery of key services for Adult Social Care. This includes ensuring services, practice and standards meet statutory requirements and that all professionals work together to deliver Making Safeguarding Personal to promote and secure the safety of local residents. The forecast outturn position for the **Assistant Director of Safeguarding and Wellbeing** is set out in the following table (Period 5 - £0k).

Assistant Director of Safeguarding and Wellbeing	£'000
Expenditure	10,038
Income	(995)
Net Budget	9,043
Forecast	9,043
Variance	0

5.38 The forecast outturn relating to the **Assistant Director of Safeguarding and Wellbeing** is set out in the following table. The forecast at Period 5 assumes that this will be delivered on budget and that the savings detailed in **Appendix A** are achieved in year. These savings will continue to be tracked, and any impact of the achievability will form part of future reports.

Ref	Description	Budget	Forecast Variance	
			£'000	%
		£'000	£'000	
1	Employees	8,793	0	0.00
2	Premises	396	0	0.00
3	Transport	324	0	0.00
4	Supplies and Services	525	0	0.00
5	Income	(995)	0	0.00
	Total	9,043	0	0.00

Assistant Director of Commissioning and Performance

5.39 The **Assistant Director of Commissioning and Performance** is responsible for ensuring services, practice and standards meet statutory requirements and includes the commissioning and monitoring of Adults Social Care external contract. The forecast outturn position for the **Assistant Director of Commissioning and Performance** is set out in the following table (Period 5-£770k overspend).

Assistant Director of Commissioning and Performance	£'000
Expenditure	23,933
Income	(10,565)
Net Budget	13,367
Forecast	12,701
Variance	(666)

5.40 The forecast variance relating to the **Assistant Director Commissioning and Performance** is set out in following table and explanations for the variances are provided below the Table.

Ref	Description	Budget	Forecast Variance	
			£'000	%
		£'000	£'000	
1	Employees	4,099	0	0.00
2	Third party Payments	18,518	(666)	(3.60)
3	Income	(10,565)	0	0.00
4	Other	1,315	0	0.00
	Total	13,367	(666)	(4.98)

- 1) The employee related costs are currently forecast to be delivered on budget.
- 2) The main areas of spend in relation to Third Party Payments are in respect of Better Care fund expenditure and the PPP Shaw contract.

The annual budget for the PPP Shaw contract which is for the provision of six residential care homes across North Northamptonshire for the over 65s is £9.8m. There is a forecast pressure of £970k (9.8%) in relation to this

contract. At the time the budget was set it was assumed that the inflationary increase would be £234k this was based on previous trends. The actual increase was based on average weekly earnings up to March 2023. A budget realignment exercise has taken place along with the identification of efficiencies which has resulted in mitigations of £1.636m.

- 3) The main income sources are the Improved Better Care Fund (£6.8m) and Client Contributions from PPP and Block purchased care provision (£1.4m). Other income sources assistive technology pool contribution of £747k, this is forecast to be delivered on budget.
- 4) Other costs amount to £1.315m and is primarily made up of Community Equipment spend, this is forecast to be delivered on budget.

Assistant Director Strategic Housing, Development and Property Services

5.41 The **Assistant Director Strategic Housing, Development and Property Services** provides strategic direction and leadership for the delivery of the Housing Service and housing management, this includes support for homeless people. The forecast outturn position for the **Assistant Director Strategic Housing, Development and Property Services** set out in the following table (Period 5 - £0k).

Assistant Director Strategic Housing, Development and Property Services	£'000
Expenditure	6,248
Income	(3,756)
Net Budget	2,492
Forecast	2,492
Variance	0

5.42 The forecast outturn relating to the Assistant Director **Strategic Housing, Development and Property Services** is set out in the following table. The forecast at Period 2 assumes that the service will be delivered on budget and that any savings detailed in **Appendix A** are achieved in year. Savings will continue to be tracked and changes to the deliverability will form part of future reports.

Description	Budget	Forecast Variance	
		£'000	%
	£'000	£'000	
Employees	2,060	0	0.00
Premises	203	0	0.00
Supplies and Services	3,451	0	0.00
Third Party Payments	501	0	0.00
Other	33	0	0.00
Income	(3,756)	0	0.00
Total	2,492	0	0.00

- 5.43 All services across Adults, Health Partnerships and Housing undertake regular budget monitoring, track fluctuations in spend, and work to identify additional efficiencies and savings to either mitigate forecasted overspends within the directorate or to contribute to the overall corporate position in year of the Council. Ongoing work continues to identify any further efficiencies, savings or income that can be identified to improve the overall position in-year, to set budgets for the following year, and in contributing to the medium-term financial strategy.

Public Health and Communities

- 5.44 The **Director of Public Health and Wellbeing** is a statutory officer and the principal adviser on all health matters to elected members, officers, and partners, with a leadership role spanning health improvement, health protection and healthcare public health. This includes delivering core public health services in line with grant funding and statutory requirements.
- 5.45 The grant is ringfenced and any variances will result in a movement to or from reserves ensuring that all grant conditions are met.

Director of Public Health and Wellbeing	£'000
Expenditure	26,312
Income	(26,312)
Net Budget	0
Forecast	0
Variance	0

- 5.46 The forecast outturn relating to the **Director of Public Health and Wellbeing** is set out in following Table.

Description	Budget	Forecast Variance	
		£'000	%
	£'000	£'000	
Employees	4,891	0	0.00
Supplies & Services	6,808	0	0.00
Support Costs	1,240	0	0.00
Third Party Payments	7,620	0	0.00
Transfer Payments	5,635	0	0.00
Income	(26,312)	0	0.00
Other	118	0	0.00
Total	0	0	0.00

Assistant Director Communities and Leisure

- 5.47 The **Assistant Director Communities and Leisure** 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, encouraging physical and mental wellbeing of residents through sport and leisure-based activities The forecast outturn position for the **Assistant Director Communities and Leisure** is set out in the following Table (Period 5 - £260k)

Assistant Director Communities and Leisure	£'000
Expenditure	17,264
Income	(8,894)
Net Budget	8,370
Forecast	8,110
Variance	(260)

5.48 The forecast outturn relating to the **Assistant Director of Communities and Leisure** is set out in following table and explanations for the variances are provided in the paragraphs that follow.

Description	Budget	Forecast Variance	
		£'000	%
	£'000	£'000	
Employees	6,939	0	0.00
Premises	3,056	0	0.00
Supplies & Services	4,122	140	3.40
Third Party Payments	3,699	0	0.00
Income	(8,894)	(400)	4.50
Internal Income	(680)		
Other	128	0	0.00
Total	8,370	(260)	0.00

- 1) The employee related costs are currently forecast to be delivered on budget.
- 2) The premises related costs are currently forecast to be delivered on budget.
- 3) The supplies and services costs are currently forecasting a pressure of £140k this is due to contractual increases. The service is continuing to look at how these costs can be mitigated.
- 4) The third-party payments are mainly made up of £2.893m for payments for the Ukraine resettlement programme these are currently forecasted to delivered on budget.
- 5) The main areas of income include £5.041m of grant income and £2.66m relating to fees and charges. The income is forecast to be £400k greater than budget and is a result of changes in VAT.
- 6) Other costs are forecast to be delivered on budget.

Place and Economy Directorate

5.49 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

Assistant Director Assets and Environment

5.50 The **Assistant Director 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 parking income, number of visitors to country parks and open space, demand for commercial rental spaces, use of corporate workspaces and use of energy. The forecast outturn position for the **Assistant Director of Assets and Environment** is set out in the following table (Period 5 - £845k).

Assistant Director Assets and Environment	£'000
Expenditure	25,204
Income	(21,054)
Net Budget	4,150
Forecast	3,180
Variance	(970)

5.51 The forecast variance relating to the **Assistant Director Assets and Environment** is set out in following Table and explanations for the variances are provided below the Table.

Ref	Description	Budget	Forecast Variance	
			£'000	%
			£'000	%
1	Employees	9,754	(572)	(5.87)
2	Premises	9,304	161	1.73
3	Transport	4,957	(239)	(4.82)
4	Supplies and Services	1,694	4	0.26
5	Third Party Payments	1,024	102	9.95
6	Income	(21,054)	(485)	2.30
7	Other	(1,508)	60	(3.96)
	Total	4,171	(970)	(23.26)

1) The underspend of £572k (5.8%) against Employees relates to staff underspends from vacant posts due to ongoing work on restructures. Work is underway to recruit to posts through the restructure during 2023/24.

- 2) The main areas of spend within Premises are Business Rates (£1.565m), Utilities (£3.426m), Building Repairs and Maintenance (£1.522m), Rents and Services Charges (£985k), Building cleaning (£607k) and other premises costs of £1.177m.

There is a pressure of £251k relating to outstanding liabilities for business rates.

There is a saving of £124k on utility costs across the service. This underspend has reduced from Period 5 (£340k) due to a combination of outstanding liabilities for current and previous financial years. This has all been driven by the utility contracts review currently undertaken to ensure the best tariffs are utilised. Other minor pressures which amount to £34k.

- 3) The main areas of spend within Transport relates to Vehicle leasing (£2.918m), Fuel (£1.373m) and other transport costs of £676k.

There is a saving of £239k (17.4%) based on the current cost of fuel being lower than anticipated and reflects the reduction in the cost of fuel.

- 4) There is a pressure of £57k (21% of the £265k Equipment and Tools Budget) within Supplies and Services which relates to the maintenance of play equipment. This is offset by a saving within professional fees of £53k.

- 5) There is a pressure of £102k which predominately relates to a management fee for a business centre which will be occupied for a longer period than initially anticipated.

- 6) The main income sources are Rent and Leases (£17.217m), Parking Income (£1.680m) and various other forms of income amounting to £2.967m.

There is a pressure of £86k relating to external income that the Council had budgeted to receive to fund posts for projects such as Corby Town Funds. This pressure is offset by additional grant funding received for tree maintenance within Environment Services of £116k (51% of £226k Grants budget). There is also additional income from rent reviews and insurance recharges of £455k.

- 7) Other minor net pressures amount to £60k.

Assistant Director Growth and Regeneration

- 5.51 The **Assistant Director 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 applications for the Planning service, including major development fees, availability of Planning resources e.g., planning professionals and demand for economic activities. The forecast outturn position for the **Assistant Director of Growth and Regeneration** is set out in the following Table (Period 5 - £268k).

Assistant Director Growth and Regeneration	£'000
Expenditure	9,836
Income	(5,461)
Net Budget	4,375
Forecast	4,646
Variance	271

5.52 The forecast variance relating to the **Assistant Director Growth & Regeneration** is set out in following Table. Explanations for the variances are provided below the Table.

Ref	Description	Budget	Forecast Variance	
			£'000	%
1	Employees	6,088	203	3.33
2	Supplies and Services	3,599	295	8.20
3	Income	(5,461)	(193)	3.53
4	Other	149	(34)	(22.82)
	Total	4,375	271	6.19

- 1) There is a pressure of £203k (3%) within Employees which relates to agency costs to cover vacant posts, which are predominantly covering vacancies due to the restructure of the service and challenges with recruiting hard to fill posts, particularly in the Planning Service. Work is underway to recruit to these posts following the restructure in 2023/24.
- 2) There is a pressure of £295k within Supplies and Services. This variance relates to professional and legal fees associated with appeals and judicial reviews within Planning Management and Enforcement. The budget amounts to £152k and results in a pressure of around 194%.
- 3) The main income sources are Planning Income (£2.773m) and other income which amounts to £616k. There is currently additional income of £193k (6.9%) forecast for planning income based on received and forecasted income for the financial year. The additional income relates to a couple of major applications received in Period 4.

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities responded to its consultation on increasing planning fees and performance which will result in an increase to Fees and Charges relating to Planning applications. An exact date is dependent on the regulations being debated and approved in Parliament; initial indications are that this could be in place from January 2024. It should be noted that the forecast for the remaining year is influenced by the result of the current economy, with both inflationary cost increases and an increased cost of borrowing detrimentally affecting investment in development.

- 4) There are minor savings amounting to £34k.

Assistant Director Highways and Waste

5.53 The **Assistant Director for 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. The forecast outturn position for the **Assistant Director of Highways and Waste** is set out in the following Table (Period 5 - £330k).

Assistant Director Highways and Waste	£'000
Expenditure	67,056
Income	(9,798)
Net Budget	57,258
Forecast	56,871
Variance	(387)

5.54 The forecast variance relating to the **Assistant Director for Highways and Waste** is set out in following Table. Explanations for the variances are provided below the Table.

Ref	Description	Budget	Forecast Variance	
			£'000	%
	£'000	£'000	£'000	
1	Employees	9,748	86	0.88
2	Supplies and Services	7,767	39	0.50
3	Transport	19,341	(386)	(2.00)
4	Third Party Payments	31,030	74	0.24
5	Income	(9,798)	(231)	2.36
6	Other	(830)	31	(3.73)
	Total	57,258	(387)	(0.68)

- 1) There is a pressure on Employees of £152k relating to overtime and agency costs required to within refuse and recycling and Highways services whilst work is carried out to recruit to posts and complete the Waste procurement project. This is offset by a saving of £66k within Transport services due to vacant posts.
- 2) There is a minor pressure of £39k within Supplies and Services.
- 3) The main areas of spend within Transport relate to contract payments for Home to School Transport, Social Care Transport and Concessionary payments to transport operators.

The Department for Transport had requested that authorities continue to reimburse bus operators based on the average number of journeys in the winter months prior to the COVID-19 outbreak (December 2019 to February 2020).

The alternative is that the Council reverts to paying bus operators on the actual number of journeys. Reimbursing bus operators based on the average rather than the actual usage is estimated to be between £500k and £700k higher. The Council's support to the bus industry helps safeguard local bus services for residents throughout the pandemic and during the recovery period. The forecast underspend is £386k (13% of £2.868m Concessions budget).

The DfT are rebasing the reimbursement methodology for 2024/25 and announcements around this will be made later this year.

- 4) The main areas of spend relate to Waste Disposal (£17.470m), Street Lighting (£6.638m) and Highways Maintenance (£4.157m) and other third-party payments of £1.757m. These are currently forecast to come in on budget. There are budgetary challenges with regard to Highways Maintenance and the increased requirement for repairs due to the deterioration of the highway network, together with the effect of inflation on the cost of services. Work is ongoing to identify how the service can be delivered differently in order to remain within the allocated budget; this may require a change in approach to maintaining the highways network.

There is a £74k pressure relating to the Waste disposal due to increased tonnage levels.

- 5) There is a favourable variance of £49k within income which relates to the Garden Waste subscription service performing better than initially predicted. It is worth noting that whilst subscriptions have gone up the associated costs to deliver the service have also increased.

There is also additional income of £158k (51% of £307k Highways income budget) for Highways regulations and investigation searches arising because of higher-than-expected residential developments coming forwards, house sales and utility works. Other minor savings amount to £24k.

- 6) Other minor pressures amount to £31k.

Assistant Director Regulatory Services

- 5.55 The **Assistant Director 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. The forecast outturn position for the **Assistant Director of Regulatory Services** is set out in the following table (Period 5 - £217k).

Assistant Director Regulatory Services	£'000
Expenditure	7,160
Income	(4,249)
Net Budget	2,911
Forecast	2,640
Variance	(271)

5.56 The forecast variance relating to the **Assistant Director Regulatory Services** is set out in following Table. Explanations for the variances are provided below the Table.

Ref	Description	Budget £'000	Forecast Variance	
			£'000	%
1	Employees	5,980	(486)	(0.09)
2	Premises	690	41	0.06
3	Income	(4,249)	166	(0.04)
4	Other	489	8	0.01
	Total	2,911	(271)	(9.29)

1) There is an underspend of £486k (9%) within Employees relating to salary savings which is offsetting the pressure on agency costs to support service delivery across Regulatory Services pending the restructuring of the service during 2023/24. An MTFP saving for 2023/24 of £185k for the restructure within Regulatory Services was approved of which £155k has been identified, leaving a pressure of £30k which will be covered by vacancies across the service. Work is currently being undertaken within the service area to deliver the saving.

2) The main areas of spend relate to Grounds Maintenance (£266k), Business Rates (£135k), Utilities (£213k) and other premises costs of £76k.

There are minor pressures of £41k within premises relating to increased business rates and utility pressures in Bereavement Services.

3) The main income sources are Bereavement Services (£2.226m), Building Control Income (£1m), Licensing Income (£936k), other minor income sources which amount to £266k.

The overall income forecast is a pressure of £166k. The forecast outturn for income from Bereavement Services is £111k higher than budget this is reflective of the 2022/23 outturn and activity levels remain similar in 2023/24. This is offset by a pressure on Building Control income where income levels are forecast to be £277k lower than budget with the forecast being based on 2022/23 activity levels due to a combination of unachievable income targets, market share reduction and economic climate. Other forms of income are forecast to be delivered on budget.

4) There is a minor pressure amounting to £8k.

Place and Economy Management

- 5.57 This area includes the management costs for the Place and Economy Directorate and is forecast to be on budget (Period 5 - £0k).

Directorate Management	£'000
Expenditure	652
Income	0
Net Budget	652
Forecast	652
Variance	0

Enabling & Support Services

Finance, Performance, Procurement and Revenues and Benefits

- 5.58 The **Finance and Performance Service** is responsible for leading the management, development, performance and continuous improvement of all Finance, Audit and Risk services. The **Procurement Service** leads on all aspects of procurement delivery, category management, commissioning and contract management. The **Revenue and Benefits Service** is responsible for the collection of both Council Tax and Business Rates and in assessing, awarding and payment of benefits. The forecast outturn position for these services is set out in the following Table (Period 5 - £120k).

Finance, Performance, Procurement and Revenue and Benefits Service	£'000
Expenditure	84,646
Income	(69,110)
Net Budget	15,536
Forecast	15,634
Variance	98

- 5.59 The forecast variance for the **Finance, Performance, Procurement and Revenues and Benefits Service** is set out below. Explanations for the variances are provided below the Table.

Ref	Description	Budget	Forecast Variance	
			£'000	%
		£'000	£'000	
1	Employees	17,059	(247)	(1.45)
2	Supplies & Services	2,976	465	15.63
3	Transfer Payments	64,711	0	0.00
4	Other	(100)	(33)	33.00
5	Income	(69,110)	(87)	0.13
	Total	15,536	98	0.63

- 1) A saving of £247k is forecast for Employees (Period 5 - £212k). This is due to forecast staff savings within the procurement team (£147k) and the Internal

Audit team (£224k), partially offset by pressures from the use of agency staff within the Revenues & Benefits team (£124k).

- 2) Within Supplies and Services, the main areas of spend are Audit fees (£848k) and Insurance premiums (£1.140m) and there are forecast pressure of £465k (Period 5 - £465k). This pressure is a combination of an increase in Insurance premiums £300k (Period 5 - £300k) and a net pressure of £165k which mainly relates to a legal requirement to write to all direct debit customers, which is a one-off cost following the implementation of a new revenues system.
- 3) Transfer Payments relate to Housing Benefit payments, which are forecast to be delivered on budget.
- 4) Amounts shown within Other costs are largely payments to the Lead Authority Board for shared services provided to the Council (£619k). There is a forecast net saving of £46k (Period 5 - £31k). This is due to a pressure in the Account Payable and Accounts Receivable functions (£97k) being offset by savings on historic LGSS inter-authority charge budgets (£116k) and other minor items (£14k).
- 5) The main areas of income are Housing Benefit Subsidy and income received from government to cover the costs of collecting NNDR & Council Tax. There is a forecast saving of £87k (Period 5 - £87k saving), arising from new grant funding of £172k received within the Revenues & Benefits service, reflecting the additional work being undertaken during the cost-of-living crisis. This additional income is partially offset by unachievable legacy income targets of £85k.

Chief Executive's Office

- 5.60 The functions managed through the **Chief Executive's Office** include the Chief Executive, the Assistant Chief Executive, Executive Support, Communications, Consultation, Engagement and Corporate Equalities, Print Room and the Web Team. The service supports teams across the authority, providing leadership and strategic direction to secure a cohesive and coordinated approach to the delivery of improved organisation-wide service provision, resource allocation and prioritisation. The forecast outturn position for the **Chief Executive's Office** is set out in the following Table (Period 5 - £38k).

Chief Executive's Office	£'000
Expenditure	1,332
Income	(27)
Net Budget	1,305
Forecast	962
Variance	(343)

- 5.61 The forecast variance for the Chief Executives Office is set out in following Table. Explanations for the variances are provided below the Table.

Ref	Description	Budget	Forecast Variance	
			£'000	%
1	Employees	1,758	(389)	(22.13)
2	Supplies & Services	438	36	8.22
3	Other	(864)	0	0.00
4	Income	(27)	10	(37.04)
	Total	1,305	(343)	(0.26)

- 1) There are anticipated savings within the Executive Support, Communications and Printing services of £389k. This is due to staff vacancies within the team's new structure, which are actively being recruited (£629k), partially offset by the consequent use of agency staff (£240k).
- 2) The main areas of spend within Supplies and Services are printing and postage costs for the corporate print and post rooms. The forecast pressure, however, is due to inflationary increases in corporate subscriptions of £20k (Period 5 - £18k) and other minor pressures £16k (Period 5 - £20k).
- 3) 'Other' spend relates to internal recharges and is forecast to be delivered on budget.
- 4) The income budget relates to printing on behalf of third-party organisations. There is an anticipated pressure of £10k as demand for these services has fallen.

Chief Information Officer

- 5.62 The **Chief Information Officer** is responsible for the delivery of efficient and effective management of all aspects of IT operations, Digital, IT programmes of work, IT commercial contracts and supplier relationships, IT Service delivery teams and for transforming the IT and Digital Services team. This includes managing IT services provided by West Northamptonshire Council. The forecast outturn position for the **Chief Information Officer** is set out in the following Table (Period 5 - £268k).

Chief Information Officer	£'000
Expenditure	10,311
Income	(2)
Net Budget	10,309
Forecast	10,597
Variance	298

- 5.63 The forecast variance relating to the **Chief Information Officer** is set out in following Table and explanations for the variances are provided below the Table.

Description	Budget	Forecast Variance	
		£'000	%
Employees	2,197	100	4.55
Supplies & Services	3,148	(186)	(5.91)
Third Party Payments	5,571	384	6.89
Other	(607)	0	0.00
Total	10,309	298	2.89

- 1) Employee costs are forecast as a pressure of £100k (Period 5 - £177k). This includes a pressure of £91k which relates to staff costs that were previously capitalised. These costs can no longer be treated as capital where the system is Cloud based, as this is a revenue cost. A further £245k relates to agency costs and these are partially offset by forecast savings from vacant posts of £236k.
- 2) The main areas of spend in Supplies and Services are software license costs, data line rental and telephone costs. There are anticipated savings of £194k on software licences, mainly relating to Microsoft licences, and minor pressures of £8k.
- 3) Third Party Payments relate to the shared IT service with WNC. The pressure reflects estimated inflationary increases from the Service Level Agreement (SLA) with WNC, which amount to £384k (Period 5 £91k). Detailed work is ongoing to identify and evaluate other pressures within the WNC IT SLA.
- 4) 'Other' relates to internal income recharges and these are forecast to be delivered on budget.

Customer and Governance

Assistant Director of Human Resources

5.64 The **Assistant Director of Human Resources** is responsible for the leadership, development and implementation of relevant strategies for the area and council, enabling the delivery of corporate HR priorities, including HR Advisory, Workforce Planning & Development, Learning & Development and Health & Safety. The forecast outturn position for the **Assistant Director of Human Resources** is set out in the following Table (Period 5 - £31k).

Assistant Director of Human Resources	£'000
Expenditure	5,263
Income	(1,537)
Net Budget	3,726
Forecast	3,757
Variance	31

5.65 The forecast outturn relating to the **Assistant Director of Human Resources** is set out in following Table:

Ref	Description	Budget £'000	Forecast Variance	
			£'000	%
1	Employees	4,995	0	0.00
3	Supplies & Services	503	31	6.16
4	Third Party Payments	418	0	0.00
4	Other	(653)	0	0.00
5	Income	(1,537)	0	0.00
	Total	3,726	31	0.83

- 1) Employee related costs are expected to be delivered on budget.
- 2) The main areas of spend in Supplies and Services arise from work on the Pay & Grading project (£100k) and I-learn licences (£91k). While these are forecast to be delivered on budget, there is a forecast pressure of £31k (Period 5 - £31k) arising from an increased demand for learning and development within the Adults Directorate.
- 3) The main area of spend in Third Party payments is the recharge from WNC for the shared Payroll function.
- 4) 'Other' relates to support service recharges. These are expected to be delivered on budget.
- 5) The main areas of income relate to the Inter Authority Agreements (IAA) with WNC and NCT. These are expected to be delivered on budget.

Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services

5.66 The **Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services** is responsible for developing and delivering a strong governance and ethical framework and the management of the internal Legal Services Team, Democratic & Election Services, FOI & Data Governance and Registration and the Coroners Services. The forecast outturn position for the **Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services** is set out in the following Table (Period 5 – £81k).

Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic	£'000
Expenditure	5,895
Income	(896)
Net Budget	4,999
Forecast	5,299
Variance	300

5.67 The forecast variance relating to the **Assistant Director of Legal Services** is set out in the following Table and explanations for the variances are provided below the Table.

Ref	Description	Budget	Forecast Variance	
			£'000	%
1	Employees	3,661	8	0.22
3	Supplies & Services	1,963	22	1.12
3	Third Party Payments	762	179	23.49
4	Other	(491)	6	(1.22)
5	Income	(896)	85	(9.49)
	Total	4,999	300	6.00

- 1) The forecast pressure on the Employees budget of £8k (Period 5 - £185k Underspend) is due to vacancies £1.351m (Period 5 - £943k), offset by the use of agency staff £1.359m (Period 5 - £758k). The majority of the use of agency staff is in Legal Services.
- 2) The main areas of expenditure within Supplies and Services are members allowances, ward initiative funds and external legal fees. There are minor forecast pressures of £22k (Period 5 - £12k Saving).
- 3) The main area of spend within Third Party Payments is the shared coroners service with WNC, where there is a forecast pressure of £179k (Period 5 - £100k).
- 4) 'Other' relates mainly to support service recharges, members travel expenses and staff mileage. There is a forecast pressure of £6k (Period 5 - £16k) relating to a series of minor items.
- 5) The main areas of income are Legal fees (£200k) and Registration Services fees (£630k). There are also other minor income sources within the service (£66k). There is a forecast pressure of £85k within Registration Services due to a lower number of marriage ceremonies being delivered this year.

Assistant Director of Customer Services

- 5.68 The **Assistant Director of Customer Services** is responsible for leading and implementing the transformation and aggregation of all the Customer Service and Complaints teams and for setting the key priorities and direction for Customer Services and Complaints in line with the corporate plan. The role is also responsible for the leadership, development and implementation of customer and digital strategies for the council, to deliver an improved customer experience and the administration of the 'Blue Badges' parking scheme. The forecast outturn position for the **Assistant Director of Customer Services** is set out in the following Table (Period 5 – £16k).

Assistant Director Customer Services	£'000
Expenditure	2,113
Income	(108)
Net Budget	2,005
Forecast	1,829
Variance	(176)

5.69 The forecast outturn relating to the **Assistant Director of Customer Services** is set out in the following Table.

Ref	Description	Budget	Forecast Variance	
			£'000	%
			£'000	
1	Employees	2,821	(158)	(5.60)
2	Supplies & Services	159	(18)	(11.32)
3	Other	(867)	0	0.00
4	Income	(108)	0	0.00
	Total	2,005	(176)	(8.78)

- 1) There is a forecast saving of £158k due to vacant posts within the Customer Service team.
- 2) Although the main area of spend within Supplies and Services relates to the issuing of Blue badges (£70k), the saving of £18k (Period 5 - £16k) arises from a series of minor budgets.
- 3) 'Other' budgets are internal recharges and are expected to be delivered on budget.
- 4) The income budget relates to the issuing of blue badges (£80k) and rent from the NHS Phlebotomy unit in the Kettering Offices (£28k). These are anticipated to be delivered on budget.

6 Housing Revenue Account

6.1 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 6 shows an overspend of £20k (Period 5 - £4k overspend). This is summarised in the following Table:

Corby Neighbourhood Account			
	Current Budget 2023/24	Projection P6 2023/24	Forecast Variance
	£000	£000	£000
INCOME			
Rents - Dwellings Only	20,692	20,677	15
Service Charges	641	605	36
HRA Investment Income	148	148	0
Total Income	21,481	21,430	51
EXPENDITURE			
Repairs and Maintenance	6,440	6,689	249
General Management	5,438	5,432	(6)
HRA Self Financing	2,125	2,125	0
Revenue Contribution to Capital	4,875	4,875	0
Transfer To / (From) Reserves	807	807	0
Special Services	1,014	787	(227)
Other	782	735	(47)
Total Expenditure	21,481	21,450	(31)
Net Operating Expenditure	0	20	20

- 6.3 The forecast position for rental income from dwellings at Period 6 is £15k lower than budget – a rent gain of £68k is a result of the Right to Buy Sales being 15 less than the budgeted amount of 50 in 2022/23, resulting in a higher number of dwellings on 1st April 2023 resulting in a higher rental yield. RTB sales were budgeted at 50 the current forecast is 43 which results in a rent gain of £11k being the part year effect from RTB sales. The reduction is in part from the current economic climate and the increased costs in borrowing, however, this is reduced by a shortfall of £94k due to lost income from a higher void rate. The number of sales and void rates are areas that will be closely monitored during the course of the year.
- 6.4 The pressure on income from Service Charges is £36k this is a result of a £19k increase in the budget not being realised and £17k of optional emergency alarm charges not being taken up in the sheltered schemes.
- 6.5 The forecast position for Period 6 includes a reduction in expenditure of £31k (Period 5 - £44k).
- 6.6 There are pressures on repairs and maintenance costs of £249k, which relate to the higher cost of materials (£176k), overspends on salaries due to agency costs (£88k), and overspends on services costs due to disrepair claims (£109k). These are partly offset by increased income from recharged services (£108k). There are other minor favourable variances of £16k.
- 6.7 There are savings of £6k in General Management and £227k in Special Services which mainly relate to salary savings (£152k) due to vacant posts, savings on services (£40k) and utilities (£42k) due to lower than expected costs. There were further minor adverse variances of £1k.
- 6.8 There are savings within 'Other' which relates to the bad debt provision being £50k less than budgeted - owing to higher collection on arrears (Period 5 - £50k). There were minor adverse variances of £3k.

- 6.9 The Council made provision for a 4% pay award in 2023-24 the Pay award will exceed the budget as the offer by the employers already exceeds the pay inflation allowed. The forecast outturn will be updated following the conclusion of the national pay negotiations and any additional pressures up to £66k would initially be funded from the contingency budget.

Kettering Neighbourhood Account

- 6.10 The forecast position for the Kettering Neighbourhood Account at the end of Period 6 shows an overspend of £32k (Period 5 - £11k overspend). This is summarised in the following Table:

Kettering Neighbourhood Account			
	Current Budget 2023/24	Projection P6 2023/24	Forecast Variance
	£000	£000	£000
INCOME			
Rents - Dwellings Only	16,763	16,746	17
Service Charges	487	446	41
HRA Investment Income	21	21	0
Total Income	17,271	17,213	58
EXPENDITURE			
Repairs and Maintenance	4,632	4,850	218
General Management	2,988	2,866	(122)
HRA Self Financing	4,986	4,986	0
Revenue Contribution to Capital	3,268	3,268	0
Transfer To / (From) Reserves	(565)	(565)	0
Special Services	1,257	1,233	(24)
Other	705	607	(98)
Total Expenditure	17,271	17,245	(26)
Net Operating Expenditure	0	32	32

- 6.11 The forecast position for rental income from dwellings at Period 6 is £17k lower than budget – a rent gain of £67k is a result of the Right to Buy Sales being 14 less than the budgeted amount of 30 in 2022/23, resulting in a higher number of dwellings on 1st April 2023 resulting in a higher rental yield. RTB sales were budgeted at 30 the current forecast is 20 which results in a rent gain of £24k being the part year effect from RTB sales. The reduction is in part from the current economic climate and the increased costs in borrowing, however, this is reduced by a shortfall of £108k due to lost income from a higher void rate. The number of sales and void rates are areas that will be closely monitored during the course of the year.
- 6.12 There are pressures of £41k as a result of income from service charges being lower than budget.
- 6.13 The forecast position for Period 6 is a reduction in expenditure of £26k (Period 5 - £44k).

- 6.14 There are pressures in Repairs and Maintenance of £218k, which relates to the higher cost for materials (£206k) and an overspend on salaries due to agency costs (£187k). These are partly offset by savings on subcontractor costs (£39k), equipment costs (£40k) and cyclical maintenance costs (£117k). There were also minor adverse variances of £21k.
- 6.15 There are savings of £122k in General Management and £24k in Special Services which mainly relate to salary savings (£130k) due to vacant posts. There were further minor favourable variances of £16k.
- 6.16 There are savings within 'Other' which relates to the bad debt provision being £98k less than budgeted - owing to higher collection on arrears (Period 5 - £50k).
- 6.17 The Council made provision for a 4% pay award in 2023-24 the Pay award will exceed the budget as the offer by the employers already exceeds the pay inflation allowed. The forecast outturn will be updated following the conclusion of the national pay negotiations and any additional pressures up to £176k would initially be funded from the contingency budget.
- 6.18 There could be further pressures to the two Neighbourhood Accounts as the HRA holds a depreciation charge that recognises the cost of managing and maintaining the Council stock at the current level. This funding represents a revenue cost to the HRA that is then used to support the capital programme to deliver the required enhancements to the stock to keep it fit for purpose. The revenue contribution to capital expenditure as a minimum must equal the depreciation charge and the value of the housing stock has increased resulting in a higher Revenue Contribution to Capital, the actual valuations will be confirmed as part of the final accounts process. These pressures would be mitigated by utilising the attributable debt from Right to Buy Sales.

7 Dedicated Schools Grant

- 7.1 The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is a ring-fenced specific grant allocated to the Council by the Government to support a range of education related services.
- 7.2 The Department for Education (DfE) currently operate a four-block funding model for funding schools and pre-16 education including early years as set out in the following table:

Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)			
Schools Block	Central Schools Services Block	High Needs Block	Early Years Block
The School's Block is the largest element of the DSG and is allocated to Schools and Academies for day-to-day spending in their individual budgets.	The Central Schools Block provides funding for local authorities to carry out central functions on behalf of maintained schools and academies.	The High Needs funding system supports provision for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) from their early years to age 25.	The Early Years Block provides funding for 2-, 3- and 4-year-olds.

- 7.3 The original DSG Budget for 2023/24 amounts to £354.963m. After allowing for recoupment, which is where a local authority's DSG allocation is adjusted to reflect the grant that has been paid direct to academies. In July, the DSG allocation was revised to reflect a reduction of £537k, there was a reduction of £382k in the Early Years Block due to lower participation numbers, this was partially offset by a slight increase in the High Needs Block of £74k resulting from additional funding for special free schools. The remaining reduction of £229k relates to the recoupment amount for the High Needs Block being adjusted from £10.853m to £11.082m this is due to an adjustment to the High Needs places. The revised net DSG budget for the Council is £120.663m. The forecast outturn is a pressure of £6.404m, this is summarised in the following Table:

Dedicated Schools Grants Forecast Outturn 2023/24							
Block	Gross Budget	July DSG Allocation Adjustment	Revised Budget	Recoupment	Net Budget	Forecast Net Spend	Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Schools Block	270,284	0	270,284	222,910	47,374	47,374	0
Central Schools Block	3,287	0	3,287	0	3,287	3,287	0
High Needs Block	57,851	74	57,925	11,082	46,843	53,247	6,404
Early Year Block	23,541	(382)	23,159	0	23,159	23,159	0
Total	354,963	(308)	354,655	233,992	120,663	127,067	6,404

- 7.4 The national pressure on services to support the education of children with additional needs is well documented. This has been exacerbated by the ongoing impacts of COVID on children and young people's health and wellbeing. Many Councils are struggling to contain expenditure within the budget available to meet needs. The mitigation actions that are available often have front loaded costs and benefits are felt over the course of many years. Whilst funding has been increased, this has not reflected the full increase in needs that are being identified.

7.5 In the financial year 2022/23 NNC reported an overspend of £1.8m on the HNB. This was offset against the historic surplus of £2.5m that had been brought forward from 2021/22, leaving a reserves balance of £700k, the reserve has been revised to reflect an Early Years clawback for 2022-23 financial year, amounting to £220k. For 2023/24, pressures have continued to increase, and it is now forecast that the HNB overspend will be overspent by £6.884m. The remaining reserves of £480k have been used to mitigate this, leaving a forecast overspend of £6.404m. The composition of these pressures prior to the use of reserves is as follows:

- The ongoing increase in the number of requests for Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP), at Early Years and statutory school age, has exceeded the rate that was used in setting the budget, this pressure is forecast to be around £1.828m.
- A greater proportion of EHCP identifying high level needs and requiring higher levels of funding to be fully met, this pressure is forecast to be around £487k. (SENDIF)
- Sufficiency issues in local SEND placements meaning greater use of Independent Providers at significantly higher cost, this pressure is forecast to be around £3.404m.
- The identification of historic commitments that remain outstanding and must now be paid is a one-off pressure and amount to around £500k.
- Pressures in Mainstream Top Ups are related to an ongoing increase in the number of requests for statutory assessment over and above the level budgeted for. By supporting mainstream schools to meet higher levels of need, pressure is reduced on the specialist placement budgets, this pressure is forecasted to around £1.153m.
- Analysis has been conducted on the Alternative Provision budget, indicating a potential forecasted underspend of £414k. This budget is currently under further review and is subject to change.
- The High Needs budget saw an increase due to an adverse movement in the import-export review and an increase in funding allocated to Special schools the net favourable effect was a £74k increase.

7.6 Significant work has already been undertaken to put in place actions to mitigate pressures, these include:

- Collaborative work with two local special schools to create outreach service to support inclusion in mainstream settings and identify needs, and strategies to meet these, at the earliest opportunity.
- The creation of additional SEND places in Special Schools and Special School satellite provision on mainstream school sites.
- The creation of new SEND units in mainstream schools.

- Development of an early Years SEND provision.
- Partnership working with an outstanding Alternative Provision (AP) Academy Trust to create new capacity in NNC.
- Improved commissioning arrangements with independent providers to control costs and provide greater consistency of delivery.
- Joint commissioning work with health services to improve and widen provision of Speech and Language services.
- Greater focus on the Annual Review process to identify where needs have reduced or an EHCP is no longer required.
- Investment in the EHCP team to ensure needs are assessed in as accurate and timely manner as possible.
- Improved decision-making processes that ensure thresholds and funding decisions are robust and consistent.

- 7.7 This work is ongoing, and a key focus will be the identification of opportunities to create further capacity. NNC was not successful in a bid to DfE for a new Special Free School in the area, as such other routes to creating this capacity are being investigated. A separate bid for a Free AP provision is with DfE and an outcome is expected shortly.
- 7.8 Further opportunities to create SEND places are being developed in partnership with local Special and Mainstream schools. The impact of the outreach services is being assessed with a view to extending these and targeting resources as effectively as possible as part of a wider focus on inclusion. A simplification of EHCP funding through the adoption of a banded system will reduce pressure on the EHCP team and give schools and providers greater clarity and stability. The Education Case Management System will offer significantly improved financial functionality and rigour, improve parental access to information about the progress of an EHCP and create efficiencies in the EHCP process.
- 7.9 Where a local authority has an overall deficit on its DSG account at the end of the financial year, or where a surplus has substantially reduced during the year, they must provide information to the DfE about pressures and savings on the High Needs Budget as part of a DSG Deficit Management Plan. In addition, where there is a deficit, this will have an adverse impact on the Council's cashflow position and will impact on the resources available for investment – which will result in the investment income being lower.
- 7.10 Looking to 2024/25, it seems unlikely that any increase in government funding will meet the impact of the ongoing pressures identified, however the mitigation actions taken will continue to contribute to minimise these, but further actions will be required. The Council will be looking to work with the Schools Forum to consider a transfer of funding from the Schools Block (SB) of the DSG to HNB. This was not requested this year due to the pressure on schools' budget

and the DSG surplus the Council was holding at the time. If agreed, this would generate circa £1.7m additional funding for the HNB. Forum will also be asked to look at measures that will support inclusion in mainstream settings and provide challenge where any school may not be meeting this standard.

- 7.11 Identifying and meeting the needs of children and young people with SEND at the earliest opportunity and putting in place appropriate actions to meet these needs, remains the central focus of all of this work. Ensuring that the whole system works in an inclusive and joined up way is key to meeting this aspiration and to ensuring the efficient use of available resources to manage costs effectively.
- 7.12 At Spring Budget, the Chancellor announced additional funding for the existing early years entitlements worth £204m in 2023-24 (from September 2023) and £288m in 2024-25. This is for local authorities to increase hourly rates paid to childcare providers for the government's existing entitlement offers.
- 7.13 In July the Government announced that for 2023-24, that this will be distributed to LAs through a new standalone top-up grant called the Early Years Supplementary Grant (EYSG) and that the individual authority allocations would be announced in September. Details of the allocations will be provided in a future report.

8 Conclusions

- 8.1 The forecast for 2023/24 is an overspend of £7.575m (Period 5 - £7.821m) based on the position as at the end of Period 5. The Council's contingency budget of £3.746m has not, as yet been used to mitigate these pressures recognising the risks that remain within the forecast, most notably pay and price inflation. Service Directors will be working to mitigate these pressures in-year, including those of the Children's Trust. The Council also holds earmarked reserves which may be utilised if mitigations are not identified to fund the current pressures.
- 8.2 The key risks which are set out in the report will continue to be monitored and actions sought as required throughout 2023/24. The achievement of the approved savings targets is also integral to this process and will continue to be monitored and reported.

9 Implications (including financial implications)

9.1 Resources, Financial and Transformation

- 9.1.1 The financial implications are set out in this report. The current forecast position for the General Fund is an overspend of £7.575m (Period 5 - £7.821m) and the Housing Revenue Account is forecasting an overspend of £52k (Period 5 - £15k overspend), the Dedicated Schools Grant is forecasting a pressure of £6.4045m (Period 5 - £4.995m).

9.2 Legal and Governance

9.2.1 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).

9.2.2 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 2023/24 budget.

9.3 **Relevant Policies and Plans**

9.3.1 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.

9.4 **Risk**

9.4.1 The deliverability of the 2023/24 Revenue Budget is monitored by Budget Managers and Assistant Directors. Where any variances or emerging pressures are identified during the year then mitigating actions will be sought and management interventions undertaken.

9.4.2 Details of pressures, risks and mitigating actions implemented will be provided as part of the finance monitoring reports as the year progresses. The main risks identified include demand led services such as Adult Social Care, children's services, and home to school transport together with the impact of high levels of inflation.

9.4.3 Whilst services will work hard to offset pressures, the Council holds a number of reserves to help safeguard against the risks inherent within the budget for 2023/24.

9.5 **Consultation**

9.5.1 The 2023/24 budget was subject to consultation prior to approval by Council in February 2023.

9.6 **Consideration by Executive Advisory Panel**

9.6.1 Not applicable.

9.7 **Consideration by Scrutiny**

9.7.1 The budget monitoring reports are presented to the Finance and Resources Scrutiny Committee for review after they have been presented to the Executive Committee.

9.8 **Equality Implications**

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

9.9 **Climate and Environment Impact**

9.9.1 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.

9.10 **Community Impact**

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

9.11 **Crime and Disorder Impact**

9.11.1 There are no specific issues arising from this report.

10 Issues and Choices

10.1 The report focuses on the forecast revenue outturn against budget for 2023/24 and makes recommendations for the Executive to note the current budgetary position and as such there are no specific choices within the report.

11 Background Papers

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

Final Budget 2023/24 and Medium-Term Financial Plans, including the Council Tax Resolution, North Northamptonshire Council, 23rd February 2023.

Monthly Budget Forecast Reports to the Executive.

Directorate	Assistant Director	Proposal Title	Proposal Description	2023/24 £000	Red	Amber	Green
Children & Education	Assistant Director Education	DFE SEND Review/Multi Agency SEND Self Assessment and Action Plan	Additional resources to meet the increase and clear the back log relating to Education and Health Care Plans. An additional amount of £700k was included in the 22/23 Budget.	(175)	(175)		
Children & Education	Assistant Director Education	Teachers Pensions	Budget Realignment for historical contribution for the Teachers Pensions Fund	(275)			(275)
Children & Education	Assistant Director Education	DSG Funding	Budget Realignment of the DSG contribution towards the historical contribution for the Teachers Pensions Fund	(462)			(462)
Children & Education	Commissioning & Partnerships	Additional Demand - Payments to other Establishments	Disaggregated Additional Demand - Payments to other Establishments Budget for Children, Families and Education, budget not utilised	(691)			(691)
Children & Education	Commissioning & Partnerships	Disaggregated Budget not required	Disaggregated Budget - budget not utilised	(412)			(412)
Adults, Health, Partnerships & Housing	Adult Services	CCG Discharge Packages Covid 19	Reversal of one off Covid Pressure relating to 2021/22	(513)			(513)
Adults, Health, Partnerships & Housing	Adult Services	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.	(587)		(587)	
Adults, Health, Partnerships & Housing	Adult Services	Demographic and prevalence pressures adult social care	Reduction in demand due to Provider transformation Phase 1 - Specialist Care Centre	(1,189)		(1,189)	
Adults, Health, Partnerships & Housing	Adult Services	Staffing	Savings from review of wider staffing budget to fund Social Worker Market Forces	(100)			(100)
Adults, Health, Partnerships & Housing	Safeguarding and Wellbeing	Staffing	Disaggregation of Shared Lives to be managed within the wider provider services staffing	(23)			(23)
Adults, Health, Partnerships & Housing	Commissioning & Performance	Shaw PPP	Reduction in number of residential placements made in the independent sector owing to increase utilisation beds in PPP properties.	(1,192)		(1,192)	
Adults, Health, Partnerships & Housing	Commissioning & Performance	Shaw PPP	Increase utilisation of capacity within Discharge to Access	(1,058)	(617)	(441)	
Adults, Health, Partnerships & Housing	Commissioning & Performance	Contract Rationalisation	Increasing utilisation of framework providers for homecare and reduction of more expensive spot contracts	(67)			(67)
Adults, Health, Partnerships & Housing	Commissioning & Performance	Staffing	Saving of wider staffing budget to fund PBSS	(125)		(125)	
Adults, Health, Partnerships & Housing	Housing	Homelessness Policy Changes	Harmonisation of Homelessness Policies	(200)			(200)
Adults, Health, Partnerships & Housing	Housing	Maximisation of Grant	Capitalisation of posts for work relating to Disabled Facility Grants	(127)			(127)
Adults, Health, Partnerships & Housing	Director of Public Health	Realignment of Grant	Realignment of grant following disaggregation	(138)			(138)
Public Health & Communities	Communities	Income generation	Fees and Charges - Leisure	(195)			(195)
Public Health & Communities	Communities	Efficiencies	Legacy budgets no longer required	(42)			(42)
Public Health & Communities	Communities	Efficiencies	Review of Strategic Grants	(7)			(7)
Public Health & Communities	Communities	Staffing	Service Transformation	(360)			(360)
Public Health & Communities	Communities	Income Generation	External Funding for Events	(30)			(30)
Public Health & Communities	Communities	Efficiencies	Review of Neighbourhood Centres	(45)			(45)
Public Health & Communities	Communities	Income Generation	Introduce an E-Gym offer	(63)			(63)
Public Health & Communities	Communities	Income Generation	Repurposing of Public Health grant to fund wellbeing posts	(93)			(93)
Public Health & Communities	Communities	Public Health Grant	Grant funding to support services in addressing Public Health needs	(500)			(500)

Appendix A

Directorate	Assistant Director	Proposal Title	Proposal Description	2023/24 £000	Red	Amber	Green
Place & Economy	Growth & Regeneration	Increase in Fees & Charges	Increase in Fees & Charges	(10)			(10)
Place & Economy	Assets and Environment	Additional income	Garage Income	(10)	(10)		
Place & Economy	Assets and Environment	Assets & Environment redesign	Assets & Environment Service Improvement and Redesign	(95)		(95)	
Place & Economy	Assets and Environment	Grounds Maintenance	Operational changes to grounds maintenance costs & services	(57)		(57)	
Place & Economy	Assets and Environment	Grounds Maintenance	Purchase of equipment resulting in reduction in equipment hire charges	(15)		(15)	
Place & Economy	Assets and Environment	Grounds Maintenance	Purchase of equipment resulting in reduction in equipment hire charges	(30)		(30)	
Place & Economy	Assets and Environment	Pay/Salaries	Operational changes to cleaning services	(14)		(14)	
Place & Economy	Assets and Environment	Pay/Salaries	Operational changes to Council Buildings.	(31)		(31)	
Place & Economy	Assets and Environment	Rental Income	Additional income from rent reviews across the commercial portfolio.	(80)		(80)	
Place & Economy	Assets and Environment	Enterprise Centre Business Case - Full year effects of previous decisions	Increase in income based on appointed operators business case.	(64)		(64)	
Place & Economy	Growth & Regeneration	Climate Change	Delivery of a range of climate change initiatives to reduce NNC's carbon footprint towards net zero	(250)			(250)
Place & Economy	Highways & Waste	Highways Contract	Demobilisation costs for existing highways contract - reverses one-off pressure which was reflected in the 22/23 Budget	(201)		(201)	
Place & Economy	Highways & Waste	Waste Management	Disposal tonnage - HWRC Residual Waste	(79)		(79)	
Place & Economy	Highways & Waste	Waste Management	Disposal tonnage - HWRC Wood Waste	(27)		(27)	
Place & Economy	Highways & Waste	Green Waste	Harmonisation of Green Waste Charges	(1,358)			(1,358)
Place & Economy	Highways & Waste	Promote food waste	Benefit of promoting the food waste service in the Corby and East Northants area	(50)		(50)	
Place & Economy	Highways & Waste	Refuse fees & charges	Increase refuse & recycling fees & charges	(135)		(135)	
Place & Economy	Highways & Waste	Highways fees & charges	Increase highways & transport fees and charges	(44)			(44)
Place & Economy	Highways & Waste	Review Litter bin network	Reduction in street cleaning costs	(5)			(5)
Place & Economy	Highways & Waste	HWRC Income	Increase income from HWRCs	(153)		(153)	
Place & Economy	Regulatory Services	Restructure	Rationalisation of service provision	(185)		(30)	(155)
Place & Economy	Regulatory Services	Specialist Equipment For Service Delivery	Base budget allocation for incident response released	(280)			(280)
Place & Economy	Regulatory Services	Increase in Fees & Charges	Increase in Fees & Charges	(227)		(227)	
Enabling Services	Finance & Performance	Pensions	Pension - Historical Pension Fund Deficit	(232)			(232)
Enabling Services	Finance & Performance	Pensions	Reduction in Employer's Pension Contribution Rate	(1,890)		(1,890)	
Enabling Services	Finance & Performance	Pensions	Disaggregation of Legacy Pensions	(450)			(450)
Enabling Services	Finance & Performance	Housing Benefit Subsidy	Additional income relating to Housing Benefit Subsidy	(5)		(5)	
Enabling Services	Chief Executive's Office	Staffing	Staff Savings	(7)			(7)

Appendix A

Directorate	Assistant Director	Proposal Title	Proposal Description	2023/24 £000	Red	Amber	Green
Enabling Services	Chief Executive's Office	Communications	Communications - Savings on professional services not utilised.	(3)			(3)
Enabling Services	Chief Information Officer	ICT Disaggregation	Upfront work needed for ICT disaggregation - one-off, reversal of 2022/23 pressure	(100)			(100)
Enabling Services	Chief Information Officer	ICT Contract Rationalisation	Rationalisation of service contracts - largely mobile telephone contracts	(50)			(50)
Enabling Services	Chief Information Officer	ICT application rationalisation	Rationalisation of service usage - largely Microsoft contract	(50)			(50)
Enabling Services	Human Resources	Pay and Grading Review	Delivery of Pay and Grading Review	(120)			(120)
Enabling Services	Legal Services	Fleet	Changes to the operational arrangements for the mayor	(19)			(19)
Enabling Services	Legal Services	Legal Income	Increase in Legal Income target	(150)			(150)
Enabling Services	Legal Services	Upper Tier Legal Services	Anticipated saving from bringing upper tier legal services in house	(100)			(100)
Enabling Services	Customer Services	Customer Services Replacement of Case Management System & Telephone System	Case management system and telephony replacement	(106)		(106)	
Enabling Services	Customer Services	Uniforms	Reduction in Staff Uniforms	(8)			(8)
Enabling Services	Customer Services	Staffing	Transformation Staff Savings	(106)			(106)
Corporate	Corporate	Treasury Management	Reversal of Covid Pressure from 2021/22 for £342k - based on interest recovery by 2023/24	(342)			(342)
Corporate	Corporate	Treasury Management	Additional Income generated from higher than anticipated interest rates	(500)			(500)
Corporate	Corporate	Treasury Management	Reduced costs following the repayment of loans	(109)			(109)
			Total	(16,416)	(802)	(6,823)	(8,791)

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CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 12 December 2023

Report Title	Capital Forecast 2023/24 as at Period 6
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 2023/24 as at Period 6

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The attached report is for consideration by this Committee. It sets out the Capital Forecast 2023/24 as at Period 6 and was presented to Executive at its meeting on 16th November 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 16th November 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 2023/24 as at Period 6 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 6 presented to Executive at its meeting on 16th November 2023. The monitoring report sets out the material financial issues identified since the 2023/24 budget was set in February 2023. This is based on the draft outturn position as at the end of March 2024, together with the proposed slippage on the 2023/24 capital programme.
- 4.2. The Period 6 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 £21.6m
- Housing Revenue Account: underspend of £15.9m

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 16th November 2023

Report Title	Capital Outturn 2023/24 – Draft Outturn as at Period 6
Report Authors	Janice Gotts, Executive Director of Finance and Performance
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 – General Fund Monitoring

Appendix B – HRA Monitoring

Appendix C – Development Pool

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report sets out the provisional capital outturn position for 2023/24 as at period 6 for North Northamptonshire Council (NNC), including requests to re-phase scheme expenditure profiles.
- 1.2 The report details the latest capital budgets (2023/24) for the General Fund (GF) and the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Programme, including new schemes which have been approved since 1st April 2023.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report sets out the draft 2023/24 outturn as at period 6 for the Council's capital programme.

- 2.2 It provides commentary on the Council's current financial outturn position for 2023/24 as at period 6 for both the GF and the HRA Capital Programmes. It should also be recognised at this point that the final outturn position may be affected by any changes arising from the outstanding audits for the legacy authorities.
- 2.3 The Council will continue to assess and refine its capital profiling as part of the capital monitoring for 2023/24 prioritising schemes and focussing on deliver ability. The outturn position presented in the report is based on the best available data and information of the operations of the Council. The review of profiling of the capital programme is currently ongoing and has not been reflected within this report.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that Executive:
- a. Note the draft capital outturn position as at period 6 for the General Fund (GF) Capital Programme and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Programme for 2023/24.
 - b. Note the new schemes that have been approved since 1st April 2023.
- 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:
- This report is on the forecasted out-turn and therefore alternative options are not proposed.

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 ensure effective monitoring and ensure transparency. In year changed to the Capital Programme are approved by Executive, unless authority has been delegated or Full Council approval is required, in accordance with the Council's constitution.
- 4.4 This report provides an update to the Capital Programme 2023/24 as adopted by the Council in February 2023 and updated in subsequent reports to Executive.
- 4.5 The programme has been split into three areas:
- General Fund Committed Capital Programme containing schemes approved by Council, 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 aims to provide greater emphasis on the link to strategic priorities and achievement of benefits and outcomes. As part of this each submission is requested to identify any contribution to reducing carbon and/or how the development or investment will support a zero-carbon agenda.
- 4.7 The governance process requires that Directorates submit business cases to the officer led Strategic Capital Board for initial consideration. Each scheme requires approval to enter the development pool or as a commitment in the main programme. The business case must set out the requirement for funding and any funding streams available (e.g. grant), how it meets the Council's strategic priorities, risk analysis and expected outcomes and benefits.
- 4.8 The Strategic Capital Board meets monthly to scrutinise new proposals and consider the 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 Performance and consists of the Executive Directors from each of the Directorates, the Monitoring Officer and finance/project management support.
- 4.9 In line with the agreed process, schemes progress from the Strategic Capital Board to initially be considered by the Council's 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. If approved, such proposals will be incorporated within the Council's Capital Programme.

5. Issues and Choices – Forecast Outturn as at Period 6 2023/24

Draft Capital Outturn P6 2023/24

- 5.1 The outturn forecast for 2023/24 at period 6 in respect of the GF Capital Programme shows a revised capital budget position of £85.8m, including slippage and in-year approved programmes. The outturn position is currently estimated at a spend of £64.1m, which represents movement (slippage/underspend) of £21.6m against the budget.

Table 1

Directorate	General Fund Capital Programme 2023/2024								
	Original Budget	Draft Brought forward Budget	Approved in year	Revised Budget	YTD Actual P6	Forecast P3	Forecast P6	Variance to Budget	Movement from P3 Forecast
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Place and Economy	30,734	15,892	3,803	50,429	7,641	39,592	35,495	(14,934)	(4,097)
Children and Education	5,184	7,997	4,534	17,715	2,328	8,897	13,134	(4,581)	4,237
Adults, Communities and Wellbeing Services	1,811	7,216	5,634	14,661	2,970	10,293	13,327	(1,334)	3,034
Enabling and Support Services	1,079	1,867	0	2,946	186	2,460	2,160	(786)	(300)
Total	38,808	32,972	13,971	85,751	13,125	61,242	64,116	(21,635)	2,874

- 5.2 The range of schemes delivered or in progress during 2023/24 include Corby Towns Fund – 6th Form College and Train Station to Town Centre, Street Lighting upgrades, a number of school related improvements such as completion of work Prince William Academy, delivery of highways maintenance programme, Disabled Facilities Grants and the Refugee Resettlement Programme.
- 5.3 A proportion of the capital programme 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 the potential risk of repayment and/or loss of grant.
- 5.4 The deliverability of the programme in future must also take into account the current and potential cost related to inflationary pressures. This may require some scoping changes or other mitigation if schemes are to remain within the original budget envelope.

5.5 General Fund Capital Programme Funding

For the General Fund capital programme funding sources have been identified to cover the MTFS capital budget requirements, including the original MTFS budget of £38.8m, together with funding for the slippage (£32.9m) and in-year approved schemes (£14m). Below shows the anticipated funding source for the in-year expenditure for 2023/24, estimated at period 6 as £64.1m.

Table 4

Directorate	Discretionary Funding	Capital Receipts and Reserves	Capital Grants	S106	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Place and Economy	5,291	2,179	27,038	987	35,495
Children and Education	2,705	0	8,901	1,528	13,134
Adults, Communities and Wellbeing Services	9,272	109	3,794	152	13,327
Enabling and Support Services	214	1,921	25	0	2,160
Total	17,482	4,209	39,758	2,667	64,116

5.6 Development Pool

The Development Pool was fully reviewed as part of the 2023/24 MTFP work, as presented to Budget Executive on 9th February 2023. Additionally, a number of schemes were added back to the development pool as part of the 2022/23 draft out-turn report, as presented in June 2023. The current development pool is detailed in **Appendix C**.

5.7 HRA Capital Programme

The outturn for the HRA Capital Programme shows a revised a budget for 2023/24 of £23.4m, including slippage from 2022/23 of £8.7m. There have been no further approvals since budget setting. The outturn is showing a forecast spend of £7.4m, which represents an underspend of £15.9m compared to budget, and which will be reviewed and re-profiled considering the latest position. Detailed analysis by project shown in **Appendix B**.

Table 5

HRA Capital Programme 2023/2024									
Directorate	Original Budget	Draft Brought forward Budget	Approved in year	Revised Budget	YTD Actual P6	Forecast P3	Forecast P6	Variance to Budget	Movement from P3 Forecast
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Corby	10,375	5,706	0	16,081	1,558	4,501	4,742	(11,339)	242
Kettering	4,253	3,012	0	7,265	851	2,485	2,687	(4,578)	211
Total	14,627	8,719	0	23,346	2,409	6,986	7,429	(15,917)	453

5.8 A significant proportion of the budget is forecast not to be spent in 2023/24 as initially planned. Some schemes are forecast to underspend due to experiencing delays in finalising new contractual arrangements and identifying new housing development sites for new build properties which is currently being reviewed by officers.

5.9 Virements have been reflected in Appendix B for the HRA capital programme relating to the housing tenancy capital schemes, which is a ringfenced fund. The overall purpose of these budgets has not changed, which is to enhance and maintain the current housing stock.

6 Next Steps

6.1 Monitoring of capital schemes will continue throughout the year and a further report presented to Executive at period 9.

6.2 The brought forward balances are still subject to external audit. Any adjustments required because of the outstanding audits for 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 2023/24 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.

7.4.5 The brought forward figures in this report from 2022/23 remain in draft. The position is provisional as the annual statutory audit of accounts for the authority is still to be completed. Until the Statement of Accounts are signed off by the External Auditors, there could be required amendments to the carry forward balances between financial years.

7.5 Consultation

7.5.1 The 2023/24 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 2023/24, approved by Council on 23rd February 2023, item C/208:

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

[Appendix A - Capital Programme 2023-26.pdf \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

[Appendix B - HRA Capital Programme 2023-26.pdf \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

[6. Appendix C - Development Pool.pdf \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

Capital Outturn 2022/23 – Provisional Outturn as at period 12, presented to Executive 8th June 2023, item 455:

[DRAFT P12 Draft Capital Outturn Report 2022-23.pdf \(modern.gov.co.uk\)](#)

[Appendix A](#)

[Appendix B](#)

Capital Outturn 2023/24 as a Period 3, presented to Executive on 17th August 2023, item 489:

[Capital Outturn 2023/24 as at Period 3.pdf \(modern.gov.co.uk\)](#)

[Appendix A](#)

[Appendix B](#)

[Appendix C](#)

Appendix A

	General Fund Capital Programme									
	Original Budget	Budget C/fwd	Approved in year	Revised Budget	P6 Actuals	P3 Forecast	P6 Forecast	Variance to Budget	Movement from P3 Forecast	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
DIRECTORATE - PLACE										
A509 Isham By pass	0	837	0	837	664	837	837	0	0	
S106 Highways	500	128	0	628	0	128	128	(500)	0	
Street Lighting LED Upgrade	2,157	3,033	0	5,190	0	2,480	2,688	(2,502)	208	
Highways DFT LTP Integrated Transport Block 2023-24	2,102	210	0	2,312	0	1,500	1,500	(812)	0	
Highways DFT Pothole Fund 2023-24	3,735	793	0	4,528	0	4,528	4,528	0	0	
Highways DFT Incentive Block 2023-24	934	311	0	1,245	0	1,245	1,245	0	0	
Highways DFT Maintenance Block 2023-24	3,735	185	0	3,920	0	3,920	3,920	0	0	
Pothole repair additional funding 2023-24	0	0	1,494	1,494	0	1,494	1,494	0	0	
High Street - Heritage Action Zone	0	195	371	566	277	195	566	0	371	
HG0220 - Northamptonshire Superfast Broadband	562	550	0	1,112	(74)	1,111	1,111	(1)	0	
Corby Town Fund Multi-Use Building	0	0	787	787	0	712	125	(662)	(587)	
Corby Town Fund - 6th Form College	4,750	2,179	0	6,929	2,446	6,929	6,929	0	0	
Corby Town Fund - Train Station to Town Centre	6,300	100	0	6,400	0	2,010	750	(5,650)	(1,260)	
Priors Hall Sustainable Urban extension - A43/Steel Road junction	0	996	0	996	0	996	150	(846)	(846)	
East Kettering (Hanwood Park) S106 Highways works	1,674	(23)	0	1,651	0	1,651	0	(1,651)	(1,651)	
Property Stock Improvement & Compliance	326	337	0	663	8	663	663	0	0	
Compulsory Purchase Order Fund	601	0	0	601	0	601	601	0	0	
Garden Communities	0	1,428	0	1,428	0	1,428	500	(928)	(928)	
Disabled Facilities Grant NNC	2,200	0	0	2,200	932	2,500	2,500	300	0	
Private Sector Housing - Home Repairs Grants	0	661	0	661	12	45	45	(616)	0	
All other schemes (individual budgets under £500k)	1,158	3,972	1,151	6,281	3,377	4,619	5,215	(1,066)	596	
TOTAL PLACE	30,734	15,892	3,803	50,429	7,641	39,592	35,495	(14,934)	(4,097)	

	Original Budget	Budget C/fwd	Approved in year	Revised Budget	P6 Actuals	P3 Forecast	P6 Forecast	Variance to Budget	Movement from P3 Forecast
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
DIRECTORATE - CHILDREN AND EDUCATION									
Prince William School phase 3 works	0	3,813	0	3,813	0	1,144	3,813	0	2,669
Earls Barton School S106 works	1,290	204	0	1,494	50	1,061	1,000	(494)	(61)
Isebrook SEND College expansion - four seasons	0	827	0	827	273	822	822	(5)	0
Wollaston Secondary SEND Unit	0	0	561	561	369	561	561	0	0
Schools Minor Works 2022-2024	1,947	1,432	0	3,379	117	1,223	1,569	(1,810)	346
Huxlow S106 Minor Works	0	0	554	554	294	0	330	(224)	330
Rowan Gate Special School mobile to permanent	1,006	153	0	1,159	65	1,006	1,006	(153)	0
Kingswood Secondary Bulge	341	213	0	554	98	213	213	(341)	0
Avenue Infants School SEND provision	0	0	727	727	0	0	100	(627)	100
Great Doddington Primary School mobile replacement	0	0	897	897	0	0	50	(847)	50
Children's Trust Planned Capital Maintenance Programme	600	225	0	825	2	825	825	0	0
Children's Residential Home Provision	0	762	0	762	0	762	762	0	0
All other schemes (individual budgets under £500k)	0	368	1,795	2,163	1,061	1,280	2,083	(80)	803
TOTAL CHILDREN AND EDUCATION	5,184	7,997	4,534	17,715	2,328	8,897	13,134	(4,581)	4,237

	Original Budget	Budget C/fwd	Approved in year	Revised Budget	P6 Actuals	P3 Forecast	P6 Forecast	Variance to Budget	Movement from P3 Forecast
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
DIRECTORATE - ADULTS, COMMUNITIES & WELLBEING									
Community equipment capitalisation	540	0	0	540	0	540	540	0	0
Rough Sleepers Accommodation (RSAP)	0	542	0	542	552	542	542	0	0
Refugee Resettlement Programme (Phase 1)	0	3,711	3,234	6,945	2,168	6,945	6,945	0	0
Refugee Resettlement Programme (Phase 2)	0	0	3,298	3,298	0	0	3,298	0	3,298
Housing and Homelessness Prevention	1,000	1,000	(1,000)	1,000	61	498	498	(502)	0
All other schemes (individual budgets under £500k)	271	1,963	102	2,336	190	1,768	1,504	(832)	(264)
TOTAL ADULTS, COMMUNITIES & WELLBEING	1,811	7,216	5,634	14,661	2,970	10,293	13,327	(1,334)	3,034

	Original Budget	Budget C/fwd	Approved in year	Revised Budget	P6 Actuals	P3 Forecast	P6 Forecast	Variance to Budget	Movement from P3 Forecast
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
DIRECTORATE - ENABLING SERVICES									
Revenues & Benefits System	0	720	0	720	92	600	600	(120)	0
IT Strategy	559	0	0	559	0	559	559	0	0
Infrastructure / Flexi & Remote Working	220	330	0	550	0	550	550	0	0
All other schemes (individual budgets under £500k)	300	817	0	1,117	94	751	451	(666)	(300)
TOTAL ENABLING	1,079	1,867	0	2,946	186	2,460	2,160	(786)	(300)

	Original Budget	Budget C/fwd	Approved in year	Revised Budget	P6 Actuals	P3 Forecast	P6 Forecast	Variance to Budget	Movement from P3 Forecast
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
TOTAL GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME	38,808	32,972	13,971	85,751	13,125	61,242	64,116	(21,635)	2,874

Directorate - Housing		Original Budget	Revised Budget C/fwd.	Approved Budget in year	Virements	Revised Budget	P6 Actual	P3 Forecast	P6 Forecast	Variance to Budget	Movement to P6
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Housing Corby											
New Build	New Build	5,500	3,593			9,093	500	350	1,500	(7,593)	1,150
Hidden Homes		200				200	17	200	200	0	0
Estate Management		250				250	69	150	150	(100)	0
Roof Renewals		350				350	61	150	150	(200)	0
Electrical Upgrades	Decent Homes - Electrical Upgrades	385	1,024		(244)	1,165	153	385	385	(780)	0
Heating Upgrades	Central Heating Renewal	350	303			653	212	350	350	(303)	0
Compliance	Health & Safety and Fire Precautions	200	562			762	47	91	93	(669)	3
Disabled Adaptations	Improving access for disabled people	250	(58)			192	102	250	192	0	(58)
Supply Chain Upgrades	Property Stores Project	40	79			119	33	40	0	(119)	(40)
Kitchen & Bathrooms	Decent Homes - Kitchen & Bathroom Renewal	300	(107)			193	102	206	193	(0)	(13)
Doors & Windows	External Door Replacements	250	(24)			226	50	129	129	(97)	0
HRA - Unallocated Labour & Overheads	Unallocated Labour	1,500	278		0	1,778	5	1,500	1,000	(778)	(500)
HRA Housing Management System [CBC]	HRA Housing Management System [CBC]		20			20	10		0	(20)	0
Major Voids Works		400	(244)		244	400	186	400	400	0	0
Sheltered Housing		200				200	10	200	200	0	0
Energy Improvements		200	280			480	0	100	100	(380)	0
Total Corby Housing		10,375	5,707	0	0	16,081	1,558	4,501	5,042	(11,039)	542

Directorate - Housing		Original Budget	Revised Budget C/fwd.	Approved Budget in year	Virements	Revised Budget	P6 Actual	P3 Forecast	P6 Forecast	Variance to Budget	Movement to P9
Kettering Housing											
Kitchens & Bathrooms (Kettering)		400	163	0	(400)	163	32	200	100	(63)	(100)
Heating Upgrades (Kettering)		400	73	0	0	473	198	400	400	(73)	0
Roof Renewals (Kettering)		200	175	0	0	375	13	150	100	(275)	(50)
Disabled Adaptations (Kettering)		225	(50)	0	0	175	26	125	125	(50)	0
Electrical Upgrades (Kettering)		300	114	0	0	414	145	326	326	(88)	0
External Doors & Windows (Kettering)		300	11	0	0	311	1	200	150	(161)	(50)
Major Void Works (Kettering)		250	(84)	0	84	250	263	250	250	0	0
Energy Improvements (Kettering)		200	218	0	0	418	0	100	100	(318)	0
Sheltered Housing Communal Upgrades (Kettering)		50	47	0	0	97	8	50	50	(47)	0
Estate Maintenance (Kettering)		100	116	0	0	216	50	100	100	(116)	0
Compliance (Kettering)		60	(13)	0	13	60	32	60	60	(0)	0
Supply Chain Upgrades (Kettering)		25				25	10	25	25	0	0
Homes for the Future (Kettering)		758	104		0	862	56	350	200	(662)	(150)
Hidden Homes (Kettering)			(101)	0	303	202	9	150	202	0	52
New Build		985	2,239	0	0	3,224	9	0	500	(2,724)	500
Total Kettering Housing		4,253	3,012	0	0	7,265	851	2,485	2,687	(4,578)	211
Total Housing Revenue Account		14,627	8,719	0	0	23,346	2,409	6,986	7,729	(15,617)	753

Appendix C**Development Pool Forecast Expenditure 2023-24 Onwards**

Scheme	Directorate	Scheme Description	2023-24 £000's	2024-25 £000's	2025-26 £000's	Total £000's	Funding Source
New Primary Schools	Children and Education	Glenvale and Priors Hall	6,000	6,000	600	12,600	S106
New Secondary Schools	Children and Education	Hanwood Park and Weldon village	10,000	20,000	20,000	50,000	S106
S106 Funded School Expansions	Children and Education	Expansions at Huxlow, Oakley Vale, Desborough and West Hill	-	650	9,000	9,650	S106
Alfred Street/Tennison Road Amalgamation	Children and Education	Merger of two schools	1,040	-	-	1,040	DFE
Sir Christopher Hatton Secondary School	Children and Education	Expansion	1,761	-	-	1,761	DFE/S106
Various SEND schemes	Children and Education	Schemes to provide new SEND capacity to meet demand across North Northants	7,599	4,352	150	15,440	DFE
Devolved Formula Capital	Children and Education	Maintained schools capital grant, allocated by school by DFE.	-	302	300	908	DFE
Schools Strategic Repairs and Maintenance	Children and Education	Funded from 'Schools Condition Allocation' Grant based on condition surveys for maintained schools.	-	1,000	1,000	2,000	DFE
Tithe Barn Road Office Refurbishment	Place	As described.	-	2,421	-	2,421	Discretionary
New Depot	Place	As described.	-	2,750	750	3,500	Discretionary
Recycling Project / Facility	Place	As described.	-	2,876	2,500	5,376	Discretionary
LTP Maintenance	Place	Non ring-fenced DfT grant for the maintenance of highways assets.	-	3,735	3,735	7,470	DfT
LTP Integrated Transport	Place	Non ring-fenced DfT grant for small scale improvements delivering the objectives of the Local Transport Plan.	-	1,551	1,551	3,102	DfT

Scheme	Directorate	Scheme Description	2023-24 £000's	2024-25 £000's	2025-26 £000's	Total £000's	Funding Source
Incentive fund	Place	Non ring-fenced DfT grant for the maintenance of highways assets.	-	934	934	1,868	DfT
Pothole Fund	Place	Ring-fenced DfT grant for the repair of potholes.	-	3,735	3,735	7,470	DfT
A509 Wellingborough Development Link Phase 1 (Isham Bypass)	Place	Road scheme.	7,552	12,787	30,656	50,995	DfT, Developer, LA
A43 Northampton to Kettering Phase 3 (Overstone Grange to Holcot/Sywell)	Place	Dualling of the A43 Northampton to Kettering (his section spans the boundary between Daventry and Wellingborough).	432	832	2,297	3,561	DfT, Developer, LA
Flood Alleviation	Place	As bid for from Environment Agency and funding secured from external bodies e.g. Anglian Water.	-	250	250	500	External Funding
Estate Stock Condition and compliance works	Place	Expenditure on NCC properties relating to replacement and repair of boiler and ventilation systems, roofs and building fabric works. Also covers health and safety, water quality and fire regulations requirements.	1,000	1,000	1,000	3,000	Capital Receipts
Public Health Schemes	Place	Awaiting confirmation of funding approval	-	101	-	101	Grant
Corby Town Fund	Place	Deliver of four projects Sixth Form College, Corby Station Link, Smart and Connected Corby and Multi-Use building.	-	-	-	1,735	External /s.106
UK Shared Prosperity Fund	Place	Grant bid left behind	-	-	-	1,495	Grant
Levelling Up Fund	Place	Two bids submitted one for Transformation through Green Growth (Stanton Cross R6 overbridge) Chester House Phase 2 and the Greenway) and for Improving Life Chances (Adrenaline Alley, Corby Station Link and Queensway, Wellingborough regeneration)	-	-	-	-	Grant
Grounds Maintenance Equipment replacement	Place	Capital budget to renew grounds maintenance equipment	-	-	-	400	Discretionary
Electric Vehicle charging points CIC & CEC	Place	Supply and installation of electric vehicle charging points for tenants use (includes previous Electric Charging scheme)	-	134	-	134	Capital Receipts
Future Way of Working Assets Implementation	Place	Capital budget to implement accommodation changes as part of the Future Way of Working implementation plan	-	1,500	-	1,500	Discretionary
Ladbrook Reservoir	Place	Further phase of capital works to the reservoir to meet the councils statutory duties.	-	330	-	330	Grant
Local Authority Tree Fund 2024/25	Place	Grant funding for tree planting in open space	-	-	80	80	Grant

Scheme	Directorate	Scheme Description	2023-24 £000's	2024-25 £000's	2025-26 £000's	Total £000's	Funding Source
Play Area investment in Country Parks	Place	To invest in new play equipment to support growth in parking income.	-	300	-	300	s.106
Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund	Place	Bid for external funds to decarbonise the Council's estate	-	1,000	-	1,000	Grant
Future Fleet (ex BCW Norse)	Place		-	397	-	397	Discretionary
Residential Zones/CPE	Place		-	20	-	20	Discretionary
CPO Fund	Place	Potential repurpose for Smiths land scheme	-	601	-	601	Capital Receipts
Device Management	Enabling	End of life replacement.	-	-	-	-	Discretionary
Northants Care Record	Adults	Integrating systems into the NHCP Northants Care Record for a single view of the patient/citizen for social workers and clinicians.	50	-	-	50	Discretionary
Leisure and Tourism Projects	Adults	Pemberton, Splash and Nene Leisure Centres	15	-	-	15	Discretionary
Social Care System Replacement	Adults		-	939	-	939	Discretionary
Castle Theatre	Adults		-	740	-	740	Capital Receipts
Rockingham Road Pavilion	Adults		-	300	-	300	Discretionary
Empty Properties	Adults		-	308	-	308	Capital Receipts
Burton Latimer Community Leisure	Adults		-	790	-	790	Grant & External Contributions
Corporate Systems	Enabling	Mainly Corporate IT Systems	243	-	-	243	Discretionary
Totals			35,692	72,635	78,538	194,140	

Discretionary Funding	308	11,203	3,250	15,161
Capital Receipts	1,000	2,783	1,000	4,783
Grant Funding	18,384	31,699	44,688	99,911
S106	16,000	26,950	29,600	74,285
Total	35,692	72,635	78,538	194,140

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CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

23 January 2024

Detailed Scrutiny Items

	Suggested Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer, Chair and Executive Member	Notes
1. Page 149	Budget 2024/25	To agree final budget scrutiny submission to the Executive.	Executive Director of Finance and Performance/ Executive Member for Finance and Transformation	

CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

13 February 2024

Detailed Scrutiny Items

	Suggested Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer, Chair and Executive Member	Notes	
Page 150	1.	Customer Service Operations and Out of Hours Service	To include an update on the performance and bedding in of the new telephony system, rolled out in summer/autumn 2023.	Executive Director for Customer and Governance, Executive Member for Finance and Performance	
	2.				

Pre-Scrutiny of Executive Reports

	Suggested Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer, Chair and Executive Member	Notes
1.				
2.				

Regular Scrutiny Items

	Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer and Executive Member	Notes
1.	Performance Indicators 2023/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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, to include quarterly complaints reporting. 	Executive Director of Finance and Performance Executive Member for Finance and Transformation	
2.	Forecast Draft Outturn 2023/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A regular monitoring report setting out the material financial issues identified since the 2023/24 budget which was set in February 2023. 	Executive Director of Finance and Performance Executive Member for Finance and Transformation	

CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

9 April 2024

Detailed Scrutiny Items

	Suggested Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer, Chair and Executive Member	Notes
Page 152	1. Review of Implementation of Pay and Grading	To scrutinise the implementation of the new pay structure and terms and conditions following approval by full Council on 31 August 2023.	Assistant Director for Human Resources	
	2. Children's Trust Update	Quarterly Update	Executive Director of Children's Services/ Children's Trust/ Executive Member for Children's Services	

Pre-Scrutiny of Executive Reports

	Suggested Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer, Chair and Executive Member	Notes
1.				
2.				

Regular Scrutiny Items

	Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer and Executive Member	Notes
1.	Performance Indicators 2023/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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, to include quarterly complaints reporting. 	Executive Director of Finance and Performance Executive Member for Finance and Transformation	
2.	Forecast Draft Outturn 2023/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A regular monitoring report setting out the material financial issues identified since the 2023/24 budget which was set in February 2023. 	Executive Director of Finance and Performance Executive Member for Finance and Transformation	

CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

June 2024

Detailed Scrutiny Items

	Suggested Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer, Chair and Executive Member	Notes
Page 155	1. Agency/OPUS figures	To scrutinise whether best value is being received from the contract and the impacts of vacancies on the Council.	Executive Director of Customer and Governance, Executive Member for Finance and Performance	
	2.			

Pre-Scrutiny of Executive Reports

	Suggested Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer, Chair and Executive Member	Notes
1.				
2.				

Regular Scrutiny Items

	Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer and Executive Member	Notes
1.	Performance Indicators 2023/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	Executive Director of Finance and Performance Executive Member for Finance and Transformation	
2.	Forecast Draft Outturn 2023/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A regular monitoring report setting out the material financial issues identified since the 2023/24 budget which was set in February 2023. 	Executive Director of Finance and Performance Executive Member for Finance and Transformation	

CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Topic Areas Beyond June 2024

Detailed Scrutiny Items

	Suggested Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer and Executive Member	Notes
1.	ICT Workplan		Assistant Chief Executive/ Executive Member for Finance and Transformation	Requested to be added to Workplan by Scrutiny Management Board on 27/11/23.
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				

