

Appendix 9 – Update on Savings Proposals

The Council's 2024/25 revenue budget included £35m of approved MTFP savings proposals. At month three, 83% is forecast to be delivered against this target and 11% is forecast to be achieved over and above this target.

Delivery of the 2024/25 approved savings is vital to ensure the current and future financial viability of the Council. Where savings are not forecast to be achieved then the relevant service director requires the development of alternative recovery or mitigation measures.

Table 1 shows the forecast achievement of savings against the original approved amounts. Services monitor these monthly based on their achievement to date and the forecast profile for realising the savings over the year. Any over or under achievement is reflected in the forecast outturn position.

Table 1: Performance of Agreed Savings Proposals as at the end of June 2024 (Quarter 1)

Service Area	Approved Savings £m	Over-achieved/ on track to overachieve	Achieved	On-track	At Risk	Unachievable
		£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Adults Services	9.8	3.9	0.9	8.9	0.0	0.0
Children & Family Services	9.6	0.0	0.5	4.9	4.2	0.0
Public Health	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Community Services	2.9	0.0	0.0	2.8	0.1	0.0
Climate & Place	5.6	0.0	0.7	3.2	1.7	0.0
Strategy, Workforce & Localities	0.5	0.0	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.0
Resources & Corporate Services	2.6	0.0	0.4	2.1	0.0	0.1
Non-Service	4.0	0.0	0.0	4.0	0.0	0.0
Total	35.0	3.9	2.9	26.0	6.0	0.1
Percentages	100%	11%	8%	75%	17%	0%

Unachieved and at risk savings total £6.1m (17%) and include:

- **Children & Family Services – Total savings £9.6m, £4.2m at risk.**
 - New homes for young people: £1.9m at risk, £3.4m total saving - lack of move on to social housing from the Thrive 16+ contract for older young people, which is preventing being able to free up beds to move young people out of spot purchase beds and residential placements into Thrive 16+.
 - Support young people in care who are currently living in residential homes on their journey towards independent living: £1.6m (full saving) at risk - this savings line is linked to the other at-risk savings - lack of

move on in the other areas means that supported living accommodation is not available.

- Reduction in the cost of providing residential placements for Children in Care: £0.4m at risk, £1.1m total saving - delays in Homes & Horizons homes six, seven and eight opening. Plus, delays in completion of the house pods and annexes. This is due to a number of factors, including three externally commissioned evaluations of the project's value for money over the last 12 months, during which time implementation was halted, planning complexities and capacity issues in the property team.
 - SEND delivery of Education Health & Care Plans: £0.1m (full saving) at risk - staff vacancies within the SEND team have meant that additional external resource has been needed to maintain service.
 - Fund the virtual school for children in care using the Pupil Premium Plus grant: £0.1m at risk, £0.4m full saving: part at risk due to higher establishment numbers in Virtual School. This saving will be mitigated through vacancy savings.
- **Community Services – Total savings £2.9m, £0.1m at risk**
 - Funding for Taunton Visitor Information Centre: £0.1m (full saving) at risk – income for this is already received in Customer Services. Work is being undertaken to fully understand the impact.
- **Climate & Place – Total savings £5.6m, £1.7m at risk**
 - Make savings from the Core Contract for Household Waste Recycling Centres: £0.9m (full saving) at risk - negotiations started on Recycling site changes.
 - Planning fees income: £0.3m (full saving) at risk - this is dependent on the number of applications received. The income in 2023/24 was down against budget due to legacy budgets being too high, plus application numbers down. Planning fees went up from December 2024 which will partially negate this however, income will need to be monitored closely.
 - Recover costs of infrastructure programmes through an increase in rates: £0.3m (full saving) at risk – work continues to understand what can be capitalised in the service.
 - Replacement of Black Recycling Box with a lower cost alternative: £0.1m (full saving) - replacement of Recycling Boxes is capitalised.
 - Building Control income: £0.1m (full saving) at risk - this is dependent on the number of applications received. The income in 2023/24 was down against budget due to legacy budgets too high plus application numbers down. Fees went up from April 2024 which will partially negate this however, income will need to be monitored closely.
- **Resources & Corporate Services – Total savings £2.6m, £0.1m unachievable.**
 - Removal of BT Exchange lines: £0.1m unachievable (full saving) – increased BT costs have offset this saving.

Chart showing the actual and forecast achievement of savings:

