

Appendix 3 – Community Services

Lead Member for Communities, Housing and Culture: Cllr Federica Smith-Roberts

Executive Director: Chris Hall

Service Directors:

- Housing: Chris Brown
- Culture: Elizabeth Dawson
- Customers: Jan Stafford
- Regulatory and Operational: Sarah Dowden

**Table 1: 2023/24 Community Services as at the end of September 2023
(Month 6)**

- 2023/24 net budget £33.8m, projected adverse variance £1.3m, adverse movement £1.3m.

Service Area	Current Budget	Full Year Projection	Month 6 Variance	A/(F)	RAG Status	Movement From Month 5
	£m	£m	£m			£m
Housing						
Housing	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	Green	0.0
Housing Enabling	0.5	0.5	0.0	-	Green	0.0
Housing Strategic	1.1	1.1	0.0	-	Green	0.0
Homelessness	4.3	4.3	0.0	-	Green	0.0
Arms-Length Management Organisation (ALMO)	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	Green	0.0
Somerset Independent Plus	0.2	0.2	0.0	-	Green	0.0
sub total	6.1	6.1	0.0	-	Green	0.0
Customer Services						
Customers & Communities	6.6	6.6	0.0	-	Green	0.0
sub total	6.6	6.6	0.0	-	Green	0.0
Cultural Services						
Library Service	3.8	3.8	0.0	-	Green	0.0
Heritage Service	1.7	1.7	0.0	-	Green	0.0
Leisure - Sports Centre	2.0	2.4	0.4	A	Red	0.4
Museums	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	Green	0.0
Theatres	0.9	0.9	0.0	-	Green	0.0
Visitor Centres	0.2	0.2	0.0	-	Green	0.0
Tourism	0.1	0.1	0.0	-	Green	0.0
(wellbeing) Community Grants	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	Green	0.0
sub total	8.7	9.1	0.4	A	Red	0.4
Regulatory & Operational Services						
Registration	(0.2)	(0.2)	0.0	-	Green	0.0
Environmental Health	3.5	3.5	0.0	-	Green	0.0
Bereavement Services	(1.3)	(1.3)	0.0	-	Green	0.0
Harbours	0.3	0.3	0.0	-	Green	0.0
Ports	0.1	0.1	0.0	-	Green	0.0
Street Cleansing	4.9	4.9	0.0	-	Green	0.0
Open Spaces	3.3	4.2	0.9	A	Red	0.9
Environmental Health	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	Green	0.0
(wellbeing) Community Safety	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	Green	0.0
CCTV	0.7	0.7	0.0	-	Green	0.0
Licensing	(0.4)	(0.4)	0.0	-	Green	0.0
Resorts	0.2	0.2	0.0	-	Green	0.0
Coroners	1.3	1.3	0.0	-	Green	0.0
sub total	12.4	13.3	0.9	A	Red	0.9
Community Services Total	33.8	35.1	1.3	A	Red	1.3

Community Services - key explanations, actions & mitigating controls

Cultural Services

There is an anticipated under recovery of income from the contracted schedule of payments in 2023/24 due to changes in Somerset Council business rate policy, and contractor pension contribution liabilities. There are also utility benchmarking clauses for which the council has some liability. The service is continuing to work with the contractor to find solutions to reduce the impact to the Council. The service is working through all areas to confirm if the overspend can be mitigated through other in-year savings.

Regulation & Operations:

Open Spaces functions were previously carried out by the district councils, these include services such as ground maintenance. This service is reporting a total variance of £0.9m. This relates to a reduction of £0.8m budgeted income associated with the loss of income from a grounds maintenance contract provided by the council to an external client. This contract ended in 2021/22. The service expenditure budget was reduced as part of the budget setting process, but the income budget was not reduced to reflect this change. Therefore, this income target will not be achieved. A growth bid has been submitted to amend this income budget estimate going forwards and additional work is underway in year to reduce the impact of this, we would expect to see this reduce as the year progresses.

In addition, three of the districts delivered the Open Spaces service in-house, whereas Mendip District Council had an external contractor to provide this service. The service is facing an in-year pressure of £0.1m because the contract price increase is more than budgeted.