

Decision Report - Executive Decision
Forward Plan Reference: FP/24/05/04
Decision Date – 7 February 2024
Key Decision – No



2023/24 General Fund Capital Budget Monitoring Report for Quarter 3

Executive Member(s): Cllr Liz Leyshon, Deputy Leader and Lead Member on Resources and Performance

Local Member(s) and Division: All

Lead Officer: Nicola Hix, Director of Finance & Procurement

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Summary

1. This report is to inform Members of the forecast capital spend as at the 31 December 2023 for the year 2023/24 and an explanation of the key differences from the revised capital budget agreed by Council in September 2023.
2. The capital programme is a combination of the five predecessor councils' capital programmes, together with the approved new schemes agreed in February 2023 as part of the 2023/24 Budget. The programme includes carry forward underspends of £76m from 2022/23 and sets out how the resulting programme is forecast to be financed.
3. The report also provides an overview of the Council's capital programme financial position and highlights any known potential risks and their impact on the Council's resources. This report does not include anything in relation to the Council's Housing Revenue Account.
4. A high-level update on the significant schemes that are planned to be delivered is provided. Each scheme has a nominated budget holder who is responsible for ensuring the scheme stays within budget, and who provides the projected spend figures, working with the Corporate Finance team.
5. Capital investment decisions are now required to be underpinned by a robust business plan that sets out the full costs and risks and any expected financial

return alongside the broader outcomes including economic and social benefits. Where possible the PIDS/business cases have been collected to provide details on each project. Officers are responsible for monitoring and delivering projects within approved budgets and reporting variances.

6. The budget monitoring position cannot be viewed in isolation and needs to be considered alongside the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2024/25 to 2026/27.
7. **Table 1** provides a summary of budget, projections, and variances on a service-by-service basis as at the end of September with further detail and mitigations being taken by the responsible director outlined in the body of the report.

Table 1: 2023/24 Summary Budget Monitoring Report as at the end of December 2023 (Month 9)

Service/ Project	2023/24 Budget	Actual Spend at Mth 9	Revised Q2 Forecast for 2023/24	Variance to Original Budget	Of which:	
					Slippage into future years	(Under) / Over Spend
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Adults and Health	8.758	0.373	7.582	(1.176)	1.082	(0.094)
Children's Services	48.635	18.281	42.269	(6.366)	5.248	(1.118)
Climate & Place Other Services	7.759	0.977	2.774	(4.985)	4.985	
Climate & Place Economy and Regeneration	105.346	13.288	49.514	(55.832)	54.917	(0.915)
Climate & Place Infrastructure	87.461	32.942	72.679	(14.782)	14.432	(0.350)
Community Services	21.088	1.627	5.804	(15.284)	14.990	(0.294)
Resources & Corporate Services	33.208	3.479	18.797	(14.411)	9.596	(4.815)
Strategy and Workforce	0.235		0.235			
Paused Schemes	1.721	0.064	0.100	(1.621)	0.490	(1.131)
Grand Total	314.211	71.031	199.754	(114.457)	105.740	(8.717)

8. The projected outturn for 2023/24 is £199.8m against an original budget of £314.2m. This gives a forecasted underspend of £114.5m for the year of which, £105.7m has been reprofiled into future years, with £8.7m as a forecast underspend. There are various reasons for this forecast underspend as detailed in Appendix A, but if it can be maintained at outturn it will help reduce the capital borrowing requirement of the Council, therefore having a positive revenue effect.
9. As Table 1 shows the largest variance to original budget is within economy and regeneration with the Climate and Place Directorate. Table 4 in Appendix A shows this is the reprofiling of spend forecast against the Bridgwater Town Deal, Bridgwater Levelling up fund, and Glastonbury Town Deal.

10. It is important to note that all figures (opening balances reserves etc) are potentially subject to change until all legacy Council Financial Statements of Accounts for 2022/23 and prior years, have been audited and approved by our external auditors. Therefore, the table showing the combined Capital programme is indicative until the last two remaining legacy financial statements audits are concluded.

Recommendations

11. That the Executive:
- a) Approves the changes to the capital programme approvals, as detailed in Section 42 of this report.
 - b) Notes the revised capital forecast spend for the financial year 2023/24 of £199.8m and the key risks, future issues detailed in the report.
 - c) Agrees to move the slippage of £105.7m from 2023/24 into 2024/25.

Reasons for recommendations

12. To ensure that the Council continues to maintain tight financial control over its budget and mitigates as far as possible the forecast budget pressures.

Other options considered

13. No other options were considered.

Links to Council Plan and Medium-Term Financial Plan

14. The 2023/24 Capital Budget was approved by Council in February 2023 as part of the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and is the financial resourcing plan to deliver the Council Plan.

Financial and Risk Implications

15. As noted in the revenue report a new Strategic Risk ~~ORG0070~~ Budget Overspend in the current financial year has been created and in the light of this report Strategic Risk ~~ORG0057~~ Sustainable MTFP has had its current score increased with both Strategic risks now being:

Likelihood	5	Impact	5	Risk Score	25
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16. In the initial stages of any development, major capital projects will have significant uncertainties. For example, these may relate to the planning process, the views and interest of residents and stakeholders who must be consulted, ground conditions, or the costs of rectifying or demolishing existing buildings. Construction companies and developers contracting with the Council which experience financial instability, particularly an issue following Post Covid-19 pandemic pressures, Brexit and the war in Ukraine and the impact of cost inflation with as mentioned CPI at 4.0 % in December 2023.

17. Suppliers may not be able to raise sufficient finance to cash flow operations, any potential insolvency process could lead to a costly process of changing suppliers without any guarantee of remaining within overall budget. Consequently, the Council could suffer direct financial loss and any defects or other issues may not be resolvable as anticipated. To mitigate this the Council carefully considers the financial robustness of any contractor and requests appropriate financial standing assurance and support wherever possible.

18. Large scale capital projects can operate in environments which are complex, with a range of variables, and continually evolving. Effective risk identification and control within such a dynamic environment includes populating a project risk register. In addition, it requires amplifying the known risks so that they are not hidden or ignored, demystifying the complex risks into their more manageable sum of parts and anticipating emerging risks which can escalate rapidly are all necessary components of good capital programme risk management.

Legal Implications

19. There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

HR Implications

20. There are no specific HR implications arising from this report.

Other Implications:

VAT

21. The Council needs to carefully consider its VAT partial exemption calculation and the risk of breaching the partial exemption threshold. Capital projects represent the bulk of this risk. A breach would likely cost the Council several million pounds (for Somerset County Council alone in 2021 £1.5m and for the new Unitary much higher with addition of the districts) per year if in breach. Finance is working closely with departments to ensure that partial exemption risks are considered as part of significant capital projects.

Equalities Implications

22. There are no specific equalities implications arising from this report.

Community Safety Implications

23. There are no community safety implications arising from this report.

Climate Change and Sustainability Implications

24. There are no climate change and sustainability implications arising from this report.

Health and Safety Implications

25. There are no health and safety implications arising from this report.

Health and Wellbeing Implications

26. There are no health and wellbeing implications arising from this report.

Social Value

27. There are no Social Value implications arising from this report.

Scrutiny comments / recommendations:

28. This report will be presented to a future meeting of the Scrutiny for Corporate & Resources Committee.

Background

29. Full Council approves the capital budget in February each year. Monitoring of the agreed programme is delegated to the Executive and is undertaken on a quarterly

basis (although a quarter one position was not produced due to the work involved in amalgamating the final capital position from each legacy Council, together with the new Finance System and other pressures in the team).

30. This report is still being produced using a mixture of the Capital Programme excel report and Solver, the Council's budget monitoring tool linked to the new finance system Microsoft Dynamics. The Finance team are currently building the capital budgets on the Solver system and setting up the hierarchy of reporting to enable future reports to be fully produced from Solver, however full Solver produced reporting is unlikely to be in place until 2024/25. Part of the new reporting for 2024/25 will include more charts and graphs in this report to clearly show the areas of capital spend against budget, but also show the outcomes that have been achieved from the Council's spend.
31. This report is for the General Fund. The General Fund (GF) mainstream programme cuts across the departments and represents schemes which are funded from Council resources (capital receipts or borrowing). It is the area of the programme where the Council has the greatest discretion.

Overall Forecast Capital Position Q3 2023/24

32. The original budget for 2023-24 totalled £314.2m. Actual expenditure as of 30 December was £71.0m, with a revised forecast of £199.8m for 2023-24. This is a variance of £114.5m from the original budget of which, £105.7m has been reprofiled into future years with the remaining £8.7m being shown as an underspend.
33. The overall programme budget (2023-24 to 2026-27) totalled £398.4m. Forecasted expenditure over the life of current programme is £387.8m, indicating an underspend of £10.6m for the programme.
34. **Table 1** (in the summary section) shows the forecast outturn position against the original 2023-24 budget. **Table 2** provides a Directorate level forecast of the overall capital programme (2023-24 to 2026-27). The variance column shows the forecast underspend of £10.6m.

Table 2 – The Overall Capital Programme Summary

Service/ Project	Total Budget £m	Forecasted Expenditure				Total £m	Variance £m
		2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 > £m		
Adults and Health	11.556	7.582	2.512	1.368		11.462	(0.094)
Children's Services	77.410	42.269	17.790	9.838	6.213	76.110	(1.300)
Climate & Place - Other Services	8.920	2.774	5.058	1.088		8.920	
Climate & Place - Economy and Regeneration	123.304	49.514	53.165	19.512		122.191	(1.113)
Climate & Place - Infrastructure	95.766	72.679	22.289	0.448		95.416	(0.350)
Community Services	34.113	5.804	16.839	10.748	0.428	33.819	(0.294)
Resources & Corporate Services	37.306	18.797	11.455	2.239		32.491	(4.815)
Strategy and Workforce	0.506	0.235	0.135	0.136		0.506	
Paused Schemes	9.516	0.100	6.609	0.139		6.848	(2.668)
Total	398.397	199.754	135.852	45.516	6.641	387.763	(10.634)
Funded By:							
Grant	221.434	116.507	76.979	27.504		220.990	(0.444)
CIL/ S106/ Other Contributions	26.200	14.899	10.271	1.030		26.200	
Capital Receipts	7.547	6.727	0.017			6.744	(0.803)
Borrowing	136.114	57.342	46.320	16.912	6.641	127.215	(8.899)
Reserves/ Revenue	7.102	4.279	2.265	0.070		6.614	(0.488)
Total	398.397	199.754	135.852	45.516	6.641	387.763	(10.634)

35. A high-level detail and summary per Directorate can be seen in **Appendix A**. **Appendix B** shows a scheme-by-scheme breakdown of these figures.
36. There are a number of pressures the Council is facing with regard to the delivery of its capital programme. The main one being inflation. The rise in inflation is putting significant cost pressure on MTFP and the ability to deliver capital projects on budget with CPI in December at 4.0 % and a number of schemes will have started in lower inflation periods.
37. To alleviate budget pressures, the Council must reduce the high Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) by reviewing the programme for potential savings and make recommendations based on the outcome of the review e.g., discretionary project and for projects not started aligning with new Capital bids criteria of required for Health and safety or fully funded e.g., by grants. Some invest to save schemes may also be considered.
38. A review has been undertaken of Capital projects under the check and challenge process with a view to 'pausing' or curtailing capital schemes, particularly those that are supported by borrowing, however, any delay of capital spend increases cash balances which attracts investment income and is therefore financially beneficial. Proposals on these potential capital savings will be presented to Executive at the February meeting as part of the MTFP report.

39. Any projects that are stopped with existing spend will have negative revenue implications if no asset is delivered so the savings must justify these costs.
40. Part of the review of the capital programme has already identified a number of capital schemes that are paused in the capital programme, that can be seen in Table 3.

Table 3 – Already Paused Schemes

Service/ Project	2023/24 Budget	Actual Spend at Mth 9	Revised Q3 Forecast for 2023/24	Variance to Original Budget	Of which:	
	£m	£m	£m	£m	Slippage into future years £m	(Under) / Over Spend £m
Homes for Children with Disabilities Phase 2						
Bridgwater Library Improvements		0.008				
Wincanton Regeneration	1.131	(0.002)		(1.131)		(1.131)
Yeovil Crematorium Refurbishment	0.590	0.058	0.100	(0.490)	0.490	
Paused Schemes Total	1.721	0.064	0.100	(1.621)	0.490	(1.131)

41. These schemes were paused as part of the 2023-24 MTFP process. The slippage reported above relates to outturn carry forward approvals from 2022-23.

The Overall Capital Programme Forecasts (2023-24 to 2026-27)

42. Since the Month 6 report, the following changes have been made to the capital programme:
- The addition of £9.6m for Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities grant funding for Nutrient Mitigation projects.
 - The addition of £0.995m for Department for Education grant funding for Childcare Expansion Projects.
 - The removal of £2m Bridgwater Town Deal grant funding. Following a review of the overall budgets, it was discovered the carry forward figure for these projects was incorrect as some of the funding had been spent in prior years.

Members are recommended to approve the changes to the capital programme budget.

43. The overall capital programme is made up of approvals totalling £398.4m. Chart 1 reflects how this approval is split across the directorates. Chart 2 shows the funding sources attributable to this forecast spend. It is positive that 62% of our capital programme is funded by grants and third-party contributions. Part of the

review of the capital programme was to minimise our spend on capital projects which was subject to us needing to undertake further borrowing, which can be seen in the budget setting report on this agenda.

Chart 1- Summarising the budget totals by Directorate/ Service Area

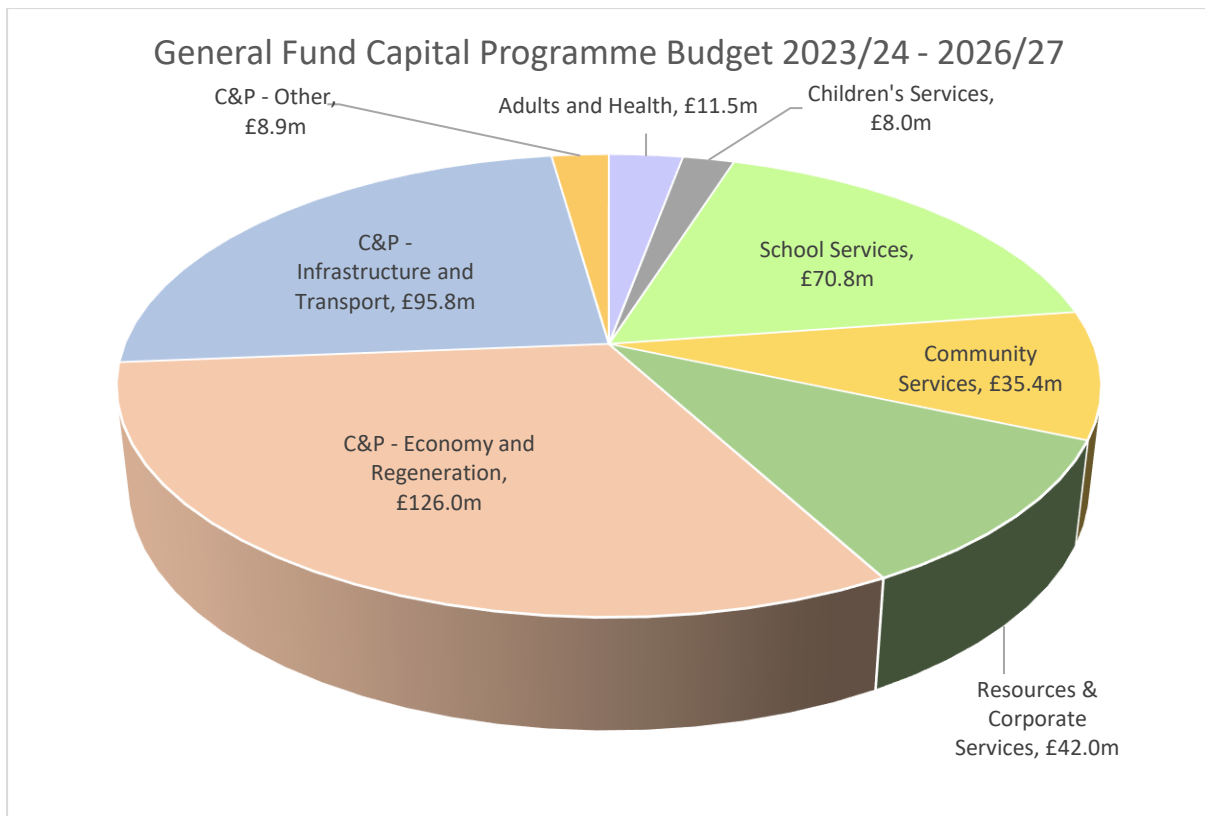
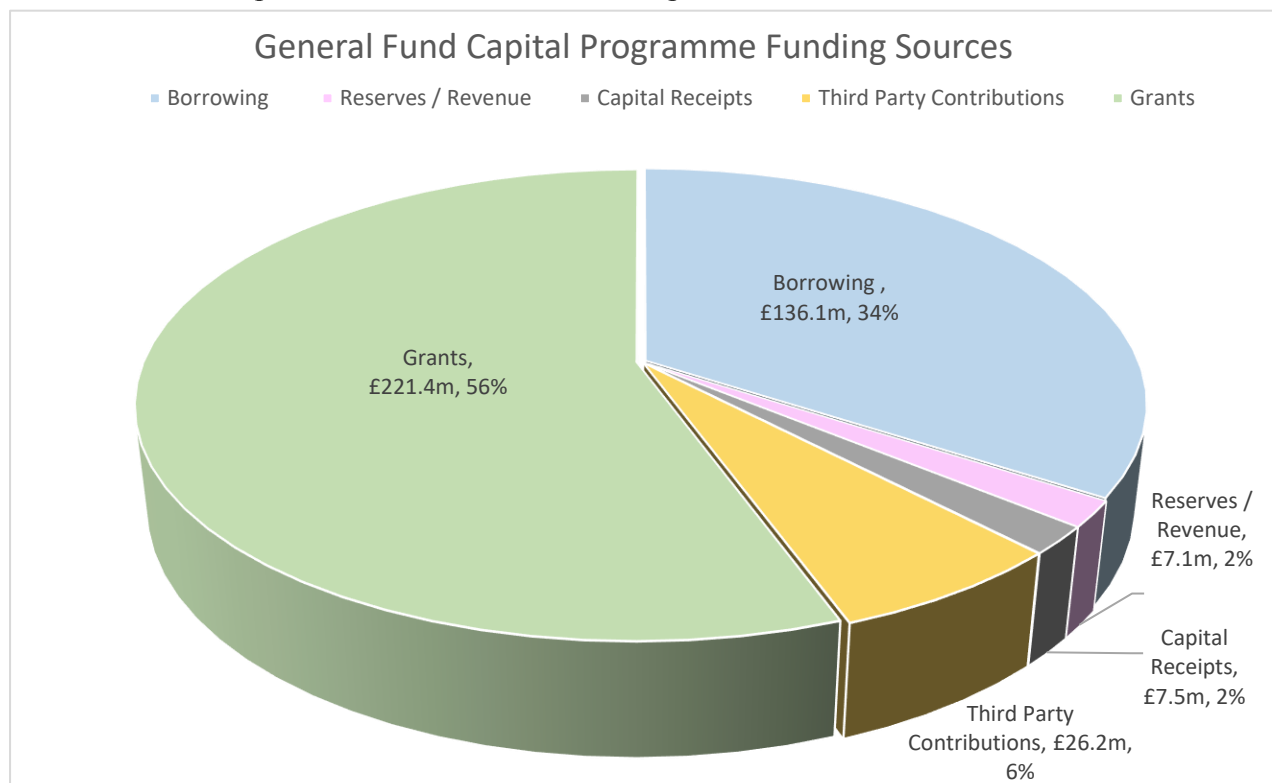


Chart 2 - Funding sources for the overall programme 2023/24 - 2026/27



Background Papers

44. 2023/24 Month 6 (Qtr. 2) Capital Budget report to Corporate & Resources Scrutiny & Executive December 2023
45. Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2024/25 to 2026/27 report to Corporate & Resources Scrutiny & Executive July 2023
46. 2023/24 Budget, Medium-Term Financial Plan & Council Tax Setting report to Council February 2023

Appendices

- Appendix A - high level detail and summary per Directorate
- Appendix B - General Fund Capital Programme Forecasts 2023-24 to 2026-27

Report Sign-Off

	Officer Name	Date Completed
Legal & Governance Implications	David Clark	29/01/2024
Communications	Peter Elliott	25/01/2024
Finance & Procurement	Nicola Hix	23/01/2024
Workforce	Dawn Bettridge	29/01/2024
Asset Management	Oliver Woodhams	29/01/2024
Executive Director / Senior Manager	Jason Vaughan	23/01/2024
Strategy & Performance	Alyn Jones	29/01/2024
Executive Lead Member	Cllr Liz Leyshon	23/01/2024
Consulted:	Councillor Name	
Local Division Members	All	
Opposition Spokesperson	Cllr Mandy Chilcott Deputy Leader of the Opposition and Opposition Spokesperson for Resources and Performance	29/01/2024
Scrutiny Chair	Cllr Bob Filmer, Chair - Scrutiny Corporate & Resources Committee	29/01/2024

Table 1 - Adults and Health and Children's Services Overview

Service/ Project	2023/24 Budget	Actual Spend at Mth 9	Revised Q3 Forecast for 2023/24	Variance to Original Budget	Of which:	
					Slippage into future years	(Under) / Over Spend
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Adults ICT Infrastructure	0.094			(0.094)		(0.094)
Adults Residential Programme	1.332		0.250	(1.082)	1.082	
Disabled Facilities Grant	7.188	0.311	7.188			
Learning Disabilities	0.104	0.062	0.104			
Housing Technology Grant	0.040		0.040			
Adults and Health Total	8.758	0.373	7.582	(1.176)	1.082	(0.094)
Children's Residential	3.733	1.232	4.033	0.300	(0.300)	
Children Looked After	0.429	0.006	0.182	(0.247)	0.247	
Special Education Needs	4.582	0.777	4.582			
Schools Access Initiative	0.449	0.181	0.449			
Early Years	0.918	0.392	0.400	(0.518)		(0.518)
Schools Services	38.524	15.693	32.623	(5.901)	5.301	(0.600)
Children's Services Total	48.635	18.281	42.269	(6.366)	5.248	(1.118)

Adults and Health

A historic approval for Adults ICT Infrastructure costs has been identified as surplus to requirements in the current programme. This offers up an underspend of £0.094m.

Children's Services

Some slippage has been reported within the Children's Residential, Children Looked After, and School Services programmes.

An acceleration of spend has been forecasted within the Special Education Needs programme as projects have been identified for using some of the funds.

Early Years has identified an underspend of £0.700m within their condition programme. Recommendation on the use of this funding will be considered within the February MTFP Report.

The Schools Basic Need Programme has reported an underspend of £0.600m from a project that is no longer required.

As part of the ongoing capital programme review, a number of opportunities have arisen from the Early years and School' Services budget lines. These include potential funding switches (from borrowing to external funding such as CIL and S106 Contributions) and from projects that are no longer required or have been scaled back. Full details of these and their recommendations will be put forward within the February MTFP report.

Table 2 - Climate and Place – Other Services

Service/ Project	2023/24 Budget	Actual Spend at Mth 9	Revised Q3 Forecast for 2023/24	Variance to Original Budget	Of which:	
					Slippage into future years	(Under) / Over Spend
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Flood & Water Management (Non SRA)	4.335	0.209	0.300	(4.035)	4.035	
Somerset Waste Partnership	2.336	0.721	2.336			
Chard Reservoir Dam Works	0.078		0.078			
North Hill Cliff Stabilisation	1.010	0.047	0.060	(0.950)	0.950	
Climate & Place Other Services Total	7.759	0.977	2.774	(4.985)	4.985	

Flood Prevention schemes for the Taunton area, brought forward from the Somerset West and Taunton capital programme are now likely to commence in the second half of 2024.

The North Hill Cliff Stabilisation works have been handed over to the Infrastructure and Transports Major Projects team to implement. Whilst a small amount of spend is expected in this year, the bulk of the works will not take place until 2024/25.

Table 3 - Climate and Place – Economy and Regeneration

Service/ Project	2023/24 Budget	Actual Spend at Mth 9	Revised Q3 Forecast for 2023/24	Variance to Original Budget	Of which:	
					Slippage into future years	(Under) / Over Spend
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Business Growth Fund & Other Projects	2.988	0.198	2.988			
Taunton Digital Innovation Centre	1.831	1.207	1.831			
Bridgwater Town Deal	20.000	0.401	2.000	(18.000)	18.000	
Bridgwater Levelling Up Fund	19.700	2.133	6.345	(13.355)	13.355	
Glastonbury Town Deal	15.271	3.348	6.410	(8.861)	8.861	
Saxonvale, Frome	0.100			(0.100)		(0.100)
Taunton Town Centre Regeneration	0.080		0.080			
Phosphates	1.986			(1.986)	1.986	
Nutrient Mitigation Projects			0.660	0.660	(0.660)	
Firepool Development FHSF Phase	7.800	1.771	3.800	(4.000)	4.000	
Chard Regeneration	2.050	0.081	0.735	(1.315)	0.500	(0.815)
Yeovil Refresh	18.399	4.149	9.899	(8.500)	8.500	
Staplegrove Housing Infrastructure Fund	14.216		14.216			
Contribution to CDS Broadband	0.550		0.550			
Frome Enterprise Centre	0.375			(0.375)	0.375	
Climate & Place Economy and Regeneration Total	105.346	13.288	49.514	(55.832)	54.917	(0.915)

The large slippage reported within this area of the programme relates to the reprofiling of legacy projects from the previous authorities. The details of the original forecasts were not included in the combined programme approved in September.

The Bridgwater Town Deal, Bridgwater Levelling Up, and Glastonbury Town Deal schemes have a range of projects that sit within them. All of which require different planning and delivery methods. The forecasts provided above give the latest position for these projects. The narrative provided in future reports will include a more in-depth analysis of scheme progression.

The Yeovil Refresh programme forecast has been updated to bring it in line with the project reporting.

Table 4 - Climate and Place – Infrastructure and Transport

Service/ Project	2023/24 Budget	Actual Spend at Mth 9	Revised Q3 Forecast for 2023/24	Variance to Original Budget	Of which:	
					Slippage into future years	(Under) / Over Spend
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Bridge Structures	4.273	1.089	1.673	(2.600)	2.600	
Road Structures	31.914	15.579	29.914	(2.000)	2.000	
Traffic Control	5.549	6.774	5.549			
Active Travel	3.709	0.825	3.709			
Integrated Transport	1.446	1.199	1.446			
Small Improvement Schemes	1.938	0.960	1.938			
Highway Lighting	0.827	0.378	0.827			
Rights of Way	1.937	0.154	1.937			
Car Parks & Parking Services	0.867	0.847	0.867			
M5 Junction 25 Improvements	2.297	0.006	2.297			
Toneway Corridor Capacity Improvements	2.274	0.053	2.274			
Trenchard Way Residual Works	0.271	0.785	1.500	1.229		1.229
Major Road Network	1.744	0.035	0.500	(1.244)	1.244	
A38 Chelston Link	5.110	0.300	0.500	(4.610)	4.610	
J23 Dunball Improvements	5.178	0.456	1.200	(3.978)	3.978	
Blue Anchor Coast Protection	3.756	2.996	3.406	(0.350)		(0.350)
Various Other Schemes	4.034	0.112	2.805	(1.229)		(1.229)
Fleet Management	5.919	0.352	5.919			
Bus Service Improvement Programme	4.418	0.042	4.418			
Climate & Place Infrastructure Total	87.461	32.942	72.679	(14.782)	14.432	(0.350)

Bridge Structures are anticipating slippage of around £2.6m into the next financial year. This in part relates to their annual programme but also to three major projects. These projects were originally scheduled to start this year. However, the tender process is now expected to be completed in February meaning works will not start until early in 2024/25.

Road Structures anticipate slippage of £2m due to the end of the current term maintenance contract.

A38 Chelston Link Resurfacing project has progressed through the pre-construction phase. However, the main construction is now not scheduled to commence until the second half of 2024/25. This is due to the tendering process and availability of road space with several Highways England works planned within the local area.

The Blue Anchor Coast Protection scheme is due to complete this year. Current indications are that an underspend of £0.350m will be achieved.

J23 Dunball Improvements project completed the pre-construction phase in December 2023. The procurement process for the main construction project is currently underway and should be completed before the end of 2023/24, allowing for works to commence in 2024/25.

Table 5 - Community Services

Service/ Project	2023/24 Budget	Actual Spend at Mth 9	Revised Q3 Forecast for 2023/24	Variance to Original Budget	Of which:	
					Slippage into future years	(Under) / Over Spend
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Library Services	0.419	0.053	0.453	0.034	(0.034)	
Cultural and Heritage Services	(0.747)	0.183	0.162	0.909	(0.909)	
Grants to Registered Social Landlords (RSLs)	0.504	0.041	0.504			
Gypsy Site	0.109			(0.109)		(0.109)
IAC Staffing and Support	0.204		0.204			
Energy Efficiency Grants	0.099		0.099			
Home Maintenance	0.108		0.108			
Other Schemes	2.756	0.565	2.756			
Wellington Leisure Centre	0.754	0.196	0.754			
Norton Fitzwarren Playing Pitches (S106)	0.264	0.170	0.264			
Brewhouse Theatre	0.185			(0.185)		(0.185)
Octagon Redevelopment	16.433	0.419	0.500	(15.933)	15.933	
Community Services Total	21.088	1.627	5.804	(15.284)	14.990	(0.294)

Two projects within this area have been identified as surplus to requirements, creating an underspend of £0.294m. These schemes will be recommended for removal from the programme in the 2024/25 MTFP report.

The Octagon Theatre project was acknowledged not to be deliverable in its current form at the Executive meeting held on the 4th of October 2023. The direction set at that meeting was for a future options appraisal to come back to Council and if appropriate to be supported by a new capital bid. The historical capital scheme will therefore be removed from the future capital programme. This forms part of the recommendations within the 2024/25 MTFP Report.

Table 6 - Resources and Corporate Services

Service/ Project	2023/24 Budget	Actual Spend at Mth 9	Revised Q3 Forecast for 2023/24	Variance to Original Budget	Of which:	
					Slippage into future years	(Under) / Over Spend
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Finance - Capital Programme Contingency	4.029			(4.029)	4.029	
Corporate ICT Investment	4.196	0.313	1.496	(2.700)	1.000	(1.700)
Property Services General	13.247	2.797	13.247			
Wellington Library Improvements	1.186	0.206	1.186			
Building Compliance Health & Safety	0.250	0.001	0.210	(0.040)	0.040	
Asset Rationalisation	0.130		0.130			
New Somerset Council Signage	0.078	0.013		(0.078)		(0.078)
Office Rationalisation	0.500	0.002	0.500			
Building Condition Programme (Non Schools)	0.900		0.100	(0.800)	0.800	
Outdoor Education Centres Improvements	0.647	0.009	0.046	(0.601)	0.601	
Saltlands Solar Park	3.137	0.011	0.100	(3.037)		(3.037)
South West Heritage Trust Building Condition	0.360	0.011	0.050	(0.310)	0.310	
Outdoor Education Centres Building Condition	1.080	0.006	0.050	(1.030)	1.030	
Estate De-carbonisation	1.000	0.002		(1.000)	1.000	
Birchfield Gas Control System	0.458	0.023	0.458			
Capital Works for Investment Properties	2.010	0.085	2.010			
Resources & Corporate Services Total	33.208	3.479	19.583	(13.625)	8.810	(4.815)

At present, there is no requirement to call on the programme contingency in this financial year.

Following a review of their programme, ICT Services are forecasting an underspend of £1.7m. This is being considered as part of the MTFP paper.

Further work is required in the coming weeks to split out the various schemes under the Property Services general budget line. Finance will work with the service area on this to ensure there is a more detailed breakdown for the outturn report.

£0.078m of approval earmarked for New Council Signage has been deemed surplus to requirements and may also be offered up as a potential saving.

The Saltlands Solar Park will not proceed. Any capital costs to date will need to be transferred back to revenue. The revenue implications around future income/ savings have been factored into the 2024/25 Revenue Budget report.

Table 7 - Strategy, Workforce, and Localities

Service/ Project	2023/24 Budget	Actual Spend at Mth 9	Revised Q3 Forecast for 2023/24	Variance to Original Budget	Of which:	
					Slippage into future years	(Under) / Over Spend
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Hinkley CIM Funded SWT Projects	0.100		0.100			
Various Other Schemes	0.135		0.135			
Strategy and Workforce Total	0.235		0.235			

No change in forecasts to report in this area.