

Appendix F - Resources & Corporate Services

Lead Members:

- Economic Development, Planning & Assets: Cllr Mike Rigby
- Finance, Procurement and Performance: Cllr Liz Leyshon
- Transport and Waste Services: Cllr Richard Wilkins

Executive Directors:

- Maria G Christofi Interim Chief Finance Officer (Section 151): (Finance & Procurement)
- Alyn Jones (Strategic Asset Management and Information, Communication, Technology)

Service Directors:

- Finance & Procurement: Nicola Hix
- Strategic Asset Management: Ollie Woodhams
- Information, Communication, Technology: Andy Kennell

2024/25 Resources & Corporate Services as at the end of August 2024 (Month 5)

- 2024/25 net budget £27.071m, underspend of £0.801m, this is an improvement of £0.801m since month 4.
- 2023/24 net budget £23.6m, outturn favourable variance £2.3m.

Service Area	Current Expenditure Budget £m	Current Income Budget £m	Current Net Budget £m	Full Year Projection £m	Month 5 Variance £m	Overspend / (Underspend)	RAG Status	Movement From Month 4 £m
Finance & Procurement								
Finance	11.159	(2.238)	8.921	9.918	0.997	Overspend	Red	(0.003)
Procurement	14.564	(12.278)	2.286	1.925	(0.361)	Underspend	Green	(0.061)
Revenues	5.019	(2.522)	2.497	2.197	(0.300)	Underspend	Green	-
Housing Benefits	89.733	(89.050)	0.683	0.708	0.025	Overspend	Amber	0.025
sub total	120.475	(106.088)	14.387	14.748	0.361	Overspend	Red	(0.039)
Strategic Asset Management								
Property Services	18.495	(7.668)	10.827	11.158	0.331	Overspend	Red	0.031
Commercial Investment Properties	0.962	(16.359)	(15.397)	(15.397)	-	On-budget	Green	-
sub total	19.457	(24.027)	(4.570)	(4.239)	0.331	Underachievement	Red	0.031
Information Communication Technology								
Hardware & Software	9.679	(0.003)	9.676	8.695	(0.981)	Underspend	Green	0.019
ICT General	9.263	(2.521)	6.742	6.047	(0.695)	Underspend	Green	(0.695)
ICT Traded	0.496	(0.367)	0.129	0.134	0.005	Overspend	Amber	0.005
Telecommunications	0.707	-	0.707	0.885	0.178	Overspend	Red	(0.122)
sub total	20.145	(2.891)	17.254	15.761	(1.493)	Underspend	Green	(0.793)
Resources & Corporate Services Total	160.077	(133.006)	27.071	26.270	(0.801)	Underspend	Green	(0.801)

Resources & Corporate Services – key explanations, actions & mitigating controls

Finance & Procurement

A legacy internal income budget within Corporate Accounting will not be achievable and will be adjusted for the 2025/26 budget. One-off costs of External Audit from the legacy authorities' prior year audits have led to a projected overspend.

These pressures have been partly offset by the Mendip 5C contract forecasting an underspend. However, this will depend on contract exit costs not being exceeded.

The underspend reported in Revenues is due to a forecast over-recovery of court cost income.

Strategic Asset Management

Property Services

The council is holding many surplus sites and at some there are significant security and health and safety risks which are costly to address, this is putting pressure on available budgets.

There is also a forecast pressure in post and scanning and the reason for the overspend is being investigated. The service will be reviewing and redesigning the Digital Mailroom Service and as part of this, recharge policies will be reviewed to deal with this pressure.

The above pressures are partly offset by income forecast to be higher than budget due to property rationalisation, in the main because of the Taunton accommodation review and the resultant income from partners.

Commercial Investment Properties

The income for the Commercial Investment Properties has been forecast to budget as the phased sale of properties is progressing as expected. There is a £0.2m overspend on Northgate Yard due to voids and this will be covered by a transfer from the Investment Risk Reserve.

Information Communication Technology

Successful negotiations over Microsoft products have forced down costs and produced a net underspend within ICT. The forecast underspend now includes the full-year effect of staff vacancies, offset by one-off transformation costs.