

## Scrutiny Report

Scrutiny Committee: Communities  
Meeting Date – 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024



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### **2024/25 General Fund Budget Monitoring Report Communities – Quarter 2 to end of September 2024**

Chair of Committee: Cllr Gwil Wren

Executive Member(s): Cllr Federica Smith-Roberts

Local Member(s) and Division(s) affected: All

Executive Director: Maria G Christofi -Interim Chief Finance Officer (S151)

#### **Executive Summary**

This report is the General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring Report for Communities up to and including September 2024 – Quarter 2.

The full General Fund Revenue Monitoring Report was presented to Corporate and Resources Scrutiny Committee on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2024, and Executive on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024.

#### **Recommendations:**

Scrutiny is asked to consider the following:

1. If there are any general comments or observations that they would wish to consider making to the Executive on the report.

2. If the actions set out in the report are appropriate and if there are any further actions that scrutiny would wish to include in the report.

Report Author: Christian Evans, Head of Business Partnering

Contact Details: [Christian.evans@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:Christian.evans@somerset.gov.uk)

## Main report and supporting information.

### Background and purpose of report

1. There are no implications from this report. Scrutiny Members are asked to note the information and recommend any actions to Executive Committee

### 2024/25 Community Services as at the end of September 2024 (Quarter 2)

- 2024/25 net budget £34.416m, forecast underspend of £1.572m, an increase of £1.125m from Month 5.
- 2023/24 net budget £37.4m, outturn underspend of £3.9m

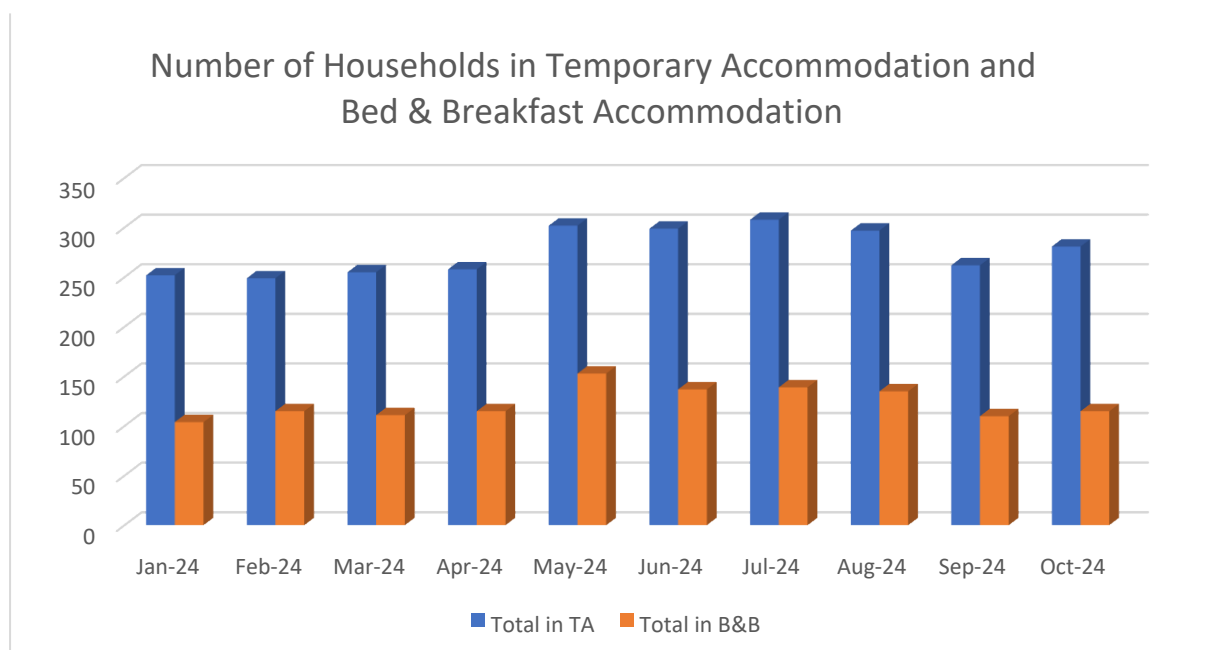
Service Area	Current Expenditure Budget £m	Current Income Budget £m	Current Net Budget £m	Full Year Projection £m	Month 6 Variance £m	Overspend / (Underspend)	RAG Status	Ongoing Pressure £m	One-off Pressures £m	Movement From Month 5 £m
<b>Housing</b>										
Service Director - Housing	0.146	-	0.146	0.114	(0.032)	Underspend	Green	-	-	(0.032)
Housing Strategy	0.407	(0.285)	0.122	0.242	0.120	Overspend	Red	-	0.120	(0.001)
Housing Options	10.828	(5.545)	5.283	5.679	0.396	Overspend	Red	-	0.396	0.396
Housing Enabling	0.682	(0.143)	0.539	0.438	(0.101)	Underspend	Green	-	-	(0.002)
Private Sector Support/ DFG's (SIP)	1.353	(0.823)	0.530	0.169	(0.361)	Underspend	Green	-	-	(0.361)
Displaced Person Service	1.069	(1.069)	-	-	-	On-budget	Green	-	-	-
<b>sub total</b>	<b>14.485</b>	<b>(7.865)</b>	<b>6.620</b>	<b>6.642</b>	<b>0.022</b>	<b>Overspend</b>	<b>Amber</b>	-	<b>0.516</b>	<b>(0.000)</b>
<b>Customer Services</b>										
Customer Services	6.619	(0.721)	5.898	5.898	-	On-budget	Green	-	-	-
Somerset Lifeline	2.237	(2.600)	(0.363)	(0.363)	-	On-budget	Green	-	-	-
<b>sub total</b>	<b>8.856</b>	<b>(3.321)</b>	<b>5.535</b>	<b>5.535</b>	-	<b>On-budget</b>	<b>Green</b>	-	-	-
<b>Cultural Services</b>										
Service Director - Cultural Services	0.146	-	0.146	0.146	-	On-budget	Green	-	-	-
Library Service	4.954	(0.738)	4.216	4.216	-	On-budget	Green	-	-	-
Heritage Service	1.749	-	1.749	1.749	-	On-budget	Green	-	-	-
Leisure - Sports Centre	2.864	(0.494)	2.370	1.170	(1.200)	Underspend	Green	-	-	-
Museums	0.050	(0.003)	0.047	0.010	(0.037)	Underspend	Green	-	-	(0.037)
Theatres	2.587	(1.975)	0.612	0.612	-	On-budget	Green	-	-	-
Visitor Centres	0.262	(0.404)	(0.142)	(0.142)	-	On-budget	Green	0.114	-	-
Tourism	0.111	(0.010)	0.101	0.024	(0.077)	Underspend	Green	-	-	(0.077)
(wellbeing) Community Grants	0.021	(0.001)	0.020	0.020	-	On-budget	Green	-	-	-
<b>sub total</b>	<b>12.744</b>	<b>(3.625)</b>	<b>9.119</b>	<b>7.805</b>	<b>(1.314)</b>	<b>Underspend</b>	<b>Green</b>	<b>0.114</b>	-	<b>(0.114)</b>
<b>Regulatory &amp; Operational Services</b>										
Registration	1.985	(2.047)	(0.062)	(0.062)	(0.000)	Overachievement	Green	-	-	(0.000)
Environmental Health	4.516	(0.328)	4.188	3.955	(0.233)	Underspend	Green	-	-	(0.290)
Bereavement Services	1.035	(2.444)	(1.409)	(1.401)	0.008	Underachievement	Amber	-	0.008	(0.004)
Harbours	0.066	(0.028)	0.038	0.037	(0.001)	Underspend	Green	-	-	-
Ports	0.230	(0.148)	0.082	0.022	(0.060)	Underspend	Green	-	-	(0.060)
Street Cleansing	5.764	(0.872)	4.892	4.532	(0.360)	Underspend	Green	-	-	(0.437)
Open Spaces	5.879	(2.542)	3.337	3.557	0.220	Overspend	Red	-	0.220	(0.185)
Public Conveniences	0.558	(0.474)	0.084	0.092	0.008	Overspend	Red	-	0.008	-
(wellbeing) Community Safety	0.012	-	0.012	0.005	(0.007)	Underspend	Green	-	-	(0.006)
CCTV	0.841	(0.594)	0.247	0.288	0.041	Overspend	Red	-	0.041	-
Licensing	0.759	(1.058)	(0.299)	(0.367)	(0.068)	Overachievement	Green	-	-	(0.069)
Resorts	0.388	(0.204)	0.184	0.240	0.056	Overspend	Red	-	0.056	0.013
Coroners	1.344	-	1.344	1.464	0.120	Overspend	Red	-	0.120	-
Operational Support	0.689	(0.103)	0.586	0.586	-	On-budget	Green	-	-	-
Scientific Services	0.437	(0.414)	0.023	0.024	0.001	Overspend	Amber	-	0.001	0.017
Markets	0.230	(0.335)	(0.105)	(0.110)	(0.005)	Overachievement	Green	-	-	0.010
<b>sub total</b>	<b>24.733</b>	<b>(11.591)</b>	<b>13.142</b>	<b>12.862</b>	<b>(0.280)</b>	<b>Underspend</b>	<b>Green</b>	-	<b>0.454</b>	<b>(1.011)</b>
<b>Community Services Total</b>	<b>60.818</b>	<b>(26.402)</b>	<b>34.416</b>	<b>32.844</b>	<b>(1.572)</b>	<b>Underspend</b>	<b>Green</b>	<b>0.114</b>	<b>0.970</b>	<b>(1.125)</b>

## Community Services - key explanations, actions & mitigating controls

### Housing

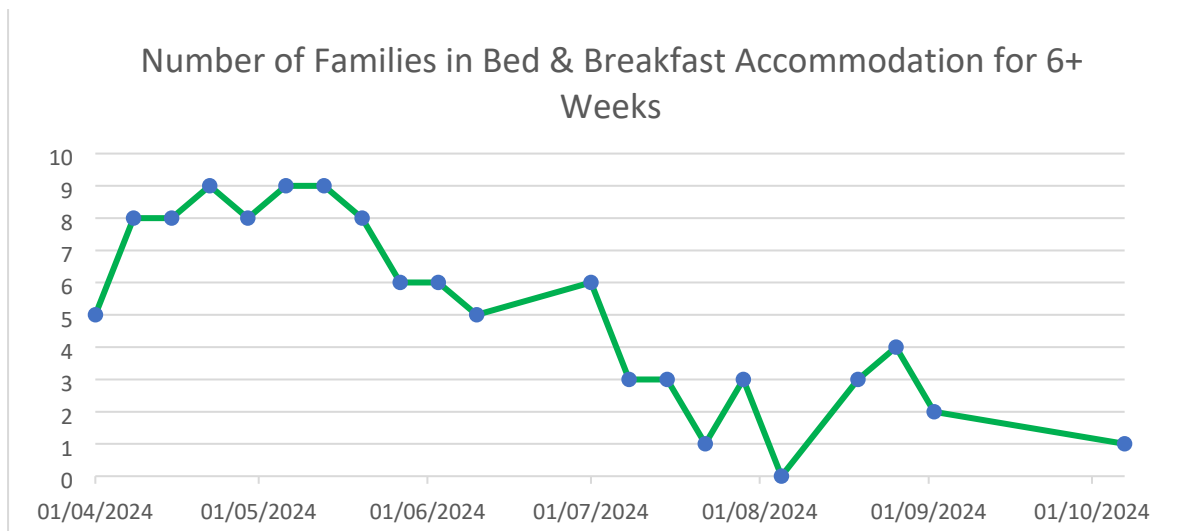
The General Fund Housing Service is currently forecasting a balanced outturn position for the 2024/25 financial year.

The Housing Options service has seen an increase in the numbers approaching the service and the number of cases which the Council has a responsibility to provide relief or main duty accommodation. This continued demand for temporary accommodation within the last nine months is demonstrated as follows:



Actions are being progressed by the service to mitigate the need for Bed & Breakfast accommodation, and we are striving towards reducing the necessity of temporary staffing following the restructure and streamlining processes within the service.

Despite seeing an increase in demand on Bed & Breakfast accommodation, the service is endeavouring to remove this as a long-term option for families, demonstrated as follows:



Total Housing Options service has a forecast overspend of £0.396m, this is an increase of £0.396m from Month 5. There are earmarked reserves ringfenced for this service area may offset additional pressures within 2024/25.

The Housing Enabling and Housing Director services are currently forecasting £0.216m savings on permanent staffing costs. This has offset pressures within the Housing Enabling and Housing Strategy services derived from unachievable historical income targets within both service areas.

### Cultural Services

Cultural Services have a forecast underspend of £1.314m, this is an increase of £0.114m from Month 5.

**Museums** has a forecast underspend of £0.037m, this is an increase of £0.037m from Month 5. The service transferred as part of devolution, reconciliation of expenditure and income suggests a forecast underspend will be realised outturn.

**Tourism** has a forecast underspend of £0.077m, this is an increase of £0.077m from Month 5. The tourism centre for South Somerset closed at the end of March 2023. Work has been ongoing to understand if any further expenditure will emerge from this budget area.

Cultural Services have transferred some of its functions to Yeovil Town Council as part of the Yeovil Devolution package. It is therefore important to note that further analysis continues to understand the budgetary impact of the transfer. Work continues to understand the financial position, impact to operational changes and any risk associated with the deal, to ensure MTFP savings attributed to the budget are accurate. This may result in further savings being realised.

## **Regulatory & Operational Services**

Regulatory & Operational Services are forecasting an underspend of £0.280m, an increase of £1.011m from Month 5.

**Open spaces** are forecasting an overspend of £0.220m, a decrease of £0.185m from Month 5. This is due to updated forecasts in salary costs and decrease in expenditure spend across the service.

**Environmental Health** is forecasting an underspend of £0.233m, a decrease of £0.290 from Month 5. Work has been undertaken to reconcile Salary budgets, actual spend and forecasts for the area.

**Street Cleaning** is forecasting an underspend of £0.360m, a decrease of £0.437m from Month 5. This is due to updated forecasts in salary costs and reducing spend within the service.

## **Performance of agreed savings proposals**

Where savings are unachievable Community Services are exploring alternative savings or reducing expenditure to ensure that these are achieved. Finance will continue to work with the service to monitor all of the agreed savings' proposals closely.

### Mitigating Actions

In-Year Mitigation Proposed	Quarter 2	Comments
	£m	
<b>To be mitigated</b>	<b>0.022</b>	
Housing	(0.022)	Housing is currently showing as overspending, it is felt that this will be absorbed by the service within future budget monitoring reports.

## **Background Papers**

2. The information within this paper has been taken from the 2024-25 GF Revenue Budget Monitoring Executive Report – Month 6.