

Appendix D – Community Services

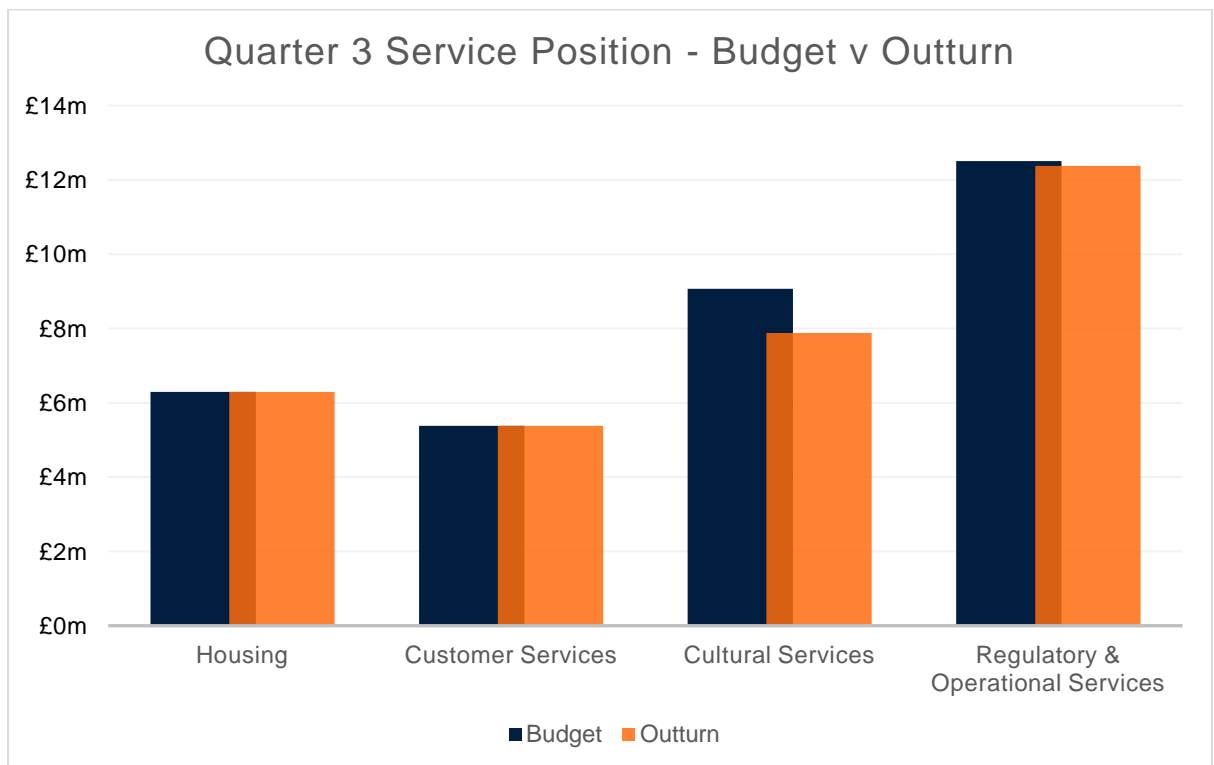
Lead Member for Communities, Housing Revenue Account, Culture and Equalities & Diversity: Cllr Federica Smith-Roberts

Executive Director: Chris Hall

Service Directors:

- Housing: Kirsty Larkins
- Culture: Elizabeth Dawson
- Customers: Sarah Dowden
- Regulatory and Operational: Sarah Dowden

▪ **Chart 1: Budget versus forecast outturn graph**



**Table 1: 2024/25 Community Services as at the end of December 2024
(Quarter 3)**

- 2024/25 net budget £33.242m, forecast underspend of £1.314m, a decrease of £0.152m from Month 7.
- 2023/24 net budget £37.4m, outturn underspend of £3.9m.

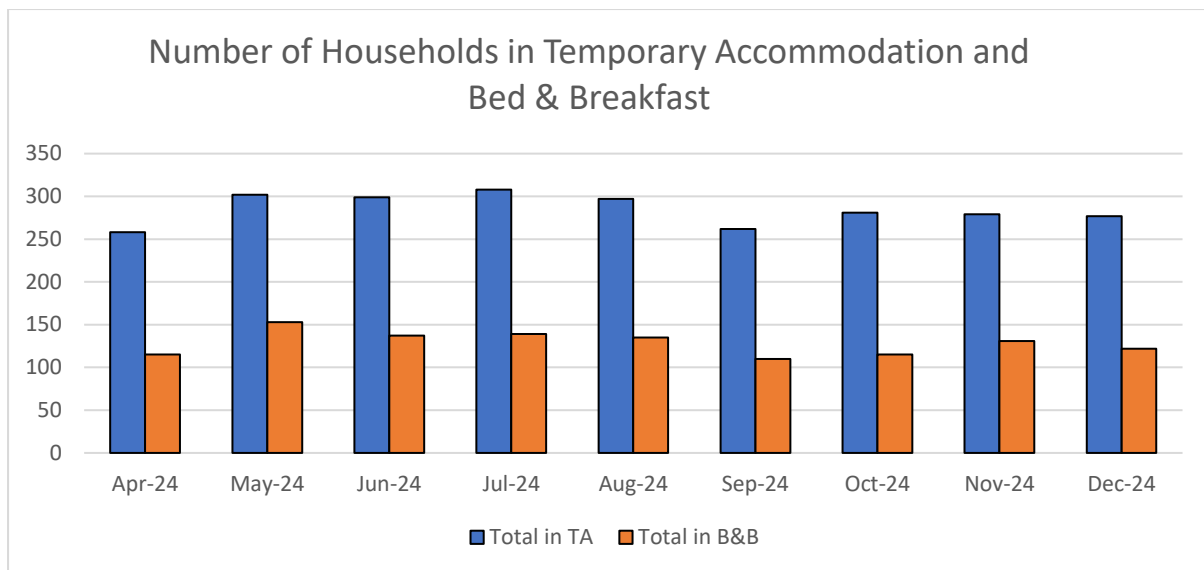
Service Area	Current Expenditure Budget £m	Current Income Budget £m	Current Net Budget £m	Full Year Projection £m	Quarter 3 Variance £m	Overspend / (Underspend)	RAG Status	Ongoing Pressure £m	One-off Pressures £m	Movement From Month 7 £m
Housing										
Service Director - Housing	0.146	-	0.146	0.115	(0.031)	Underspend	Green	-	-	0.000
Housing Strategy	0.331	(0.285)	0.046	0.216	0.170	Overspend	Red	-	0.170	0.050
Housing Options	10.640	(5.545)	5.095	5.569	0.474	Overspend	Red	-	0.474	0.064
Housing Enabling	0.617	(0.143)	0.474	0.376	(0.098)	Underspend	Green	-	-	0.003
Private Sector Support/ DFG's (SIP)	1.353	(0.823)	0.530	0.015	(0.515)	Underspend	Green	-	-	(0.117)
Displaced Person Service	1.069	(1.069)	-	-	-	On-budget	Green	-	-	-
sub total	14.156	(7.865)	6.291	6.291	-	On-budget	Green	-	0.644	(0.000)
Customer Services										
Customer Services	6.466	(0.721)	5.745	5.745	-	On-budget	Green	-	-	-
Somerset Lifeline	2.235	(2.600)	(0.365)	(0.365)	-	On-budget	Green	-	-	-
sub total	8.701	(3.321)	5.380	5.380	-	On-budget	Green	-	-	-
Cultural Services										
Service Director - Cultural Services	0.146	-	0.146	0.146	-	On-budget	Green	-	-	-
Library Service	5.204	(1.034)	4.170	4.170	-	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	0.044	(0.003)	0.041	0.012	(0.029)	Underspend	Green	-	-	-
Theatres	2.587	(1.975)	0.612	0.612	-	On-budget	Green	-	-	-
Visitor Centres	0.262	(0.404)	(0.142)	(0.022)	0.120	Underachievement	Red	-	0.120	-
Tourism	0.111	(0.010)	0.101	0.024	(0.077)	Underspend	Green	-	-	-
(wellbeing) Community Grants	0.021	(0.001)	0.020	0.020	-	On-budget	Green	-	-	-
sub total	12.988	(3.921)	9.067	7.881	(1.186)	Underspend	Green	-	0.120	-
Regulatory & Operational Services										
Registration	1.985	(2.047)	(0.062)	(0.065)	(0.003)	Overachievement	Green	-	-	(0.003)
Environmental Health	4.355	(0.328)	4.027	3.793	(0.234)	Underspend	Green	-	-	(0.001)
Bereavement Services	1.007	(2.444)	(1.437)	(1.321)	0.116	Underachievement	Red	-	0.116	0.108
Harbours	0.066	(0.028)	0.038	0.038	-	On-budget	Green	-	-	0.001
Ports	0.230	(0.148)	0.082	0.022	(0.060)	Underspend	Green	-	-	-
Street Cleansing	5.618	(0.872)	4.746	4.446	(0.300)	Underspend	Green	-	-	0.060
Open Spaces	5.711	(2.542)	3.169	3.456	0.287	Overspend	Red	-	0.287	0.067
Public Conveniences	0.558	(0.474)	0.084	0.022	(0.062)	Underspend	Green	-	-	(0.070)
(wellbeing) Community Safety	0.012	-	0.012	0.004	(0.008)	Underspend	Green	-	-	(0.001)
CCTV	0.797	(0.594)	0.203	0.200	(0.003)	Underspend	Green	-	-	(0.044)
Licensing	0.668	(1.058)	(0.390)	(0.456)	(0.066)	Overachievement	Green	-	-	0.002
Resorts	0.388	(0.204)	0.184	0.239	0.055	Overspend	Red	-	0.055	(0.001)
Coroners	1.344	-	1.344	1.510	0.166	Overspend	Red	-	0.166	0.046
Operational Support	0.689	(0.103)	0.586	0.586	-	On-budget	Green	-	-	-
Scientific Services	0.437	(0.414)	0.023	(0.009)	(0.032)	Underspend	Green	-	-	(0.033)
Markets	0.230	(0.335)	(0.105)	(0.089)	0.016	Underachievement	Red	-	0.016	0.021
sub total	24.095	(11.591)	12.504	12.376	(0.128)	Underspend	Green	-	0.640	0.152
Community Services Total	59.940	(26.698)	33.242	31.928	(1.314)	Underspend	Green	-	1.404	0.152

Community Services - key explanations, actions & mitigating controls

Housing

The General Fund Housing Service continues to forecast a balanced outturn position for 2024/25.

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.

The Housing Options service is forecasting an overspend of £1.364m. This will be mitigated by savings of £0.474m derived from the Private Sector Support / DFG service, and a drawdown of £0.890m from Earmarked Reserves ringfenced for this service area.

Savings on permanent staffing budgets within the Housing Enabling and Housing Director services have offset pressures, derived from historical income budgets within the Housing Strategy service unable to be achieved.

Cultural Services

The cultural services are forecasting an underspend of £1.186m, there is no change from Month 7.

Regulatory and Operational Services

Regulatory and Operational Services are forecasting an underspend of £0.128m, a decrease of £0.152m from Month 7. Regulatory and Operational Service have a number of demand led services and it is important to note that whilst there has been a decrease in the underspend that the service are also absorbing one off pressures within the budget.

Bereavement Services are forecasting an overspend of £0.116m. This is due to income being lower than anticipated within Taunton Crematorium. There are significant repairs required to one of the cremators that has now been forecasted within the budget.

Open Spaces are forecasting an overspend of £0.287m, an increase of £0.067m from Month 7. This is due to the Ground Maintenance contact costs within the east of the county being higher than anticipated.

Resorts are forecasting an overspend of £0.166m. This is due to the impact on income due to a damp summer season.

Coroners is forecasting an overspend of £0.166m, an increase of £0.047m from Month 7. This is a demand led service.

To help mitigate the above pressures Regulatory and Operational Services have underspends across other services. Those that have improved positions since Month 7 are listed below:

Public conveniences are forecasting an underspend of £0.062m, an increase of £0.070m from Month 7. This is due to successful negotiated contributions towards running costs for some sites alongside controlled cost reductions.

Table 2: Service Management Actions included in the forecast outturn

Service Management Actions	Month 7	Quarter 3	Movement	Comments
	£m	£m	£m	
Housing	(0.530)	(0.530)	-	Implemented in the forecast. Relate to underspends within Housing are held to absorb any overspends within the service.
Cultural Services	(0.120)	(0.120)	-	Implemented in the forecast. Relate to underspends within Cultural Services are held to absorb any overspends within the service.
Regulatory and Operations	(0.454)	(0.640)	(0.186)	Implemented in the forecast. Relate to underspends within Regulatory and Operations are held to absorb any overspends within the service.
Total Management Actions	(1.104)	(1.290)	(0.186)	

Table 3: Mitigating Actions Identified, not yet included in the forecast outturn

In-Year Mitigation Proposed	Month 7 £m	Quarter 3 £m	Movement £m	One-Off Mitigation £m	Ongoing Mitigation £m	Comments
To be Mitigated	-	-	-	-	-	
None	-	-	-	-	-	
Total Mitigations Identified to be Actioned	-	-	-	-	-	
Still to be Mitigated	-	-	-	-	-	