

Forward timetable of consultation and decision making

Finance & Performance Scrutiny 10 November 2025

Wards affected: all wards

FINANCIAL OUTTURN- SEPTEMBER 2025

Report of Section 151 Officer

1. Purpose of report

1.1 Present the financial outturn position as at September 2025

2. Recommendation

2.1 The report is noted.

3. Background to the report

- 3.1 The financial reports attached to this report are based on the original budget taken to Council in February 2025 and allow for budget movements for the first six months.
- 3.2 Attached to this report are the monthly outturn reports including the following information for the period ending September 2025:
 - General Fund budget monitoring summary
 - General Fund detailed variance analysis
 - Capital Programme outturn by scheme

General Fund

3.3 Based on the approved budget (Council February 2025) it was anticipated that £314,921 would be transferred to balances and a net £483,292 transferred to earmarked reserves. Since that date, the budget has been decreased by £35,560 representing supplementary budgets that have been approved in line with financial procedures rules. As at the end of September

2025, the forecast is for the General Fund cost to increase by £75,440. This means an estimated £239,481 will be taken to balances compared against the budgeted position of £314,921 being transferred to balances.

Table 1	Budgeted	Forecast	Movement
Contribution (from)/to General Fund Balances (£000)	314	239	(75)

3.4 The table below shows summarises the movements between Original Budget and the estimated outturn position as at the end of September 2025.

Table 2	Outturn variances £000	Explanation
Additional budgets	36	To take into account latest contractual commitments
Forecast Outturn Movement	(41)	Estimated forecast variance from services (see general fund attachments)
Transfer (to)/from Unapplied and Contributions	(70)	Estimated transfer at year end to the unapplied grant reserve for use on grant funded projects in future years
Change in Outturn	(75)	Contribution (from)/to General Fund Balances (£000)

3.5 Explanations for variances against both profiled budget and estimated outturn have been detailed in the monthly outturn reports appended. The major service variations in excess of £50,000 are summarised below:

Table 3	Outturn variances £000	Explanation
Homelessness	(900)	Additional homelessness demand/prevention
Homelessness	200	Additional Homelessness funding provided by MHCLG
Community Safety	70	Underspend on minor projects
Development Control	310	Increase in income from planning applications
Development Control	(105)	Agency staff overspend
Development Control	89	Savings related to Tara House as building being demolished
Planning Policy	(55)	Agency staff overspend
Legal Services	(170)	Agency staff overspend
Recycling	90	Underspend on fuel costs
Recycling	337	Additional Extended Producer Responsibility income to be used to offset net recycling costs
Refuse Collection	60	Underspend on fuel costs
Refuse Collection	100	Additional trade waste collections
All Services	(211)	Forecast overspend on salaries
Other net movement	144	
	(41)	Total

Capital

3.6 £5,985,978 has been spent on capital schemes to the end of September 2024 against a budget for that period of £14,984,888. It is envisaged that most of the schemes will still be completed by year-end.

Housing Revenue Account

3.7 As at September 2025 it is anticipated that the HRA outturn will be in a deficit of £44,897 compared against a budgeted deficit of £30,897. Major variances are explained below-

Table 5	Outturn variances. £000 Under/(Over) Spend	Explanation	
Employee Costs	(85)	Overspend due to overtime and salary overspend due to vacancy factor and pay award (for fully staffed service)	
Premises related costs	(35)	Overspend on gas and caretaking costs and premises insurance	
Revenue income	(39)	Shortfall in income from sheltered scheme charges and room hire charges	
Rental Income	149	Additional rent from dwellings offset by a small shortfall in garage rents	

- 3.8 The Housing Repairs Account is currently forecasted to make a deficit of £21,479, which is an overspend of £54,000 compared to the latest budgeted surplus of £32,521. This is due to an estimated overspend related to the impact of a higher than budgeted pay award.
- 4. Exemptions in accordance with the Access to Information procedure rules
- 4.1 Report taken in open session.
- 5. Financial implications [IB]
- 5.1 Contained in the body of the report.
- 6. Legal implications [ST]
- 6.1 None
- 7. Corporate Plan implications

7.1 The Budget and outturn contributes to the achievement of all Corporate Plan Priorities.

8. Consultation

8.1 None

9. Risk implications

- 9.1 It is the council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.
- 9.2 It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision / project have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.
- 9.3 The following significant risks associated with this report / decisions were identified from this assessment:

Management of significant (Net Red) risks			
Risk description	Mitigating actions Owner		
That the Council has insufficient resources to meet its aspirations and cannot set a balanced budget	A budget strategy is produced to ensure that the objectives of the budget exercise are known throughout the organisation. The budget is scrutinised on an ongoing basis to ensure that assumptions are robust and reflective of financial performance. Sufficient levels of reserves and balances are maintained to ensure financial resilience	Julie Kenny	

10. Knowing your community – equality and rural implications

10.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report.

11. Climate implications

11.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report. Budget holders ensure any implications are assessed as part of their service delivery.

12. Corporate implications

- 12.1 By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:
 - Community Safety implications
 - Environmental implications
 - ICT implications
 - Asset Management implications
 - Procurement implications
 - Human Resources implications
 - Planning implications
 - Data Protection implications

- Voluntary Sector

Background papers: Civica Reports

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