

# Overview and Scrutiny Committee Agenda

**Wednesday, 6 March 2024 at 6.00 pm**

Muriel Matters House, Breeds Place, Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 3UY. Please enter the building through the Contact Centre entrance via the seafront.

If you are attending the Council Chamber for this meeting, please enter the building via the Community Contact Centre entrance.

For further information, please contact Democratic Services on 01424 451484 or email: [democraticservices@hastings.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@hastings.gov.uk)

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# Agenda Item 3 Public Document Pack

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

5 DECEMBER 2023

Present: Councillors Patmore (Chair), Sinden (Vice Chair), Carr, Cooke, Foster, Hilton and Webb

Officers: Jane Hartnell (Chief Executive), Kit Wheeler (Chief Finance Officer), Stephen Dodson (Head of Strategic programmes), Natasha Tewkesbury (Head of Community and Regulatory Services)

Members of Cabinet Present: Councillor Barnett

### 5. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Councillors Bacon, Roberts and Turner. Councillor Carr apologised for lateness.

### 6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor	Item	Interest
Cllr Webb	All	Personal – ESCC Councillor
Cllr Hay	All	Personal – ESCC Councillor

### 7. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 09/08/23

Councillor Webb requested reports regarding the Hastings Housing Company by resent to committee members.

**RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2023 be approved as a true record.**

### 8. QUARTER 2 WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE REPORT

The Continuous Improvement and Democratic Services Officer presented the report. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee have had additional meetings since the last quarterly meeting. This includes a call in of the Land and Property Disposal Program, review of the Town Deal program update, a review of the LGA Finance Peer review and giving consultation on the proposed Budget Planning. The Overview and Scrutiny sent recommendations to Cabinet.

# OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

5 DECEMBER 2023

The Chair thanked all the members for their time and input at these meetings.

Councillor Hilton requested for an update on the tourism and culture strategy to be brought to the committee.

## **Resolved (Unanimously)**

**That the committee note the progress of the Overview and Scrutiny work programme for the 2023/24 municipal year and follow up actions.**

## **Reasons**

To It is the responsibility of members serving on the Overview and Scrutiny committee to set their own work programme for each municipal year and complete the associated actions by the end of year.

## **9. QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT**

The Head of Strategic Programmes presented the report. The focus has been on Finance and Housing, but most services areas have imputed.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee asked questions.

The Chair asked regarding the redevelopment of Cornwallis Car Park and if it's still in the tendering process. The Chief Executive answered an update on the redevelopment of Cornwallis Street will be given soon.

The Chair asked regarding procurement of the 50 units of temporary accommodation. The Head of Strategic Programmes answered 12 homes have now been let and in addition by the 15th of November the Council has purchased 13 homes as part of the accommodation acquisition programme with 19 in conveyancing and a further 27 in the consideration for an offer given the initial cabinet approval for 50 homes, we'll be seeking further authority to add to the programme. The Committee discussed the Harrow line site and Councillor Barnett gave an update that Orbit housing plan to have houses built by this time next year.

The Chair asked regarding how critical it is to reduce households in temporary accommodation to the 375 target. The Chief Finance Officer answered it is very critical and it is planned to have an updated finance report for quarter three soon.

The Chair asked regarding the way the target for number of affordable homes that have been built was reported? The Head of Strategic Programmes answered the target needs revising and will be updated.

Councillor Carr asked regarding the social housing allocation scheme and when a report or feedback will be available. Councillor Barnett answered the report is not ready yet but will be available soon.

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

5 DECEMBER 2023

Councillor Hilton asked for an update regarding Community Safety Partnership. Head of Community and Regulatory Services answered the information that had been provided to councillors are the priorities for this year of the Community Safety Partnership. These are delivered by different agencies of the partnership and updates are provided at each quarterly meeting. The partnership does not have quantitative measures in place.

**Action:** Request further information to be collected from the Community Safety Partnership.

Councillor Cooke asked regarding homelessness cases prevented. The Chief Executive answered that officers have been employed to make home visits to assist with preventing homelessness.

Councillor Carr asked about FPN's and why the status is amber. It was requested the status be reviewed.

Councillor Hilton asked when the last crime reduction strategy was completed? The Head of Community and Regulatory Services explained it's a function of the Community Safety Partnership though this can be checked.

Councillor Cooke asked regarding climate change. The Chief Executive answered that a report is planned for early next year.

Councillor Carr asked regarding the delays to audited accounts. The Chief Finance Officer answered that the 20-21 accounts will be audited this year. Some Councils have managed to get the accounts signed off but there are also a lot of Councils who haven't had their accounts audited. It was highlighted a report from the External Auditor will be discussed at the Audit Committee on 7<sup>th</sup> December.

Councillor Hay asked regarding the staff pay offer. The Chief Executive answered that the pay level was agreed in November. The Unions will start discussions earlier next year.

The Chair asked if there will be new KPI's if the budget is agreed. The Head of Strategic Programmes answered the Corporate Plan will run from 2024 to 2028 and there will be new KPI's agreed in line with this.

Councillor Barnett highlighted that staff sickness has reduced and attendance at cultural facilities have increased over last year.

The Chair asked regarding why Cabinet do not review performance. Councillor Barnett answered that performance is reviewed before the report comes to Overview and Scrutiny.

# OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

5 DECEMBER 2023

## Resolved (Unanimously)

1. That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee review performance for statutory performance indicators for Quarter 2.
2. That staff be thanked for their hard work and achievements to date.

## Reasons

1. To assist the council to undertake performance and financial monitoring arrangements.
2. To ensure that senior management, officers, and Portfolio Holders (Lead Cllrs) have ownership of performance of the service areas under their responsibility.
3. That O&S and the public can review performance and highlight both achievements and areas of concern

## 10. QUARTER 2 FINANCIAL UPDATE REPORT

The Chief Finance Officer presented the report. The Financial position forecast has changed with a variance of £2.5m overspent. Temporary accommodation cost is still the greatest pressure on the organisation. The Chair thanked the Chief Finance Officer and highlighted the commercial property income as a positive.

The committee asked questions:

The Chair asked if the number of temporary accommodation clients have come down? The Chief Finance Officer answered that the latest figures have not been reviewed but to have a real impact there needs to be an increase in affordable housing.

Councillor Sinden asked regarding an underspend on disabled facility grants? The Chief Finance Officer answered the underspend is regarding the way staffing was budgeted. Councillor Barnett responded that the staffing levels have gone up to help residents access disabled facility grants.

Councillor Cooke asked regarding the Chief Finance Officer area overspend of £1.3m. The Chief Finance Officer explained the saving figures are held in the Chief Finance officer section and if the targets are not achieved it will show as an overspend. At the budget discussions it was discussed if only 80% is achieved this will equate to £1m. The total cost of temporary accommodation has increased.

Councillor Carr asked regarding the overspend in Revenues and Benefits? The Chief Finance Officer explained the restructure should be complete by the end of December but the overspend has happened from paying for agency staff.

Councillor Patmore asked regarding the Housing task force. The Head of Programmes answered the extra staff bought in has been successful and all posts have been completed.

Councillor Cooke asked regarding the overspend in the Environmental and Operations section. The Chief Finance Officer explained this was a use of earmarked reserves.

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

5 DECEMBER 2023

Councillor Patmore and Councillor Carr asked regarding the cost of St Mary in the Castle maintenance. Councillor Barnett answered that there are additional costs and discussions are trying to be concluded as soon as possible. Councillor Carr highlighted if the equipment inside is not used they will become unusable. The Chief Executive explained health and safety checks are being completed.

### **Resolved (Unanimously)**

**To note the contents of the report, and the actions within the conclusion and management action section**

### **Reasons**

To assist the Council in understanding the financial position and particularly areas of over and under spend. Early indications of emerging overspends can allow management action to be targeted to those areas. This monitoring assists in identifying areas for review in the production of the 2024/25 budget and the impact of the 2023/24 outturn on the reserves position.

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at. 7.08 pm)

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## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

5 FEBRUARY 2024

Present: Councillors Patmore (Chair), Sinden (Vice Chair), Batsford, Carr, Collins, Cooke, Evans, Foster, Hay, Rogers, Webb

Officers: Jane Hartnell (Chief Executive), Kit Wheeler (Chief Finance Officer), Chris Hancock (Head of Housing), Coral Harding (Continuous Improvement and Democratic Services Officer)

Remotely: Victoria Conheady (Deputy Chief Executive), Buki Adekoya (Revenues and Benefits Services Manager)

Members of Cabinet Present: Councillors Hilton & Barnett.

### 11. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Councillor Bacon (Substituted by Cllr Rogers)

### 12. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor	Item	Interest
Cllr Webb	4	Personal – East Sussex County Councillor

### 13. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING 20/11/23

**RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023 be approved as a true record.**

### 14. DRAFT BUDGET REPORT 24/25

The Chief Finance Officer presented the report and gave an update since the Budget planning report discussed in November 2023. The figures have changed since the end of last year. The Council has put itself in a stronger financial position because of the decisions made over the last few months. The decision made last week regarding the sale of land at Cornwallis and avoidance of hotel construction costs has made a substantial reduction in the interest and minimum revenue provision (MRP) costs the Councils would have had to make.

Large savings achievement is still assumed in the draft budget. There has been an increase in fees and charges following on from detailed analysis. The reserves policy has been reviewed, and the minimum level being agreed at £4m. During the life of this budget the council will likely retain this level of reserves minimum, however certainty in further years is harder to predict. Though the financial stability of the Council is better further substantial savings need to be achieved.

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

5 FEBRUARY 2024

Councillor Patmore explained the paperwork is very complex and was difficult to compare to previous reports.

The Committee asked questions regarding the Budget.

**Cllr Patmore asked why has there been no public consultation regarding the council tax increase for empty and second homes?**

The Revenues and Benefits Manager explained the decision is a discretionary one for the council. Cllr Evans commented that residents have been asking for the increase and it's a positive for the town. Cllr Hilton explained there was not any time for a consultation as legislation only came in November 2023 and every other Council in East Sussex are bringing in the legislation without consultation.

**Cllr Collins highlighted only 1.8% of people occupying temporary accommodation are asylum seekers and asked what moves have been made to increase the supply of landlords?**

The Head of Housing answered that it was important to note that the figures in the briefing only show households to whom we owe a statutory duty to house, this wouldn't therefore include many single households where we do not have a duty to provide housing. People granted asylum in the UK who have been housed by the Home Office in Hastings will very largely be single people and therefore will not be shown in these figures.

On the question of landlord supply the Head of Housing stated that we do have a good scheme in place but there is more work to do with promoting the scheme and its benefits for landlords. Cllr Patmore asked regarding purchasing properties and the Head of Housing explained it would be an option if the property fell within the acquisitions budget.

Cllr Carr requested an update on the acquisition programme. The Head of Housing answered that 20 homes have been completed, 8 now have tenants. A further 20 are in conveyancing.

**Cllr Sinden asked regarding temporary accommodation repairs, will accommodation be upgraded to a better standard?**

The Head of Housing answered when properties are purchased, they are made up to the Council's standard EPC level C. Regarding adaptations this is being reviewed with the occupational therapist team and the housing acquisitions team to see how we can increase the supply of accessible homes.

**Cllr Batsford asked if a large family was being made homeless by a landlord would the Council offer to buy the house?**

The Head of Housing explained a property could be purchased but it would need to be bought up to the Council's standard. Cllr Batsford asked if the standards of the Council housing is much higher. The Head of Housing answered the standards are higher as these are council assets and we want to provide settled homes but also limit ongoing reactive repairs and maintenance costs. Cllr Batsford requested for the letting scheme to be more attractive and flexible.

**Cllr Carr asked how is the maintenance of properties paid for ongoing?**

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

5 FEBRUARY 2024

The Head of Housing explained the business model for the acquisitions is the rent will pay for the repairs. Cllr Patmore asked whether the money for the works is coming from renewal and repairs reserve or from the new asset maintenance reserve? The Head of Housing answered that it is from within the temporary accommodation budget.

**Cllr Rogers asked what sort of tenancy agreement is being offered?**

The Head of Housing answered it is a non-secure tenancy whilst the homelessness application is being processed.

**Cllr Foster asked if the standards must be met if a tenant is happy to stay in a below standard property?**

The Head of Housing explained that the standards have to be met.

**Cllr Carr asked what can be done to stop the number of people in temporary accommodation increasing?**

The Head of Housing explained that the number of households in the most expensive form of privately procured emergency accommodation has stabilised through prevention work. The acquisition program is forecast to make a difference.

**Cllr Evans asked regarding making homes more sustainable?**

The Head of Housing explained that there are not significant funds available at this time but opportunities would be explored when they become available.

**Cllr Hay asked regarding what is being done to help tenants back into private rented accommodation?**

The Head of Housing explained that loans are available and support and advice to assists with the move into private rented market, however the rental market is very challenging currently.

**Cllr Collins asked about empty properties and what is being done?**

The Head of Housing answered that if an empty property is a risk the Housing Standards Enforcement team would deal with it. There is not capacity to be pro active currently. Cllr Hilton answered that she would like to see a business case developed to employ an officer, but this is in an early stage of review.

**Cllr Cooke asked if compulsory purchases orders are an option?**

The Head of Housing answered that there is not the capacity currently. Cllr Batsford highlighted the CPO process is not cost effective.

**Cllr Batsford asked if conversations are being had with the Housing Associations?**

The Head of Housing explained conversations are taking place and 75% of new lets are going to people coming out of temporary accommodation. Cllr Batsford asked regarding shared ownership. The Head of Housing explained this can be looked at by the Housing task force.

**Cllr Patmore asked regarding the changes to the general reserve and why there is a large difference in the Capital Programmes?**

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

5 FEBRUARY 2024

The Chief Finance Officer explained the capital spend has been reduced and the disposals of land agreed has been a benefit.

Cllr Barnett explained the decisions made in the last few months there is an additional £4.65m in the 24/25 budget. The government settlement is worse than expected and the estimation is the council will be £500k worse off. The funding allocated to HBC for the National Food Waste Strategy is not enough. There is a saving of £4.65m but an overspend of £1.65m which leaves the Council around £3m better off. There is a reduction in planned savings next year of around £1m which would leave £2m to add to the reserves, but there are still risks.

### **Cllr Sinden asked if the reserves will be used?**

The Chief Finance Officer explained the earmarked reserves will always be used but the general reserves the proposal is for £796k to be used. Cllr Foster asked why there is an increase in one year but not in the others. The Chief Finance Officer answered that the figures are forecasts and this amount could change.

### **Cllr Hay asked when will the costs for food waste collection be factored in?**

The Chief Finance Officer answered there is a contingency included in the draft budget as the government allocation is not enough to cover the expected costs of the new scheme. Cllr Hilton answered that other Councils have also highlighted this as a funding gap. Cllr Hay highlighted dealing with the waste that we're going to be collecting within the county probably won't be able to be dealt with within the county.

### **Cllr Patmore asked why have the fees and charges figures tripled?**

The Chief Finance Officer answered that the main areas that have seen increases include the cemetery and cremation area, the green waste and parking. Officers did a stringent re-calculation of the impacts of the new fees and thanks were given to the finance team for this.

### **Cllr Batsford asked for an update on shared services and if external agencies have been appointed?**

The Chief Executive explained there is no update on external agencies being appointed at this time. Work is ongoing and discussions are being had with colleagues in East Sussex. Cllr Hilton explained that business process mapping is being undertaken as a prelude to sharing. Cllr Batsford highlighted that it was agreed at Full Council and if nothing has happened by May then the savings are at risk. Cllr Patmore asked if the saving will be made in 24/25. The Chief Executive explained the saving will be made as the budget strategy requires them to be.

### **Cllr Collins asked for an update on Asset Management Strategy update and why land at Sandrock has been included in appendix G? What impact does the sale of assets have with the public works loan board?**

The Chief Finance Officer explained there is the option to pay back loans early but each loan would have to be reviewed to ensure this is the most financially sensible option. The Chief Executive answered there will be an update from the Finance portfolio holder in the coming weeks regarding assets and Sandrock has been in the land and property disposal programme since 2014. It was agreed last summer that the sale would continue with the clause achieved at the request of Councillor Barnett that we ensure that an area of land equivalent to the Council's land is to be used as amenity land or open space or woodland or sustainable urban drainage.

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

5 FEBRUARY 2024

**Cllr Hay asked how much of the Budget planning remains and is there an update regarding the Hastings Housing Company?**

Cllr Hilton answered what we need to do is come up with an agreed plan that all political parties are happy with. The Chief Finance Officer answered that discussions are taking place regarding the future of the Hastings Housing Company and the first concern is that the loans are paid.

**Cllr Carr asked why this budget hasn't had a public consultation, particularly with regard to the setting of council tax?**

The Chief Finance Officer answered that the Local Government Settlement allowed Councils to increase by Council tax by 2.99% and the pre-Christmas consultation implied that the council will take all steps to maximise income available to it – as the government assumes this is the case in the finance settlement.

**Cllr Carr asked if the Connected Future meeting happened regarding the Youth Council?**

The Deputy Chief Executive answered that the three members of the Youth Council will become youth researchers within the connected futures work, with support from CXK. Work is taking place to make sure that young people's voice is heard and continually heard via the connected futures work. Cllr Hilton updated that at discussions with Team East Sussex it was recognised there was not enough youth voice in the development of an economic growth strategy that runs till 2050. There has been a commitment to more youth engagement on the implementation of the plan. Further consultation is underway regarding enabling young people to feed into the towns long term plan and town board initiative.

**Cllr Evans asked whether requiring the senior leadership team to attend committee meetings was a good use of their time?** Cllr Hilton answered the Senior management are present to answer questions from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, however this would be reviewed.

**Cllr Cooke asked is there a danger by delaying the transformation work that other Councils get organised and will be already sharing services?**

The Chief Finance Officer explained communication has not been stopped with others and if partnerships have already started then we would be able to join up. The Chief Executive explained that all parties need to be signed up as it is not a process that can be regularly changed every few years. Cllr Cooke asked if other Councils are keeping communications open. The Chief Finance Officer answered that communications are ongoing. Cllr Carr asked if staff morale has been affected? The Chief Executive answered that political instability may have affected staff and this would be discussed at the staff briefing in a few weeks time.

**Cllr Foster asked about the housing acquisitions proposed savings?**

Cllr Barnett answered this is the new stream of social housing houses and the new purchases that will be impacting into future years.

**Cllr Batsford asked when it was decided to not follow the shared service plan agreed at Full Council in December?**

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

5 FEBRUARY 2024

The Chief Executive explained that this would be a question for Councillors to answer.

### **Cllr Patmore asked if decisions can be made in a fast enough time?**

The Chief Finance Officer answered that swift decisions have been made.

### **Cllr Carr asked regarding the asset management plan and is there a time line for when it will be available?**

Cllr Hilton answered it would be hoped that the Council were a bit further ahead with the asset management plan. Cllr Barnett explained it will be a few more weeks until it will be available. Cllr Carr asked what the timetable was when the asset management plan was agreed? The Chief Finance Officer updated it was summer last year when it was put out to tender.

### **Cllr Collins asked if selling assets could be used for Housing?**

The Chief Finance Officer confirmed that a capital receipt could be used for housing. Cllr Patmore highlighted the need to be able to compare and understand the Council's assets.

### **Cllr Patmore asked regarding using £796k of reserves?**

Cllr Barnett answered the Council is in a stronger position now and can use reserves which are now at a higher level. The shared service savings have not been cut but have been reprofiled to future years to make the Council more fit for the future.

### **Resolved (Unanimously)**

**That the comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the draft Revenue and Capital budget for 2024/25 and updated Medium Term Financial Strategy forecast for future years be referred to the Budget Cabinet on 12 February 2024.**

### **Reasons**

To ensure the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's comments can be considered by the Budget Cabinet, prior to recommendations being made to the Full Council.

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at. 8.08 pm)

# Agenda Item 4



<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>6 March 2024</b>
<b>Report Title:</b>	<b>Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme (2023/24) Update</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Coral Harding, Continuous Improvement and Democratic Services Officer</b>
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<b>N/A</b>

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## **Purpose of Report**

To provide an update of progress for the 2023/24 Overview and Scrutiny work programme and proposed follow up actions.

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## **Recommendation(s)**

**That the committee note the progress of the Overview and Scrutiny work programme for the 2023/24 municipal year and follow up actions.**

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## **Reasons for Recommendations**

It is the responsibility of members serving on the Overview and Scrutiny committee to set their own work programme for each municipal year and complete the associated actions by the end of year.

## Introduction

1. Following the agreement of the work programme at Annual Overview and Scrutiny meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2023. The committee has since met to provisionally confirm work groups and lines of enquiry.
2. The confirmed work programme can be found in appendix A. These ideas and themes draw on previous Overview and Scrutiny work. The committee have grouped work into 4 themes this year; Finance, Equalities, Living Environment and Follow up 2022
3. The investigations of the work have been delayed since the last meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December. This has been due to Councillors involved in the Budget process and the Christmas break.
4. There has also been changes to the political balance and leadership of the council that has led to changes on the committee. This has changed the leads and review groups for parts of the work programme.

## Overview and Scrutiny work programme 2023/24

5. The committee has decided to pursue 4 themes this year;
6. The work programme will use a combination of reviews and updates. It is also accepted that some of the information the require will be obtained from the quarterly review meetings.
7. Appendix A sets out the O&S work programme for the year ahead breaking down the proposed reviews of each theme over the course of the year.
8. The bulk of the investigative work will be done through Quarter 2 and 3. Any recommendations from this work will be reported in Quarter 4. These recommendations will go to Cabinet or Full Council depending on relevance.

## Finance Theme

9. The Overview and Scrutiny committee are concerned by the large deficit the council faces this year which is currently estimated at £1.6 million. Overview and Scrutiny committee are keen to help support efforts to lessen the impact of the deficit.
10. The work programme consists of several different areas as followed;
  - Finance Peer Review Meeting with Council Leadership
  - Costs of Homelessness
  - Asset Management Review
  - Tourism & Cultural Strategy
  - Management & Staff restructuring
11. Overview and Scrutiny have contributed to the Budget Planning discussions. They held a meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023. The agenda and minutes for this meeting can be found [here](#)



12. Their conclusions were considered by Budget Planning Cabinet held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023 and Budget Planning Full Council on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023.
13. Overview and Scrutiny were consulted regarding the Budget on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024. The agenda and minutes for this meeting can be found [here](#)
14. These conclusions were considered by Budget Cabinet on 12<sup>th</sup> February and Budget Full Council on 21<sup>st</sup> February.
15. Councillor Patmore has led this review.

### **Equalities theme**

16. The committee recognises that local residents come from many different backgrounds and have many different needs. The Equalities theme will look at how the council monitors the levels of accessibility and considerations taken in providing public services for a diverse population.
17. The Overview and Scrutiny committee wanted to continue previous work from last years work programme and were keen for the Equalities Working Group to continue.
18. The committee would like this work to continue and will look at what priorities can be achieved this municipal year.
19. Councillor Carr will lead this review.

### **Living Environment theme**

20. Overview and Scrutiny recognise the need for a healthy living environment that is safe & clean, promotes healthy behaviours and is pleasant to live in.
21. Overview and Scrutiny believe in positively promoting a healthy living environment in the borough and actively support initiatives to reduce issues that can affect this such as pollution, climate change and cleanliness.
22. The Government has recently allocated funds for the Council's new food waste collection scheme due to go live in 2026. This has been identified as a funding gap.
23. The committee will monitor the implementation of the food waste collection scheme and the both the capital and revenue funding.
24. Councillor Hilton previously led the review. A new review lead will need to be implemented due to Councillor Hilton no longer being a member of the committee.

### **Follow up theme**

25. The previous year's Overview and Scrutiny work programme was not completed in full by the committee, but they would like to continue and monitor progress from previous commitments.
26. The review will complete a review of the performance indicators and will look at the indicators for Finance, Housing and Climate Change as a priority. They are currently working with the Head of Strategic Programmes to achieve this. Senior Managers have been asked to review there current targets.

27. The review would still like to review Sea Changes activities and achievements. The committee are currently looking at ways to explore this review with other partners.
28. The review would also like to meet with Southern water to discuss the future plans for the town and the resolutions to the issues that are currently being experienced.
29. A meeting with Southern Water is currently being arranged by Officers with the aim to hold a meeting this municipal year.
30. This review will lead by Councillor Sinden.

Action	Key milestone	Due date (provisional)	Responsible
Overview and Scrutiny to agree their work programme actions	Work programme and actions agreed	6 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Overview and Scrutiny committee

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## Wards Affected

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## Policy Implications

Reading Ease Score:

Have you used relevant project tools?: N/A

### Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness	Y/N
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	Y/N
Risk Management	Y/N
Environmental Issues & Climate Change	Y/N
Economic/Financial Implications	Y/N
Human Rights Act	Y/N
Organisational Consequences	Y/N
Local People's Views	Y/N
Anti-Poverty	Y/N
Legal	Y/N

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## Additional Information

Appendix A- Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2023/24

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## Officer to Contact

Officer: Coral Harding  
Email: [Charding@hastings.gov.uk](mailto:Charding@hastings.gov.uk)  
Tel: 01424 451484

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**Appendix A: Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2022/23**

FINANCE	EQUALITIES	LIVING ENVIRONMENT	FOLLOW UP
<p>FINANCE PEER REVIEW MEETING WITH COUNCIL LEADERSHIP</p> <p>COSTS OF HOMELESSNESS</p> <p>ASSET MANAGEMENT REVIEW</p> <p>TOURISM AND CULTURAL STRATEGY</p> <p>MANAGEMENT AND STAFF RESTRUCTURING</p>	<p>EQUALITIES WORKING GROUP</p> <p>REVIEW OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND PARK SAFETY PROJECT</p>	<p>CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION GROUP</p> <p>FLY TIPPING REVIEW</p> <p>NATIONAL CHANGES TO REFUSE AND RECYCLING COLLECTIONS</p>	<p>REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE INDICATORS</p> <p>MEETING WITH SOUTHERN WATER</p> <p>SEA CHANGE REVIEW</p>
<p>2022/23 WORK PROGRAMME CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS REPORTED</p>			



# Agenda Item 5



**Report To:** Overview and Scrutiny

**Date of Meeting(s):** 06/03/24

**Report Title:** Performance Monitoring Quarter 3 2023/24

**Report By:** Stephen Dodson – Head of Strategic Programmes

**Key Decision:** N/A

**Classification:** Open

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## Purpose of Report

1. To provide a summary of performance for Quarter 3 (October - December) 2023/24

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## Recommendation(s)

1. That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee review performance for statutory performance indicators for Quarter 3.
2. That staff be thanked for their hard work and achievements to date.

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## Reasons for Recommendations

1. To assist the council to undertake performance and financial monitoring arrangements.
2. That O&S and the public can review performance and highlight both achievements and areas of concern.

## Introduction

1. The Council updated its four year [corporate plan \(2020/24\)](#) in February 2023. This update took into account new challenges facing the council. The update can be found here [2023-24 Corporate Plan update | Hastings Borough Council](#)
2. This report sets out a summary of council performance for Quarter 3 (October – December 2023).
3. Performance reporting and updates continue to be reported in a Dashboard format and the intention remains to build and improve the performance reporting including financial information and this report should be viewed alongside budget monitoring reports.
4. O&S have agreed that the key areas of focus for O&S would be finance and housing.
5. Thus, Q3 one will only be reporting statutory performance indicators and progress on other agreed indicators.

## Performance reporting

1. Performance measures and targets are set out by service area at the link below in dashboard format.
2. [Performance Monitoring Dashboard - Public](#)
3. O&S to review and agree the performance indicators for Quarter 3 2023/24.
4. On the dashboard, a snapshot of overall performance per quarter is given before presenting performance by each service area in bar charts.
5. A RAG rating is used to determine progress where Green reflects performance on track, and Red and Amber are 'exceptions' – will not (Red) or might not (Amber) meet expected performance.
6. When you click on Red, Amber or Green in the bar charts you will then be given further detail on the associated key activities or PIs from within that service area.
7. In line with the request from the Overview and Scrutiny committee to report by exception, comments would be welcome on Green, Amber, Red
8. Where the target is a Performance Indicator (PI) you will be able to view a target where set.
9. At the top of the Dashboard there is a link that will show all service area performance exceptions with a Red or Amber status at quarter one.

## Options

10. No alternative options were considered. Regular performance monitoring is required to ensure the Overview and Scrutiny Committee can undertake its scrutiny function as set out in the Constitution.

## Timetable of Next Steps

11. Please include a list of key actions and the scheduled dates for these:

Action	Key milestone	Due date (provisional)	Responsible
O&S to provide questions on Performance 3 days before O&S	Questions provided to Portfolio Holders/SLT	01/03/23	Democratic Services Officers
Record and collate views of O & S on performance	Minutes and associated actions drafted and approved.	TBD	Committee Administrator

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## Wards Affected



ALL

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## Policy Implications

Reading Ease Score:

**Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:**

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness	Y
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	Y
Risk Management	Y
Environmental Issues & Climate Change	Y
Economic/Financial Implications	Y
Human Rights Act	Y
Organisational Consequences	Y
Local People's Views	Y
Anti-Poverty	Y
Legal	Y

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## Additional Information

See links in the main body of the report.

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## Officer to Contact

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# Agenda Item 6

**Report to:** Overview and Scrutiny

**Date of Meeting:** 6 March 2024

**Report Title:** Financial Monitoring Report for 2023/24 – to end of January 2024 (Period 10)

**Report By:** Kit Wheeler - Chief Finance Officer

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## **Purpose of Report**

To provide a summary of the financial forecast outturn position for services at the end of Period 10 (January 2024).

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## **Recommendation(s)**

To note the contents of the report, and the actions within the conclusion and management action section.

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## **Reasons for Recommendations**

To assist the Council in understanding the financial position and particularly areas of over and under spend. Early indications of emerging overspends can allow management action to be targeted to those areas.

This monitoring assists in identifying areas for review in the production of the 2024/25 budget and the impact of the 2023/24 outturn on the reserves position.

## Background

1. As part of the process of continuous improvement, and to provide more comprehensive financial monitoring, the format of the budget monitoring report continues to change.
2. Last year the monitoring report was revised to not only include the monitoring of direct service expenditure but to also include details on debt repayment (Interest and MRP), and Capital budgets.
3. Further developments have been implemented for 2023/24 including monitoring of the achievement of PIER savings agreed as part of the 2023/24 budget process and monitoring of the Reserves position.
4. In February 2023, the Council agreed a revenue budget for 2023/24 with total expenditure of £17,754,575 funded by government grants, Council Tax, Business Rates, and contributions from reserves.
5. The table below shows the forecast outturn position at the end of January 2024 (Period 10), i.e., what the position is expected to be at 31st March 2024.

**Table 1: Forecast Revenue Outturn Position**

Monitoring to end of January 2024	2023/24 Original Budget £	2023/24 Draft Outturn £	2023/24 Variance £	2023/24 Variance %	December Forecast Variance £	Change £
<b>Head of Service Area</b>						
Chief Finance Officer / S151 Officer	2,622,200	3,377,705	755,505	28.8%	878,670	(123,165)
Chief Legal Officer / Monitoring Officer	985,990	942,000	(43,990)	-4.5%	(39,450)	(4,540)
Commercial Services & Development	931,100	983,535	52,435	5.6%	(11,311)	63,746
Community and Regulatory Services	861,830	936,835	75,005	8.7%	36,470	38,535
Environment and Operations	4,990,980	5,067,885	76,905	1.5%	66,056	10,849
Housing	6,426,235	7,125,207	698,972	10.9%	780,672	(81,701)
People and Business Support	726,050	747,270	21,220	2.9%	20,270	950
Strategic Programmes	2,375,080	2,687,190	312,110	13.1%	297,860	14,250
Property and Commercial Assets Manager	(4,992,890)	(5,355,270)	(362,380)	7.3%	(349,180)	(13,200)
<b>Total Service Expenditure</b>	<b>14,926,575</b>	<b>16,512,356</b>	<b>1,585,781</b>	<b>10.6%</b>	<b>1,680,057</b>	<b>(94,276)</b>
Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)	945,000	904,100	(40,900)	-4.3%	(40,900)	0
Net Interest (Earnings) / Payments	1,483,000	1,051,500	(431,500)	-29.1%	(431,500)	0
<b>Debt Repayment Costs</b>	<b>2,428,000</b>	<b>1,955,600</b>	<b>(472,400)</b>	<b>-19.5%</b>	<b>(472,400)</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>17,354,575</b>	<b>18,467,956</b>	<b>1,113,381</b>	<b>6.4%</b>	<b>1,207,657</b>	<b>(94,276)</b>

6. Total Expenditure is forecast to be £1,113,381 over budget at year end. This is a decrease of £94,276 on the overspend reported at the end of period 9 (end of December 23). The factors leading to this change in forecast are discussed in paragraph 12 below.

7. The overspend of £1,585,781 on Total Service Expenditure is offset in part by savings on MRP and Net Interest payments. Further details on the different elements are given below.

## Total Service Expenditure

8. The 2023/24 Total Service Expenditure budget agreed by Council was £14,826,575. This figure includes the contingency budget which was initially set at £300,000.
9. The Total Service Expenditure budget has increased by £500,000 due to budget amendments and subsequent approval, with the revised Total Service Expenditure budget now being £14,926,575.
10. Table 2 below details the current forecast outturn position for Total Service Expenditure.

**Table 2: Revenue Direct Service Expenditure Position**

Head of Service Area	2023/24 Budget	2023/24 Forecast Outturn	Variance	Trf to / (Use) of Reserves	2023/24 Outturn Variance
	£	£	£	£	£
Chief Finance Officer / S151 Officer	2,622,200	3,584,555	962,355	(206,850)	<b>755,505</b>
Chief Legal Officer / Monitoring Officer	985,990	942,000	(43,990)	0	<b>(43,990)</b>
Commercial Services and Development	931,100	1,099,175	168,075	(115,640)	<b>52,435</b>
Community and Regulatory Services	861,830	943,295	81,465	(6,460)	<b>75,005</b>
Environment and Operations	4,990,980	5,348,485	357,505	(280,600)	<b>76,905</b>
Housing	6,426,235	7,135,107	708,872	(9,900)	<b>698,972</b>
People and Business Support	726,050	844,230	118,180	(96,960)	<b>21,220</b>
Strategic Programmes	2,375,080	2,537,190	162,110	150,000	<b>312,110</b>
Property and Commercial Assets Manager	(4,992,890)	(5,355,770)	(362,880)	500	<b>(362,380)</b>
<b>Total Service Expenditure</b>	<b>14,926,575</b>	<b>17,078,266</b>	<b>2,151,691</b>	<b>(565,910)</b>	<b>1,585,781</b>

11. The forecast overspend on Total Service Expenditure has decreased by £94,276 in table 1 since last month (December 2023). The most notable variances causing this charge are:
- The closure of the East Hill Lift due to a land slip in January 24 has led to a reduction of £34,000 in projected income.
  - Reduction in spend on Temporary Accommodation and recognition of Housing Benefit income of £81,701.
  - Whilst no financial change has occurred since the last report, the Housing savings figure listed in Appendix 3 has moved from amber to red in recognition of the reprofiling of the savings as part of budget discussions.
12. Appendix 1 provides a more detailed analysis of each directorate, and this report seeks to provide further narrative on the main variations identified.
13. The 2023/24 staff pay rise has now been agreed. The offer of £1,925 per Full Time Equivalent (FTE) or 3.88% whichever is greater. At the time of setting the budget an assumption of a 3% salary increase was made.

14. The unbudgeted element of the pay rise will adversely impact all service budgets. These are however out of the direct control of the service budget managers. In some areas this overspend will be offset against savings, thus reducing the adverse impact in the short term. Where this is the sole impact, individual narratives for each area have been removed to avoid repetition within the report itself.

### **Chief Finance Officer / S151 Officer**

15. This area is forecasting an overspend of £755,505.
16. The Senior Leadership Team is showing an overspend of £827,225. This is largely due to a PIER savings target of £1m for Housing included when setting the budget was agreed in February 2023. Savings were not originally forecast to be achieved until Q4 once the initiatives of the Housing and Homelessness Taskforce started to take effect.
17. The achievement of this saving target has been made harder due to providers increasing their fees in line with inflation and delays in the delivery of social housing units. Savings are budgeted centrally in SLT until they are confirmed, and budget reductions are then made in the relevant service areas.
18. Accountancy and Exchequer Services is showing an underspend of £82,470. Of this, £140,000 is due to vacant posts, pending restructure outcomes. There is also an overspend of £105,000 due to changes in the way actuaries calculate employer pension charges, which were calculated differently in previous years. The overspend will be offset by savings on salaries within individual cost centres.
19. Revenues and Benefits Service is showing an overspend of £54,457 due to a delay in the planned restructure of the service. This has led to the continuation of the temporary staffing structure and reliance on additional agency members of staff for longer periods than anticipated, coupled with additional demand being placed on the team to deal with extra grant schemes throughout the financial year. A full restructure has been implemented from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024.
20. The council has received grant income for managing the Household Support Fund of £59,126, which offsets part of the overspend showing in the Revenues and Benefits Service.

### **Chief Legal Officer / Monitoring Officer**

21. This area is forecasting an underspend of £43,990.

### **Head of Commercial Services and Development**

22. This area is forecasting an overspend of £52,435 after reserve movements.
23. The Cliff railway is forecasting a £134,580 overspend due to the East Hill lift being closed for essential maintenance work until mid-October 2023. Initially loss of income was only anticipated for the first quarter. In January 2024 East Hill closed again because of natural causes (land slip) which again will reduce income.

24. The Seafront is forecasting a £23,230 overspend due to additional repairs and increased electricity costs.

### Head of Community and Regulatory Services

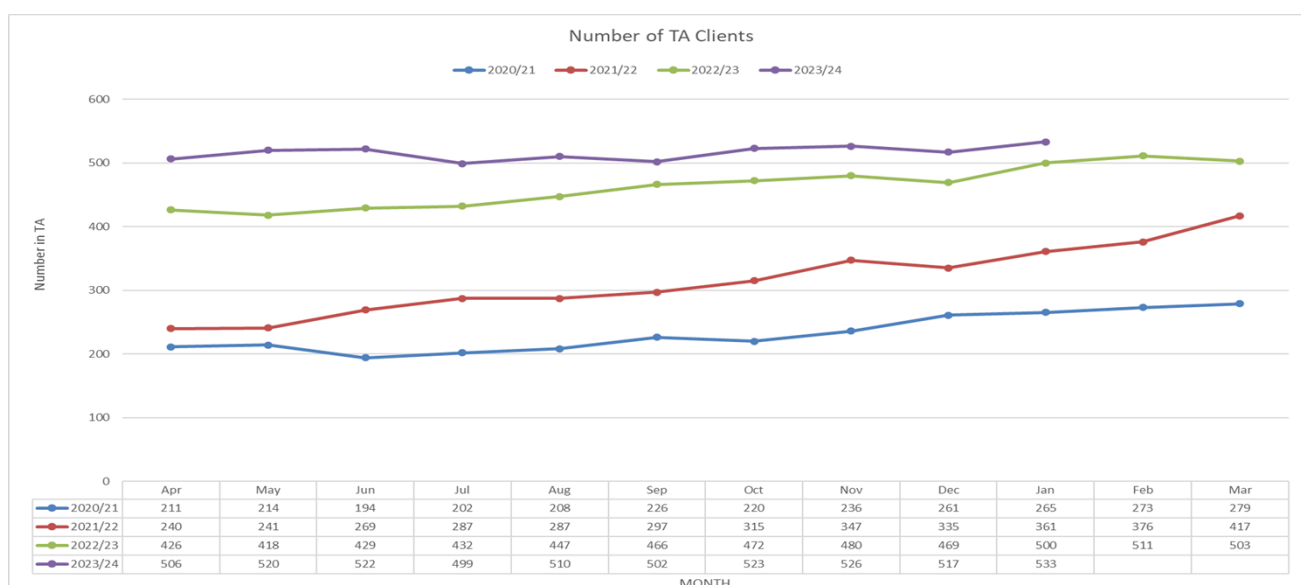
25. This area is forecasting an overspend of £75,005 after reserve movements.
26. Off Street Parking is forecasting an overspend of £69,260. This is mainly due to an increase in electricity costs for car parks including for additional EV charging of £86,380. This figure is partly offset by a reduction in fuel costs for warden vehicles £3,200 and income from the EV charging in car parks £28,000. The Off-Street income is currently showing a £20,000 shortfall compared to the profiled budget.

### Head of Environment and Operations

27. This area is forecasting an overspend of £76,905 after reserve movements.
28. No major variances to report.

### Head of Housing

29. This area is forecasting an overspend of £708,872.
30. Homelessness (Temporary Accommodation) is forecasting an overspend of £995,165 despite the number of households in privately procured emergency accommodation remaining broadly stable. The key driver of additional spend has been an increase in provider costs linked to inflation, which had not been budgeted for.
31. The above is partially offset by HBC Owned properties which is forecasting an expected favourable variance of £125,997, primarily due to Housing Benefit income not being budgeted, but is received for these units and forecasted for the year. Housing Renewal is also forecasting an expected favourable variance of £105k with the main driver being £75k DFG funding being utilised to contribute to the costs of two posts, which was not budgeted.
32. The graph below demonstrates the demand for temporary accommodation The graph



shows the growth in the number of Temporary Accommodation clients over the current and past three years.

## **Head of People and Business Support**

33. This area is forecasting an overspend of £21,220.

## **Head of Strategic Programmes**

34. This service area is showing a forecasted overspend of £312,110.
35. Local Land Planning Management and Admin is showing an underspend of £33,480 due to additional income from a major application for naming and numbering of streets.
36. Development Management is showing an overspend of £118,700. The service budget is predicated on the assumption that we will receive major applications during the year which require significant work which is funded in part by the fee paid by the applicant. The trend has been that the council has received at least one major application in each of the last few years. As there has been a reduction in the number of major applications in this financial year the budget as adjusted to show a reduction of £75,000 income. There is also a £39,000 additional spend on legal fees required for the award of costs against the refusal of 777 The ridge.
37. Local Land Charges Register is showing an overspend of £36,300 as income is expected to be lower than budgeted. Following the service review the budget will be adjusted for future years.
38. Dangerous structures work at Battle Road have now been completed and £178,360 has been spent to date this financial year. We are not anticipating any further expenditure. Cost recovery for this year, and previous years is now underway. (NB the Council took the action to remedy the dangerous structure in default following court action requiring the owners to undertake the works).

## **Property and Commercial Assets Manager**

39. This area is forecasting an underspend of £362,380. This is a positive picture demonstrating the vitality of our factory rentals.
40. Unit Factories are showing an underspend of £122,900 due to additional income from the new factory micro units at Churchfields currently £51,000 and a combination of rent reviews and renewed leases which have taken place in the last few months £90,000.
41. The Properties and Estates cost centre is showing an underspend of £304,600 mainly due to rent reviews at Lacuna Place for the DWP £260,000 and Pebsham Tip £60,000. Unforeseen additional repairs of £50,000 are required this year. The rest of the balance is made up of other rent reviews that have occurred and a couple of write offs.



42. St Mary in the Castle is showing an overspend of £27,080 due to essential costs while the building is vacant.

## Debt Repayment Costs

43. Table 3 below shows the debt repayment costs position. As discussed earlier in this report, the budgets have been revised for a £500,000 saving that was budgeted to be achieved from reduced expenditure on the capital programme.
44. Even with the £500,000 reduction in the budget, an underspend of £472,400 is forecast at year end. This is made up of a number of items which are discussed below.

**Table 3: Debt Repayment Costs Position**

<b>Net Interest (Earnings) / Payments November Forecast - Period 8</b>	<b>Budget 2023/24</b>	<b>Forecast Outturn 2023/24</b>	<b>Forecast Year End Variance</b>
Gross Interest Payable	2,436,000	2,435,000	(1,000)
Gross Interest Received	(899,000)	(1,330,000)	(431,000)
Net Investment Properties Income	(64,000)	(64,000)	0
Fees	10,000	10,500	500
<b>Net Interest (Earnings) / Payments</b>	<b>1,483,000</b>	<b>1,051,500</b>	<b>(431,500)</b>
Provision for the Repayment of Principal (MRP)	945,000	904,100	(40,900)
<b>Total Debt Repayment Costs</b>	<b>2,428,000</b>	<b>1,955,600</b>	<b>(472,400)</b>

### Gross Interest Payable

45. The Council currently has 22 loans with the Public Works Loan Board (PWLb). These are a combination of maturity and annuity loans and are all at fixed rates, so the Council is protected from any rises in interest rates.
46. When setting the budget for 2023/24 a certain amount of borrowing was assumed to fund the capital programme. Due to delays and changes to plans in the capital programme the Council did not undertake additional borrowing at the end of 2022/23. This has resulted in a £375,000 budget virement being undertaken to reduce the budgeted expenditure on interest payable. This makes up part of the £500,000 capital programme revenue savings that was budgeted for.

### Gross Interest Receivable

47. The Council currently has c£31.3m in investments. At the time of setting the budget interest rates were lower and expected to fall towards the end of the year. With inflation still being a cause of concern the picture now is less certain. Since the budget was set in February 2023 the Bank of England base rate has increased from 4.0% to 5.25% (from 3 August 2023), no further increases are expected. This has resulted in a £75,000 budget virement being undertaken to increase the budgeted income from interest receivable. This makes up part of the £500,000 capital programme revenue savings that was budgeted for.

## **Net Investment Properties Income**

48. The Council has a few properties categorised as investment properties. These do not include the various industrial units and retail parks that the Council owns which are categorised as operational assets. The net income (i.e., income after all costs have been deducted) from investment properties is forecast to be £64,000 which is on budget with no variance.

## **Provision for the Repayment of Principle (MRP)**

49. The Council is required to make a Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) payment in respect of its borrowing – to ensure the debt liability is repaid over an appropriate period.
50. As there was no borrowing in 2022/23 to fund the capital programme an underspend is forecast on the provision for MRP payments. This forecast includes making an additional £80,000 Voluntary Revenue Provision (VRP) payment which will be used in future years to offset increases in the MRP as a result of the revised MRP policy. This has resulted in a £50,000 budget virement being undertaken to reduce the MRP budget. This makes up part of the £500,000 capital programme revenue savings that was budgeted for.
51. It is anticipated that there will be a total underspend of £40,900 on MRP payments that need to be made in 2023/24 compared to the revised budget.

## **Capital Programme**

52. The Council approved a gross capital programme budget of £29,322,000 for 2023/24. The adjusted Capital Budget for 2023/24 is £17,072,000 once carry forwards and budget revisions amounting to £8,626,000 have been allowed for and £20,876,000 has been moved to future years.
53. The capital programme is constantly reviewed and where possible programmes have been pushed back to future years in order to aid the revenue budget. For schemes that are funded by borrowing, postponing the scheme to future years will achieve revenue savings in the short-term by reduced interest and MRP payments. If capital receipts can be generated from asset sales this will further reduce the need to borrow and generate additional revenue savings.
54. As Table 4 below shows, the spend to the end of January, 10 months into the financial year, is £8,498m with the year-end forecast outturn expected to be on track. Further details are included in Appendix 2.

**Table 4: Capital Programme (Gross expenditure)**

	Original Budget 2023/24	Carry forwards & adjustments	Adjusted Budget	Spend to End Jan 2024	Forecast Outturn	Forecast Variance to Adjusted Budget
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000

<b>Total</b>	<b>29,322</b>	<b>8,626</b>	<b>17,144</b>	<b>9,753</b>	<b>17,144</b>	<b>0</b>
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55. The capital programme is forecasting a nil variance, mainly as a result of moving planned spend to future years and cancelled projects.

## Reserves

56. The forecast movement on reserves is shown in the table below:

	Opening Balance at 1 April 2023	Forecast Movement 2023-24 - Income	Forecast Movement 2023-24 - Expenditure	Closing Balance at 31 March 2024
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
(1) General Reserve	(8,423)	760	1,631	(6,031)
(2) Capital Reserve	(150)	0	0	(150)
(3) Renewal and Repairs Reserve	(1,656)	(689)	1,252	(1,093)
(4) Risk Management Reserve	(315)	0	65	(250)
(5) Information Technology Reserve	(274)	(64)	214	(124)
(6) On-Street Car Parking Surplus Reserve	(40)	0	0	(40)
(7) Section 106 Reserve (Revenue)	(426)	0	154	(272)
(8) Revenues & Benefits Reserve	(255)	0	155	(100)
(9) Countryside Stewardship Reserve	(28)	(80)	90	(18)
(10) Ore Valley Reserve	(250)	0	0	(250)
(11) Invest to save and efficiency Reserve	(87)	0	66	(21)
(12) Business Rates Equalisation Reserve	(900)	0	900	0
(13) Redundancy Reserve	(565)	0	0	(565)
(14) Safer Hastings Partnership Reserve	(98)	0	22	(76)
(15) Disabled Facilities Grant	(1,374)	(2,056)	2,056	(1,374)
(16) Housing Licensing reserve	(277)	0	0	(277)
(17) Community Housing Reserve	(11)	0	0	(11)
(18) Controlling Migration	(116)	0	0	(116)
(19) Towns Fund	(236)	(372)	320	(288)
(20) Section 31 - Grant Reserve	(3,653)	0	399	(3,254)
(21) Green Energy	0	(150)	0	(150)
(22) Local Plan	0	(339)	78	(261)
(23) Asset Maintenance Reserve	(46)	(7)	1	(52)
(24) Syrian Refugee Resettlement Programme	0	(53)	53	0
(25) Rounding	1	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>(19,179)</b>	<b>(3,050)</b>	<b>7,456</b>	<b>(14,722)</b>

57. The 2023/24 budget was set based on using a net contribution of £3.4m from reserves. This comprised of £827k from Earmarked Reserves, £0.9m from the Business Rates Equalisation Reserve (historically the Resilience and Stability Reserve), and £1.6m from the General Reserve.
58. The current 2023/24-year end forecast use of the General Reserve is £2.4m This is £0.8m more than the budget agreed by Council in February 2023 as a result of Total Expenditure being above the £17.4m budget agreed.
59. The opening balance of the General Reserve has increased by £824k to £8.4m. Up until this stage work has been progressing on closing the 2022/23 statement of accounts, however, this is now completed, and balances have been confirmed

(subject to audit) and revised for budget monitoring purposes. The opening balance on the Section 31 Grant Reserve has reduced by £2.683m. These changes are due to the use of the s31 grant reserve to repay central government for unspent government grants. Some of these repayments were initially forecast to have been financed from the General Reserve.

60. There will be a separate paper to discuss the use and the detail of the earmarked reserves.

## **Review of PIER savings**

61. Appendix 3 details the achievement of the PIER (priority income, and expenditure review) savings in 2023/24 to date.
62. The 2023/24 budget identified net PIER savings of £1,162,550. The forecast Housing savings of £1m are not expected to be achieved in the current financial year. The housing budget has since been reprofiled, with future savings identified and forecast for the 24/25 financial year.
63. Most other savings have already been achieved and the budget reduced. Likewise, for the growth items, the budgets have been transferred to increase the budget.
64. If the growth items and Temporary Accommodation saving are excluded, then 80% of the savings targets have been achieved to date.
65. Some of the PIER savings are hard to quantify and for these a commentary has been provided to help in the understanding of the figures. The savings have been colour-coded (Red, Amber, Green) to enable quick identification of where savings may not be fully achieved. Growth items have been shaded in blue.
66. Appendix 3 only itemises the PIER savings and does not list all the other savings generated within the year, nor does it identify any non-related overspends.

## **Conclusion and Management Action**

67. The revenue forecast outturn is that an additional £1.1m will be spent compared to the original budget this financial year.
68. The Council has enforced financial restrictions across the organisation since October 2023 and we are beginning to see the financial benefits of that in the forecasts contained in this report. However, the restrictions implemented are designed to be short term only and longer-term savings plans will need to be robust enough to withstand any future changing circumstances. The in-year restrictions will continue until the end of the financial year and will be reviewed for their effectiveness once we have final figures.

69. The council's Homelessness Taskforce is working hard across departmental boundaries to implement solutions to reduce the spiralling temporary accommodation costs. The graphs at paragraph 32 indicate the first tentative signs of a plateau, and potential reduction in the number of people in temporary accommodation, which is an encouraging sign.
70. There is a risk of potential delays to some capital programme schemes and variations in the year given the current climate and inflation increasing costs. Any slippage will be carried forward to future year capital budgets if deemed appropriate, cost effective and relevant to the needs of the Council. Slippage on the capital programme could result in lower interest and MRP charges, delaying the impact to future years. The capital programme has been reviewed and where possible expenditure plans pushed out to future years to generate revenue savings on interest and MRP payments and a revised Capital programme will be provided as part of the upcoming budget report.
71. The further use of any reserves to balance the budget prejudices the potential to use reserves to fund future expenditure and would necessitate greater cuts to services and staff in future financial years to achieve a balanced budget and restore reserves to minimum recommended levels.
72. The budget for 2024/25 is being developed with the aim of producing a balanced budget with significant savings plans agreed at December Full Council. Timetable of Next Steps

### Timetable of Next Steps

73. Key actions and the scheduled dates:

Action	Key milestone	Due date (provisional)	Responsible
Continued monthly and quarterly monitoring	Each month and financial quarter	Relevant Cabinet meetings	Deputy Chief Finance Officer
Production of 2023/24 outturn Report	Financial year end (31/03/2024)	July 2024	Deputy Chief Finance Officer

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### Wards Affected

None

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### Implications

Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness	No
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	No
Risk Management	Yes
Environmental Issues	No
Economic/Financial Implications	Yes
Human Rights Act	No
Organisational Consequences	Yes
Local People's Views	No
Anti-Poverty	No

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### Additional Information

Appendix 1 Revenue Summary (January 2024 – Period 10)  
 Appendix 2 Capital Summary (January 2024 – Period 10)  
 Appendix 3 Achievement of the 2023-24 PIER savings during the year

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### Officer to Contact

Kit Wheeler  
 Chief Finance Officer)  
[Kit.wheeler@hastings.gov.uk](mailto:Kit.wheeler@hastings.gov.uk)

GENERAL FUND REVENUE MONITORING

General Fund Activities	Cost Centre	2023/24 Original Budget excl. Recharges	Actuals	2023/24 Full year net Forecast excl. Recharges	2023/24 Total Full year Variance excl. Recharges	Transfer to / from reserves including carry forwards	2023/24 Total Full year Variance on General Fund
Senior Leadership Team	20101	514,490	949,299	1,291,715	777,225	50,000	827,225
Internal Audit Services	20107	207,990	93,652	223,809	15,819	0	15,819
Accountancy & Exchequer Services	20109	1,280,760	939,213	1,300,140	19,380	(101,850)	(82,470)
Revenues and Benefits Service	20110	1,443,720	1,505,964	1,653,177	209,457	(155,000)	54,457
Housing Benefit Payments	20126	(580,590)	0	(580,590)	0	0	0
Fin.Serv.-Other Expend.& Income	20135	0	5,000	0	0	0	0
Tax Collection Costs	20129	(244,170)	0	(244,170)	0	0	0
Household Support Fund	20346	0	(244,642)	(59,126)	(59,126)	0	(59,126)
Energy Price Guarantee	20357	0	(400)	(400)	(400)	0	(400)
<b>Chief Finance Officer Total</b>		<b>2,622,200</b>	<b>3,248,085</b>	<b>3,584,555</b>	<b>962,355</b>	<b>(206,850)</b>	<b>755,505</b>
Corporate Policy and Partnerships	20102	173,890	146,632	180,160	6,270	0	6,270
Legal Services	20106	395,830	212,247	382,800	(13,030)	0	(13,030)
Cost Of Democratic Processes	20138	416,270	313,231	379,040	(37,230)	0	(37,230)
<b>Chief Legal Officer Total</b>		<b>985,990</b>	<b>672,109</b>	<b>942,000</b>	<b>(43,990)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(43,990)</b>

## GENERAL FUND REVENUE MONITORING

General Fund Activities	Cost Centre	2023/24 Original Budget excl. Recharges	Actuals	2023/24 Full year net Forecast excl. Recharges	2023/24 Total Full year Variance excl. Recharges	Transfer to / from reserves including carry forwards	2023/24 Total Full year Variance on General Fund
Marketing & Comms.Division	20178	47,210	31,821	42,095	(5,115)	0	(5,115)
1066 Country Campaign	20222	53,410	30,439	32,404	(21,006)	0	(21,006)
Tourism Marketing	20223	15,000	(1,930)	15,000	0	0	0
Tourist Information Centre	20225	25,850	3,284	5,194	(20,656)	0	(20,656)
Community Awareness	20226	(300)	(10,185)	(3,360)	(3,060)	0	(3,060)
Seafood and Wine	20228	460	8,794	12,605	12,145	0	12,145
Midsummer Fish Festival	20237	0	4,569	8,100	8,100	0	8,100
R.T.P. - Hastings Week	20230	1,500	0	1,500	0	0	0
R.T.P. - Jack-in-the-Green	20231	6,800	9,426	9,430	2,630	0	2,630
R.T.P. - Old Town Carnival	20232	4,130	0	4,130	0	0	0
R.T.P. Events	20233	18,000	70	18,000	0	0	0
R.T.P. - Trolley Bus	20234	0	900	1,800	1,800	0	1,800
Meteorological Expenses	20239	2,420	3,009	4,220	1,800	0	1,800
Civic & Ceremonial Expenses	20240	15,600	12,930	16,700	1,100	0	1,100
Filming	20241	(4,990)	(18,550)	(4,500)	490	0	490
Hastings Castle	20246	16,030	(16,264)	(12,380)	(28,410)	28,500	90
St Clements Caves	20247	(10,000)	(10,000)	(10,000)	0	0	0
White Rock Theatre	20249	145,000	145,047	185,000	40,000	(14,500)	25,500
Leisure & Cultural Dev. Div.	20175	130,310	117,274	144,630	14,320	0	14,320
Falaise Hall	20258	13,230	4,822	13,230	0	0	0
Sports Centres	20259	(15,430)	(30,810)	82,970	98,400	(103,900)	(5,500)
Active Hastings	20264	4,720	(121,312)	4,720	0	0	0
Play Pathfinder	20267	3,000	3,696	3,700	700	0	700
Playground Projects	20268	0	(10,385)	(11,810)	(11,810)	11,810	0



## GENERAL FUND REVENUE MONITORING

General Fund Activities	Cost Centre	2023/24 Original Budget excl. Recharges	Actuals	2023/24 Full year net Forecast excl. Recharges	2023/24 Total Full year Variance excl. Recharges	Transfer to / from reserves including carry forwards	2023/24 Total Full year Variance on General Fund
Cultural Activities	20212	66,900	4,590	62,000	(4,900)	0	(4,900)
Museums & Art Galleries	20251	349,010	247,807	345,645	(3,365)	0	(3,365)
Fisherman's Museum	20252	3,310	1,089	310	(3,000)	3,000	0
Museum - NPO fund	20255	0	(31,167)	0	0	0	0
Museums & Schools Project	20327	0	15,124	0	0	0	0
Regeneration Management & Admin	20177	18,740	9,850	18,750	10	0	10
Regeneration Activity	20208	178,720	(84,759)	135,025	(43,695)	0	(43,695)
Community Cohesion	20215	17,310	100	7,710	(9,600)	0	(9,600)
Youth Activities	20221	15,000	11,250	15,000	0	0	0
UK Shared Prosperity Fund	20354	0	(151,181)	0	0	0	0
Levelling Up - Parks Fund	20355	0	(900)	0	0	0	0
DESI SMART	20325	0	437	440	440	0	440
CHART CLLD	20269	0	(49,129)	(49,129)	(49,129)	0	(49,129)
CHART ESF	20320	0	1,111	1,111	1,111	0	1,111
Long Term Town Plan - Levelling up	20361	0	(50,000)	0	0	0	0
Resort Services Management and Admin	20176	60,700	51,306	61,760	1,060	0	1,060
Coast Protection Sea Defences	20242	1,480	(6,969)	(6,970)	(8,450)	0	(8,450)
Navigational Aids	20243	3,290	5,435	5,840	2,550	0	2,550
Environmental Schemes (Net Huts)	20244	12,070	408	12,420	350	0	350
Cliff Railways	20245	(106,700)	(63,294)	(7,120)	99,580	35,000	134,580
Chalets & Private Hut Sites	20248	(289,080)	(556,147)	(298,730)	(9,650)	0	(9,650)
Seafront	20250	139,250	297,930	238,030	98,780	(75,550)	23,230
Sports Management	20257	(10,850)	(4,425)	(6,295)	4,555	0	4,555
<b>Externally Funded:</b>							
Towns Fund	20166	0	(305,740)	0	0	0	0
<b>Commercial Services and Development Total</b>		<b>931,100</b>	<b>(500,628)</b>	<b>1,099,175</b>	<b>168,075</b>	<b>(115,640)</b>	<b>52,435</b>

## GENERAL FUND REVENUE MONITORING

General Fund Activities	Cost Centre	2023/24 Original Budget excl. Recharges	Actuals	2023/24 Full year net Forecast excl. Recharges	2023/24 Total Full year Variance excl. Recharges	Transfer to / from reserves including carry forwards	2023/24 Total Full year Variance on General Fund
Election Services	20103	181,820	131,088	156,760	(25,060)	0	(25,060)
Registration Of Electors	20136	76,730	76,612	99,000	22,270	0	22,270
Police and Crime Commissioner Election	20143	0	90	(5,300)	(5,300)	0	(5,300)
Contact Centre	20113	506,630	402,878	486,550	(20,080)	0	(20,080)
Communications and Design	20324	142,070	119,120	145,650	3,580	0	3,580
Environment Management & admin	20169	616,190	495,384	643,300	27,110	0	27,110
Food Safety	20276	18,870	3,725	17,435	(1,435)	0	(1,435)
Health & Safety Enforcement	20277	(2,150)	(1,907)	(2,200)	(50)	0	(50)
Health & Safety Corporate	20278	22,800	17,139	23,800	1,000	0	1,000
Environmental protection	20279	10,240	12,017	11,900	1,660	0	1,660
Pest Control	20280	46,690	38,206	50,600	3,910	0	3,910
Local Licensing	20281	(35,340)	(171,159)	(41,800)	(6,460)	0	(6,460)
Scrap Metal Licensing	20282	(380)	(2,131)	(400)	(20)	0	(20)
Liquor Licensing	20283	(84,400)	(74,111)	(84,400)	0	0	0
Gambling Licensing	20284	(17,500)	(7,810)	(12,500)	5,000	0	5,000
Parking Service - Management and Admin	20317	535,470	446,408	543,650	8,180	0	8,180
Off Street Car Parking	20287	(1,400,820)	(1,878,707)	(1,346,560)	54,260	15,000	69,260
Hornbye Car Park	20288	(3,360)	(1,970)	(3,400)	(40)	0	(40)
Abandoned vehicles	20289	2,630	3,478	3,600	970	0	970
CCTV Control Room	20290	83,600	22,375	83,750	150	0	150
Waste and Environmental Enforcement Team	20297	(20,000)	(320)	(1,000)	19,000	0	19,000
Stray Dog Service	20285	45,560	31,392	37,800	(7,760)	0	(7,760)
Emergency Planning	20286	51,820	11,826	52,300	480	0	480
Safer Hastings Partnership (HBC)	20299	84,660	61,614	63,300	(21,360)	0	(21,360)
Safer Hastings Partnership (External Funding)	20300	0	(15,430)	21,460	21,460	(21,460)	0
Safer Streets	20337	0	(35,124)	0	0	0	0
Safer Streets 4	20352	0	(42,736)	0	0	0	0
<b>Community and Regulatory Services Total</b>		<b>861,830</b>	<b>(379,586)</b>	<b>943,295</b>	<b>81,465</b>	<b>(6,460)</b>	<b>75,005</b>

## GENERAL FUND REVENUE MONITORING

General Fund Activities	Cost Centre	2023/24 Original Budget excl. Recharges	Actuals	2023/24 Full year net Forecast excl. Recharges	2023/24 Total Full year Variance excl. Recharges	Transfer to / from reserves including carry forwards	2023/24 Total Full year Variance on General Fund
Waste Services Management and Admin	20316	245,990	198,658	250,400	4,410	0	4,410
Public Conveniences	20315	313,090	245,798	295,620	(17,470)	0	(17,470)
Refuse Collection	20293	1,222,320	1,137,758	1,233,780	11,460	0	11,460
Street Cleansing	20295	11,740	12,251	(2,080)	(13,820)	0	(13,820)
Recycling	20294	998,000	1,000,128	998,000	0	0	0
Greenwaste	20296	(332,500)	(540,751)	(342,500)	(10,000)	0	(10,000)
Together Action	20298	15,000	0	15,000	0	0	0
Administrative Buildings - DSO Operational Building	20119	30,540	18,234	31,300	760	0	760
DSO - Street Cleansing	20323	1,260,470	1,169,834	1,272,300	11,830	0	11,830
DSO - Building Cleaning	20347	167,220	121,339	165,620	(1,600)	0	(1,600)
DSO - Grounds Maintenance	20360	481,900	267,017	481,900	0	0	0
Cemetery & Crematorium	20303	(757,950)	(358,366)	(604,566)	153,384	(107,650)	45,734
Welfare Funerals	20304	8,240	45,298	30,406	22,166	0	22,166
Open Space Management	20170	222,910	215,344	231,950	9,040	0	9,040
Hastings Country Park - Parking	20312	(50,130)	(55,445)	(55,500)	(5,370)	0	(5,370)
Watercourses	20302	10,500	8,233	10,500	0	0	0
ESCC Highway Tree Maintenance	20291	(3,000)	(11,202)	(3,000)	0	0	0
Travellers Costs	20305	18,640	20,444	20,609	1,969	0	1,969
Town Centre	20306	14,500	5,260	14,500	0	0	0
Allotments	20307	(29,560)	(30,045)	(28,500)	1,060	0	1,060
Ecology	20308	7,000	2,100	2,000	(5,000)	5,000	0
Arboriculture	20309	149,820	129,427	153,450	3,630	0	3,630
Parks & Gardens	20310	938,000	664,692	1,118,257	180,257	(167,950)	12,307
Hastings Country Park	20313	66,480	83,038	78,780	12,300	(10,000)	2,300
Countryside Stewardship	20314	24,000	23,094	24,000	0	0	0
Hastings Country Park Visitor Centre	20339	18,000	30,678	16,500	(1,500)	0	(1,500)
Foreshore Trust Recharge		(60,240)	0	(60,240)	0	0	0
<b>Environment and Operations Total</b>		<b>4,990,980</b>	<b>4,402,816</b>	<b>5,348,485</b>	<b>357,505</b>	<b>(280,600)</b>	<b>76,905</b>

GENERAL FUND REVENUE MONITORING

General Fund Activities	Cost Centre	2023/24 Original Budget excl. Recharges	Actuals	2023/24 Full year net Forecast excl. Recharges	2023/24 Total Full year Variance excl. Recharges	Transfer to / from reserves including carry forwards	2023/24 Total Full year Variance on General Fund
Housing Management & admin	20172	341,140	223,331	272,000	(69,140)	0	(69,140)
Housing Development Projects	20350	0	6,121	11,100	11,100	0	11,100
Property Management							
Social Lettings	20184	(68,920)	163,175	(25,871)	43,049	0	43,049
HBC Owned TA	20351	173,890	29,451	47,893	(125,997)	0	(125,997)
Housing Company	20322	0	772	772	772	0	772
HOUSING OPTIONS							
Homelessness	20182	5,477,580	3,164,563	6,472,745	995,165	0	995,165
Homelessness Prevention	20348	0	13,020	0	0	(9,900)	(9,900)
Rough Sleepers Prevention	20207	0	(761,645)	114,558	114,558	0	114,558
Homelessness Strategy	20185	41,620	(72,027)	9,298	(32,322)	0	(32,322)
Housing Register	20186	11,500	8,392	11,500	0	0	0
Deposits funded by ESCC and Discretionary Housing payments	20187	(4,280)	(7,915)	0	4,280	0	4,280
Youth Homelessness	20188	11,340	10,520	9,480	(1,860)	0	(1,860)
Homes for Ukrainian Refugees	20349	0	17,236	0	0	0	0
Housing Renewal							
Building Control	20179	69,610	(820)	69,610	0	0	0
Housing Renewal	20191	226,530	(82,392)	121,140	(105,390)	0	(105,390)
Housing Licensing Team	20196	159,970	136,265	160,330	360	0	360
Housing Solution Services	20197	(3,310)	(11,146)	0	3,310	0	3,310

GENERAL FUND REVENUE MONITORING

General Fund Activities	Cost Centre	2023/24 Original Budget excl. Recharges	Actuals	2023/24 Full year net Forecast excl. Recharges	2023/24 Total Full year Variance excl. Recharges	Transfer to / from reserves including carry forwards	2023/24 Total Full year Variance on General Fund
<b>EXTERNAL FUNDED</b>							
Homeless Reduction Grant	20183	0	(891,526)	(144,831)	(144,831)	0	(144,831)
AFEO (Accomodation for Ex Offenders)	20359	0	(123,971)	0	0	0	0
Housing NHS Clinical Commissioning Group	20202	0	11,687	11,700	11,700	0	11,700
Syrian Resettlement Programme	20206	(10,435)	(19,468)	(10,935)	(500)	0	(500)
CHART - Live work Thrive	20334	0	4,617	4,617	4,617	0	4,617
Afghan Resettlement Programme	20344	0	453,824	0	0	0	0
Resettlement Employability Project	20342	0	203,122	0	0	0	0
<b>Housing Total</b>		<b>6,426,235</b>	<b>2,475,186</b>	<b>7,135,107</b>	<b>708,872</b>	<b>(9,900)</b>	<b>698,972</b>

## GENERAL FUND REVENUE MONITORING

General Fund Activities	Cost Centre	2023/24 Original Budget excl. Recharges	Actuals	2023/24 Full year net Forecast excl. Recharges	2023/24 Total Full year Variance excl. Recharges	Transfer to / from reserves including carry forwards	2023/24 Total Full year Variance on General Fund
Personnel and Business Support	20111	441,640	347,524	428,200	(13,440)	0	(13,440)
Corporate POD Expenses	20112	126,910	106,689	128,400	1,490	0	1,490
Admin.Bldgs.-Town Hall	20116	26,080	25,791	39,360	13,280	(23,000)	(9,720)
Admin.Bldgs. - Muriel Matters House	20117	131,420	158,833	248,270	116,850	(73,960)	42,890
<b>People and Business Support Total</b>		<b>726,050</b>	<b>638,836</b>	<b>844,230</b>	<b>118,180</b>	<b>(96,960)</b>	<b>21,220</b>
Programmes and Compliance	20115	143,810	117,096	143,100	(710)	0	(710)
Digital Information Technology Division	20121	1,007,250	1,076,088	1,032,550	25,300	0	25,300
Local Digital Cyber Fund	20353	0	(125,000)	0	0	0	0
IT Reserve Expenditure	20122	214,000	260,918	214,000	0	0	0
Land & Property Systems-GIS	20123	30,000	42,946	29,800	(200)	0	(200)
Local Land Planning Management and Admin	20173	45,930	14,366	12,450	(33,480)	0	(33,480)
Development Management	20180	507,150	414,581	625,850	118,700	0	118,700
Local Land Charges Register	20181	(125,800)	(92,899)	(89,500)	36,300	0	36,300
Planning Policy	20211	222,910	166,269	210,750	(12,160)	0	(12,160)
Local Plan	20341	182,000	(209,531)	182,000	0	0	0
Dangerous Structures	20200	0	176,317	178,360	178,360	0	178,360
Renewable Energy Solutions	20321	147,830	(1,033)	(2,170)	(150,000)	150,000	0
<b>Strategic Programmes Total</b>		<b>2,375,080</b>	<b>1,840,117</b>	<b>2,537,190</b>	<b>162,110</b>	<b>150,000</b>	<b>312,110</b>
Estates Services	20104	177,820	134,576	185,300	7,480	0	7,480
Employment Areas	20130	(410,700)	(405,817)	(415,500)	(4,800)	0	(4,800)
Unit Factories	20131	(1,640,350)	(1,816,042)	(1,763,250)	(122,900)	0	(122,900)
Properties & Estates	20132	(3,421,460)	(3,721,582)	(3,726,060)	(304,600)	0	(304,600)
St.Mary-in-the-Castle	20133	11,820	33,971	38,900	27,080	0	27,080
Admin.Bldgs.-General Expenses	20118	57,300	19,596	71,800	14,500	(14,500)	0
Building Surveyors	20105	159,430	119,183	161,900	2,470	0	2,470
Shelters and Seats (Highway)	20148	26,600	3,147	11,600	(15,000)	15,000	0
Naming and Numbering Streets	20149	8,070	2,682	5,000	(3,070)	0	(3,070)
Decorative Lighting	20150	38,580	57,011	74,540	35,960	0	35,960
<b>Property and Commercial Services Total</b>		<b>(4,992,890)</b>	<b>(5,573,274)</b>	<b>(5,355,770)</b>	<b>(362,880)</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>(362,380)</b>
<b>DIRECT SERVICE EXPENDITURE TOTAL</b>		<b>14,926,575</b>	<b>6,823,662</b>	<b>17,078,266</b>	<b>2,151,691</b>	<b>(565,910)</b>	<b>1,585,781</b>

Cost Centre	Description Of Scheme	Original Budget 2023/24 (Gross)	Carry forwards & adjustments (From 2022-23)	Carry Fwd to future years	Adjusted Gross Budget	Spend to 31st Jan 2024	Forecast Outturn	Forecast Variance to Adjusted Gross Budget
		£000's	£000's		£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
71240	Groyne Refurbishment	35	0	0	35	0	35	0
71241	Work on Harbour Arm and New Groynes	0	234	0	234	10	234	0
71290	MUGA Refurbishments	0	49	0	49	3	49	0
71292	TFC - Green low carbon skills & economy	0	1,279	0	1,279	321	1,279	0
71293	Hastings Castle	0	500	0	500	0	500	0
71294	TFC - Town to sea creative quarter	0	1,068	0	1,068	246	1,068	0
71295	TFC - Town Centre Core 1a	0	13	0	13	0	13	0
71296	TFC - Public Realm	0	800	0	800	0	800	0
71297	TFC - Town Living	0	90	0	90	0	90	0
71300	UK Shared Prosperity Fund (Capital)	0	40	0	40	9	40	0
71303	Cliff Railways	1,000	(226)	0	774	768	774	0
<b>Head of Commercial Services and Development</b>		<b>1,035</b>	<b>3,847</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,882</b>	<b>1,356</b>	<b>4,882</b>	<b>0</b>
71280	Priory Street Works	0	41	0	41	0	41	0
<b>Head of Community and Regulatory Services</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>0</b>
71249	Playgrounds Upgrade Programme	0	44	0	44	0	44	0
71258	Buckshole and Shornden Reservoirs	0	43	0	43	43	43	0
71301	Grounds Maintenance Equipment	626	0	0	626	400	626	0
<b>Head of Environment and Operations</b>		<b>626</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>714</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>714</b>	<b>0</b>
71227	Private Sector Renewal Support	0	(0)	0	(0)	9	(0)	0
71228	Disabled Facilities Grant	2,056	603	(603)	2,056	1,355	2,056	0
71284	Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme (was Next Steps Accommodation Pathway)	0	886	0	886	599	886	0
71288	Bexhill Road South (Housing & Car Park)	2,500	1,075	(3,575)	0	0	0	0
71289	Mayfield E (Housing)	4,500	0	(4,500)	0	0	0	0
71229	Empty Homes Strategy - CPO	0	50	0	50	0	50	0
71304	Housing Acquisition Programme	5,933	0	0	5,933	5,076	5,933	0
<b>Head of Housing</b>		<b>14,989</b>	<b>2,614</b>	<b>(8,678)</b>	<b>8,925</b>	<b>7,039</b>	<b>8,925</b>	<b>0</b>
71231	Restoration of Pelham Crescent/ Pelham Arcade	350	0	(330)	20	0	20	0
71232	Road at Pelham Arcade	60	180	(180)	60	0	60	0
71256	Energy and Solar Panels	500	638	(638)	500	0	500	0
71267	Energy Generation - Unallocated	2,300	0	(1,800)	500	0	500	0
<b>Head of Strategic Programmes</b>		<b>3,210</b>	<b>818</b>	<b>(2,948)</b>	<b>1,080</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,080</b>	<b>0</b>
71253	Conversion of 12/13 York Buildings	74	(47)	0	27	27	27	0
71259	Priory Meadow Contribution to Capital Works	288	250	(288)	250	0	250	0
71272	Churchfields Business Centre	0	396	0	396	396	396	0
71273	Development / Furbishment of Lacuna Place	0	114	0	114	0	114	0
71275	Cornwallis Street Development	8,400	42	(8,170)	272	72	272	0
71276	Harold Place Restaurant Development	0	21	(20)	1	1	1	0
71285	Castleham Industrial Units	0	204	0	204	181	204	0
71302	Roof Refurbishment Programme	700	0	(700)	0	0	0	0
71306	Bexhill Road Retail Park	0	238	0	238	238	238	0
<b>Property and Commercial Assets Manager</b>		<b>9,462</b>	<b>1,219</b>	<b>(9,178)</b>	<b>1,503</b>	<b>916</b>	<b>1,503</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>29,322</b>	<b>8,626</b>	<b>(20,804)</b>	<b>17,144</b>	<b>9,753</b>	<b>17,144</b>	<b>0</b>

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## Achievement of the 2023/24 PIER savings during the year - January 2024 update

Proposals	2023/24	Savings to date	RAG	Comments
<b>Savings identified during the PIER process for the 2023/24 budget supporting information set out in Budget Book Appendix L</b>				
REVIEW and REDUCE: On-going programme to review and reduce service costs and staffing expenditure (combination of approaches) to a total of £1m over three years. Posts to be deleted by start of 23/24 are all either vacant or are voluntary severance requests	£275,000	£293,000	Green	The savings target of £275k is comprised as follows: £14k - HR Reduction in Hours / Flexi Retirement, £36k - Deletion of 1 x FTE Planning Senior Enforcement Officer, £25k - Deletion of 1 x FTE Customer Service Officer, £50k - Renewable Energy Post, £100k one year saving for 4 x vacancies in DSO Street cleaning, £25k - R&B Restructure, £25k - Finance Restructure
REDUCE and COST AVOIDANCE: Temporary Accommodation Costs Reduction Strategy	£1,000,000	£0	Red	The forecast savings are not expected to be achieved. The housing budget, both in year, and future years' forecasts have been reprofiled mid-year, and whilst future savings have been identified and forecasted in-year overspend revised down, the forecast savings for 23/24 did not consider the continued pressures on the service, or the increased cost of privately procured temporary accommodation and therefore were not reflective of the actual service costs.
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,275,000</b>	<b>£293,000</b>		
<b>Other Savings Items</b>				
STOP: Emergency Planning – Stop satellite phone and One Voice IT system	£3,300	£3,300	Green	Achieved. Budget has been reduced.
REDUCE: Communications – Saving on printing, etc.	£500	£500	Green	Achieved. Budget has been reduced.
REDUCE: Community safety – Reduce funding for community safety initiatives	£5,000	£5,000	Green	Achieved. Budget has been reduced.
STOP: Cemetery and Crematorium external cleaning contract	£2,500	£2,500	Green	Achieved. Budget has been reduced.
REDUCE: Provision of live meeting streaming - continue only Full Council, Audit, O&S and Planning meetings.	£5,000	£5,000	Green	Achieved. Budget has been reduced.
REVIEW grants/delivery of events: No changes in 2023/24 or first half of 2024/25.	£0	£0	Green	No saving this year
St Leonards Festival £8k	£0	£0	Green	No saving this year
Chess congress £10k	£0	£0	Green	No saving this year
Old Town Carnival £4k	£0	£0	Green	No saving this year
Jack in the Green £5k TBC (£3k reduction already agreed last year)	£0	£0	Green	No saving this year
Hastings Week £1k	£0	£0	Green	No saving this year
STOP: Support for 2023 Town Crier's competition	£2,000	£2,000	Green	Achieved. Budget has been reduced.
STOP: Contribution to 1066 Country Campaign marketing campaign and focus on Hastings-only marketing divert staffing to marketing Hastings as a destination.	£50,000	£50,000	Green	Achieved. Budget has been reduced.
REVIEW and REDUCE: Museum running costs and seek a strategic partnership solution to the sustainable future of the museum	£25,000	£25,000	Green	Achieved. Budget has been reduced.
REDUCE: Contribution to Hastings Contemporary (currently £30k p.a.)	£5,000	£5,000	Green	Achieved. Budget has been reduced.
REVIEW: Options for cost effective provision of public toilets and meeting spiralling vandalism costs	£0	£0	Green	No saving this year
REDUCE: Maintenance costs of decorative lighting across the borough (total net cost is currently £72k)	£40,000	£0	Red	Budget has been reduced. High energy costs may make saving unachievable.
REDUCE: Expenditure/seek commercial sponsorship for Christmas trees (£7,500 budget)	£5,000	£5,000	Green	Budget for income created. Deal agreed with Stagecoach saving achieved
STOP: Funding Visitor Information Centre at SCCH (net cost £30k) and divert 50% of the budget to marketing Hastings as a destination	£15,000	£15,000	Green	Achieved. Budget has been reduced.
<b>Total Savings</b>	<b>£158,300</b>	<b>£118,300</b>		
<b>Growth Items and Budget adjustments</b>				
Emergency Planning – budget for out of hours on call payments (silver/gold/rest centre) adjusted to meet needs	£4,000	£4,000	Green	Budget has been increased.
Local Plan evidence research required earlier than profiled to enable plan to be submitted to Examination in Public stage	£50,000	£50,000	Green	Budget has been increased. Any underspend at year end will be transferred to an earmarked reserve.
Green Investment Fund Created (1% of HBC net budget) to invest in climate emergency activity - to include officer resources, activity and investment in alternative fuels for the waste fleet	£150,000	£150,000	Green	Budget has been created - moved to reserve
Funding for external support and advice required to review the council's governance system - as per motion agreed by Full Council 15th Dec 2022	£30,000	£0	Red	Discussions still ongoing around timelines for expenditure. Will not happen.
Establish a Hastings specific Tourism & Marketing function with savings from 1066 and VIC closure after Summer 2023 season	£15,000	£15,000	Green	Budget has been increased.
New temporary part-time post to promote Voter ID requirements recently introduced by government. Including a Temporary part time post from October 2023.	£21,750	£21,750	Green	Budget has been increased.
<b>Total Growth</b>	<b>£270,750</b>	<b>£240,750</b>		
<b>NET Total of Savings / Growth</b>	<b>£1,162,550</b>	<b>£170,550</b>		

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