



Shropshire Council
Legal and Democratic Services
Shirehall
Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury
SY2 6ND

Date: 24 August 2023

Committee:

Transformation and Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: Monday, 4 September 2023

Time: 2.00 pm

Venue: Wilfred Owen Room, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND

You are requested to attend the above meeting. The Agenda is attached

There will be some access to the meeting room for members of the press and public, but this will be limited. If you wish to attend the meeting please email democracy@shropshire.gov.uk to check that a seat will be available for you.

Please click [here](#) to view the livestream of the meeting on the date and time stated on the agenda

The recording of the event will also be made available shortly after the meeting on the Shropshire Council Youtube Channel [Here](#)

Tim Collard
Assistant Director - Legal and Governance

Members of Transformation and Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Claire Wild (Chair)	Alan Mosley
Roger Evans (Vice-Chair)	Peggy Mullock
Joyce Barrow	Dan Thomas
Thomas Biggins	Kevin Turley
Julia Buckley	David Vasmer
Rob Gittins	

Your Committee Officer is:

Amanda Holyoak Committee Services Supervisor

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AGENDA

1 Apologies

2 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

3 Minutes of Previous Meeting (Pages 1 - 4)

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2023

4 Public Question Time

To receive any questions from members of the public. Deadline for notification is 5.00 pm on Tuesday 29 August 2023

5 Member Question Time

To receive any questions of which members of the Council have given notice. Deadline for notification is 5.00 pm on Tuesday 29 August 2023.

6 Financial Monitoring Report Quarter 1 2023 - 2024 (Pages 5 - 48)

To scrutinise financial performance at quarter 1 and identify issues that may require further investigation by an overview and scrutiny committee, report attached

7 Performance Monitoring Report Quarter 1 2023 - 2024 (Pages 49 - 56)

To scrutinise performance at quarter 1 and identify issues that may require further investigation by an overview and scrutiny committee, report attached

8 Work Programme (Pages 57 - 62)

To consider proposals for the Committee's work programme 2023 – 2024, attached



Committee and Date

Transformation and
Improvement Overview and
Scrutiny Committee

4 September 2023

TRANSFORMATION AND IMPROVEMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2023

In the Wilfred Owen Room, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND

Times Not Specified

Responsible Officer: Amanda Holyoak Committee Services Supervisor

Email: amanda.holyoak@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 257714

Present

Councillor Claire Wild

Councillors Roger Evans (Vice-Chair), Joyce Barrow, Thomas Biggins, Julia Buckley, Peggy Mullock and Chris Schofield

4 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Alan Mosley, Dan Thomas, Kevin Turley, and David Vasmer. Councillor Rosemary Dartnall substituted for Alan Mosley, Councillor Roy Aldcroft for Dan Thomas and Councillor Heather Kidd for David Vasmer.

5 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None were declared

6 Minutes of previous meetings

The minutes of the Performance Management Scrutiny Committee held on 1 March 2023 and minutes of the Transformation and Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 11 May 2023 were both approved as a correct record of those meetings.

7 Public Question Time

There were no public questions.

8 Member Question Time

There were no member questions.

9 Medium Term Financial Strategy - Escalation

Ben Jay, Assistant Director Finance and Technology, gave a presentation on proposals for the management and control of the Council's finances through the

course of the year, asking the committee to comment whether it was satisfied with the proposed arrangements or if it wished to suggest other measures that might be helpful.

The presentation covered details of the particular challenges of this year; the control environment; current reserves position, risks and in year balance; monitoring timetable; current headlines; timing of in year updates; intervention timing; and timings and triggers.

A number of members were unhappy that the presentation made at the meeting contained detail and included figures which had not been circulated with the agenda. The Assistant Director explained that detail added in was not new, and not presented for scrutinising. Rather, it had been included to pull together a summary of the most important figures related to financial position, help set the larger strategic context and demonstrate how different items of information came together throughout the course of the year to create an overview of the financial position as a whole.

During discussion, members observed that they felt they understood the control environment but asked a number of questions including:

- How would the committee gain an insight into proposals for changes to services and related changes to the risk environment?
- Why did audit and scrutiny committees see financial and performance reports after cabinet?
- What were the risks around rising interest rates and why was this not recognised in the budget?
- What was the impact of level of demand for social care and availability of the work force?
- Why the in-year callable reserves were shown as at £37m when the outturn report contained a figure of just £7.1m to be taken forward into the general fund balance?
- Why had feedback from period 1 not been made available to members, and when would feedback from periods 2 and 3 be made available. Committee members required evidence to provide reassurance that risks were being mitigated as early as possible.
- Were officers satisfied with the way the new monitoring system was bedding in.
- Could future presentations referring to previous financial reports made please include links to the relevant parts of these reports.

A member also questioned the timing of the LGA Peer Challenge progress review report and publication of it as it made reference to the required efficiencies of £51m as extremely challenging with very little remaining in general reserves to cushion the impact of under delivery. He asked why it did not refer to the £19.9m identified for general fund balance within the MTFs approved by Council on 2 March 2023 and it was observed that savings were costed on the basis of delivery from the start of the financial year.

In answering these questions and addressing questions about transparency and availability of information, officers explained that the proposals under consideration

related only to the control environment around finances – which set the environment for individual spending reductions for services which would flow through this process.

Scrutiny Committees would in future be receiving financial and performance reports ahead of Cabinet. The Audit Committee would continue to receive them afterwards, audit being by definition a review after the event with a focus on the control environment. It was also confirmed that risks related to inflation and rising interest rates had been identified in the MTFs as well as the Capital Strategy and Treasury Management Strategy.

The Executive Director and Assistant Director also gave a detailed explanation of how the general fund balance as at 1 April 2023 was £27m, with potentially another £10m callable other earmarked reserves. At 2 March 2023, it had not been known what the outturn was going to be and the total of £27m had been established by adding the figure of £7.1m from the report and the £19.9m from the MTFs report.

Officers understood the desire of members to see information at the earliest opportunity but it needed to progress through a quality assurance system first. This would happen significantly faster than it had last year and level of detail available and timeliness would be much improved. The reasons that period one information had not been circulated included that it was the first test of the new reporting process and had helped to eliminate teething problems and establish whether budget holders and business partners understood their roles. It was also too early to make any forecasts with just one month of data. Period 2 data was currently being worked through and would be signed off shortly. The intention was for information to be made available to members and officers 5 – 6 weeks from the end of the reporting period. The timings and triggers for making interventions when needed in future were set out in the presentation.

Officer confirmed that the LGA Peer Reviewers had been satisfied with the level of and quality of information and data provided to them and the £19m could not be added to the general fund balance until 1 April 2023. In terms of deliver of savings, the reality was that some would be made from 1 April, others scheduled for later would be delivered in advance and some would come later than planned.

In reflecting on the comments and discussion, the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate Support observed that the Assistant Director had now been in post for a year, that this was the first full year of the MTFs, and feedback he had received from officers was that they had never before had as much information about budgets. He felt that going forward the position would be more transparent than ever before. As figures emerged he would be happy to engage with any members of the council to listen to any ideas.

The Chair felt that officers had worked hard to enable monthly reporting instead of quarterly.

It was agreed that the Assistant Director would circulate to the committee the presentation he had provided, including links to the sections of the various documents referred to within it. It was also agreed that going forward that any presentations should be circulated in good time before the meeting with links and references included as appropriate.

The Committee also agreed that a Task and Finish Group on Finance be established with a remit covering the particular challenges around social care and partnership working.

10 Capital Strategy

Members considered the Green Paper setting out the reasons for and suggested process for a mid-year review of the Capital Strategy previously approved by Council in March 2023. The Committee was asked to comment on the proposed scope of the review and the timeline for it and the relationship with alternative budget proposals.

During the discussion, officers answered questions around the need to borrow money; whether preferential rates were available; minimum revenue provision (MRP);

Members emphasised the importance of early scrutiny involvement with the review and it was agreed that once an initial briefing had been provided to all members on the capital strategy that a Task and Finish Group on the Capital Strategy be set up for this purpose.

The Chair thanked the Executive Director and Assistant Director for the report.

11 Work Programme

Members were reminded that the work programme was a live document, discussed where performance reports would be scrutinised and where outturn reports might be presented. It was confirmed that formal quarterly reports would be made to the Transformation and Improvement Scrutiny Committee but information would be available in real time and issues could be suggested for the work programme at any time there was no need to wait to receive a quarterly exception report at a formal meeting.

It was noted that an additional meeting had been added for Monday 4 September at 2.00 pm in order to receive the Q1 financial monitor and performance reports ahead of Cabinet.

Signed (Chairman)

Date:

	Committee and Date	Item	
	Transformation & Improvement Scrutiny 4 th September 2023 Cabinet 6 th September 2023	Public	
			

Financial Monitoring Report Quarter 1 2023/24

Responsible Officer:	James Walton
email: james.walton@shropshire.gov.uk	Tel: 01743 258915
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder):	Cllr Gwilym Butler, Finance & Corporate Support

1. Synopsis

The Shropshire Plan clarifies our vision and priorities, aligning our resources to deliver positive outcomes for our people, businesses and communities. Our objectives are to be delivered within a fixed financial envelope and we are making great progress towards that aim.

2. Executive Summary

Overview

The Shropshire Plan (TSP) was created to clarify Shropshire Council's vision, priorities and Strategic Objectives. These objectives reflect the outcomes we aim to achieve within our available financial envelope. We measure the achievement of TSP by monitoring our performance (using Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to help measure, drive and understand delivery of our Strategic Objectives) and managing our overall financial position (ultimately delivering our outcomes while remaining within our agreed financial envelope).

The current year, 2023/24, is the year we are prioritising financial management with the aim to create a sustainable financial future. Over this year we need to closely monitor our finances and take decisive and corrective action against any deviation from our

approved Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). We are seeking to rebase our budgets, in line with the outcomes defined in TSP, to secure a modern, efficient, and sustainable base for the Council finances across the 5 year period of the MTFS. This approach is aligned to the recommendations of the LGA peer review and is comparable with the best approaches seen in local government. We will need to make the adjustments this year but Shropshire residents will reap the rewards for many years to come, through improved financial stability. Against this backdrop we are seeking to maintain our performance and improve it where our financial position allows. Our plans will then expand into the next financial year with a focus on increased efficiency and improved outcomes, redefining the way we deliver our services to optimise delivery of our vision. Beyond that, our emerging intent is to grow our potential, seeking continuous improvement, greater resilience and increased efficiency in all aspects of our work.

Summary

- 2.1 In a challenging year, where other councils have struggled financially, Shropshire Council is robustly managing its finances. Our net budget has grown by £20m compared to last year and we have targeted £51.4m of spending reductions to contain our spending within this financial envelope. Of this target, £11m has been delivered by the end of June 2023 and a further £23m to be delivered by March 2024. Overall, this equates to £34.3m, or 67% of the target, in place within the first quarter of the financial year, with three quarters of the financial year left to deliver the remaining 33%.
- 2.2 In common with every financial year, we expect our models and plans for service delivery to adapt and modify with the changing external environment. Typically, we must manage under and over-spending variations across all of our spend heads and to date we have identified material pressures in demand-led social care services. We are working to create plans to mitigate these pressures to align our spending with available resources, if necessary, extending beyond this financial year.
- 2.3 While the Council's vision and intended outcomes is clear, the scale of the financial challenge in 2023/24 is unprecedented. To maintain focus in the delivery of our outcomes, increased resilience across the organisation is necessary. Undertaking an extensive leadership development programme (GLR) to provide individual resilience, investing in a new corporate resource (the Office of the Chief Executive or OCE) to provide programme management expertise and increased focus, and working with a new Strategic Transformation Partner (PwC) to create capacity and capability for the authority are all designed to improve organisational resilience.
- 2.4 This report estimates the Council's year end position by reviewing and projecting information from the first quarter of the financial year. Whilst information from the period 2 (to the end of May) was used to provide an early oversight of our financial position, this is the first published report for the current financial year and will be followed by reports for the year to 30 September (quarter 2), 31 December (quarter 3), and 31 March (quarter 4, or 'outturn'). Monthly updates will be provided between these times.
- 2.5 As part of the necessary arrangements for delivering TSP, the Council has reviewed and updated its approaches to both performance and financial monitoring. Both areas are now more pro-actively informed by timely activity data and are available to a range of officers to help guide decision making. The 'PowerBI' dashboards provide

current data, showing trends, RAG status and benchmarking where available. These approaches were initially designed in late 2022/23 and have been implemented in Q1 2023/24 for roll out across the year. The work on them is ongoing and iterative, as we identify what works best for colleagues across the Council.

- 2.6 The Q1 Performance report (elsewhere on this agenda) sets out performance across the Council using a range of KPIs. These focus on the key performance metrics needed to enable assessment of the delivery of the agreed outcomes set out in TSP through our priorities and strategic objectives.
- 2.7 This Q1 Finance report complements the performance report but provides a different perspective. Crucially, the finance report and the forecasts it contains reflect the current position on ‘cost drivers’ rather than ‘KPIs’. We may therefore find that the position on KPIs is favourable, but that the finance position is adverse because the activity levels (the cost drivers) are higher than anticipated.

Key Values and Context

- 2.8 The key issues highlighted by this report are:
- a. **Revenue spending reductions of £34.3m:** The MTFs agreed by Full Council (2 March 2023) included £51.4m of planned spending reductions.
 - o To 30 June, £11.4m is confirmed as already fully delivered with £34.3m of spending reductions to be delivered by 31 March 2024.
 - o £34.3m represents 67% of the year-end target and is already equal to the final percentage delivery level achieved in recent years, with three quarters of the year still to go. Delivery of £34.3m is already greater than the last 3 years savings delivery combined.
 - b. **Remaining revenue spending reductions to be achieved of £17.1m:** Further work is needed to deliver the balance of spending reductions to achieve the overall target. Additionally, reductions achieved to date are those which are comparatively easier, so the remaining amounts are likely to be more challenging.
 - c. **Spending pressures in demand-led services of £20.5m:** Despite the good progress on spending constraint already identified (at a and b, above), services in demand led areas are seeing levels of activity between 1.5x and 2x budget estimates. This is particularly acute in adult social care and children’s services, but also notable in Housing (temporary accommodation).
 - d. Taking (a), (b), and (c) together results in a **‘BAU’ forecast of £37.6m outside of available budget**
 - e. Including operational plans being prepared for items (b) and (c) creates a revised calculation of an **‘operating’ forecast of £5.2m over budget.**
 - f. This would result in a charge at year end to the **General Fund Balance leaving a £21.8m carry forward position.**

Table 1: summary position including current BAU and Operating Forecasts.

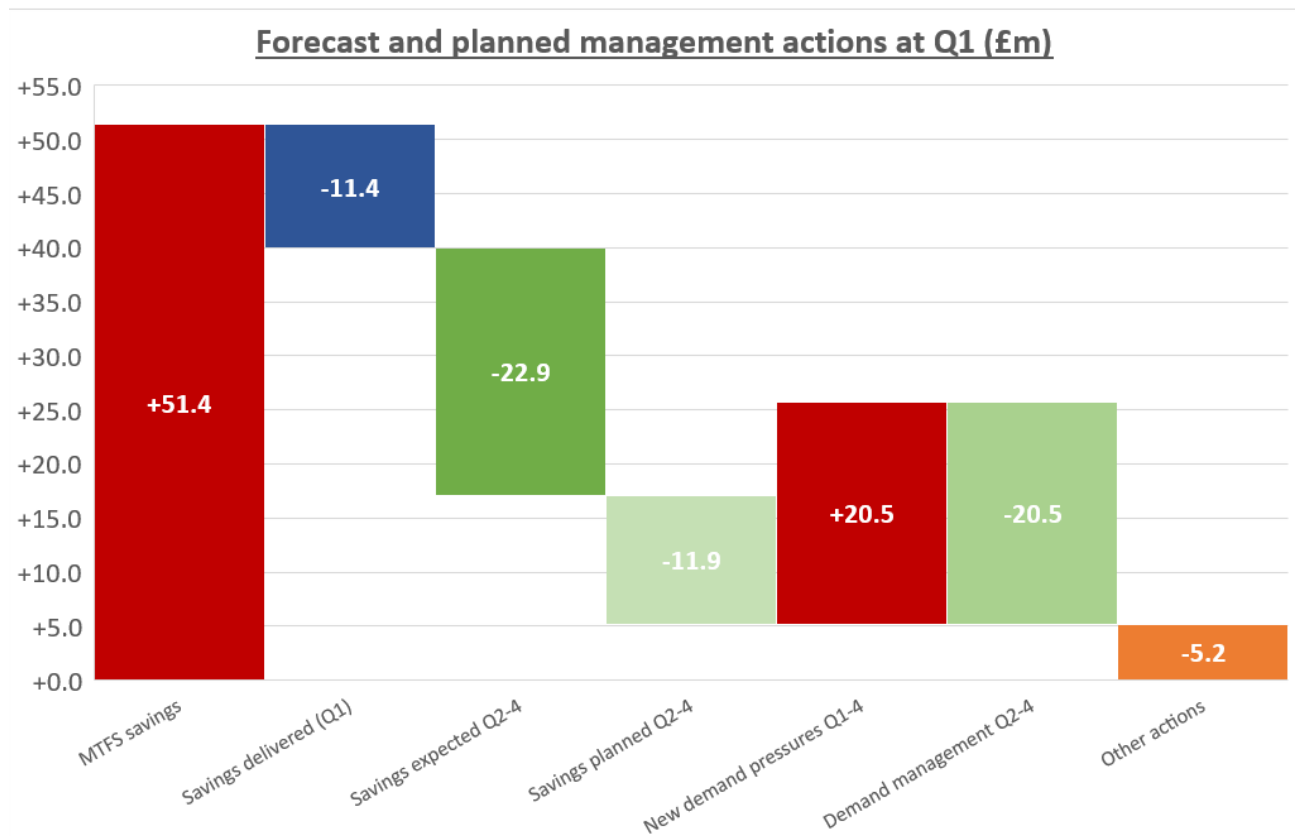
		Ref	£m
Savings	Target: £51.4m; Achieved £11.4m, expected: £22.9m (67%), so £17.1m o/s	(b)	17.1
Other challenges	Social care demand higher than anticipated	(c)	20.5
BAU forecast	Forecast before planned mitigations (‘do nothing’)	(d)	37.6

Further savings (pipeline)	Remaining savings to minimum expected delivery (90% x 51.4 = 46.2; 46.2-34.3 = 11.9)	-	11.9
Demand mitigation	Short term funding while demand-led pressures are addressed (18 months)**	-	20.5
Operating forecast	Forecast after planned mitigations ('planned delivery')	(e)	5.2
Unearmarked reserves	General Fund Balance brought forward		7.1
	Budgeted contribution		19.9
	Planned delivery forecast (unless mitigated)	-	5.2
	Estimated General Fund Balance @ 31 March 2024 <i>(target = £15m-£30m)</i>	(f)	21.8

2.9 To address this position effectively, the following measures have been put into place:

- Review of savings not yet achieved to identify how delivery against the remaining £17.1m can be maximised
- Implementation of demand-management initiatives in social care services to ensure that, wherever possible and safe, early interventions are identified to help prevent children coming into care, and adults entering hospital. Given the extent of the demand-led pressures, it is expected that the situation will not be fully resolved in the current financial year. As such, and where clear long term plans are set out which can demonstrate success, short-term funding will be made available while successful demand management measures are implemented.
- The General Fund balance, as set out in the March MTFs has been increased to £27m. It is intended to preserve this amount to the greatest extent possible in the year, as part of the wider work to repair the Council's balance sheet. Based on the planned forecast set out above, there may remain an unreduced pressure of £5.2m, which could be funded by the general fund balance and leave £21.8m (which is above the lower end of the target range).

Figure 1: chart showing patterns of pressures and mitigations.



2.10 Capital: The projected capital outturn is £140.643m, in line with the current budget with current capital expenditure of £5.053m, (3.6% of the budget at Quarter 1, with 25% of the year elapsed).

- In 2023/24, 2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27 capital receipts are currently projected to be lower than those required for the programme. Targets for capital receipts will be reviewed as part of the review of the capital strategy, but priority will need to continue to realise receipts from surplus assets.
- The capital receipts position is further emphasised by the March MTFS plan to fund transformational activities additional to those already identified in the MTFS through the flexible use of capital receipts.

3 Recommendations

Transformation & Improvement Scrutiny Committee

3.1 It is recommended that Transformation & Improvement Scrutiny Committee Members note the position and identify any areas for future consideration by Scrutiny.

Cabinet

3.2 It is recommended that Cabinet Members:

- A. Note that at the end of Quarter 1 (30th June 2023), the expected level of savings delivery is £34.3m, representing more than the sum total of the last 3 years, and a level of delivery equal to that in recent years.
- B. That savings not yet confirmed amount to £17m.
- C. That demand-led services are forecasting significant overspending of £20.5m in the year, which is likely to continue into the coming year.
- D. The result of those points (A-C above) is a current forecast of overspend of £37.590m
- E. That it is assumed for planning purposes that
 - a. 65% of the remaining savings will be delivered (total: £11.9m) and
 - b. short-term funding will be identified to enable sustainable demand management approaches to be implemented in social care services (total: £20.5m), and that necessary plans are prepared to enable this.
- F. The resulting forecast at quarter 1 is therefore a likely overall overspend of £5.2m once key management actions are implemented. This will leave the General Fund balance at £21.8m, within the target range of £15m-£30m.

Report

4 Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 4.1 The management of the Council's Budget is a key process in ensuring strategic risks are mitigated and the Council can carry out business as intended and planned for within The Shropshire Plan.
- 4.2 The Council is also experiencing locally the nationally reported shift in the labour market which is making recruitment more difficult. Actions are being put in place to ensure that our employment offer is attractive within the market and well publicised, including improved internet presence and revised recruitment processes.
- 4.3 The current economic climate in the UK presents specific risks including the changes to the bank rate and the pressures from inflation which require active management.
- 4.4 The level of savings delivery and financial pressures in the current year are a recognised risk for the 2023/24 budget, and continued focus and action are being put in place to address this.
- 4.5 Overall, the financial outlook is positive, but the levels of risk and challenge set out in the report are beyond anything previously faced by the Council. In that context, investment of lead officer time in a council-wide leadership programme (Getting Leadership Right) and engagement with an external partner (PwC) are part of the steps taken to rapidly expand capacity and ability to meet the challenges already identified.

5 Financial Implications

- 5.1 This report sets out the financial projections for the Council in the 2023/24 Financial Year. Full details of projected spend in both the revenue and capital budgets are detailed in section 8-12 of this report.

6 Climate Change Appraisal

- 6.1 The Council's Financial Strategy supports its strategies for Climate Change and Carbon Reduction in a number of ways. A specific climate change revenue budget is held and spend is included in Appendix 1 to this report. The climate change schemes involving the Council's assets or infrastructure are included within the capital programme of which further detail can be found within Appendix 7. These two areas of expenditure are anticipated to have a positive contribution towards climate change outcomes.
- 6.2 Securing a robust and sustainable financial base will help the Council meet the challenges of climate change – this is not separate to our budget management, but integral to it, as set out in the objectives of The Shropshire Plan and our aim to secure a Healthy Environment.

7 Background

- 7.1 Budget monitoring reports are produced quarterly for Cabinet and the budget position is reported monthly to Executive Directors, highlighting the anticipated year end projection.
- 7.2 The monitoring reports track progress against agreed budget decisions, consider any budget changes (including re-profiling on Capital), forecast any significant variances to the budget, and enable corrective action to be taken to ensure a balanced budget at year end.
- 7.3 Council approved the Financial Strategy 2023/24 – 2027/28 on March 2023 which outlined the revenue and capital budget for 2023/24.
- 7.4 The approach to the current year was changed in view of the challenges we face, identified in the MTFs agreed by Full Council on 2 March 2023. The approach to the current year was changed to:
- Improve access for budget holders to key activity and financial information
 - Speed up internal reporting from quarterly to monthly, while maintaining quarterly reporting as our standard demonstration of transparency and accountability.
- 7.5 Further work is in hand to share additional detail with all Members, staff, and residents, not least through scrutiny committee review ahead of cabinet discussion. However – there is a recognition by Chief Officers that too much focus on review and scrutiny will hamper the work of staff already engaged in delivery of targets for the current year – so, we are seeking an effective balance of detail and summary information, which is unlikely to satisfy all, but which is a clear progression over previous arrangements, and which responds to current challenges.

8 Projected Revenue Business as Usual Outturn at Q1

- 8.1 At Quarter 1 (April 1 – June 30), the Council is reporting a BAU ('business as usual') forecast overspend of £37.590m. This forecast assumes that all current plans are delivered, and that no further plans are put into place (hence, BAU).

8.2 As set out at paragraph 2.2 above, and table 1, this BAU forecast does not include the expected impact of further actions to secure the current operating forecast of £5.2m over budget – mitigations of £32.4m.

8.3 Table 2 below summarises the position by directorate (see also Appendix 1A and 1B), including latest projections on funding. A breakdown of the projected outturn by portfolio holder is detailed in Appendix 1C.

Table 2: Projected Revenue Outturn

Directorate	Revised Budget (£'000)	Forecast Outturn (£'000)	Under/Overspend (£'000)
Health and Wellbeing	2,509	2,572	63
People	207,319	232,178	24,859
Place	80,984	89,459	8,475
Resources	3,307	6,759	3,452
Strategic Management Board	160	174	14
Service Spending			
Corporate Budgets	(38,365)	(37,638)	727
Total Net Expenditure	255,914	293,504	37,590
Funded By:			
Council Tax	(193,577)	(193,577)	0
Business Rates	(39,424)	(39,424)	0
Top Up Grant	(11,120)	(11,120)	0
Revenue Support Grant	(7,479)	(7,479)	0
Collection Fund (Surplus)/Deficit	(4,314)	(4,314)	0
Total Funding	(255,914)	(255,914)	0
Total	0	37,590	37,590

8.4 The majority of the current forecast overspend can be summarised as:

- £17.205m of unachieved savings targets to be delivered as at Quarter 1. Savings have been shown as delivered if there is a clear plan in place, delivery is already under way and there is certainty in delivery over the course of the financial year.
- £10.141m budget pressures against spot purchasing within Adult Social Care due to greater demand and higher cost of placements.
- £6.173m overspend on residential and fostering placement costs within Children's Social Care.

8.5 In order to address the budgetary pressures arising in Social Care, the service is actively pursuing a demand management plan with the intention of reducing ongoing demand. This is being achieved by:

- Childrens services transformation plan aims to reduce numbers of looked after children by stepping them down from 'CLA' to Child in Need or Early Help This will be achieved by
 - Closer working with other public agencies (Health,, Police) to more quickly identify households with emerging acute support needs – for example, where issues of harm relating to mental health, domestic abuse, drug and alcohol impact the safety of children. ,
 - Implementing parenting support across the Councils communities, for existing parents and expectant parents, to ensure that all parents are supported to nurture and protect their children.
 - Seeking earlier indications of family groups that are under pressure and may be entering a crisis; supporting those families to remain together and so avoiding taking children into care.
 - Providing earlier support to children and their families who are encountering difficulties, aiming to avoid any family entering crisis, or alternatively to minimise the extent of that crisis.
 - Promoting foster care as a fulfilling and desirable activity; seeking to recruit new foster carers, and promoting the best outcomes for all children whatever their care setting.
- Adults services are focusing on demand management interventions as follows:
 - We are currently supporting more people than we expected to when budgets were set ahead of the financial year in October. We have seen an increase in complexity of client needs, particularly those requiring nursing care, as well as increasing demand from ongoing pressures in hospital discharge.
 - Work is underway to manage demand and remodel the service through the Reablement Transformation programme, aimed at supporting people to live more independently.
 - Following Cabinet's decision in February 2023, we increased fee rates this year to stabilise the domiciliary care market. The increase was up to 12%, at a cost of £1.040m (included in the forecast overspend).
 - Market rates in the care home market have also been increasing during the year. Work is ongoing with the market to manage the increased costs of care

8.6 The demand management plan should deliver a sustainable budget projection , however it is acknowledged that this may take time to implement and therefore short term funding of these and other pressures may be required whilst plans are put into action.

8.7 More detailed arrangements are being implemented to track benefits realisation from these initiatives and to ensure that appropriate amendments to the MTFs are put in place.

8.8 The forecast in this report includes assumed levels of funding for Adult Social Care as set out in the March MTFs. These are included below.

ASC Funding	£m	
<i>Social Care Grant</i>	- 15.759	9%
<i>Improved Better Care Fund</i>	- 11.863	7%
<i>CHC</i>	- 8.036	5%
<i>BCF</i>	- 7.356	4%
<i>Other Income</i>	- 3.393	2%
<i>Market Sustainability and Improvement Funding</i>	- 3.264	2%
<i>DHSC – Adult Social Care Discharge Fund</i>	- 1.663	1%
<i>Other Health contrib</i>	- 1.564	1%
<i>DLUHC – Homes for Ukraine Scheme</i>	- 0.124	0%
<i>DoH War Pensions Disregard Grant</i>	- 0.117	0%
<i>Care and Support Prisons</i>	- 0.048	0%
<i>Local Reform and Community Voices</i>	- 0.038	0%
<i>ASYE</i>	- 0.011	0%
<i>Client contributions</i>	- 22.381	13%
<i>Council tax excluding SCP</i>	- 76.449	43%
<i>Social care precept</i>	- 24.157	14%
	- 176.224	100%

9 Income

9.1 The revenue budget is funded by £255.9m of income including specific government grants and retained local taxation receipts. Grant values are advised in the settlement before the start of the year and are unchanged. Income through discretionary fees and charges is included in budgets for service area net spending. Appendix 2 provides analysis of the current projection of specific government grant income by directorate, including any new allocations, and highlights the current delivery of income through fees and charges charged in services.

10 Savings

10.1 The savings projections for 2023/24 have been shown as delivery confirmed or delivery to be confirmed and are presented in Appendix 3. These projections show that 66.5% of the 2023/24 savings required have been rated as green.

10.2 Table 3 below summarises the savings that have been delivered as at Period 3, against the profiled delivery. This shows the position as at Period 3 is ahead of the profiled delivery at this point in the financial year.

Table 3: Savings Delivery in 2023/24

2023/24 IN-YEAR SAVINGS POSITION	Delivered Q1 (£)	Delivered Q1 (%)	Full year forecast (£)	Forecast v target (%)	Net Budget Share (%)
Health & Wellbeing	-468,027	71.65%	-527,884	81%	1%
People	-4,900,379	22.84%	-17,363,649	81%	77%
Place	-4,502,844	26.82%	-10,168,120	61%	29%
Resources	-809,618	13.43%	-2,042,912	34%	1%
Corporate	-700,010	10.83%	-4,200,010	65%	-8%
DELIVERED AS AT PERIOD 3	-11,380,977	22.15%	-34,302,575	67%	100%
PROFILED DELIVERY	-11,165,658	21.73%			

11 Reserves

- 11.1 The 2023/24 budget strategy included a contribution of £19.868m to the General Fund balance which would then reach £26.961m, which is a safer level given the current profile of financial risks. This is shown in the table below, and in appendix 5.
- 11.2 It is anticipated that one off resources will be identified to offset pressures in year while longer term sustainable demand management plans are in place. This will include the review and release of earmarked reserves and a review of grant balances received to try to utilise funds to offset one off pressures, primarily in social care. Without the use of these one off funds, and continued action to deliver the savings programme, the General Fund balance will be substantially depleted.
- 11.3 It is imperative that the Council maintains the General Fund Balance as assumed within the Medium term Financial Strategy, otherwise it would limit the ability of the council to mitigate any further unforeseen shocks such as ongoing inflationary increases, climate events such as flooding and drought, or rapid reductions in available resources due to changed national policy. Independent advice is that General Fund un-earmarked reserves should equate to 5%-10% of next spending.

Table 4: General Fund Balance

General Fund	£'000
Balance as at 1 st April 2023	7,093
Budgeted Contribution in 2023/24	19,868
Budgeted General Fund Balance as at 31st March	26,961

12 Capital

- 12.1. The current capital programme and actual spend is detailed in Table 5 below, including updated projections on financing of the programme. Further detail is provided in Appendix 7.

Table 5: Projected Capital Programme Outturn

Directorate	2023/24 Revised Capital Programme (£'000)	2023/24 Actual Spend (£'000)	2023/24 Actual YTD spend as % of Budgeted YTD Spend	2024/25 Capital Programme (£'000)	2025/26 Capital Programme (£'000)
Health and Wellbeing	-	-	-	-	-
People	17,718	1,002	5.65	16,577	7,399
Place	97,410	3,050	3.13	78,183	35,576
Resources	1,042	1	0.06	-	-
Total General Fund	116,170	4,053	3.49	94,760	42,975
Housing Revenue Account	27,977	1,000	3.57	15,122	13,313
Total Capital Programme	144,147	5,053	3.51	109,882	56,288
Financed By:					
Borrowing	41,810			30,617	12,342
Government Grants	62,684			58,918	30,481
Other Grants	2,274			156	44
Other Contributions	9,958			4,951	2,100
Revenue Contributions to Capital	4,536			-	369
Major Repairs Allowance	8,317			4,828	5,000
Capital Receipts	14,568			10,412	5,952
Total Financing	144,147			109,882	56,288

* Actual financing of the capital programme is determined at year end.

12.2 The financing of the current capital programme assumes a level of capital receipts being realised, as set out in table 5. In the event that the receipts are not available as planned, the council may need to fund capital investment from alternative sources – available grants, developer contributions, or external borrowing, where it is prudent and appropriate to do so. This changeable position is planned for in advance and confirmed at year end. Appendix 8 summarises the current capital receipt position and highlights both opportunities to secure receipts and the risk of increased revenue costs in future years.

13 Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

13.1 At Quarter 1 (Period 3), the HRA is projecting a minor overspend of £0.422m (2% of gross budget) due to reduced projected dwellings rent. This will be carefully monitored during the remainder of the year and action taken to reduce this, however any residual overspend will be financed through the HRA reserve.

14 Dedicated Schools Grant

14.1 As with previous years, the final Early Years Block DSG allocation for 2022/23 was published on 20th July 2023. The final allocation of £17.139m which takes account of the January 2023 census figures is £0.193m less than the provisional Early Years DSG Block DSG allocation of £17.332m used to calculate the 2022/23 DSG surplus carried forward figure of £2.695m. This means that the revised surplus carried forward now stands at £2.502m. £0.285m of this DSG surplus carried forward relates to the

2021/22 and 2022/23 surpluses carried forward on the Schools Growth Fund. This value is fully earmarked for the Schools Growth Fund in 2023/24.

- 14.2 As at the end of Quarter 1, there is no variance to budget being reported on the Early Years Block DSG. Within the High Needs Block DSG (after deductions) allocation of £32.974m, although no variance to budget is being reported, there continues to be significant growth in expenditure against the Independent Special Schools budget, due to significant growth in EHCP assessments and plans issued. In 2023/24 this budget pressure is offset with forecast underspends in other areas such as Post 16 – Further Education college placements.

15 Financial Management

- 15.1 Key indicators of financial management can be examined through the management of routine financial transactions that the Council undertakes on a day-to-day basis.
- 15.2 In paying suppliers, the Council has adopted a no Purchase Order, no pay process which ensure that transactions are only processed with a valid, authorised purchase order, thereby ensuring prompt payments to suppliers on receipt of invoice.
- 15.3 Another key indicator of financial management is the level of aged debt that the Council is managing. These indicators are tracked over the course of the financial year to monitor progress. The indicators as at Quarter 1 are detailed in Appendix 9.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

Financial Strategy 2023/24 – 2027/28

[Shropshire Council Outturn report , 2022/23](#)

Financial Rules

Local Member:

All

Appendices [Please list the titles of Appendices]

Appendix 1A – 2023/24 Projected Revenue Outturn by Service

Appendix 1B – 2023/24 Detailed Projected Revenue Outturn by Service

Appendix 1C – 2023/24 Projected Revenue Outturn by Portfolio Holder

Appendix 2 – 2023/24 Income Projections

Appendix 3 – Delivery of 2023/24 Savings Proposals

Appendix 4 – Reconciliation of Monitoring Projections to Savings Delivery

Appendix 5 – Amendments to Original Budget 2023/24

Appendix 6 – Reserves 2023/24

Appendix 7 – Projected Capital Programme Outturn 2023/24 – 2025/26

Appendix 8 – Projected Capital Receipts

Appendix 9 – Financial Management Indicators

APPENDIX 1A

2023/24 PROJECTED REVENUE OUTTURN BY SERVICE

Directorate / Service	Controllable Budget at Q1	Forecast Outturn at Q1	Forecast Outturn Variance at Q1	Reasons for Movement
	£'000	£'000	£'000	
People				
Children's Social Care and Safeguarding	51,371	61,771	10,400	<p>Current activity is materially higher than estimated in the budget due to sibling groups taken into the care system in the winter period. Demand higher than estimated is the key driver for the variances described below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £0.270m GLR Saving shown as unachieved. • £1.376m overspend on staffing across the Social Work Teams, largely relating to Agency Social Workers. This includes £0.388m overspend on Equinox Contract (additional capacity Social Work Team/Court Team 2). There is a credit of £0.867m relating to the capitalisation of posts as a one-off working on transformational projects • £4.497m overspend on External Residential Placements. 50 residential spot/framework placements (excluding DCT) at the end of June but only budget for 30. • -£0.248m underspend on Internal Residential Children's Homes. Large underspend of £0.442m on Ifton House (currently not in use) offsetting the overspends across the other 5 Children's Homes, mostly on staffing (overtime) • £1.676m overspend on Fostering. The majority relates to External Fostering (£0.989m), partly explained by unachieved saving of £0.764m of £1m savings target (which is reported as achieved through overachievement on Stepping Stones Project saving) and partly due to in-year growth forecast of 1.25 new placements per month. • £0.346m overspend on Leaving Care, mostly relating to Leaving Care Accommodation and Allowances • £0.721m overspend on Disabled Children's Team, mostly relating to DCT Prevention and Support payments and DCT Direct Payments • £0.343m overspend on Public Law Outline Support Packages (court ordered legal costs) • £0.353m overspend on Transport related costs across the Social Work teams e.g taxi costs. (doesn't include travel allowances)

Directorate / Service	Controllable Budget at Q1	Forecast Outturn at Q1	Forecast Outturn Variance at Q1	Reasons for Movement
	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Adult Social Care	129,576	141,128	13,152	<p>Purchasing Only+£11.322m: •+£10.141m spot purchasing projected overspend. This pressure is split across base budget, where numbers of service users and cost of placements are higher than anticipated at budget setting, but lower than they were as at 1st April, and savings pressures that we are yet to see materialise in full. Continued achievement of savings in this area will reduce numbers and costs so the two go hand in hand when showing the overall position. We have seen an increase in nursing care, highlighting a complexity in people's needs from the community and through the hospital discharge routes. We have also seen more packages of care commissioned within peoples' homes, but costs have increased. Work is on-going with the market to manage the increased costs of care. Finally, we have seen further pressures due to the continued need to support hospital discharges and short term care provision which has resulted in higher costs.</p> <p>•+£2.864m overspend on new and increased supported living packages. This overspend also includes a targeted £1.000m savings target and is driven by the level of complexity of service users' needs. Work is underway to remodel the service to better meet those needs.</p> <p>•(£2.089m) anticipated over achievement of client contributions to care costs. As per the pressure on expenditure, due to greater number of individuals being supported than budgeted for, we are showing a greater amount of contributions being collected. •+£0.419m forecast overspend in START. This is down to staffing. We have over-recruited within the team and increased wages in order to deal with previously seen high staff-turnover. Although showing as an overspend in this area the impact of not having a fully staffed service is the extra reliance on external providers to deliver care. This is at greater expense and has worse outcomes for the individuals, who often have to access longer-term care when not given the correct support to enable them to go back home. If we continue to see high staff turnover then the expenditure will reduce due to vacancy.</p>
Directorate Management	406	3,108	2,702	<p>£2.589m Target Operating Model - 5% reduction in staffing saving is shown as unachieved.</p> <p>£0.040m GLR Saving shown as unachieved against People Directorate Management and £0.063m Learning and Skills GLR saving shown as unachieved against "Children's Management"</p>
Learning and Skills	22,344	22,525	181	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £0.300m overspend forecast against Home to School Transport using last year's outturn as guide against current budget. • -£0.065m capitalisation of post within the Learning and Skills Performance

Directorate / Service	Controllable Budget at Q1	Forecast Outturn at Q1	Forecast Outturn Variance at Q1	Reasons for Movement
	£'000	£'000	£'000	
				and Integration Team • -£0.026m underspend on NEETs Data Tracking team explained by a temporary vacancy management saving and forecast underspend on casuals/overtime
Children's Early Help, Partnerships and Commissioning	3,622	3,647	25	Minor variation to budget at Period 3.
People Total	207,318	232,178	24,860	
Place				
Commercial Services	5,094	5,765	670	£0.530m Climate Change overspend £0.411m relates to a savings target from a previous MTFS that has been transferred from Shire Services, a paper is going to Cabinet/ Council in relation to a climate change/ carbon reduction project to achieve this saving. Further delays on the approved Maesbury Solar Farm project which is expected to deliver £0.125m - delayed until 2024. £0.034m income shortfall within Commercial Services Business Development. £0.111m GLR Saving currently shown as unachieved. Reserves are being used to offset in year pressures within Corporate Landlord, Property and Development.
Homes and Communities	16,872	17,494	622	£0.434m Overspend on Leisure Services, £0.375m Overspend on Housing Service £0.198m GLR Saving currently shown as unachieved. Offset by savings of £0.164m on Business & Consumer Protection, £0.115m on Museums, £0.065m on Registrars & Coroners and £0.034m on Theatre Services plus various service underspends across other areas of Homes and communities.
Economy and Place	5,291	6,297	1,005	AD Economy and Place £0.131m, GLR saving and office alterations; Planning and Economy Services £0.719m, a forecast drop in expected planning application income offset by vacancy and other savings (Major Planning Applications Q1 were 24 in number, whereas previously 29 in 22/23 and 30 in 21/22), and Shopping Centres £0.155m, unachievable saving due to slippage on key milestones within the Shrewsbury Town Centre Redevelopment Programme Capital Project including demolition.
Directorate Management	(604)	770	1,374	Projected overspend of £1.356m relating to undelivered TOM staffing budget turnover and wastage increase by 5% (year end review) savings, work is being done in year to plan for these savings.
Highways and Transport	54,330	59,133	4,803	AD Infrastructure £0.174m, GLR saving; Waste Management £4.153m, which includes the outstanding Waste PFI saving which is yet to be

Directorate / Service	Controllable Budget at Q1	Forecast Outturn at Q1	Forecast Outturn Variance at Q1	Reasons for Movement
	£'000	£'000	£'000	
				achieved. Work to devise delivery plans for this saving is continuing with a focus on quantifying what will be achievable in year. Highways (Operations) £0.218m, mainly Streetworks income lower forecast based on current case numbers and legislative changes to the charging mechanism: and Environment £0.257m, mainly costs to develop parking strategy and high street pedestrianisation.
Place Total	80,984	89,459	8,475	
Resources				
Finance and Technology	3,362	4,653	1,291	Currently there are expected to be unachieved savings targets of £1.200m, of this £1.000m is from a reduction in housing benefit subsidy loss from accommodating people in B&B accommodation to prevent homelessness, currently this saving is undeliverable, however solutions are being investigated as to how this can be moved forwards by housing. Further there are additional unachieved savings targets relating to efficiency reviews and Getting Leadership Right targets. Partly offsetting the undelivered savings are efficiencies across supplies and services, and vacancy management.
Workforce and Improvement	7	79	72	Currently there are expected to be unachieved savings targets of £0.142m, plans to make these savings achievable are currently being investigated, this has been partly offset by savings from vacancy management and anticipated additional income generated within Health and Safety.
Communications and Engagement	861	958	97	Unachieved savings around reducing the opening hours of Customer Service Centre, CCTV partner funding, and Getting Leadership Right targets yet to have delivery confirmed, offset in part by turnover within service area.
Treasury and Pensions	161	161	0	No variation to budget at Period 3.
Directorate Management	(1,906)	16	1,922	Currently there are expected to be unachieved savings targets of £1.927m, plans to make these savings achievable are currently being investigated.
Legal and Governance	822	893	71	Unexpected turnover within Legal Services generating additional vacancy savings, has been offset by the requirement to cover posts via more expensive agency, and locum costs. There are also unachieved savings targets relating to Getting Leadership Right targets, legal disbursement reductions and service redesign.
Resources Total	3,307	6,759	3,452	

Directorate / Service	Controllable Budget at Q1	Forecast Outturn at Q1	Forecast Outturn Variance at Q1	Reasons for Movement
	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Corporate Budgets	(38,365)	(37,639)	726	Assumed £2.050m of Organisation Wide TOM savings are unachieved, and £0.214m unachieved PFI savings, in year pressure from external audit fees of £0.037m offset by combined savings of (£0.120m) against non-distributable costs and corporate subscriptions, (£0.308m) from interest receivable and payable, MRP one off savings of (£0.592m), and (£0.572m) capital receipts set aside saving (one-off) for 23/24.
Health and Wellbeing				
Public Health	388	388	0	No variation to budget at Period 3. This area has forecast a planned draw down from the Public Health Grant reserves in 23/24 of £2.015m. The draw down is in line with planned priorities agreed with PHG regulators for post COVID recovery and is aligned to delivery of the Shropshire Plan including supporting demand management
Regulatory Services	2,121	2,184	63	£0.098m Target Operating Model 5% reduction in staffing saving is shown as unachieved, mitigated by overachievement of vacancy factor savings. Savings plans have been drawn up to bring this back into balance during the remaining 3 quarters.
Health and Wellbeing Total	2,509	2,572	63	
Strategic Management Board				
Chief Executive and PAs	130	144	14	Minor variation to budget at Period 3.
Programme Management	30	30	0	No variation to budget at Period 3.
Strategic Management Board Total	160	174	14	
Council Total	255,914	293,504	37,590	

APPENDIX 1B

DETAIL BY SERVICE AREA

Directorate	Revised Budget	Forecast Outturn	Variance
	£	£	£
People	207,318	232,178	24,860
Place	80,984	89,459	8,475
Health and Wellbeing	2,509	2,572	63
Resources	3,307	6,759	3,452
Strategic Management Board	160	174	14
Corporate Budgets	(38,365)	(37,639)	726
Total	255,914	293,504	37,590

PEOPLE	Full Year			RAGY
	Budget £	Forecast £	Variance £	
Total	207,318,060	232,178,119	24,860,059	R

People Directorate Management	Portfolio Holder Adult Social Care, Public Health and Communities	405,830	3,107,842	2,702,012	R
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The £2.702m forecast overspend relates to unachieved savings targets that have been applied organisation wide. £2.589m relates to the "Target Operating Model - 5% reduction in staffing" savings target, £0.103m relates to the "Target Operating Model - Getting Leadership Right" savings target and there is £0.010m reported as unachieved against the "Vacancy Factor" savings target.

Adult Social Care Business Support and Development	Portfolio Holder Adult Social Care, Public Health and Communities	4,212,950	4,053,601	(159,349)	Y
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(£0.159m) forecast underspend within Adult Social Care Business Support. The breakdown of this is as follows

- +£0.063m overspend relates to GLR unallocated savings currently being worked through.
- +£0.114m overspend relates to yet to be made savings within Joint Training. We are in the process of making alternative plans
- +£0.016m forecast under-achievement of Client Property income. We are expecting this pressure to reduce
- (£0.073m) forecast staffing underspend due to vacancy management
- (£0.279m) short term capital funding to cover the costs of transformational posts

Adult Social Care Management	Portfolio Holder Adult Social Care, Public Health and Communities	1,236,350	851,142	(385,208)	Y
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(£0.385m) forecast underspend within Adult Social Care Management. The breakdown as follows:

- +£0.024m overspend relates to GLR unallocated savings currently being worked through.
- (£0.104m) forecast staffing underspend. All posts are now recruited to so the underspend relates to when the post were vacant in April/May 2023.
- (£0.305m) short term capital funding to cover the costs of transformational posts

Adult Social Care Provider Services	Portfolio Holder Adult Social Care, Public Health and Communities	4,492,200	5,126,320	634,120	R
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Overall Provider Services have a forecast overspend of £0.634m. Broken down as below:

- +£0.048m overspend relates to GLR unallocated savings which is currently being worked through
- +0.067m pressure within Shared Lives. £0.060m relates to un-achievement of rental and Housing Benefit income. This is currently under review. The remaining £0.007m relates to un-achievement of contract reduction savings. This saving will be added to savings elsewhere moving forward so will not show as a pressure in this area.
- +£0.016m overspend on preventative contracts. A group has been set up to review these pressures with the aim to allocating additional funding or reducing contract expenditure to deliver a balanced budget.
- +£0.012m forecast overspend in Internal Day Services which is down to costs of supplies and services increasing.
- +£0.072m overspend on our Internal nursing home, Four Rivers. This is mainly down to having to rely on agency Nursing Staff. We have now recruited permanent posts here which will reduce the on-going pressure. We have also spent more than budget on Hygiene, Catering and Equipment Supplies. Some of the pressures are offset by an over-achievement of income. This pressure has reduced from previous forecast positions.
- +£0.419m forecast overspend in START. This is down to staffing. We have over-recruited within the team and increased wages in order to deal with previously seen high staff-turnover. Although showing as an overspend in this area the impact of not having a fully staffed service is the extra reliance on external providers to deliver care. This is at greater expense and has worse outcomes for the individuals, who often have to access longer-term care when not given the correct support to enable them to go back home. If we continue to see high staff turnover then the expenditure will reduce due to vacancy.

Adult Social Care Operations	Portfolio Holder Adult Social Care, Public Health and Communities	119,634,540	131,097,211	11,462,671	R
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The overall forecast overspend across Social Care Operations is £11.463m. The purchasing only element of this overspend is £11.322m. The remaining pressure is £0.140m. Below is the detail

Purchasing Only +£11.322m:

- +£10.141m spot purchasing projected overspend. This pressure is split across base budget, where numbers of service users and cost of placements are higher than anticipated at budget setting, but lower than they were as at 1st April, and savings pressures that we are yet to see materialise in full. Continued achievement of savings in this area will reduce numbers and costs so the two go hand in hand when showing the overall position. We have seen an increase in nursing care, highlighting a complexity in people's needs from the community and through the hospital discharge routes. We have also seen more packages of care commissioned within people's homes, meaning the waiting lists have reduced but costs have increased. Work is on-going with the market to manage the increased costs of care. Finally, we have seen further pressures due to the continued need to support hospital discharges and short term care provision which has resulted in higher costs.
- +£2.864m overspend on new and increased supported living packages. This overspend also includes a targeted £1.000m savings target and is driven by the level of complexity of service users' needs. Work is underway to remodel the service to better meet those needs.
- (£2.089m) anticipated over achievement of client contributions to care costs. As per the pressure on expenditure, due to greater number of individuals being supported than budgeted for, we are showing a greater amount of contributions being collected.
- £0.406m current pressure due to the forecasted Continuing Healthcare joint funded packages costs. This is an area subject to change and we continue to work with the NHS where packages should have a joint funded element. We are confident this position will improve through-out the year.

Other variations +£0.140m:

- +£0.159m overspend relates to GLR unallocated savings
- +£0.515m forecast overspend within passenger transport services relating to transport recharges. Within this overspend is a yet to be achieved £0.300m savings. This is being looked at to ensure efficient use of resources.
- +£0.044m overspend on void supported living costs, where the lease costs of a property are not covered by tenants' Housing Benefit income due to the property being empty. Work continues to take place to ensure all voids are occupied as soon as possible and this number continues to reduce. This will also be looked at during the supported living remodelling mentioned above.
- (£0.578m) underspend within the staffing budget due to challenges in recruiting to vacant posts.

Children's Social Care and Safeguarding	Portfolio Holder Children and Education	51,370,600	61,770,528	10,399,928	R
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- £0.270m relates to the unachieved "Target Operating Model - Getting Leadership Right" savings target
- £1.376m overspend on staffing due to agency social workers covering staff vacancies, sickness leave and maternity leave (recruitment and retention in children's social work staffing is a nationally recognised issue). This figure includes a £0.388m budget pressure from an additional capacity Social Work Team/Court Team that was brought in temporarily to cope with increased demand. The forecast also includes an assumed £0.867m of posts to be capitalised as working on transformational projects.
- £6.173m overspend on residential and fostering placement costs, with the external residential spot placements forecast budget pressure currently forecast to be £4.055m reflecting 50 external residential spot/framework placements as at the end of June. The

sharp increase in in the number of residential spot/framework placements in 2022/23 means that the number of children in this type of placement far exceeds the budgeted number in 2023/24 although numbers are forecasted to decrease steadily over the remainder of the financial year.

- £1.211m overspend relating to other costs such as transport recharges and taxi costs (£0.353m), legal/barrister fees within the PLO Support Packages budget (£0.343m) and medical assessments, and interpreting fees. These costs have increased in line with the increase in demand.
- £0.721m overspend in the Disabled Children's Team (excluding staffing). £0.327m of this overspend relates to bespoke, short term care packages of prevention and support for disabled children, £0.324m relates to direct payments for disabled children and the remaining £0.070m relates to the commissioning of additional overnight and community short breaks capacity during the year. There has been a significant increase in demand, evidenced by a 300% increase in referrals. As well as an increase in the numbers of children requiring support, there has been an increase in the number of support hours per child, which indicates an increase in complexity.
- £0.346m overspend in the Leaving Care Team (excluding staffing). £0.270m of this overspend relates to accommodation costs for care leavers and allowances paid to care leavers, reflecting an increase in the number of children staying in relatively high cost supported accommodation placements beyond their 18th birthday. The remaining £0.076m relates to discretionary Council Tax relief for care leavers.
- £0.302m overspend in Adoption Services. £0.136m relates to Adoption Allowances, where there has been a significant increase in 2022/23 and 2023/24. £0.181m overspend is forecast against the budget for intra agency adoption placements reflecting the trend across the region of more children being placed with voluntary adoption agencies.

The service is adopting a number of strategies to address the current budget pressures, particularly around residential placements e.g Stepping Stones Project and increasing internal foster care capacity. There is acknowledgement that demand has increased significantly over the last few years so there is emphasis on preventing demand in to the social care system early through family support. This is being progressed through the "Best Start in Life", "Integration" and "Early Help Transformation" projects.

Children's Early Help, Partnerships and Commissioning	Portfolio Holder Children and Education	3,622,020	3,646,846	24,826	G
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Minor variance from budget as at Quarter 1

Learning and Skills	Portfolio Holder Children and Education	22,343,570	22,524,630	181,060	A
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£0.300m of overspend at Q1 relates to the Home to School Transport budget. The overspends mostly relate to a larger number of routes/journeys paid for, particularly in the SEND Transport budget areas. Areas of forecast overspend include SEND Statutory (£0.212m), Secondary Mainstream Transport (£0.140m) and the Child Fleet budget (£0.071m) reflecting an increase in vehicle hire charges and staffing costs. This trend continues the budget pressures experienced in 2022/23. The service are confident that the changes put in place regarding TMBSS transport will deliver the £0.202m savings target from the start of the 2023/24 academic year.

Partially offsetting this overspend, there is a forecast underspend of £0.065m within Learning & Skills Business Support relating to the use of capital receipts funding against a post on the basis that this post has been identified as working on a transformational project as a one-off in this financial year. The remaining £0.054m forecast underspend relates to temporary vacancy management savings within various teams.

PLACE	Full Year			RAGY
	Budget £	Forecast £	Variance £	
Total	80,984,480	89,459,448	8,474,968	R

Director of Place	Portfolio Holder Housing and Assets	(603,770)	770,409	1,374,179	R
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Projected overspend of £1.356m relating to undelivered TOM staffing budget turnover and wastage increase by 5% (year -end review) savings, work is being done in year to plan for these savings.

Assistant Director Commercial Services	Portfolio Holder Housing and Assets	62,960	177,539	114,579	R
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Projected overspend of £0.111m relating to undelivered Getting Leadership Right savings, work is being done in year to plan for these savings.

Corporate Landlord, Property and Development	Portfolio Holder Housing and Assets	3,253,670	3,193,706	(59,964)	Y
Reserves are being used to offset in year pressures (£0.168m) created from movement of tenants in three operational buildings being Shirehall, Ptarmigan and Mount McKinley. Work is being done in year to fill these vacancies. There is also a current in year pressure at Bishops Castle Business Park (£0.236m) due to low tenancy levels, this is being offset with one off in year savings. Projections are assuming rental income for Guildhall although there is some risk around this being agreed within the timescale required. A further risk to Corporate Landlord is that a large tenant is currently planning a company voluntary arrangement (CVA), projections for rental income are currently being assumed as paid in full for 23/24 however if they obtain the CVA there is a risk amounting to £0.258m for Corporate Landlord.					
Commercial Services Business Development	Portfolio Holder Housing and Assets	101,650	136,091	34,441	G
There is a current projected income shortfall against Business Development schemes due to the Business Development Officer spending significant amounts of time supporting the People directorate to deliver savings in their service areas.					
Climate Change	Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder Climate Change, Environment and Transport	8,950	539,714	530,764	R
£0.411m relates to a savings target from a previous MTFS that has been transferred from Shire Services. A paper is going to Cabinet/Council in relation to a climate change/ carbon reduction project which will contribute to this saving. Delays in the delivery of the Maesbury Solar Farm project results in a further £0.125m unachieved saving for 23/24. Work is being done to mitigate this.					
Shire Services	Portfolio Holder Housing and Assets	1,667,130	1,717,603	50,473	A
Catering services currently projecting an overspend of £0.048m and Cleaning Services an overspend of £0.003m. (£0.070m) projected staffing restructure part year saving which are projected to be in place from November 2023, £0.010m pressure on rebates offset by the increasing number of Dudley primary school contracts won, current underachievement of management fees £0.041m however 3 new contracts won which will reduce pressure once figures are finalised. Risks around the calculation of holiday pay as can fluctuate based on the number of hours worked by casual staff and mileage spend has been fluctuating in catering due to the work around travelling to sites to secure new contracts (particularly in Dudley).					
Assistant Director Economy & Place	Portfolio Holder Growth and Regeneration	175,730	307,206	131,476	R
Projected overspend of £0.103m relating to undelivered Getting Leadership Right savings, work is being done in year to plan for these savings and cost of office alterations in Darwin Centre.					
Planning Services	Portfolio Holder Planning and Regulatory Services	2,292,710	3,102,210	809,500	R
A reduction in the forecast income for planning applications and land charges (search) income. The number of major Planning Applications submitted in Q1 were 24 which is down from 29 in 22/23 and 30 in 21/22 - this is a trend seen by other Local Authorities.					
Economic Growth	Portfolio Holder Growth and Regeneration	1,435,520	1,375,967	(59,553)	Y
Projected underspend relates to savings on vacancy management.					
Broadband	Portfolio Holder Culture and Digital	189,760	159,048	(30,712)	Y
Staffing savings resulting from a reduction in hours.					
Planning Policy	Portfolio Holder Planning and Regulatory Services	1,038,180	1,038,180	-	Y
No variance from budget at Period 3					
Shrewsbury Shopping Centres (Commercial)	Portfolio Holder Growth and Regeneration	(234,570)	(269,030)	(34,460)	Y
Projected underspend of £0.034m at Period 3 for Shopping Centres (Commercial) mainly due to savings on Rates costs due to ongoing mitigation					

Shrewsbury Shopping Centres (Development)	Portfolio Holder Growth and Regeneration	393,970	582,979	189,009	R
Projected overspend of £0.189m at Period 3 for Shopping Centres Development - this is due to unachievable saving due to slippage on key milestones within the Shrewsbury Town Centre Redevelopment Programme Capital Project including demolition.					
Assistant Director Homes and Communities	Portfolio Holder Housing and Assets	(156,410)	6,230	162,640	R
Projected overspend of £0.198m relating to undelivered Getting Leadership Right savings, work is being done in year to plan for these savings.					
Housing Development and HRA	Portfolio Holder Housing and Assets	109,480	88,911	(20,569)	Y
Minor variance from budget as at Period 3					
Housing Services	Portfolio Holder Housing and Assets	4,299,310	4,674,742	375,432	R
Housing Services have worked hard to reduce the numbers in B&B to under 100, as well as driving down accommodation costs for each placement. Current pressure on B&B and Temporary accommodation is projected to be £0.508m. This work is ongoing alongside a number of temporary accommodation projects in the pipeline. Further to this, costs have been reduced for a range of support services, and a restructure is now planned to deliver staffing efficiencies.					
Bereavement Services	Portfolio Holder Planning and Regulatory Services	(233,800)	(227,137)	6,663	G
Minor variance from budget as at Period 3					
Registrars and Coroners	Portfolio Holder Planning and Regulatory Services	678,540	613,836	(64,704)	Y
There is a projected underspend of £0.065m at Period 3 for Registrars and Coroners. The projected overspend on Shropshire Coroners of £0.044m mainly due to an overspend on services & supplies. Offset against an underspend on Registrars of 0.108m due to increased projected income of £0.279m reduced by some overspends on salaries and service & supplies of £0.171m required to achieve the additional income projected.					
Business and Consumer Protection	Portfolio Holder Planning and Regulatory Services	2,335,690	2,171,536	(164,154)	Y
There is a projected underspend of £0.164m at Period 3 for Business and Consumer Protection, this is due to the current vacancies that are being addressed.					
Head of Culture, Leisure & Tourism	Portfolio Holder Culture and Digital	516,350	517,915	1,565	G
Minor variance from budget as at Period 3					
Culture, Leisure & Tourism Development	Portfolio Holder Culture and Digital	47,550	47,550	-	G
No variance from budget at Period 3					
Shropshire Hills AONB	Portfolio Holder Culture and Digital	82,200	82,200	-	Y
No variance from budget at Period 3					
Outdoor Partnerships	Portfolio Holder Culture and Digital	1,399,010	1,423,661	24,651	G
Minor variance from budget as at Period 3					
Leisure	Portfolio Holder Culture and Digital	2,327,990	2,762,063	434,073	R
The projected overspend in Leisure covers three areas: Inflated running costs of Council managed facilities (£0.157m), increase energy costs of SCLT contract (£0.137m) and income compensation whilst the main pool at The Quarry remains closed, plus other repairs and maintenance issues (£0.166m). CLT Services will address these pressures through delaying recruitment of key staff in the new structure (£0.084m), year one savings from closure of Acton Scott Historic Working Farm (£0.115m), identified reserves (£0.013m), overperformance of income on Theatre Services (£34k) and exploring opportunities to apply grant funding.					
Libraries	Portfolio Holder Culture and Digital	3,657,970	3,672,756	14,786	G

Minor variance from budget as at Period 3					
Museums and Archives	Portfolio Holder Culture and Digital	1,429,550	1,314,744	(114,806)	Y
There is a projected underspend of £0.115m at Period 3 for Museums. This is due to a saving against Acton Scott for the repayment of an I2S not required until next year (£0.154m) offset by reduced projected income for Museum Learning of £0.047m and further variances on staffing £0.008m					
Theatre Services	Portfolio Holder Culture and Digital	379,040	345,359	(33,681)	Y
Combined net income for the Theatre and Old Market Hall slightly better than budget (OMH £0.081m over budget, Theatre Severn £0.115m under budget).					
Assistant Director Highways and Transport	Portfolio Holder Highways and Infrastructure	128,060	302,660	174,600	R
Projected overspend of £0.175m relating to undelivered GLR savings, work is being done in year to plan for these savings					
Environment and Transport	Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder Climate Change, Environment and Transport	9,055,850	9,313,342	257,492	R
An overspend of £0.217m relates to parking staffing and agency costs attributable to service transformation and the delivery of MTFS savings and continued high street pedestrianisation measures £0.100m with work to reduce this significantly underway offset by in year staffing savings of £0.051m.					
Highways	Portfolio Holder Highways and Infrastructure	11,283,130	11,501,251	218,121	A
Streetworks income lower than forecast due to legislative changes which have significantly limited the council's ability to repeat fine for breaches of permitting conditions £0.339m offset with recharges to capital schemes. Currently on profile to deliver highways service within reduced revenue budget for 2023-24 - this is being achieved by reprofiling the highways maintenance operating model to achieve greater VFM and reduced revenue activities.					
Waste Management	Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder Climate Change, Environment and Transport	33,863,080	38,016,210	4,153,130	R
Includes £4.125m outstanding Waste PFI saving which is yet to be achieved. Work to devise delivery plans for this saving is continuing with a focus on quantifying what will be achievable in year.					

HEALTH AND WELLBEING	Full Year			RAGY
	Budget £	Forecast £	Variance £	
Total	2,508,720	2,572,185	63,465	A

Regulatory Services	Portfolio Holder Highways and Regulatory Services	2,120,740	2,184,205	63,465	A
£0.098m Target Operating Model 5% reduction in staffing saving is shown as unachieved, mitigated by overachievement of vacancy factor savings.					
Non Ring Fenced Public Health Services	Portfolio Holder Adult Social Care, Public Health and Communities	60,290	60,290	-	G
No variation to budget at Period 3.					
Ring Fenced Public Health Services	Portfolio Holder Adult Social Care, Public Health and Communities	327,690	327,690	-	G
No variation to budget at Period 3.					

RESOURCES		Full Year			RAGY
		Budget £	Forecast £	Variance £	
Total		3,307,250	6,759,287	3,452,037	R
Resources Management Team	Portfolio Holder Finance and Corporate Resources	(1,906,000)	15,892	1,921,892	R
Savings of £1.000m relating to the review of customer contact teams across the Council, Channel shifting to promote more streamlined and cost-efficient responses, are yet to be confirmed, and are currently considered to be undelivered in year, work is in progress to establish potential savings. Additionally, savings totalling £0.943m relating to the target operating model are considered unlikely to be fully delivered in year, work is underway to identified areas of opportunity.					
Policy and Governance	Portfolio Holder Finance and Corporate Resources	2,400	50,355	47,955	G
Structure savings of £0.067m are not expected to be delivered in year, these are partly offset from vacancy management, alternative savings are being investigated.					
Automation and Technology	Portfolio Holder Culture and Digital	211,330	47,902	(163,428)	Y
Savings have been identified across ICT systems and contract budget, alongside savings from vacancy management.					
Finance	Portfolio Holder Finance and Corporate Resources	2,638,700	3,092,695	453,995	R
There are unachieved savings targets relating to the target operating model improved organisation wide performance management of £0.325m, additionally there are savings totalling £0.200m that may not be achievable within the current financial year, however alternative savings are being investigated. Partly offsetting the unachieved savings are one off in years savings from across supplies and service, and from vacancy management.					
Housing Benefits	Portfolio Holder Finance and Corporate Resources	512,130	1,512,130	1,000,000	R
There is currently expected to be unachieved savings of £1.000m from a reduction in housing benefit subsidy loss from accommodating people in B&B accommodation to prevent homelessness, however solutions are being investigated as to how this can be delivered in year.					
Business Improvement: Data, Analysis and Intelligence	Portfolio Holder Culture and Digital	65,670	74,903	9,233	G
Minor variation to budget at Period 3.					
Human Resources and Organisational Development	Portfolio Holder Finance and Corporate Resources	(58,440)	3,835	62,275	A
There are unachieved savings targets relating to the target operating model improved organisation wide performance management of £0.143m, in addition within the Human Resources Advice Team there are budget pressure from lost income for SLAs relating to maintained schools and unachieved income targets to increase external income generation. Income targets have proven challenging to meet due to loss of resources within the team to support transformation. These are partly offset from planned vacancy management savings, and additional income generation from Health & Safety and Occupational Health Teams.					
Risk Management	Portfolio Holder Finance and Corporate Resources	-	-	-	G
No variation to budget at Period 3.					
Scrutiny	Portfolio Holder Finance and Corporate Resources	99,230	94,390	(4,840)	Y
Minor variation to budget at Period 3.					

Commissioning Development and Procurement	Portfolio Holder Finance and Corporate Resources	19,430	(7,755)	(27,185)	Y
One off savings are expected from a combination of vacancy management and additional income from a contract rebate.					
Legal Services	Portfolio Holder Finance and Corporate Resources	(59,830)	24,643	84,473	A
There has been unexpected staff turnover with Legal Services, this has resulted in the need to cover some vacancies via interim resources at increased cost, these costs have been partly offset by managing other vacancies to maximise in-year savings. There are also unachieved savings targets relating to the target operating model improved organisation wide performance management of £0.064m, and spending reductions on legal disbursements £0.028m.					
Democratic Services	Portfolio Holder Finance and Corporate Resources	194,390	176,639	(17,751)	Y
Minor variation to budget at Period 3.					
Elections	Portfolio Holder Finance and Corporate Resources	566,760	555,009	(11,751)	Y
Minor variation to budget at Period 3.					
Pensions	Portfolio Holder Finance and Corporate Resources	160,560	160,560	0	G
No variation to budget at Period 3.					
Communications & Engagement	Leader and Portfolio Holder Policy and Strategy, Improvement and Communications	860,920	958,088	97,168	A
There are unachieved savings targets relating to the target operating model improved organisation wide performance management of £0.048m, delayed implementation in the channel shift review of customer services of £0.112m, and unachieved savings from CCTV provision of £0.075m, these are partly off-set from vacancy management savings from across the service.					

STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT BOARD	Full Year			RAGY
	Budget £	Forecast £	Variance £	
Total	160,050	173,986	13,936	G

Chief Executive & PAs	Leader and Portfolio Holder Policy and Strategy, Improvement and Communications	129,770	143,706	13,936	G
Minor variation to budget at Period 3.					
Programme Management	Leader and Portfolio Holder Policy and Strategy, Improvement and Communications	30,280	30,280	-	G
No variation to budget at Period 3.					

CORPORATE BUDGETS	Full Year			RAGY
	Budget £	Forecast £	Variance £	
Total	(38,364,910)	(37,638,994)	725,916	R

Corporate Budgets	Portfolio Holder Finance and Corporate Resources	(38,364,910)	(37,638,994)	725,916	R
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At period 3 it is assumed that £2.050m of Organisation Wide TOM savings and £0.214m of PFI savings are unachieved, there are also in year pressures from costs related to external audit fees of £0.037m these are partly offset by combined savings of (£0.120m) against non-distributable costs and corporate subscriptions.

The interest receivable and payable budgets are expected to deliver additional income of (0.114m) due to changes in the Bank of England base rate. The current estimates are based on assumptions of the value of investment balances.

The MRP budget is expected to deliver one-off in year savings of (£1.164m). Of this, (£0.592m) is the result of releasing budget held for potential additional MRP costs from new projects. (£0.572m) is as a result of changes in actual borrowing requirements identified during the 2022-23 closedown.

Savings of (£0.195m) are expected against interest payable budgets, however recent Bank of England base rate increases will have an impact on borrowing rates going forward; i.e. it will be more expensive to borrow. The interest payable budget does not include any new external borrowing. The interest payable budget includes the current fixed term debt charges only.

APPENDIX 1C

2022/23 PROJECTED REVENUE OUTTURN BY PORTFOLIO HOLDER

Portfolio Holder	Revised Budget*	Forecast Outturn	Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Portfolio Holder Adult Social Care, Public Health and Communities	130,370	144,624	14,254
Portfolio Holder Children and Education	77,336	87,943	10,606
Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder Climate Change, Environment and Transport	42,928	47,869	4,941
Portfolio Holder Finance and Corporate Resources	-36,196	-31,961	4,235
Portfolio Holder Housing and Assets	8,734	10,765	2,031
Portfolio Holder Planning and Regulatory Services	8,232	8,883	651
Portfolio Holder Highways and Infrastructure	11,411	11,804	393
Portfolio Holder Growth and Regeneration	1,771	1,997	226
Portfolio Holder Culture and Digital	10,306	10,448	142
Leader and Portfolio Holder Policy and Strategy, Improvement and Communications	1,021	1,132	111
Total	255,914	293,504	37,590

APPENDIX 2

2023/24 INCOME PROJECTIONS

Specific Government Grants

The revenue budget for 2023/24 includes specific Government Grants of £258.988m. The majority of these budgets will be based on known allocations that the Government has announced for Shropshire Council. However during the course of the financial year, the Council will also bid for additional grant funding to support activities and so the value of Government Grants received in the financial year may be different to the budgeted figure. An analysis of specific Government Grants is provided in the table below:

Government Grants		Revised Budget £'000	Forecast Outturn £'000	Variance £'000
People				
	Dedicated Schools Grant	(110,599)	(110,599)	0
	Pupil Premium Grant	(7,186)	(7,186)	0
	Asylum Seekers	(1,995)	(2,926)	(931)
	Improved Better Care Fund	(1,967)	(1,967)	0
	Adult Social Care Discharge Fund	(1,663)	(1,663)	0
	Other Grants**	(6,171)	(2,637)	3,534
	Total People Grants	(129,581)	(126,978)	(2,603)
Place				
	Waste - PFI	(3,186)	(3,186)	0
	Homes for Ukraine	(1,376)	(1,387)	(11)
	Other Grants	(3,732)	(5,820)	(2,088)
	Total Place Grants	(8,294)	(10,393)	(2,099)
Health and Wellbeing				
	Public Health Grant	(13,192)	(13,192)	0
	Other Grants	(216)	(1,340)	(1,124)
	Total Health and Wellbeing Grants	(13,408)	(14,532)	(1,124)
Resources				
	Mandatory Rent Allowances: Subsidy	(38,000)	(38,000)	0
	Rent Rebates: Subsidy	(7,902)	(7,902)	0
	Other Grants	(815)	(801)	14
	Total Resources Grants	(46,717)	(46,703)	14
	Strategic Management Board	0	0	0
Corporate Budgets				
	Social Care Support Grant	(21,547)	(21,547)	0
	Business Rate Retention Scheme – s31 Grants	(21,521)	(21,521)	0
	Improved Better Care Fund	(9,896)	(9,896)	0
	Rural Service Delivery Grant	(7,757)	(7,757)	0
	Market Sustainability and Fair Cost Fund	(3,264)	(3,264)	0
	Core Spending Power Services Grant	(2,066)	(2,066)	0
	New Homes Bonus	(1,748)	(1,748)	0
	Other Grants	(1,523)	(1,523)	0
	Total Corporate Budgets	(69,322)	(69,322)	0
	TOTAL	(267,322)	(267,927)	(605)

Income from Fees and Charges

The forecast income from discretionary sales, fees and charges is showing a projected shortfall, mainly relating to trading income and rental income within Commercial Services.. Further work will be undertaken within these services to generate additional income to offset these projected shortfalls, or expenditure will be reduced accordingly.

Fees and Charges Income	Revised Budget £'000	Forecast Outturn £'000	Variance £'000
People			
Directorate Management	0	0	0
Adult Social Care Management	0	0	0
Adult Social Care Business Support & Development	(1,437)	(1,370)	67
Adult Social Care Provider Services	(207)	(186)	21
Adult Social Care Operations	(39)	(1)	38
Children's Social Care and Safeguarding	0	0	0
Children's Early Help, Partnerships and Commissioning	0	(3)	(3)
Learning and Skills	(1,477)	(1,668)	(191)
People Total	(3,160)	(3,228)	(68)
Place			
Directorate Management	0	0	0
Commercial Services	(10,427)	(9,830)	597
Economy and Place	(3,977)	(3,922)	55
Homes and Communities	(9,689)	(9,994)	(305)
Infrastructure	(9,507)	(9,497)	10
Place Total	(33,600)	(33,243)	357
Health and Wellbeing			
Directorate Management	0	0	0
Public Health - Non Ringfenced	(159)	(125)	34
Public Health - Ringfenced	(1,047)	(1,000)	47
Health and Wellbeing Total	(1,206)	(1,125)	81
Resources			
Directorate Management	0	0	0
Workforce and Improvement	(559)	(410)	149
Finance and Technology	(1,672)	(1,639)	33
Legal and Governance	(116)	(124)	(8)
Communications and Engagement	(170)	(91)	79
Pensions	(21)	(21)	0
Resources Total	(2,538)	(2,285)	253
Strategic Management Board	0	0	0
Corporate Budgets	0	0	0
TOTAL	(40,504)	(39,881)	623

APPENDIX 3

DELIVERY OF 2023/24 SAVINGS PROPOSALS

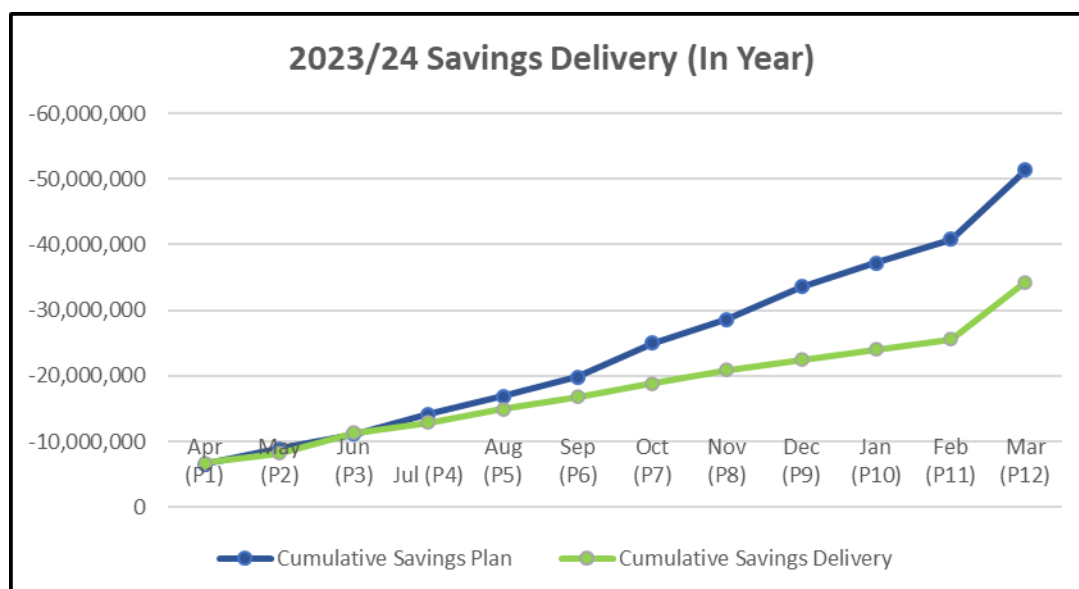
2.1 Summary

The savings projections for 2023/24 are being tracked monthly with savings delivery being mapped against projected delivery during the course of the year.

The table below summarises the position as at 30th June 2023.

Directorate	Delivered	Savings Still to be Delivered	Total (£'000)
	(£'000)	(£'000)	
People	(17,364)	(4,091)	(21,455)
Place	(10,168)	(6,623)	(16,791)
Health and Wellbeing	(515)	(138)	(653)
Resources	(1,938)	(4,089)	(6,027)
Corporate Budgets	(4,200)	(2,264)	(6,464)
Total Savings	(34,185)	(17,205)	(51,390)

The graph below plots the cumulative savings plan and cumulative savings delivery over the Financial Year.



Details of the 5 highest value savings rated red are provided below. These are tracked monthly and reported at every monitoring period against their original delivery profile.

Ref	Directorate	Service Area	Description	2023/24 Saving Value (£'000)	Value Still to be Delivered (£'000)
EFF44	Place	Waste Management	Review PFI contract costs to secure greater efficiency	(4,286)	(4,125)

EFF101	People	People Directorate Management	Target Operating Model – staffing budget turnover and wastage increase by 5% (year-end review)	(2,589)	(2,589)
EFF103	Corporate Budgets	Corporate Budgets	Target Operating Model – Transformation partner delivers 4 x end-to-end process reviews yielding £0.5m per project.	(2,000)	(2,000)
EFF101	Place	Place Directorate Management	Target Operating Model – staffing budget turnover and wastage increase by 5% (year-end review)	(1,356)	(1,356)
EFF78	Resources	Communications	Review of customer contact teams across the Council – Channel shifting to promote more streamlined and cost-efficient responses.	(1,112)	(1,112)

APPENDIX 4

RECONCILIATION OF MONITORING PROJECTIONS TO SAVINGS DELIVERY

Directorate / Service	Q1 Forecast	Savings Pressure in 2023/24	Ongoing Pressures Identified	Additional Ongoing Savings Identified	One Off Pressures Identified	One off Savings Identified
	£'000	(£'000)	(£'000)	(£'000)	(£'000)	(£'000)
People						
Directorate Management	2,702	2,718	-	-	-	(16)
Adult Social Care	11,552	794	7,677	-	5,986	(3,160)
Children's Social Care and Safeguarding	10,400	270	5,300	-	7,758	(2,928)
Children's Early Help, Partnerships and Commissioning	25	56	-	-	61	(92)
Learning and Skills	181	-	-	-	300	(119)
People Total	24,860	4,092	12,977	-	14,106	(6,315)
Place						
Directorate Management	1,374	1,364	-	-	10	-
Commercial Services	669	111	-	-	1,026	(468)
Economy and Place	1,005	306	-	-	838	(139)
Homes and Communities	622	542	720	-	568	(1,208)
Highways and Transport	4,802	4,299	339	-	285	(121)
Place Total	8,472	6,622	1,059	-	2,727	(1,936)
Health and Wellbeing						
Public Health	-	-	-	-	3,377	(3,377)
Regulatory Services	63	138	-	-	84	(158)
Health and Wellbeing Total	63	138	-	-	3,461	(3,495)
Resources						
Directorate Management	1,922	1,924	-	-	-	(2)
Workforce and Improvement	71	143	5	-	26	(103)
Finance and Technology	1,291	1,625	-	-	110	(444)
Legal and Governance	74	162	-	-	294	(382)

Pensions	-	-	-	-	-	-
Communications and Engagement	97	235	-	-	234	(372)
Resources Total	3,455	4,089	5	-	664	(1,303)
Strategic Management Board						
Chief Executive and PAs	14	-	-	-	14	-
Programme Management	-	-	-	-	-	-
Strategic Management Board Total	14	-	-	-	14	-
Corporate Budgets	726	2,264	-	-	55	(1,593)
TOTAL	37,590	17,205	14,041	-	21,026	(14,682)

APPENDIX 5

AMENDMENTS TO ORIGINAL BUDGET 2023/24

£'000	Total	People	Place	Health & Wellbeing	Resources	Strategic Management Board	Corporate
Original Budget as Agreed by Council	255,914	215,106	78,460	2,707	4,577	55	(44,991)
Structure Changes:							
<u>Quarter 1</u>							
Housing Services	0	(85)	85				
Virements:							
<u>Quarter 1</u>							
Reallocation of Organisation wide savings to service areas	0	(3,312)	(1,952)	(199)	(1,269)	105	6,627
Corporate Landlord Recharges	0	(20)	20				
Quarter 1 Revised Budget	255,914	211,689	76,613	2,508	3,308	160	(38,364)

APPENDIX 6

RESERVES 2023/24

General Fund

The General Fund reserve at 31st March 2023 stood at £7.093m, significantly below its optimum desired balance.

The 2023/24 budget strategy included a contribution of £19.868m to the General Fund balance which would then reach £26.961m, which is a safer level given the current profile of financial risks.

It is anticipated that one off resources will be identified to offset pressures in year while longer term sustainable demand management plans are in place. This will include the review and release of earmarked reserves and a review of grant balances received to try to utilise funds to offset the one off pressures within Social Care. Without the use of these one off funds, and continued action to deliver the savings programme, the General Fund would be totally depleted.

It is essential that the Council maintains the General Fund Balance as assumed within the Medium term Financial Strategy, otherwise it would limit the ability of the council to mitigate any further unforeseen shocks such as ongoing inflationary increases, climate events such as flooding and drought, or rapid reductions in available resources due to changed national policy.

Independent advice is that General Fund un-earmarked reserves should equate to 5%-10% of next spending.

General Fund	£'000
Balance as at 1 st April	7,093
Budgeted Contribution	19,868
Budgeted Balance before impact of in-year monitoring position	26,961

Earmarked Reserves

The Council held balances of £42.092m (excluding School Balances) in Earmarked Reserves as at 1st April 2023. There are a number of transactions planned from earmarked reserves during the course of the year. The current projections for the year end balance in earmarked reserves is detailed in the table below. It is also anticipated that the remaining balance of £33m will be reviewed with a view to releasing funds to offset known pressures arising (primarily in Social Care) if demand management plans can not be realised within the year.

Earmarked Reserves	1 st April 2023 £'000	Forecast Net Contribution to/from Reserve £'000	31 st March 2024 £'000
Sums set aside for major schemes, such as capital developments, or to fund major reorganisations	14,747	(2,441)	12,306
Insurance reserves	3,636	(495)	3,141
Reserves of trading and business units	0	0	0
Reserves retained for service departmental use	21,583	(5,625)	15,959
Reserves held for schools	2,126	(204)	1,921
Total	42,092	(8,765)	33,327

APPENDIX 7

PROJECTED CAPITAL PROGRAMME OUTTURN 2023/24 – 2025/26

The capital budget for 2023/24 is continuously being monitored and changed to reflect the nature of capital projects which can be profiled for delivery over several years. In Quarter 1 there has been a net budget increase of £29.478m for 2023/24, compared to the reported at 2022/23 outturn position. The tables below summarise the overall movement, between that already approved and changes for Quarter 1.

Directorate	Initial Budget 2023/24 £	Budget Virements Quarter 1 £	Revised Budget (Current Period - 1) £	Virements Current Period £	Revised Budget as at Current Period £	Outturn Projection £	Outturn Projection Variance £	2024/25 Revised Budget £	2025/26 Revised Budget £
General Fund									
Health & Wellbeing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
People	16,190,011	1,527,860	17,717,871	4,533,718	17,717,871	17,717,871	0	16,577,384	7,399,000
Place	77,053,801	20,356,204	97,410,005	2,380,060	97,410,005	97,410,005	0	78,182,812	35,575,736
Resources	1,000,000	42,361	1,042,361	0	1,042,361	1,042,361	0	0	0
Total General Fund	94,243,812	21,926,425	116,170,237	6,913,778	116,170,237	116,170,237	0	94,760,196	42,974,736
Housing Revenue Account	20,475,256	7,501,251	27,976,507	3,108,459	27,976,507	27,976,507	0	15,121,612	13,312,819
Total Approved Budget	114,719,068	29,427,676	144,146,744	10,022,237	144,146,744	144,146,744	0	109,881,808	56,287,555

Portfolio Holder	Initial Budget 2023/24 £	Budget Virements (Current Period - 1) £	Revised Budget (Current Period - 1) £	Virements Current Period £	Revised Budget as at Current Period £	Outturn Projection £	Outturn Projection Variance £	2024/25 Revised Budget £	2025/26 Revised Budget £
General Fund									
Adult Social Care, Public Health and Communities	6,854,000	101,338	6,955,338	4,040,433	6,955,338	6,955,338	0	5,349,000	4,149,000
Growth, Regeneration and Housing	7,532,088	2,473,971	10,006,059	10,050	10,006,059	10,006,059	0	6,617,520	4,291,793
Deputy Leader, Climate Change, Environment and Transport	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	325,000	0
Children and Education	13,785,011	83,743	13,868,754	3,008,791	13,868,754	13,868,754	0	11,228,384	3,250,000
Finance and Corporate Resources	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Housing and Assets	33,727,519	20,088,951	53,816,470	3,527,331	53,816,470	53,816,470	0	27,904,731	15,013,819
Culture and Digital	8,654,657	1,230,605	9,885,262	118,475	9,885,262	9,885,262	0	7,225,173	2,170,943
Highways and Infrastructure	23,690,537	-2,052,183	21,638,354	-3,791,302	21,638,354	21,638,354	0	36,110,388	14,099,181
Leader, Policy and Strategy, Improvement and Communications	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Planning and Regulatory Services									
Total General Fund	94,243,812	21,926,425	116,170,237	6,913,778	116,170,237	116,170,237	0	94,760,196	42,974,736
Housing Revenue Account									
Housing and Assets (HRA)	20,475,256	7,501,251	27,976,507	3,108,459	27,976,507	27,976,507	0	15,121,612	13,312,819
Total Approved Budget	114,719,068	29,427,676	144,146,744	10,022,237	144,146,744	144,146,744	0	109,881,808	56,287,555

	Initial Budget 2023/24 £	Budget Virements (Current Period - 1) £	Revised Budget (Current Period - 1) £	Virements Current Period £	Revised Budget as at Current Period £	Outturn Projection £	Outturn Projection Variance £	2024/25 Revised Budget £	2025/26 Revised Budget £
General Fund									
Health & Wellbeing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
People	16,190,011	1,527,860	17,717,871	4,533,718	17,717,871	17,717,871	0	12,428,384	3,250,000
Unallocated School Capital	9,744,008	-3,941,209	5,802,799	-2,049,792	5,802,799	5,802,799	0	8,228,384	3,250,000
Non Maintained Schools Capital	2,504,877	-1,997,227	507,650	2,747,528	507,650	507,650	0	2,000,000	0
Adult Social Care Operations Capital	2,405,000	1,444,117	3,849,117	1,524,927	3,849,117	3,849,117	0	1,200,000	0
Primary School Capital	1,501,246	4,883,323	6,384,569	2,067,690	6,384,569	6,384,569	0	1,000,000	0
Secondary School Capital	21,800	706,391	728,191	236,567	728,191	728,191	0	0	0
Special Schools Capital	13,080	39,340	52,420	6,798	52,420	52,420	0	0	0
Adult Social Care Contracts & Provider Capital	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Children's Residential Care Capital	0	393,125	393,125	0	393,125	393,125	0	0	0
Place Capital - Commercial Services	12,703,304	5,530,389	18,233,693	418,872	18,233,693	18,233,693	0	12,783,119	1,701,000
Corporate Landlord Capital	12,703,304	5,530,389	18,233,693	418,872	18,233,693	18,233,693	0	12,783,119	1,701,000
Place Capital - Economic Growth	11,081,047	3,669,490	14,750,537	10,050	14,750,537	14,750,537	0	8,190,676	4,371,738
Economic Growth Capital	7,296,019	2,176,364	9,472,383	0	9,472,383	9,472,383	0	6,496,020	4,251,293
Broadband Capital	3,000,000	785,519	3,785,519	0	3,785,519	3,785,519	0	1,573,156	79,945
Planning Policy Capital	548,959	410,000	958,959	0	958,959	958,959	0	0	0
Development Management Capital	236,069	297,607	533,676	10,050	533,676	533,676	0	121,500	40,500
Place Capital - Homes & Communities	4,654,657	402,725	5,057,382	118,475	5,057,382	5,057,382	0	5,652,017	2,090,998
Leisure Capital	4,454,657	231,332	4,685,989	0	4,685,989	4,685,989	0	5,357,237	2,067,303
Outdoor Partnerships Capital	200,000	75,818	275,818	0	275,818	275,818	0	200,000	0
Libraries Capital	0	118,475	118,475	118,475	118,475	118,475	0	94,780	23,695
Visitor Economy Capital	0	-22,900	-22,900	0	-22,900	-22,900	0	0	0

	Initial Budget 2023/24 £	Budget Virements (Current Period - 1) £	Revised Budget (Current Period - 1) £	Virements Current Period £	Revised Budget as at Current Period £	Outturn Projection £	Outturn Projection Variance £	2024/25 Revised Budget £	2025/26 Revised Budget £
Place Capital - Infrastructure	44,165,793	5,449,068	49,614,861	-682,843	49,614,861	49,614,861	0	51,557,000	27,412,000
Highways Capital	44,165,793	5,449,068	49,614,861	-682,843	49,614,861	49,614,861	0	51,232,000	27,412,000
Waste Capital	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	325,000	0
Place Capital - Housing Services	4,449,000	5,304,532	9,753,532	2,515,506	9,753,532	9,753,532	0	4,149,000	4,149,000
Housing Services	4,449,000	5,304,532	9,753,532	2,515,506	9,753,532	9,753,532	0	4,149,000	4,149,000
Resources	1,000,000	42,361	1,042,361	0	1,042,361	1,042,361	0	0	0
ICT Digital Transformation - Unallocated Capital	1,000,000	41,785	1,041,785	-576	1,041,785	1,041,785	0	0	0
ICT Digital Transformation - CRM Capital	0	576	576	576	576	576	0	0	0
Total General Fund	94,243,812	21,926,425	116,170,237	6,913,778	116,170,237	116,170,237	0	94,760,196	42,974,736
Housing Revenue Account	20,475,256	7,501,251	27,976,507	3,108,459	27,976,507	27,976,507	0	15,121,612	13,312,819
HRA Swellings Capital	20,475,256	7,501,251	27,976,507	3,108,459	27,976,507	27,976,507	0	15,121,612	13,312,819
Total Approved Budget	114,719,068	29,427,676	144,146,744	10,022,237	144,146,744	144,146,744	0	109,881,808	56,287,555

APPENDIX 8

PROJECTED CAPITAL RECEIPTS

Capital receipts are a source of capital funding, often preferred to other sources which are focused on specific objectives (e.g. grants, match funding, developer contributions), or which bear a cost (e.g. external borrowing).

In recent years, performance securing capital asset sales in recent years has been strong, with a balance brought into the 2023/24 of £17.5m (see [Shropshire Council Outturn report, 2022/23](#), para 15.3). However, the current financial challenge places a clear emphasis on realising asset sales (to boost reserves and support capital investment) at the same time as rationalising the overall property base of the Council – they are two sides of the same coin.

The current capital programme assumes use of £12m of capital receipts in the current year, although this could be replaced by borrowing to help improve the balance sheet position. Where additional capital receipts can be realised, these will help support investment and improve the financial sustainability of the council.

Assets currently being considered for disposal total £50.181m.

Further to the significant pressure on the realisation of capital receipts to finance the already approved capital programme, in the 2023/24 financial year there is the intention to utilise the statutory flexible use of capital receipts to finance transformation projects and so deliver revenue budget savings. At present the capital receipt projections included the provision to utilise £2.974m to fund revenue budget savings already identified in the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

APPENDIX 9

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT INDICATORS

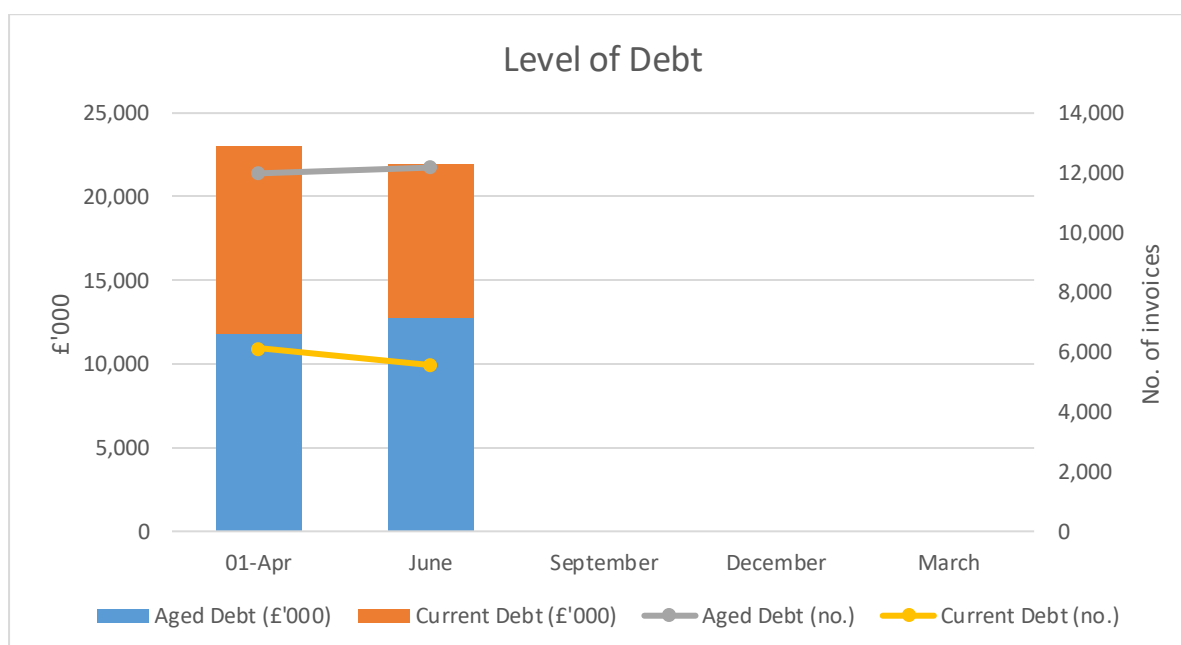
The two financial indicators detailed below will be tracked during the course of the financial year to provide assurance on the Council's financial management processes.

Payment of Invoices

April – June 2023	% of Invoices	No. of invoices
Paid within 30 days	77	15,821
Invoices not paid within 30 days	23	4,823
Total	100	20,644

Aged debt

As at 30 th June 2023	Value (£'000)	No. of invoices
Aged Debt	12,725	12,177
Current Debt	9,214	5,564
Total	21,939	17,741



The payment of invoices indicator demonstrates that the Council is paying 75% of invoices to suppliers within 30 days. This indicator has decreased from 2022/23. Ideally, invoices should be raised for payments due to the council within 30 days, and purchase orders for all new supplies should be raised ahead of delivery. Statistics on late submission of invoices and production of retrospective orders are produced for senior managers.

The value of aged debt has increased marginally but the number of invoices that this relates to has reduced since the start of the financial year. This does remain significantly high and the effects of cost of living are impacting on the level of debt held. Focussed action is being taken across the authority to improve debt recovery.

	Committee and Date Transformation & Improvement Scrutiny 4 th September 2023	Item
	Cabinet 6 th September 2023	Public



Performance Monitoring Report Quarter 1 2023/24

Responsible Officer:	Helen Watkinson		
email:	helen.watkinson@shropshire.gov.uk	Tel:	01743 258659
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder):	Cllr Robert Macey, Culture & Digital		

1. Synopsis

The Shropshire Plan clarifies our vision and priorities, aligning our resources to deliver positive outcomes for our people, businesses and communities. Delivery of our outcomes is measured through the developing Performance Management Framework, demonstrating progress to date.

2. Executive Summary

Overview

The Shropshire Plan (TSP) was created to clarify Shropshire Council's vision, priorities and Strategic Objectives. These objectives reflect the outcomes we aim to achieve within our available financial envelope. We measure the achievement of TSP by monitoring our performance (using Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to help measure, drive and understand delivery of our Strategic Objectives) and managing our overall financial position (ultimately delivering our outcomes while remaining within our agreed financial envelope).

The current year, 2023/24, is the year we are prioritising financial management with the aim to create a sustainable financial future. Over this year we need to closely monitor our finances and take decisive and corrective action against any deviation from our approved Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). We are seeking to rebase our budgets, in line with the outcomes defined in TSP, to secure a modern, efficient, and sustainable base for the Council finances across the 5 year period of the MTFS. This approach is aligned to the recommendations of the LGA peer review and is comparable with the best approaches seen in local government. We will need to make the adjustments this year but Shropshire residents will reap the rewards for many years to come, through improved financial stability. Against this backdrop we are seeking to maintain our performance and improve it where our financial position allows. Our plans will then expand into the next financial year with a focus on increased efficiency and improved outcomes, redefining the way we deliver our services to optimise delivery of our vision. Beyond that, our emerging intent is to grow our potential, seeking continuous improvement, greater resilience and increased efficiency in all aspects of our work.

Summary

- 2.1 While the focus of the Council in 2023/24 is necessarily directed at the delivery of a balanced budget, this remains only one of The Shropshire Plan outputs we intend to deliver. Our new Performance Management Framework has been reviewed and strengthened to align with our strategic objectives to become an evidence led performance managed council. The Performance Management Framework (PMF) currently identifies 36 Key Performance Indicators of which only four are flagged for consideration as part of this exception report.
- 2.2 Development of our KPIs will continue throughout the year with Portfolio Holders, Executive Directors and Assistant Directors identified for each indicator. Targets, tolerances and benchmarks will be clarified over the coming months, where possible, with regularly updated monitoring information published via the performance webpage at - Performance | Shropshire Council. Online performance reporting will be the main source of performance information enabling greater insight and scrutiny of the Councils performance and delivery of its outcomes as set out in TSP.
- 2.3 Through engagement across all Directorates the PMF has been launched with the focus on using data to inform decisions and actions particularly where performance may not be meeting targets and expectations. As part of the necessary arrangements for delivering TSP, the Council has reviewed and updated its approaches to both performance and financial monitoring. Both areas are now more pro-actively informed by timely activity data and are available to a range of officers to help guide decision making. Interactive dashboards using 'PowerBI' are being developed which will show a summary of KPIs for each Healthy priority through to agreed strategic objectives. It will then be possible to drill down into more detailed information for each KPI including status which is RAG (red, amber, green) rated, trend information and benchmarking where available against England and nearest statistical neighbours.
- 2.4 The Q1 Finance report (elsewhere on this agenda) sets out the financial envelope of the Council and how spending plans and patterns are being managed to deliver a balanced budget.

- 2.5 This Q1 Performance report complements the Finance report but provides a different perspective. We may therefore find that the position on KPIs is favourable, but that the finance position is adverse because the activity levels (the cost drivers) are higher than anticipated.
- 2.6 As part of our new approach feedback on the design and usability of the new report and performance webpage is welcomed. A feedback form will be available for questions and queries, and this will be reviewed with responses provided and published where appropriate alongside the dashboard.

Key indicators and Context

- 2.7 The Q1 performance report and all subsequent performance reports are written as exception reports with the detail being provided in dashboards which should be viewed in conjunction with this report.
- 2.8 The Q1 report is not complete with all the agreed performance indicators due to the time taken to implement the new approach and the focus on getting it right. Work will continue to move towards a complete PMF set of indicators and progress will be reported at Q2. Due to the change of approach, it should be noted that some of the performance indicators are baseline figures from which targets will be established and then performance monitored against this.
- 2.9 It should be noted that the approach being taken by Shropshire Council is progressive and in advance of many other authorities and places us in a strong position to continually improving our approach to managing performance and ultimately delivering our outcomes as set out in TSP.

3. Recommendations

Transformation & Improvement Scrutiny Committee

- 3.1. It is recommended that Members of the Transformation & Improvement Scrutiny Committee:
- 3.1.1. Review and consider performance dashboard information alongside this exception report.
 - 3.1.2. Note progress to date in achieving the outcomes of The Shropshire Plan (TSP) and identify any areas for future consideration by Scrutiny.

Cabinet

- 3.2. It is recommended that Cabinet Members:-
- 3.2.1. Review and consider performance dashboard information alongside this exception report.
 - 3.2.2. Note progress to date in achieving the outcomes of The Shropshire Plan (TSP) and comment as appropriate.

Report

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 4.1. The management of the Council's Performance Management Framework is a key process in ensuring strategic risks are mitigated and the Council can carry out business as intended and planned for within The Shropshire Plan.
- 4.2. The management of key performance indicators is a key process to monitoring progress in the delivery of outcomes as set out in The Shropshire Plan. This provides insight into whether corrective action is required to bring performance back on track.
- 4.3. The performance reports and dashboards provide a high-level lens into the performance of Shropshire Council allowing for further targeted detail analysis to support the mitigation of any risks identified.
- 4.4. Overall, the financial outlook for Shropshire Council is positive, but the levels of risk and challenge are beyond anything previously faced by the Council. In that context, investment of lead officer time in a council-wide leadership programme (Getting Leadership Right) and engagement with an external partner (PwC) are part of the steps taken to rapidly expand capacity and ability to meet the challenges already identified.
- 4.5. The dashboards include instructions for use and a feedback form is available for completion should there be questions or feedback. Members will be shown how to use the dashboards in the T&I Overview Scrutiny committee.
- 4.6. Monitoring with automatic alerting will be in place to support the dashboard so any issues can be resolved immediately.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1. The performance report provides progress on key activity targets which will have correlation to financial performance.
- 5.2. It should be noted that positive improvement on activity may not necessarily correspond to financial improvement, and this should be drawn out in the narrative of the financial and performance reports.

6. Climate Change Appraisal

- 6.1. The performance report includes KPI's for Healthy Environment with measures for monitoring Shropshire Council's direction of progress on climate change.
- 6.2. The following key performance indicators related to climate change are included:
 - HEn8 Net carbon emissions – tonners of co2 per person
 - HEn9a Increasing the generation of renewable energy by Shropshire Council (Solar)

- 6.3. The Q2 report to be available in November will include the additional key performance indicators:
- HEn9b Increasing the generation of renewable energy by Shropshire Council (Wind)
 - HEn9c Increasing the generation of renewable energy by Shropshire Council (Hydro)
 - HEn9d Increasing the generation of renewable energy by Shropshire Council (Bioenergy)
 - HEn10 Improve energy efficiency of Council buildings – average Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating
 - HEn11 % of street lights converted to LED
 - HEn12 % of local biodiversity sites where management has been implemented.
 - HE14 number of electric vehicle charging points installed.

6.4. This will support a positive outcome.

7. Background

- 7.1. Quarter 1 – as at 14th August 2023 a total of 36 Key Performance Indicators have been added to the Shropshire Plan report. Additional information will be added in the period between writing of this report and its presentation to members.
- 7.2. Information on each of these indicators can be found via the performance webpage at - [Performance | Shropshire Council](#)
- 7.3. The online performance report is now the main source of performance information. This report highlights any exceptions or downturns and explains the causal issues and any corrective actions the service is taking.
- 7.4. In Q1 there are 4 exceptions that have been raised and these are reported in the additional information section below.

8. Additional Information

- 8.1. % of pupils receiving first choice of schools – secondary

Whilst this indicator remains better than target there has been a reduction in the first-choice rate and is therefore reported as an exception.

The percentage of children receiving allocation their first-choice secondary school for 2023 is 89.7%. This is a reduction on the 2022 rate of 93.7%. The decrease is due to an increased number of applications for the year. The increase in numbers was seen throughout the country. Application numbers for 2024 are expected to normalise, which should see an improved rate next year. Performance is better than the England average.

8.2. Admission of adults to residential and nursing homes for the age group 18 – 64.

Quarter 1 has seen an increase of admissions against profile. The overall number of admissions profiled for the year is small and only a few additional admissions can greatly affect performance against the target. During quarter one, 6 admissions were made, 2 more than profiled. Admissions were all for older adults all aged 50+. 5 admissions were to nursing homes, an indication of complex needs.

8.3. Complaints upheld by the Ombudsman.

During 2022/23 the ombudsman changed its investigation approach which impacted on calculations for the percentage of cases upheld. They are now more selective about the complaints they investigate in detail, prioritising cases where it is in the public interest to investigate. This has resulted in an increase in the upheld rates.

During 2022/23, 61 decisions were made. Of these, 20 detailed investigations were held and 80% of these were upheld. Comparative authorities have an upheld rate of 72%. A full complaints report is due to be presented to Cabinet on 6 September 2023.

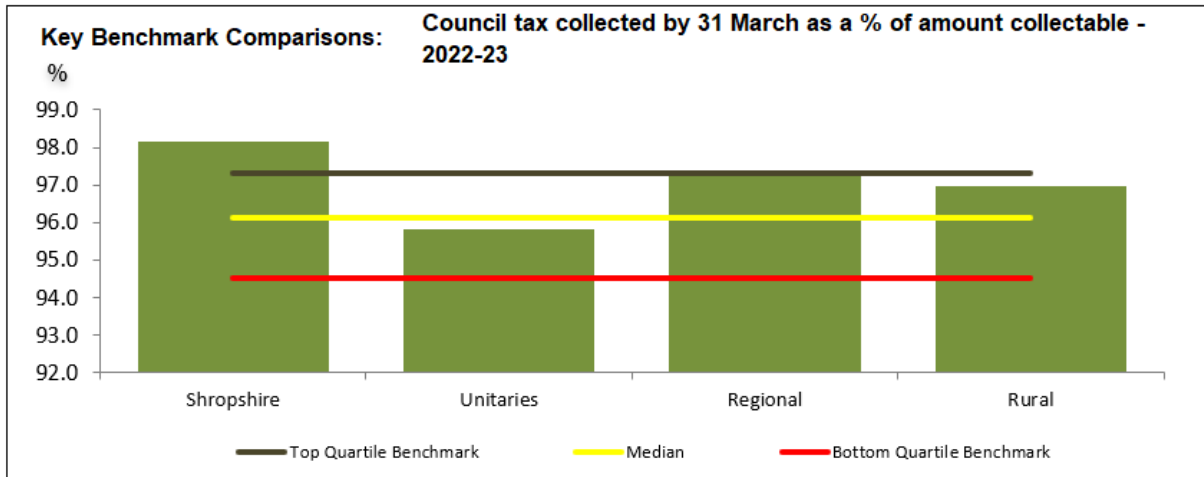
8.4. Budget

- a. The current budget outturn is reported elsewhere on the agenda and a summary is provided here. Revenue spending reductions of £34.3m against the target of £51.4m by year end
- b. Remaining revenue spending reductions to be achieved of £17.1m
- c. Spending pressures in demand-led services of £20.5m

Taking (a), (b), and (c) together results in a 'BAU (Business as Usual)' forecast of £37.6m outside of available budget. Including operational plans being prepared for items (b) and (c) creates a revised calculation of an 'operating' forecast of £5.2m over budget.

9. Conclusions

- 9.1. The development of the new reporting sees a substantive step change in the reporting of performance with more emphasis on target delivery and comparator information.
- 9.2. Positive performance has been achieved with the high rate of first choice of primary school. Council tax collection rates are within the top quartile of all authorities and perform better than those for all comparator groups.



9.3. Exception reporting in section 8 highlights the current challenges with budgetary concerns being the highest priority area.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

Local Member: All

Appendices -

Online performance report available via [Performance | Shropshire Council](#)

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Transformation and Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2023/24

Topic	Shropshire Council Priority(ies) and Strategic Objective(s)	Objectives for the topic (what it will involve)	Expected Impact/added value (what will it achieve)	How will the expected impact/added value be identified/measured?	Committee meeting date(s)	Information/evidence required	Witnesses (in person/written)
Capital Strategy	Healthy Organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To understand the capital requirements to support the delivery of the Shropshire Plan To identify how the Council ensures that the best return on investment (RoI) To confirm how the Council ensures benefits to local businesses as part of the supply chain To confirm the types of success measures that should be used to demonstrate delivery and impact of the Capital Strategy To make evidence-based recommendations to inform the Capital Strategy 2024/25 onwards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to the Councils Capital Strategy Ensure that there are clear and robust links between the Capital Strategy and the delivery of the Shropshire Plan Priorities Identification of the types of success measures Members expect to see for the effective delivery of the Capital Strategy 	<p>Recommendations for the capital programme accepted</p> <p>Capital programme delivery evidence's the delivery of the Shropshire Plan priorities</p>	<p>Report to T&I OSC 29 Nov 2023</p> <p>Report to Cabinet Dec 2023 with the MTFS/ Budget 2024/25 report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shropshire Council Procurement Strategy Shropshire Plan Delivery Plans and Service Improvement Plans Pipeline of Capital Projects Verbal updates and explanations on plans, projects, programmes and related capital requirements 	<p>Executive Directors Assistant Directors Heads of Service Portfolio Holders</p> <p>For partnership/system projects: Partners? Stakeholders?</p>
Transformation Programme	Healthy Organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To establish a standing task and finish group to shadow the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the transformation of the Council is focused on 	Evidence of supporting the focus on and the delivery of	tbc	Transformation Programme	Assistant Director Transformation and Effectiveness

		<p>development and delivery of the Transformation Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To research and confirm the requirements at OSCs/Members should see/be looking for in effective transformation work • To highlight specific issues or topics related to the Transformation Programme that OSCs might want to investigate • To carryout specified investigations into the overall delivery of the transformation programme and topics related to the health and effectiveness of the Council 	<p>the delivery of the Shropshire Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the transformation is set up to realise the best outcomes for Shropshire communities and people whilst achieving best value • Identifying opportunities to streamline or make how outcomes are delivered in the Shropshire Council area more efficient • Ensure, through holding to account of decision makers that the Transformation Programme will deliver the outcomes, service performance and the financial benefits required • Proactive identification of issues/topics from the transformation programme that other OSCs might want to look into. • Ensure that there are clear expectations/ criteria that Members and OSCs should look 	<p>transformation projects on budget and to timescale</p> <p>Focus on the achievement of outcomes evidenced by relevant metrics and achievement of targets/DoT (including as part of the 1/4ly performance monitoring)</p> <p>Shropshire Plan KPIs Achievement of the financial benefits of transformation i.e. required/expected savings achieved (including as part of the 1/4ly financial monitoring)</p> <p>Customer feedback and services user stories related to transformation</p> <p>Member observations and feedback from their communities</p>		<p>Delivery Plans for Transformation Programme Projects</p> <p>Transformation programme project highlight reports (or equivalent)</p> <p>Performance and financial dashboards and reports</p>	<p>Chief Executive</p> <p>Executive Directors</p> <p>Portfolio Holders</p> <p>Partners?</p> <p>Providers?</p>
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			for in the delivery of the transformation programme and the constituent projects				
Costs and Benefits of system working	Healthy Organisation	<p>To take an Initial focus on costs and system working with the NHS (inc. Section 117 and CHC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To understand the different points in the system that council service become involved, what do they do at these points and why? ▪ To identify what are the cost/resource implications are for the council/partners? Is this equitable – including proportionally in terms of total budget, benefits realised, remits and responsibilities etc ▪ To understand the spheres of influence of the system partners? ▪ To establish whether the work done and cost borne by a system partner e.g. the council, reflects failure demand elsewhere in the system, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A clearer and evidenced view of the financial impact of system working on the Council • Quantifying the amount of additional cost/ expenditure that the Council has had to make over recent years to deliver avoidable actions as a result of other system partners not being able to/not delivering or commissioning services • Identifying a tool or mechanism that should be used to identify the impacts (costs and benefits) of system working in the council performance and financial monitoring (dashboards and reports) • Identifying specific points or issues that 	<p>Confirmation of a clear view of how the system operates v. how it should be operating</p> <p>Trend views of avoidable or expected to be avoidable costs and expenditure on services/actions that that Council has had to take to make-up for services/action not being taken by system partners</p> <p>Regular availability of evidence of the costs and benefits of system working to the Council</p>	tbc	<p>Illustrations of the main systems and processes that Council services are involved with, including the touch points with the NHS (where these should be, and where they are)</p> <p>The associated outcomes delivered through system working</p> <p>Gap analysis and the evidence of the costs associated with delivering the services and functions that the council should be providing and those for the</p>	<p>Chief Executive</p> <p>Executive Directors</p> <p>AD Finance and Technology</p> <p>AD Adult Social Care</p> <p>AD Joint Commissioning</p> <p>AD Children’s Social Care and Safeguarding</p> <p>Portfolio Holders</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To establish whether this is as a result of actions by other system partners not being taken at the right time (including the delivery/ commissioning of services)? ▪ To identify evidence that funding/resources released in system partners is being invested in improved outcomes for Shropshire people? • To make evidence-based recommendations to the council, and possible work programme topics for People OSC and the HOSC on relevant outcomes. 	<p>need to be addressed with system partners to ensure that the Council is enabled to maximise the impact of its' expenditure on the functions it is responsible for and the delivery of the priorities</p>			<p>services and functions that the council does end up having to provide.</p>	
<p>Quarterly reporting</p> <p>Where issues are known or suspected by Members of the Committee, these should be identified as soon as possible so that the Senior Officers and Portfolio Holders can be</p>	<p>Healthy Organisation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To explore service and financial performance focusing on variations from plan/target to understand: • What the Financial and performance data together highlight • The causes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Whether they were expected and why ▪ Whether they are accepted and why 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold decision makers to account • Maintain a strong focus on the delivery of the Shropshire Plan priorities and their delivery through the transformation programme • Providing a view of costs and performance together 		<p>September 2023</p> <p>29 November 2023</p> <p>10 January 2024</p> <p>10 April 2024</p>	<p>1/4ly reports</p> <p>Performance and Financial Dashboards</p> <p>Any relevant performance and financial action plans/delivery plans</p>	<p>Chief executive</p> <p>Executive Directors</p> <p>Assistant Directors</p> <p>Portfolio Holders</p>

<p>informed to confirm that their attendance at the committee is required</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Whether they will be tackled and how ▪ What actions will be taken by when ▪ What difference this should make and by when • To hold senior officers and portfolio holders to account • To identify topics and specific issues that could benefit from for possible investigation by an OSC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing a spotlight on bringing performance back to plan, understanding the reasons it is off plan, and when, how and whether it will be back on plan 				
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