

Finance & Resources Select Committee Agenda

Date: Thursday 1 December 2022

Time: 2.00 pm

Venue: The Oculus, Buckinghamshire Council, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury HP19 8FF

Membership:

R Bagge (Chairman), D Goss (Vice-Chairman), D Anthony, M Ayub, D Barnes, M Bracken, S Chhokar, T Dixon, G Harris, I Macpherson, R Newcombe, W Raja, M Walsh, S Wilson and K Wood

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Agenda Item Time Page No

- 1 Apologies for absence / Changes in membership
- 2 Declarations of Interest

3 Minutes 7 - 12

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2022 to be confirmed as a correct record.

4 Public Questions

Public Questions is an opportunity for people who live, work or study in Buckinghamshire to put a question to a Select Committee.

The Committee will hear from members of the public who have submitted questions in advance relating to items on the agenda. The Cabinet Member, relevant key partners and responsible officers will be invited to respond.

Further information on how to register can be found here: https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/your-council/get-involved-with-council-decisions/select-committees/

5 Chairman's update

6 Budget Performance Monitoring Q2

The Quarter 2 Budget Monitoring Report as presented to Cabinet at its meeting on Tuesday 15 November is attached for the Committee to consider.

14:15

14:30

14:45

13 - 48

49 - 144

145 - 168

Contributors:

Councillor John Chilver, Cabinet Member for Accessible Housing and Resources

Dave Skinner, Service Director for Finance (Section 151)

Dave Skinner, Service Director for Finance (Section 151 Officer)

7 Q2 Performance Report 2022-23

The Q2 Performance Report 2022-23 as presented to Cabinet at its meeting on Tuesday 15 November is attached for the Committee to consider.

Contributors:

Councillor John Chilver, Cabinet Member for Accessible Housing and Resources

Holly Pedrick, Head of Insight and Business Improvement

8 Customer First and Customer Service Centre Performance Update

The Committee will receive a report on the Customer First Programme which will include an update on the Customer Service Centre.

Contributors:

Councillor John Chilver, Cabinet Member for Accessible Housing & Resources

Councillor Tim Butcher, Deputy Cabinet Member for Resources

Sarah Murphy-Brookman, Corporate Director for Resources

Lloyd Jefferies, Service Director for Resources – Business Operations

Paper:

Customer First and CSC Performance Update and Quarterly Dashboard

9 Treasury Management Investments & Loans to Other 15:15 Local Authorities

The Committee will consider two reports that were presented at Audit and Governance Committee on 23 November 2022.

Contributors:

Councillor John Chilver, Cabinet Member for Accessible Housing & Resources

Dave Skinner, Service Director for Finance (Section 151 Officer)

Mark Preston, Assistant Director of Finance (Pensions, Procurement and Revenues & Benefits)

Papers:

Treasury Management Mid-Year Update
Treasury Management Loans to Other Local Authorities

10 Budget Scrutiny Inquiry Group Scoping Paper

The Committee will discuss the budget scrutiny inquiry group proposals.

Papers:

Budget Scrutiny Inquiry Group Scoping Paper and Timetable

Work Programme

The Committee will consider the upcoming work programme.

Contributors:

All Committee Members

Papers:

Work Programme

15:45 187 - 196

15:55

197 - 198

169 - 186

12 Date and time of the next meeting

Budget Scrutiny will take place on 9, 10 and 12 January 2023.

The next Select Committee meeting will take place on 23 February 2023.

13 Exclusion of the Public

To resolve that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that discussion will involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.

Paragraph 3 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority that holds that information).

14 External Property Companies Update

To consider the financial papers on Consilio and Buckinghamshire Advantage (BA) that were presented to the Buckinghamshire Shareholder Committee on 12 October 2022.

Contributors:

Councillor John Chilver, Cabinet Member for Accessible Housing & Resources John Reed, Service Director for Property and Assets Mark Preston, Assistant Director of Finance (Pensions, Procurement and Revenues & Benefits)

Papers:

Consilio

Draft accounts 2021/22 Profit and loss – August 2022 Balance sheet – August 2022 Actual vs Budget August 2022

BA

Draft accounts 2021/22

16:00 199 - 238

If you would like to attend a meeting, but need extra help to do so, for example because of a disability, please contact us as early as possible, so that we can try to put the right support in place.

For further information please contact: Chris Ward on 01296 585807, email democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.





Agenda Item 3 Buckinghamshire Council Finance & Resources Select Committee

Minutes

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE & RESOURCES SELECT COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2022 IN THE PARALYMPIC ROOM, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL, GATEHOUSE ROAD, HP19 8FF, COMMENCING AT 2.00 PM AND CONCLUDING AT 3.57 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT

R Bagge, D Anthony, M Ayub, D Barnes, M Bracken, G Harris, T Hunter-Watts, N Hussain, R Newcombe, M Walsh, S Wilson and K Wood

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

J Chilver, M Tett, C Jones, S Keyes, S Murphy-Brookman, D Skinner and C Ward

Agenda Item

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE / CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP

Apologies were received from Councillors T Butcher, S Chhokar, T Dixon, D Goss, I Macpherson and W Raja, and I Thompson. Councillors T Hunter-Watts and N Hussain were present as substitutes for Councillors T Dixon and W Raja.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor K Wood declared a personal interest in item 7 as an historic Cabinet Member that had implemented the single revenue and benefits system.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 July 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

4 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

5 SIX MONTH BUDGET SCRUTINY UPDATE

The Select Committee received a six-month update report to the Budget Scrutiny Inquiry Group recommendations that had been recommended to the Executive in January 2022. The table appended to the report gave an update against each recommendation, together with the timetable for actions to be completed.

The Chairman welcomed Councillor M Tett, Leader of Buckinghamshire Council, Councillor J Chilver, Cabinet Member for Accessible Housing and Resources, and the officers to the meeting.

The Cabinet Member introduced the report and invited questions from Members. The following points were made during the Committee's discussion:

- A Member noted that 70 actions around policies and strategies were not included in the forward plan. It was explained that whilst not all items were currently on the forward plan, they were documented and would be covered in the forward plan in future.
- It was explained that there had been a restructure of Cabinet portfolio responsibilities in May 2022. The provision of affordable homes was now a cross-portfolio responsibility. Both Cabinet Members responsible worked closely together, with the Cabinet Member for Homelessness leading on housing lists and social housing, whereas the Cabinet Member for Planning was responsible for the number of affordable homes included in the Buckinghamshire Plan.
- In response to a Member's question regarding deadlines for the review of special expenses, the Leader reiterated that the Section 151 Officer would undertake this within the current financial year. It was hoped that Members of the High Wycombe Town Committee would be consulted on the review.
- Assurance was given that the Better Buckinghamshire Programme was on track for delivery and had achieved the promised savings last year. The Leader explained that the issues of property rationalisation and workforce working patterns were intricate and needed to be aligned, and that Members had differing opinions around rationalising property and flexible working. A pilot programme investigating workspace habits was underway at The Gateway, the results of which would be considered in the Programme. The Cabinet Member added that the current consolidation of the four legacy revenue and benefits system would deliver both staff savings and increased efficiency of staff time.
- The Electric Vehicle Action Plan had been to Cabinet so further scrutiny on this would be within the Transport, Environment and Climate Change Select Committee's remit. It was noted that a more up-to-date action would be helpful and that, to avoid confusion on roles, only necessary information be included in future iterations of this report.
- The Leader explained that not all strategies were required to be added to the risk register, but any relevant risks would be identified within each strategy and referred to the Audit & Governance Committee if appropriate.

The Chairman thanked the Leader and Cabinet Member for the report.

6 EMPLOYEE EXPERIENCE AND WORKFORCE AMBITION

The Chairman invited the Cabinet Member for Accessible Housing and Resources, Councillor J Chilver, to introduce the report. The Cabinet Member highlighted the following points in the report:

- The report set out the five-year Buckinghamshire Council People Plan and highlighted the
 achievements made over the first two years since the creation of the Unitary Authority, and
 the Council's priorities for the remaining three-year period. Targets had been met for five
 indicators, but fallen short in seven.
- The report also assessed the positive factors supporting recruitment and retention in staff, such as flexible working arrangements and good working relationships. Areas of concern were staff turnover, limited career progression and opportunities for personal growth, which had been noted and addressed in the new key deliverables over the next three years.
- The team had faced some challenges in light of the pandemic and the national context of job availability. The resilience of staff had been identified as a key component for the Council's People Strategy, and also for delivering high-quality services to residents.
- The Coaching for Performance process and the Buckinghamshire Staff Awards had been identified as crucial for providing recognition and reward to maintain employees. The

Buckinghamshire Manager and Leader Programme had been successful in providing leaders with the skills needed to manage their workforce development and growth. Social work academies, apprenticeship programmes and the Kickstart programme had also been successful.

The following points were noted during the Committee's discussion:

- In the last 12 months, 86 staff had left the Council in their first year of employment: 35 (41%) of were on fixed-term contracts. 15 employees worked in the Communities Directorate and 12 in Children's Services. The Cabinet Member advised that discussions were taking place with Children's Services to understand issues around staff retention in more detail. Further analysis would also be undertaken to understand if there were any patterns in leavers, for example in terms of age groups. Furthermore, the 'Kickstart' programme provided temporary work experiences, with only some of the employees becoming permanent. A Member questioned whether it was reasonable to include fixed-term workers in the 'leavers' statistic, as this may not be a fair reflection on retention and recommended this be reviewed. It was confirmed that the Council used recruitment organisations for temporary contracts, and a 'clawback period' would be invoked if appropriate.
- It was noted that the Council had several mechanisms in place to retain good staff members and manage organisational changes. Coaching for Performance served as a way for staff and managers to establish a dialogue. Particular attention is paid to equip managers with the skills necessary to manage change through a series of workshops. The staff survey also included employee feedback from all staff below the Chief Executive level to ensure satisfaction. A change charter had also been implemented to inform staff of how change would be managed. Furthermore, the staff award ceremony would be taking place in 2022 to recognise staff for their contributions. The 2% pay increase and 1% one-off award had gone some way to retain staff however pay was identified as not being the only factor contributing towards retention; factors such as holiday, sick pay, pension and wellbeing were important for maintaining staff satisfaction.
- In response to a Member's concerns around staff leaving due to workspace rationalisation, it was noted that feedback was regularly sought from employees through the Work Smart Programme. It was also highlighted that full-time staff were expected to work from the office for a minimum of two days a week and this expectation was also outlined to candidates. Staff would use the time in the office primarily for meetings and other collaborative tasks, and productivity remained constant throughout. Issues that had arisen in terms of call response time were not linked to flexible working, but rather the increased demand on services throughout annual cycles (e.g. home to school transport).
- There was a difference in sickness levels between frontline and back-office staff so it would not be suitable to lower the KPI for sickness further. Whilst the overall sickness rate was at 9.7 days per FTE, this decreased to 8.18 when excluding covid related absences. Furthermore, the Resources and Deputy Chief Executives Directorates reported sickness levels well below this point. Sickness rates were benchmarked against other local authorities, with Buckinghamshire Council being in the mid-range. Members requested that this benchmarking be circulated to the Committee

ACTION: S Keyes

Staff were also offered physiotherapy and mental health support to enable a smoother return to work.

 A Member's feedback about providing a clearer sense of the organisations' direction through communicating the Council's values and building the Council's culture through social media channels, such as Facebook and LinkedIn, was welcomed. It was also noted that more information from staff was needed to establish where the Council's sense of direction was clear.

- It was highlighted that the Council's HR and OD activities and strategies were necessary to remain competitive as an employer. Different detailed work plans were in place to ensure that future developments could successfully be implemented and were relatively low cost in terms of resources.
- Agency social work numbers were reviewed by the Corporate Management Team on a
 monthly basis. The costs for these employees were also monitored against what a
 permanent staff member would receive. Although the use of agency workers had not been
 decreased as much as had been hoped for due to increased demand, the cost had reduced
 significantly due to a new rate with the agency being negotiated. There had also been an
 increase of social workers being trained in-house.
- Training for managers was targeted based on organisational needs so courses such as managing discipline and grievance had not been held to date. Whilst such content would still be delivered, a needs assessment had identified that areas such as managing change were a priority for both staff and managers.
- The Council planned to target the older labour market that may be looking to return to work having retired early.

The Chairman thanked the Cabinet Member for the report.

7 COUNCIL TAX AND BUSINESS RATES

The Chairman invited the Cabinet Member for Accessible Housing and Resources, Councillor J Chilver, to introduce the report. In the Cabinet Member's presentation, the following points were highlighted:

- The report outlined that the Council Tax collection rates compared favourably with other local authorities. Business rates had decreased slightly due to Covid but had recovered. Around £650m per year was collected on Council Tax and Business Rates.
- The second project outlined was the consolidation of connecting the revenue and benefits networks across the legacy authorities. The Wycombe and Aylesbury systems had been merged last year, with direct debits increasing over 1.5%. The Chiltern and South Bucks system closed in September 2022. There were some technological challenges in merging live databases and a significant amount of transactions that had to be maintained whilst the systems were updated. The data showed that the variability in business rates collections between the different legacy areas reflected the area demographics. There had been a performance improvement in Wycombe between 2021 and 2022, primarily due to the business rates managers' expertise. The single system project was expected to deliver around £750,000 in savings. The system was also subject to an overall project governance framework, chaired by the Head of Revenues and Benefits. Wider aspects such as customer service, communication and resources were also considered. There was a clear communications plan which encouraged residents facing hardship to contact the Council for support needed to avoid debt; nine emergency payments had been paid to Chiltern & South Bucks residents since August. The team had also examined the challenges faced by Durham and Wiltshire authorities who had undergone a similar project, as well as the lessons learnt from Phase 1, to ensure the best possible outcome for residents.
- The arrears position nationally had dramatically increased over the past few years, as had
 the timeframe to recover from enforcement action. The total cumulative arrears were only a
 small percentage of the £650m collected annually. The Council also applied a rigorous write
 off process in line with finance procedures. Write offs were only authorised in limited
 circumstances, such as insolvency or unenforceability due to location.

The following points were noted during the Committee's discussion:

- The Council did not sell unrecoverable debt as there was a good track record of collection, however this would be kept under review. Collection rates were higher than in the previous year, though the changing economic position could impact this. The overall target for collection rates was expected to be met in this financial year. The team also ensured that due process was followed for issuing reminders and notices, resulting in strong collection rates before proceeding to court. Work was also carried out with the financial insecurities partnership and the Helping Hand scheme to signpost residents towards assistance programmes.
- A Member suggested that the data could be analysed in more depth to better understand the reasons for not receiving payments. Whilst this would be ideal, currently this would not be possible due to the different systems in place but may be considered in the future.
- The lower collection rates in the South Bucks area may be attributed to the historic resource model of an outsourced team with a combined management structure. This had been brought back in-house. The Chiltern area had the highest direct debit take-up, and the Aylesbury and Wycombe areas had experienced a 1.5% increase in direct debit take-up.

The Chairman thanked the Cabinet Member for the report.

8 WORK PROGRAMME

Members were encouraged to suggest items for consideration in work programme and could email these to the Chairman and the scrutiny officer. One suggestion was an item related to inter-authority loans.

9 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting would be Thursday 1 December 2022 at 2pm.





Report to Cabinet

Date: 15 November 2022

Title: Quarter 2 Budget Monitoring Report 2022-23

Relevant councillor(s): John Chilver

Author and/or contact officer: Dave Skinner, Finance Director & S151 Officer

Ward(s) affected: none specific

Recommendations: Cabinet is asked to note the report and the risks and

opportunities contained within it.

Cabinet is requested to approve following reserve

movements:

 A contribution to a corporate earmarked reserve of £15m of income arising from Energy for Waste electricity sales.

- A contribution to a corporate earmarked reserve of £4.4m from income arising from a legal dispute regarding third party waste and metals income, and a corresponding contribution from reserves of £4.4m into corporate budgets.
- A drawdown of £0.15m from the "Mitigating Future Financial Risks" reserve to create an employee hardship fund as approved by the Senior Appointments & Pay Committee (SAPC).

Reason for decision: To understand the financial position of the Council in

respect of 2022-23 Budgets.

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 This report sets out the Revenue and Capital outturn position for Buckinghamshire Council for the financial year 2022/23 as at Quarter 2.
- 1.2 The Council is continuing to experience significant financial pressures due to the current economic situation and the high levels of inflation.
- 1.3 Inflation is currently running at a 40-year high, with CPI measuring 10.1% in September. This is due to oil, gas and food prices which have been affected by the Ukraine conflict, and also energy prices which have increased by around 70% from the budgeted position. Energy prices had been expected to rise yet further, however this has been contained for this financial year following the energy price cap announced by the government in September 2022.
- 1.4 In Adults and Children's social care, pressures continue to be experienced due to increased demand and complexity, and in Children's Services the market has become dysfunctional with a lack of suitable placements driving up unit costs.
- 1.5 A recent report by Grant Thornton highlighted the challenges local authorities are currently facing, explaining that over 60 councils may be required to deplete their reserves or make significant savings in order to balance their budgets. The current political turbulence and lack of clarity on future funding arrangements is contributing to the financial challenges across the local government sector.
- 1.6 Buckinghamshire Council is well placed to contend with these challenges, as the Council has a culture of sustainable financial management, strong processes in place to manage risk and a healthy level of reserves. However, the Quarter 2 position does highlight some ongoing pressures the Council will need to address related to inflation, energy prices and increase in demand for social care.
- 1.7 The Revenue outturn position as of Quarter 2 is a forecast adverse variance of £1.8m, which is a reduction of £2m from the adverse variance of £3.8m reported at Quarter 1.
- 1.8 The key areas of movement in the forecast variance from the Quarter 1 position is as follows:

| Forecast variance Quarter 1 | £3.8m adverse |
|---|------------------|
| Health & Wellbeing – increase of £1.7m adverse. Pressure of £4.8m (£3.1m last quarter) relating to demand pressures and complexity | £1.7m |
| Education and Children's Services – increase of £4.2m adverse. £9.5m adverse variance now forecast (£5.3m at Quarter 1) | £4.2m |

| Climate Change and Environment – favourable movement of £2.2m. Favourable variance of £3.3m at Q2 (£1.1m expected at Q1) due increased income from electricity sales from EfW | (£2.2m) |
|---|------------------|
| Transport – an increase of £0.8m from £1.2m adverse reported at Q1 to £2m in Home to School Transport | £0.8m |
| Accessible Housing and Resources – an increase of £0.6m from £1.5m adverse variance to £2.1m, predominantly £0.6m pressure in Legal & Democratic Services from increased demand linked to Children's and Adult cases. | £0.6m |
| Homelessness & Regulatory Services – an increase of £0.5m from an adverse variance of £0.3m to £0.8m due to increased demand for Temporary Accommodation | £0.5m |
| Corporate and Funding – improvement to the forecast of £7.3m from additional interest income of £2.1m following interest rate rises and reduced interest payable of £0.8m, plus a contribution from earmarked reserves of £4.4m following receipt of non-recurring income to support the Council's overall forecast position | (£7.3m) |
| Other minor movements (Leader and Communities portfolios) | (£0.3m) |
| Forecast variance Quarter 2 | £1.8m adverse |

- 1.9 The main drivers for the adverse variance of £1.8m are;
 - a) An adverse variance on Portfolio spend of £15.7m (£10.4m forecast at Quarter 1) offset by £13.9m (£6.6m forecast at Quarter 1) of corporate mitigations.
 - b) The £15.7m adverse variance in Portfolios includes:
 - i. £4.7m pressure (£3.1m last quarter) in Health and Wellbeing from demand pressures and fee uplifts in Adult Social Care.
 - É9.5m pressure (£5.3m last quarter) in Children's Services, including £3.2m in placement budgets due to the national lack of available placements and increased complexity of need driving up unit costs; in staffing costs due to requirement for agency staff £1.9m linked to complexity of cases and workloads; £2.9m in client costs in Children's social care due to demand pressures; £0.5m adoption and special guardianship allowances and £0.9m care leavers' accommodation and allowances due to increase volumes.
 - iii. £2.1m in Accessible Housing and Resources (£1.5m last quarter), of which £1.1m is attributable to inflation on energy costs in Property &

- Assets due to the exceptional price increases in 2022/23 and £1m of new pressures in Legal and Democratic Services and Insurance.
- iv. £2m adverse variance (£1.2m last quarter) in Transport Services due to increased contract costs and a 3% increase given to Home to School Contracts to mitigate rising fuel prices.
- v. A favourable variance of £3.3m (£1.1m last quarter) in Climate Change & Environment from additional income from the sale of electricity from the council's Energy for Waste (EfW) site.
- c) The £13.9m of corporate mitigations (£6.6m last quarter) include:
 - i. £4.4m contribution from earmarked reserves to support the Council's overall bottom line. This is as a result of £4.4m of income received in the Climate Change and Environment portfolio contributed to reserves, following partial resolution of the legal dispute with the council's EfW contractor.
 - ii. £2.0m new favourable variance relating to Interest on Revenue Balances. This reflects a higher level of cash balances than budgeted, and the recent further increase in Bank of England base rate to 2.25% during September.
 - iii. £0.8m new favourable variance on Interest Payable budgets. This forecast has arisen due to the Council's ability to fund any new borrowing required in year from internal borrowing rather than external PWLB borrowing.
 - iv. A forecast surplus of £0.4m: £0.3m in additional income from unringfenced grant income, where the budget was set prudently but a small amount of additional income is expected, and a surplus of £0.1m on loan interest, following extension of a loan agreement.
 - v. Corporate Contingencies: a £6.2m favourable variance is forecast on contingencies expected to be released. Specific contingencies have been forecast to be released to offset pressures as shown below.
 - vi. Available reserve balances: in addition to the Corporate Contingencies, the "Mitigating Future Financial Risks" reserve which was set up following outturn 2021/22 as a result of unused contingencies and the overall favourable variance, contains £9.9m. £1.5m of this has been utilised to fund the unconsolidated element of the 2022/23 pay award as agreed by SAPC, and £0.15m has been utilised to set up a Staff Hardship Fund, but a balance of £8.25m remains which could be called upon if required.

Figure 1: Corporate Contingencies & Mitigating Future Financial Risks Reserve

| 2022-23 Revenue Contingencies | Budget | Released | Current Budget | Favourable Variance - Mitigating pressures in monitoring | Remaining to cover pressures that may arise in remainder of the year |
|--|---------|----------|-------------------|--|--|
| | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Pay & Pension Contingency | | | | | |
| Pay Inflation | 4,245 | (4,245) | - | - | - |
| Pay - c/fwd (non consolidated) | 710 | 0 | 710 | - | 710 |
| Redundancy (non unitary) | 500 | 0 | 500 | - | 500 |
| Total Budget Risk | 5,455 | (4,245) | 1,210 | - | 1,210 |
| Service Risk Contingency | | | | | |
| Inflationary Pressures (incl. NI) | 2,950 | o | 2,950 | 1,500 | 1,450 |
| National Living Wage | 250 | 0 | 250 | - | 250 |
| Adult Social Care Pressures / Demography | 3,210 | 0 | 3,210 | 3,100 | 110 |
| Adult Social Care Provider Market | 1,700 | 0 | 1,700 | - | 1,700 |
| Home to School Transport | 1,000 | 0 | 1,000 | 200 | 800 |
| Children's Services Demography | 1,410 | 0 | 1,410 | 1,410 | - |
| High Cost Children's Placements | 500 | 0 | 500 | - | 500 |
| General Contingency - Economic Uncertainty | 866 | 0 | 866 | - | 866 |
| Total Service Risk | 11,886 | 0 | 11,886 | 6,210 | 5,676 |
| Total Contingency | 17,341 | (4,245) | 13,096 | 6,210 | 6,886 |
| Total Variation on Contingencies | | | | 6,210 | |
| Available balance from "Mitigating Future Financial Risks" reserve | 9,900 | | | | |
| £1.5m recommended by SAPC to support pay award | (1,500) | | | | |
| £0.15m recommended by SAPC to support staff hardship fund | (150) | | | | 8,250 |
| Total resources earmarked to mitigate further pressures | | | | | 15,136 |

1.10 The Appendix provides further detail for each Portfolio and information about performance relating to overdue debts and late payments of commercial debt.

2. Revenue

- 2.1 The forecast revenue budget outturn is summarised in Figure 2. The key Portfolio variances are explained in Appendix 1.
- Overall an adverse variance of £1.8m is forecast (0.4% of the net budget) after allowing for £13.9m of corporate mitigations.

Figure 2: Revenue Budgets

| | Budget | Y/E Outturn | Variance | Change in |
|--|---------------------|--------------------|----------|-----------------------|
| | | | | Variance |
| | £000 | £000 | £000 | (from Q1 Cab) £000 |
| Revenue | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | £000 _. |
| Expenditure | 8,700 | 8,500 | (200) | |
| Income | (900) | (900) | (200) | |
| Leader | 7,800 | 7,600 | (200) | (200) ↓ |
| Expenditure | 186,200 | 187,700 | 1,500 | (200) |
| Income | • | (130,400) | 600 | |
| Accessible Housing & Resources | (131,000) 55,200 | 57,300 | 2,100 | 600 1 |
| Expenditure | | | | 000 |
| · | 55,800 | 60,900 | 5,100 | |
| Income | (26,800) | (35,200) 25,700 | (8,400) | (2,200) ↓ |
| Climate Change & Environment | 29,000 | | (3,300) | (2,200) ₩ |
| Expenditure | 12,100 | 11,800 | (300) | |
| Income | (4,500) | (4,300) | 200 | (100) |
| Communities | 7,600 | 7,500 | (100) | (100) ↓ |
| Expenditure | 8,900 | 8,800 | (100) | |
| Income | (3,900) | (3,700) | 200 | |
| Culture & Leisure | 5,000 | 5,100 | 100 | 0 |
| Expenditure | 425,000 | 435,300 | 10,300 | |
| Income | (334,900) | (335,700) | (800) | |
| Education & Childrens Services | 90,100 | 99,600 | 9,500 | 4,200 ↑ |
| Expenditure | 245,300 | 252,500 | 7,200 | |
| Income | (80,500) | (82,900) | (2,400) | |
| Health & Wellbeing | 164,800 | 169,600 | 4,800 | 1,700 1 |
| Expenditure | 21,700 | 22,200 | 500 | |
| Income | (14,600) | (14,300) | 300 | |
| Housing & Homelessness & Regulatory Serv | 7,100 | 7,900 | 800 | 500 ↑ |
| Expenditure | 17,400 | 18,100 | 700 | |
| Income | (10,900) | (11,600) | (700) | |
| Planning & Regeneration | 6,500 | 6,500 | 0 | 0 |
| Expenditure | 71,900 | 73,700 | 1,800 | |
| Income | (16,400) | (16,200) | 200 | |
| Transport | 55,500 | 57,500 | 2,000 | 800 ↑ |
| Portfolios | 428,600 | 444,300 | 15,700 | 5,300 ↑ |
| Expenditure | 37,900 | 26,300 | (11,600) | |
| Income | (5,000) | (7,000) | (2,000) | |
| Corporate | 32,900 | 19,300 | (13,600) | (7,300) ↓ |
| Expenditure | 0 | 0 | 0 | - |
| Income | (461,500) | (461,800) | (300) | |
| Funding | (461,500) | (461,800) | (300) | 0 |
| Corporate & Funding | (428,600) | (442,500) | (13,900) | (7,300) ↓ |
| Revenue Total | 0 | 1,800 | 1,800 | (2,000) ↓ |

The adverse variance of £1.8m (0.4%) comprises:

a) £15.7m (3.7%) adverse variance on Portfolio budgets;

- £6.2m favourable variation on Corporate Contingencies: specific contingency budgets are forecast to be utilised to meet pressures in Portfolios;
- c) £7.7m favourable variation on Corporate Budgets, from £4.4m transfer from reserves, interest income and reduced interest payable forecasts.
- 2.3 **Appendix 1** provides further detail on the revenue forecast outturn by Portfolio.

3. Achievement of Savings

3.1 £19.2m of savings were incorporated into the approved 2022-23 Revenue budgets. The table below shows performance against those targets.

Figure 3 Savings Targets by Portfolio

| Portfolio | Target £k | Forecast £k | Shortfall £k |
|---|-----------|-------------|--------------|
| Leader | 595 | 595 | 0 |
| Accessible Housing and Resources Portfolio | 2,520 | 2,520 | 0 |
| Climate Change & Environment | 2,916 | 2,876 | 40 |
| Communities | 1,900 | 1,900 | 0 |
| Culture & Leisure | 1,634 | 1,634 | 0 |
| Education & Children's Services | 713 | 463 | 250 |
| Health & Wellbeing | 3,258 | 3,338 | -80 |
| Housing & Homelessness & Regulatory Service | 395 | 245 | 150 |
| Transport | 5,259 | 5,259 | 0 |
| Total | 19,190 | 18,830 | 360 |

- a) Achievement of the £19.2m savings targets is summarised in the above table. Overall there is a shortfall of £0.36m as follows:
 - i. Health & Wellbeing a net favourable forecast variance of £80k. The review and relocation of clients from expensive out-of-county placements and review of double handed homecare are both forecast to deliver more savings than budgeted for. There is a forecast shortfall for transitions and strength based approach to new and existing care packages.
 - ii. Children's Services an adverse variance of £250k. Agency staff budgets are currently projected to overspend, therefore the initial forecast is that the related saving will not be achieved.
 - iii. Housing and Homelessness an adverse variance of £150k is forecast. Additional income is at risk due to delayed opening of Bridge Court Temporary Accommodation scheme and possible use for Ukraine response.

4. Capital

- 4.1 Work is ongoing to understand the impact of inflation and how this will affect the capital programme. The current exceptional rates of inflation may have a significant impact on what can be delivered within the approved budget for the year.
- 4.2 A moratorium has been put in place on uncommitted capital schemes (excluding rolling maintenance programmes) whilst an urgent review of the impact of inflation is carried out, and the existing capital programme is re-prioritised.
- 4.3 The member and officer Task and Finish group has looked at uncommitted schemes to identify opportunities to reprofile, postpone or potentially cancel schemes to remain within the available approved capital resources. They have identified
 - a) £5.7m that can be recommended for removal from the current year capital programme.
 - b) a further £8.1m continues to be further reviewed.
- 4.4 These will be reviewed alongside proposals for the development of the 2022-23 to 2025-26 MTFP Capital Programme.

Figure 4: Capital Budgets

| Directorate | Actuals to Date £000 | Released Budget £000's | Unreleased Budget £000's | Total Budget £000's | Forecast Outturn Released £000's | Forecast Unreleased £000's | Forecast Outturn £000's | Forecast Variance £000's |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|---|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Children's Services | 13,118 | 3 7 ,206 | 1,807 | 39,014 | 32,002 | 1,400 | 33,402 | -5,612 |
| Climate Change & Environment | 2,480 | 3,848 | 8,737 | 12,585 | 11,918 | 1,493 | 13,410 | 825 |
| Communities | 0 | 268 | 0 | 268 | 50 | 0 | 50 | -218 |
| Culture & Leisure | 1,867 | 5,254 | 3,808 | 9,062 | 5,507 | 200 | 5,707 | -3,355 |
| Finance, Resources, Property & Assets | 1,032 | 6,710 | 591 | 7,301 | 4,727 | 242 | 4,969 | -2,332 |
| Health & Wellbeing | 0 | 436 | 0 | 436 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Housing, Homelessness & Regulatory | 2,183 | 12,761 | -2,392 | 10,369 | 12,761 | -2,392 | 10,369 | 0 |
| Leader | 4,952 | 3,051 | 23,928 | 26,9 7 9 | 4,609 | 23,311 | 27,920 | 941 |
| Planning and Regeneration | 1,324 | 12,423 | 4,790 | 17,212 | 12,751 | 2,157 | 14,907 | -2,305 |
| Transport | 19,688 | 38,421 | 1,969 | 40,391 | 39,901 | 0 | 39,901 | -490 |
| Grand Total | 46,644 | 120,379 | 43,239 | 163,618 | 124,225 | 26,411 | 150,635 | -12,982 |

- 4.5 At month 6, the overall forecast capital outturn is £13.0m (7.9%) less than the capital cash limit for the year. The overall variance includes:
 - a) Slippage: School Places (£3.4m), SEND projects (£1.5m), Culture, Sport and Leisure projects (£3.3m), Property & Assets (£1.5m), Planning and Regeneration (£2.3m), Transport (£0.6m), Flood Defence (£0.6m) and Respite Care (£0.4m).
 - b) Overspends: A £1.4m overspend on the Biowaste scheme is due to an increase in steel and fuel costs and the disposal of contaminated soil. This overspend could be met from in year revenue and reserves (subject to approval). £0.35m Bridge Court safety netting funded from s106.

- c) Accelerated spend: in Leader's Portfolio schemes of £1.3m including: £0.7m Eastern Link Road & £0.3m Princes Risborough Relief Road (both of which will require formal release of additional budget to commit the expenditure); in Transport Portfolio £0.2m Globe Park Marlow (externally funded).
- d) Underspending: on Old Wycombe Library £0.2m. An underspending on Buckinghamshire Network project £0.28m planned to be transferred to fund revenue reserve for software licences.
- 4.6 Further details for each portfolio may be found in **Appendix 1.**

5. Other options considered

5.1 None arising directly from this report.

6. Legal and financial implications

- 6.1 This is a Finance report and all the financial implications are included in the report.
- 6.2 There are no legal implications arising from the report.

7. Corporate implications

7.1 Actions resulting from consideration of this report may influence future expenditure in areas of concern / interest.

8. Local councillors & community boards consultation & views

8.1 Not applicable.

9. Communication, engagement & further consultation

9.1 Not applicable.

10. Next steps and review

10.1 An updated position as of the end of Quarter 2 will be brought to Cabinet in November.

11. Background papers

11.1 Appendix 1 – Portfolio level summaries.

12. Your questions and views (for key decisions)

12.1 If you have any questions about the matters contained in this report please get in touch with the author of this report. If you have any views that you would like the cabinet member to consider please inform the democratic services team. This can be done by telephone [01296 382343] or email [democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk].

BUDGET MONITORING @ End September 2022

APPENDIX 1 Portfolio Summary

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Please note that the rounding of numbers gives rise to minor differences in the totals for each Portfolio between the covering report and this appendix.

1. Leader

Figure 1: Leader Revenue Table

| | Budget | Y/E Outturn | Variance | Change in Variance (from Q1 Cab) |
|--------------------------------|--------|-------------|----------|--|
| | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| Expenditure | 500 | 500 | 0 | |
| Income | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Chief Executives Office | 500 | 500 | 0 | 0 |
| Expenditure | 3,580 | 3,590 | 10 | |
| Income | (370) | (380) | (10) | |
| Economic Growth & Regeneration | 3,210 | 3,210 | 0 | 0 |
| Expenditure | 4,350 | 4,210 | (140) | |
| Income | (550) | (500) | 50 | |
| Policy & Communications | 3,800 | 3,710 | (90) | (90) ↓ |
| Expenditure | 240 | 190 | (50) | |
| Income | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Strategic Infrastructure | 240 | 190 | (50) | (50) ↓ |
| Leader | 7,750 | 7,610 | (140) | (140) ↓ |

Figure 2: Leader Capital Table

| Service / Project | Actuals to Date £000 | Released Budget £000's | Unreleased Budget £000's | Total Budget £000's | Forecast Outturn Released £000's | Forecast Unreleased £000's | Forecast Outturn £000's | Forecast Variance £000's |
|---|----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|---|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Rural Broadband | 112 | 1,323 | 0 | 1,323 | 1,323 | 0 | 1,323 | 0 |
| Economic Growth Total | 112 | 1,323 | 0 | 1,323 | 1,323 | 0 | 1,323 | 0 |
| | 25 | 207 | | 207 | 207 | • | 207 | • |
| A355 Improvement Scheme (Wilton Park) | 36 | 397 | | 397 | 397 | 0 | 397 | 0 |
| Aylesbury Eastern Link Road | 477 | 274 | 0 | 274 | 1,000 | 0 | 1,000 | 726 |
| Creditor Reserve Payments | 0 | 194 | 0 | 194 | 194 | 0 | 194 | 0 |
| Grid Reinforcement Works | 21 | 0 | 9,976 | 9,976 | 0 | 9,976 | 9,976 | 0 |
| Cycle Infrastructure | 5 | 840 | 236 | 1,076 | 800 | 236 | 1,036 | -40 |
| Marginal Viability Works | 0 | 0 | 181 | 181 | 0 | 181 | 181 | 0 |
| Abbey Barn - HIF / S106 | 121 | 50 | 0 | 50 | 50 | 0 | 50 | 0 |
| Stoke Mandeville Relief Road / SEALR II | 158 | -27 | 0 | -27 | -27 | 0 | -27 | 0 |
| Princes Risborough Relief Road | 528 | 0 | 617 | 617 | 872 | 0 | 872 | 255 |
| SEALR (South East Aylesbury Link Road) | 3,493 | 0 | 12,918 | 12,918 | 0 | 12,918 | 12,918 | 0 |
| Strategic Infrastructure (HIF) Total | 4,839 | 1,728 | 23,928 | 25,656 | 3,286 | 23,311 | 26,597 | 941 |
| Grand Total | 4,952 | 3,051 | 23,928 | 26,979 | 4,609 | 23,311 | 27,920 | 941 |

1.1 **Leader Revenue Budget** £7.7m, Forecast £7.6m, Var £0.1m

- a) Leader Revenue is reporting £0.1m underspend.
- b) Policy & Communications £0.09m underspend, primarily related to staffing underspends due to vacancies.
- 1.2 **Leader Capital Budget** £27.0m, Forecast £27.9m Var £0.9m
- 1.3 There is £0.9m of accelerated spend reported: £0.7m on Eastern Link Road, as a budget reprofile is due in Qtr 3; £0.3m on Princes Risborough HIF from expected early works and a prospective land acquisition aiming to be delivered before the end

- of the year; offset by a minimal £0.04m of slippage across HIF funded cycleway projects.
- 1.4 The budgets for SEALR and the Grid Reinforcement are due to be reprofiled in Qtr 3 to reflect the current programme of works on both projects.

2. Accessible Housing and Resources Portfolio

Figure 3: Accessible Housing and Resources Portfolio Revenue Table

| | Budget | Y/E Outturn | Variance | Change in Variance (from Q1 Cab) |
|---|----------|-------------|----------|--|
| | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| Expenditure | 11,850 | 11,900 | 50 | |
| Income | (380) | (430) | (50) | |
| Business Operations | 11,470 | 11,470 | 0 | 0 |
| Expenditure | 640 | 650 | 10 | |
| Digital | 640 | 650 | 10 | 10 1 |
| Expenditure | 98,730 | 98,960 | 230 | |
| Income | (89,550) | (89,480) | 70 | |
| Finance & Revenues | 9,180 | 9,480 | 300 | 50 ↑ |
| Expenditure | 5,470 | 5,470 | 0 | |
| Income | (700) | (700) | 0 | |
| Human Resources & Organisational Develo | 4,770 | 4,770 | 0 | 0 |
| Expenditure | 13,880 | 13,900 | 20 | |
| Income | (100) | (120) | (20) | |
| ICT | 13,780 | 13,780 | 0 | 0 |
| Expenditure | 16,190 | 17,120 | 930 | |
| Income | (1,500) | (1,310) | 190 | |
| Legal & Democratic Services | 14,690 | 15,810 | 1,120 | 1,120 1 |
| Expenditure | 21,190 | 21,780 | 590 | |
| Income | (24,390) | (23,900) | 490 | |
| Property & Assets | (3,200) | (2,120) | 1,080 | (400) ↓ |
| Expenditure | 370 | 110 | (260) | |
| Income | 40 | 0 | (40) | |
| Resources Director and Bus Mngmnt | 410 | 110 | (300) | (40) ↓ |
| Expenditure | 17,920 | 17,800 | (120) | |
| Income | (14,410) | (14,430) | (20) | |
| Service Improvement | 3,510 | 3,370 | (140) | (140) ↓ |
| Accessible Housing & Resources | 55,250 | 57,320 | 2,070 | 600 ↑ |

Figure 4: Accessible Housing and Resources Portfolio Capital Table

| Service / Project | Actuals to Date £000 | Released Budget £000's | Unreleased Budget £000's | Total Budget £000's | Forecast Outturn Released £000's | Forecast Unreleased £000's | Forecast Outturn £000's | Forecast Variance £000's |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|---|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Delivery of Technology Strategy | 296 | 819 | 66 | 884 | 528 | 17 | 545 | -340 |
| Social Care Systems | 0 | 200 | 0 | 200 | 145 | 0 | 145 | -55 |
| Buckinghamshire Network | 415 | 2,026 | 0 | 2,026 | 1,749 | 0 | 1,749 | -276 |
| Device Refresh & Windows 10 | 147 | 57 | 0 | 57 | 174 | 0 | 174 | 117 |
| ICT Total | 858 | 3,101 | 66 | 3,167 | 2,596 | 17 | 2,613 | -554 |
| Agricultural Estate | 79 | 500 | 0 | 500 | 420 | 0 | 420 | -80 |
| Conversion Old Wycombe Library | 55 | 308 | 0 | 308 | 100 | 0 | 100 | -208 |
| Corporate Investment Portfolio | 63 | 1,399 | 500 | 1,899 | 310 | 200 | 510 | -1,389 |
| Enhancement of Strategic Assets | 3 | 200 | 0 | 200 | 100 | 0 | 100 | -100 |
| Property Management Programme | -34 | 1,201 | 0 | 1,201 | 1,201 | 0 | 1,201 | 0 |
| Rowley Farm | 8 | 0 | 25 | 25 | 0 | 25 | 25 | 0 |
| Property & Assets Total | 173 | 3,609 | 525 | 4,134 | 2,131 | 225 | 2,356 | -1,778 |
| Grand Total | 1,032 | 6,710 | 591 | 7,301 | 4,727 | 242 | 4,969 | -2,332 |

Note: negative actuals relate to accruals and retentions – where the value of work done / completed has been charged to last year, but invoices not yet paid.

2.1 Accessible Housing and Resources Revenue: Budget £55.2m, Forecast £57.3m, Var +£2.1m

The main variances are as follows:

- a) £0.3m adverse variance in Finance, being income shortfall on Council Tax/Business Rates Court costs recovered, pressure arising from optimistic legacy income budget plus reduction in caseloads processed during Phase 2 of the single Revenues & Benefits system implementation. Expected income of £0.25m for the last 6 months of the year has been identified as a risk. Movement adverse £0.05m.
- b) £1.12m adverse variance in Legal & Democratic Services. Legal Services £0.9m adverse variance mainly being: £0.9m increase in Disbursements commissioned across client directorates; £0.28m increase spend on agency and high-cost interims to fill vacant posts and £0.16m income shortfall in Land charges income due to the slowdown in the housing market. This is netted off by a £0.37m drawdown from legal reserves. Business Assurance £0.45m adverse variance due to increased insurance premiums and outsourced audit and fraud activity to cover vacant posts. Democratic Services £0.23m favourable variance due to staff vacancies and reduction in Member costs and allowances. Movement adverse £1.12m.
- £1.1m adverse variance in Property & Assets from projected increases in Energy Prices due to inflation. Movement £0.4m favourable following the Government's price cap announcement.
- £0.3m favourable variance within Resources Directorate & Business Management, being accelerated Better Buckinghamshire /Contract harmonisation savings, currently used to offset income shortfall on Revenues & Benefits Council Tax/Business Rates Court costs recovered. These savings have been identified in advance of full-service reviews, and a further saving of £0.5m is to be set aside in a reserve to partly fund an ERP solution in future years. Movement favourable £0.04m.
- e) Service Improvement £0.14m favourable variance, arising from staff vacancies and funding from Homes for Ukraine Visa Scheme. Movement favourable £0.14m.

2.2 Accessible Housing and Resources Capital: Budget £7.3m, Var £2.3m

- a) ICT Capital programme main variances are as follows:
 - £0.34m Delivery of Technology Strategy, mainly £0.24m underspend on EDRMS, based on the decision to continue with existing solution OTCS following discovery work, with unspent budget profiled to 2025/26 when options for replacement technologies will be

- reconsidered; slippage on Datacentres £0.05m and on unreleased budgets £0.05m.
- Buckinghamshire Network project £0.28m of budget to be transferred to fund revenue reserve for software licences.
- b) Property & Assets capital projects are forecasting a variance of £1.8m, of which £1.5m is from slippage on the following projects: construction project delays on roof works at Vale Retail Park (due to tender delays), the Rowley Farm barn refurbishment (due to planning delays), a delay in the agreement on the specification for Orchard House project (still in negotiation), and slippage on how much maintenance is required on Friar's Square this year (less than previously expected). A further £0.2m is a likely underspend on the final retention amounts due for Old Wycombe Library conversion project; once confirmed in Qtr 3, this underspend can be released back to the Capital Programme.

3. Climate Change and Environment

Figure 5: Climate Change and Environment Revenue Table

| | Budget | Y/E Outturn | Variance | Change in Variance (from |
|------------------------------|----------|-------------|----------|--------------------------|
| | £000 | £000 | £000 | Q1 Cab) £000 |
| Expenditure | 3,560 | 3,670 | 110 | |
| Income | (1,690) | (1,800) | (110) | |
| Environment | 1,870 | 1,870 | 0 | 0 |
| Expenditure | 3,010 | 3,090 | 80 | |
| Income | (380) | (350) | 30 | |
| Street Cleaning | 2,630 | 2,740 | 110 | 0 |
| Expenditure | 49,260 | 54,180 | 4,920 | |
| Income | (24,740) | (33,060) | (8,320) | |
| Waste | 24,520 | 21,120 | (3,400) | (2,210) ↓ |
| Climate Change & Environment | 29,020 | 25,730 | (3,290) | (2,210) ↓ |

Figure 6: Climate Change and Environment Capital Table

| Service / Project | Actuals to Date £000 | Released Budget £000's | Unreleased Budget £000's | Total Budget £000's | Forecast Outturn Released £000's | Forecast Unreleased £000's | Forecast Outturn £000's | Forecast Variance £000's |
|--|----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|---|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Flood Defence Schemes | 346 | 1,393 | 434 | 1,827 | 1,094 | 158 | 1,252 | -575 |
| Strategic Flood Management | 0 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 0 |
| Flood Management Total | 346 | 1,493 | 434 | 1,927 | 1,194 | 158 | 1,352 | -575 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Biowaste Treatment | 1,870 | 2,483 | 0 | 2,483 | 3,883 | 0 | 3,883 | 1,400 |
| Southern Waste Contract - Vehicles | 0 | 0 | 4,018 | 4,018 | 3,418 | 0 | 3,418 | -600 |
| Southern Waste Contract-Depot Improvmnt | -157 | -525 | 0 | -525 | 75 | 0 | 75 | 600 |
| Recycling Centres Vehicles & Plant | 0 | 0 | 360 | 360 | 0 | 360 | 360 | 0 |
| Recycling Centre Welfare Facilities | 136 | -26 | 280 | 254 | 254 | 0 | 254 | 0 |
| Pembroke Rd Depot Welfare Facilities | 11 | -15 | 200 | 185 | 185 | 0 | 185 | 0 |
| Aylesbury Waste Vehicles Replacement | 94 | 0 | 2,471 | 2,471 | 2,471 | 0 | 2,471 | 0 |
| Recycling Initiatives & Waste Containers | 175 | 343 | 0 | 343 | 343 | 0 | 343 | 0 |
| Buckingham HRC & Waste Transfer Station | 0 | 0 | 275 | 275 | 0 | 275 | 275 | 0 |
| Recycling Centres Drainage EA Compliance | 5 | 0 | 700 | 700 | 0 | 700 | 700 | 0 |
| Waste Total | 2,134 | 2,260 | 8,304 | 10,564 | 10,629 | 1,335 | 11,964 | 1,400 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Solar Car Port & Electric Fleet | 0 | 95 | 0 | 95 | 95 | 0 | 95 | 0 |
| Climate Change & Air Quality Total | 0 | 95 | 0 | 95 | 95 | 0 | 95 | 0 |
| Grand Total | 2,480 | 3,848 | 8,737 | 12,585 | 11,918 | 1,493 | 13,410 | 825 |

Note: negative actuals relate to accruals and retentions – where the value of work done / completed has been charged to last year, but invoices not yet paid.

3.1 Climate Change and Environment Revenue: Budget £29m, Forecast £25.7m, Favourable Variance £3.3m

- a) EFW & Residual Waste Budget -£0.1m, Var Favourable £3.8m Income from electricity sales is now higher than forecast in Q1 (£1.3m) now £3.9m in Q2 after a proposed transfer to reserves of £15m. This is due to the increase in wholesale electricity prices. There is potential for electricity income forecast to increase further depending on market activity.
- b) In addition, income of £4.4m related to the undisputed element of an ongoing legal case regarding Third-Party Waste and metals income has been

- received post court judgement, including interest, for period 2016/17 to 2021/22. It is proposed that this income be contributed to a corporate reserve as it is non-recurring income outside of business as usual.
- c) Grounds Maintenance Budget £0.8m, Var Adverse £0.1m Overspend due to additional grant awards to voluntary organisations and unachievable income streams from Higginson Park Trust and miscellaneous licences.
- d) Household Waste Recycling Centres Budget £3.1m, Var Favourable £0.2m Underspend due to savings achieved from the current 9 site contract as 10 site contract envisaged to commence in November 22 and additional re-use income and commodities income.
- e) Waste Disposal Budget £2.6m, Var Adverse £0.1
 Overspend due to inflationary pressures on current costs in Green Food Bulky Wood (GFBW) contract.
- f) Environment Budget £1.8m, Nil Variance

3.2 Climate Change & Environment Capital: Budget £12.6m, Var £0.8m

- a) Biowaste project carry forward of £2.4m due to delay in construction start date (build commenced Nov 21) this also includes landscaping and retention costs anticipated to be completed this financial year. It is expected this project will exceed budget by £1.4m due to increased fuel, steel costs and the disposal of contaminated soil, which will be funded from in-year revenue and reserves contributions.
- b) £0.6m of slippage on Flood alleviation schemes; reprofiling has been agreed via a project update paper to Highways Board in September, and will be reflected in Qtr 3.

4. Communities

Figure 7: Communities Revenue Table

| | Budget | Y/E Outturn | Variance | Change in Variance (from Q1 Cab) |
|---------------------------------------|---------|-------------|----------|--|
| | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| Expenditure | 3,190 | 3,180 | (10) | |
| Income | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Community Boards | 3,190 | 3,180 | (10) | (10) ↓ |
| Expenditure | 3,650 | 3,370 | (280) | |
| Income | (1,650) | (1,560) | 90 | |
| Community Safety | 2,000 | 1,810 | (190) | (150) ↓ |
| Expenditure | 300 | 300 | 0 | |
| Emergency Planning | 300 | 300 | 0 | 0 |
| Expenditure | 3,160 | 3,270 | 110 | |
| Income | (2,400) | (2,400) | 0 | |
| Partnerships, Policy & Communications | 760 | 870 | 110 | 110 1 |
| Expenditure | 1,840 | 1,690 | (150) | |
| Income | (470) | (320) | 150 | |
| Special Expenses | 1,370 | 1,370 | 0 | (10) ↓ |
| Communities | 7,620 | 7,530 | (90) | (60) ↓ |

Figure 8: Communities Capital Table

| Service / Project | Actuals to Date £000 | Released Budget £000's | Unreleased Budget £000's | Total Budget £000's | Forecast Outturn Released £000's | Forecast Unreleased £000's | Forecast Outturn £000's | Forecast Variance £000's |
|------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|---|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| CCTV Projects | 0 | 268 | 0 | 268 | 50 | 0 | 50 | -218 |
| Community Safety Total | 0 | 268 | 0 | 268 | 50 | 0 | 50 | -218 |
| Grand Total | 0 | 268 | 0 | 268 | 50 | 0 | 50 | -218 |

4.1 Communities Revenue: Budget £7.6m, Forecast £7.5m, Var £0.09m

- a) Communities Revenue is reporting £0.09m underspend.
- b) Localities & Strategic Partnerships reporting £0.1m overspend due to 4th quarter Citizens Advice Bureau payment not accrued in FY22.
- c) Community Safety £0.2m underspend, related to staffing underspends (£0.08m within central team, £0.06m across CCTV and £0.06m favourable movement due to contribution from Community Boards). Favourable £0.15m movement from Q1 due to staffing underspends and contribution from Community Boards.

4.2 **Communities Capital:** Budget £0.3m, Var £0.2m

a) The full programme is not anticipated to be completed this year due to the moratorium on capital spend; the expected spend is £50k

5. Culture and Leisure

Figure 9: Culture and Leisure Revenue Table

| | Budget £000 | Y/E Outturn £000 | Variance £000 | Change in Variance (from Q1 Cab) £000 |
|-------------------|----------------|---------------------|------------------|--|
| Expenditure | 8,880 | 8,750 | (130) | |
| Income | (3,860) | (3,740) | 120 | |
| Culture & Leisure | 5,020 | 5,010 | (10) | (40) ↓ |
| Culture & Leisure | 5,020 | 5,010 | (10) | (40) ↓ |

Figure 10: Culture and Leisure Capital Table

| Service / Project | Actuals to Date £000 | Released Budget £000's | Unreleased Budget £000's | Total Budget £000's | Forecast Outturn Released £000's | Forecast Unreleased £000's | Forecast Outturn £000's | Forecast Variance £000's |
|---|----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|---|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Country Parks Visitors Centre | 0 | 0 | 100 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 100 | 0 |
| South Bucks Country Pk Leisure Facility | 0 | 500 | 0 | 500 | 500 | 0 | 500 | 0 |
| Country Parks Total | 0 | 500 | 100 | 600 | 500 | 100 | 600 | 0 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Leisure Centres Maintenance | 102 | 605 | 0 | 605 | 605 | 0 | 605 | 0 |
| Chalfont & Chesham Leisure Centres | 55 | -65 | 0 | -65 | -65 | 0 | -65 | 0 |
| Chilterns Lifestyle Centre | 766 | 1,453 | 0 | 1,453 | 1,453 | 0 | 1,453 | 0 |
| Leisure Centres Total | 924 | 1,992 | 0 | 1,992 | 1,992 | 0 | 1,992 | 0 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Libraries Self-Service Replacement | 8 | 124 | 0 | 124 | 124 | 0 | 124 | 0 |
| Libraries Enhanced Technology | 0 | 0 | 100 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 100 | 0 |
| Libraries Total | 8 | 124 | 100 | 224 | 124 | 100 | 224 | 0 |
| Parks & Play Areas | 245 | 1,339 | 0 | 1,339 | 836 | 0 | 836 | -503 |
| Parks & Play Areas Total | 245 | 1,339 | 0 | 1,339 | 836 | 0 | 836 | -503 |
| S106 Funded Projects | 691 | 1,299 | 3,608 | 4,907 | 2,055 | 0 | 2,055 | -2,852 |
| | 691 | | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | | | 0 | | |
| Sport and Leisure Projects Total Grand Total | 1,867 | 1,299 5,254 | 3,608 3,808 | 4,907 9,062 | 2,055 5,507 | 200 | 2,055 5,707 | -2,852 -3,355 |

5.1 Culture and Leisure Revenue: Budget £5.0m, Var Minor

- a) Arts & Culture Budget £1.4m, Var Adverse Minor Underspends within Archives and Film Office of salaries and Theatre management fees offset by overspends on Theatre maintenance and grants, Wycombe Swan insurance bill and Community Development underachieved income.
- b) Museums & Heritage Budget £0.6m, Var Favourable Minor Agreed grant and management fees have been forecast leaving a small underspend.
- c) Country Parks, Parks & Play Areas Budget £-0.1m, Var Adverse Minor The previous adverse forecast due to an unachievable historical income

- budget carried forward from legacy Aylesbury Vale District Council is to be covered within the service.
- d) Leisure Centres Budget £-0.3m, Var Favourable Minor Unachieved forecast on income from PV Cells on Chiltern Leisure and an increase in management fee due to the Wycombe Athletics Centre. An indepth analysis of each cost centre has resulted in an overall minor favourable variance. Operator income is still being forecast in line with MTFP predictions last year. There is a focus on the ongoing energy price increase and conversations with operators are ongoing.

5.2 Culture and Leisure Capital: Budget £9.1m, Var £3.4m

Most projects are forecast to be mostly fully spent with risks being monitored closely through the Service Project Boards. Slippage of £2.9m within S106 Funded projects relates to unreleased budgets for which forecasts will be updated once budgets are released; slippage of £0.5m within Parks and Play area due to delays caused by staff absences.

6. Education & Children's Services

Figure 11: Education & Children's Services Revenue Table

| | Budget | Y/E Outturn | Variance | Change in Variance (from Q1 Cab) |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|-------------|----------|--|
| | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| Expenditure | 79,660 | 90,140 | 10,480 | |
| Income | (4,520) | (5,780) | (1,260) | |
| Children's Social Care | 75,140 | 84,360 | 9,220 | 4,140 ↑ |
| Expenditure | 26,310 | 26,520 | 210 | |
| Income | (11,380) | (11,250) | 130 | |
| Education | 14,930 | 15,270 | 340 | 100 ↑ |
| Expenditure | 319,010 | 318,690 | (320) | |
| Income | (319,010) | (318,690) | 320 | |
| Education - Dedicated Schools Grant | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Education & Childrens Services | 90,070 | 99,630 | 9,560 | 4,240 ↑ |

Figure 12: Education & Children's Services Capital Table

| Service / Project | Actuals to Date £000 | Released Budget £000's | Unreleased Budget £000's | Total Budget £000's | Forecast Outturn Released £000's | Forecast Unreleased £000's | Forecast Outturn £000's | Forecast Variance £000's |
|--|----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|---|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Children's Homes | 0 | 0 | 499 | 499 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -499 |
| Children's Social Care Total | 0 | 0 | 499 | 499 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -499 |
| Primary School Places | -587 | 4,986 | 1,567 | 6,553 | 2,840 | 500 | 3,340 | -3,213 |
| Provision for Early Years | 0 | 83 | 101 | 183 | 10 | 0 | 10 | -173 |
| School Property Maintenance | 2,480 | 5,625 | 0 | 5,625 | 5,625 | 0 | 5,625 | 0 |
| Secondary School Places | 10,356 | 24,385 | -2,990 | 21,394 | 21,278 | -100 | 21,178 | -216 |
| Provision for Special Educational Need | 692 | 1,760 | 2,631 | 4,391 | 1,881 | 1,000 | 2,881 | -1,510 |
| School Toilets | 127 | 217 | 0 | 217 | 217 | 0 | 217 | 0 |
| School Access Adaptations | 52 | 151 | 0 | 151 | 151 | 0 | 151 | 0 |
| Schools Total | 13,118 | 37,206 | 1,308 | 38,515 | 32,002 | 1,400 | 33,402 | -5,113 |
| Grand Total | 13,118 | 37,206 | 1,807 | 39,014 | 32,002 | 1,400 | 33,402 | -5,612 |

Note: negative actuals relate to accruals and retentions – where the value of work done / completed has been charged to last year, but invoices not yet paid.

6.1 **Education & Children's Services Revenue:** Budget £90.1m, Forecast £99.6m, Var

- a) An adverse variance of £9.5m is projected against the budget of £90.1m.

 This is an adverse movement of £4.2m compared with the previous quarter.
- b) An adverse variance of £9.2m is reported against the budgets for Children's Social Care and an adverse variance of £0.3m against budgets for Education
- c) The factors contributing to the significant overspend continue to be:
 - Increase in demand experienced by front line social care teams leading to the requirement for additional staffing in order to manage caseloads. This represents an increase of 26% since 2020.

- National position in relation to the sufficiency of placements for children looked after is leading to a shortage of available placements and very high unit costs of those placements that can be accessed.
 This is also resulting in the need to develop creative solutions to support young people with complex needs and manage risk.
- iii. Increase in the number of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASCs) coming into Buckinghamshire is 120% on last year and 29 out of 30 have come through the National Transfer Scheme since April. This leads to an increase in the costs of accommodation for care leavers as those young people turn 18.
- iv. Continued increases in seriousness and complexity of support needed for children with disabilities.

A detailed review of the budget and forecast expenditure is taking place in order to identify actions that can be taken to reduce spend. An action plan is being drawn up as a result of this review identifying priority actions, timelines, and estimated savings. This plan will be monitored by Children's SLT and Children's Budget Board and the potential financial impact included in the forecast in future months as actions are agreed and implemented.

6.2 Education & Children's Services Capital: Budget £39.0m, Var -£5.6m

- a) A favourable variance of £3.2m against schemes for primary school places, including an underspend of £1.4m against the Kingsbrook Primary school project. Underspends will be utilised in the delivery of future projects to increase school places in line with the council's sufficiency duty.
- b) A favourable variance of £0.2m against secondary school places.
- 6.3 A favourable variance of £1.5m against schemes to deliver additional capacity for SEND provision. The underspend will be rolled forward to develop provision in line with the SEND Sufficiency Strategy.

7. Health & Wellbeing

Figure 13: Health & Wellbeing Revenue Table

| | Budget | Y/E Outturn | Variance | Change in Variance (from Q1 Cab) |
|--------------------|----------|-------------|----------|--|
| | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| Expenditure | 222,190 | 229,300 | 7,110 | |
| Income | (57,390) | (59,740) | (2,350) | |
| Adult Social Care | 164,800 | 169,560 | 4,760 | 1,650 1 |
| Expenditure | 23,100 | 23,150 | 50 | |
| Income | (23,100) | (23,150) | (50) | |
| Public Health | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Health & Wellbeing | 164,800 | 169,560 | 4,760 | 1,650 ↑ |

Figure 14: Health & Wellbeing Capital Table

| Service / Project | Actuals to Date £000 | Released Budget £000's | Unreleased Budget £000's | Total Budget £000's | Forecast Outturn Released £000's | Forecast Unreleased £000's | | Forecast Variance £000's |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|---|----------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| Respite Care | 0 | 436 | 0 | 436 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -436 |
| Adult Social Care Total | 0 | 436 | 0 | 436 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -436 |
| Grand Total | 0 | 436 | 0 | 436 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -436 |

Health & Wellbeing Revenue: Budget £164.8m, Forecast £169.7m Var +£4.8m

- a) Adult Social Care shows an adverse variance of +£4.8m relating predominately to Nursing +£3.8m and Supported Living +£2.5m. This is partly offset by favourable variances on Residential placements, Direct Payments, employee costs and additional income. Subject to final approval, the release of £3.3m of contingency will reduce the variance to +£1.5m.
- b) The total Nursing pressure is +£3.8m. The figures include the full year effect of new starters, 3% fee uplifts and growth for the remainder of 22/23. Mitigating plans include home first approach and proactive reablement work to reduce the pressure, however, this remains a key risk due to the ongoing discussions around the future of D2A and the risk that growth could outstrip the budget due to winter pressures. The pressure will be reduced by the release of £2.3m contingency monies.
- c) The pressure in Supported Living of +£2.5m relates predominately to the full year effect of new starters in 2021/22 (£1.9m) and new starters from 1 April 2022 exceeding budgeted growth of £1.7m. The pressure will be reduced by the release of £1m contingency monies.
- d) There are a significant number of risks linked to the forecast in particular inflationary pressures now estimated to be between 5% and 7%, Adult

Social Care reforms, the future funding of Discharge to Assess and the risk of additional growth in client numbers, complexity and one-off price rises.

7.2 **Health & Wellbeing Capital:** Budget £0.4m, Var £-0.4m

- a) The approved budget for 2022-23 includes £1.3m of adult social care equipment funded from DFG. This is included within the overall Disabled Facility Grant budget line in the capital programme, currently reported under Housing & Homelessness.
- b) The budget for Respite Care is not expected to be spent in the current year.

8. Housing & Homelessness & Regulatory Services

Figure 15: Housing & Homelessness & Regulatory Revenue Table

| | Budget | Y/E Outturn | Variance | Change in Variance (from Q1 Cab) |
|--|---------|-------------|----------|--|
| | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| Expenditure | 11,010 | 11,220 | 210 | |
| Income | (7,580) | (7,080) | 500 | |
| Housing & Homelessness | 3,430 | 4,140 | 710 | 370 ↑ |
| Expenditure | 10,670 | 11,010 | 340 | |
| Income | (6,990) | (7,240) | (250) | |
| Regulatory Services | 3,680 | 3,770 | 90 | 110 1 |
| Housing & Homelessness & Regulatory Serv | 7,110 | 7,910 | 800 | 480 ↑ |

Figure 16: Housing & Homelessness & Regulatory Capital Table

| Service / Project | Actuals to Date £000 | Released Budget £000's | Unreleased Budget £000's | Total Budget £000's | Forecast Outturn Released £000's | Forecast Unreleased £000's | Forecast Outturn £000's | Forecast Variance £000's |
|---|----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|---|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Affordable Housing - S106 Funded | -26 | 4,565 | -2,360 | 2,205 | 4,565 | -2,360 | 2,205 | 0 |
| Affordable Housing Total | -26 | 4,565 | -2,360 | 2,205 | 4,565 | -2,360 | 2,205 | 0 |
| Chiltern & Bierton Crematoria | 593 | 2,252 | 0 | 2,252 | 2,252 | 0 | 2,252 | 0 |
| Cemeteries & Memorial Gardens | 0 | 317 | 0 | 317 | 317 | 0 | 317 | 0 |
| Cemeteries and Crematoria Total | 593 | 2,569 | 0 | 2,569 | 2,569 | 0 | 2,569 | 0 |
| Temporary Accommodation | 883 | 1,188 | 0 | 1,188 | 1,188 | 0 | 1,188 | 0 |
| Homelessness Total | 883 | 1,188 | 0 | 1,188 | 1,188 | 0 | 1,188 | 0 |
| Disabled Facility Grants | 1,597 | 3,848 | 0 | 3,848 | 3,848 | 0 | 3,848 | 0 |
| Enabling Schemes | -864 | 31 | -31 | 0 | 31 | -31 | 0 | 0 |
| Home Renovation Grants | 0 | 408 | 0 | 408 | 408 | 0 | 408 | 0 |
| Raynes Avenue Park Drainage Replacement | 0 | 152 | 0 | 152 | 152 | 0 | 152 | 0 |
| Housing Total | 733 | 4,440 | -31 | 4,408 | 4,440 | -31 | 4,408 | 0 |
| Grand Total | 2,183 | 12,761 | -2,392 | 10,369 | 12,761 | -2,392 | 10,369 | 0 |

Note: negative actuals relate to accruals and retentions – where the value of work done / completed has been charged to last year, but invoices not yet paid.

8.1 Housing & Homelessness & Regulatory Revenue: Budget £7.1m, Var £0.8m

- a) £0.7m adverse variance in Housing & Homelessness from increased demand on Temporary Accommodation, which is a £0.4m increase on Qtr 1 as demand remains high. This forecast projects that the current cohort of 145 people in Nightly Paid accommodation remains constant, and there is a risk that this may increase with the Cost of Living Crisis. The Housing team continue to work apace to identify opportunities to acquire more units to reduce the need for Nightly Paid accommodation.
- b) £0.1m net adverse variance in Regulatory Services: £0.1m adverse variance in Trading Standards from staff pay award and reduction in primary authority income post-COVID (expected to recover by 2024); £0.4m staffing

cost adverse variance in Coroners for additional administrative staff to work on caseload; £0.1m favourable variance in Registrars from increases in ceremony income; £0.1m adverse variance in Environmental Health from agency staff costs.

8.2 Housing & Homelessness & Regulatory Capital: Budget £8.8m, Var £0

- a) Housing & Homelessness programmes are currently forecast to match current year budgets. Following a Cabinet member review of the capital programme, the budget for Home Renovation grants will be surrendered in Qtr 3 to fund inflationary pressures elsewhere in the Capital Programme, as the Disabled Facilities Grant is available to fund such works.
- b) Cemeteries & Crematoria is forecast to match budget and expect to complete projects this financial year.

9. Planning and Regeneration

Figure 17: Planning & Regeneration Revenue Table

| | Budget | Y/E Outturn | Variance | Change in Variance (from Q1 Cab) |
|-------------------------|----------|-------------|----------|--|
| | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| Expenditure | 17,440 | 18,090 | 650 | |
| Income | (10,910) | (11,560) | (650) | |
| Planning | 6,530 | 6,530 | 0 | 0 |
| Planning & Regeneration | 6,530 | 6,530 | 0 | 0 |

Figure 18: Planning & Regeneration Capital Table

| Service / Project | Actuals to Date £000 | Released Budget £000's | Unreleased Budget £000's | Total Budget £000's | Forecast Outturn Released £000's | Forecast Unreleased £000's | Forecast Outturn £000's | Forecast Variance £000's |
|--|----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|---|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| LEP 3rd Party Schemes | 552 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| LEP 3rd Party Schemes Total | 552 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Aylesbury Town Centre | 55 | -176 | 2,300 | 2,124 | 150 | 150 | 300 | -1,824 |
| CIL Funded Regeneration | 0 | 113 | 260 | 373 | 113 | 260 | 373 | 0 |
| Employment & Regeneration Led Opportunit | 193 | 1,495 | 0 | 1,495 | 1,495 | 0 | 1,495 | 0 |
| Environment Led Opportunities | 10 | 349 | 0 | 349 | 349 | 0 | 349 | 0 |
| Former WDC Third Party CIL Projects | 0 | 265 | 0 | 265 | 265 | 0 | 265 | 0 |
| Future High Street Funds | 213 | 9,700 | 1,600 | 11,299 | 9,700 | 1,600 | 11,299 | 0 |
| High Wycombe Town Centre | 58 | 176 | -3 | 173 | 176 | -3 | 173 | 0 |
| Retasking of Winslow Centre | 130 | 326 | 483 | 809 | 296 | 0 | 296 | -513 |
| Waterside North Development | 30 | 81 | 100 | 181 | 81 | 100 | 181 | 0 |
| Ashwells | 68 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 0 |
| Wycombe Air Park | 15 | -31 | 0 | -31 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 31 |
| Amersham Regeneration (St John's Build) | 0 | 0 | 50 | 50 | 0 | 50 | 50 | 0 |
| Wycombe District Centres | 0 | 25 | 0 | 25 | 25 | 0 | 25 | 0 |
| Regeneration Total | 773 | 12,423 | 4,790 | 17,212 | 12,751 | 2,157 | 14,907 | -2,305 |
| Grand Total | 1,324 | 12,423 | 4,790 | 17,212 | 12,751 | 2,157 | 14,907 | -2,305 |

9.1 Planning & Regeneration Revenue: Budget £6.5m, Outturn £6.5m, Var £0.0m

a) Planning & Regeneration are reporting a break-even position. Income from planning applications is favourable by £0.65m compared to budget due to continued high numbers of applications; that income is being used to fund additional staffing and associated costs to process the increased application numbers.

9.2 Planning & Regeneration Capital: Budget £12.8m, Forecast £14.9m Var £2.3m

- a) £1.8m of slippage on Kingsbury & Market Square, as the detailed specification for the project continues to be worked through ahead of a formal Cabinet Decision to progress the scheme.
- b) £0.5m slippage on Winslow regeneration (retasking), as the specification and scope of the project is being reviewed.

10. Transport

Figure 19: Transport Revenue Table

| | Budget | Y/E Outturn | Variance | Change in Variance (from Q1 Cab) |
|-------------------------------|----------|-------------|----------|--|
| | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| Expenditure | 33,710 | 33,700 | (10) | |
| Income | (13,330) | (13,000) | 330 | |
| Highways & Technical Services | 20,380 | 20,700 | 320 | 140 1 |
| Expenditure | 1,110 | 1,490 | 380 | |
| Income | (390) | (790) | (400) | |
| HS2 | 720 | 700 | (20) | (20) ↓ |
| Expenditure | 35,560 | 36,750 | 1,190 | |
| Income | (2,430) | (1,950) | 480 | |
| Transport Services | 33,130 | 34,800 | 1,670 | 560 ↑ |
| Expenditure | 1,490 | 1,730 | 240 | |
| Income | (250) | (420) | (170) | |
| Transport Strategy | 1,240 | 1,310 | 70 | 120 1 |
| Transport | 55,470 | 57,510 | 2,040 | 800 1 |

Figure 20: Transport Capital Table

| Service / Project | Actuals to Date £000 | Released Budget £000's | Unreleased Budget £000's | Total Budget £000's | Forecast Outturn Released £000's | Forecast Unreleased £000's | Forecast Outturn £000's | Forecast Variance £000's |
|---|----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|---|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Car Parks | -50 | -438 | 0 | -438 | -438 | 0 | -438 | 0 |
| Car Parks Total | -50 | -438 | 0 | -438 | -438 | 0 | -438 | 0 |
| ADEPT Live Labs | 390 | 925 | 0 | 925 | 925 | 0 | 925 | 0 |
| Globe Park Access / Westhorpe Junction | 10 | 50 | 0 | 50 | 220 | 0 | 220 | 170 |
| Haydon Hill Cycle Way | 31 | 42 | 0 | 42 | 42 | 0 | 42 | 0 |
| Highways & Cycleway Funded Schemes | 58 | 1,660 | 0 | 1,660 | 1,660 | 0 | 1,660 | 0 |
| HS2 Funded Schemes | -26 | -127 | 0 | -127 | -127 | 0 | -127 | 0 |
| NPIF Schemes | 6 | 582 | 0 | 582 | 267 | 0 | 267 | -315 |
| Taplow Cycle Way | 0 | 607 | 0 | 607 | 607 | 0 | 607 | 0 |
| Active Travel Tranche II - Emerald Way | 382 | 500 | 0 | 500 | 500 | 0 | 500 | 0 |
| Highways & Cycleway Funded Schemes Total | 850 | 4,237 | 0 | 4,237 | 4,093 | 0 | 4,093 | -145 |
| | 7- | 467 | 65 | 400 | 467 | | 467 | |
| Improvements to Rights Way | 75 | 167 | -65 | 102 | 167 | 0 | 167 | 65 |
| Denham Bridleway Bridge Replacement | -17 0 | 213 0 | 0 | 213 | 230 0 | 0 | 230 0 | 17 |
| Berryhill Footbridge Repair Rights of Way Total | 58 | 380 | 334 269 | 334 649 | 397 | 0 | 397 | -334 -252 |
| rigitis of way foldi | 30 | 360 | 203 | 043 | 337 | U | 337 | -232 |
| Bridge Maintenance | 202 | 998 | 0 | 998 | 998 | 0 | 998 | 0 |
| Footway Structural Repairs | 829 | 2,065 | 0 | 2,065 | 2,065 | 0 | 2,065 | 0 |
| Maintenance Principal Rds - Drainage | 1,422 | 2,041 | 0 | 2,041 | 2,041 | 0 | 2,041 | 0 |
| Plane & Patch | 3,342 | 4,369 | 0 | 4,369 | 4,369 | 0 | 4,369 | 0 |
| Replacement Traffic Signals | 120 | 438 | 0 | 438 | 483 | 0 | 483 | 45 |
| Strategic Highway Maintenance Program | 11,184 | 15,973 | 0 | 15,973 | 15,973 | 0 | 15,973 | 0 |
| Street Lighting | 262 | 1,600 | 0 | 1,600 | 1,600 | 0 | 1,600 | 0 |
| Safety Fences | -87 | 236 | 0 | 236 | 236 | 0 | 236 | 0 |
| Failed Roads Haunching & Reconstruction | 507 | 3,000 | 0 | 3,000 | 3,000 | 0 | 3,000 | 0 |
| Marlow Suspension Bridge | 181 | -1,107 | 1,400 | 293 | 293 | 0 | 293 | 0 |
| Abbey Way Flyover High Wycombe | 25 | -70 | 300 | 230 | 230 | 0 | 230 | 0 |
| Road Safety - Casualty Reduction | 233 | 856 | 0 | 856 | 856 | 0 | 856 | 0 |
| Strategic Highway Maintenance Total | 18,222 | 30,400 | 1,700 | 32,100 | 32,145 | 0 | 32,145 | 45 |
| Public Transport | 15 | 131 | 0 | 131 | 131 | 0 | 131 | 0 |
| Purchase of Fleet Vehicles | 27 | 240 | 0 | 240 | 240 | 0 | 240 | 0 |
| Transport Services Total | 42 | 371 | 0 | 371 | 371 | 0 | | 0 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| East West Rail | 563 | 2,200 | 0 | 2,200 | 2,063 | 0 | 2,063 | -138 |
| Other Highway & Technical | 2 | 1,020 | 0 | 1,020 | 1,020 | 0 | 1,020 | 0 |
| Electric Vehicle Charging Points | 0 | 200 | 0 | 200 | 200 | 0 | 200 | 0 |
| Wycombe Parking Review | 0 | 50 | 0 | 50 | 50 | 0 | 50 | 0 |
| Other Transport & Infrastructure Total | 565 | 3,471 | 0 | 3,471 | 3,333 | 0 | 3,333 | -138 |
| Grand Total | 19,688 | 38,421 | 1,969 | 40,391 | 39,901 | 0 | 39,901 | -490 |

Note: negative actuals relate to accruals and retentions – where the value of work done / completed has been charged to last year, but invoices not yet paid.

10.1 Transport Revenue: Budget £55.5m, Outturn £57.5m, Adverse Variance £2.0m

a) Transport Services £1.7m adverse variance. £1.9m cost pressure within Home to School Transport due to higher than anticipated increased SEND contract costs and a 3% increase given to all Home to School Contracts to mitigate rising fuel prices. There is an expected increase in Personal Transport Budget costs as more people are transferred over. There is also a £0.1m adverse variance currently forecast within Client Transport due to staffing costs pressure. £0.3m favourable variance on Public Transport due to a reduction in concessionary pot following negotiations with commercial suppliers.

- b) Highways & Technical Services favourable variance £0.2m. Increased income from Parking and Street works offset by energy cost forecast from September onwards affecting Highways and Parking after taking into account the recently announced energy price guarantees.
- c) Transport Strategy £70k adverse variance: £40k income shortfall on Simply Walk, and £30k income shortfall on Transport Studies, offset with favourable variances in Highways Projects (Leader Portfolio). There is an opportunity for further favourable variances this year due to staff vacancies. Both variances have been permanently resolved via the recent staffing realignment in the Service Review.

10.2 Transport Capital: Budget £40.4m, Var £0.5m

- a) Strategic Highway Maintenance Budget £32.1m, £0.1 variance inflationary pressures and rising costs of materials relating to the Gyratory project not covered by DfT grant.
- b) Rights of Way Budget £0.7m, £0.3m variance slippage relating to Berry Hill Footbridge where Environment Agency has rejected a permit for the Council to commence works until February 2023.
- c) £0.2m of accelerated spend on Globe Park access. This project originally expected to spend £50k this year as the project winds down; now expecting wind down costs to be around £220k, to be funded externally.
- d) £0.3m of slippage the A40 London Road, Wycombe NPIF-funded scheme.

11. Corporate & Funding

Figure 21: Corporate & Funding Revenue Table

| | Budget | Y/E Out- turn | Forecast Variance | % | Change in Forecast Variance |
|------------------------------|---------|------------------|----------------------|-------|-----------------------------|
| | £m | £m | £m | | £m |
| Capital Financing | 27.1 | 26.3 | (0.8) | (3%) | (0.8) |
| Corporate Costs | 15.2 | 8.9 | (6.3) | (41%) | - |
| Reserves | (6.2) | (10.7) | (4.5) | 73% | (4.5) |
| Treasury Management | (3.2) | (5.2) | (2.0) | 63% | (0.7) |
| Corporate Total | 32.9 | 19.3 | (13.6) | (41%) | (6.0) |
| Business Rates | (58.2) | (58.2) | - | - | - |
| Council Tax | (377.4) | (377.4) | - | - | - |
| Council Tax Surplus | - | - | - | | - |
| New Homes Bonus | (5.8) | (5.8) | - | - | - |
| Special expenses Council Tax | - | - | - | | - |
| Unringfenced Grants | (20.1) | (20.4) | (0.3) | 1% | - |
| Funding Total | (461.5) | (461.8) | (0.3) | 0% | - |
| Total | (428.6) | (442.5) | (13.9) | 3% | (6.0) |

11.1 Corporate & Funding Revenue: Budget -£428.6m, Outturn -£442.5m, Var -£13.9m

- a) The £13.9m favourable variance (£6.6m last quarter) forecast comprises:
- b) £4.4m contribution from earmarked reserves to support the Council's overall forecast position. This is as a result of £4.4m of non-recurring income received in the Climate Change and Environment portfolio contributed to reserves, following partial resolution of the legal dispute with the Council's EfW contractor.
- c) £2.0m new favourable variance relating to Interest on Revenue Balances. This reflects a higher level of cash balances than budgeted, and the recent further increase in Bank of England base rate to 2.25% during September.
- d) £0.8m new favourable variance on Interest Payable budgets. This forecast has arisen due to the Council's ability to fund any new borrowing required in year from internal borrowing rather than external PWLB borrowing.
- e) A forecast surplus of £0.3m due to additional income from unringfenced grant income, where the budget was set prudently but a small amount of additional income is expected.
- f) A surplus of £0.1m on loan interest, following extension of a loan agreement.

- g) Corporate Contingencies: a £6.2m favourable variance on contingencies expected to be released. Specific contingencies have been forecast to be released to offset pressures as shown in the following table.
- h) Available reserve balances: in addition to the Corporate Contingencies, the "Mitigating Future Financial Risks" reserve which was set up following outturn 2021/22 as a result of unused contingencies and the overall favourable variance, had an opening balance of £9.9m. £1.5m of this has been utilised to fund the unconsolidated element of the 2022/23 pay award as agreed by SAPC, and £0.15m has been utilised to set up a Staff Hardship Fund, a balance of £8.25m remains which could be called upon if required.

Figure 21 Corporate Contingencies & Mitigating Future Financial Risks Reserve

| 2022-23 Revenue Contingencies | Budget | Released | Current Budget | Favourable Variance - Mitigating pressures in monitoring | Remaining to cover pressures that may arise in remainder of the year |
|--|---------|----------|-------------------|--|--|
| | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Pay & Pension Contingency | | | | | |
| Pay Inflation | 4,245 | (4,245) | - | - | - |
| Pay - c/fwd (non consolidated) | 710 | 0 | 710 | - | 710 |
| Redundancy (non unitary) | 500 | 0 | 500 | - | 500 |
| Total Budget Risk | 5,455 | (4,245) | 1,210 | - | 1,210 |
| Service Risk Contingency | | | | | |
| Inflationary Pressures (incl. NI) | 2,950 | 0 | 2,950 | 1,500 | 1,450 |
| National Living Wage | 250 | 0 | 250 | - | 250 |
| Adult Social Care Pressures / Demography | 3,210 | 0 | 3,210 | 3,100 | 110 |
| Adult Social Care Provider Market | 1,700 | 0 | 1,700 | - | 1,700 |
| Home to School Transport | 1,000 | 0 | 1,000 | 200 | 800 |
| Children's Services Demography | 1,410 | 0 | 1,410 | 1,410 | - |
| High Cost Children's Placements | 500 | 0 | 500 | - | 500 |
| General Contingency - Economic Uncertainty | 866 | 0 | 866 | - | 866 |
| Total Service Risk | 11,886 | 0 | 11,886 | 6,210 | 5,676 |
| Total Contingency | 17,341 | (4,245) | 13,096 | 6,210 | 6,886 |
| Total Variation on Contingencies | | | | 6,210 | |
| Available balance from "Mitigating Future Financial Risks" reserve | 9,900 | | | | |
| £1.5m recommended by SAPC to support pay award | (1,500) | | | | |
| £0.15m recommended by SAPC to support staff hardship fund | (150) | | | | 8,250 |
| Total resources earmarked to mitigate further pressures | | | | | 15,136 |

12. Outstanding Sundry Debts

Figure 21: Sundry Debts Table



- 12.1 Total Sundry Debt Due has
 - increased by £1.9m since the Q1 report, largely related to the timing of raising of rental invoices. This measure shows considerable fluctuations month to month but there has been an underlying downward trend over the last year reducing to £17.8m from £20.0m over the 12 months.
- 12.2 The chart above reflects the categorisation of outstanding debts into High, Medium and Low risk. This categorisation is in-line with the Corporate Debt Management Strategy and takes account of the age of the debt and the type of customer (public sector bodies being lower risk).
- 12.3 Unsecured debt overdue by over 90 days has also seen a downward trend, reducing by £1.9m over the last 12 months. However, since the Q1 report there has been an increase of £0.8m.in the majority of this relates to the value of >90 day unsecured debts in adults. There have been capacity issues during the quarter as a result of the summer holiday period and debt recovery action being paused between 9th 20th September (passing of the Queen) has had an adverse impact on the debt collection. Resources have been repurposed to focus on debt collection which will improve the outstanding debt position going forward

13. Late Payments

Figure 22: Late Payments Table

Tgt: 95% 93% 91% 89% 87% 83% 83% Jul Sep Jul Aug Aug Sep 2022 2022 10 Day 30 Day No. Late 65 97 975 658 1,040 82 ■ No. Paid 450 471 408 10,021 9,413 8,069 10996 10071 9109 No. Invoices 515 568 490

Late Payment Performance Past 3 Months

- 13.1 Q2 overall performance is 90.8% paid "on-time" compared with 94.5% achieved in Q1 and 94.2% in the last 12 months.
- 13.2 Q2 performance for invoices with 10-day payment terms is 84.8% and there is a reduction in performance compared with Q1 87.6%.
 - The low performance has not been created by one specific category of Supplier payments but it has been identified that more team resource resilience is required in the Corporate Business Support Transaction Hub team (CBSTH) for planned Officer absences.
- 13.3 Q2 performance for invoices measured against 30-day terms is 91.1% against a target of 95% and there is a reduction in performance compared with Q1 94.8%.
 - a) The performance compared with Q1 has improved in respect of the Pertemps invoice process, this issue was addressed in July 2022. The two other areas of focus are the Utilities invoice process and Client Transport invoices, referred to below under Improvement Actions. There has been resource change in the Client Transport Finance team over the quarter, including the appointment of a Finance Manager and two Officers.

13.4 Improvement Actions:

a) The Utility contracts have been awarded to new suppliers and there will be a change of payment method to direct debit once this is in place reducing the risk of late payment in future reports.

- b) The Client Transport Team now have a fully resourced team which once trained on all aspects of the invoice process should address the backlog.
- c) The Accounts Payable Manager has discussed with the Corporate Business Support Team Leader to ensure that the timelines are documented when payments are to be made via the vendor upload payment process to address the occasional late payments being made by this work area



Report to Cabinet

Date: 15 November 2022

Title: Q2 2022-23 Performance Report

Relevant councillor(s): John Chilver

Author and/or contact officer: Matthew Everitt

Ward(s) affected: Nonspecific

Recommendations: 1. Review how the Council is performing

2. Take action to improve performance where required

Reason for decision: The Corporate Performance Framework is reported on a

quarterly basis to Cabinet to ensure there is understanding, ownership and accountability for performance outturns, including actions to improve

performance where appropriate.

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 The report is comprised of the following two items:
- 1.2 1) The performance report, which provides details of the key performance measures reported through the corporate performance framework for 2022/23. Latest performance outturns and targets are reported alongside trend and benchmarking information, where available. The report also includes several indicators without targets for this year, which are being monitored to establish a baseline level of performance and monitor trends. Commentary is provided for each indicator explaining what is being measured, explaining the narrative behind each outturn and detailing improvement actions.
 - 2) The performance scorecard, which provides information on four key elements of performance for the Council covering Finance, Customer Service, Performance and Human Resources indicators. These are arranged in four quadrants.

- 1.3 Within the performance report and performance scorecard, outturns which are performing at or better than target are classified as Green, those which are within 5% of the target are Amber and those which are more than 5% of the target are Red.
- 1.4 At the end of Quarter 2, 92 indicators had outturns reported with a Red, Amber or Green status. Of these, 62 are Green (67%), 12 are Amber (13%) and 18 are Red (20%).

2. Content of report

1.1 Please see attached performance report and performance scorecard for Quarter 2.

3. Other options considered

1.2 None arising directly from this report.

4. Legal and financial implications

1.3 None arising directly from this report.

5. Corporate implications

1.4 None arising directly from this report.

6. Local councillors & community boards consultation & views

1.5 None arising directly from this report.

7. Communication, engagement & further consultation

1.6 None arising directly from this report.

8. Next steps and review

8.1 Improvement actions detailed in the performance report will be progressed. The next performance report will be prepared for Quarter 3 when data for this period is available.

9. Background papers

9.1 None for this report.

10. Your questions and views (for key decisions)

10.1 N/A.



Leader's Portfolio Cllr Martin Tett





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Leaders Portfolio RED

Buckinghamshire Council

| PI | Aim to: | Current Value | Target | Trend Chart | Benchmarking | Commentary |
|---|--------------------|------------------|--------|---|---|---|
| Buckinghamshire unemployment rate as a percentage of National unemployment rate | Aim to Minimise | 71% | 55% | 100% 90% 80% 70% 60% 50% 40% 30% 20% 10% 0% Quarters - Target (Quarters) | 100% (National claimant rate 3.8%) | The Claimant Rate measures the percentage of working age population claiming 'out-of-work' benefits from the total working age population. This measure shows the Buckinghamshire Claimant Rate as a percentage of the National Claimant Rate. The target is for the percentage unemployed in Buckinghamshire to be less than 55% of the percentage unemployed nationally. In August 2022, 8,895 Buckinghamshire residents were claiming 'out-of-work' related benefits (Claimant Count). Buckinghamshire's Claimant Count rate stands at 2.7%, lower than the national average of 3.8%. Buckinghamshire's Claimant Count rate is the joint 12th lowest of 38 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) areas but has the joint 5th highest change in Claimant Count rate since March 2020. Rates vary across the county, with the Wycombe Parliamentary Constituency area having a rate that exceeds the national average (4.0%). The number of claimants in Buckinghamshire rose by 205 between July and August 2022, suggesting the declining trend since February 2021 is reversing. This trend is being seen for the majority of LEPs for data between July and August 2022. Improvement Actions: Bucks LEP monitors ward-level claimant rates to target activity effectively through programmes such as Opportunity Bucks. BLEP Labour market and local economy analysis will inform the Local Skills Improvement Plan. Bucks LEP and the Growth Hub helped establish a Skills Bootcamp to alleviate recruitment challenges in the construction industry, and link claimants with local jobs and training opportunities. Collaborating with key partners to ensure direct engagement with community groups in the worst affected wards. Ensure recruiting businesses incorporate local requirements in their employment processes. Investigate funding opportunities to strengthen targeted support for recruitment and onboarding processes. |

Leaders Portfolio AMBER

Buckinghamshire Council

Generated on: 01 November 2022

| PI | Aim to: | Current Value | Target | Trend Chart | Benchmarking | Commentary |
|---|--------------------|------------------|--------|---|--|---|
| New business registrations: Rank against other Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) | Aim to Minimise | 11 | 10 | 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 Quarters Target (Quarters) | (1) London 98.2 (2) Greater Manchester 43.8 (3) Greater Birmingham and Solihull 39.9 (4) Southeast Midlands 38.3 (5) Hertfordshire 36.5 (6) Black Country 36.1 (7) Coventry and Warwickshire 35.1 (8) Thames Valley Berkshire 34.2 (9) Leeds City Region 31.8 (10) Dorset 30.8 | The indicator ranks the different Local Economic Partnerships (LEPs) from high to low, by the number of new businesses registrations for every 10,000 residents aged 16 or over. 1,330 new businesses were registered in Buckinghamshire between July and September 2022. Buckinghamshire ranked 11th of 38 LEP areas with a rate of 30.7. The most common sectors in which these new businesses are operating are: (1) Management consultancy (excluding financial management), (2) Buying and selling of own real estate, (3) Other letting and operating of own or leased real estate, (4) Retail sale via mail order houses or via internet, (5) Other human health activities, (6) IT consultancy activities. Possible reasons for the reduction in ranking include Buckinghamshire's relatively high survival rates of newly born enterprises compared to the national average, which could be linked to our approach of supporting innovation of existing businesses through the Growth Hub and Local Community Forums. Many areas across the country are beginning to adopt a greater focus on scale-up and business innovation (helping a company grow in terms of employees and or turnover by more than 20% in a year) as well as supporting new business growth. Improvement Action: • We will investigate the relationship between business survival rates and new business registrations in Buckinghamshire. |

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Leaders Portfolio GREEN

Buckinghamshire Council

| PI | Aim to: | Current Value | Target | Trend Chart | Benchmarking | Commentary |
|--|--------------------|------------------|--------|---------------------------------------|----------------|--|
| Strategic Infrastructure projects: % profiled spend achieved | Aim to Maximise | 112% | 50% | 100% 50% Quarters Target (Quarters) | None available | This indicator reports a single figure for the percentage of actual spend against profiled spend, for projects within the Capital Programme funded from the Capital Budget. Projects include Phases 1 and 2 of the South-East Aylesbury Link Road (SEALR). The target is to hit 100% by year end, which has been equally profiled throughout the year, even though actual spend may be more variable. The spend reported includes creditor values. For projects that span multiple years, budgets are set at a level that when met achieves an accelerated in-year spend. Therefore, in terms of reporting for this quarter spend has exceeded the year's budget. However, progress of the project as a whole continues to face significant challenges linked to global events and the subsequent inflationary impact on the national and local economy. Whilst work on the ground continues in the form of vegetation clearance, initial archaeology work and utility works, discussions continue to take place with key partners to ensure the full delivery of the scheme. |



Accessible Housing and Resources Portfolio Cllr John Chilver



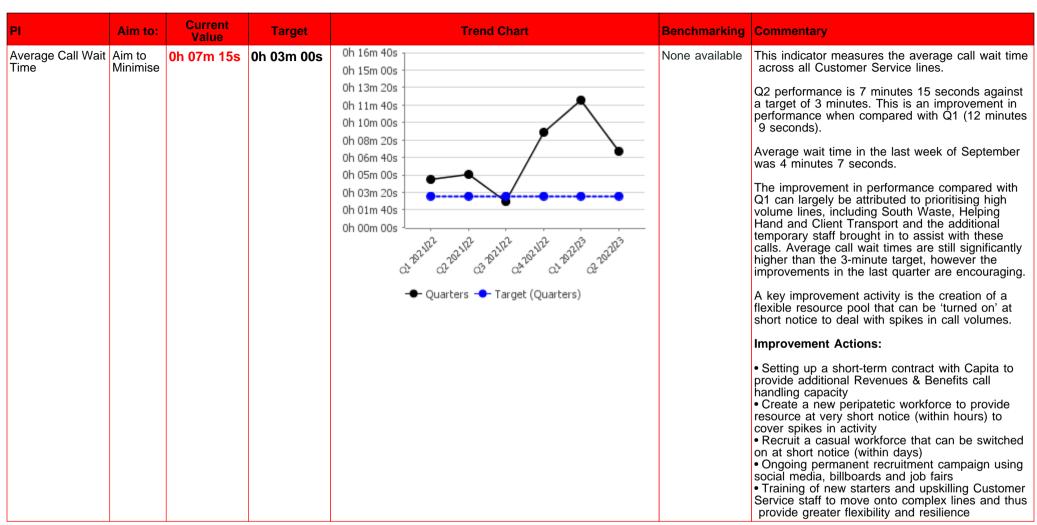


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Accessible Housing and Resources Portfolio RED

Buckinghamshire Council

| PI | Aim to: | Current Value | Target | Trend Chart | Benchmarking | Commentary |
|--|--------------------|------------------|--------|---|----------------|---|
| Percentage of phone calls answered in the Customer Service Centres | Aim to Maximise | 83.2% | 90% | 100% 90% 80% 70% 60% 50% 40% 30% 20% 10% 0% | None available | This indicator measures the percentage of phone calls answered in the Customer Service Centre. Q2 performance is 83.2% against a target of 90%. This is an improvement in performance of 9.3 percentage points when compared with Q1 (73.9%). The Waste South round re-organisation that commenced in May and the application process for £150 energy rebate both generated significant call volumes in Q1. These factors have started to reduce in Q2 allowing increased performance Percentage calls answered in the last week of September was 91%. This improvement in performance compared with Q1 can be attributed to the additional temporary resources brought in to cover high volume lines including Waste South, Helping Hand and Revenues and Benefits. Improvement Actions: Prioritisation of call answering over all other contact channels Prioritisation of high-volume lines Call back facility so that callers do not have to wait in the queue Temporary closure of lines where the impact was low e.g library book renewal Temporary closure of Council Access Point Plus (CAP+) to provide additional call handlers Temporary workers engaged to provide additional capacity Addition of targeted messaging on phone lines with key updates on timescales and promotion of transactions that can be completed online Use of behavioural science nudges to encourage online reporting |

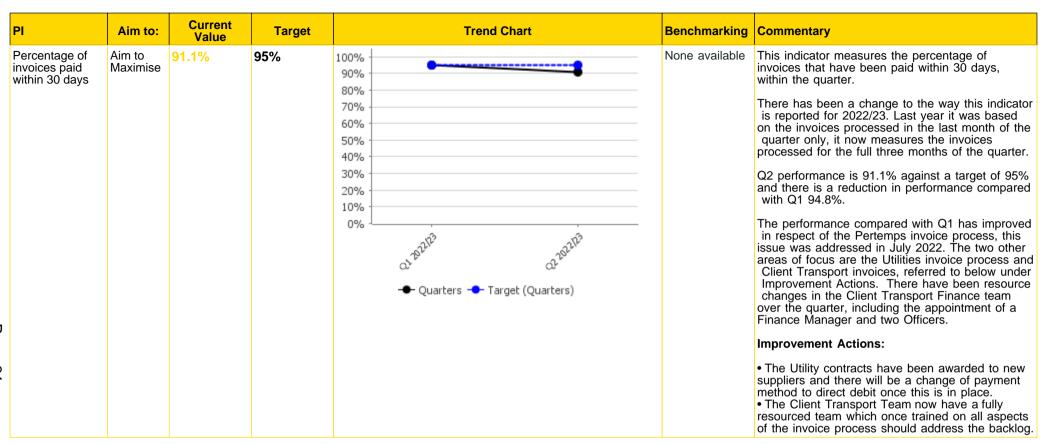


| PI | Aim to: | Current Value | Target | Trend Chart | Benchmarking | Commentary |
|---|--------------------|------------------|--------|---|---|---|
| Average time for processing new Housing Benefit claims (days) | Aim to Minimise | 28 | 20 | 20 10 Oraclar and | DWP March 2021 Average new claims processing time: 19 days | This indicator measures the average time for processing new Housing Benefit claims (days). Q1 performance was negatively impacted by the Phase 1 system closure and council tax £150 energy rebate together with the annual uprating of benefit claims plus preparation for the Phase 2 systems closure. Taken together this impacted processing time. September performance was 18 days against a target of 20 days This indicator has a rolling target for the whole year and therefore will take better than target performance to reduce to target overall. The systems merger into one system will impact on processing times next quarter (Q3) as the systems will have been down to enable the migration of data. Improvement Actions: Brought in additional resources to clear the outstanding work Improving automation to enable faster processing |

Accessible Housing and Resources Portfolio AMBER

Buckinghamshire Council

| PI | Aim to: | Current Value | Target | Trend Chart | Benchmarking | Commentary |
|--|--------------------|------------------|--------|---|----------------|---|
| Overall revenue (forecast) variance (%) across the council | Aim to Minimise | 0.4% | 0% | 2% 1% -1% -2% -3% -4% -5% -6% Quarters - Target (Quarters) | None available | This indicator measures the percentage of forecast revenue variance across Buckinghamshire Council. Forecast Revenue outturn is an adverse variance of £1.8m. The variance includes £15.7m in Portfolios. This is mitigated in Corporate and Funding by a £6.2m favourable variation on Corporate Contingencies, and £7.7m favourable variance on Corporate Budgets, from £4.4m transfer from reserves, interest income and reduced interest payable forecasts. |



Accessible Housing and Resources Portfolio GREEN

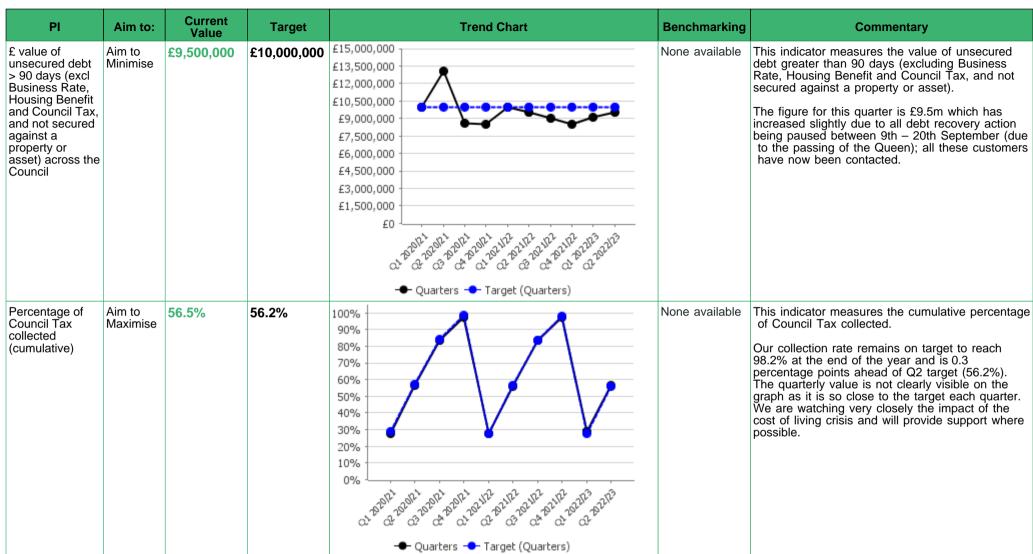
Buckinghamshire Council

Generated on: 01 November 2022

| PI | Aim to: | Current Value | Target | Trend Chart | Benchmarking | Commentary |
|--|--------------------|------------------|--------|---|----------------|--|
| Council Access Point Plus customer satisfaction | Aim to Maximise | 80% | 75% | 100% 90% 80% 70% 60% 50% 40% 30% 20% 10% 0% Quarters — Target (Quarters) | None available | This indicator measures the customer satisfaction for face-to-face visitors in the Council Access Point Plus locations. Q2 performance is 80% against a target of 75%. This is an improvement in performance of 8 percentage points when compared with Q1 (72%) This improvement in performance compared with Q1 can be attributed in part to the partial return that was entered for June 2022 when the Council Access Point Plus locations were only open from 1st to 15th June. |
| Percentage of phone calls in Customer Service Centres resolved at first call (FCR) | Aim to Maximise | 71.3% | 51% | 100% 90% 80% 70% 60% 50% 40% 30% 20% 10% 0% | None available | This indicator measures the average percentage of phone calls in the Customer Service Centre resolved at the first point of contact. Q2 performance is 71.3% against a target of 51%. This is a slight improvement in performance when compared with Q1 (71%) and remains above the 51% target. We continue to maintain a high first call resolution rate by ensuring our staff have the continuous training and where possible the facility to access the information required to enable them to answer/resolve the customer enquiry at the first point of contact. |

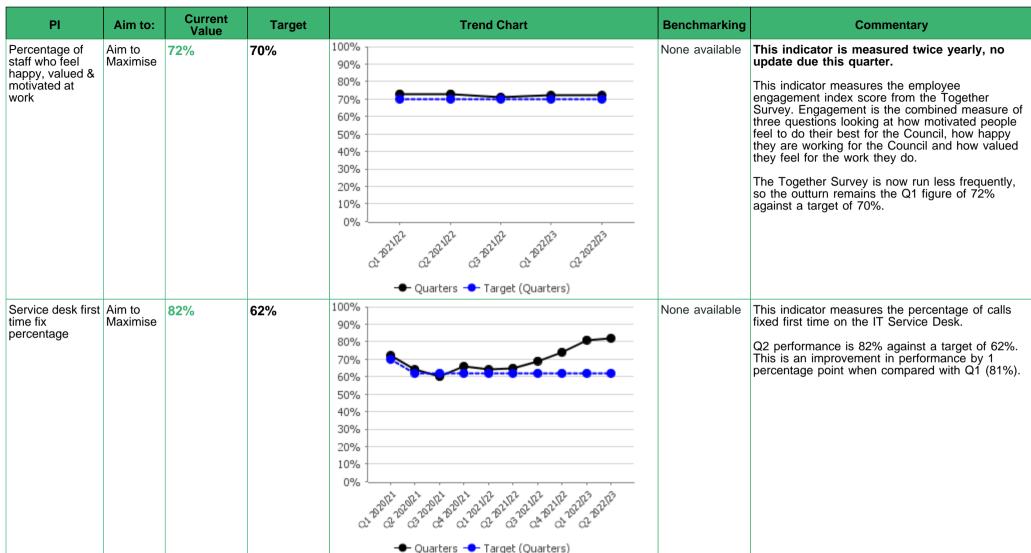
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| PI | Aim to: | Current Value | Target | Trend Chart | Benchmarking | Commentary |
|---|--------------------|------------------|--------|--|----------------|--|
| Percentage of Business Rates collected (cumulative) | Aim to Maximise | 58.1% | 49.9% | 100% 90% 80% 70% 60% 50% 40% 10% 0% 10% Quarters Target (Quarters) | None available | This indicator measures the percentage of Business Rates collected. Business rates collection continues to hold up well with a higher than expected collection in the first six months. Continued monitoring of collection performance will occur to ensure this continues for the third quarter. |
| Voluntary staff turnover percentage (rolling 12-month period) | Banding | 14% | 14% | | None available | This indicator measures the workforce voluntary turnover percentage for the Council. Q2 performance is 14% against a target of 14%. This is inside the banding of 12% to 16% and a reduction compared to Q1 (15.1%). Turnover is monitored on a monthly basis. |

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Quarters
 Target (Quarters)

| PI | Aim to: | Current Value | Target | Trend Chart | Benchmarking | Commentary |
|---|---------|------------------|--------|--|----------------|--|
| % of empty properties across the Council Estate that are vacant for more than 2 years (excluding those in an approved Regeneration or Capital Programme, and schools) | | 0.27% | 0.4% | 1% 0.9% 0.8% 0.7% 0.6% 0.5% 0.4% 0.3% 0.2% 0.1% 0% A ROLL OF COLOR OF COLO | None available | This indicator measures the percentage of empty properties across the Council estate that are vacant for more than 2 years. Vacant means continuously empty for 2 years and not within a Capital or Regeneration programme. During Q1 and Q2 0.27% of properties across the Council estate have been vacant for more than 2 years, which is lower (better) than the target of 0.40%. Pro-active management of the estate and strengthening market conditions over the past 6 months have kept voids at a low level. The recent impact of central Government's mini-budget and energy crisis however are creating significant market uncertainty and it is expected that voids may increase over the coming months, albeit within target limits. |

Accessible Housing and Resources Portfolio NO RAG



| PI | Aim To | Current Value | Trend Chart | Commentary |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|---|---|
| Average webchat response time | Aim to Minimise | 0h 00m 00s | 0h 01m 08s 0h 01m 01s 0h 00m 54s 0h 00m 47s 0h 00m 40s 0h 00m 34s 0h 00m 27s 0h 00m 13s 0h 00m 13s 0h 00m 06s 0h 00m 06s 0h 00m 00s —————————————————————————————————— | This indicator measures the average time taken to respond to a webchat across all customer service sites. This indicator has been changed to a monitor for this quarter as the web chat service has been switched off since June 2022, with telephone calls being prioritised over all other channels and trained web chat resources redeployed to assist with answering calls. Improvement Actions: Reconvene web chat service Train up additional resource, including new starters and peripatetic workforce to manage web chat requests |



Climate Change and Environment Portfolio Cllr Gareth Williams





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Climate Change and Environment Portfolio RED

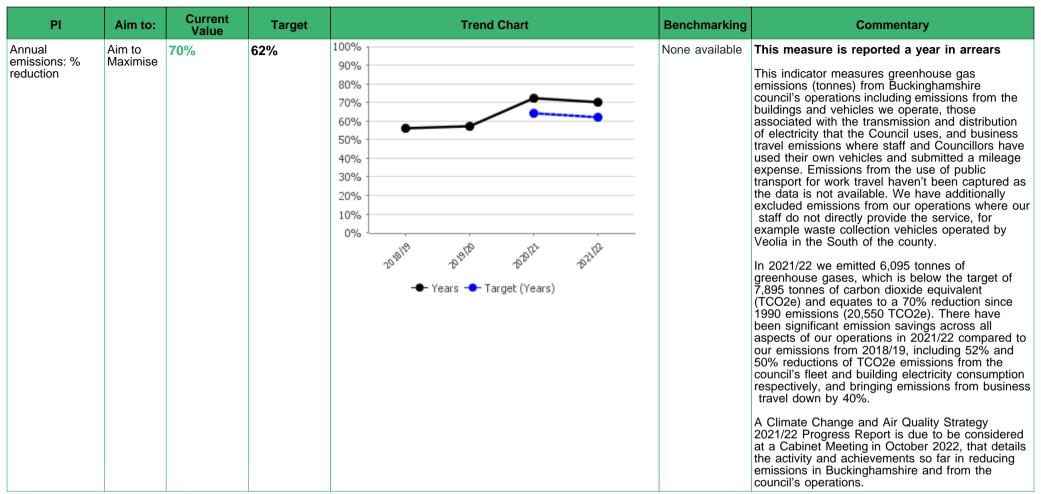


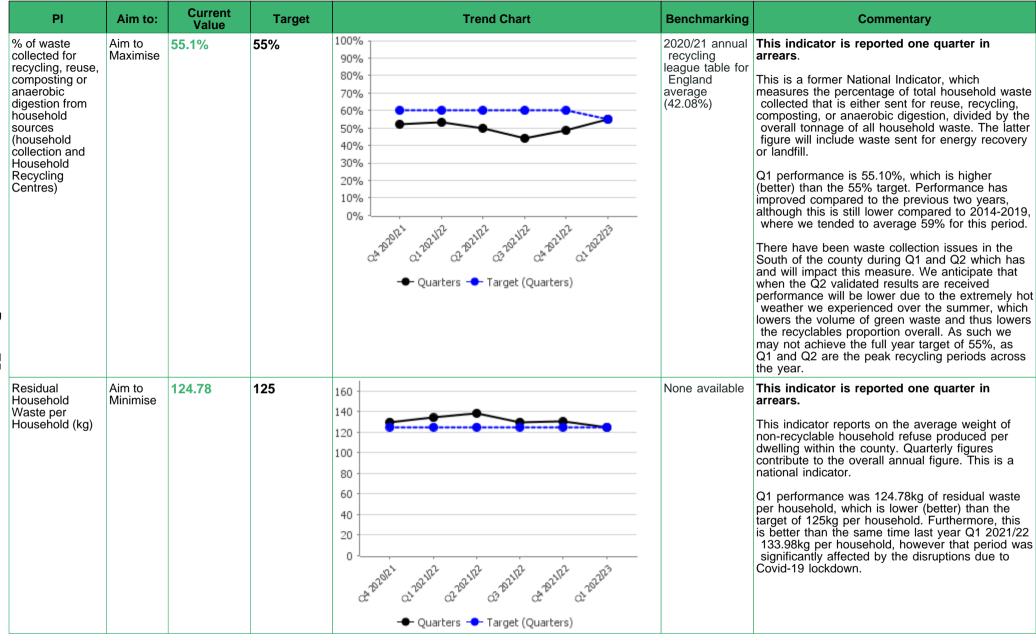
| PI | Aim to: | Current Value | Target | Trend Chart | Benchmarking | Commentary |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------|--|----------------|---|
| % of Missed Bin Collections | Aim to Minimise | 0.52% | 0.15% | 0.8% 0.6% 0.4% 0.2% 0.2% 0.2% Quarters Target (Quarters) | None available | This indicator reports on the number of missed domestic waste containers (not trade waste collections), as a percentage of total households. This service is delivered by two teams, an inhouse team to the North, and the contractor Veolia to the South. Instances where bins were 'not present', 'access was blocked', there had been 'contamination' or 'reports were raised too late' are not included in this measure, even though a resident may report this bin as missed. In Q2 performance was 0.52% (0.06% North, 0.77% South), this is an improvement on Q1 0.68% (0.06% North, 1.02% South), but is still significantly above the 0.15% target. Issues are concentrated in the South and as such a recovery plan has been agreed. Improvement Actions: • Ensuring the 30% increase in collection crew staff continues until the position stabilises. • Increasing the number of additional 'catch up crews' to 9 (from 6) and facilitating weekend working to focus on responding to missed bin reports. • Deploying 2 additional Veolia Supervisors to improve monitoring and performance on the ground. • Deploying a dedicated team of Council Officers to address reports of repeat missed bins (many of which have been helpfully provided by Local Members). • Further increasing the number of call handlers and providing extended weekend opening hours in the Customer Service Centre. • Extending the online reporting period for a missed bin collection from 24 to 48 hours to provide residents with more time to make reports. |

Climate Change and Environment Portfolio GREEN



| PI | Aim to: | Current Value | Target | Trend Chart | Benchmarking | Commentary |
|--------------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------|--|----------------|---|
| Annual emissions: tonnes | Aim to Minimise | 6,095 | 7,895 | 10,000 9,000 8,000 7,000 6,000 5,000 4,000 3,000 2,000 1,000 Years Target (Years) | None available | This measure is reported a year in arrears This indicator measures greenhouse gas emissions (tonnes) from Buckinghamshire council's operations including emissions from the buildings and vehicles we operate, those associated with the transmission and distribution of electricity that the Council uses, and business travel emissions where staff and Councillors have used their own vehicles and submitted a mileage expense. Emissions from the use of public transport for work travel haven't been captured as the data is not available. We have additionally excluded emissions from our operations where our staff do not directly provide the service, for example waste collection vehicles operated by Veolia in the South of the county. In 2021/22 we emitted 6,095 tonnes of greenhouse gases, which is below the target of 7,895 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (TCO2e) and equates to a 70% reduction since 1990 emissions (20,550 TCO2e). There have been significant emission savings across all aspects of our operations in 2021/22 compared to our emissions from 2018/19, including 52% and 50% reductions of TCO2e emissions from the council's fleet and building electricity consumption respectively, and bringing emissions from business travel down by 40%. A Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy 2021/22 Progress Report is due to be considered at a Cabinet Meeting in October 2022, that details the activity and achievements so far in reducing emissions in Buckinghamshire and from the council's operations. |





| PI | Aim to: | Current Value | Target | Trend Chart | Benchmarking | Commentary |
|-------------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------|---|----------------|--|
| Number of trees planted | Aim to Maximise | 5,860 | 4,204 | 10,000 9,000 8,000 7,000 6,000 5,000 4,000 2,000 1,000 0 Years Target (Years) | None available | This indicator measures the number of trees planted on Buckinghamshire council land within the year. 5,860 trees were planted on Buckinghamshire council land in the 2021/22 planting season against the target of 4,204 trees. This includes trees planted at Billet Field (on the council's agricultural estate) (3,450 trees); next to Spade Oak Nature Reserve and the public highway (with funding from the Local Authority Treescapes Fund (LATF)) (586 trees); as part of Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) work in Buckinghamshire (168 trees); and by Chiltern Rangers (1,656 trees). The council's Climate Response Team secured an England Woodland Creation Offer grant of £28,380 for the Billet Field Wood project and has registered it with the UK Land Carbon Registry. It is calculated that the project will remove around 411 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (TCO2e) by the end of 2021/22. Invitations to tender have been issued for the provision of woodland creation and maintenance services at two sites: Bury Farm and Grange Farm. 29,000 trees (14,300 at Bury Farm and 14,700 at Grange Farm) are due to be planted by the end of the 2022/23 planting season against the 2022/23 annual target of 21,000 trees planted. |

1. Climate Change and Environment Portfolio NO RAG



| PI | Aim To | Current Value | Trend Chart | Commentary |
|--|---------|------------------|---|--|
| Number of fly tipping clearances where an action has been taken | Monitor | 16 | 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 Quarters Target (Quarters) | This measure records the number of fly-tipping clearances where an action has been taken. In Q2 there were 16 clearances where action had been taken, which is lower than Q1 where there were 24 clearances where action had been taken. Action taken is dependent on available evidence streams relating to the waste (eye-witness accounts, evidence within the waste and surveillance work), which isn't always readily available. Live investigations have reduced this quarter due to resource redeployment to support the Ukraine effort, alongside focus on project work tackling cross-border crime coming into Buckinghamshire. |



Communities Portfolio Cllr Steve Bowles





Communities Portfolio AMBER

Buckinghamshire Council

Generated on: 01 November 2022

| PI | Aim to: | Current Value | Target | Trend Chart | Benchmarking | Commentary |
|--|--------------------|------------------|--------|---|----------------|---|
| % of female victims supported by IDVAs who have their risk level reduced | Aim to Maximise | 72.2% | 75% | 100% 90% 80% 70% 60% 50% 40% 30% 20% 10% 0% Quarters Target (Quarters) | None available | This indicator is reported one quarter in arrears. This indicator measures the percentage of Women's Aid female clients who receive support from an Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) and as a result, see their domestic abuse risk-level reduce. Independent domestic violence advisors (IDVAs) are professionally qualified, specialist domestic abuse workers, who support high-risk victims of domestic abuse. This is a commissioned service that is provided to address the needs of domestic violence and abuse (DVA) victims. The Q1 indicator at 72.2% is below the 75% target and has reduced since the previous quarter. However, fluctuations of risk are expected with this service. These occur due to mitigating factors including the victims contact with the perpetrator and difficulties in monitoring progress when victims stop engaging with the service. Improvement Actions: There is a continued focus on individual cases where there is a challenge in reducing the risk. There are two new Triage Workers who are supplementing the work of the frontline services and providing additional capacity to deal with complex cases. Work is also being done with Housing Providers to support them in their safeguarding of victims of domestic abuse. |

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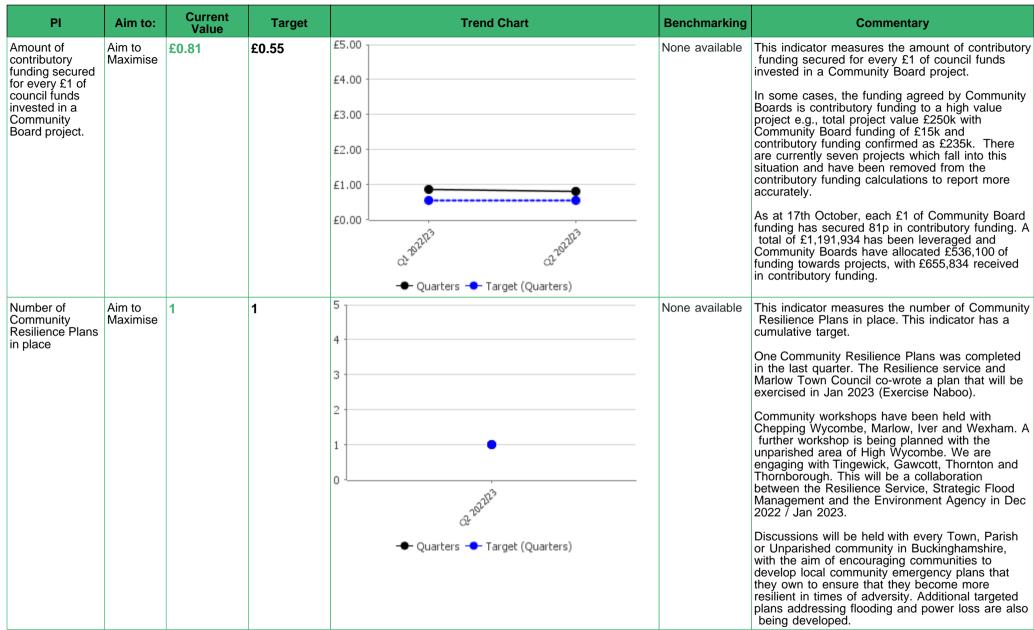
Communities Portfolio GREEN

Buckinghamshire Council

Generated on: 01 November 2022

| PI | Aim to: | Current Value | Target | Trend Chart | Benchmarking | Commentary |
|---|--------------------|------------------|--------|--|----------------|--|
| Household Support Fund (Helping Hand): Percentage of profiled spend achieved | Aim to Maximise | 50% | 50% | 100% 90% 80% 70% 60% 50% 40% 30% 20% 10% 0% Quarters Target (Quarters) | None available | This indicator measures the percentage spend of the allocated Household Support Fund. The funding is released as two separate funds during the year. 100% of the first fund (Household Support Fund 2: £2,399,190.54) was successfully spent, in accordance with its framework, by the end of September 2022. This equates to 50% spend of the planned annual allocation. The fund enabled support to be provided to over 60,000 households, including help with food, energy bills, purchasing essential white goods and other essentials to keep warm, including clothing. The management information return is currently being completed and when successfully submitted, funds will be received from Government. The second fund (Household Support Fund 3: £2,399,190.54) covers the period from 1st Oct 2022 - 31st March 2023. During October Cabinet approved the arrangements for deploying the new Household Support Fund allocation. |
| Number of assets devolved to Town and Parish Councils, and Community Organisations | Aim to Maximise | 1 | 1 | 5 4 3 2 1 0 Quarters Target (Quarters) | None available | This indicator measures the number of assets devolved to Town & Parish Councils and Community organisations in 2022/23. In Q2, a target of one asset to be devolved was set to reflect the progress that current devolution projects are expected to have made. At the end of Q2, one asset has been devolved and the target achieved. This indicator has a cumulative target. In Q3 the target is for two assets to be devolved, and by the end of the year the target is for ten assets to be devolved. Presently, three devolution pilot projects are in the process of lease negotiation, these being Prestwood Recreation Ground, Denham Scout Hut and Green Street. In addition, fact-finding work on Buckingham Green Spaces and Aylesbury Special Expenses has been completed and options have been set out for the devolution of various assets in scope. |

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Culture and Leisure Portfolio Cllr Clive Harriss

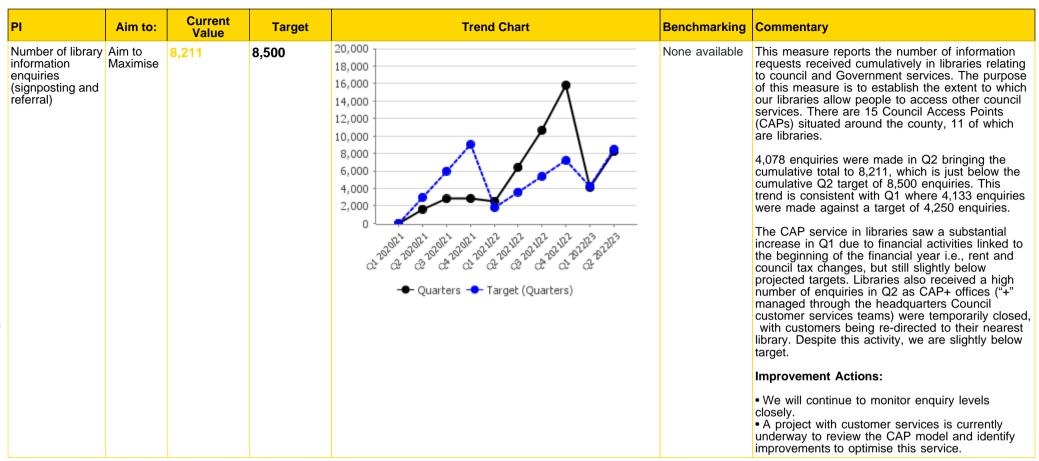




Culture and Leisure portfolio AMBER

Buckinghamshire Council

| PI | Aim to: | Current Value | Target | Trend Chart | Benchmarking | Commentary |
|--|--------------------|------------------|---------|---|----------------|--|
| Number of visits to main cultural venues | Aim to Maximise | 232,530 | 240,000 | 350,000 250,000 150,000 100,000 50,000 Quarters Target (Quarters) | None Available | This measure cumulatively records the number of visitors to Aylesbury Waterside Theatre, Wycombe Swan Theatre, Discover Bucks Museum and Wycombe Museum. In Q2 these venues had 113,498 visitors (Q1 and Q2 cumulative 232,530 visitors), which is slightly fewer than Q1 (119,032 visitors), and both quarters were below the quarterly target of 120,000 visitors. This sector was particularly affected by the pandemic, and while some aspects are starting to pick up, areas such as school visits are proving more challenging to reach pre-Covid levels. Theatres are looking positively ahead towards panto season in December/January. Improvement Action: • We will continue to monitor visitor levels closely. |



| PI | Aim to: | Current Value | Target | Trend Chart | Benchmarking | Commentary |
|--|--------------------|------------------|---------|---|----------------|--|
| Number of downloads (e- audiobooks, e- magazines and e-news) | Aim to Maximise | 346,341 | 350,000 | 750,000 675,000 600,000 525,000 450,000 375,000 150,000 75,000 0 1800 | None available | This measure records the number of electronic downloads in libraries, including e-magazines, e-books, e-audiobooks and e-news. The purpose of this measure is to understand the usage of online services. Libraries have achieved 99% (346,341) e-resource downloads against a target of 350,000 total downloads for Q1 and Q2. There was a slight drop in Q1 (96%) with libraries achieving 168,508 downloads against a quarterly target of 175,000, but in Q2 we exceeded the quarterly target achieving 177,833 downloads. The continued growth is evidence that e-resources are a service that continues to be in demand from our customers. Improvement Action: • We will continue to monitor closely to understand customer demand for e-resources. |

Culture and Leisure portfolio GREEN

Buckinghamshire Council

Generated on: 01 November 2022

| PI | Aim to: | Current Value | Target | Trend Chart | Benchmarking | Commentary |
|---|--------------------|------------------|--------|--|----------------|--|
| Country and Town Park Satisfaction Ratings (Trip Advisor & Google) | Aim to Maximise | 4.4 | 4.4 | 2 1 0 ABARA CO BARA CA | None available | This measure records public satisfaction ratings for our Country and Town Parks on Trip Advisor and Google. Q2 performance was 4.4 out of 5 (90.76% positive, 2.86% negative) and as such was better than the target of 4.4 (>90% positive, <3% negative), as was Q1 at 4.4 out of 5 (91.06% positive, 2.56% negative). The loss of Google data for a major site (Wycombe Rye) which previously had over 2,000 reviews has had an impact on the percentage scores. We are investigating why this data has been removed from Google. |
| Hours contributed by archive volunteers | Aim to Maximise | 272 | 210 | 350 300 250 200 150 100 50 0 Quarters Target (Quarters) | None available | This measure records the number of hours contributed by archive volunteers. In Q2 performance was 272 hours, which is higher than Q1 (264 hours) and is higher than the target of 205 hours. Targets are being exceeded because of the increase in the number of volunteers being recruited. |

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Page 8

| PI | Aim to: | Current Value | Target | Trend Chart | Benchmarking | Commentary |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|---------|--|----------------|---|
| Number of visitors to Country Parks | Aim to Maximise | 694,638 | 675,865 | 2,500,000 2,250,000 1,750,000 1,250,000 1,250,000 250, | None available | This indicator measures the number of visitors to country parks. It is compiled from an automated count of cars entering car parks at Black Park, Langley Park and Denham. A multiplier of 2.5 is applied (assuming 2.5 visitors per vehicle). There were 349,983 visitors in Q1 and 344,655 in Q2 bringing the cumulative Q2 total to 694,638, which is higher (better) than the cumulative Q2 target of 675,865 visitors. This is despite the increase in availability of overseas holidays and other activities. Post-pandemic visitor numbers are 14.5% below last year's totals year-to-date. |



Education and Children's Services Portfolio Cllr Anita Cranmer



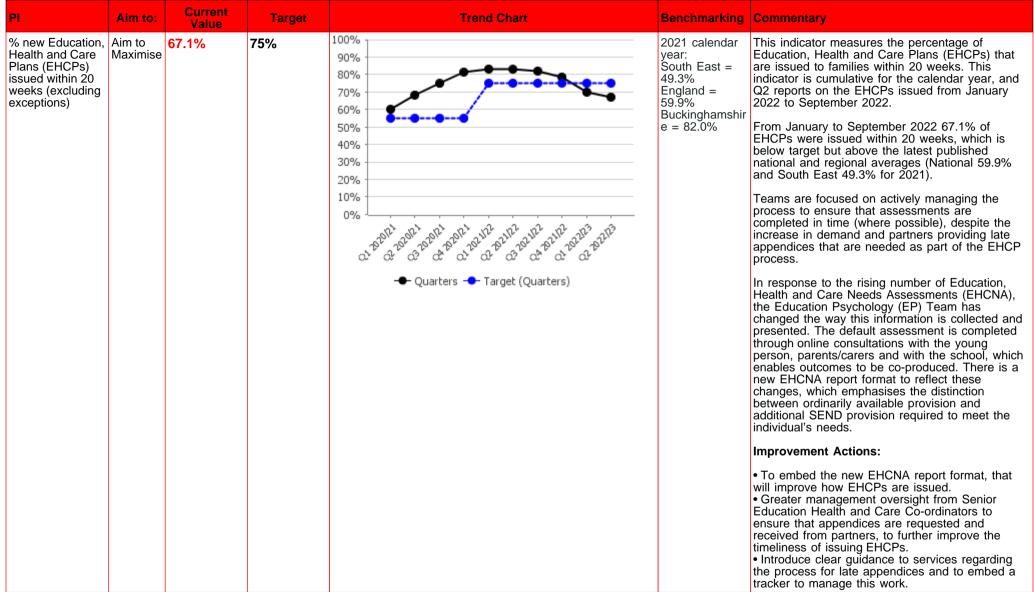


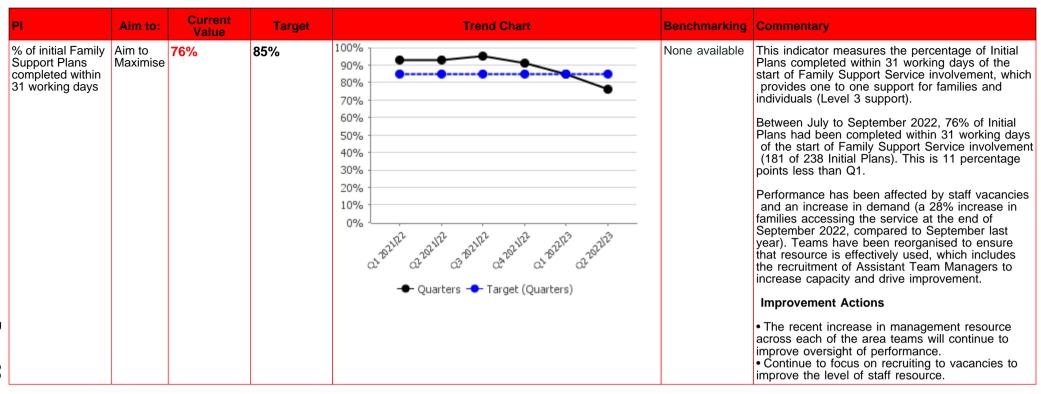
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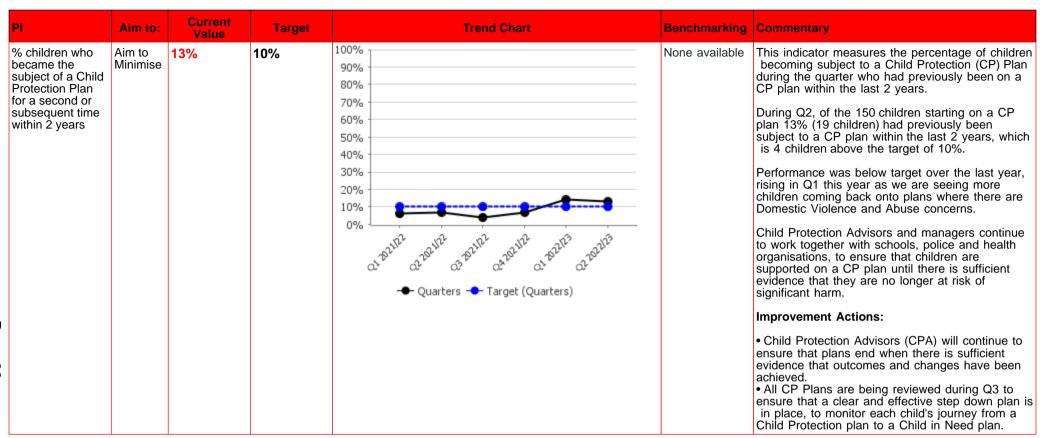
Education and Childrens Services Portfolio RED

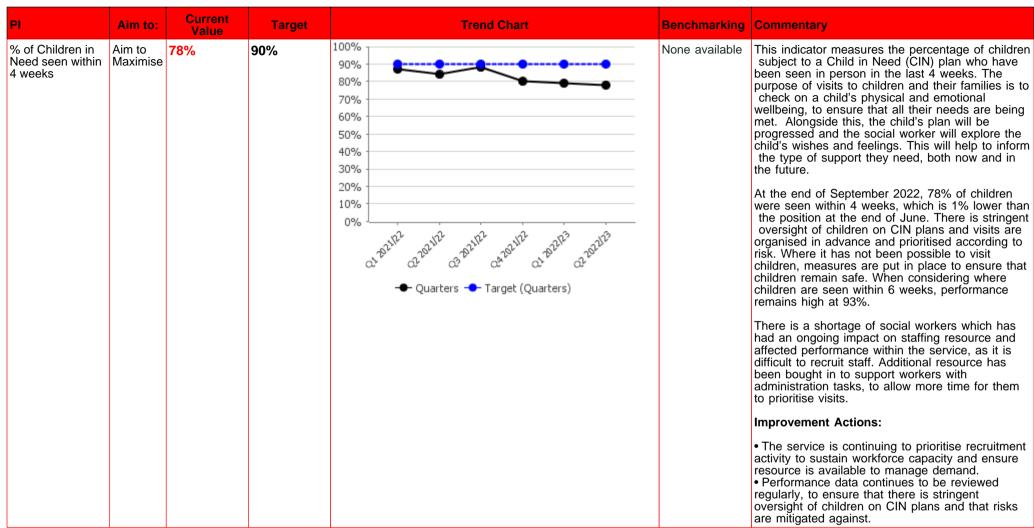


| PI | Aim to: | Current Value | Target | Trend Chart | Benchmarking | Commentary |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|--------|---|--|--|
| % of re-referrals within 12 months | Aim to Minimise | 38% | 28% | 90% 80% 70% 60% 50% 40% 30% 20% 10% 0% ————————————————————————————— | England 23%, South East 28%, Statistical Neighbours 23% (CIN Census 2020/21) | This indicator measures the percentage of children who have been referred to Children's Social Care in each quarter, where they have also had an open referral within the previous 12 months. Referrals to the service are received by the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). Re-referrals increased during the covid pandemic from 26% in 2019/20, to 33% in 2021/22. The percentage of re-referrals continued to increase this year to 39% in Q1 then decreased slightly to 38% in Q2. This is above the target of 28%, which is in-line with performance in the South East during 2020/21. The number of both contacts and referrals have increased by 65% and 53% respectively during April to September 2022 (compared to the same period last year), where this additional activity is impacting on referral rates. The most common reason for re-referrals relates to Domestic Violence and Abuse (DVA) concerns, which was a factor in a quarter of all re-referrals in Q2. DVA was not originally identified as a factor in 60% of these cases and was a newly identified concern, indicating that the reason for these referrals are different to the original concerns raised. Improvement Actions: • A newly appointed officer that is focusing on DVA referrals will continue to improve how these referrals are triaged in the MASH. • The service is improving the transfer process between the Family Support service and the MASH to better assist families with support and advice, ensuring that they are given the right support at the right time. • A new approach continues to be piloted in the MASH that is evidencing improved and timely decision making at the initial stage of referral, through professional conversations with referrers. This involves giving advice and guidance about a common set of principles which promote the welfare and safety of children. |





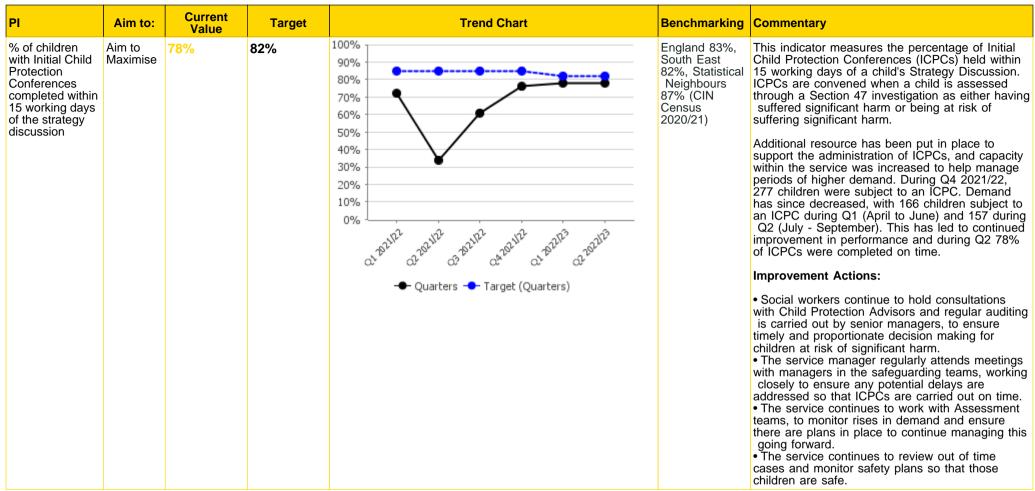




Education and Childrens Services Portfolio AMBER

Buckinghamshire Council

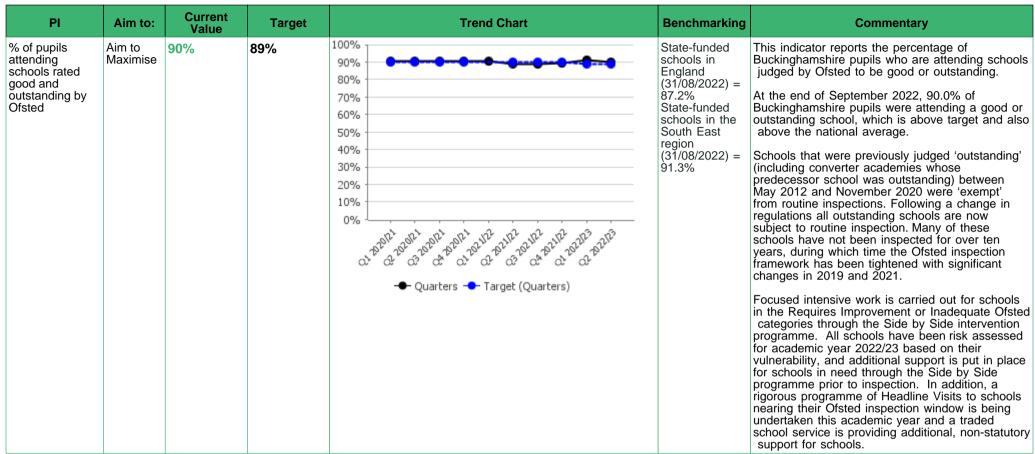
| PI | Aim to: | Current Value | Target | Trend Chart | Benchmarking | Commentary |
|---|--------------------|------------------|--------|---|------------------------------------|--|
| % of eligible two- year-olds registered to receive funded early education entitlements | Aim to Maximise | 74% | 75% | 100% 90% 80% 70% 60% 50% 40% 30% 20% 10% 0% Target (Months) | England (January 2022) = 72% | This measure shows the number of 2 year olds, for whom we have received official confirmation that they are attending an early years provider, as a percentage of the number of children who were on the list of potentially eligible 2 year olds received from the Department for Education. Eligible two-year olds are entitled to 570 hours of funded early education and childcare per year if their parents choose to apply for and take up a place. At the end of the summer term (July 2022) 74.0% of eligible 2 year olds were attending an early years provider. This is slightly below target, but is above the same point last year (July 2021 was 65.6%) and above the latest published national average. The number of eligible children varies throughout the year from approximately 1,200-1,500, so a one percentage point gap to target is the equivalent of approximately 15 eligible children not accessing a funded childcare place. Improvement Actions: • The Childcare Brokerage Service continues to work with families to help them apply and confirm their eligibility for 2 year old funding. They then work with families and childcare providers to find a suitable childcare placement for each eligible child. |



Education and Childrens Services Portfolio GREEN

Buckinghamshire Council

| PI | Aim to: | Current Value | Target | Trend Chart | Benchmarking | Commentary |
|--|--------------------|------------------|--------|--|----------------|---|
| Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) Annual Reviews - % of CYP with an EHCP who have had an annual review within the last 12 months | Aim to Maximise | 78.2% | 75% | 100% 90% 80% 70% 60% 50% 40% 30% 20% 10% 0% Quarters - Target (Quarters) | None available | The Annual Review of an Education Health and Care plan (EHCP) is a process by which the outcomes set out in the EHC Plan, and the effectiveness of provision are reviewed alongside all other sections of the EHCP. EHCPs must be reviewed, and the process completed by the local authority (LA) as a minimum within every 12 months. For under 5's with EHCPs, this review must be within 6 months. At the end of Q2, 78.2% of children and young people with an EHCP had had an Annual Review in the past 12 months. This is up from 72% at the end of Q1. The service are introducing a consistent reporting mechanism for the Annual Review Strategy during the calendar year 2022, which focuses on the most vulnerable children and young people (priority 1) by Area Team. Front-line staff are focusing on ensuring that there is timely logging of reviews, and protected time has been introduced for staff to process Annual Reviews. We are awaiting a response to the open public consultation launched by the DfE on annual review timescales in light of the Devon ruling (case law), which may change the requirements around this measure. |

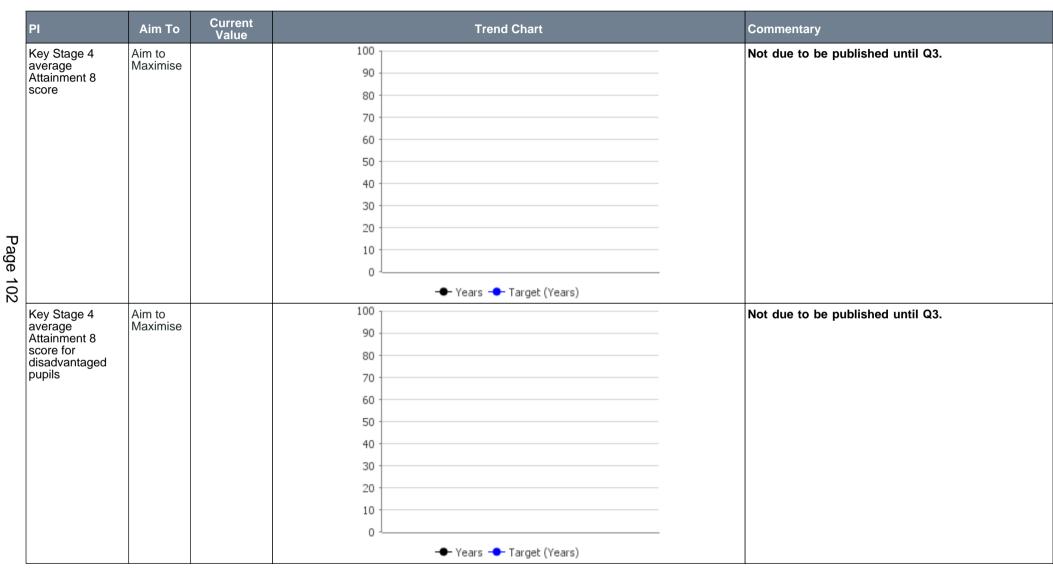


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| PI | Aim to: | Current Value | Target | Trend Chart | Benchmarking | Commentary |
|--|--------------------|------------------|--------|--|----------------|---|
| % of children looked after visited within timescales | Aim to Maximise | 90% | 90% | 100% 90% 80% 70% 60% 50% 40% 30% 20% 10% 0% Quarters Target (Quarters) | None available | This indicator measures the percentage of looked after children who were visited in person within timescales. The aim of the visit is to check on a child's physical and emotional wellbeing to ensure that all their needs are being met, alongside exploring their wishes and feelings and the environment in which they live. This will help to inform the type of support they need both now and in the future. The frequency of visits is determined by the child's needs and care plan, in accordance with statutory requirements. At the end of September 2022 90% of children had been visited within timescales, which is the same figure as at the end of Q1 in June 2022. When visiting children, social workers are responsible for planning future visits at a time convenient for the child and their carer, to ensure that they are seen regularly. |

Education and Childrens Services Portfolio NO RAG







Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Cllr Angela Macpherson



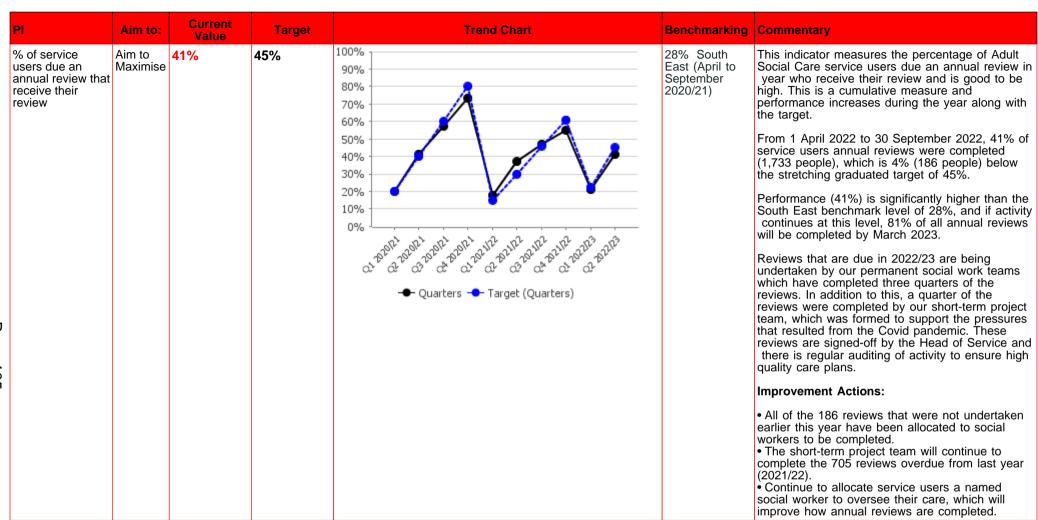


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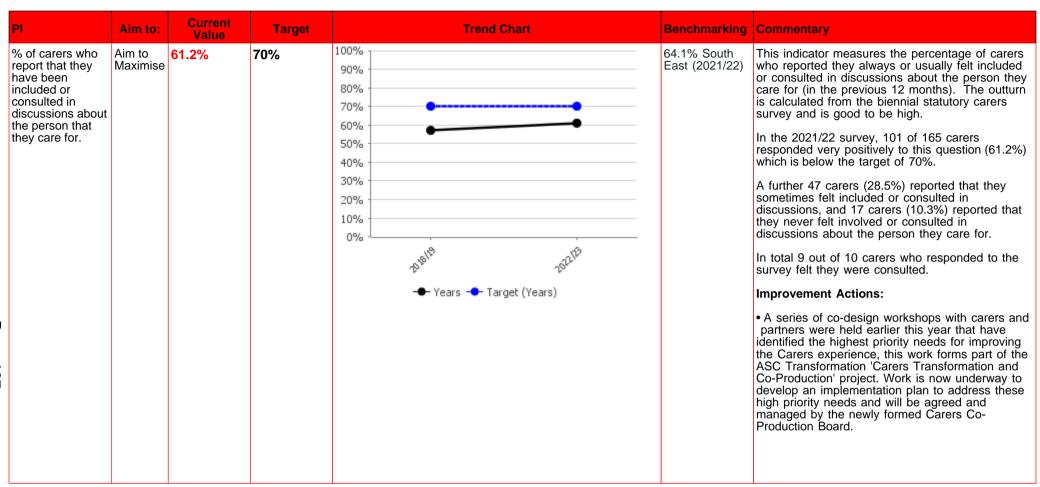
Health and Wellbeing Portfolio RED



| PI | Aim to: | Current Value | Target | Trend Chart | Benchmarking | Commentary |
|----|--------------------|------------------|--------|---|--|---|
| | Aim to Maximise | 82.1% | 90% | 90% 80% 70% 60% 50% 40% 30% 20% 10% 0 ARRIVAL | 79.7% England (Q4 2021/22) 74.2% (Q4 2021/22 South East region) 73.8% (Q4 2021/22 mean of CIPFA peers) | This indicator is reported one quarter in arrears. This indicator measures the percentage of new birth visits (NBV) undertaken within 14 days. Performance (82.1%) is below the contractually targeted level (90%). Although a slight decrease on the previous quarter (85.3%), it remains a significant improvement on previous quarters (at the end of 2021/22) and above comparator areas. The proportion of new birth visits taking place within 14 days decreased due to capacity within Aylesbury and Wycombe teams (staff shortages and illness). The majority of visits (96%) have taken place within 21 days. There has not been any significant change to the proportion of children with no recorded visit which has remained at less than 2%. Improvement Actions: Addressing staff capacity across locality teams and providing a review of staffing within the service looking at skill mix and new approaches for recruitment. Reducing administration by developing a standardised process for health visitors to report NBV outcomes. Working with maternity units (inside and outside of Buckinghamshire) to reduce the level of late notifications of births for women resident in Buckinghamshire. |



| PI | Aim to: | Current Value | Target | Trend Chart | Benchmarking | Commentary |
|---|--------------------|------------------|--------|---|--|--|
| Number of older people (65+) admitted to permanent residential or nursing care homes per 100,000 population | Aim to Minimise | 264.1 | 244.5 | 550 450 450 400 350 300 250 200 150 100 50 Quarters Target (Quarters) | 244.5 South East (April to September 2020/21) | This indicator measures the number of older adults whose long-term support needs are best met by admission to a residential or nursing care home, relative to the population size. It is expressed as a rate per 100,000 population and is good to be low. Between 1 April 2022 and 30th September 2022, 275 older adults (264.1 per 100,000 population) were permanently admitted to care homes. This is 20 above the target of 255 people (244.5 per 100,000 population) which was set at last year's South East benchmark level. The rate of permanent admissions amongst older adults is higher than previous years because of the Covid pandemic. This is in part due to the Hospital Discharge to Assess pathway that was put in place due to the pandemic, which is now resulting in increased admissions, and accounts for one third of all permanent residential and nursing admissions. Social workers are continuing to ensure that practice is based on the Better Lives independence and short-term and strength-based interventions, thereby minimising long-term care placements. This is also enabling 8 in 10 people contacting the council to receive information, advice and guidance to support them to continue to live independently. Improvement Actions: • A Transfer of Care Hub is being developed for Winter 2022, which will evaluate and improve a person's discharge pathway from hospital, with an emphasis on people returning to their own home. |



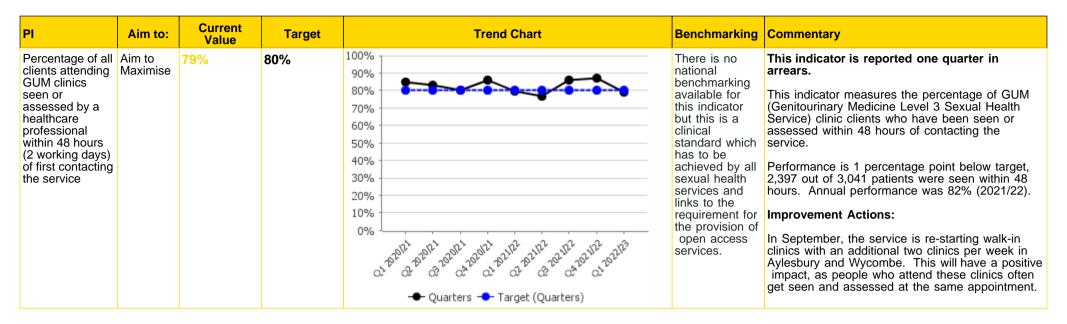
Health and Wellbeing Portfolio AMBER

Buckinghamshire Council

Generated on: 01 November 2022

| PI | Aim to: | Current Value | Target | Trend Chart | Benchmarking | Commentary |
|--|--------------------|------------------|--------|--|--|--|
| % of successful drug treatment completions of those in treatment | Aim to Maximise | 14.5% | 15.2% | 17% 16% 15% 13% 12% 11% 10% 19% 8% 7% 6% 6% 6% 6% 6% 1% 0% Quarters Target (Quarters) | 14.1% (Q1 2022/23 England) 16.5% (Q1 2022/23 South East region) 14.4% (Q4 2021/22 England) 17.0% (Q4 2021/22 South East region) 14.4% (Q3 2021/22 England) 17.3% (Q3 2021/22 England) 17.3% (Q3 2021/22 South East region) | This indicator is reported one quarter in arrears. This indicator measures the percentage of adults who have successfully completed drug treatment of all those receiving treatment. It covers all drugs. Performance is at 14.5% (135 out of 928 clients) against a target of 15.2%. Approximately 6 more clients would need to successfully complete to reach the target. Improvement Actions: The provider has appointed a new non-opiate lead with the aim of increasing the number of successful completions. |

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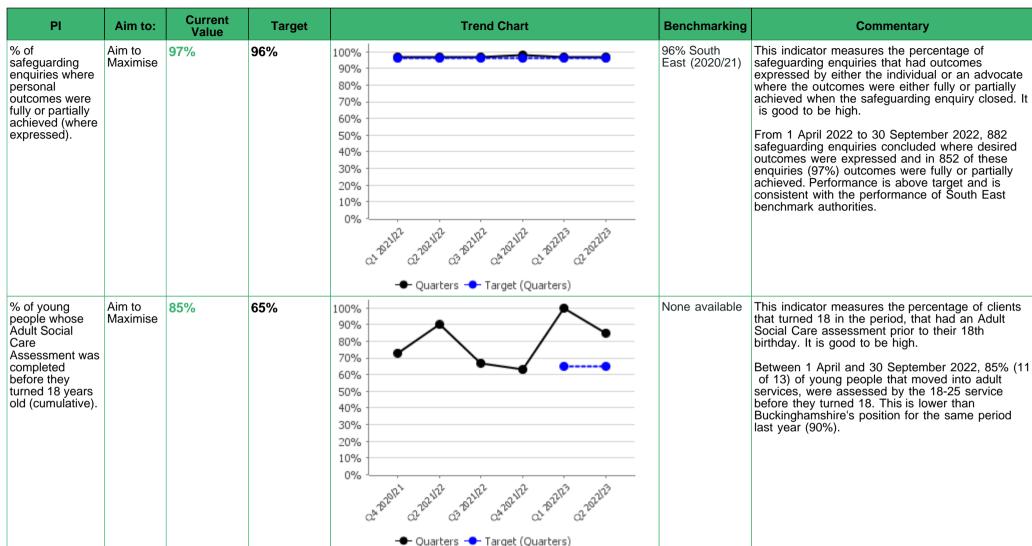
Health and Wellbeing Portfolio GREEN

Buckinghamshire Council

Generated on: 01 November 2022

| PI Aim | Current Value | Target | Trend Chart | Benchmarking | Commentary |
|---|------------------|--------|--|--------------|---|
| % of successful alcohol treatment completions of those in treatment | .4% | 37% | 90% 80% 70% 60% 50% 40% 30% 20% 10% 0% | England) | This indicator is reported one quarter in arrears. This indicator measures the percentage of adults who have successfully completed alcohol treatment of all those receiving treatment. Performance is at 39.4% (207 out of 526 clients) and therefore above target. While this is a decrease since last quarter (40.4%), it is 2.4 percentage points above target and above both the South East and National averages. |





| PI | Aim to: | Current Value | Target | Trend Chart | Benchmarking | Commentary |
|---|--------------------|------------------|--------|---|----------------|--|
| % of safeguarding eligibility decisions made within 2 working days of the concern being received. | Aim to Maximise | 70% | 70% | 100% 90% 80% 70% 60% 50% 40% 30% 20% 10% 0% Quarters - Target (Quarters) | None available | This indicator measures the percentage of safeguarding concerns that have been completed within 2 working days, to decide on whether the issue needs to progress to be a Safeguarding Enquiry. It is good to be high. From 1 July 2022 to 30 September 2022, 3,156 eligibility decisions were completed of which 2,194 were completed in 2 working days (70%), with performance improving more recently in August (85%) and September (76%). Over the course of this year, improvements have been made to how safeguarding concerns are allocated to workers, to ensure that there is sufficient time for them to be triaged within the 2 working day target. |

Health and Wellbeing Portfolio NO RAG



| PI | Aim To | Current Value | Trend Chart | Commentary |
|---|--------|------------------|--|--|
| % of people who use services who have control over their daily life | | | 100% 90% 80% 70% 60% 50% 40% 30% 20% 10% 0% Years Target (Years) | This is an annual indicator which will be reported at Q3. This indicator measures the proportion of service users who report they have at least adequate control of their daily lives. The outturn is expressed as a percentage. It is good to be high. Data for this indicator is captured by the annual survey of people supported by adult social care, conducted during January to March 2022. |



Homelessness and Regulatory Services Portfolio Cllr Mark Winn



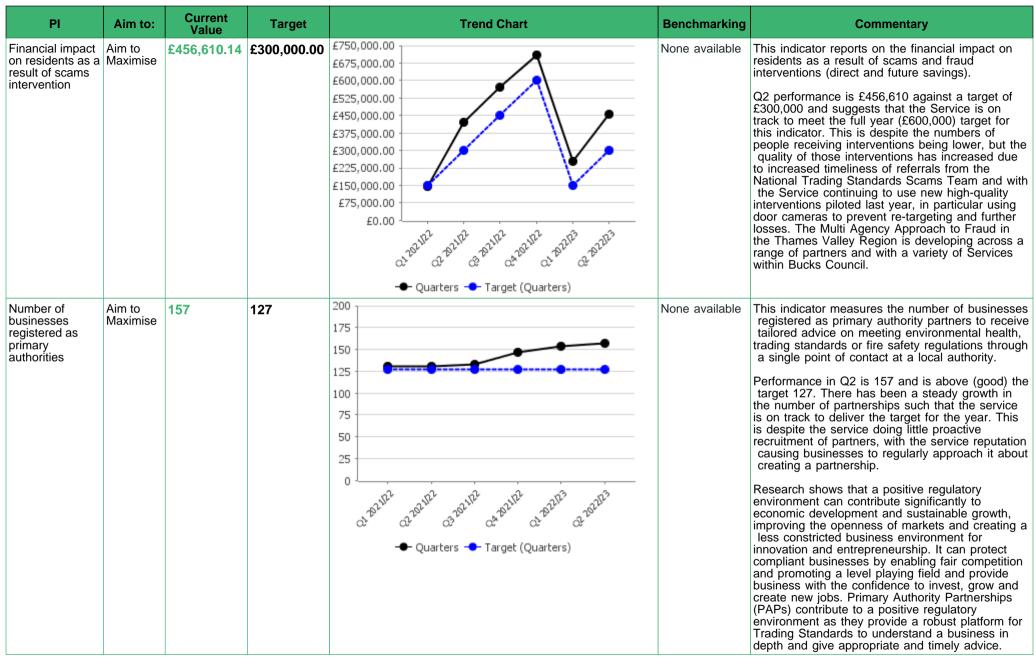


Homelessness and Regulatory Services Portfolio GREEN

Buckinghamshire Council

Generated on: 04 November 2022

| PI | Aim to: | Current Value | Target | Trend Chart | Benchmarking | Commentary |
|---|--------------------|------------------|--------|--|----------------|--|
| Average number of days to issue taxi vehicle licence and plate from valid application received | Aim to Minimise | 4 | 10 | 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0 Quarters — Target (Quarters) | None available | This indicator measures the average number of working days to issue a taxi vehicle licence and plate from the date a valid application is received. This excludes an application that needs to be passed on to an officer for investigation and a decision as applications are not deemed valid until all aspects are deemed satisfactory. In Q1 and Q2 performance was 4 working days, which is better than the target of 10 working days. Q1 and Q2 have seen an improvement in the average number of days to process valid applications from Q4 (7.5 days) and have remained at a consistent level throughout both quarters. Whilst numbers of applications have remained consistent, efficiencies in processing procedures have led to improved turnaround times of licences and plates which are now typically issued within 4 days of receipt of a valid application. |
| Number of applicants with/expecting children who have been in non-self- contained Bed & Breakfast accommodation for longer than 6 weeks | Aim to Minimise | 0 | 0 | 2 1 0 21 BEAR CO BEAR CO | None available | This is a snapshot at the end of the quarter to show the number of applicants for housing with/expecting children who have been in non-self-contained Bed & Breakfast (B&B) accommodation for longer than 6 weeks. In both Q2 and Q1 there are no applicants with/expecting children who have been in non-self-contained B&B accommodation for longer than 6 weeks. The Service will continue to monitor this area closely. |



| PI | Aim to: | Current Value | Target | Trend Chart | Benchmarking | Commentary |
|--|--------------------|------------------|--------|---|----------------|--|
| Customers rating the Registration Service as good or excellent | Aim to Maximise | 97% | 95% | 100% 90% 80% 70% 60% 50% 40% 30% 20% 10% 0% | None available | This indicator measures the number of customers rating the Registration service as Excellent or Good. This is measured on a half-yearly basis in Q2 and Q4. For Q2 2022/23 97% of customers rated the service as Good or Excellent. 78 customers responded via customer survey cards covering birth and death registrations and attendance at ceremonies. 1 rated the service as Good and 75 rated the service as Excellent. This was a small decrease from 100% reported in the previous period. |

Homelessness and Regulatory Services Portfolio NO RAG



Generated on: 01 November 2022

| PI | Aim To | Current Value | Trend Chart | Commentary |
|---|---------|------------------|--|---|
| Total homelessness approaches into service | Monitor | 1,150 | 1,350 1,200 1,050 900 750 600 450 300 150 0 | This measure records the total number of homelessness approaches into the Service. In Q2 there were 1,150 approaches which is an increase from Q1 where there were 1,131 approaches. These high and increasing levels are in part due to the Ukraine family approaches and general landscape, including a consistently high number of debt advice referrals regarding affordability. |
| Homelessness cases closed because homelessness has been prevented | Monitor | 249 | Quarters 500 450 400 350 300 250 200 150 100 50 Quarters Quarters | This measure records the number of homelessness cases that have been closed because homelessness has been prevented. Fewer people have been prevented from becoming homeless quarter-on-quarter Q4 2021/22 313, Q1 266, Q2 249. This is due to the increasing caseload (new approaches) diverting officers to work on other relief activities preventing them from conducting prevention work. As Housing Officer caseloads increase beyond usual levels, prevention rates (cases closed because homelessness prevented) fall as Officers' time is diverted away from prevention to other activities such as arranging temporary accommodation and dealing with those clients in crisis and homelessness that day. The increasing caseload coming via the Homes for Ukraine scheme where prevention initiatives have already been tried, is heightened as the language barriers mean the officers spend more time dealing with these cases. This is against a backdrop of lack of affordable accommodation options. The Service will continue to prevent homelessness wherever possible. |



Planning and Regeneration Portfolio Cllr Peter Strachan





Planning and Regeneration Portfolio RED



| PI | Aim to: | Current Value | Target | Trend Chart | Benchmarking | Commentary |
|---|--------------------|------------------|--------|--|--------------|---|
| % of Building Control applications checked within 21 days | Aim to Maximise | 79% | 90% | 100% 90% 80% 70% 60% 50% 40% 30% 20% 10% 0% Quarters — Target (Quarters) | | This indicator measures the percentage of Building Control applications that are checked within 15 working days (21 days). Q2 performance was 79%, which was lower than Q1 at 89% and lower than the target of 90%. This target is set high because customers require a fast response. There was an influx in June/July due to legislation changes that affected our speed of delivery. Since then, we have created a new Plan Checking team to speed up the process. Early results show a marked improvement and recent performance is on target and we expect this to be achieved moving forward. Improvement Action: Continue to closely monitor the impact of the new Plan Checking team towards speeding up processes to improve performance. |

Planning and Regeneration Portfolio GREEN

Buckinghamshire Council

Generated on: 01 November 2022

| | | Current | _ | | | _ |
|---|--------------------|---------|--------|---|----------------|--|
| PI | Aim to: | Value | Target | Trend Chart | Benchmarking | Commentary |
| % of major planning applications determined in 13 weeks, or with agreed extension of time | Aim to Maximise | 81% | 80% | 100% 90% 80% 70% 60% 50% 40% 30% 20% 10% 0% Quarters Target (Quarters) | None available | This measure records the percentage of "major" planning applications determined within 13 weeks, or within an agreed extension of time. Major development is defined as involving the provision of 10 or more houses, or outline housing proposals on an area of 0.5 hectares or more, or the provision of any other building(s) of 1,000 square metres or more, or development carried out on a site having an area of one hectare or more. Q2 performance was 81%, which is down slightly from Q1 at 83% but is still above the target of 80% showing that the speed in determination of "major" planning applications has remained consistently above target throughout the first half of the year. This strong performance is partly due to the service's continuous improvement programme and partly due to a slight drop in the number of new applications being received. |
| % of minor planning applications determined in 8 weeks, or with agreed extension of time | Aim to Maximise | 77% | 75% | 100% 90% 80% 70% 60% 50% 40% 30% 20% 10% 0% Quarters — Target (Quarters) | None available | This measure records the percentage of "minor" planning applications determined within 8 weeks, or within agreed extension of time. Minor development is defined as where the number of dwelling/houses to be provided is between one and nine inclusive on a site having an area of less than one hectare. Where the number of dwelling/houses to be provided is not known, a site area of less than 0.5 hectares and for all other uses, a minor development is one where the floor space to be created is less than 1,000 square metres or where the site area is less than one hectare. Q2 performance was 77%, which is up from Q1 at 71% and is now above the target of 75% showing that the speed in determination of "minor" planning applications has improved throughout the first half of the year. This strong performance is partly due to the range of improvement programmes underway to improve our processes and customer service. |

| PI | Aim to: | Current Value | Target | Trend Chart | Benchmarking | Commentary |
|---|--------------------|------------------|--------|---|----------------|--|
| % of other applications determined in 8 weeks, or within the agreed extension of time | Aim to Maximise | 91% | 80% | 100% 90% 80% 70% 60% 50% 40% 30% 20% 10% 0% Quarters Target (Quarters) | None available | This measure records the percentage of "other" (e.g., house extensions, advert consent, listed building consent, changes of use, etc) planning applications determined within 8 weeks, or within an agreed extension of time. Q2 performance was 91%, which is up from Q1 at 87%, both of which were above the target of 80%, showing that the speed in determination of "other" planning applications has exceeded targets and improved throughout the first half of the year. This strong performance is partly due to the service's continuous improvement programme and partly due to a slight drop in the number of new applications being received. |

Planning and Regeneration Portfolio NO RAG



Generated on: 01 November 2022

| PI | Aim To | Current Value | Trend Chart | Commentary |
|----------------------------|---------|------------------|---|---|
| Town centre occupancy rate | Monitor | 91.6% | 100% 90% 80% 70% 60% 50% 40% 30% 20% 10% 0% Quarters Target (Quarters) | This indicator measures the percentage of 'high street' premises that are occupied across key towns in Buckinghamshire (Aylesbury; Amersham (On-the-Hill and Old Town); Beaconsfield (Old and New); Buckingham; Chesham; Gerrards Cross; Great Missenden; High Wycombe; Marlow; Princes Risborough; Wendover and Winslow). The pre-Covid baseline for these towns was 93.3% (2,126 premises), falling to 89.4% (2,039 premises) during Covid and currently stands at 91.6% (2,089 premises). Of the current 191 empty shop units, 52 are subject to planning / being fitted out. The top three highest occupation rates are for Wendover (98.6%); Amersham-on-the-Hill (96.8%) and Beaconsfield New Town (96.3%). In the last six months we have seen a total of 53 business closures (19 chain - mostly banks and 34 independents) and a total of 74 new openings (20 chains and 54 independents - mostly food & drink / beauty). The towns where we have seen the most changes this year to date are Aylesbury (11 closures and 19 openings), High Wycombe (7 closures and 19 openings), Marlow (8 closures and 14 openings) and Buckingham (4 closures and 7 openings). |
| Town Centre footfall | Monitor | 13,813,886 | 25,000,000 15,000,000 10,000,000 5,000,000 Quarters - Target (Quarters) | This data is provided from Town and Place Artificial Intelligence (AI). Footfall is derived and modelled using anonymised mobile device data. 2019 data has now been populated which gives us a pre-Covid baseline to track against. Monitored towns include: Aylesbury; Amersham (On-the-Hill and Old Town); Beaconsfield (Old and New); Buckingham; Chesham; Gerrards Cross; Great Missenden; High Wycombe; Marlow; Princes Risborough; Wendover and Winslow - which gives a good spread of 'high street' locations by market town size and a rural/urban split. In Q2 the forecast footfall was 13,813,886 (based on actual 9,209,257 for Jul and Aug because there is a month's lag for verified data). For July and August there is an increase against 2019 (589k more counts) and 2021 (2.65m more counts, 29% increase). All monitored towns have increased compared to 2021 and 2019 levels, except Aylesbury, Gerrards Cross, Marlow and Winslow which are not quite at 2019 levels for the same two months. |



Transport Portfolio Cllr Steve Broadbent





Transport Portfolio RED

Buckinghamshire Council

| PI | Aim to: | Current Value | Target | Trend Chart | Benchmarking | Commentary |
|---|--------------------|------------------|--------|---|----------------|--|
| Highways capital programme % spend against forecast | Aim to Maximise | 83% | 95% | 100% 90% 80% 70% 60% 50% 40% 30% 20% 10% 0% Quarters Target (Quarters) | None available | This indicator measures the percentage of spend against what was forecasted for the Highways Capital Programme at the beginning of the year. Q2 performance (end of August) was 83% against a target of 95%. A significant amount of work has been undertaken, and further substantial delivery of the capital programme is expected by the end of 2022 with full completion by March 2023. Variance against forecast is due to slippage in various programmes of work not envisaged at the time such as the extreme heat during the summer, and supply chain issues. Improvement Actions: • We will continue to monitor the actual spend against the forecasted spend through the monthly operations board to help drive the Highways capital programme forward. • Look for alternative delivery opportunities to address supply chain issues |

Transport Portfolio AMBER

Buckinghamshire Council

| PI | Aim to: | Current Value | Target | Trend Chart | Benchmarking | Commentary |
|-------------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------|---|----------------|--|
| % Streetlights in light | Aim to Maximise | 90.63% | 95% | 100% 90% 80% 70% 60% 50% 40% 30% 20% 10% 0% Quarters Target (Quarters) | None available | This indicator measures the percentage of streetlight columns that are working (in light) as well as illuminated signs and bollards. In Q2 performance was 90.63% which is better than Q1 89%, but not quite above the target of 95%. This is a stretch target and an increase in resources in the Street Lighting team has helped manage those repairs. Improvement Action: Additional resource is planned to commence in October 2022 to help further manage repairs. |

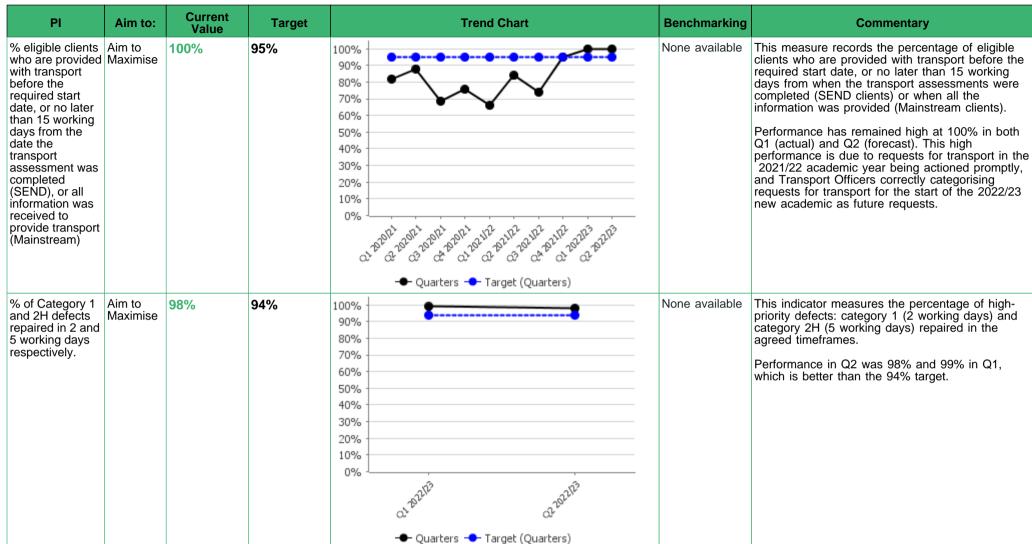
Transport Portfolio GREEN

Buckinghamshire Council

Generated on: 01 November 2022

| PI | Aim to: | Current Value | Target | Trend Chart | Benchmarking | Commentary |
|--|--------------------|------------------|--------|---|----------------|--|
| % of gullies cleaned against the cyclical gully programme | Aim to Maximise | 49% | 49% | 100% 90% 80% 70% 60% 50% 40% 30% 20% 10% 0% Quarters Target (Quarters) | None available | This indicator measures the percentage of gullies cleaned against the cyclical gully programme (to clean all gullies within 1 year) with an annual target of >98%. This target has been pro-rata'd equally across each quarter to help show progress, although delivery may not be evenly distributed in reality. Q2 performance (percentage cleaned to date) is 49%, which shows we are on target (49%) halfway through the year. |
| % of invalid PCNs (on- and off-street) | Aim to Minimise | 3% | 4% | 5% 4% 3% 2% 1% 0% Quarters Target (Quarters) | None available | This indicator measures the percentage of total Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) issued, which are invalid due to civil enforcement officer errors, equipment error and spoils (cancelled by officer on site). The reasons for invalid PCNs vary including equipment failures and errors by staff issuing notices. Performance was 3% in both Q1 and Q2, which is lower (better) than the 4% target. Performance worsened in Q3 2021/22 to 4% when a new system was introduced, and civil enforcement officers needed to get used to new handheld equipment which continues to bed in as we have recently recruited more civil enforcement officers. |

| PI | Aim to: | Current Value | Target | Trend Chart | Benchmarking | Commentary |
|--|--------------------|------------------|--------|--|----------------|---|
| Major transport schemes: % of profiled spend achieved | Aim to Maximise | 125% | 50% | 200% 175% 150% 100% 75% 50% 25% 0% Quarters Target (Quarters) | None available | This indicator reports a single figure for the percentage of actual spend against profiled spend, for projects within the Capital Programme funded from the Capital Budget. Projects include A41 Primary Public Transport Corridor (PPTC), Abbey Barn Lane Improvement Scheme (ABLIS), Eastern Link Road (ELR) Dual, Princes Risborough Southern Road Link (PRSRL), and Westhorpe. The target is to hit 100% by year end, which has been equally profiled throughout the year, even though actual spend may be more variable. The spend reported includes creditor values. For projects that span multiple years, budgets are set at a level that when met achieve an accelerated in-year spend. Therefore, in terms of reporting for this quarter spend has exceeded the year's budget. However progress of major infrastructure projects as a whole continues to face significant challenges linked to global events and the subsequent inflationary impact on the national and local economy. This has resulted in difficult conversations both internally and with our external partners, regarding the continuation of schemes as costs significantly increase. For instance, following a Leader (Cabinet Member) decision the ABLIS project has been stopped and is in the process of being closed down. Despite the ongoing challenges project progress has continued, with the A41 PPTC due to complete at the end of October; the July submission of the PRSL planning application, and surveys and design work continue for the ELR. |



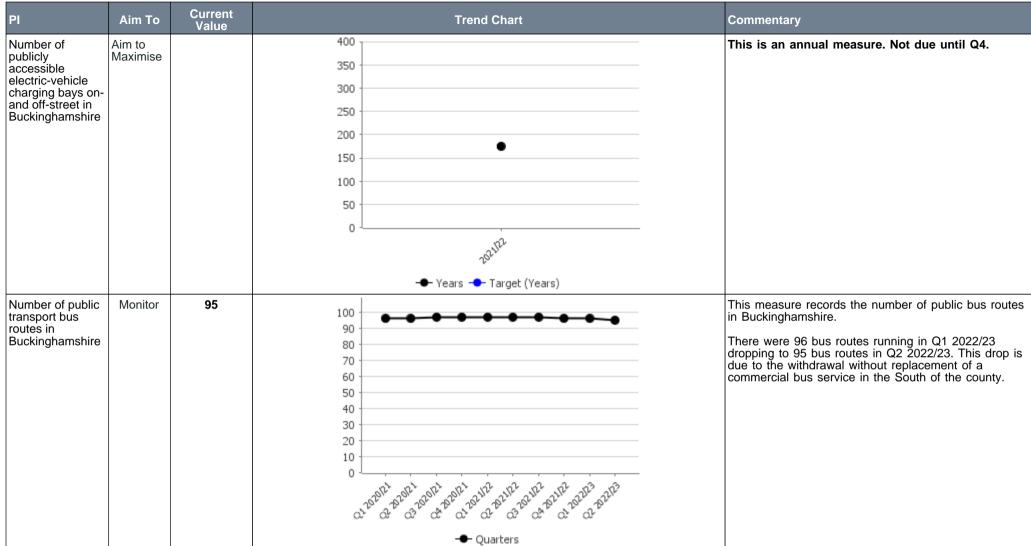
| PI | Aim to: | Current Value | Target | Trend Chart | Benchmarking | Commentary |
|--|--------------------|------------------|--------|--------------------------------|----------------|---|
| Average daily cycling count per active cycle | Aim to Maximise | 91.3 | 75 | 120 | None available | This indicator records the average daily cycling count per active cycle counter per day. |
| counter per day | | | | 80 | | In Q2 there were 91.3 counts per day on average, which is higher than Q1 76.1 counts per day. Q1 and Q2 counts are generally higher than Q3 and Q4 due to favourable weather conditions in Spring |
| | | | | 60 | | and Summer. |
| | | | | 40 | | |
| | | | | 20 | | |
| | | | | charing arbital | | |
| | | | | → Quarters → Target (Quarters) | | |

Transport Portfolio NO RAG



| Current | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|------------------|----------------------|--------------|--|--|
| PI | Aim To | Current Value | Trend Chart | | Commentary | |
| NHT Public | Aim to | | 100 | | This measure is reported annually. Not due until Q3. | |
| Satisfaction on the condition of | Maximise | | 90 | | Q3. | |
| road surfaces | | | 80 | | | |
| (HMBI 01) | | | 70 | | | |
| | | | 60 | | | |
| | | | 50 | | | |
| | | | 40 | | | |
| | | | 30 | | | |
| | | | 20 | | | |
| | | | 10 | | | |
| | | | ο ₁ | ₩ | | |
| | | | 202012 | BLUE | | |
| | | | ◆ Years ◆ Target (Ye | ars) | | |
| NHT Public | Aim to | | 100% | | This measure is reported annually. Not due until | |
| Satisfaction Survey: (KBI 15) | Maximise | | 90% | | Q3. | |
| % of customers satisfied with their | | | 80% | | | |
| local Rights of Way Network | | | 70% | | | |
| Way Network | | | 60% | | | |
| | | | 50% | - | | |
| | | | 40% | | | |
| | | | 30% | | | |
| | | | 20% | | | |
| | | | 0% | | | |
| | | | angle acate | BUILD | | |
| | | | → Years → Target (Ye | | | |

Quarters

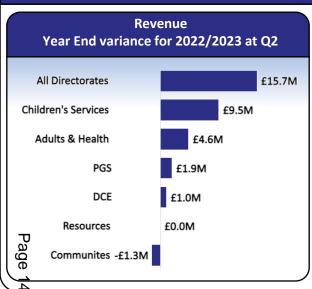


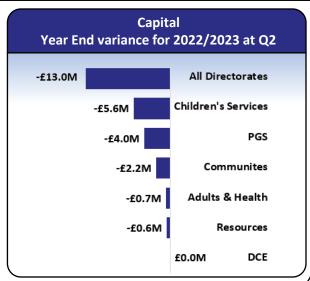
| PI | Aim To | Current Value | Trend Chart | | Commentary |
|--|--------------------|------------------|-------------|------------------------|---|
| % of Local Road network in fair/good and very good condition | Aim to Maximise | | 80% | Years → Target (Years) | This is an two-yearly measure. Not due until Q4 This measure is reported every other year. Last survey was taken in 2020 where 68% of the local road network was found to be in fair/good and very good condition. Surveys are currently being undertaken and 2022/23 data should be available end of Q4 2022/23 or early Q1 2023/24. |

BANGE COUNCIL

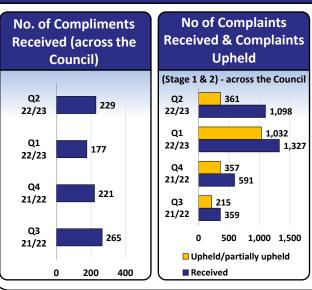
Q2 2022/2023 Scorecard

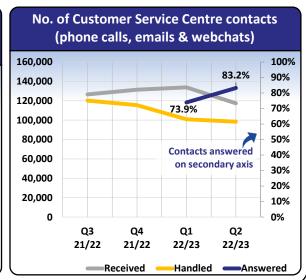
Quad 1 - Managing resources (finance)



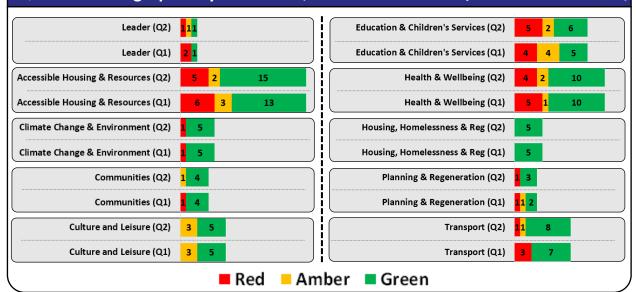


Quad 2 - Customer service

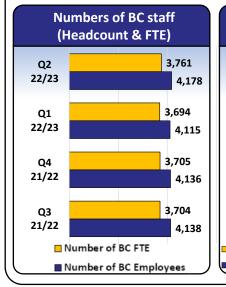


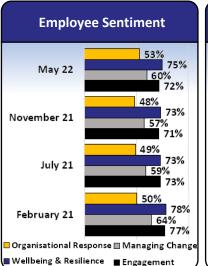


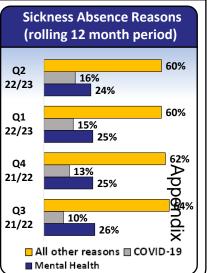
Quad 3 - Strategic priority indicators (RAG Status of Indicators by Portfolio Q1 & Q2 22/23)



Quad 4 - Colleagues, self and partners (HR)







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Report to Finance & Resources Select Committee

Date:

Reference number: n/a

Title: Customer First and CSC Performance Update and

Quarterly Dashboard

Cabinet Member(s): Cllr John Chilver (Cabinet Member, Resources), Cllr Tim

Butcher (Deputy Cabinet Member, Resources)

Contact officer: Lloyd Jeffries, Service Director (Business Operations)

Ward(s) affected: None specific

Recommendations:

- To note the Customer Service performance data for the 4 months through to October 2022 and the interventions put in place to stabilise and improve performance.
- To note the output of the review completed by consultants, IMPOWER, particularly in relation to building a more resilient Customer Services.
- To note the success of call shadowing during National Customer Service Week and the recommendation to build call shadowing into staff inductions and ongoing training.

Reason for decision: n/a

1. Executive summary

- 1.1. The last two years have changed the landscape for customer engagement in Buckinghamshire; with the transition to a unitary authority, a pandemic and numerous causes of spikes in customer demand taking place alongside significant internal reorganisation and consolidation of technology and systems.
- 1.2. Consequently, the Customer Service Centre (CSC) has experienced a sustained period of higher-than-normal levels of customer contact, driven by Line of Business activity arising from the continuing complexities and harmonisation of system implementation, contractor and supplier performance issues and recruitment challenges. This is driving performance challenges and a need to reflect on how a resilient and effective Customer Service model can be achieved in the future.

1.3. This report covers:

- Current CSC performance
- A review of our Customer First Activity over the last 12 months and the forward plan of actions
- A review of Customer Service Week
- Overview of the IMPOWER review covering CSC capacity, demand, rightsizing, and CSC resilience

2. Content of report

Current CSC performance

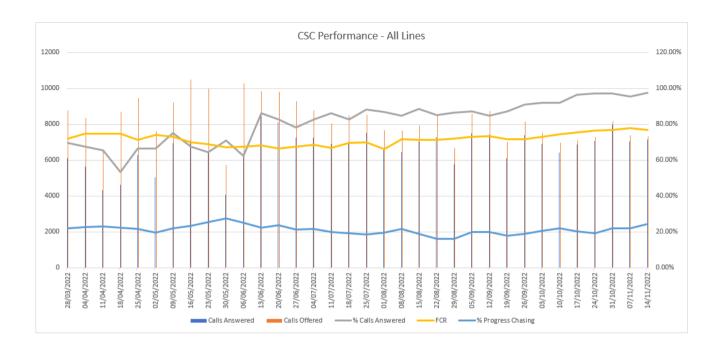
- 2.1 During the last 12 months, the Customer Service Centre (CSC) has experienced a sustained period of higher-than-normal levels of customer contact, driven by line of business activity and changes which has resulted in fluctuating CSC performance against key indicators, such as call abandonments and wait times.
- 2.2 There were some pressures that could not be anticipated for example, the fuel rebate paid via Council Tax, and the major disruption and dissatisfaction residents felt about Southern Waste performance after the rounds were re-configured.

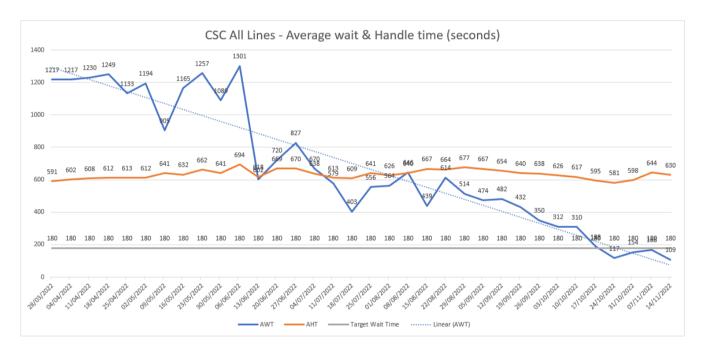
2.3 The current CSC performance indicators are set out in the table below:

| Indicator | Target | 21/22 | Jul-22 | Aug-22 | Sep-22 | Oct-22 | Nov 22 (to 21st inc) |
|------------------------|----------------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|----------------------------|
| Calls offered | - | 476,004 | 40,046 | 35,307 | 35,554 | 33,592 | 23100 |
| Calls answered | - | ###### | 30,276 | 30,476 | 31,203 | 29,187 | 22374 |
| % Calls answered | 90% | 85.25% | 75.60% | 86.31% | 87.80% | 94.48% | 96.85% |
| % Calls abandoned | 10% | 11.74% | 12.30% | 11.40% | 11.90% | 4.71% | 5.32% |
| Average call wait time | 180 seconds | 326 | 431 | 426 | 434 | 242 | 134 |
| First call resolution | 51% | 71.41% | 68.60% | 70.40% | 72,40% | 75.30% | 77.10% |

- 2.4 Performance has steadily improved since the summer months in all metrics. Customer Services faced significant challenges in the early part of year, and the interventions put in place have made a substantial difference to our ability to support our residents through telephony. What follows are some examples of those interventions, and the impact they have had on the customer experience.
- 2.4.1 **Injixo Management System:** all members of the customer service team are now on this workforce management tool, which means we can re-allocate resource during the day based on demands and monitor behaviours in a consistent manner.
- 2.4.2 **Senior Management and Back Office Teams** are now helping resource the telephone lines when significant spikes in volumes occur, to flatten demand.
- 2.4.3 **IVR** (interactive voice response) has been redeveloped to provide better signposting for our residents and managing expectation, signposting them to the digital platform where appropriate. These have been particularly effective with Revenues and Benefits, particularly around the Fuel Rebate payments made available by Central Government paid via the Council Tax system.
- 2.4.4 **Increased scrutiny** of the data captured when a call cannot be transferred means a better understanding of whether the call was not answered, or where the service refused to answer. This heightened scrutiny has resulted in a significant reduction in 'refusals' by service areas.
- 2.4.5 **This scrutiny** has been extended to the data regarding progress chasing, to get an understanding why the resident feels ignored and has a compulsion to chase a request. This information is shared with Customer Service Managers to discuss at account management meetings, so service areas can address customer expectation around service level agreements and status updates to prevent residents from feeling forgotten and reaching for the telephone. Monthly Service Director performance packs are now being produced to share the information.

- 2.4.6 **Customer Services Staff** have shown commitment to working additional hours and have been remunerated for their efforts via overtime or time off in lieu. This has been particularly effective in dealing with 'contact us forms' which can be dealt with outside of core hours.
- 2.4.7 Introduction of a **call back** facility on our key service lines so that customers have the option to not wait on hold. Instead, the customer is called back when an agent is available.
- 2.4.8 Targeted Recruitment of additional officers into the Customer Service Centre has been effective. HR has supported Customer Services to introduce a series of assessment centres-style sessions to support recruitment at scale. These include "Try Before You Apply Sessions", where candidates listen to live customer calls and experience a day in the life of customer service agent. This mitigates against the risk of new starters being put off by the challenging environment when the beginning of their contract.
- 2.4.9 Introduction of career-graded customer services roles and apprenticeships as well as investing in our recruitment campaign and social media strategy to attract high quality candidates.
- 2.4.10 **Temporary staff** on-boarded to deal with known peak demand, in particularly to cope with additional pressures caused by the Southern Waste rounds reorganisation.
- 2.4.11 In addition, the Council is currently recruiting a casual workforce that will be made up of people looking for flexible working hours such as students, retired professionals, or volunteers. This bank of staff will be used for one-off pieces of work e.g., energy rebate calls or dealing with surge activity in a specific area, to support organisational resilience.
- 2.4.12 **Using Capita as an additional resource** to stand up 10 FTE trained revenues and benefits to cope with known additional demands following the single system implementation and 11 week shut down.
- 2.5 These interventions have helped us to see significant improvements in average wait times over the last 6 months, particularly in our high volume, transactional call lines such as Southern Waste or Revenues. This is demonstrated in the charts below, which shows how the average wait time across all telephone lines has gradually improved, from a peak of over 21 minutes in June 2022 to a current rate of just below 2 minutes (within targets). The percentage of calls answered has also gradually increased and is now above the 90% target.





- 2.6 We can see the impact of these changes not just through these metrics, but through the feedback we receive from residents on our social media channels. These positive changes, and further interventions, will help us to manage potential future disruptions, to keep this stability and to ensure we continue to give our residents the service they expect and deserve. In the last quarter, customer services received **37** official compliments, with zero complaints for CSA performance.
- 2.7 Work to develop a peripatetic workforce is continuing to ensure that additional internal capacity can be drawn upon during times of very high customer demand. Customers services has recently piloted a webchat trial, whereby officers in services

- outside of the CSC, are able to support demand through responding to webchats received via the website.
- 2.8 This option is easier for services to accommodate compared to taking customer calls support can be time-boxed to parts of the day and as chats tend to be less hostile / confrontational than phone calls they don't require the same level of customer services skills to manage.
- 2.9 Chats can be held alongside ongoing BAU work (much like Teams messaging) and aren't as "real-time" as phone calls with a frustrated customers waiting for the right response immediately. There can be pre-defined responses to support staff and service-based chatters can have access to CSC Teams chat for asking questions, as well having access to a knowledge base, scripts, and frequently asked questions.
- 2.10 If a chat can't be resolved there and then, then they could book a call-back for customers (either CSA or service led) or even transfer to another officer to respond.
- 2.11 This model was successfully trialled in the Customer Improvement team, with additional capacity provided to support Council tax, Waste and Housing enquiries. We will extend this trial to Corporate Business Support staff and plan to roll out further to wider organisation in due course.
- 2.12 In October 2022, CMT agreed our new "rising tide" resilience framework this was created in preparation for the launch of the single Revenues and Benefits system to ensure the CSC was ready to manage spikes in customer demand. Where call volumes start to breach the average wait time indicator, there is now tiered set of responses. The approved approach is now being rolled out to other key lines of services.

Customer First

- 2.13 Within the Corporate Plan the Council clearly sets out its customer centric ambition which we describe as Customer First. The Customer First Strategy was agreed by Cabinet in September 2021, and the Customer First service standards are published on our website as three promises. To support this strategy, we have put in place a Customer First Board to ensure that there is a single corporate approach to deliver this customer experience ambition.
- 2.14 The Customer First Board has been in operation since November 2021 and has excellent engagement from attendees across the Council and Customer First Champions. The Board tracks the Customer First activities which are all aligned to our Customer First promises.

- 2.15 The Customer First Board meets monthly and is chaired by the Corporate Director of Resources, Sarah Murphy Brookman, and the Corporate Director for Communities, Richard Barker. All directorates are represented on the board through the participation of Service Directors.
- 2.16 The Board is producing an 'Annual Report' to set out progress over the last year and priorities for the coming year. This is due to published on the Buckinghamshire Council website in January 2022, following approval by the Customer First Board and CMT.

Customer First high level workplan 2021-2022

Our Customer First deliverables and associated projects are outlined in the table below.

| Pr | oject | Commentary | Policy | Process | People | Performance | RAG | Comments |
|----|--------------------------------|---|--------|---------|--------|-------------|-----|---|
| 1. | Customer First Champions | Recruit across the Buckinghamshire Council a network of customer first champions, representing each service area, to spread the ethos throughout the organisation, and to meet and exchange ideas. Also, to feed into the Customer First staff award category | | | Х | | | Delivered, with constant review |
| 2. | HR Training Modules and Assets | To develop a suite of online training modules, to allow regular, engaging refresher sessions to staff on customer-centric behaviours. This can also include face to face training and online | | | X | | | First two modules deployed with rest to go live as planned |
| 3. | CAPs+ Site Aylesbury move | Relocating the customer access point from The Gateway to the Walton Street office | | X | | | | Completed as planned |
| 4. | Push Notification Project | Looking at how we can expand the use of push notifications in key service areas – notably client transport, schools admissions, household waste, revenues and benefits | | X | | | | Work still ongoing – deployed in waste and client transport – completion by Spring 2023 |
| 5. | CRM / MDM Procurement | Procurement in place to replace our three incumbent CRM platforms with a new, Council wide replacement solution. This open procurement is reaching its final stages with award expected in the next four weeks | | X | | | | Nearing completion by December 2022 |
| 6. | Performance Dashboards | Working with the Power BI team to introduce performance dashboards, that allow us a daily view of key performance measures in our main, customer facing services | | | | X | | Completed and in use |

| 7. Feedback Dashboards | The provision of feedback terminals in our CAP+ locations to judge customer satisfaction in our reception areas. In addition, the provision of digital feedback dashboards, attached to emails, that help us judge customer satisfaction in our services | | | | X | Completed and in use |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8. Service Area Improvement Work | Development work around customer-centric processes and procedures, to give our residents an improved service and more visibility of their requests. Examples include Client Transport; Parks and Areas of Interest; Southern Household Waste, Adult Social Care, and Registrars; Consultation work for Planning | | X | | | Completed and in use; ongoing activity with services as required |
| 9. Contact Us Forms | A review of the use of contact us forms, with a view to streamline the process, particularly in preparation for the new CRM system | | X | | | Review undertaken with completion in line with CRM development plans |
| 10. Informing Policy Decisions | Examples include working with the communications team to look at a more sensitive approach around the use of gender titles; Establishing a set of standards to encourage the use of plain language across the organisation; and including customer-centric attitudes into training, recruitment, on-boarding, and the C4P process | | | X | | Completed and in use; customer training module in production for plain language comms |
| 11. Cautionary Contact Register | This is in progress and due for completion by the end of the year | Х | | | | To be completed by December 22 |
| 12. Web chat | Improving and advancing the offering around web chat, using our current assets to the best of their ability, and looking for improvements | Х | X | | | To be completed by the end of 2022 |

Customer First high level workplan 2022-2023 – Project due to be started

2.18 There are also several projects in the pipeline for delivery across the next 12 months, summarised in the table below.

| Project | Commentary | Policy | Process | People | Performance | RAG | Anticipated Completion |
|--|--|--------|---------|--------|-------------|-----|---|
| 1. CRM / MDM Mobilisation and Implementation | Through a phased approach, streamlining our CRM down to a single solution from the incumbent platforms | X | X | X | X | | Split across 4 distinct phases: Phase 1: Summer 23 Phase 2: Winter 23 Phase 3: Spring 24 Phase 4: Summer 24 |
| 2. Customer Partnership Panel | Bringing together a customer-engaged panel of residents to help the Council look at our digital assets and how to make them more appealing and user-friendly for our residents | Х | | Х | X | | Due to be in operation Q1 2023 |
| 3. AURA Programme | Supporting this piece of work, from the customer angle, as a critical friend, this work will include the HR CX programme | X | | | | | Throughout 2023 |
| 4. Contracts CMA Database | To review and recommend, to identify contracts/activities which are approaching renewal and could be opportunities for improving customer experience | Х | | | | | This will be an ongoing activity – need to leverage SMG group to identify potential contracts to support. |
| 5. Resource management | Helping service areas ensure they have the right resources in place to cope with demand | Х | X | Х | X | | Not yet available. This is an ongoing offering we can give services – available Q1 2023 |
| 6. Account management through Operating Level Agreements (OLA) | We can see the need for closer scrutiny of service areas, to see pressures emerge and triggers to identify where interventions may be needed. We will do this in conjunction with Customer Services Managers. This is combined with Service Area Audits and Performance Checks | | | | х | | Ongoing through 2023 |

National Customer Service Week (3-7 October 2022)

- 2.19 National Customer Service Week (NCSW) is the first full week in October, every year, but this was the first time that Buckinghamshire Council has formally celebrated the event.
- 2.20 NCSW provides the opportunity to raise awareness of customer service and the vital role it plays in service delivery. We wanted to recognise the impact of good customer service and the hard work of the teams making those experiences happen every day.
- 2.21 All employees have elements of customer services in their roles across the Council and the purpose of the week was to recognise the importance of remaining customer focussed and understanding the benefits of a great customer experience at all stages of a customer journey.
- 2.22 During NCSW 2022, the aims were to:
 - Re-enforce the customer accountability culture.
 - Showcasing Customer First projects.
 - Launch new training for Customer Experience.
 - Raise Service Standards awareness.
 - Recognise our staff
 - Encourage staff to listen to live customer calls
 - Build network of customer champions.
 - Recognising best practise internally and externally.
- 2.23 The week was a huge success with great feedback from staff, senior management, and members.
- 2.24 Throughout the week, videos and articles were added to a dedicated NCSW page on the Source to share customer improvements, staff profiles and training opportunities, including the first Customer Experience training module (over 300 staff completed the first module during the week). The content was well viewed by staff during the week and the page will now be an ongoing resource area for sharing Customer First news and updates on demand to the wider workforce and ensure that Customer First framework continues to be visible to staff at all levels
- 2.25 Across the week, there were 43 staff who listened to live customer calls, either virtually or within the Customer Service Centre. Feedback was extremely positive, with staff around the organisation gaining first-hand experience and an appreciation of the current issues faced by our residents as well as the role that customer service agents provide at the start of the customer journey.

- 2.26 It is imperative that we consolidate on the success of this initiative and encourage our staff to continue to listen to live (or recorded) customer calls and regular intervals and not just once a year. Customer Services has extended an "always on" invite to services to access live customer calls and it is recommended that shadowing is included in induction and training plans for new starters within the organisation. In addition, managers within services areas would benefit from regular call listening to better understand customer needs and identify any opportunities to improve customer and/or staff knowledge for resolving enquiries.
- 2.27 The Customer Service Centre has already setup a shadowing arrangement with the Highways team whereby new starters both teams spend time within each area to understand each side part of the customer journey. This type of collaboration is recommended to both upskill our staff and form closer relationships between service areas.

IMPOWER Review

- 2.28 During the last quarter, the main area of development focus has been the completion of a Customer Services review with external consultants, IMPOWER.
- 2.29 Building on the foundations laid by the Customer Services service review in 2021, the Council commissioned a 14-week project IMPOWER to review customer demand and identify demand management tools which can be deployed to improve performance.
- 2.30 The scope of this work was to:
 - Build a better understanding of the realistic volumes that the CSC should expect as we go through our Unitary journey
 - Clarity on what the volumes look like for a stable Unitary Council
 - Use and training of demand management tools that can be deployed/ deployed better
 - A better view of how to manage the CSC performance journey as it picks up Line of Business work as set out in the Service Review Business Case, with confidence that it is not too optimistic/ over ambitious at this point
 - Agreement on how to best respond to unexpected peaks in demand.
 - A clear approach on supporting particular cohorts who contact the Council by telephone where there are alternative solutions.

Demand modelling

- 2.31 Impower were tasked with undertaking a full analysis of demand received in the Customer Service Centre.
- 2.32 A mix of data reports and sampling were used in the analysis as follows:
 - All calls data from 8x8 for April to August 2022
 - Firmstep and Data Capture wrap code report for October 2021 to June 2022
 - Webchat summary report for May and June 2022
 - Sample of 200 waste contact us forms received in late July and early August 2022
- 2.33 The keys findings from this analysis found that:
 - Overall calls to the CSC following a consistent pattern week to week (and month to month), however there are clear peaks in demand following known and unknown events e.g., Council Tax reminders and summons letters or heavy rainfall.
 - Modelling shows that, during that time, even with bridge funding there was an 8% capacity gap to be able to meet the 3-minute wait time target across all call lines between May and August 2022.
 - A high proportion of callers (44% of all callers who abandon) make the decision to abandon the call around the time of the IVR message around 1-2 minutes into the call. The majority (87%) of callers who drop out make a repeat call within 7 days.
 - Callers to the benefits lines are the most likely to make repeat calls to other lines, in particular the corresponding Council Tax line and to Helping Hands.
 - There is no email address recorded for 40% of callers, indicating these individuals may be less digitally able. Callers for concessionary travel, community care and libraries were the least likely to have an email address recorded with callers to adult learning and waste the most likely.
 - The majority (54%) of web chats were for queries relating to waste or Council Tax; overall **31% of webchats resulted in the customer needing to phone the CSC**.
 - Detailed analysis of contact us forms received for waste showed that 41% of them
 were for tasks the individual could have completed via the website and had not
 indicated that they had attempted to do so, and 34% where the individual had
 attempted to complete online but had run into an issue.
- 2.34 The outputs from this analysis were used to create demand and capacity and avoidable demand models to support future resource planning to better manage demand.

- 2.35 The **demand and capacity model** assesses the base demand (what an unexceptional day across all call lines would look like; what changes in expected demand (either from the avoidable demand modelling or elsewhere), capacity and target wait times have on the expected volume of calls; and how this differs to the capacity available.
- 2.36 Customer services can manipulate the expected demand and capacity per line of enquiry to calculate the likely capacity gap to service the total demand. This tool will now be used an ongoing basis, alongside existing workforce planning tools, to prepare customer services for surge activity.
- 2.37 An avoidable demand model has also been produced this takes the wrap codes from the CRMs as well as the digital exclusion analysis to assess where the greatest potential is to target avoidable calls and what the impact on overall call volumes could realistically be.
- 2.38 This model factors in the analysis completed around digitally excluded customers, who are unable to use digital services to access services or choose not to.
- 2.39 Across all call reasons, 40.7% of callers has no email address associated with their customer record held on the CRM. We have used the lack of an email address being recorded for a caller (of calls recorded from April to June 2022 on Firmstep) as a proxy for digital exclusion. This is likely an over estimation as there will be some callers who are not digitally excluded but were either not asked or did not provide an email address. However, it does help us understand the trends across different call lines (chart 1) and the specific call reasons (chart 2) where callers are more or less likely to be digitally excluded.

Chart 1

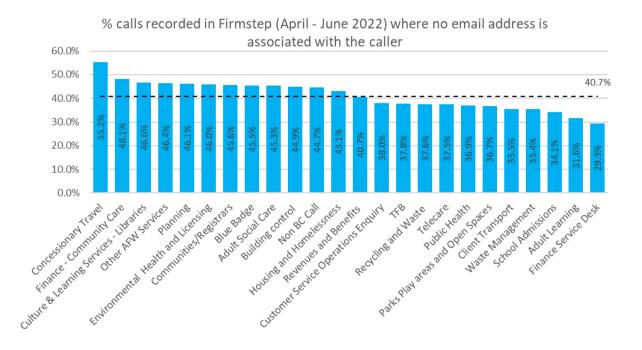


Chart 2

Call reasons (more than 50 calls) with the lowest proportion of digitally excluded callers

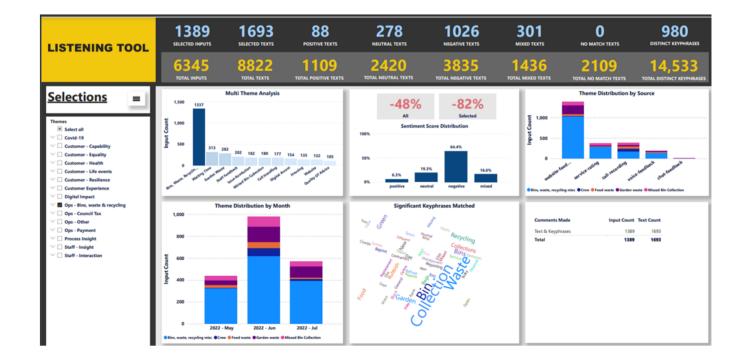
| Topic | Reason | Total calls | No email | address |
|----------------------------|--|-------------|----------|---------|
| Waste Management | Waste Permit Scheme | 61 | 14 | 23.0% |
| Customer Complaints | Customer Complaint | 86 | 21 | 24.4% |
| SEN/SENDIAS | SEN/SENDIAS Enquiry | 85 | 21 | 24.7% |
| Client Transport | Operational enquiries | 67 | 17 | 25.4% |
| TFB | Compensation | 94 | 27 | 28.7% |
| TFB | Street Lights | 148 | 43 | 29.1% |
| Finance Service Desk | Finance Service Desk | 133 | 39 | 29.3% |
| Recycling and Waste | Bin Enquiry | 557 | 165 | 29.6% |
| Client Transport | Lost & replacement passes | 53 | 16 | 30.2% |
| Recycling and Waste | Street scene Report it | 120 | 37 | 30.8% |
| Adult Learning | Courses | 316 | 98 | 31.0% |
| TFB | Dropped Kerb/Vehicle Access | 99 | 32 | 32.3% |
| Telecare | Telecare Assessments/Referral | 52 | 17 | 32.7% |
| TFB | Footway/Footpath Defects | 159 | 52 | 32.7% |
| TFB | Verges/Ditches/Culverts | 54 | 18 | 33.3% |
| TFB | Traffic Calming/Road Markings/Access Protection markings | 66 | 22 | 33.3% |
| Adult Social Care | Disabled Facility Grant and other schemes | 96 | 32 | 33.3% |
| TFB | Capital Maintenance | 89 | 30 | 33.7% |
| Revenues and | Discount Query | 68 | 23 | 33.8% |
| Benefits | Discount Query | 00 | 23 | 33.6% |
| School Admissions | Admissions Directed to website | 628 | 216 | 34.4% |
| Recycling and Waste | Missed Collection (too early/late to report) | 279 | 96 | 34.4% |
| Recycling and Waste | Replacement/Upgrade Bin | 1600 | 552 | 34.5% |
| Revenues and Benefits | Customer Payment not showing on account | 55 | 19 | 34.5% |

- 2.40 Callers to the **concessionary travel, community care and libraries lines** were most likely to not have an email address recorded; and those to the waste, school admissions and adult learning most likely to have an email address associated with them.
- 2.41 This analysis is helping us to gather feedback from our customers about the experiences that they have when they interact with the Council. The insight is informing improvements in customer experience across the organisation and allowing time and resources to be focused on where it is most needed.

Listening tool

2.42 Whilst the Council is currently able to produce performance reporting at pace, using PowerBI and other tools to provide progress against key metrics, there has historically been a capacity issue to properly analyse customer feedback received via our access channels at scale.

- 2.43 One of the key outputs from the IMPOWER review was the development of a "listening tool" which collates and analyses customer feedback across all channels and uses artificial intelligence to highlight emerging themes and customer sentiments.
- 2.44 A listening tool has been developed using data from several different feedback channels including:
 - Website feedback
 - Webchat feedback
 - Online feedback
 - Post-call surveys (CSC)
 - HappyOrNot feedback (CAP+ and email surveys)
 - Telephony recordings (the tool can convert speech to text and then analyses the text for key themes)
- 2.45 The Listening Tool will be a key enabler to quickly identify why the CSC is experiencing failure demand and how to work with the relevant service to put in place a resolution.



- 2.46 The listening tool will support the Council in the following areas:
 - **Testing hypothesis** the Listening Tool is effective when used to test a hypothesis as you can drill down into the feedback relevant to the area that you want to test and can explore how feedback changes between different resident groups, over time and

- through different access channels (e.g., calls, website, web chat). This insight can be used as evidence, alongside traditional performance reporting, to prove or disapprove a hypothesis for how to improve customer experience e.g. Residents being unable to view their Council Tax bill online is driving calls to the CSC.
- The tool was used as part of Waste improvement works to test the hypothesis that
 the timing of reporting missed bin collections was misunderstood and is driving calls
 to the CSC, resulting changes manage customer expectations on the web site.
- Identifying emerging issues the tool allows you to narrow in on a selected period (from days to weeks and months). Feedback is categorised into themes and customer sentiments, so you can analyse the theme distribution changing over the time allowing for quick identification of emergency themes e.g., unable to make payments on a particular part of the website. The early identification of negative themes allows the Council to move faster to identify and remedy the root cause and restore the customer experience.
- Staff feedback the listening tool is configured to allow the analysis of what customers are saying about their engagement with staff. This can be used both to share positive feedback (where it is not received as formal compliment) as well as identifying training needs. This feature has been used extensively within customer services to in the development of training plans.
- 2.47 The output from the listening tool and other feedback channels is to be used by Customer Services and service areas to monitor feedback and quickly identify service improvements and implement before they become major issues further down the line.
- 2.48 The use of the listening tool will also become integral to our account management function regular meetings between customer services and key service representatives to discuss performance, calendar of events, future training requirements, ongoing projects etc.
- 2.49 Work is in progress to automate the extraction of feedback reports from source applications and feed directly into the listening tool, rather than the current manual process. This will allow users of the tool to benefit from the recent feedback received without relying on an officer to upload feedback at regular intervals.

Demand-led behavioural trials summary

2.50 Working alongside colleagues in the Customer Service Centre and Customer First programme to understand demand drivers, and where Behavioural Science could be used to influence demand, six trial areas were identified.

- IVR messaging
- Webchat
- Transport for Bucks automated responses
- Waste & Recycling
- Housing and Homelessness
- Other correspondence
- 2.51 The trials were focussed on small changes that can be made to better manage customer expectations, improve signposting, and deflect avoidable contacts away from customer services. We used a trials approach to quickly test new ideas, get buy in across the council and evidence potential impact. Small changes were tested which required limited approvals or governance, meaning they could be implemented quickly
- 2.52 These trials were developed and delivered from July to September 2022 with next steps identified for each to ensure the changes are embedded and rolled out wider. A full breakdown of each trial and next steps can be provided, as required.
- 2.53 Delivering these initial trials showed us that the approach that was effective and should be used for future improvement work. By trailing the impact of small changes and then looking for opportunities for scaling, we were able to build confidence and ability and only scale up with what we know works.

Networking group

- 2.54 Customer Services has previously been a member of a multi-Council networking and benchmarking group, but this group has begun to wind down, with a reducing number of members and little value created.
- 2.55 In response, IMPOWER have supported and facilitated a new networking and benchmarking group with other local authorities in August 2022.
- 2.56 The group which has representation from RB Kensington & Chelsea, Wiltshire, Surrey, South Gloucestershire, Nottinghamshire, North Yorkshire, Wokingham, Staffordshire, Somerset, and Hampshire Councils, and meets monthly to discuss best practice and approaches, as well as a commitment to share performance data as part of a new benchmarking cycle.
- 2.57 Initial feedback has been very positive and there has been interest from other Councils to join the group, including Oxfordshire and Northumberland County Councils. Although operating models may differ between Councils, which can make direct comparisons challenging, there is a shared ambition to improve customer satisfaction and rising to the challenge of meeting increasing customer demand with limited resources

2.58 Surrey were already facilitating a similar benchmarking group, which included East & West Sussex, Essex, Kent, Hampshire, Lincolnshire, and Lancashire County Councils. We have agreed to bring these two groups together for future meetings to form a wider discussion group to share best practice and uncover opportunities for improvement.

Performance framework

- 2.59 As part of the IMPOWER review, we are developing a new Customer Experience Performance Framework that will be relevant to all Council services. This will primarily focus on external customers but will be made to be relevant to all customer relationships, including those with partners and colleagues
- 2.60 The performance framework objectives are:
 - Consistency in our customer service offer
 - Ability to know how we are performing against our customer service offer, both from within the Customer Service Centre and in Customer engagement across the council
 - To enable us to quickly identify trends, variances, and issues, address them and monitor the impact of the action taken
 - Use information and intelligence to help maintain, develop, and improve services
 - Enable us to forecast future trends, the impact of demand drivers and incidents, informing decisions about where to deploy resources
 - Clear expectations, roles, and responsibility in managing customer experience performance
 - Hold each other to account
- 2.61 Within the framework, we are developing a prototype Customer Experience Maturity Model / Self-Assessment for understanding the state of customer experience across our Service Areas and setting objectives for how to improve.
- 2.62 Service areas will be encouraged to regularly self-assess how they are performing, and the Customer First programme will also undertake assessments/audits to review the overall council position against these promises
- 2.63 The maturity model will act as a self-assessment tool and will provide a view of each services' respective strengths in relation to the Customer First themes and promises
- 2.64 Each theme will be broken down into further statements and scores which contextualize and rate the state of the overall customer experience maturity across key service area.

- 2.65 The self-assessment can be used as an improvement roadmap for, helping to identify areas which ire underperforming in terms of data, resilience, delivery, culture, measurement/benchmarking etc as well as other key themes within the Customer First framework.
- 2.66 The aim is to raise awareness and accountability within services, through self-assessments and regular audits. We will work with the internal audit team to implement an audit cycle once the performance framework and self-assessment has been agreed.
- 2.67 Results from each service assessment will be present as part of the series of quarterly customer experience reports.

Organisational Resilience

- 2.68 IMPOWER were tasked with ascertaining the Customer Service Centre's resilience levels and ability to anticipate, adapt and move forward following disruption to ask our services, such as the four events highlighted above.
- 2.69 Over the course of the project, IMPOWER have introduced their Resilience Framework which they have developed, which focuses on six key characteristics of resilient organisations:
 - Strong leadership and decision.
 - Staff engagement, empowerment, and wellbeing
 - Learning driven improvement and innovation
 - Leveraged finance and performance intelligence.
 - Resource planning and flexibility.
 - Effective and collaborative relationships.
- 2.70 The IMPOWER framework then looks at resilience across three capabilities...
 - **Absorptive capabilities** the ability to undertake rapid change to be able to persist and keep going during a shock.
 - **Adaptive capabilities** the ability to make incremental changes to be able to move forward.
 - **Anticipatory capabilities** the ability ensure positive changes are sustained and optimised, and to prepare for future shocks.
- 2.71 The challenge for our customer ambition is to build these three capabilities across the six key characteristics so that planned and unplanned disruptions to services or surges in contact demand, are managed proactively without significant reduction in service levels e.g., call wait times, call abandonment and ultimately, customer satisfaction.

- 2.72 Workshops have been held with Customer Service and Human Resources staff to gauge the relative strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities to grow the six organisation characteristics.
- 2.73 Following the workshops, the following opportunities were identified:



Ensure strong leadership and decision making by doing more to celebrate the positives, including the corporate improvement team in service reviews and using conditions for success consistently during projects



Ensure leveraged finance and performance intelligence by knowing customers and what is important to them, measuring what is useful rather than what's easy to measure, and seeking out and acting on customer feedback



Ensure staff engagement, empowerment and wellbeing by reviewing wellbeing resources to ensure quality, do more to celebrate the positives and clarify what staff would like to be upskilled in



Ensure **resource planning and flexibility** by ensuring buy-in from services around a demand calendar, having an agreement with services to redeploy people when needed and better handle pressure from members



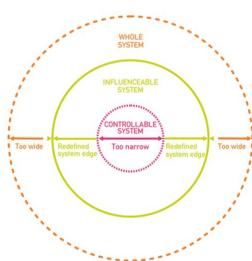
Ensure learning driven improvement and innovation by holding a lessons learned session after each disruption, learning with our partners and other organisations, establishing a culture of positive risk-taking and using a framework rather than rules based approach to make decisions by



Ensure effective collaborative relationships by emphasising One Council policies to staff and maintaining open and honest communication with the services

Spheres of Influence

- 2.74 To achieve our customer centric ambition, it is vital that the Customer First programme widens the lens, looking beyond the Customer Service Centre to the whole council.
- 2.75 Doing so will enable:
 - Commitment to a single customer experience vision
 - Avoidable demand to be addressed at the cause
 - Shared ownership of improving customer experience
 - Senior Leaders to see their role in achieving the vision
 - A better customer (and staff) experience



2.76 Customer Services not only needs to focus on what is controllable within its own operation but how it can influence other services to improve the overall customer experience.

2.77 During the IMPOWER review, the project team considered what actions could be taken to support the ambition, which are summarised in the table below.

Controllable actions (within the CSC) Influenceable actions (outside of CSC direct control) Use of CRM, forms packages and knowledge Services through account management meetings Resourcing (can flex according to priorities Professional support available from services and across channels) Digital transformation of service request CSA skills and development and training Sharing of call data to inform services which programme activities are driving progress chasing calls Customer record and updating systems able Signposting from other departments to access Communications going out through mass Triage tools that staff can access Prompts on phone messaging to encourage Drive from members and leaders to self service centralise transactional activities Communication with other services – strong Back-office systems and processes SLAs to control behaviours and encourage Support team for all cloud applications knowledge share Ethos of a single, uniform customer journey Follow up details to customers to advise on Provide system access to agents to deliver progress more at first point of contact **Customer First Champions network**

2.78 Customer Services will continue to work with services, through account management sessions and deep-dive assessment workshops to deliver these actions.

Next steps

- 2.79 It is imperative that the findings and progress made during the IMPOWER review do not lose momentum now that the review has concluded.
- 2.80 As we start to define the next phase of the Customer First programme, the following next steps need to be taken:
 - Getting whole Council input into defining the ambition group engagement session using the Customer Champions network.
 - Using the spheres of influence alongside the avoidable demand modelling to
 identify the priority areas of avoidable demand and where the control sits to be
 able to influence them.
 - Extend the use of the listening tool to teams outside of Customer Services, sharing invaluable feedback and insight for use in improvement work.
 - Continue with a trials approach to quickly kick-start change, testing out new ideas, getting engagement from across the Council and demonstrating impact as the programme develops.

3 Other options considered

3.1 Not applicable

4 Legal and financial implications

4.1 Not applicable

5 Corporate implications

5.1 HR - co-produced a draft peripatetic workforce model and will be required to support recruitment (assessment centres) for permanent and causal bank of customer staff

6 Local councillors & community boards consultation & views

6.1 Not applicable

7 Communication, engagement & further consultation

7. 1 Not applicable

8 Next steps and review

| Month | Action |
|------------------|---|
| November 2022 | Recruitment to Customer Partnership Panel begins Customer First Annual Report (1 year on) Revised Customer First communication plan to item within Customer First Annual report (visible corporate champion) Customer Experience embedded into C4P, interviews, recruitment packs and inductions Call shadowing embedded within inductions and training plans Listening tool extended beyond CSC Behavioural science trails to be extended. |
| December 2022 | Customer maturity assessments to begin Award of single CRM contract Peripatetic workforce / casual bank launched Launch of Customer Partnership Panel - Co-produce standards with residents' panel Webchat procurement to commence December 2022 Listening tool data feeds to be automated to provide near real-time intelligence. |
| January 2022 | Mobilisation of CRM implementation Customer First Annual Report published on website |

| 9 | Background | papers |
|---|------------|-------------|
| _ | | P 2. P 2. 2 |

9.1 Not applicable



Report to Audit and Governance Committee

Date: 23rd November 2022

Title: Treasury Management Mid-Year Update Report

Cabinet Member(s): Cllr John Chilver - Cabinet Member for Accessible

Housing and Resources and Cllr Tim Butcher - Deputy Cabinet Member for Accessible Housing and Resources

Contact officer: Julie Edwards

Ward(s) affected: None specific

Recommendations: The Committee is asked to note the Treasury

Management Mid-Year Update Report for 2022/23.

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 The Council is required to report to members on the current year's treasury management activity. It has been agreed that a mid-year report on the treasury management activity for the first six months of the financial year would be reported to the Audit and Governance Committee.
- 1.2 The table below is a summary of the Council's borrowing.

| £000 | 1st April 2020 | 31st March 2021 | 31st March 2022 | 30th Sept 2022 | 31st March 2023 | 31st March 2024 |
|-------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| PWLB | 333,193 | 286,459 | 279,638 | 266,194 | 262,728 | 255,728 |
| LOBO | 30,000 | 30,000 | 30,000 | 30,000 | 30,000 | 30,000 |
| Total | 363,193 | 316,459 | 309,638 | 296,194 | 292,728 | 285,728 |

1.3 The treasury cash (investments) position is summarised overleaf.

| £000 | 31st Dec 2021 | 31st March 2022 | 30th June 2022 | 30th Sept 2022 | 31st Dec 2022 | 31st March 2023 | 30th June 2023 |
|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Term Deposits | | | | | | | |
| UK Banks | 5,000 | 5,000 | 15,000 | 15,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 |
| Overseas Banks | 5,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 |
| Building Societies | - | - | 10,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| Local Authorities | 113,000 | 103,000 | 70,000 | 75,000 | 65,000 | 55,000 | 45,000 |
| UK Government | - | - | 23,300 | - | - | 10,000 | 40,000 |
| | 123,000 | 118,000 | 128,300 | 120,000 | 115,000 | 115,000 | 135,000 |
| Instant Access | | | | | | | |
| MMF | 62,360 | 37,815 | 78,750 | 53,510 | 60,100 | 43,800 | 65,100 |
| Property Fund | | | | | | | |
| CCLA | 21,418 | 22,923 | 24,122 | 23,098 | 23,098 | 23,098 | 23,098 |
| Total | 206,778 | 178,738 | 231,172 | 196,608 | 198,198 | 181,898 | 223,198 |

- 1.4 In the current economic climate it is considered appropriate to keep investments short term to cover cash flow needs, but also to seek out value available in periods up to 12 months with high credit rated financial institutions.
- 1.5 In overall budget terms, the Council is forecast to be £2.800m net better off during the year, the increase in interest rates means that the Council is forecast to achieve £1.884m more investment income than budgeted for. The Council is forecast to spend £8.379m on interest for external borrowing activity in the financial year, an underspend of £916k compared to the budget of £9.295m. The budget assumed that the Council would undertake new borrowing in 2022/23, to date no new borrowing has been undertaken. The table overleaf summarises the budget monitoring position. Another factor, however, was the continuation of the Council's strategy to use surplus cash instead of borrowing, to reduce risks and keep external financing costs low. The Council will continue the strategy of internal borrowing while it makes sense to continue to do so. The table overleaf summarises the year end forecast for interest on external borrowing an interest receivable on term deposits / Money Market Funds.

| | Budget | Year End Forecast | Variance |
|--|--------|----------------------|----------|
| | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| External Interest Costs | 9,295 | 8,379 | -916 |
| Interest Receivable on Term Deposits / | | | |
| MMFs | -1,469 | -3,353 | -1,884 |
| Net Position | 7,826 | 5,026 | -2,800 |

2. Content of report

- 2.1 The Council is required to operate a balanced budget, which broadly means that income raised during the year will meet expenditure. Part of the treasury management operation is to ensure that cash flow is adequately planned, with cash being available when it is needed. Surplus monies are invested in low-risk counterparties or instruments commensurate with the Council's low risk appetite, providing adequate liquidity initially before considering investment return.
- 2.2 The second main function of the treasury management service is the funding of the Council's capital plans. These capital plans provide a guide to the borrowing need of the Council, essentially the longer-term cash flow planning, to ensure that the Council can meet its capital spending obligations. This management of longer-term cash may involve arranging long or short-term loans or using longer-term cash flow surpluses. On occasion, when it is prudent and economic, any debt previously drawn may be restructured to meet Council risk or cost objectives.
- 2.3 In line with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Code of Practice for Treasury Management and the Council's Financial Procedure Rules, this Council is required to provide the Audit and Governance Committee with a mid-year report on the treasury management activity for the first six months of the financial year.
- 2.4 Treasury management is conducted within the framework of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice 2017 Edition (the CIPFA Code). CIPFA launched an updated Code of Practice in 2022.
- 2.5 The Code of Practice defines Treasury Management as: The management of the organisation's investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks.
- 2.6 The Council's Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) was approved by Council on 23rd February 2022. There are no policy change proposed to the TMSS at this stage. The general policy is the prudent investment of its treasury balances and

cost-effective borrowing to finance long term investment in the Council's assets. The approach to investments with other local authorities will be reviewed as part of the TMSS for 2023/24.

Interest rate forecasts

2.7 The Council has appointed Link Group as its treasury advisors and part of their service is to assist the Council to formulate a view on interest rates. The table overleaf based on the latest forecasts from Link and Capital Economics, a consultancy that supports Link to develop / sense check their interest rate forecasts. It suggests that both short and long-dated interest rates will be elevated for some time.

| | | | Intere | st Rate Fore | ecasts | | | |
|-------------|--------|--------|--------|--------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Bank Rate | Dec-22 | Mar-23 | Jun-23 | Sep-23 | Dec-23 | Mar-24 | Jun-24 | Sep-24 |
| Link | 4.00% | 5.00% | 5.00% | 5.00% | 4.50% | 4.00% | 3.75% | 3.25% |
| Cap Econ | 4.25% | 5.00% | 5.00% | 5.00% | 5.00% | 4.75% | 4.25% | 3.75% |
| 5Y PWLB RAT | TE . | | | | | | | |
| Link | 5.00% | 4.90% | 4.70% | 4.50% | 4.20% | 3.90% | 3.70% | 3.50% |
| Cap Econ | 5.20% | 5.00% | 4.90% | 4.70% | 4.50% | 4.30% | 4.20% | 4.00% |
| 10Y PWLB RA | TE | | | | | | | |
| Link | 4.90% | 4.70% | 4.60% | 4.30% | 4.10% | 3.80% | 3.60% | 3.50% |
| Cap Econ | 5.10% | 4.90% | 4.80% | 4.70% | 4.60% | 4.40% | 4.20% | 4.00% |
| 25Y PWLB RA | TE | | | | | | | |
| Link | 5.10% | 4.90% | 4.80% | 4.50% | 4.30% | 4.10% | 3.90% | 3.70% |
| Cap Econ | 5.10% | 5.00% | 4.90% | 4.90% | 4.80% | 4.60% | 4.50% | 4.30% |
| 50Y PWLB RA | TE | | | | | | | |
| _ink | 4.80% | 4.60% | 4.50% | 4.20% | 4.00% | 3.80% | 3.60% | 3.40% |
| Cap Econ | 4.90% | 4.90% | 4.90% | 4.80% | 4.80% | 4.60% | 4.50% | 4.30% |

Borrowing

The Council has a combination of Public Works Loan Board (PWLB¹) loans and loans from financial institutions to meet its current borrowing requirements. Loans outstanding totalled £296.194m on 30 September 2022; £266.194m was from the PWLB, £30m Lenders Option Borrowers Option (LOBOs²) from the money markets. The Council pursues a strategy of keeping borrowing and investments below their underlying levels, sometimes known as internal borrowing, to reduce risk and keep external financing costs low. The Council is forecast to spend £8.379m on interest for external borrowing activity in the financial year, an underspend compared to the budget of £9.295m, to date no new borrowing has been undertaken. The budget assumed that the Council would undertake new borrowing in 2022/23. The table overleaf is a summary of the Council's borrowing on 30th September 2022, the borrowing position on 1st April 2020 and 31st March 2021. The table also forecasts the borrowing position for the 31st March 2023 and 31st March 2024; the forecasts assume no new borrowing takes place in the meantime.

| £000 | 1st April 2020 | 31st March 2021 | 31st March 2022 | 30th Sept 2022 | 31st March 2023 | 31st March 2024 |
|-------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| PWLB | 333,193 | 286,459 | 279,638 | 266,194 | 262,728 | 255,728 |
| LOBO | 30,000 | 30,000 | 30,000 | 30,000 | 30,000 | 30,000 |
| Total | 363,193 | 316,459 | 309,638 | 296,194 | 292,728 | 285,728 |

¹ PWLB Public Works Loans Board. The PWLB is a statutory body, part of HM Treasury; its purpose is to lend money to local authorities. The Council's main objective when borrowing money is to strike an appropriately low risk balance between securing low interest costs and achieving certainty of those costs over the period for which funds are required.

2.9 Debt rescheduling opportunities have been limited in the current economic climate and therefore no debt rescheduling has been undertaken to date in the current financial year. However, now that the whole of the yield curve has shifted higher there may be better opportunities in the future, although only prudent and affordable debt rescheduling will be considered.

Annual Investment Strategy

- 2.10 The TMSS for 2022/23, which includes the Council's Treasury Investment Strategy requires the Council to invest its treasury funds prudently, and to have regard to the security and liquidity of its investments before seeking the highest rate of return, or yield. The Council's objective when investing money is to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return, minimising the risk of incurring losses from defaults and the risk of receiving unsuitably low investment income. In the current economic climate, it is considered appropriate to keep investments short term to cover cash flow needs, but also to seek out value available in periods up to 12 months with high credit rated financial institutions.
- 2.11 The Council holds significant invested funds, representing income received in advance of expenditure plus balances and reserves held. During the year to 30th September 2022, the Council's cash balances averaged £223m, including the CCLA (Churches, Charities and Local Authorities) property fund investment.
- 2.12 The treasury cash (investments) position is summarised below.

²LOBOs Lender Option Borrower Option. LOBOs are long-term borrowing instruments which include an option for the lender to periodically revise the interest rate. If the lender decides to revise the interest rate, the borrower then has the option to pay the revised interest rate or repay the loan.

| £000 | 31st Dec 2021 | 31st March 2022 | 30th June 2022 | 30th Sept 2022 | 31st Dec 2022 | 31st March 2023 | 30th June 2023 |
|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Term Deposits | | | | | | | |
| UK Banks | 5,000 | 5,000 | 15,000 | 15,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 |
| Overseas Banks | 5,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 |
| Building Societies | - | - | 10,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| Local Authorities | 113,000 | 103,000 | 70,000 | 75,000 | 65,000 | 55,000 | 45,000 |
| UK Government | - | - | 23,300 | | | 10,000 | 40,000 |
| | 123,000 | 118,000 | 128,300 | 120,000 | 115,000 | 115,000 | 135,000 |
| Instant Access | | | | | | | |
| MMF | 62,360 | 37,815 | 78,750 | 53,510 | 60,100 | 43,800 | 65,100 |
| Property Fund | | | | | | | |
| CCLA | 21,418 | 22,923 | 24,122 | 23,098 | 23,098 | 23,098 | 23,098 |
| Total | 206,778 | 178,738 | 231,172 | 196,608 | 198,198 | 181,898 | 223,198 |

- 2.13 Both the CIPFA Code and government guidance require the Council to invest its funds prudently, and to have regard to the security and liquidity of its treasury investments before seeking the optimum rate of return, or yield. The Council's objective when investing money is to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return, minimising the risk of incurring losses from defaults and the risk of receiving unsuitably low investment income. The Council is forecast to achieve £3.353m interest on its investments, an overachievement of income of £1.884m compared to the budget of £1.469m. Officers can confirm that the approved limits within the Annual Investment Strategy were not breached during the period ended 30th September 2022.
- 2.14 Treasury management's role is to ensure that the Council has cash available to meet its day-to-day requirements. Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) treasury investments are being developed but do not represent a significant proportion. Treasury investments are generally short term, some overnight, secure, providing access to cash when the Council needs it. They do not include fossil fuels or companies with a large carbon footprint. Treasury investments place cash somewhere safe that generates a return to the benefit of the residents of Buckinghamshire.

- 2.15 **Externally Managed Pooled Funds** Buckinghamshire Council has invested £20m in the CCLA property fund in three tranches, currently worth £23.098m. The CCLA property fund is an externally managed strategic pooled property fund where short-term security and liquidity are lesser considerations; the objectives instead are regular revenue income and long-term price stability.
- 2.16 **Sovereign Limits** The Council will only use approved counterparties from the UK and from countries with a minimum sovereign credit rating of AAA from Fitch (or equivalent). The cash limit for AAA sovereign rated countries is £20m per country and £40m in aggregate Australia, Denmark, Germany, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Singapore, Sweden and Switzerland are AAA. On 30th September 2022 £20m was invested in banks domiciled in AAA sovereign rated countries.
- 2.17 Other Local Authorities The Council invests with other local authorities. Local Authorities are considered to be quasi government risk. In addition, there is also specific protection under the Local Government Act 2003, which sets out that no local authority can offer security to a lender, however there is specific regulation on loans to local authorities which makes clear that all loans are secured on future revenues and this includes the ability to take legal action if any debts are not repaid.
- 2.18 The 2022/23 TMSS includes a statement that where a local authority has issued a section 114 notice or has been granted permissions to use capital to help with their revenue budgets the investment can only be placed with the prior approval of the Service Director of Finance in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Accessible Housing and Resources. Following recent articles in the press about high levels of indebtedness with other local authorities, the Council has received a letter of assurance from another local authority that an outstanding loan will be repaid to the Council on the 6th January 2023. The number of local authorities who are experiencing financial difficulties has increased significantly over recent years resulting in s114 notices, Best Value reports and Public Interest reports, applications for Capitalisation Directives, as well as reports of general financial pressures being experienced by councils. In this economic environment, future investments with other local authorities require advance approval from the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council.

Prudential Indicators

2.19 Each year, the Council agrees Prudential Indicators under the Local Government Act 2003 which are affordable, prudent and sustainable. The indicators were agreed by full Council at its meeting on 23rd February 2022. During the half year ended 30th September, the Council has operated within the treasury and prudential indicators set out in the Council's TMSS for 2022/23. The Service Director of Finance reports

that no difficulties are envisaged for the current or future years in complying with these indicators.

Borrowing Indicators

- 2.20 The Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) measures the Council's underlying external need to borrow for capital purposes. This is essentially the Council's outstanding debt, necessary to finance the Council's capital expenditure. Each year the CFR is increased by the amount of debt required to support the capital programme and reduced by revenue charges for the repayment of debt. The actual debt is dependent on the type and maturity of the borrowing undertaken as well as seeking the optimal cashflow situation.
- 2.21 Comparing gross debt with the capital financing requirement is an indicator of the Council's prudence in managing its capital expenditure and is designed to ensure that, over the medium term, external borrowing is only for capital purposes. Gross external borrowing should not, except in the short term, exceed the total of the CFR. The values are measured at the end of the financial year. The table below shows that the Council is projected to have borrowings of £292.728m by 31st March 2023 which means that it has utilised £286.98m of cash flow funds in lieu of borrowing (internal borrowing). The Council's estimated annual saving by not paying interest on external debt and foregoing investment interest, which is low in the current economic circumstances, is £1.8m. The estimates for 2022/23 and 2023/24 take into account the £100m potential borrowing facility that Council has delegated to Cabinet where there exists a robust and financially viable business case, although the restrictions on borrowing from PWLB to invest primarily for yield and higher PWLB borrowing costs mean that there are fewer prudential borrowing opportunities available.

| Indicator | Unit | Latest 2022/23 | Estimate 2022/23 | Estimate 2023/24 |
|-------------------------------|------|----------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Gross Debt | £m | 292.78 | 405.54 | 405.27 |
| Capital Financing Requirement | £m | 579.76 | 579.76 | 573.78 |
| Internal Borrowing | £m | 286.98 | 174.22 | 168.51 |

- 2.22 The Authorised Limit for External Debt is required to separately identify external borrowing (gross of investments) and other long-term liabilities such as covenant repayments and finance lease obligations. The limit provides a maximum figure that the Council could borrow at any given point during each financial year.
- 2.23 The Operational Boundary for External Debt is a key management tool for in-year monitoring and is lower than the Authorised Limit as it is based on an estimate of the most likely level of external borrowing at any point in the year. In comparison, the authorised limit is the maximum allowable level of borrowing.

| Authoricad limit Cm | 2022/23 | 2023/24 | 2024/25 |
|-----------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Authorised limit £m | Estimate | Estimate | Estimate |
| Debt | 510 | 510 | 510 |
| Other long-term liabilities | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Total | 520 | 520 | 520 |

| Operational houndary Cre | 2022/23 | 2023/24 | 2024/25 |
|-----------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Operational boundary £m | Estimate | Estimate | Estimate |
| Debt | 410 | 410 | 410 |
| Other long-term liabilities | 7.5 | 7.5 | 7.5 |
| Total | 417.5 | 417.5 | 417.5 |

2.24 The Operational Boundary is the expected borrowing position of the Council during the year. Periods where the actual position is either below or over the boundary is acceptable subject to the Authorised Limit not being breached.

Treasury Management Indicators

- 2.25 The Council measures and manages its exposures to treasury management risks using the following indicators.
- 2.26 **Security:** The Council has adopted a voluntary measure of its exposure to credit risk by monitoring the value-weighted average credit rating of its investment portfolio. This is calculated by applying a score to each investment (AAA=1, AA+=2, etc.) and taking the arithmetic average, weighted by the size of each investment. Unrated investments are assigned a score based on their perceived risk. The weighted average credit rating of AA- exceeds the target A.

| Credit Risk Indicator | Indicator as at 30 th September 2022 | Target |
|---------------------------------|--|--------|
| Portfolio average credit rating | AA- | A |

Maturity structure of borrowing: This indicator is set to control the Council's exposure to large, fixed rate sums falling due for refinancing, and are required for upper and lower limits. The time periods start on the first day of the financial year. The maturity date of borrowing is the earliest date on which the lender can demand repayment. The upper and lower limits on the maturity structure of borrowing will be:

| Refinancing rate risk indicator | Actual 2022/23 | Upper Limit | Lower Limit |
|---------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Under 12 months | 5% | 15% | 0% |
| 12 months to 2 years | 7% | 17% | 0% |
| 2 years to 5 years | 12% | 22% | 0% |
| 5 years to 10 years | 26% | 34% | 0% |
| 10 years to 20 years | 20% | 33% | 0% |
| 20 years to 30 years | 16% | 33% | 0% |
| 30 years to 40 years | 4% | 30% | 0% |
| 40 years and above | 0% | 30% | 0% |

2.27 Investment performance / risk benchmarking - the Council uses the 7 day SONIA (Sterling Overnight Index Average) compounded rate as an investment benchmark to assess the investment performance of its investment portfolio. To date average investment returns of 1.16% are 0.03% below the 7 day SONIA of 1.19%; this is due to the Council holding term deposits placed before the recent increases in interest rates. These term deposits will mature over the next few months.

| Risk benchmarking | 7 day SONIA | Average investment returns |
|------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|
| Investment performance | 1.19% | 1.16% |

2.28 **Investment treasury indicator and limit** - total principal funds invested for greater than 365 days. These limits are set with regard to the Council's liquidity requirements and to reduce the need for early sale of an investment and are based on the availability of funds after each year-end.

| Upper limit for principal sums invested for longer than 365 days | | | | |
|--|---------|---------|---------|--|
| £m | 2022/23 | 2023/24 | 2024/25 | |
| Investments on 30 th September 2022 in excess of 1 year maturing in each year | £0m | £10m | £0m | |
| Principal sums invested for longer than 365 days | £25m | £25m | £25m | |

- 2.29 CIPFA published a revised Treasury Management Code and Prudential Code on 20th December 2021 and has stated that formal adoption is not required until the 2023/24 financial year. This Council has to have regard to these codes of practice when it prepares the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy, and also related reports during the financial year.
- 2.30 The revised codes will have the following implications:
 - a requirement for the Council to adopt a new debt liability benchmark treasury indicator to support the financing risk management of the capital financing requirement;
 - clarify what CIPFA expects a local authority to borrow for and what they do
 not view as appropriate. This will include the requirement to set a
 proportionate approach to commercial and service capital investment;
 - create new Investment Practices to manage risks associated with nontreasury investment (similar to the current Treasury Management Practices(TMPs));
 - ensure that any long term treasury investment is supported by a business model;
 - a requirement to effectively manage liquidity and longer term cash flow requirements;
 - amendment to TMP1 to address ESG policy within the treasury management risk framework;
 - amendment to the knowledge and skills register for individuals involved in the treasury management function - to be proportionate to the size and complexity of the treasury management conducted by each council;
 - a new requirement to clarify reporting requirements for service and commercial investment, (especially where supported by borrowing/leverage).
- 2.31 In addition, all investments and investment income must be attributed to one of the following three purposes: -
 - Treasury management Arising from the organisation's cash flows or treasury
 risk management activity, this type of investment represents balances which
 are only held until the cash is required for use. Treasury investments may
 also arise from other treasury risk management activity which seeks to

- prudently manage the risks, costs or income relating to existing or forecast debt or treasury investments.
- Service delivery Investments held primarily and directly for the delivery of
 public services including housing, regeneration and local infrastructure.
 Returns on this category of investment which are funded by borrowing are
 permitted only in cases where the income is "either related to the financial
 viability of the project in question or otherwise incidental to the primary
 purpose".
- Commercial return Investments held primarily for financial return with no treasury management or direct service provision purpose. Risks on such investments should be proportionate to a council's financial capacity i.e., that 'plausible losses' could be absorbed in budgets or reserves without unmanageable detriment to local services. An authority must not arrange new borrowing from the PWLB to invest primarily for financial return, there is no requirement to sell existing commercial acquisitions.

3. Legal and financial implications

3.1 The publication of an annual strategy, a mid-year treasury report and an annual treasury management report conforms to best practice as required by the Code of Practice CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services.

4. Corporate implications

4.1 There are none.

5. Background papers

5.1 There are none.



Report to Audit & Governance Committee

Date: 23rd November 2022

Reference number: N/A

Title: Treasury Management Loans to Other Local Authorities

Cabinet Member(s): John Chilver, Cabinet Member for Accessible Housing and

Resources and Cllr Tim Butcher - Deputy Cabinet Member for Accessible Housing and Resources

Contact officer: Mark Preston, Assistant Director of Finance (Pensions,

Procurement and Revenues)

Ward(s) affected: None specific

Recommendations: That the Treasury Management Strategy being

developed for 2023/24 will take into account the new

range of government interventions and not just capitalisation directives and S114 notices as per the Audit and Governance Committee actions from the meeting of 27th September 2022. In the meantime, additional controls have been implemented for loans to

other Local Authorities.

Reason for decision:To reduce the reputational risk to the Council of making

loans to local authorities who are experiencing financial difficulties or where concerns exist about their financial

status.

1. Executive summary

1.1 The Council generates an income from interest it receives from the investment of the cash balances it holds. The Treasury Management Strategy sets out the parameters within which cash balances can be invested. Included in the Treasury

Management Strategy is the ability to loan up to £10m for 5 years with any individual local authority up to a total of £150m being placed with local authorities at any one time. The number of local authorities who are experiencing financial difficulties has increased significantly over recent years resulting in s114 notices, Best Value reports and Public Interest reports, applications for Capitalisation Directives, as well as reports of general financial pressures being experienced by councils.

1.2 This report looks to reassure the Council that there is no risk to the funds that are loaned to other local authorities, even when they are facing significant financial pressures, and explain why the council needs to loan money to other local authorities. Recognising that there is a lot of press coverage of local authorities suffering financial pressures outside of formal notices and reports, the report also looks at the options for further consideration before agreeing loans to other local authorities.

2. Content of report

Lender Protections

- 2.1 Local Authorities are considered to be quasi government risk. In addition, there is also specific protection under the Local Government Act 2003, which sets out that no local authority can offer security to a lender, however there is specific regulation on loans to local authorities which makes clear that all loans are secured on future revenues and this includes the ability to take legal action if any debts are not repaid.
- 2.2 The relevant sections of the Local Government Act are Section 6 (Protection of lenders) and Section 13 (Security for money borrowed etc). Section 6 provides that 'a person lending money to a local authority shall not be bound to enquire whether the authority has power to borrow the money and shall not be prejudiced by the absence of any such power'.
- 2.3 However, it is Section 6 that sets out the specific security provided on any loans made to local authorities. In particular:
- 13 (3) All money borrowed by a local authority (whether before or after the coming into force of this section), together with any interest on the money borrowed, shall be charged indifferently on all the revenues of the authority.
- 13 (5) The High Court may appoint a receiver on application by a person entitled to principal or interest due in respect of any borrowing by a local authority if the amount due remains unpaid for a period of two months after demand in writing.
- 13 (7) The High Court may confer on a receiver appointed under subsection (5) any powers which the local authority has in relation to—

- (a) collecting, receiving or recovering the revenues of the local authority,
- (b) issuing levies or precepts, or
- (c) setting, collecting or recovering council tax.
- 2.4 The above protections would enable the recovery of any outstanding debt with a local authority.
- 2.5 In addition, the CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting also makes clear that a local authority is not expected to default, so you make no 'Expected Credit Loss' in your accounts on any investment made with another local authority.
- 2.6 The maintenance of the 'Watch List' of local authorities where public announcements of financial difficulties have been made is a valid internal measure to put in place as a means of managing reputational risk. However, even where we have loaned money to local authorities that subsequently present with financial issues, there is no tangible financial risk to the Council.

Treasury Management

- 2.7 The level of cash balances that the Council currently holds is largely because of the healthy level of reserves that the Council has set aside. This has enabled the Council to undertake internal borrowing rather than having to borrow and incur additional revenue borrowing costs, however the level of cash balances the Council currently has is approximately £220m. The Council's Treasury Management Strategy sets out the parameters within which it can loan money to generate revenue income from interest received. The Council can loan up to £10m for up to 5 years with a single local authority, up to a maximum limit of £150m with local authorities at any one time.
- 2.8 Although the commercial market is improving with recent interest rate rises, the opportunities are intermittent and sometimes the counterparties do not conform to our Treasury Management Strategy in terms of loan amount being sought or duration required. The Treasury team use a mixture of Money Market Funds, Commercial Bank and Building Societies as well as local authorities to place its cash to maximise returns without risking the loan value given. There are sometimes good deals available with other local authorities, which would be better than interest that could be gained through the government Debt Management Office (DMO).

Local Authorities Lending

2.9 The advice from Link, the Council's treasury management advisers, is not to exclude local authorities from our lending list as they are the safest counterparties and using

- other counterparties increases credit risk. Although there is no specific security against a loan, the statutory protections described at 2.1-2.3 provide for the ability to place a charge against a local authority's future revenues. This has never had to be tested, as historically no local authority has ever defaulted on a loan.
- 2.10 Despite this, the Treasury Management Strategy, that was agreed at Council in February, recognised that there were a number of local authorities that were issuing s114 notices or requesting capitalisation directives due to financial pressures being experienced and therefore the following section was added to the Treasury Management Strategy:

Other Local Authorities

The Council will invest with other local authorities. However, where a local authority has issued a section 114 notice or has been granted permissions to use capital to help with their revenue budgets the investment can only be placed with the prior approval of the Service Director – Corporate Finance and Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources, Property and Assets. If a local authority that the Council has invested in subsequently issues a section 114 or is given a capitalisation directive, then this will be reported to the Audit and Governance Committee at the earliest opportunity.

- 2.11 There was a recent LGC article published on 16th September 2022, about the scale of borrowing by Thurrock from other local authorities. Buckinghamshire Council was one of a large number of authorities named, due to a £10m 1 year loan given to Thurrock Council in January 2022. Although there is no section 114 notice or capitalisation directive, in September 2022 the government announced that it was appointing Essex County Council as commissioners to oversee Thurrock's finance and governance functions. The existing Treasury Management Strategy makes no formal requirement to report this loan to Regulatory and Audit, as there is no s114 notice or capitalisation directive in place, however this needs to be reviewed considering the potential reputational risk that such a loan poses to the Council.
- 2.12 The Interim s151 Officer of Thurrock Council has subsequently written to the Leader of Council to give assurance that the £10m will be repaid on 6th January 2023 as they have agreed a refinancing packing of their short-term loans through the PWLB with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and the Treasury.
- 2.13 Although the formal strategy states that the Council should not loan to Councils with a section 114 notice or capitalisation directive in place, the Treasury Management watch list includes those authorities that have requested capitalisation directives or where commissioners have been appointed regardless of any formal notices or directives.

- 2.14 In the current macroeconomic context and the known pressures on local authority finances, there is a realistic probability that more councils will find themselves in an adverse funding scenario and that this could emerge without any notice.
- 2.15 It is being recommended that before any local authority loan is made, a thorough due diligence review is undertaken to ensure that there are no financial issues that have been raised regarding that local authority. In year budget pressures and Medium-Term Financial Planning funding gaps are commonplace in many local authorities and are regularly reported, but this does not necessarily mean there is any risk in making loans to those Councils. Therefore, following that review, a loan will only be placed with another local authority once it has been signed off by the s151 Officer, the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council.
- 2.16 The Council had made a £10m loan to Spelthorne BC on 13th January 2022. This loan was repaid on 14th November 2022. Again, although there is no s114 notice or capitalisation directive in place or requested, Spelthorne has featured prominently in the press due to the significant level of investments it has made in Commercial Property. Under the new proposal this loan could not be made without getting s151 Officer, Chief Executive and Leader of the Council sign off first.

3. Other options considered

3.1 An analysis of a local authority's balance sheets and CIPFA data could be undertaken before a loan is issued. However, this analysis would only be backward looking and couldn't be future proofed. It would also be highly resource intensive and couldn't be carried out in sufficient time given that there is often a short window of opportunity to accept any deal and there wouldn't be sufficient time to undertake the analysis on a case-by-case basis.

4. Legal and financial implications

4.1 The statutory underwrite under the Local Government Act 2003 is explained in the report, which protects any loan made to another local authority.

5. Corporate implications

5.1 There are no other significant corporate implications not already covered in the report.

6. Next steps and review

6.1 The Treasury Management Strategy 2023/24 will be updated to reflect the actions from the 27th September 2022 Audit & Governance Committee meeting before coming to the 1st February 2023 Audit & Governance Committee for review.

| 7. | Background papers |
|----|--------------------------------------|
| | Treasury Management Strategy 2022/23 |
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Report to Finance and Resources Select Committee

Date: 1 December 2022

Title: 2023 Budget Scrutiny Inquiry Group Scoping Paper

Relevant councillor(s): Councillor Ralph Bagge, Chairman of the Finance & Resources Select

Committee and Councillor Martin Tett, Leader of the Council

Author and/or contact officer: Chris Ward, Senior Scrutiny Officer

Ward(s) affected: Not ward specific

Recommendations: That the Finance and Resources Select Committee approve the approach to the budget scrutiny process for the 2023/24 draft budget.

Reason for decision: Members require assurance that the budget proposals put forward for the Council are realistic and deliverable and in line with the Council's priorities, as outlined in its Strategic Plan. The Finance and Resources Select Committee will conduct meetings with Cabinet Members in January 2023 in order to develop the conclusions and recommendations of its 2023/24 Budget Scrutiny Inquiry and as such an approach requires agreement.

Executive summary

1.1 Buckinghamshire Council is developing a three-year revenue budget and a four-year capital budget. Members require assurance that the budget proposals put forward for the Council are realistic and deliverable in line with the Council's priorities, as outlined in its strategic plan. The Finance and Resources Select Committee will conduct meetings with Cabinet Members in January 2023 in order to develop the conclusions and recommendations of its 2023/24 Budget Scrutiny Inquiry.

Content of report

- 1.2 Through scrutiny of financial data and performance information and by questioning Cabinet Members and relevant supporting officers, the Inquiry Group will explore the risks and assess whether budget proposals are sufficiently robust in the current context. After gathering evidence, the Inquiry Group will produce a report making recommendations to Cabinet to highlight any areas of risk and to suggest any amendments to be considered ahead of the Budget being agreed by Full Council in February.
- 1.3 Scrutiny of the budget is a priority within the Select Committee's remit. The subject falls within the remit of the Leader but involves all Cabinet Members.
- 1.4 A key task for the Finance and Resources Select Committee is to scrutinise a Draft Buckinghamshire Council Budget for 2023/24 and the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP).
- 1.5 The Inquiry will result in recommendations to Cabinet to ensure that the Budget for 2023/24 is robust.
- 1.6 Key timing considerations
 - 21 and 22 November 2022 Finance and Resources SC budget scrutiny private preparatory briefings on portfolios of Children's Services and Health
 - 5 January 2023 Cabinet agrees draft budget
 - 6 January 2023 The Section 151 Officer will give a more detailed private briefing to the Inquiry Group to confirm the Local Government Settlement and highlight any key challenges or budget pressures that members should be aware of. Members will also be informed of any public consultation feedback and guided through the Draft Budget paperwork.
 - 9, 10 and 12 January 2023 Budget Scrutiny
 - 14 February 2023 Cabinet recommends final budget
 - 22 February 2023 Council agrees final budget
- 1.7 Key Stakeholders
 - Cabinet Members
 - Corporate Management Team
 - Public (in terms of consultation)

Evidence Gathering

- 1.8 The Inquiry Group will be provided with a considerable amount of information as background to the financial proposals, including:
 - Information provided by the Service Director for Finance
 - Portfolio budget summary information, including any proposals for significant savings plans or capital investments.
 - Published Performance data
 - Benchmarking data for certain portfolios such as Children's Services, Health and Wellbeing and Transport
 - Three days of meetings with Cabinet Members
 - Consultation feedback
 - Questions from the Public via social media
- 1.9 The Budget Scrutiny Inquiry Group, working closely with the Scrutiny Officer, will identify some key lines of inquiry to follow during the Portfolio Holder meetings. Whilst the portfolio areas are very different, there will be consistent questions that can be put to all of them, for example:
 - How will your proposals impact on Buckinghamshire residents?
 - How do your budget proposals fit with the Council's overall objectives and priorities as outlined in the strategic plan?
 - What are the biggest areas of risk in your budget and what plans are in place to mitigate them?
 - What are the key climate change and environment actions you are taking and how do these impact upon your budget?
 - How have you taken inflationary pressures into account when building your budget and what action has been taken to mitigate them?

Consultation and communication

1.10 Meetings where each individual Cabinet Member will be questioned on their budget proposals should be held in public and webcast. Meetings with Cabinet Members are planned to take place over 3 days during the week commencing 9 January 2023. This helps members and officers to keep their focus and to identify interdependencies across portfolio areas.

- 1.11 Meetings and webcasts can be publicised to encourage public involvement.
 Questions will be invited from members of the public via social media and e-mail during Budget Scrutiny week.
- 1.12 A press release and social media communications are required to launch Budget Scrutiny week.
- 1.13 Feedback from the public budget consultation exercise will be shared with the Inquiry Group.

Next steps and review

The budget scrutiny week will commence on 9 January 2023. The inquiry will result in recommendations to Cabinet to ensure that the Budget is robust. Cabinet will consider these recommendations at its meeting on 14 February 2023. **Appendix A** notes the outline project plan and **Appendix B** details the timetable for the sessions.

Background papers

None

<u>Appendix A</u>

| Stage | Key Activity | Dates | |
|--------------------|---|----------------------------|--|
| Scoping | Scoping Inquiry Scope Agreed by Select Committee | | |
| Evidence-gathering | Pre-Budget briefings on portfolio areas of Children's Services | 22 November and 7 December | |
| | and Health & Wellbeing respectively | 2022 | |
| | Private Budget briefing with Inquiry Group members | 6 January 2023 | |
| | Budget Inquiry Meetings with individual Cabinet Members | 9, 10 and 12 January 2023 | |
| Developing | Inquiry Group/SC meeting – Key Findings Report & Possible | 12 / 13 January 2023 | |
| Recommendations | Areas of Recommendations considered | | |
| Reporting | Draft Inquiry Group report with recommendations completed (signed-off by SC Chairman) | w/c 16 January 2023 | |
| | Inquiry Group agrees report to go forward to decision-makers (via email) | w/c 23 January 2023 | |
| | Cabinet papers published | 6 February 2023 | |
| | Cabinet considers recommendations | 14 February 2023 | |
| | Full Council Report | 22 February 2023 | |



Budget Scrutiny Sessions Commencing w/c 9 Jan 2023

22 November 2022 – confidential briefing session on Children's Services

7 December 2022 – confidential briefing session on Adult Services

6 January 2023 – S151 David Skinner to hold a confidential briefing session following Cabinet signing off draft budget

| Date | A.M. | P.M. |
|------------------|---|--|
| Monday 9 January | 9 a.m. Confidential session | 12.30 p.m. Lunch |
| | 10 a.m. Opening Session with the Leader – to | 1.15 p.m. Transport |
| | cover: | Steve Broadbent |
| | a) Overall context for the proposed budget; | Deputy – Peter Martin (EWR/HS2) |
| | b) overall capital position; | Deputy – David King (Project Delivery) |
| | c) scrutiny of Leader's own Portfolio budget | Corporate Directors – Richard Barker & Ian |
| | Martin Tett | Thompson |
| | Corporate Directors - Sarah Ashmead & Ian | Heads of Finance - Fiorella Mugari & Claire Hunter |
| | Thompson | |
| | Section 151 Officer – David Skinner | |
| | 11.15 a.m. Break | 2.45 p.m. Break |
| | 11.30 a.m. Communities | 3.00 p.m. Accessible Housing & Resources |
| | Steve Bowles | John Chilver |
| | Deputy – Arif Hussain (Community Safety) | Deputy – Tim Butcher (Resources) |
| | Corporate Directors – Richard Barker, Sarah | Corporate Directors – Sarah Murphy-Brookman & |
| | Ashmead & Gill Quinton | Ian Thompson |
| | Heads of Finance - Fiorella Mugari & Parm Phipps | Heads of Finance - Claire Hunter & Janaki Try |
| | Head of Community Safety – Gideon Springer | |
| | | |
| | | 4.15 p.m. Confidential recap/wash-up for |
| | | committee members |
| | | |

| Tuesday 10 January | 9 a.m. Confidential session | 12.45 p.m. Lunch |
|----------------------|---|---|
| | 10 a.m. Culture and Leisure Clive Harriss Corporate Director – Richard Barker Head of Finance - Fiorella Mugari | 1.30 p.m. Homelessness and Regulatory Services Mark Winn Deputy – Carl Jackson (Regulatory Services) Corporate Directors – Ian Thompson & Richard Barker Heads of Finance - Claire Hunter & Fiorella Mugari 2.30 p.m. Planning & Regeneration Peter Strachan Deputy – Rachael Matthews (Town Centre Regeneration) Deputy – Gary Hall (Enforcement) Corporate Director – Ian Thompson Head of Finance – Claire Hunter |
| | 11 a.m. Break | 3.30 p.m. Break |
| | 11.15 a.m. Health & Wellbeing Angela Macpherson Deputy – Zahir Mohammed (Public Health) Corporate Director – Gill Quinton Head of Finance - Elspeth O'Neill | 3.45 p.m. Confidential wash-up with committee members |
| Wednesday 11 January | Free day | |

| Thursday 12 January | 9 a.m. Confidential session | 12.45 p.m. Lunch |
|---------------------|---|---|
| | 10 a.m. Climate Change & Environment | 1.30 p.m. Closing session with the Leader |
| | Gareth Williams | Martin Tett |
| | Deputy – Jilly Jordan (Environment) | Chief Executive – Rachael Shimmin |
| | Corporate Director – Ian Thompson | Section 151 Officer – David Skinner |
| | Heads of Finance – Claire Hunter & Fiorella | |
| | Mugari | |
| | 11 a.m. Break | 2.30 p.m. Confidential wash up with inquiry group members |
| | 11.15 a.m. Education & Children's Services | |
| | Anita Cranmer | |
| | Deputy – Joseph Baum (Skills) | |
| | Corporate Director – John Macilwraith | |
| | Head of Finance – Elizabeth Williams | |
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Finance and Resources Select Committee (Chairman: Ralph Bagge, Scrutiny officer: Chris Ward)

| Date | Topic | Description & Purpose | Lead Officer | Contributors |
|------------------------|---|---|---|--|
| 9 – 13 January 2023 | | Budget Scrutiny | All Corporate and Service Directors | Cabinet Members, Deputies, Corporate and Service Directors |
| 23 February 2023 | Budget Inquiry 2022 Recommendations: 12- month review | To receive an update on the process of the budget scrutiny recommendations made in January 2022 | David Skinner | Martin Tett |
| | Budget Performance Monitoring Q3 | To review the Quarter 3 Budget Monitoring Report | David Skinner | John Chilver |
| | Q3 Performance Report 2022-23 | To review the Quarter 3 Performance Report | Matthew Everitt Holly Pedrick | John Chilver |
| | Work Smart Programme | To receive an update on the programme and the Estates Strategy | Sarah Murphy- Brookman John Reed | John Chilver |
| 6 April 2023 | External Property Companies | Report on the performance and business plans of the Council's companies: AVE, Consilio, London Road Management Company, and Buckinghamshire Advantage | John Reed | John Chilver |
| | External Company Governance Annual Update | To receive a report following one year of the new governance arrangements with the external property companies | John Reed | John Chilver |

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

