

CABINET

25 March 2025

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING REPORT JANUARY 2025

Report by the Executive Director of Resources & Section 151 Officer

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to
 - a) note the report and annexes.
 - b) write off £0.1m owed to the council by a company who are in liquidation. (Annex B, para 107).
 - c) write off 17 Adult Social Care contribution debts totalling £0.380m. (Annex B, para 110).
 - d) propose to contribute £5.0m to the Local Government Devolution and Reorganisation reserve from the un-utilised contingency (£3.3m) and unallocated pay inflation of £1.7m, taking the total contribution to £10.0m in 2024/25 (Annex B, para 124)
 - e) approve the transfer of £1.0m funding from IFRS9 reserves to the budget priorities reserve to support rural active travel measures. (Annex B, para 134 136)

Executive Summary

- 2. The business management reports are part of a suite of performance, risk and budget documents which set out the council's ambitions, priorities, and financial performance. The <u>2022 2025 Strategic Plan</u> sets out the Council's ambitions. It also shows the priority activities for the current financial year.
- 3. This report presents the January 2025 performance, risk, and finance position for the council.
- 4. Further information is provided in the following annexes to the report:
 - i. Annex A Performance
 - ii. Annex B Finance
- 5. The performance section of this report concentrates on performance exceptions (measures reporting Red (off target), or Amber, (slightly off target, Amber for the last two consecutive months or more). The full performance report is included at Annex A.

Amendments to Measures

6. Due to the implementation of the new telephony platform, Zoom, in November 2024, the parameters for reporting differ from the previous system, making figures pre and post-November incomparable. The service continues to monitor internally daily to ensure that customers are not negatively impacted. The below measures

have been removed for reporting for the remainder of 2024/25. All corporate KPIs are being reviewed as part of the performance refresh for 2025/26.

- OCC10.03 Overall customer satisfaction rate for the Customer Service Centre

 telephony.
- OCC10.04 Answer 80% of calls to the Customer Service Centre within 30 seconds (exclude SHCT).
- OCC10.13 The percentage of customer telephone calls abandoned at the Customer Service Centre.

Performance Overview

7. The Outcomes Framework for 2024/2025 reports on the council's nine strategic priorities. A further priority relates to running the business and includes the Customer Service Centre and measures included in the council's Financial Strategy. The Outcomes Framework which sits underneath the strategic priorities comprises monthly, quarterly, termly, six-monthly and annual measures which may change as the year progresses. At the appropriate period, relevant measures will be included in the report.

8. As at the end of January 2025 the measures were rated as follows:

January 2025	G	reen	An	nber		Red		itoring Only		Data vailable	con mea who con rece oper	nber of nplaint asures ere no nplaint ived or n within me*	Т	⁻ otal
Monthly	13	48.1%	2	7.4%	1	3.7%	6	22.2%	0	0%	5	18.6%	27	100 %

Table 1: Summary of January 2025 performance for all measures. RAG = Green = meets or exceeds target, Amber = misses target by narrow margin and Red = misses target by significant margin. This table does not include measures from priority OCC11 (finance). *This column refers only to complaint measures where there were no complaints received or complaints which remain open within timescale.

- a) A total of 27 measures reported in January 2025 (Table 1), consisting of:
 - 13 measures rated as Green (meeting or exceeding target).
 - 2 measures rated as Amber (missing the target by a narrow margin), of which 2 were Amber for 2+ months.
 - 1 measure rated as Red (missing the target by a significant margin).
 - 6 measures rated as Monitoring only (No target).
 - 0 measures as Data unavailable.
 - 5 measures where there is no data to report due to no complaints being received or the complaint remains open within timeframe.
- 9. This bi-monthly Cabinet report is the fifth of 2024/2025. The table (Table 2) below compares monthly measures for the 2024/2025 reporting year, please note the number of reported measures fluctuates throughout the year. Any complaints measures that do not receive a complaint within the reporting period are removed for reporting purposes.

Reporting month	Gre	en	Am	ber	Re	d	Monito	oring Only ata	Total
April 2024	13	48%	3	11%	2	7%	9	33%	27
May 2024	22	58%	6	16%	2	5%	8	21%	38
June 2024	35	64%	7	12%	2	4%	11	20%	55
July 2024	22	55%	6	15%	4	10%	8	20%	40
August 2024	15	52%	5	17%	2	6%	7	24%	29
September 2024	43	64%	9	14%	7	10%	8	12%	67
October 2024	18	60%	4	13%	1	3%	7	24%	30
November 2024	22	58%	6	16%	3	8%	7	18%	38
December 2024	31	58%	5	9%	4	8%	9	18%	49
January 2025	21	62%	2	6%	5	15%	6	18%	34

Table 2: Comparison of monthly reporting measures for Financial Year 2024/2025. *April, June, August, October and December measures do not include measures from priority OCC11 (finance). This table does not include complaint measures where no complaints were received in the reporting period or complaints measures where the complaint remains open within timescale.

b) There five measures reporting as Red for the reporting period.

Performance measures reporting Red for January 2025
OCC01.07 Total % of household waste which is reused, recycled or composted
OCC11.02 Achievement of planned savings
OCC11.06 Total Outturn variation for DSG funded services (high needs)
OCC11.10 Debt requiring impairment - Corporate Debtors
OCC11.11 Debt requiring impairment - Adult Social Care contribution debtors

Table 3: Red RAG Status Measures January 2025 Reporting Period

c) Table 4 indicates the direction of travel of measures in January 2025 compared to December 2024.

Status changes -	December 2024 to January 2025
Red to Green	OCC10.11 % of Corporate Complaints (Stage 1) responded to within timescales
Amber to Green	Not applicable
Red to Amber	Not applicable
Green to Amber	Not applicable
Amber to Red	Not applicable
Green to Red	Not applicable

Table 4: Change in Performance direction from December 2024 to January 2025

Performance Exceptions

10. This section of the report details all measures reporting Red or Amber status (consecutive for two months or more) with extracted supporting commentary from the Directorate, the full commentary can be seen at Annex A. The exception report focuses on three exceptions, one measure has a Red rating, and two measures have Amber ratings for two months or more.

Priority OCC01: Put action to address the climate emergency at the heart of our activities.

This priority has two measures being reported in January 2025: one (50%) is reporting as Green and one (50%) is reporting as Red.

Measure	December Status:	January Status:	Director:
OCC01.07 Total % of household waste which is reused, recycled or composted	Red	Red	Paul Fermer

Table 5: Priority OCC01 Measure Exception – January 2025

OCC01.07 Total % of household waste which is reused, recycled or composted

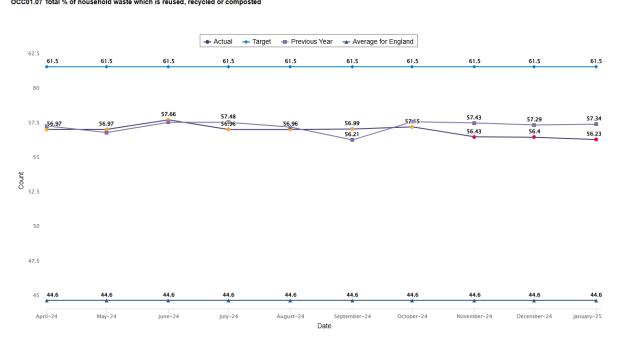


Figure 1: OCC01.07 Monthly performance for 2024/2025 financial year

The percentage of household waste that was reused, recycled, or composted was 56.23% against the year-end target of 61.50%, while the year-to-date performance is slightly higher at 56.87%.

The performance figure is now updated to end of December performance (data is reported one month in arrears). The Figure is the forecast end of year performance. Oxfordshire is the best county in England for recycling, nationally recycling rates have

Annex 1

stagnated for several years. Recent announcements from central government around Simpler Recycling and Extended Producer Responsibility have provided some certainty for the district councils, this may see service changes in the next two years and therefore a step change in the performance.

Annex 1

Strategic Risk Management Overview

- 11. A strategic risk is a risk to the council's strategic priorities or long-term outcomes; or a risk with a significance that has an impact at the corporate level.
- 12. Strategic risks are being developed with the services for Devolution and Local Government Reform and Section 106 Agreements.
- 13. The table below provides an overview of the current strategic risk position. Strategic risks are reviewed monthly as part of the business management and monitoring process. Risks can be added and escalated at any time during the year.
- 14. Of the ten strategic risks, all remain static, with the consistent scoring as reported in December 2024. From February 2024 Strategic Risk 08 Policy and Budget has been de-escalated to operational level.

Status Indicator	Status Description
	Residual risk rating is high (Score 16 and above)
	Residual risk rating is medium (Score 10 - 15)
	Residual risk rating is low (Score 1 – 9)
↓	Residual risk rating has decreased
→	Residual risk rating has maintained
' ×	Residual risk rating has increased

Table 8: Strategic Risk Key for January 2025

Annex 1

Risk name	Risk Description	Inherent Score	Previous Residual Risk Score	Current Residual Risk Score	Current Residual Risk Rating	Direction of Travel
01. Financial resilience	The council is not financially sustainable in the immediate/medium term.	25	12	12		\rightarrow
02. Cyber security	A successful and significant Cyber-attack leading to disruption, damage or compromise of any of the council's computer services, information systems, infrastructure or data.	25	15	15		\rightarrow
03. HIF1 & HIF2	HIF1 and HIF2 become undeliverable and/or potential financial risk to the council.	16	12	12		\rightarrow
04. Managing Demand across Adults' and Children's Services	Fluctuating demand of community across Oxfordshire can result in varying requirements in resource.	15	8	8		\rightarrow
05. Special Educational Needs and Disabilities	Local area SEND partnership inspection outcomes found widespread systemic failure. Delay for children having their SEND needs met. Reputational damage (locally, regionally, and nationally).	20	12	12		\rightarrow
06. Oxford Core Schemes	Failure to deliver Oxford Core Schemes (Traffic Filters, Workplace Parking Levy, Zero Emissions Zone and associated city area schemes such as Low Traffic Neighbourhoods) with public support.	20	16	16		\rightarrow
07. Strategic Workforce Planning	A risk that the county council's workforce does not have capacity, capability or resilience to deliver key functions, statutory services or transformational changes required to ensure the councils objectives and long-term priorities are met. Further, that the diversity of the workforce satisfies statutory requirements.	16	12	12		→
08. Policy & Budget	Inability to seek agreement in relation to the policy and budget framework from a minority administration.	25	8	8		\rightarrow
09. Delivering the Future Together	Failure to deliver organisation wide transformation.	25	8	8		\rightarrow
10. Climate Impact	Increasing vulnerability to climate impacts leads to failure of key infrastructure and services with a direct impact on health, safety, environment, and businesses.	25	20	20		\rightarrow

Table 9: Strategic Risk Overview for January 2025

Overall Financial Position

15. As shown below there is a forecast service area overspend of £0.6m. This has improved by £3.7m compared to the position reported to Cabinet in January 2025. After taking account of an underspend against budgets held for contingency and inflation, additional interest receivable on balances held by the council and anticipated capital financing costs, the overall position is a forecast underspend of £10.5m.

	Latest Budget Jan-25 £m	Forecast Spend Jan-25 £m	Forecast Variance Jan-25 £m	Forecast Variance Jan-25 %	Forecast Variance Nov-24 £m	Change Since Nov-24 £m
Adult Services	249.7	245.5	-4.2	-1.7%	0.0	-4.2
Children's Services	202.7	204.0	1.3	0.6%	1.3	-0.0
Environment & Highways	53.2	53.4	0.2	0.4%	0.8	-0.6
Economy & Place	16.9	17.1	0.1	0.9%	0.0	0.1
Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service and Community Safety	28.9	29.5	0.6	2.1%	0.7	-0.1
Public Health & Communities	12.9	13.1	0.2	1.5%	0.2	-0.0
Resources and Law & Governance	61.5	62.8	1.3	2.2%	1.3	0.0
Transformation, Digital & Customer Experience	6.6	7.6	1.0	15.0%	0.0	1.0
Service Areas Total	632.3	632.8	0.6	0.1%	4.3	-3.7
Budgets Held Centrally						
Capital Financing	21.3	17.8	-3.5	-16.5%	-3.5	-0.1
Interest on Balances	-10.7	-15.3	-4.6	43.4%	-4.6	0.0
Contingency	3.8	0.5	-3.3	-88.0%	0.0	-3.3
Pay Inflation	6.2	1.6	-4.7	-74.8%	-4.7	0.0
Un-ringfenced Specific Grants	-56.9	-56.9	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0
Insurance	1.7	1.7	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0
Contribution from COVID-19 reserve	-3.8	-3.8	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0
Contribution from Budget Priority Reserve	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0
Contributions to reserves	17.9	22.9	5.0	28.0%	0.0	5.0
Total Budgets Held Centrally	-18.8	-29.9	-11.1	59.2%	-12.8	1.6
Net Operating Budget	613.5	603.0	-10.5	-1.7%	-8.5	-2.1
Business Rates & Council Tax funding	-613.5	-613.5	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0
Forecast Year End Position	-0.0	-10.5	-10.5	-1.7%	-8.5	-2.1

Summary of Service Area positions:

16. Environment & Highways forecast has reduced by £0.6m compared to the position reported to Cabinet in January 2025. There is a £1.8m pressure in

Network Management relating to the underachievement of lane rental income savings, offset by a £1.6m underspend in Highways maintenance from a reduction in energy costs from lower energy activity.

Centrally held budgets:

- 17.£6.3m of the £14.4m pay inflation budget has been used to meet the cost of the additional pay inflation in 2024/25 following the agreement of the Green Book pay award, £0.4m continues to be held to meet the cost of pay inflation for vacant posts when they are recruited to. £1.3m has been used to fund a one-off contribution to the Local Government Reorganisation reserve (a further £1.7m is recommended to be applied). This leaves a one off underspend of at least £4.7m which has been reflected in the forecast. The on-going budget that is not needed to fund pay inflation in 2024/25 will roll forward and will be available to meet the cost of pay inflation in 2025/26.
- 18. Based on the forecast service position, £7.0m of the contingency budget can be used to fund a one-off contribution to the Local Government Devolution and Reorganisation reserve. This is an increase of £3.7m since the report to Cabinet January 2025 and, when added to the contribution referred to in paragraph 10, takes the total contribution to the reserve during 2024/25 to £10m.

Other Financial elements:

- 19. <u>Savings:</u> The 2024/25 budget includes planned service areas savings of £30.1m. 54% of these savings are assessed as delivered and 67% are forecast to be delivered by the end of the financial year.
- 20. <u>Reserves:</u> In January 2025 Cabinet approved the creation of a new reserve to hold funding to support the implementation of devolution and reorganisation proposals in Oxfordshire and a contribution of £5.0m.
- 21. It is proposed to supplement further the newly created reserve with another one off contribution of £5.0m made up of £3.3m from the contingency budget and £1.7m from the remaining unallocated budget for pay inflation that is not required to be used in 2024/25. The total held would then be £10.0m.
- 22. The implementation of IFRS 9 (changes in value of Treasury Management Pooled Funds at year end) for existing investments has been extended from 1 April 2025 to 1 April 2029. Due to this extension, it is proposed to redirect £1.0m from the IFRS 9 reserve to the Budget Priorities reserve to support rural active travel measures.
- 23. <u>General balances:</u> The risk assessed level of one off funding held in general balances in 2024/25 is £30.2m. A residual balance of £2.3m relating to the underspend at the end of 2023/24 was agreed to be held in balances as part of the Provisional Outturn Report for 2023/24. After taking account of the forecast underspend, balances are currently forecast to be £12.9m above the risk assessed level as at 31 March 2025.

24. <u>Dedicated Schools Grant:</u> The forecast 2024/25 deficit compared to Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding for High Needs is £31.9m, £10.6m higher than the budget approved by Council in February 2024. The CIPFA code of practice requires negative High Needs DSG balances to be held in an unusable reserve. The forecast deficit increases the cumulative negative High Needs DSG balance held in this reserve from £55.8m as at 31 March 2024 to £87.7m at 31 March 2025.

Financial Implications

25. This report includes an update on the forecast financial position and risks for the council along with action being taken to manage the budget within the position agreed by Council in February 2024. Strong and sustained financial management, collective action and oversight continues to be required to ensure that services are managed within budgets in 2024/25 and on-going into 2025/26.

Comments checked by: Kathy Wilcox, Head of Corporate Finance and Deputy Section 151 Officer.

Legal Implications

- 26. The budget is a non-executive function; however the Cabinet has a duty under the Local Government Act 2000 to monitor the budget and make any recommendations to Council as they think fit. The Council's constitution at Part 3.2 (Budget and Policy Framework) and Part 3.3 (Virement Rules) reflects the statutory obligations and responsibilities of both the Cabinet and the Full Council in approving, adopting and implementing the council's budget and policy framework These decisions are in accordance with the Council's virement rules as set out in the Constitution as they do not require a major change in policy.
- 27. The statutory framework for the prudential financial system is set out in the Local Government Act 2003 and the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) Regulations 2003. These Regulations provide that the Council must have regard to CIPFA codes in managing its budget. The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting and the Service Reporting Code of Practice for Local Authorities are issued as statutory guidance. The Council has a fiduciary duty to council taxpayers, which means it must consider the prudent use of resources, including control of expenditure, financial prudence in the short and long term and the need to act in good faith in relation to compliance with statutory duties and exercising statutory powers.

Comments checked by: Kim Sawyer Interim Head of Legal & Governance

Contact Officers: Louise Tustian, Director Transformation, Digital and Customer Experience Ian Dyson, Director of Financial and Commercial Service



January 2025

Oxfordshire County Council

Print Date: 20-Feb-2025

Key

Indicator	Status Description
GREEN	Meets or exceeds target
AMBER	Misses target by narrow margin
RED	Misses target by significant margin
N/A	Monitoring only
n/a	Data unavailable

SCORECARD: Reporting Pattern 2: May, July, November and January

FROM 01-APR-2024 TO 31-JAN-2025

Linked Items	Unit	Trend	ı	Period Performan	ce	١	TD Performance	
			Target	Actual	Indicator	Target	Actual	Indicator
OCC01.02 Total No. of streetlights fitted with LED Lanterns	#		1,058.00	1,593.00	GREEN	1,058.00	1,593.00	GREEN
Comments: Total converted LED lamps for January program helps towards our long-term energy redu			ludes an additiona	l 32 LED lanterns	that have been re	placed throughout	the year. The repl	acement
OCC01.07 Total % of household waste which is reused, recycled or composted	%		61.50	56.23	RED	61.50	56.87	RED

Comments: Figure now updated to end of December data (data is always one month in arrears). Figure is the forecast end of year performance. Oxfordshire is the best county in England for recycling, but nationally recycling rates have stagnated for several years. Recent announcements from central government around Simpler Recycling and Extended Producer Responsibility have provided some certainty for the district councils, this may see service changes in the next two years and therefore a step change in the performance, but unlikely ahead of then.

OCC02.01 Digital Inclusion through libraries (number of hours of use of library public computers)	m	5,500.00	7,680.00	GREEN	5,500.00	7,680.00	GREEN
Comments: Usage of public computers remains we programme. This pilot is being run at our 3 busiest computers. This pilot scheme will shortly be widened	libraries for computer use (W	_			·		
OCC02.03 Number of physical visits to Libraries	#	90,000.00	172,761.00	GREEN	90,000.00	172,761.00	GREEN
Comments: Visits to libraries continue to remain a	bove target and represent an	increase over 2023-:	24		ı		
OCC03.09 No of people contacted via Making Every Conversation Count	#	450.00	794.00	GREEN	450.00	794.00	GREEN
Comments: This key area of activity continues to re	emain comfortably above tar	get, and represents a	successful partners	ship with Public I	Health.		
OCC04.01 % of people who received short- term services during 24/25 with no further support request	%	77.50	74.00	AMBER	77.50	74.00	AMBER
Comments: This is a national measure which aims ndependence following a hospital admission or in the		of reablement suppo	rt. Reablement is a	short term servi	ce which aims to h	elp people regain t	heir
This measure monitors of the people who have con 57% in 2020/21; to 76% in 23/24. This is slightly bel							_
OCC04.02 % of residents 18-64 with Learning Disability support who live on their own or with Family	%		89.80	N/A		89.80	N/A
Comments: Within the Oxfordshire Way we provide						:th	

This is a national measure that is part of the Adult Social Care Outcome framework. Currently 89.8% of adults with a learning disability are supported in their own home. This is better than

the last published national data (81.6%) and higher than our outturn for last year of 89.3%, where performance was in the top quintile in the country.

within the county to meet the needs of our diverse	population of people who requ						
OCC04.03 % Section 42 safeguarding enquiries where identified risk was reduced or removed	%	93.00	93.00	GREEN	93.00	93.00	GREEN
Comments :					l		
OCC04.04 Adults aged 65+ (per 100,000) admitted to residential and care homes	#	437.70	303.60	GREEN	437.70	303.60	GREEN
Comments : This is a national measure that looks a and we work to help people stay at home as long a						le want to live in t	heir own home
The aim is to therefore reduce the number of peop	le needing a permanent care ho	me admission.					
Last year (2023/24) 480 people were permanently 100,000 population and the 16 best of 152 reportir					•	_	
			re been permanen	tiy adılılıtled to a	care nome, a redu	ction on last year.	'
	easing the availability of services			•		•	
OCC04.05 Adults aged 65+ (per 100,000) admitted to residential and care homes	easing the availability of services #			•		•	
home care. OCC04.05 Adults aged 65+ (per 100,000) admitted to residential and care homes (stretched target) Comments: This is a national measure that looks a	# t the number of people whose s	such as home care 283.80 upport needs are n	and extra care ho	using. In the last AMBER	12 months we have 283.80 aission. Most peopl	e purchased 6% m 303.60	nore hours of
People are supported to live at home through increhome care. OCC04.05 Adults aged 65+ (per 100,000) admitted to residential and care homes (stretched target) Comments: This is a national measure that looks a and we work to help people stay at home as long a The aim is to therefore reduce the number of people	# t the number of people whose s s possible. However there are or	283.80 upport needs are necasions where a percent sections.	and extra care ho	using. In the last AMBER	12 months we have 283.80 aission. Most peopl	e purchased 6% m 303.60	nore hours of
home care. OCC04.05 Adults aged 65+ (per 100,000) admitted to residential and care homes (stretched target) Comments: This is a national measure that looks a and we work to help people stay at home as long a The aim is to therefore reduce the number of peoplest year (2023/24) 480 people were permanently	t the number of people whose s s possible. However there are of le needing a permanent care ho admitted to a care home or a ra	283.80 upport needs are needs are needs are a per needs are a	303.60 net by a permaner erson is best supporter 100,000 populations.	AMBER at care home admorted in a care ho	12 months we have 283.80 aission. Most peopleme.	e purchased 6% m 303.60 le want to live in t	AMBER heir own home
home care. OCC04.05 Adults aged 65+ (per 100,000) admitted to residential and care homes (stretched target) Comments: This is a national measure that looks a and we work to help people stay at home as long a	# t the number of people whose s s possible. However there are or le needing a permanent care ho admitted to a care home or a raing authorities. In the last 12 mor	283.80 upport needs are necasions where a perme admission. te of 350 people per oths 428 people have	303.60 net by a permaner erson is best supporter 100,000 populative been permanen	AMBER at care home admorted in a care home admorted i	283.80 283.80 nission. Most peoplome. (i.e. better than th care home, a slight	e purchased 6% m 303.60 le want to live in t ne national averag t reduction on las	AMBER heir own home

OCC06.02 Percentage of newly planted trees	%	90.00	96.08	CREEN	90.00	96.08	CDEEN
still alive on land OCC own & manage				GREEN			GREEN
Comments: The number of trees alive continues to from last month. Total trees planted to date since 1st January 2023	-		58 trees have beer	n planted in Janua	ry 2025, which has	increased the % a	live Actual
OCC07.02 No of children we care for who are Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children	#		86.00	N/A		86.00	N/A
Comments: We are currently caring for 86 unaccorreceive transfers under the national transfer scheme		n. 0.1% of our unde	er 18 population, v	which is the ceiling	g at which local aut	horities will not be	e directed t
n addition to the unaccompanied asylum seeking	children we are supporting 159	care leavers who w	ere formerly unacc	companied asylun	n seeking children		
OCCO7.03 % of children we care for placed out	%		37.00	N/A		37.00	N/A
of county and more than 20 miles away from nome							
				hama addrass th	is compares with t	he latest national s	oosition (M
Comments: Currently 37% (290/785) looked after 24) of 17% and 26% for similar authorities. The furnonthly meeting of the Placement and Sufficiency or young people 16 plus. 1. Children's home provision includes improving the with the cross regional block contract; re-tendering move on from unregistered placements. 2. 16+ accommodation- commissioning supported be eviewing the existing contracts, use of offer self-case and the contracts of the contracts.	ndamental issue is a lack of local property and amental issue is a lack of local property and lack of local property and lack of local property and local property are lack of local property and	provision. This is be of Children's Service nes 2 Inspire block of with complex needs anied asylum-seeki anning permission a	eing addressed by e. This covers incre contract; developn and the creation of ang children including and converting a c	the placement sure easing care home ment of new home of an approved pr ing those placed u ouncil property in	fficiency action pla provision, foster ca as utilising the DfE ovider list for care nder the National to supported hous	n. The plan is over are provision and a capital bid; increas and support provi Transfer Scheme in ing.	seen by a ccommoda ed capacit ders to sup
4) of 17% and 26% for similar authorities. The fund nonthly meeting of the Placement and Sufficiency or young people 16 plus. Children's home provision includes improving the proving the contract; re-tendering the contract of the cross regional block contract; re-tendering the contract of the contrac	ndamental issue is a lack of local property and amental issue is a lack of local property and lack of local property and lack of local property and local property are lack of local property and	provision. This is be of Children's Service nes 2 Inspire block of with complex needs anied asylum-seeki anning permission a	eing addressed by e. This covers incre contract; developn and the creation of ang children including and converting a c	the placement sure easing care home ment of new home of an approved pr ing those placed u ouncil property in	fficiency action pla provision, foster ca as utilising the DfE ovider list for care nder the National to supported hous	n. The plan is over are provision and a capital bid; increas and support provi Transfer Scheme in ing.	seen by a ccommoda ed capacity ders to sup

OCC07.05 The number of children subject of a child protection plan	#	618.00	495.00	GREEN	618.00	495.00	GREEN		
Comments : N/A									
OCC07.06 Number of Oxfordshire children we care for	#		699.00	N/A		699.00	N/A		
Comments: We are currently caring for 699 Oxfordshire children (or a rate of 45 per 10,000) population under 18. This has risen marginally in the year, but the rate is the same as our statistical neighbours (similar authorities) and below the national rate - 64 per 100,000 population. The number of local children we care for has reduced from 796 and March 31 2022 and 777 at March 23. Some key activities that have driven this reduction include 1. Increased scrutiny to ensure oversight of all decisions when a child or young person may need to be become looked after to ensure that all immediate and extended family support options and alternatives are explored appropriately to avoid separation of children from their families where this is not necessary. 2. Ensuring timely exits from local authority care in line with a child's agreed care plan, via a range of clear permanence options, ranging from adoption to reunification is also in place. 3. Discharging care orders where they are no longer in children's best interest. For example, in plans for reunification or where children have remained or been placed back with parents during care proceedings, and they are assessed as remaining safe in the months/year following these decisions being made by the courts.									
OCC07.07 % of Education Health & Care Plans completed within 20 weeks	%		19.10	N/A		19.10	N/A		
Comments : N/A									
OCC07.08 The number of Education Health Care Plans maintained by the local authority	#		7,345.00	N/A		7,345.00	N/A		
Comments: There are 943 (14.7%) more EHCPs main	ntained by Oxfordshire in Janua	ary 2025 than there	e were during the s	same month in th	e previous year.				
OCC10.01 % of Adult Social Care complaints (Stage 1) responded to within statutory timescales	%	80.00	n/a	n/a	80.00	n/a	n/a		
Comments: 4 Adult Social Care statutory stage 1 cor	nplaints have been received in	January 2025. All c	of them are still op	en within timesca	ale				
OCC10.02 % of Adult Social Care complaints (Stage 2) responded to within statutory timescales	%	80.00	n/a	n/a	80.00	n/a	n/a		
Comments: No Adult Social Care statutory stage 2 co	omplaints were received in Jan	uary 2025							

%	90.00	100.00	GREEN	90.00	100.00	GREEN
r 2024 (116), and a decreas	se of 21.3% compared to	January 2024 (20		organisations, ma	inly the local distri	ct councils.
%	80.00	100.00	GREEN	80.00	100.00	GREEN
e 1 complaints have been re	eceived in January 2025	. 1 case is closed w	vithin timescale an	d 9 are still open	within timescale.	
%	80.00	n/a	n/a	80.00	n/a	n/a
2 complaints were received	d in January 2025. All of	them were still op	en within timesca	le.		
%	80.00	n/a	n/a	80.00	n/a	n/a
e 3 complaints were receiv	ed in January 2025.					
%	80.00	91.00	GREEN	80.00	91.00	GREEN
•	10 were closed within ti	mescale, 1 was clo	osed outside of tim	escale which falls	into the Environm	ent and
%	80.00	n/a	n/a	80.00	n/a	n/a
	were received during January 2024 (116), and a decrease 100%), and 87 requests relief with the set of the set	were received during January, with an additional r 2024 (116), and a decrease of 21.3% compared to 100%), and 87 requests remain open and on-time % 80.00 2 complaints have been received in January 2025 % 80.00 2 complaints were received in January 2025. All of % 80.00 e 3 complaints were received in January 2025. % 80.00 received in January 2025. 10 were closed within ties.	were received during January, with an additional 17 requests redirer 2024 (116), and a decrease of 21.3% compared to January 2024 (20 100%), and 87 requests remain open and on-time (100%). % 80.00 100.00 e.1 complaints have been received in January 2025. 1 case is closed with the were still open with the still open were received in January 2025. All of them were still open with the still open were received in January 2025. % 80.00 91.00 received in January 2025. 10 were closed within timescale, 1 was closed within timescale, 2 was closed within timescale, 3 was closed within timescale, 2 was closed within timescale, 3 was closed within timescale, 4 was closed within timescale, 4 was closed within timescale, 4 was closed within tim	n were received during January, with an additional 17 requests redirected to the other of 2024 (116), and a decrease of 21.3% compared to January 2024 (207). 100%), and 87 requests remain open and on-time (100%). 80.00 100.00 80.00 100.00 80.00 n/a n/a 80.00 n/a n/a 2 complaints were received in January 2025. All of them were still open within timescale an 80.00 n/a n/a 80.00 n/a n/a 80.00 solution of them were still open within timescal 90.00 n/a n/a 80.00 n/a n/a 80.00 solution of them were still open within timescal 90.00 solution of timescal 91.00 solution of timescal	Nowere received during January, with an additional 17 requests redirected to the other organisations, many 2024 (116), and a decrease of 21.3% compared to January 2024 (207). 100%), and 87 requests remain open and on-time (100%). 80.00	were received during January, with an additional 17 requests redirected to the other organisations, mainly the local district 2024 (116), and a decrease of 21.3% compared to January 2024 (207). 80.00 100.00 80.00 100.00 1 complaints have been received in January 2025. 1 case is closed within timescale and 9 are still open within timescale. 80.00 n/a n/a 80.00 n/a 2 complaints were received in January 2025. All of them were still open within timescale. 80.00 n/a n/a 80.00 n/a 80.00 n/a 80.00 pl.00 n/a

OCC11.01 Overall forecast revenue variance across the Council	%	0.00	(1.90)	GREEN	0.00	(1.90)	GREEN
Comments :							
OCC11.02 Achievement of planned savings	%	90.00	67.00	RED	90.00	67.00	RED
Comments :							
OCC11.03 General balances are forecast to remain at or above the risk assessed level	%	85.00	145.00	GREEN	85.00	145.00	GREEN
Comments :							
OCC11.04 Directorates deliver services and achieve planned performance within agreed budget	%	1.00	0.10	GREEN	1.00	0.10	GREEN
Comments :							
OCC11.05 Total Outturn variation for DSG funded services (schools/early years)	%	0.00	0.00	GREEN	0.00	0.00	GREEN
Comments :							
OCC11.06 Total Outturn variation for DSG funded services (high needs)	£	21,300,000.00	31,883,000.00	RED	21,300,000.00	31,883,000.00	RED
Comments :							
OCC11.07 Use of non-DSG revenue grant funding	%	95.00	95.00	GREEN	95.00	95.00	GREEN
Comments:							

days	%	95.00	96.13	GREEN	95.00	96.13	GREEN
Comments : December performance is 1% above to still underway to include Early Years and Education		eriod. Breaking dov	vn the figures, (Cor≀	porate POs and S	Social Care Controd	cc) are at or above t	arget. Work i
OCC11.09 Invoice collection rate - Corporate Debtors	%	95.00	98.00	GREEN	95.00	98.00	GREEN
Comments : This measure identifies the percentage was 98.00%, above the target of 95%.	e of invoices issued that have be	een paid within 120	days. In this period	d, we measured	invoices issued in (October 2024. The o	collection rate
OCC11.10 Debt requiring impairment - Corporate Debtors	£	300,000.00	872,607.00	RED	300,000.00	872,607.00	RED
Comments: Debt requiring impairment is the value there is an overall increase in the value of invoices at Debt requiring impairment this month is £0.873m. Services and Debt Recovery Officers.	at risk, we are required to top u	p the impairment b	palance. Consequen	ntly, this figure is	tracked through t	he year.	•
Services and Dept Necovery Officers.							
OCC11.11 Debt requiring impairment - Adult	£	3,500,000.00	5,070,916.00		3,500,000.00	5,070,916.00	
Social Care contribution debtors				RED			RED
Social Care contribution debtors Comments: The 2023-24 year-end adults care cont	ribution impairment for bad de	ebt was £4.52m. At	 31-Jan-25 it is £5.07		of £0.55m.		
	re had a significant effect on me			7m, an increase		ourt of protection a	RED
Comments: The 2023-24 year-end adults care cont As reported previously, wider economic factors have	e had a significant effect on me erience.	eans tested social ca	are contribution del	7m, an increase		ourt of protection a	RED
Comments: The 2023-24 year-end adults care cont As reported previously, wider economic factors hav activity. This tracks with other local authorities' exp	e had a significant effect on me erience.	eans tested social ca	are contribution del	7m, an increase		ourt of protection a	RED

Introduction

1. This annex sets out the fifth financial monitoring update for the 2024/25 financial year and is based on information to the end of January 2025. Key issues are explained below.

The following information is also provided within the annex:

Annex B – 1 (a) to (e)

Annex B – 2a

Virements to approve

Virements to note

Annex B – 3

Annex B – 4

Detailed service areas positions

Virements to approve

Virements to note

Earmarked reserves

Government grants

Annex B – 5 General Balances

Overall Financial Position

2. As shown below there is a forecast service area overspend of £0.6m. This has improved by £3.7m compared to the position reported to Cabinet in January 2025. After taking account of an underspend against budgets held for contingency and inflation, additional interest receivable on balances held by the council and anticipated capital financing costs, the overall position is a forecast underspend of £10.5m.

	Latest Budget Jan-25 £m	Forecast Spend Jan-25 £m	Forecast Variance Jan-25 £m	Forecast Variance Jan-25 %	Forecast Variance Nov-24 £m	Change Since Nov-24 £m
Adult Services	249.7	245.5	-4.2	-1.7%	0.0	-4.2
Children's Services	202.7	204.0	1.3	0.6%	1.3	-0.0
Environment & Highways	53.2	53.4	0.2	0.4%	0.8	-0.6
Economy & Place	16.9	17.1	0.1	0.9%	0.0	0.1
Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service and Community Safety	28.9	29.5	0.6	2.1%	0.7	-0.1
Public Health & Communities	12.9	13.1	0.2	1.5%	0.2	-0.0
Resources and Law & Governance	61.5	62.8	1.3	2.2%	1.3	0.0
Transformation, Digital & Customer Experience	6.6	7.6	1.0	15.0%	0.0	1.0
Service Areas Total	632.3	632.8	0.6	0.1%	4.3	-3.7
Budgets Held Centrally						
Capital Financing	21.3	17.8	-3.5	-16.5%	-3.5	-0.1
Interest on Balances	-10.7	-15.3	-4.6	43.4%	-4.6	0.0
Contingency	3.8	0.5	-3.3	-88.0%	0.0	-3.3
Pay Inflation	6.2	1.6	-4.7	-74.8%	-4.7	0.0
Un-ringfenced Specific Grants	-56.9	-56.9	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0
Insurance	1.7	1.7	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0
Contribution from COVID-19 reserve	-3.8	-3.8	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0
Contribution from Budget Priority Reserve	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0
Contributions to reserves	17.9	22.9	5.0	28.0%	0.0	5.0
Total Budgets Held Centrally	-18.8	-29.9	-11.1	59.2%	-12.8	1.6
Net Operating Budget	613.5	603.0	-10.5	-1.7%	-8.5	-2.1
Business Rates & Council Tax funding	-613.5	-613.5	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0
Forecast Year End Position	-0.0	-10.5	-10.5	-1.7%	-8.5	-2.1

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- 3. £6.3m of the £14.4m pay inflation budget has been used to meet the cost of the additional pay inflation in 2024/25 following the agreement of the Green Book pay award, £0.4m continues to be held to meet the cost of pay inflation for vacant posts when they are recruited to. £1.3m has been used to fund a one-off contribution to the Local Government Devolution and Reorganisation reserve (a further £1.7m is recommended to be applied). This leaves a one off underspend of at least £4.7m which has been reflected in the forecast. The on-going budget that is not needed to fund pay inflation in 2024/25 will roll forward and will be available to meet the cost of pay inflation in 2025/26.
- 4. Based on the forecast service position, £7.0m of the contingency budget can be used to fund a one-off contribution to the Local Government Devolution and Reorganisation reserve. This is an increase of £3.7m since the report to Cabinet January 2025 and, when added to the contribution referred to in paragraph 10, takes the total contribution to the reserve during 2024/25 to £10m (see paragraph 125 for further information).
- 5. The 2024/25 budget includes planned service areas savings of £30.1m. 54% of these savings are assessed as delivered and 67% are forecast to be delivered by the end of March 2025.
- 6. The risk assessed level of one off funding held in general balances in 2024/25 is £30.2m. A residual balance of £2.3m relating to the underspend at the end of 2023/24 was agreed to be held in balances as part of the Provisional Outturn Report for 2023/24. After taking account of the forecast underspend, balances are currently forecast to be £12.9m above the risk assessed level as at 31 March 2025. The use of £10.8m forecast funding from General Balances was agreed as part of the 2025/26 budget. Based on the forecast position and agreed use balances will be £2.1m above the risk assessed level for 2025/26 as at 1 April 2025.
- 7. The forecast 2024/25 deficit compared to Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding for High Needs is £31.9m, £10.6m higher than the budget approved by Council in February 2024. The CIPFA code of practice requires negative High Needs DSG balances to be held in an unusable reserve. The forecast deficit increases the cumulative negative High Needs DSG balance held in this reserve from £55.8m as at 31 March 2024 to £87.7m at 31 March 2025.

Service Areas Forecasts

Environment & Highways

8. Environment & Highways is forecasting an overspend of £0.2m against a budget of £53.2m.

Service Area	Latest Budget Jan-25 £m	Forecast Spend Jan-25 £m	Forecast Variance Jan-25 £m	Forecast Variance Nov-24 £m	Change Since Nov-24 £m
Transport, Property & Infrastructure Delivery	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Countryside & Waste	34.9	34.9	0.0	0.2	-0.2
Business Support	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
Highways & Maintenance	21.7	20.1	-1.6	-1.6	0.0
Network Management	-6.2	-4.4	1.8	2.2	-0.4
Senior Management	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Environment & Highways	53.2	53.4	0.2	0.8	-0.6

Transport, Property & Infrastructure Delivery

9. The Transport, Property & Infrastructure Delivery service area is forecasting a breakeven position.

Countryside & Waste

- 10. The Countryside & Waste service is currently forecasting a breakeven position, an improvement of £0.2m to the previously reported position
- 11. Within Waste Management there is an increase in tonnages transferred to the Energy Recovery Facility and a reduction in recycling tonnages. The resulting overspend (£0.5m) will be offset through income share arrangements with the Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) and through efficiencies in countryside services. The service will continue to monitor waste data trends and report any significant changes in future reports.
- 12. The table below summarises budgeted and actual waste activity.

		Budget		
Waste Stream**	Annual £m	Tonnage K'Tonnes	%	Price/ Tonne £
Recycling/ Composting	£8.4m	175	60%	£47.86
ERF	£16.2m	105	36%	£154.41
Landfill	£1.6m	11	4%	£149.30
Total	£26.2m	291	100%	£90.09

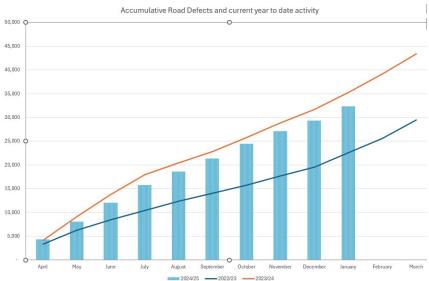
	Outturn Forecast*						
Annual £m	Tonnage K'Tonnes	%	Price/ Tonne £				
£8.1m	153	56%	£53.24				
£17.3m	112	41%	£154.62				
£1.3m	8	3%	£167.56				
£26.7m	273	100%	£98.07				

^{*}December figures presented as the latest dataset.

^{**} Please note that budget, outturn & variance figures are rounded to the nearest 1000

Highways & Maintenance

- 13. Highways & Maintenance are forecasting an underspend of £1.6m. This reflects a reduction in energy consumption for street lighting and the ongoing effect of a price update received late in 2023/24 setting out more favourable energy prices.
- 14. The service is forecasting pressures of £2.5m across maintenance predominantly in defect repairs, incident response and winter maintenance, as a result of bad weather across the county. These pressures are currently being mitigated through underspends across the service.
- 15. Current level of defects remains lower than last year and in line with the current budget.



Network Management

16. Network Management is forecasting an overspend of £1.8m. This is due to a delay in approval of the council's application to implement charging for Lane Rental by the Department for Transport. Although the full level of income will not be achieved actions to mitigate the impact, such as delays in other planned expenditure and additional drawdown of the parking account reserve are reflected in the forecast.

Virements

17. There are number of virements that predominantly realign and correct internal budgets as detailed in Annex B-2b.

Overview of Medium-Term Financial Strategy Investments and Savings

18. The 2024/25 budget includes planned services savings of £30.1m. 54% of these savings are assessed as delivered and 67% are forecast to be delivered in 2024/25. Work has continued to ensure that these savings are achieved.

Service areas	2024/25 Planned Savings	Actual Delivery to Date	Actual Delivery to Date	Forecast delivery	Forecast delivery
	£m	£m	%	£m	%
Adult Services	4.3	2.9	67%	4.2	98%
Children's Services	12.3	6.4	52%	6.5	53%
Environment & Highways	8.1	3.9	48%	5.2	65%
Economy and Place	1.0	0.6	65%	1.0	100%
Public Health & Communities	0.5	0.2	53%	0.5	100%
Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service and Community Safety	0.5	0.1	15%	0.2	46%
Resources and Law & Governance	1.9	1.8	96%	1.9	98%
Transformation, Digital & Customer Experience	1.5	0.4	23%	0.6	36%
TOTAL	30.1	16.4	54%	20.1	67%

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19. The 2024/25 budget also includes planned service areas investments of £11.6m. Currently 51% is forecast to be delivered. £1.6m will be transferred to the Budget Priorities Reserve to support spend now expected to take place in 2025/26. £4.1m is forecast to be unspent and mostly is being used to support service pressures. The £4.1m unspent funding is included within the forecast service position.

Service Areas	2024/25 Planned Investments	Delivery	delivery	Estimated transfer to 25/26	Unspent
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Adult Services	1.4	0.0	0.5	0.4	0.5
Children's Services	6.7	0.3	2.3	1.1	3.3
Environment & Highways	2.5	0.9	2.3		0.2
Economy and Place	0.4	0.2	0.3		0.1
Resources and Law & Governance	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.0
TOTAL	11.6	1.8	5.9	1.6	4.1
%			51%	14%	35%

Environment & Highways

Savings

- 20. The 2024/25 budget includes planned savings of £8.1m. 65% are forecast to be delivered. Savings that are expected to be partially delivered or not expected to be delivered include:
 - <u>Lane rental</u> an introduction of charges for all works on the business roads at the busiest times to minimise disruption: the service anticipates that the full £2.2m income expectation will not be achieved as a result in a delay obtaining approval from the Department for Transport. The on-going impact has been addressed through the 2025/26 Budget & Business Planning process.
 - Income of £0.2m from introduction of a new <u>Controlled Parking Zones (CPZs)</u>: Income realisation is now expected to be between December 2024 and March 2025 through a mix of permit fees and fines. An update on additional CPZ income will be reported at the end of the financial year.
 - Prevention of unsorted waste at Household Waste Recycling Centres. A saving of £0.2m is now not expected to be delivered this year due to implementation delays.
 - £0.5m commercial savings to be achieved through contractual negotiation is not likely to be fully delivered by the end of this financial year.

Annex B

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Investments

- 21. The 2024/25 budget includes planned investments of £2.5m. 92% are on track to be delivered. Investments that are at risk of being delivered include:
 - £0.2m to introduce new <u>Controlled Parking Zones</u>: the Network and Coordination service has prioritised to identify, design and consult on four new schemes. Approval and consultation feedback is to progress with at least two schemes. The other two schemes are deferred.
 - £0.1m investment in a feasibility study to introduce a new Demand Responsive transport project is currently on hold pending a decision on whether to reallocate this investment to another project.