

## Introduction

1. This annex sets out the final financial monitoring update for the 2023/24 financial year and is based on information from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.
2. The budget for 2023/24 and Medium-Term Financial Strategy to 2025/26 was agreed by Council on 14 February 2023. £57m new funding to meet inflationary and demand pressures was included as part of the budget for 2023/24 along with £30m budget reductions. There was also funding for investments totalling £9.3m.
3. This is the final update for 2023/24 and sets out the final expenditure against the agreed budget as well as an update on the achievement of planned budget savings and investments.
4. The information in this report will be incorporated into the Council's Statement of Accounts for 2023/24. Both the draft and final Statement of Accounts will be published on the Council's website.
5. Under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 regulations 9 and 15, the commencement period for the exercise of public rights to inspect the draft 2023/24 accounts and related documents, based on an account's completion date of 31 May 2024, should include the first 10 working days of June 2024, with inspection dates being between 1 June and 12 July 2024.
6. However, delays with the audit of the 2021/22 accounts and the impact of the outcome of consultation for back stop arrangements for the audit of the Statement of Accounts for 2022/23 has created challenges that have affected the council's ability to meet this deadline.
7. Work is in progress to consolidate the draft accounts for 2023/24 with an anticipated completion by the end of June 2024, following which the period for the exercise of public inspection will commence. A further notice will be published on the council's website in due course setting out the public inspection period.
8. The following additional information is provided to support the information in this Annex:

Annex B – 1 (a) to (e)	Detailed directorate positions 2023/24
Annex B – 2	Virements to note
Annex B – 3	Earmarked reserves
Annex B – 4	Government grants
Annex B – 5	General Balances

## Overview of 2023/24 Expenditure & Funding

### Directorate Budgets & Expenditure

9. The table below summarises the directorate expenditure compared to the final budget and shows the movement since the report to Cabinet in March 2024. At the end of 2023/24 there was a directorate overspend of £6.6m (1.1%).

Directorate Budgets	Final Net Budget	Total Spend	Year End Variance	Year End Variance	Variance Last Cabinet Reporting Month	Change in Variance
	£m	£m	£m	%	£m	£m
Adult Services	229.7	229.7	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0
Childrens' Services	172.3	180.0	7.7	4.5%	12.9	-5.2
Environment & Place	75.3	72.2	-3.2	-4.2%	-2.9	-0.3
Public Health	4.1	3.9	-0.2	-3.7%	0.0	-0.2
Community Safety	27.0	27.7	0.7	2.5%	0.4	0.3
Resources	73.3	74.9	1.5	2.1%	1.9	-0.4
<b>Total Directorate Budgets</b>	<b>581.8</b>	<b>588.4</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>1.1%</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>-5.7</b>

10. As explained in the Business Management & Monitoring Reports throughout the year, the final position for 2023/24 reflects the impact of financial risks which include inflation and demand pressures for Childrens' social care, as well as workforce shortages.
11. During the year there has been sustained management action to manage pressures across the council which have contributed to the position at year end. The on-going impact of increases in inflation and demand was considered through the Budget & Business Planning Process for 2024/25.
12. Adult Services expenditure was balanced to the budget at year end. Risks within the council elements of the pooled budgets have been managed by the service.
13. The overspend for Childrens' Services has reduced by £5.2m. This is mainly driven by a reduction in anticipated inflationary pressures on residential placements in the last quarter of the year in addition to measures taken by the service to reduce the need for children to go into a remain in care.
14. The underspend for Environment & Place has increased by £0.3m compared to the report to Cabinet in March 2024. The underspend reflects a reduction in energy costs from lower energy activity, a reduction in waste management costs and additional income from enforcement activity.
15. The overspend for Community Safety has increased by £0.3m mainly due to

Annex B  
Business Management & Monitoring Report March 2024

additional staffing costs and a one-off payment made for a disabling injury/illness.

16. The overspend for Resources has reduced by £0.4m from the previously reported position, mainly due to vacancies in Communications, Strategy and Insight.
17. The final position reflects the achievement of planned savings in 2023/24. The table at paragraph 117 shows the planned savings and actual delivery for each directorate.
18. 73% of the budgeted savings of £10.2m which were not achieved as planned in 2022/23 have been delivered. 84% of the 2023/24 savings have been delivered and 16% of savings have not been delivered. Where relevant, savings that are not expected to be achieved on an on-going basis have been removed through the Budget & Business Planning Process for 2024/25.
19. The 2023/24 deficit compared to Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding for High Needs is £14.7m. This is £3.6m lower than the £18.3m forecast deficit approved by Cabinet in May 2023. The CIPFA code of practice currently requires negative High Needs DSG balances to be held in an unusable reserve. The deficit would increase the cumulative negative High Needs DSG balance held in this reserve from £41.1m as at 31 March 2023 to £55.8m at 31 March 2024.

## Directorate Financial Positions as at 31 March 2024

### Adult Services

20. Adult Services expenditure was £229.7m with no variation to the final budget. This has remained unchanged from the forecast position reported to Cabinet in March 2024.

Service Area	Final Budget Mar-24 £m	Net Expenditure Mar-24 £m	Variance Mar-24 £m	Variance Jan-24 £m	Change Since Jan-24 £m
Adult Social Care	26.3	27.0	0.7	0.6	-0.2
Health, Education & Social Care Commissioning	5.4	4.8	-0.6	-0.6	0.1
Housing & Social Care Commissioning	1.4	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
Business Support Service	1.1	1.0	-0.1	-0.1	0.0
Pooled Budgets	195.5	195.5	0.0	1.0	0.1
<b>Total Adult Services</b>	<b>229.7</b>	<b>229.7</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

21. The final position reflects an agreement on the sharing of costs for adults with Section 117 aftercare support under the Mental Health Act with the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board, bringing the health and social care system funding more in line with other local authorities and care boards.

22. The balanced position is after the transfer of £0.5m to the Budget Priorities Reserve to fund commitments within the Live Well pooled budget including repairs and refurbishment costs of supported living units and respite properties plus associated development costs.

### **Pooled Budgets**

#### Age Well Pooled Budget

23. The Age Well pool combines health and social care expenditure on care homes, activity relating to hospital avoidance and prevention and early support activities for older people.
24. Budgets within the pool have been managed on an aligned basis with the Integrated Care Board (ICB) for Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, and Berkshire West (BOB) following the agreement of the contributions and risk share arrangements for 2023/24.
25. The council elements of the Age Well pool overspent by £1.1m. Care Home activity has increased throughout the year; the number of placements has increased by 6% over a 12-month period.
26. The council's share of the Better Care Fund (BCF) that has been utilised within the pool is £29.4m. The 5.75% increase in funding compared to 2022/23 was used to support the cost of preventative services and BCF schemes as agreed within the BCF plan.

#### Live Well Pooled Budget

27. The Live Well pool supports a combination of health and social care needs for adults of working age with learning disabilities, acquired brain injury or mental health needs and adults with physical disabilities.
28. Budgets within the pool have been managed on an aligned basis with the Integrated Care Board (ICB) for Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, and Berkshire West (BOB) following the agreement of the contributions and risk share arrangements for 2023/24.
29. The residential element of the mental health Outcomes Based Contract (OBC) with Oxford Health Foundation NHS Trust (OHFT) and BOB ICB, is continuing to be shared equally between the ICB and the council, this agreement was extended to cover the Learning Disability cohort from the beginning of 2023/24.
30. The physical disability and the acquired brain injury budgets were managed on an aligned basis. Any pressure linked to the cost of people with mental health needs falling outside of the OBC were to be split equally after the first £0.2m which was the responsibility of the council.
31. The council elements of the Live Well pool underspent by £1.1m after taking account of the following:

- A £3.0m underspend within the Higher Functioning Autism (HFA), Learning Disabilities and Acquired Brain Injury areas of the pool. This is as a result of the residential element of the S117 aftercare which is shared equally between both the council and BOB ICB where this was previously all charged to the council. There was also a lower level of HFA activity than budgeted for.
- A £1.9m overspend within Physical Disabilities related to an increase in demand for both care homes and home support during late 2022/23 creating an on-going pressure in 2023/24. Year on year, there has been an 8% increase in care home placements (10 placements) and a 13% increase in the number of homecare hours delivered per week, with the number of home support clients supported increasing by 10%.

### **Non-Pool Services**

32. There was a breakeven position for non-pool services.

### **Other Services**

33. An overspend of £0.7m is linked to increased costs of the provider support services team where additional investment to target improvements in the debt management and recovery team has resulted in debts being managed more effectively. Continuing into 2024/25 the aim is to continue to bring down the level of bad debt held within the council.

34. An underspend of £0.7m within the Health, Education and Social Care (HESC) and the Business Support Service was due to vacant posts held throughout the year.

### **Reserves**

35. Earmarked reserves held by the directorate as at 31 March 2024 totalled £2.7m and have decreased by £0.4m during the financial year.

### **Ringfenced Grants**

36. As set out in Annex B-4, ring-fenced government grants received by Adult Services in 2023/24 totalled £21.4m.

37. The Improved Better Care Fund Grant was £10.7m, with no change since 2022/23. The conditions attached to the grant funding required it to be used for the purposes of meeting adult social care needs, including contributing to the stabilisation of local care markets and supporting the NHS in addressing pressures such as delayed discharges.

38. The Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund was £5.4m. This was used to enhance fee uplifts for care providers in 2023/24 in line with the terms of the grant, and to maintain uplifts from 2022/23 funded through the Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Care grant which now forms part of this grant.

39. The Market Sustainability and Improvement Workforce Fund totalled £3.5m and has been used to grow social care capacity through increasing social care workforce capacity and retention, reducing social care waiting times and

increasing fee rates paid to social care providers.

40. The Adult Social Care Discharge Fund totalling £1.5m has been used to provide interventions that improve discharge of patients from hospital to the most appropriate location for their ongoing care.

41. Oxfordshire received £0.3m from the Adult Social Care Apprenticeship Fund in February 2024. This will be used in 2024/25 with the aim of increasing social work capacity within adult social care. This has been transferred into the grants and contribution reserve.

### **Virements**

42. Virements to note transacted by the end of March 2024 reflect the movement of funding held in reserve into the pooled budgets plus further reallocations of budgets relating to price increases within Adult Social Care.

### **Childrens' Services**

43. Childrens' Services overspent by £7.7m against a budget of £172.0m. The final position has improved by £5.2m compared to the January forecast. In addition, there was an overspend of £14.7m on High Needs Dedicated Schools Grant.

44. As reported throughout the year the underlying pressures in Childrens' Services which were reflected in the overspend for 2022/23 reported to Cabinet in June 2023, have remained a significant challenge in 2023/24. These pressures were driven by a combination of care placements costs, staffing, particularly the reliance on agency staff to cover vacancies, and Home to School Transport for pupils with Special Educational Needs.

Service Area	Final Budget Mar-24 £m	Net Expenditure Mar-24 £m	Variance Mar-24 £m	Variance Jan-24 £m	Change Since Jan-24 £m
Education & Learning	40.1	43.3	3.2	4.2	-1.0
Schools <sup>1</sup>	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Subtotal Education</b>	<b>40.3</b>	<b>43.5</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>-1.0</b>
Early Help, Front Door & Social Care	76.0	76.1	0.1	2.9	-2.7
Provider Services & Safeguarding	44.8	48.7	4.0	5.2	-1.3
Childrens' Services Central Costs	11.2	11.7	0.4	0.6	-0.2
<b>Subtotal Childrens' Social Care</b>	<b>132.0</b>	<b>136.5</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>-4.2</b>
<b>Total Children's Services</b>	<b>172.3</b>	<b>180.0</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>-5.2</b>

<sup>1</sup> \*Maintained Schools are funded by Dedicated Schools Grant

Annex B  
Business Management & Monitoring Report March 2024

Dedicated Schools Grant	Final Budget Mar-24 £m	Net Expenditure Mar-24 £m	Variance Mar-24 £m	Variance Jan-24 £m	Change Since Jan-24 £m
Schools DSG	129.5	129.2	-0.3	0.0	-0.3
High Needs DSG	84.7	99.4	14.7	21.2	-6.5
Early Years DSG	45.2	41.9	-3.2	0.0	-3.2
Central DSG	5.0	5.2	0.3	0.0	0.3
<b>Total DSG Funded Expenditure</b>	<b>264.3</b>	<b>275.7</b>	<b>11.4<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>21.2</b>	<b>-9.8</b>

### Education & Learning

45. Education & Learning overspent by £3.2m against a budget of £40.3m. This was primarily a result of pressures within Home to School Transport and Management.

46. The £3.1m overspend for Home to School transport is £0.5m lower than the forecast reported to Cabinet in March 2024. The overspend is mainly driven by the Special Educational Needs (SEN) transport service which overspent by £4.1m, offset by a £1m underspend within mainstream school transport. This reflects higher activity in the service than was budgeted for and the impact of rolling annual tenders for bus routes. In addition, the service the service was unable to deliver planned savings of £1.0m.

### Childrens' Social Care

47. Childrens' Social Care overspent by £4.5m against a budget of £132.0m. The overspend was primarily driven by a combination of care placement costs and reliance on agency staff to cover vacancies.

48. This reflects a combination of:

- The on-going effect of the overspend in 2022/23. Because activity increased in the last quarter of the financial year the on-going effect was not fully anticipated in the Budget & Business Planning process for 2023/24.
- Changes in practice, interventions to prevent unnecessary referrals and reduce the number and cost of children's care and support has made a significant impact on spend in the financial year and reduced the overspend at year end.
- Financial volatility in the market for care together with the impact of inflation and shortages in local capacity reduced the ability to make an impact on spend in the short-term.

49. The drivers of the pressures remained the same as in 2022/23 and included:

- Continued workload pressure, increased vacancies and recruitment difficulties within front-line services including Family Solutions Plus, Front Door and Children We Care For Teams.

<sup>2</sup> There is also a movement on the unusable reserve for the new schools fund of £0.6m

- Though the number of children in care has reduced, this has been offset by increases in underlying unit cost rates especially the growing number of very complex cases, although significant action has been taken in the year to manage these.

50. The most significant variances include:

- Children with Disabilities: £1.8m overspend within placement budgets due to a combination of an increased and more complex level of care being required and higher rates. The improvement in the overspend by £0.7m compared to the previously forecast position is due to lower activity than previously forecast for the final quarter of the year (£0.6m) and changes to care packages, including recharges from SEN (£0.1m).
- High Cost and Unregistered Placements: £3.5m overspend. The reduction of £2.0m since the last report due to is due to:
  - Assumptions about inflation requirements for residential placements which were not required due to careful management of the market and a reduction in inflationary pressures during the later part of the year.
  - A reduction in suspended placement costs, new resource panel searches. Backdated costs were lower than anticipated due to on-going activity to manage demand and cost.
  - Oxfordshire's share of the Adopt Thames Valley underspend, which had not been included in the previous forecast.
- Family Solutions Plus (FSP): £0.5m overspend mainly due to continued dependence on high-cost agency staff to cover vacancies due to shortages of staff in the marketplace. The improvement in the overspend by £0.4m compared to the previously reported position was a result of a reduction in staffing spend in the FSP Team, as well as previously prudent forecasts across the service.
- The pressures have been mitigated to some extent by:
  - Substantial underspends on staffing.
  - Underlying reductions in legal and transport costs
  - An increase in NHS Health partner joint funding for Continuing Healthcare and Mental Health (Section 117)

### **Childrens' Social Care: Pressures, Drivers, and Action Plan**

51. Given the scale of the £19.1m overspend for Childrens' Social Care in 2022/23 the service undertook a comprehensive review of its vision and strategy in 2023/24. Plans for reducing expenditure, as well as an adjustment for risk, were considered through the Budget & Business Planning process for 2024/25.

52. During 2023/24 the service implemented organisational, governance and business process controls and market management actions to address the underlying pressures. These included:

- Continued scrutiny of spend by senior management and the leadership



Annex B  
Business Management & Monitoring Report March 2024

team.

- Streamlining of referrals at the ‘front door’ (MASH) - revising thresholds & practices.
- The Family Solutions Plus (FSP) teams continue to work to reduce the backlog of assessments and intervention measures.
- Development of a robust recruitment and retention policy.
- Work to reduce the number of children needing care and tracking those where care placements are due to cease.
- Ongoing reduction in the number of children living in high-cost placements.
- Brokerage action plan to ensure timely, suitable, cost-effective placements are sourced.
- A ‘LEAN’ review of the placement process and identification of efficiencies.

53. Evidence that the actions had an impact is reflected in the number of Children We Care For (CWCF).

	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	Q4 2022	Q1 2023	Q2 2023	Q3 2023	Jan 2024	Feb 2024	Mar 2024
Oxfordshire born children	778	755	735	709	677	651	637	632	624
Disabled Children	61	62	58	56	51	50	49	50	49
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>839</b>	<b>817</b>	<b>793</b>	<b>765</b>	<b>728</b>	<b>701</b>	<b>686</b>	<b>682</b>	<b>673</b>
Unaccompanied	69	73	108	100	94	108	93	96	95
<b>Total</b>	<b>908</b>	<b>890</b>	<b>901</b>	<b>865</b>	<b>822</b>	<b>809</b>	<b>779</b>	<b>778</b>	<b>768</b>

54. The downward trend in the number of CWCF was due to the above actions and in particular the use of strengths based proportionate assessment, resulting in a greater number of families and their children being supported in their own homes and fewer children becoming children we care for.

55. In addition, emphasis was also being placed on permanence planning and finding other more suitable (and usually more cost-effective) placements, including re-unification to the family home and adoption.

### Childrens’ Services Central Costs

56. An overspend of £0.4m relates to a claim for historic legal fees (£0.2m) and a pressure relating to significant growth in social care complaint cases dealt with by the Customer Service Centre (£0.2m) but recharged to Children’s Services.

### Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)

57. Variations against the Dedicated Schools Grant blocks are summarised in the table below.

Annex B  
Business Management & Monitoring Report March 2024

Summary of DSG funding	2023/24 Budget	2023/24 Outturn	Variance March 2024
	£m	£m	£m
Schools block	129.5	129.2	-0.3
Central Services Schools block	4.9	5.2	0.3
High Needs block	84.7	99.4	14.7
Early Years block	45.2	41.9	-3.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>264.3</b>	<b>275.7</b>	<b>11.4<sup>3</sup></b>

58. The majority of the variance relates to High Needs DSG with an in-year deficit of £14.7m. This is £3.6m lower than the £18.3m forecast deficit approved by Cabinet in May 2023. In line with national guidance the overspend on High Needs DSG will be transferred to an unusable deficit reserve. The deficit would increase the cumulative negative High Needs DSG balance held in this reserve from £41.1m as at 31 March 2023 to £55.8m at 31 March 2024
59. Some of the key issues impacting on High Needs DSG spend in 2023/24 were the cost of placements from September 2023, tribunal challenges to placement decisions, and the impact of inflation on providers' fees.
60. The overspend on the Central Block DSG relates mainly to higher staffing costs where interims have been required during the year, although the overspend is equal to the cost of accumulated underspends on this block.
62. The underspend on the Schools Block relates to the inclusion of a grant received for schools in financial difficulty.
63. Early Years DSG is underspent due to lower than anticipated hours of early years education being funded.
64. The Chancellor announced significant changes to childcare arrangements in the Spring Budget 2023. This included an uplift to rates payable for the period September 2023 to March 2024. In 2023/24 the funding for this was received via a specific grant but this will be subsumed within DSG from April 2024. The provisional grant is in the region of £3.0m, and the exact amount will not be known in June 2024, after the schools' census return. The council will need to pass the grant to providers in full.

### Investments

65. The following budget investment was agreed by Council in February 2023 as part of the budget for 2023/24:
- £0.5m on-going funding to support additional capacity within the Special Educational Needs Team to improve service delivery was fully utilised in 2023/24.

<sup>3</sup> There is also a movement on the unusable reserve for the new schools fund of £0.6m

## Reserves

66. Total directorate earmarked reserves are £18.0m and have decreased by £0.6m during the financial year. £13.0m of the total relates to school balances which have increased by £0.1m in the year. The unusable DSG reserve is holding a deficit of £45.6m after taking account of the 2023/24 deficit of £11.4m and a movement on the unusable reserve for the new schools fund of £0.6m.
67. £4.5m of the total held relates to ringfenced grants that are expected to be spent in future years.

## Grants

68. As set out in Annex B-4, ring-fenced government grants received by the directorate in 2023/24 totalled £303.4m.

## Environment & Place

69. Environment & Place underspent by £3.2m against a budget of £75.3m. The final position has improved by £0.3m compared to the January forecast.

Service Area	Final Budget Mar-24 £m	Net Expenditure Mar-24 £m	Variance Mar-24 £m	Variance Jan-24 £m	Change Since Jan-24 £m
Transport & Infrastructure	13.6	12.4	-1.2	-1.3	0.1
Planning, Environment & Climate Change	37.6	37.2	-0.4	-0.6	0.2
Highways & Operations	21.5	19.7	-1.8	-1.1	-0.7
Directorate Support	2.6	2.8	+0.2	+0.1	0.1
<b>Total Environment &amp; Place</b>	<b>75.3</b>	<b>72.1</b>	<b>-3.2</b>	<b>-2.9</b>	<b>-0.3</b>

## Transport & Infrastructure

70. Transport & Infrastructure, which underspent by £1.2m, comprises Transport Policy, Place Making and Infrastructure Delivery.
71. There was a £0.5m underspend on community transport initiatives. As set out in paragraph 89 more time is required to deliver on the on-going investment of £1.2m agreed in February 2023 due to a greater time required to plan, identify and work with providers.
72. The Infrastructure Delivery and Place Making service areas underspent by £0.5m as a result of the allocation of funding to support Programme Management Office costs and other specialist functions needed to support the delivery of the Major Infrastructure capital programme.
73. There was a £0.1m underspend on senior management costs.

74. Placemaking services broke even at year end.

**Planning, Environment & Climate change**

75. The Planning, Environment & Climate change service area is made up of Strategic Planning, Climate Change and Environment & Circular economy. The service area underspent by £0.5m.

76. Strategic Planning achieved a breakeven position.

77. Climate Change underspent by £0.2m due to vacancies within the team. The service anticipates being fully resourced in the next financial year.

78. Environment & Circular Economy underspent by £0.2m.

79. Waste Management overspent by £0.1m as a result of a mix of factors associated with contract costs, gate fees and transportation costs. Tonnages managed by the Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) were higher than budgeted due to more waste going through to the ERF stream rather than Recycling/Landfill. Kerbside residual waste and recycling/composting waste tonnages were lower than budgeted. Although, waste tonnages overall were less than those budgeted for, the cost of the additional tonnages managed by the ERF offset the changes in landfill and recycling activity. The table below summarises budgeted and actual waste activity.

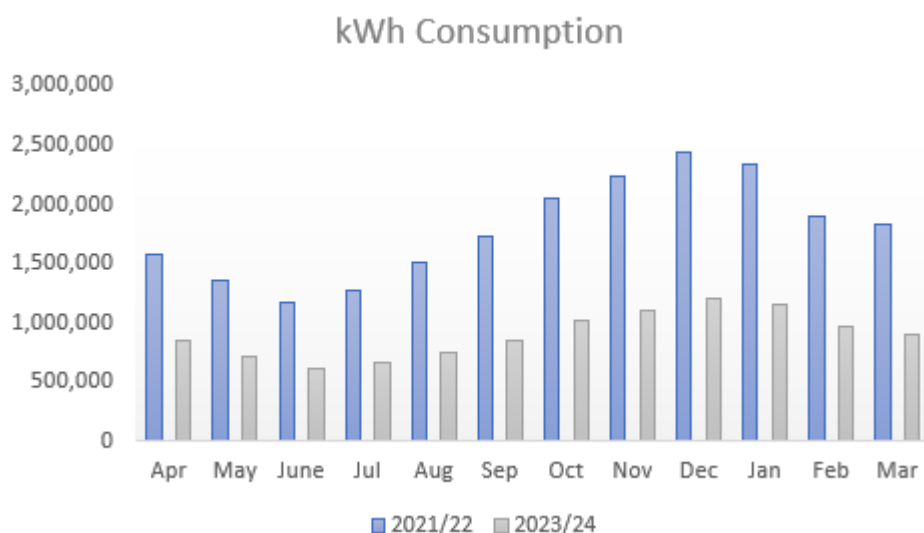
Waste Stream	Budget				Outturn			
	Annual	Tonnage		Price/ Tonne	Annual	Tonnage		Price/ Tonne
	£m	K'Tonnes	%	£	£m	K'Tonnes	%	£
Recycling/ Composting	8.155	158	58%	51.49	7.728	151	56%	51.04
ERF	15.392	104	38%	147.90	16.245	110	41%	148.93
Landfill	1.564	9	4%	175.19	1.122	7	3%	164.37
<b>Total</b>	<b>25.111</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>92.66</b>	<b>25.214</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>94.61</b>
*Please note that budget and outturn figures are rounded to the nearest 1000								

80. A pressure of £0.2m in Countryside Operations was due to additional work associated with tree services in Oxford. This pressure has been mitigated through working with Oxford City partners by moving the works schedule to a reactive programme to reduce the level of spend. The service pressure has been offset through the underspend of £0.6m in Environment Strategy service, due to

part delivery of the Lead Local Flood Alliance initiative investment. It is anticipated that with the infrastructure in place, the full effect of the investment will be achieved in 2024/25 (see paragraph 89).

### **Highways & Operations**

81. Highways & Operations underspent by £1.8m due to an over achievement of income through enforcement in Network Co-ordination and a reduction in energy prices and costs.
82. The Highway Maintenance service underspent by £1.0m. This reflects a 38% reduction in energy consumption for Street lighting as a result of 94% of the lamps now having been converted to efficient LED units through the LED replacement programme. In addition to the reduction in consumption, energy for street lighting is obtained through Crown Commercial Services. A price update received during the year set out a more favourable energy price per kilowatt, £0.256 lower than assumed when the budget was set. The graph below shows an approximately 50% reduction in energy usage in 2023/24 compared to 2021/22:



83. There was an underspend on highway operations contract costs due to inflation and material costs returning more in line with expected levels faster than anticipated though concern about volatility of costs remained throughout the year. This underspend was in part offset through a significant increase in the number highway defects throughout the year that were critical to repair and the need to deploy additional personnel to manage these.

Annex B  
Business Management & Monitoring Report March 2024

Month	Defects 2022/23	Defects 2023/24	% Increase
April	3,320	4,143	24.8%
May	2,927	4,944	68.9%
June	2,212	4,695	112.2%
July	1,979	4,134	108.9%
August	1,888	2,553	35.1%
September	1,715	2,363	37.8%
October	1,650	2,927	77.4%
November	1,980	3,088	56.0%
December	1,840	2,837	54.1%
January	3,057	3,574	16.9%
February	3,023	3,881	28.38%
March	3,839	4,290	11.74%

84. The increase in the number of defects was driven by the impact of bad weather earlier in the year on roads that were already in a deteriorated condition and is consistent with the increase seen nationally.

85. The increase in defect numbers and the cost increase of associated repairs has been managed within the service area budgets through a reduction in other operational spend where possible.

86. Network Management underspent by £1.6m. A greater level of income was received than expected predominantly through street works (permit fees and enforcement), as well as a substantial 'late penalty' payment received in March relating to a utility operator fine. The greater levels of income were mainly attributable to compliance issues which are being robustly enforced, and as such are harder to forecast.

87. Supported transport overspent by £0.6m as a result of savings of £0.4m from 2022/23 plus a further saving of £0.2m in 2023/24 that have not been delivered. The on-going impact has been removed through the Budget & Business Planning Process for 2024/25.

### **Directorate Support**

88. The Directorate Support service area overspent by £0.2m due to consultancy fees in respect of the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) project review and the non-achievement of staffing savings.

### **Investments**

89. The following budget investments were agreed by Council in February 2023 as part of the budget for 2023/24:

Annex B  
Business Management & Monitoring Report March 2024

- On-going investment of £1.2m in Community Transport Initiatives: Countywide Community Transport Initiatives investment of £1.2m enabled the Council to provide a community transport grant scheme and provide new funding for rural transport services. In total, £0.7m was spent in the financial year 2023/24. The community transport grant scheme element was slightly overspent due to the high quality of applications. The rural transport element was significantly underspent because of the time needed to consult, design, tender and mobilise new routes – most services commenced in November 2023, with the final new route due to start in July 2024.
- Park and Ride Joint Ticketing: On-going funding of £0.5m was used to support the continuation of combined ticketing for parking and return bus travel in Oxford in 2023/23. The on-going funding is being used to support joint ticketing arrangements for 2024/25 as agreed with Oxford City Council.
- Further Development of School Streets (Phase 2): £0.5m one - off funding from the Budget Priorities Reserve has been used to fund Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras, signage, air quality sensors and traffic monitoring required for the implementation of a further four school streets in Oxford and one in Didcot.
- £1.0m one-off funding from the Budget Priorities Reserve was used to fund improvements to existing highways, cycle-paths and pavements in Oxfordshire. Works have been carried out countywide and have been co-ordinated with other works programmes / priority areas to maximise the impact / benefit. Examples include extensive refurbishment of the Marston Cycle Path in Oxford City whilst the route was closed to repair the University Parks Footbridges. Sites within or bordering Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) areas, such as Abingdon, have been prioritised to support the LCWIP outcomes.
- Following work to agree a joint plan with Children's Services, £0.3m on-going funding to improve Childrens' Transport Options this will be utilised from 2024/25.
- Improvements to travel information: Initial outputs will be a suite of bus information provision, including online and printed with potential expansion to cycle/walking routes in 2024/25. £0.06m was spent in 2023/24, with the full £0.1m expected to be spent from 2024/25.
- Mobility Hubs (£1.5m funding over three years): Pilot locations have been identified and it is anticipated that the schemes, which will include sites at Benson Marina and Carterton Town Centre, will be designed and procured in 2024/25 with delivery in 2025/26. A mobility hub brand will be developed and

linked to wider sustainable transport network ambitions.

- Flooding and Drainage: £0.6m on-going funding was agreed for tackling the worst areas prone to flooding & drainage. There have been some significant delays in utilising the £0.6m investment, primarily due to lack of an existing mechanism for delivering the work on the ground, flooding issues with some areas being complex in relation to landownership and asset ownership. Furthermore, it took significant time to recruit a Project manager, who is now in post to deliver the investment in a longer term, to ensure the most effective use is made of the funding available. The additional funds in year held to fund identification of projects through engagement with residents, Members, Districts, Town and Parish Councils. Some of the funding have been utilised to deliver the projects through County's Highways team and District councils.
- Resource to Develop Freight Strategy (£0.06m on-going funding): The Freight Technical Lead has been in post since April 2024 and will lead on the implementation of the Freight and Logistics Strategy.
- Further work to develop Rail Studies (£0.1m one - off funding): £0.04m was spent in 2023/24 and the outline business case for Wantage and Grove Station is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2024/25.

### **Grants**

90. As set out in Annex B-4, ring-fenced government grants received by the directorate in 2023/24 totalled £4.7m. Within the year the directorate received £4.0m of grant funding from various central government bodies including Department for Transport, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Homes England, compared to £1.8m received in 2022/23.

### **Reserves**

91. Total directorate earmarked reserves as at 31 March 2024 were £15.7m, an increase of £2.8m in the financial year. The increase is made up of £0.7 income relating to the Zero Emission Zone and a £1.6m increase in the Parking Account.
92. £0.5m reserve funding has been used during the year primarily to support public transport initiatives and growth deal partnership work undertaken throughout the year.



## **Public Health and Community Safety**

93. Public Health and Community Safety overspent by £0.5m against a combined budget of £31.1m.

Service Area	Latest Budget Mar-24 £m	Net Expenditure Mar-24 £m	Variance Mar-24 £m	Variance Jan-24 £m	Change Since Jan-24 £m
Public Health Functions	37.1	36.7	-0.5	0.0	-0.5
Public Health Recharges	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
Grant Income	-33.6	-33.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
Transfer to Public Health Reserve	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.3
<b>Total Public Health</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
<b>Total Community Safety</b>	<b>27.0</b>	<b>27.7</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.3</b>
<b>Total Public Health &amp; Community Safety</b>	<b>31.1</b>	<b>31.6</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.1</b>

### **Public Health**

94. There was a £0.5m underspend on Public Health functions. £0.3m of this has been transferred to the Public Health reserve at year end. The underspend was made up of:

- £0.1m overspend on the substance misuse service due to increased activity in the residential rehabilitation and detoxification treatment service which improves outcomes for people with complex treatment needs.
- £0.1m overspend on National Health Service health checks because of the high level of activity in primary care which is in line with the national trend post COVID-19; offset by
- £0.2m underspend within the obesity service as service delivery changes will not take place until 2024/25.
- £0.1m underspend on Sexual health services linked to activity levels.
- £0.2m underspend on staffing, linked to in-year delays in recruiting to vacant roles.
- £0.1m underspend relating to multi-year projects across healthy place shaping and wider determinants, there is a commitment for this to be spent in 2024/25.
- £0.1m underspend within other public health services due to delayed implementation of access to nature programmes and the change in estimated costs of Better Housing Better Health work.

### **Community Safety**

95. Community Safety overspent by £0.7m as a result of:

- The reallocation of budgeted agency staffing savings of £0.2m which it was not possible to achieve by the end of the year.

- A one-off payment of £0.1m made for a disabling injury/illness.
- £0.4m additional staff costs linked to the Botley Road closure in Oxford and the Rewley Road development.
- £0.1m linked to the impact of inflation on the cost of maintaining the service's fleet of vehicles and an increase in training costs of new recruits following staff leaving unexpectedly.
- These overspends were offset by an underspend of £0.1m within Trading Standards. This related to delays in recruitment, and the receipt of unexpected one-off income.

### **Ringfenced Government Grants**

96. The ringfenced Public Health grant totalled £33.6m in 2023/24 and increased by £1.0m compared to 2022/23. The grant was used to support Public Health activities throughout 2023/24 with £0.3m unutilised funding transferred to the Grants and Contributions Reserve for use in future years.
97. The council received £1.4m in relation to the Firefighter's Pension Fund Grant, £0.3m Fire Protection Uplift Grant and £0.1m in total from the New Dimensions, Pension Administration and COVID-19 special grants.

### **Use of Un-ringfenced Government Grant Funding**

98. Un-ringfenced grants held centrally and agreed to be used to support expenditure budgets within Public Health and Community Safety in 2023/24 were:
- £1.2m Domestic Abuse Duty Grant supporting the provision of accommodation-based support to victims of domestic abuse and their children.
  - £0.6m Substance Misuse Treatment & Recovery Housing Grant being used to deliver the Government's aim that by 2024/25 there will be more people recovering from addiction in stable and secure housing.
  - £0.6m Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery grant. 2023/24 was the second year of a three-year scheme where the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) worked alongside other government departments to support a process of investment in a whole system approach to tackling illicit drug use, including enforcement, diversion and treatment and recovery interventions.
  - £0.1m Supplementary Substance Misuse Inpatient Detox and Rehabilitation.
  - £1.2m Rough Sleeping Drug and Alcohol Grant used to provide specialist support for rough sleepers and those at risk.
  - £0.1m Rough Sleeping Strategy – Care Leavers
  - £0.1m Firelink Grant – This was a 40% reduction from the previous year and this grant will continue to reduce by 20% in each of the next four years.

### **Reserves**

99. Total directorate earmarked reserves as at 31 March 2024 were £4.5m, an increase of £0.4m in the financial year.

100. Public Health funding held in the Grants and Contributions Reserve totalled £4.5m as at 31 March 2024. £1.8m is forecast to be spent in 2024/25, £1.2m in 2025/26 and £0.5m in 2026/27, and £0.4m in 2027/28, leaving a balance of £0.7m.

### Virements

101. There are no virements to note.

## Resources and Law & Governance

102. The services within Resources overspent by £1.5m (1.9%) against a budget of £73.3m. This is a reduction of £0.4m from the forecast reported to Cabinet in March 2024.

Service Area	Final Budget Mar-24 £m	Net Expenditure Mar-24 £m	Variance Mar-24 £m	Variance Jan-24 £m	Change Since Jan-24 £m
Corporate Services	2.3	2.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Human Resources & Organisational Development	4.8	4.2	-0.6	-0.5	-0.1
Communications, Strategy & Insight	3.5	3.4	-0.1	0.0	0.0
IT, Innovation & Digital	10.5	11.1	0.6	0.6	0.0
Culture & Customer Experience	12.7	13.2	0.4	0.5	-0.1
Finance & Procurement	8.8	9.3	0.5	0.5	0.0
Property, Investment & Facilities Management	19.7	20.1	0.4	0.4	0.0
Law & Governance	8.0	8.3	0.3	0.5	-0.2
Delivery & Partnership	3.0	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Total Resources</b>	<b>73.3</b>	<b>74.9</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>-0.4</b>

103. **Corporate Services** achieved a breakeven position.

104. **Human Resources & Organisational Development (HR&OD)** underspent by £0.6m due to delays in recruitment.

105. **Communications, Strategy & Insight** underspent by £0.1m due to a number of vacancies in the team.

106. **IT, Innovation & Digital** overspent by £0.6m, after taking account of the non-achievement of cross directorate savings agreed as part of the 2023/24 budget.

107. **Culture and Customer Experience** overspent by £0.4m. This is mainly in the Coroner's Service where the appointment of an Area Coroner has created an in-year pressure and the demand for coronial activity continues to increase year on year. There are also pressures in the Customer Service Centre where firm savings have not yet been identified in the corporate customer service consolidation programme. Additionally, increased income in Music Services has

not materialised and the re-allocation of staffing savings has also contributed to the overspend. Work continues to ensure that the Music Services and Registration Services are able to maximise their income opportunities to meet customer demand.

108. **Finance and Procurement** overspent by £0.5m due to the cost of agency staff being utilised to cover hard to fill vacancies, and an increase in staff costs following a job evaluation review.
109. **Property Services** overspent by £0.4m due to unexpected reactive repairs and maintenance. The School Catering service is overspent due to inflationary pressures, but this is partially mitigated by savings in other areas.
110. **Law and Governance** overspent by £0.3m, a reduction of £0.2m from previous report due to receipt of additional income. The overspend was due to the implementation of new structures in Governance and Legal Services resulting in higher locum costs in Legal Services.
111. **Delivery & Partnership** includes the delivery of cost-of-living measures and the council's migration and asylum programmes, including Homes for Ukraine. The budget is mainly funded from earmarked reserves and specific government grants and has achieved a break-even position.

### **Investments**

112. The following budget investments were agreed by Council in February 2023 as part of the budget for 2023/24:
- Councillor Priority Fund: During 2023/23 each councillor has been allocated £15,000 to be spent by 31 March 2025. £0.3m had been spent as at 31 March 2024 with the remaining funding of £0.7m held in the Budget Priorities Reserve for use in 2024/25.
  - Community Hubs: The pilot hub will bring together a range of council and partner services in a single location in Banbury, driven by community need and engagement. This will inform a project pipeline and business case for the roll-out of further community hubs in Oxfordshire. £0.1m of £0.5m one - off funding had been spent as at 31 March 2024. The remaining £0.4m has been held in the Budget Priorities reserve for use in 2024/25.
  - Business and Intellectual Property Centre: £0.2m one-off funding from the Budget Priority Reserve enabled the continuation of the BIPC service for 2023/24 while action to seek new funding streams for 2024/25 and onwards was underway. The full £0.2m has been spent in 2023/24. As no on-going funding has been identified, this service will close in June 2024.

- Council Tax Support Schemes/Cost of Living Measures (£2.3m one – off funding). £1.6m has been passed to the City and District Councils to support Council Tax Discounts and additional Discretionary Housing Payments. £0.3m has been used to support Voluntary & Community Sector Advisory Services, £0.2m on extending accelerated Better Housing Better Health programme, and £0.2m on administration and evaluation

### Reserves

113. Total directorate earmarked reserves were £22.8m as at 31 March 2024 and have decreased by £0.4m during the financial year. £11.7m of the total relates to Homes for Ukraine Grant that is expected to be used in future years.

### Grants

114. As set out in Annex B-4, ring-fenced government grants received by the directorate in 2023/24 total £9.3m and included further Homes for Ukraine Grant for new arrivals during the year.

### Medium Term Financial Strategy Savings

115. After taking account of new and previously agreed savings the 2023/24 budget included planned directorate savings of £28.2m.

116. £10.2m of the 2022/23 savings were not achieved as planned in the last financial year. 73% of these savings have now been delivered, 27% have not been delivered.

117. 84% of the savings agreed as part of the 2023/24 budget have been delivered and 16% have not been delivered.

	2023/24 Planned Savings	Savings Delivered	2022/23 Savings delivered in 2023/24	Delivery of 2022/23 Savings In 2023/24
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Adult Services	-18.4	-17.9	-4.0	-3.6
Childrens' Services	-3.9	-1.8	-1.9	0.0
Environment & Place	-1.6	-1.2	-2.3	-1.9
Community Safety	-0.4	-0.2	0.0	0.0
Resources & Cross Directorate	-3.9	-2.5	-2.0	-1.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>-28.2</b>	<b>-23.7</b>	<b>-10.2</b>	<b>-7.4</b>
<b>TOTAL DELIVERED</b>		<b>84%</b>		<b>73%</b>

### Adult Services

118. The 2023/24 budget included planned savings of £18.4m. 97% of these

savings have been delivered.

119. Undeliverable savings include reductions in the cost of vehicles used by council services expected to be achieved through the "One Fleet" Strategy and those which relate to managing demand, particularly in care homes.
120. The £0.3m share of the £1.5m budgeted reduction in agency costs reallocated to Adult Services during the year was delivered.
121. £4.0m of savings were brought forward from 2022/23 for delivery in 2023/24. 90% of these have now been delivered.
122. Some savings have overdelivered and offset the impact of the undelivered savings.

#### Childrens' Services

123. The 2023/24 budget included planned savings of £3.9m. 48% of these savings have been delivered and 52% were not delivered. The latter includes £0.5m of savings relating to agency costs reallocated to directorates during the year.
124. It was not possible to deliver £1.9m of savings brought forward from 2022/23.
125. As part of the 2024/25 Budget & Business Planning Process savings from prior years that are not expected to be achievable were restated or removed. The new savings, and risk adjustment agreed as part of the budget in February 2024 then build on that revised baseline position.

#### Environment & Place

126. The 2023/24 budget includes planned savings of £1.6m. 75% have been delivered. The 25% not been delivered included £0.3m relating to the Home to school contract management and the directorate's £0.2m share of the £1.5m budgeted reduction in agency costs reallocated to directorates during the year.
127. 85% of the £2.3m savings that were not achieved in 2022/23 have been delivered in 2023/24. The on-going impact of an unachieved saving relating to a home to school contract management system was removed as part of the Budget & Business Planning Process for 2024/25.

#### Public Health & Community Safety

128. The 2023/24 budget included planned savings of £0.2m and 55% have been delivered. The savings not delivered include the directorate's share of the £1.5m budgeted reduction in agency costs which was reallocated to directorates during the year.

#### Resources

129. The 2023/24 budget includes planned savings of £4.0m and 64% of these were delivered. Savings that it was not possible to deliver include the share of the £1.5m budgeted reduction in agency costs attributable to services in

Resources, catering services commercial savings and digital transformation savings that it was not been possible to achieve.

130. 95% of the £2.0m savings not achieved in 2022/23 have been delivered in 2023/24.

### **Debt Management**

#### **Corporate Debtors**

131. The 120-day invoice collection rate was 98.6% in March 2024 and 97.1% for the year; 2.1% above target. The 120-day collection rate based on invoice value for the year was 98.3%.

132. The target level for debt requiring impairment at the end of 2023/24 was £0.3m. The final position was £0.46m and within that the top two cases account for £0.1m of the impaired balance.

133. 177 debtor write-offs were processed in 2024/23 with a combined value of £0.04m, 0.01% of the value of invoices raised in the same period. A further ten corporate write - offs were processed with a value of £0.005m.

#### **Adult Social Care Debtors**

134. The 120-day invoice collection rate was 91% in March 2024, 1% below the 92% target. The direct debit collection rate for the year was 62%.

135. The final balance of adult social care contribution debt requiring impairment as at 31 March 2024 was £4.5m. This was £0.1m lower than the 2023/24 carried forward balance which included an increase of £0.9m at the end of 2022/23. The reduction in 2023/24 is the result of the debt focus work that Adult Services ran between June 2022 and March 2024. Plans to further reduce the current level of impaired debt down to the target of £3m over the medium term are being developed and the 2024/25 budget includes a requirement to achieve a £0.150m reduction by the end of 2024/25.

136. There were 196 Adult Social care write offs processed in 2023/24 with a total value of £0.624m. This represented 1.3% of the value of invoices raised (£47.8m).

## Budgets Held Centrally

137. The table below shows the final budget and variations against budgets and funding held centrally.

	Final Net Budget	Total Spend	Year End Variance	Year End Variance	Variance Last Cabinet Reporting Month	Change in Variance
	£m	£m	£m	%	£m	£m
<b>Budgets Held Centrally</b>						
Capital Financing	19.0	19.4	0.5	2.4%	0.0	0.5
Interest on Balances	-7.2	-15.1	-7.9	109.6%	-2.2	-5.7
Contingency and Inflation	10.9	-0.0	-10.9	-100.1%	-8.7	-2.2
Un-ringfenced Specific Grants	-45.2	-46.5	-1.3	2.9%	0.0	-1.3
Insurance	1.4	1.4	0.0	0.0%	0.0	-0.0
Contribution from COVID-19 reserve	-7.4	-7.4	0.0	0.0%	-1.4	1.4
Contribution from Budget Priority Reserve	-2.4	-2.4	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0
Contributions to (+)/from (-)reserves	20.7	21.4	0.7	3.4%	0.0	0.7
Contribution to balances	7.1	7.1	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0
<b>Total Budgets Held Centrally</b>	<b>-3.0</b>	<b>-22.0</b>	<b>-19.0</b>	<b>624.6%</b>	<b>-12.3</b>	<b>-6.7</b>

138. At the end of 2023/24, there was a net underspend of £19.0m on budgets and funding held centrally. This includes an underspend of £10.9m against the contingency budget held to support the directorate pressures and £7.9m additional interest on balances received during the year as a result of interest rates being higher than assumed when the budget was set in February 2023.

### Capital Financing Costs

139. The minimum revenue provision (MRP) is required to be charged on Prudential Borrowing taken to fund schemes in the capital programme and includes both repayment of the principal and interest costs. The MRP relating to borrowing supporting the capital programme is either recharged to directorates where savings arising from the scheme are expected to meet them or met corporately from the budget for capital financing costs. After taking account of recharges to directorates the actual cost of capital financing was £0.5m above the budget in 2023/24.

### Interest on Balances

140. The outturn position for in house interest receivable was £19.6m, £8.6m above the budget. Of this overachievement, approximately £2.0m has been applied to developer contributions in 2023/24 to index those in line with the relevant Section 106 agreements.

141. The additional interest is a result of higher than forecast cash balances



coupled with higher than forecast deposit rates during 2023/24. Currently, every extra £5m within the cash balance will earn approximately £0.25m of interest annually.

142. The interest payable outturn was £12.9m. This is £0.2m below budget, as a result of the early repayment of two £5m LOBOs in August and October 2023.

143. The outturn position for external fund returns was £4.8m, £1.0m above budget.

144. Taken together that means £7.9m additional interest on balances is included the outturn position for the year.

145. Cash balances for the year are £51.9m lower than they would otherwise have been as a result of negative High Needs DSG balances. The impact of this is an estimated opportunity cost of £1.5m in unearned interest during 2023/24.

146. Further information on the year end position for Treasury Management will be included in the Treasury Management Outturn report to Cabinet in July 2024.

#### Pay Inflation and Contingency

147. The £12.4m contingency budget for 2023/24 included £4.1m funded by one-off council tax and business rates income<sup>4</sup>. This was added to £8.3m on-going contingency agreed as part of the 2023/24 budget.

148. The report to the end of January set out that £2.0m contingency may be needed to fund pay inflation on vacant posts in 2023/24. This was not required to be used in 2023/24 so the underspend has increased to £10.9m at year end.

149. It is anticipated that any of the additional on-going contingency for pay inflation on vacant posts not required to be moved to directorates to support pay costs in 2024/25 can be used to help meet staffing savings built into 2024/25 budgets.

#### **Reserves**

150. On 1 April 20223, one – off funding held in earmarked reserves totalled £202.7m. As set out in Annex B-3a this increased to £210.1m as at 31 March 2024. The increase includes budgeted net contributions to/from reserves totalling £12.8m agreed in February 2023, plus other net changes during the year which reduced reserves by £5.4m.

151. The DSG reserve held a deficit balance of £33.6m on 1 April 2023. The net deficit added to the reserve in 2023/24 was £11.4m. There is also a movement on the unusable reserve for the new schools fund of £0.6m. After taking this into account the closing deficit balance was £45.6m as at 31 March 2024. This incorporates a cumulative deficit of £55.8m on High Needs DSG.

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<sup>4</sup> agreed to be added as part of the Provisional Outturn Report 2022/23 to Cabinet in June 2023.

Annex B  
Business Management & Monitoring Report March 2024

152. Reserves held by the council, including planned contributions agreed as part of the 2023/24 budget and other changes during the year are summarised in the table below. Most of the funding is being held for specific agreed purposes and will be used to support revenue expenditure, including the council's Delivering the Future Together programme, or to fund capital expenditure.

<b>Reserves</b>	<b>Balance at 31 March 2023</b>	<b>Budgeted Contributions to/from Reserves</b>	<b>Other Changes to Reserves</b>	<b>Balance at 31 March 2024</b>
	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>
<b>Revenue Grants Unapplied</b>				
Grants and Contributions Reserve	37.0		-3.2	33.8
COVID-19 Reserve	15.4	-7.4	-0.1	7.9
Government Initiatives Reserve	2.3		0.8	3.2
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>54.8</b>	<b>-7.4</b>	<b>-2.7</b>	<b>44.7</b>
<b>Corporate Priorities</b>				
Budget Priorities Reserve	11.4	1.8	-2.5	10.7
Transformation Reserve	1.5	4.3	-3.9	1.8
Zero Emissions Zone	0.5		0.7	1.2
Youth Provision Reserve	0.3		-0.2	0.0
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>13.7</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>-6.0</b>	<b>13.8</b>
<b>Funding for Risk</b>				
Insurance Reserve	12.9		-2.6	10.3
Demographic Risk Reserve	13.0	4.0	0.0	17.0
Council Elections	0.4		0.2	0.6
Redundancy Reserve	2.4		0.0	2.4
Trading Accounts	0.2		-0.1	0.1
Council Tax Collection Fund Reserve	3.0		0.0	3.0
Business Rates Reserve	9.5		2.2	11.7
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>41.3</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>45.0</b>
<b>Capital &amp; Equipment</b>				
Capital & Prudential Borrowing Reserves	67.8	10.0	3.0	80.8
Vehicle and Equipment Reserve	3.4		0.7	4.1
Investment Pump Priming Reserve	2.0		-1.9	0.1
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>73.2</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>85.1</b>
<b>Other Reserves</b>				
Partnership Reserves	1.9		0.2	2.1
On-Street Car Parking Reserve	4.9		1.6	6.5
Budget Equalisation Reserve	0.0		0.0	0.0
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>8.6</b>

Annex B  
Business Management & Monitoring Report March 2024

<b>Reserves</b>	<b>Balance at 31 March 2023</b>	<b>Budgeted Contributions to/from Reserves</b>	<b>Other Changes to Reserves</b>	<b>Balance at 31 March 2024</b>
	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>
<b>Unusable Reserves</b>				
Schools' Reserves <sup>5</sup>	12.9		0.1	13.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>202.7</b>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>-5.4</b>	<b>210.1</b>
DSG Reserve <sup>6</sup>	-33.6		-12.0	-45.6
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>169.1</b>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>-17.4</b>	<b>164.5</b>

### **Grants and Contributions Reserve**

153. This reserve holds underspends on ringfenced grant funding which needs to be used in accordance with the relevant grant conditions in future years.

154. The net contribution from this reserve in 2023/24 was £3.2m reducing the total held to £33.8m. The balance includes £11.7m grant funding for the Homes for Ukraine scheme that has not been required to be spent by the end of 2023/24. This will be used to support the on-going costs of the scheme in Oxfordshire in future years.

155. £6.0m relates to the remaining balance of the BT Openreach Broadband Gainshare that was received in 2021/22. This will be used to fund future ICT related capital expenditure in accordance with the Gainshare agreement.

156. Public Health grant funding held in the reserve totalled £4.5m at 31 March 2024.

157. £3.8m Section 106 revenue funding for Public Transport will be used in accordance with the agreements.

158. £3.2m held in the reserve for Childrens' services includes funding for Delivering Better Value on SEND of £0.8m and Supported accommodation reform of £0.3m.

159. £2.3m is held in the reserve to fund Countryside services and developer contributions.

160. Funding of £0.5m for Adult Services includes £0.3m held in relation to the Apprenticeship Fund, to be used in 2024/25 to increase social work capacity, and £0.1m from the Accelerated Reform Fund to be used in 2024/25 to address barriers by adopting innovative practices and build capacity and capability in the adult social care market.

161. Funding relating to the Fire Uplift Grant totalled £0.4m at 31 March 2024. This

<sup>5</sup> This is made up of surpluses of £14.1m and deficits of £1.1m.

<sup>6</sup> The cumulative High Needs DSG deficit held within the DSG reserve total increased from £41.1m as at 1 April 2023 to £55.8m at 31 March 2024.

is being held to fund employee costs expected to be incurred over the next three to five years.

### **COVID-19 Reserve**

162. Funding held in the COVID-19 reserve as at 1 April 2023 was £15.4m. A planned contribution of £7.4m from the reserve was made as agreed in the 2023/24 budget.

163. In addition to the planned use, £0.1m has been used to extend capacity needed within the Information Management team. £0.5m is committed to further extend capacity needed within the Customer Service Centre to support the council's ability to respond to Complaints/Freedom of Information requests and deliver a wide-ranging set of improvement actions in 2024/25.

164. The balance held in the reserve as at 31 of March 2024 was £7.9m. As set out in the 2024/25 budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy £6.1m of that total is planned to be used to fund COVID-19 related pressures in future years. £1.4m funding not required to be used to fund pressures in Children's Social Care in 2023/24 based on the position at year end is available to support future pressures or initiatives.

### **Government Initiatives Reserve**

165. This reserve is used to hold underspends on directorate budgets funded by un-ringfenced grants so that the funding remains available for use to support the specified purpose of the grant in future years.

166. The balance held in this reserve at the end of 2023/24 was £3.2m. £0.8m added to the reserve relates to accumulated unused balances from grant funded projects.

167. Adult Services - £0.3m added to the Government Initiative Reserve in 2022/23 related to charging reform, reflecting elements of the Trailblazer programme where costs will continue to be incurred in 2024/25 ahead of the revised date for charging reform in autumn 2025. £0.2m was spent during 2023/24 leaving £0.1m committed against 2024/25 spend.

168. £1.1m is being held to support the provision of accommodation-based support to victims of domestic abuse and their children and the graduate trainee programme in future years

### **Budget Priorities Reserve**

169. This reserve is to fund the priorities of the Council. As at 31 March 2024 £10.7m was held in the reserve.

### Funding for Investments in 2023/24

170. A planned contribution from the reserve totalling £1.8m to support one - off Investments set out in this report was agreed as part of the 2023/24 budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

Annex B  
Business Management & Monitoring Report March 2024

171. £0.1m of £0.5m one - off funding had been spent on Community Hubs as at 31 March 2024. The remaining £0.4m has been held in the Budget Priority reserve for use in 2024/25 (see paragraph 112).

172. £0.7m of the remaining funding for the Councillor Priority Fund is expected to be spent in 2024/25.

173. £1.8m was transferred to the Capital Reserve during 2023/24 to support the capital element of the £2.6m funding for tree replacement. £0.8m to meet the revenue costs of the Tree Aftercare & Planting Service continues to be held in the reserve. The remaining £0.4m of the £3.0m investment agreed as part of the 2023/24 budget was agreed to be released in 2024/25 to support other budget priorities as part of the budget agreed in February 2024.

174. £1.2m was transferred to the Capital Reserve to allow the council to unlock the full £5.2m grant offered by the government to fund four children's homes.

175. £1.0m will be used to support the following priorities which were agreed in 2023/24:

- Vision Zero £0.3m
- Food Strategy £0.3m
- Low Traffic Neighborhoods £0.4m

Funding built into the Budget for 2024/25

176. £3.8m not required for the 20 Mile Per Hour Speed Limit Programme was returned to the Budget Priority Reserve from the Capital Reserve during 2023/24. This will be moved to the Redundancy Reserve in 2024/25 as agreed by council in February 2024.

177. As part of the 2024/25 budget £1.3m was agreed to be used to fund a one – off investment in Improvements to highways, cycle-paths and pavements in 2024/25 and a further £0.1m to support other investments.

Adult Social Care

178. £2.1m held in the reserve at 1 April 2023 was the remaining balance of contributions made by Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group in previous financial years. £1.5m has been used in 2023/24 in agreement with the ICB. A spending plan or the use of the remaining £0.6m funding in 2024/25 and 2025/26 will be agreed with the ICB.

179. £0.5m added to the reserve at the end of 2023/24 relates to funding for committed pressures within the Live Well pooled budget including repairs and refurbishment costs of supported living units and respite properties plus associated development costs. A further £0.4m will be used to fund the completion of backdated (DoLS) cases within Adult Services in 2024/25.

#### Other

180. £0.1m will be used to fund children's center rents, £0.3m to support additional external audit fees for 2021/22 and 2022/23 and £0.2m for repair and maintenance of Joint Use Agreement Leisure facilities.

#### **Council Elections Reserve**

181. This reserve holds funds to meet the cost of the County Council elections every four years. Funding held in this reserve increased by £0.2m to fund future years election activities and totals £0.6m at 31 March 2024. £0.8m will be available to support the cost of the next County Council elections in May 2025.

#### **Transformation Reserve**

182. The Transformation Reserve has been used to support the costs of the implementation of the council's transformation programme, Delivering the Future Together.

183. £4.3m funding was transferred from the Budget Equalisation Reserve in 2023/24. £3.9m has been utilised on transformation priorities and the remaining balance of £1.8m will be used to support further priorities in 2024/25.

#### **Zero Emissions Zone (ZEZ)**

184. Surpluses generated by Network Coordination are being ringfenced for the development and expansion of the ZEZ in the future years, as well as funding the ongoing cost and maintenance of the existing scheme in Oxford. £0.7m was added to the reserve at the end of 2023/24.

#### **Demographic Risk Reserve**

185. In light of the significant pressures relating to High Needs and other budgets with demographic volatility a demographic risk reserve was created in 2019/20. The existing MTFs includes an on-going annual contribution to the reserve of £4.0m £17.0m was held in the reserve at the end of 2023/24.

#### **Capital & Prudential Borrowing Reserves**

186. The Capital Reserve holds capital receipts and other funds to meet the cost of borrowing to finance the capital programme. Funding held in the reserve is expected to be used to meet the costs of the capital programme and pipeline agreed in February 2024.

#### **Vehicle & Equipment Reserve**

187. £4.1m was held in reserves at the year-end for the renewal of fire and rescue vehicles and breathing apparatus equipment. This reflects an in-year increase of £0.7m with a larger scale of renewal expected from 2024 onwards.

188. £0.5m is being held to cover the cost of the replacement of Airwave for Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service and the implementation of the new Emergency Service Mobile Communications Programme.

#### **Investment Pump Priming Reserve**

189. This reserve is held to meet the costs of self-financing schemes which require pump priming until the funds are returned. Funding was drawn down for the

following schemes:

- Low Carbon Business Travel Project (grey fleet) £0.8m
- Energy Efficiency Recycling Fund for OCC Maintained Schools £0.8m
- Initial funding to develop plans for the workplace charging levy £0.2m
- Investigation and development of solar panel programme £0.1m.

### **On-Street Car Parking Reserve**

190. Expenditure and income relating to parking is required to be transacted through the parking account. In accordance with Section 55(4) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the Cabinet is required to approve that any surplus from the parking account can be carried forward to support infrastructure and maintenance in future years. After taking into account net income of £4.1m and a £2.6m contribution to support the revenue budget (see Annex B-3c for further detail) a net contribution of £1.6m has been made to the reserve. This contribution is primarily to be held for the benefit of the Highways Infrastructure and Parking Account to fund future drawdowns.

### **Schools' Reserves**

191. As shown in Annex B-3b maintained schools' balances were £12.9m at 1 April 2023 and increased to £13.1m at 31 March 2024. This is made up of surpluses of £15.9m (for 111 schools) and deficits of £2.8m (for 22 schools).

### **Budget Equalisation Reserve**

192. This reserve was previously used to smooth the timing differences between funding changes and emerging pressures over the period of the MTFs. As part of the Business Management & Monitoring report to Cabinet in January 2024, £4.3m was agreed to be transferred into the Transformation Reserve to meet costs associated with continuous improvement and transformation programmes.

### **Business Rates & Council Tax Collection Fund Reserve**

193. These reserves have been held to manage fluctuations in Business Rate and Council Tax income that the Council receives. £1.3m additional business rates grant funding was received during 2023/23 and transferred to the Business Rates reserve. This included:

- £0.6m relating to a Section 31 business rate relief outturn adjustment relating to the financial years prior to and including 2022/23.
- £0.6m additional funding relating to the distribution of the surplus Business Rates levy for 2023/24.
- £0.1 additional grant to offset business rates reliefs for the green plant and machinery exemption.

194. In addition, the council has received £0.8m pooling gain from the North Oxfordshire Business Rates Pool increasing the total held in the reserve at 31 March 2024 to £11.7m. £8.5m will be transferred to the Transformation Reserve in 2024/25 as part of the budget agreed in February 2024.

195. A further £3.0m is held in the Council Tax Collection Fund reserve. As agreed as part of the 2024/25 budget the two reserves will be merged into one Collection Fund Risk Reserve in 2024/25 with an opening balance of £4.0m plus the additional £2.1m income received in 2023/24. The use of this additional funding will be considered through the Business and Budget Planning Process for 2025/26.

#### **DSG Reserve**

196. Schedule 2 to the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2023, requires a deficit on the Dedicated School's Grant to be carried forward to be funded from future DSG income unless permission is sought and received from the Secretary of State for Education to fund the deficit from general council resources.

197. The total deficit transferred to the DSG reserve at the end of 2023/24 was £11.4m and increased the closing deficit balance to £45.6m as at 31 March 2024. This incorporates an overspend of £14.7m on High Needs, offset by a £3.2m underspend on Early Years, and other minor adjustments.

198. Within the overall total, which also includes positive balances held for Early Years and other purposes, the total unusable High Needs deficit has increased from £41.1m at 1 April 2023 to £55.8m at 31 March 2024.

199. The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (SI 2020 No 1212), made by what is now the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), require DSG deficits to be held in a separate reserve in local authorities' accounts. These regulations, which require the negative balance to be held in an unusable reserve, will come to an end on 31 March 2026. The impact of the unusable reserve on the council's ability to set a balanced budget over the medium term will need to be considered through the Budget & Business Planning Process for 2025/26.



## Overall Financial Position

200. The table below summarises the final position compared to the Net Operating Budget for 2023/24 agreed by Council in February 2023. The Net Operating Budget is funded by council tax and business rates income.

	Final Net Budget	Total Spend	Year End Variance	Year End Variance	Variance Last Cabinet Reporting Month	Change in Variance
	£m	£m	£m	%	£m	£m
Directorate Budgets	581.8	588.4	6.6	1.1%	12.3	-5.7
Budgets Held Centrally	-3.0	-22.0	-19.0	624.6%	-12.3	-6.7
<b>Net Operating Budget</b>	<b>578.8</b>	<b>566.4</b>	<b>-12.4</b>	<b>-2.1%</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-12.4</b>
Revenue Support Grant	-0.0	-0.0	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0
Business Rates & Council Tax funding	-578.8	-578.7	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0
<b>Year-End Position</b>	<b>-0.0</b>	<b>-12.3</b>	<b>-12.3</b>		<b>0.0</b>	<b>-12.4</b>

201. At the end of 2023/24 there was a combined underspend of £12.3m. This compares to an overall breakeven position reported to Cabinet in March 2024.

202. As agreed as part of the 2024/25 budget, £1.5m of the underspend arising from the additional interest on balances will be used to fund a one – off revenue contribution to the Transformation Reserve in 2024/25. A further £2.2m will be used to make an initial contribution to a new reserve to manage the potential impact of the end of the statutory over-ride for IFRS9, which removes changes in the value of Treasury Management Pooled Funds from the revenue account, from 1 April 2025. This means that £3.7m of the £12.3m underspend that will be held in balances as at 31 March 2024 is already committed in 2024/25.

203. The report to Cabinet in March 2024, noted that a decision on the use of any remaining funding to top up balances to the risk assessed level for 2024/25 and for other purposes would be made through the Provisional Outturn Report to Cabinet in June 2024 and/or the Business Management & Monitoring Reports to Cabinet in 2024/25.

204. Since the underspend is higher than anticipated as a result of the reduction in the directorate overspend it is recommended to:

- Add a further £2.8m to the IFRS9 reserve in 2024/25, increasing the total to £5.0m. That would then be expected to provide sufficient cover for likely risks around changes in the value of pooled funds if those needed to be incorporated into the revenue budget when the statutory over-ride ends in April 2025.
- Create a new pump priming reserve in 2024/25 to support the council's Commercial Strategy with an initial contribution of £2.0m.

- Make a contribution of £1.0m to the Budget Priorities Reserve to be used to complete or extend schemes already agreed as part of the Cabinet's priorities including Rail Studies and an extension of the funding for efficiency loans to schools.

### **General Balances**

205. The risk assessed level of balances for 2023/24 was £30.2m.

206. During the year £0.2m was agreed to be used to fund a supplementary estimate for staffing costs to support development of One - Fleet approach to the council's vehicles, £0.2m has been used to fund a supplementary estimate to fund a deficit budget for a school with a forced academisation, and £0.2m has been used to fund a supplementary estimate to meet one-off ill health/injury costs incurred in Community Services in 2023/24.

207. After taking account of the use of contingency and additional interest on balances, planned changes above as well as supplementary estimates agreed earlier in the year, balances would be £42.0m, £11.8m above the 2024/25 risk assessed level of £30.2m at year end. On the basis that £3.7m of this will be used to fund contributions to reserves in 2024/25, as well as a further £5.8m as set out in paragraph 204, the remaining £2.3m will be held in balances pending a decision about future use.

**Business Management & Monitoring Report**  
**Position to the end of March 2024**  
**Budget Monitoring**

Directorate	Final Net Budget	Total Spend	Year End Variance	Year End Variance	Variance Last Cabinet Reporting Month	Change in Variance	Year End Traffic Light
	£000	£000	underspend- overspend+	£000	%	£000	£000
Adult Services	229,727	229,727	0	0.00%	0	0	G
Children's Services	172,316	180,031	7,715	4.48%	12,954	-5,239	R
Environment and Place	75,342	72,159	-3,183	-4.22%	-2,947	-236	G
Public Health	4,076	3,925	-151	-3.72%	0.0	-151	G
Community Safety	27,024	27,699	675	2.50%	400.0	275	R
Resources	73,343	74,888	1,545	2.11%	1,930	-385	R
<b>Directorate Total Net</b>	<b>581,828</b>	<b>588,429</b>	<b>6,601</b>	<b>1.13%</b>	<b>12,337</b>	<b>-5,736</b>	<b>A</b>

**Business Management & Monitoring Report**  
**Position to the end of March 2024**  
**Budget Monitoring**

Directorate	Final Net Budget	Total Spend	Year End Variance	Year End Variance	Variance Last Cabinet Reporting Month	Change in Variance	Year End Traffic Light
	£000	£000	underspend- overspend+	£000	%	£000	£000
							Red > 1.5% Amber >1.1% <1.5% Green on track
<b>Budget held Centrally</b>							0
Capital Financing	18,985	19,439	454	2.39%	0	454	
Interest on Balances	-7,212	-15,116	-7,904	109.60%	-2,240	-5,664	
Contingency and Inflation	10,878	-11	-10,889	-100.10%	-8,660	-2,228	
Unringfenced Specific Government Grants	-45,169	-46,494	-1,325	2.93%	0	-1,325	
Insurance	1,436	1,436	0	0.00%	0	0	
Contribution from COVID-19 Reserve	-7,380	-7,380	0	0.00%	-1,400	1,400	
Contribution from Budget Priorities Reserve	-2,370	-2,370	0	0.00%	0	0	
Contributions to (+)/from (-)reserves	20,736	21,449	712	3.44%	0	712	
Contribution to (+)/from(-) balances	7,061	7,061	0	0.00%	0	0	
<b>Total Budget held Centrally</b>	<b>-3,034</b>	<b>-21,986</b>	<b>-18,952</b>	<b>624.63%</b>	<b>-12,300</b>	<b>-6,652</b>	
<b>Net Operating Budget</b>	<b>578,794</b>	<b>566,443</b>	<b>-12,351</b>	<b>-2.13%</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>-12,388</b>	
Revenue Support Grant	-30	-30	0	0.00%	0	0	
Business Rates & Council Tax Funding	-578,764	-578,735	29	-0.01%	0	29	
<b>Forecast Year End Position</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-12,322</b>	<b>-12,322</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>-12,359</b>	

**Business Management and Monitoring Report: Adult Services**  
**Position to the end of March 2024**  
**Revenue Budget Monitoring**

		<b>Final Net Budget</b>	<b>Total Spend</b>	<b>Year End Variance</b>	<b>Variance Last Cabinet</b>	<b>Change in Variance</b>
		<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>underspend- overspend+ £000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
SCS1	Adult Social Care	26,316	27,040	724	600	124
SCS2	Other Adult Social Care Services	5,425	4,811	-614	-600	-14
SCS3	Housing & Social Care Commissioning	1,378	1,382	4	0	4
SCS4	Business Support Service	1,141	999	-142	-100	-42
SCS5	Pooled Budget Contributions	195,467	195,496	29	100	-71
<b>Total Adult Services</b>		<b>229,727</b>	<b>229,727</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Business Management & Monitoring Report: Children's Services**  
**Forecast Position at the end of March 2024**  
**Revenue Budget Monitoring**

		<b>Final Net Budget</b>	<b>Total Spend</b>	<b>Year End Variance</b>	<b>Variance Last Cabinet</b>	<b>Change in Variance</b>
		<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>underspend- overspend+</b> £000	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
<b>CEF1</b>	<b><u>Education &amp; Learning</u></b>					
CEF1-1	Management & Central Costs	470	814	344	840	-496
CEF1-2	SEND	7,499	7,516	17	0	17
CEF1-3	Learning & School Improvement	1,345	1,291	-54	0	-54
CEF1-4	Access to Learning	30,530	33,506	2,976	3,300	-324
CEF1-5	Learner Engagement Service	282	207	-75	100	-175
	<b>Total Education &amp; Learning</b>	<b>40,126</b>	<b>43,334</b>	<b>3,208</b>	<b>4,240</b>	<b>-1,032</b>
<b>CEF2</b>	<b><u>Early Help, Front Door + Social Care</u></b>					
CEF2-1	Family Help	10,135	8,927	-1,208	-1,086	-122
CEF2-2	Front Door	5,295	4,944	-351	-213	-138
CEF2-3	Childrens Social Care - NEW	60,167	62,197	2,030	4,294	-2,264
CEF2-9	Change - NEW	402	54	-348	-147	-201
	<b>Total Early Help, Front Door + Social Care</b>	<b>75,999</b>	<b>76,122</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>2,848</b>	<b>-2,725</b>

**Business Management & Monitoring Report: Children's Services**  
**Forecast Position at the end of March 2024**  
**Revenue Budget Monitoring**

		<b>Final Net Budget</b>	<b>Total Spend</b>	<b>Year End Variance</b>	<b>Variance Last Cabinet</b>	<b>Change in Variance</b>
		<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>underspend- overspend+</b> £000	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
<b>CEF3</b>	<b><u>Provider Services &amp; Safeguarding</u></b>					
CEF3-1	Provider Services	40,855	44,756	3,901	4,927	-1,026
CEF3-2	QA Safeguarding + Recruit & Retention	3,900	3,971	71	318	-247
CEF3-3	Services for Disabled Children - OLD	0	0	0	0	0
CEF3-4	Youth Offending Service - OLD	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>Total Provider Services &amp; Safeguarding</b>	<b>44,755</b>	<b>48,727</b>	<b>3,972</b>	<b>5,245</b>	<b>-1,273</b>
<b>CEF4</b>	<b><u>Schools</u></b>					
CEF4-1	Delegated Budgets	0	-4	-4	0	-4
CEF4-2	Nursery Education Funding (EY)	0	0	0	0	0
CEF4-3	Non-Delegated School Costs	216	188	-28	0	-28
CEF4-4	School Support Non-Negotiable Recharges	0	0	0	0	0
CEF4-5	Capitalised Repairs & Maintenance	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>Total Schools</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>-28</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-28</b>

**Business Management & Monitoring Report: Children's Services**  
**Forecast Position at the end of March 2024**  
**Revenue Budget Monitoring**

	<b>Final Net Budget</b>	<b>Total Spend</b>	<b>Year End Variance</b>	<b>Variance Last Cabinet</b>	<b>Change in Variance</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>underspend- overspend+</b> £000	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
<b>CEF5      <u>Children's Services Central Costs</u></b>					
CEF5-1    Management & Administration	8,009	8,398	389	548	-159
CEF5-2    Premature Retirement Compensation	3,211	3,262	51	73	-22
CEF5-3    Commissioning Recharge - OLD	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Children's Services Central Costs</b>	<b>11,220</b>	<b>11,660</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>621</b>	<b>-181</b>
<b>Total Children's Services</b>	<b>172,316</b>	<b>180,031</b>	<b>7,715</b>	<b>12,954</b>	<b>-5,239</b>
<b>MEMORANDUM: DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT - DSG Funded Expenditure (Gross)</b>					
Schools DSG	129,480	129,193	-287	0	-287
High Needs DSG	84,694	99,353	14,659	21,200	-6,541
Early Years DSG	45,175	41,936	-3,239	0	-3,239
Central DSG	4,992	5,243	251	0	251
<b>Total DSG Funded Expenditure</b>	<b>264,341</b>	<b>275,725</b>	<b>11,384</b>	<b>21,200</b>	<b>-9,816</b>



**Business Management & Monitoring Report: Environment and Place  
Position to the end of March 2024  
Revenue Budget Monitoring**

		<b>Final Net Budget</b>	<b>Total Spend</b>	<b>Year End Variance</b>	<b>Variance Last Cabinet</b>	<b>Change in Variance</b>
		<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>underspend- overspend+</b> <b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
EP1	Transport & Infrastructure	13,587	12,418	-1,169	-1,300	131
EP2	Planning, Environment & Climate Change	37,600	37,140	-460	-600	140
EP3	Highways & Operations	21,530	19,738	-1,792	-1,100	-692
EP4	Directorate Support	2,625	2,863	238	53	185
<b>TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND PLACE</b>		<b>75,342</b>	<b>72,159</b>	<b>-3,183</b>	<b>-2,947</b>	<b>-236</b>

**Business Management & Monitoring Report : Public Health & Community Safety****Position to the end of March 2024****Revenue Budget Monitoring**

		<b>Final Net Budget</b>	<b>Total Spend</b>	<b>Year End Variance underspend- overspend+</b>	<b>Variance Last Cabinet</b>	<b>Change in Variance</b>
		<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
<b>PH 1 &amp; 2</b>	<b>Public Health Functions</b>					
PH1-1	Sexual Health	6,440	6,328	-112	-200	88
PH1-2	NHS Health Check Programme	645	776	131	100	31
PH1-3	Health Protection	8	0	-8	0	-8
PH1-4	National Child Measurement Programme	150	150	0	0	0
PH1-5	Public Health Advice	150	150	0	0	0
PH1-6	0 - 5 year olds	8,848	8,849	1	0	1
PH2-1	Obesity	1,324	1,109	-215	-100	-115
PH2-2	Physical Activity	420	412	-8	0	-8
PH2-3	Public Health General	2,536	2,371	-165	-100	-65
PH2-4	Smoking and Tobacco Control	615	622	7	0	7
PH2-5	Children's 5-19 Public Health Programmes	2,297	2,283	-14	0	-14
PH2-6	Other Public Health Services	1,734	1,539	-195	-100	-95
PH2-7	Drugs and Alcohol	10,517	10,587	70	200	-130
PH2-8	Domestic Violence	1,448	1,448	0	0	0
	<b>Total Public Health Functions</b>	<b>37,132</b>	<b>36,624</b>	<b>-508</b>	<b>-200</b>	<b>-308</b>
<b>PH3</b>	<b>Public Health Recharges</b>	<b>576</b>	<b>573</b>	<b>-3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-3</b>
<b>PH4</b>	<b>Grant Income</b>	<b>-33,632</b>	<b>-33,632</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>Transfer to Public Health Reserve</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>160</b>
	<b>Total Public Health</b>	<b>4,076</b>	<b>3,925</b>	<b>-151</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>CDA3</b>	<b>Community Safety</b>	<b>27,024</b>	<b>27,699</b>	<b>675</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>275</b>
	<b>Total Community Safety</b>	<b>27,024</b>	<b>27,699</b>	<b>675</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>275</b>

**Business Management & Monitoring Report: Resources**  
**Position to the end of March 2024**  
**Revenue Budget Monitoring**

		<b>Final Net Budget</b>	<b>Total Spend</b>	<b>Year End Variance</b>	<b>Variance Last Cabinet</b>	<b>Change in Variance</b>
		<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>underspend- overspend+</b> £000	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
COD1	Corporate Services	2,344	2,277	-67	0	-67
COD2	Human Resources & Organisational Development	4,797	4,252	-545	-500	-45
COD3	Communications, Strategy & Insight	3,470	3,323	-147	-100	-47
COD4	ICT & Digital	10,520	11,084	564	600	-36
COD5	Culture & Customer Experience	12,734	13,157	423	500	-77
COD6	Finance	8,820	9,333	513	500	13
COD7	Property, Investment & FM	19,689	20,157	468	430	38
COD8	Law & Governance	8,016	8,364	348	500	-152
COD9	Delivery & Partnership	2,953	2,941	-12	0	-12
<b>Total Resources</b>		<b>73,343</b>	<b>74,888</b>	<b>1,545</b>	<b>1,930</b>	<b>-385</b>

**Business Management Report**  
**Position to the end of March 2024**

**NEW VIREMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN ACTIONED FOR CABINET TO NOTE**

Directorate (CD = Cross Directorate)	Month of Cabinet Meeting	Month of Directorate MMR	Narration	Budget Book Line	Service Area	Permanent / Temporary	Expenditure + increase / - decrease £000	Income - increase / + decrease £000	
CD	Jun	Feb	Hard FM Planned Maintenance for ASPEN - 2023/24	CEF3-1	Provider Services	T	-12	0	
				COD7	Property, Investment & FM	T	12	0	
		Mar		Trading Standards costs for compliance activities under Offensive Weapons Act 2019	COM4-5	Trading Standards	T	30	0
					VSMMGT	Strategic Measures	T	0	-30
				Training costs Learning Tree	CEF2-9	Change	T	-5	0
					COD6	Finance & Procurement	T	5	0
				Supporting families PBR Q4 2023/24	CEF2-1	Early Help	T	173	0
					VSMMGT	Strategic Measures	T	0	-173
				Falls - PH contribution	BCFPPOOL	Age Well Pool	T	200	-200
					SCS5	Pooled Budget Contributions	T	200	-200
				Accelerated Reform Grant	SCS1-8	Grants & Funding	T	470	0
					VSMMGT	Strategic Measures	T	0	-470
				Strategic Measures - budget tidy	CEF4-2	Early Years Funding Formula	T	123	0
					COM4-2	Fire & Rescue	T	159	0
					VSMMGT	Strategic Measures	T	-445	163
				Green Book pay award 2023/24 adjustments	COD6	Finance & Procurement	P	-104	0
					VSMMGT	Strategic Measures	P	104	0
				Budget tidy to correct grant budgets	CEF1-4	Access to Learning	T	152	0
					CEF4-2	Early Years Funding Formula	T	-123	0
					VSMMGT	Strategic Measures	T	0	-29
Fire back dated pay award 2022/23 adjustment	COM4-2	Fire & Rescue	T	-887	0				
	VSMMGT	Strategic Measures	T	887	0				
CS	Jun	Mar	Budget - Support implementation - working together DSG Schools block final 2023-24	CEF3-2	QA Safeguard + Recruit + Retention	T	47	-47	
				CEF4-1	Delegated Budgets	T	-1,856	1,856	
				CEF4-3	Non-Delegated Schools Costs	T	167	-167	
AS	Jun	Feb	Price uplift budget reallocation	ACSNPOOL	Live Well Pool	P	196	-196	
				BCFPPOOL	Age Well Pool	P	585	-585	
		Mar	ASC & PH contribution to move together	BCFPPOOL	Age Well Pool	T	120	-120	
				SCS5	Pooled Budget Contributions	T	60	-60	
				SCS5	Pooled Budget Contributions	T	-500	500	
				ACSNPOOL	Live Well Pool	T	96	-96	
Urgent Emergency Care - ICB	BCFPPOOL	Age Well Pool	T	1,090	-1,090				
PH&CS	Jun	Feb	Fire Pensions Admin grant 2024/25	COM4-2	Fire & Rescue	P	75	-75	
			Fire Additional Pensions grant 2024/25	COM4-2	Fire & Rescue	P	1,061	-1,061	
RES	Jun	Mar	Correct Transformation cost centres and reallocate budget to A23000 SLT budget	COD1	Corporate Services	P	10	0	
				COD9	Delivery & Partnership	P	-10	0	
SM	Jun	Feb	Un-ringfenced grant adjustments	VSMMGT	Strategic Measures	T	166	-166	
		Mar	Un-ringfenced grant adjustments	VSMMGT	Strategic Measures	T	49	-49	
<b>Grand Total</b>							<b>2,784</b>	<b>-2,784</b>	

**Business Management & Monitoring Report**  
**Position to the end of March 2024**  
**Earmarked Reserves**

	2023/24			Description
	Balance at 1 April 2023	Forecast Movement	Forecast Balance at 31 March 2024	
	£m	£m	£m	
<b>Revenue Grants Unapplied</b>				
Grants and Contributions Reserve	37.0	-3.4	33.7	This reserve holds unspent ring-fenced grants and contributions committed to be spent in future years. This includes £4.5m Public Health ringfenced grant, £11.7m funding for the on-going cost of the Homes for Ukraine Scheme and £6.0m relating to the BT Openreach Broadband Gainshare.
COVID-19 Reserve	15.4	-7.5	7.9	This reserve was created to meet ungoing and emerging pressures and longer term service demands arising from the COVID-19 Pandemic. The use of £6.1m funding from the reserve is built into the council's Medium Term Financial Plan agreed in February 2024. After taking account of the planned use of the reserve in 2024/25, £1.4m is available to meet future pressures.
Government Initiatives Reserve	2.3	0.8	3.2	This reserve is used to hold underspends on budgets funded by unringfenced grants held that relate to specific agreed outcomes or the implementation of Government initiatives.
<b>Subtotal Revenue Grants Unapplied</b>	<b>54.8</b>	<b>-10.0</b>	<b>44.7</b>	
<b>Corporate Priorities</b>				
Budget Priorities Reserve	11.4	-0.7	10.7	This reserve is being used to support the implementation of the Council's priorities and the Medium Term Financial Strategy. £3.8m released from the 20 MPH Speed Limit Programme in 2023/24 will be moved to the Redundancy Reserve in 2024/25 as
Transformation Reserve	1.5	0.4	1.8	This reserve is needed to fund the implementation costs of the Council's Transformation programme.
Zero Emissions Zone	0.5	0.7	1.2	This reserve holds surpluses generated by Network Coordination for the development and expansion of the ZEZ in the future years.
Youth Provision Reserve	0.3	-0.2	0.0	
<b>Subtotal Corporate Priorities</b>	<b>13.7</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>13.8</b>	

**Business Management & Monitoring Report**  
**Position to the end of March 2024**  
**Earmarked Reserves**

	2023/24			Description
	Balance at 1 April 2023	Forecast Movement	Forecast Balance at 31 March 2024	
	£m	£m	£m	
<b>Funding for Risk</b>				
Insurance Reserve	12.9	-2.6	10.3	This reserve covers the County Council for insurance claims that, based on the previous experience of the County Council, are likely to be received, as well as a number of insurance related issues.
Demographic Risk Reserve	13.0	4.0	17.0	In light of the significant pressures relating to High Needs DSG and other budgets with demographic volatility. The expectation is that this reserve will help to manage future demographic risk.
Council Elections	0.4	0.2	0.6	This will be used to fund future County Council elections. In years where no County Elections take place any underspend on the Council Elections budget will be transferred to this reserve.
Redundancy Reserve	2.4	0.0	2.4	This reserve is available to fund redundancy costs arising from Transformational Change.
Trading Accounts	0.2	-0.1	0.1	This reserve holds funds relating to traded activities to help manage volatility year to year or future investments.
Council Tax Collection Fund Reserve	3.0	0.0	3.0	This reserve holds any surplus/ deficit as a result of income from council tax being more or less than originally estimated.
Business Rates Reserve	9.5	2.2	11.7	This reserve has been held to smooth volatility in Business Rates income and to mitigate risk around future changes to Business Rates. £8.5m will be transferred to the Transformation Reserve in 2024/25 as part of the budget agreed in February 2024. £0.7m will be used to support the 2024/25 budget as set out in the Financial Monitoring Report to Cabinet in May 2024.
<b>Subtotal Risk</b>	<b>41.3</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>45.0</b>	

**Business Management & Monitoring Report**  
**Position to the end of March 2024**  
**Earmarked Reserves**

	2023/24			Description
	Balance at 1 April 2023	Forecast Movement	Forecast Balance at 31 March 2024	
	£m	£m	£m	
<b>Capital &amp; Equipment</b>				
Capital Reserves	67.8	13.0	80.8	This reserve has been established for the purpose of financing capital expenditure in future years.
Vehicle and Equipment Reserve	3.4	0.7	4.1	This reserve is to fund future replacements of vehicles and equipment.
Investment Pump Priming Reserve	2.0	-1.9	0.1	Funding held to meet the costs of self-financing schemes which require pump priming until the funds are returned. Agreed to be used to support the following schemes as part of the 2023/24 budget: Low Carbon Business Travel Project (grey fleet) £0.8m, Energy Efficiency Recycling Fund for OCC Maintained Schools £0.8m, Initial funding to develop plans for the workplace charging levy £0.2m.
<b>Subtotal Capital &amp; Equipment</b>	<b>73.2</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>85.1</b>	
<b>Other Reserves</b>				
Schools' Reserves*	12.9	0.1	13.0	In accordance with the Education Reform Act 1988, the scheme of Local Management of Schools provides for the carry forward of individual schools surpluses and deficits. These reserves are committed to be spent on schools. Other School Reserves cover a number of miscellaneous education activities, including amounts loaned to individual schools against school reserves, and School Partnership Accounts which are operated in respect of inter-school activities.
Partnership Reserves	1.9	0.2	2.1	This relates to funding for the Growth Deal
On Street Car Parking Reserve	4.9	1.6	6.5	This surplus has arisen under the operation of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (section 55). The purposes for which these monies can be used are defined by statute.
<b>Subtotal Other Reserves</b>	<b>19.7</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>21.6</b>	
<b>Total Earmarked Reserves</b>	<b>202.7</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>210.1</b>	

**Business Management & Monitoring Report**  
**Position to the end of March 2024**  
**Earmarked Reserves**

	2023/24			Description
	Balance at 1 April 2023	Forecast Movement	Forecast Balance at 31 March 2024	
	£m	£m	£m	
DSG Unusable Reserve **	-33.6	-12.0	-45.6	** total excluding positive balances (eg. new schools set up fund offset by High Needs Deficit)
<b>DSG High Needs deficit within Unusable Reserve **</b>	<b>-41.1</b>	<b>-14.7</b>	<b>-55.8</b>	
<b>Total Earmarked Reserves after DSG Unusable Reserve</b>	<b>169.1</b>	<b>-4.6</b>	<b>164.5</b>	

\* This is made up of surpluses of £14.1m and deficits of £1.1m.



**Business Management & Monitoring Report**  
**Summary of Financial Position for 2023/2024**  
**MAINTAINED SCHOOL BALANCES**

**1. Number of Schools with Deficit/Surplus Budgets**

	Number of Schools 31 March 2023		Number of Schools 31 March 2024	
	Deficit Balance	Surplus Balance	Deficit Balance	Surplus Balance
Primary	16	113	20	109
Secondary	1	0	1	0
Special	0	4	1	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>112</b>

**2. Balances as at 31 March 2023 and 31 March 2024**

	Balances at 31 March 2023			Balances at 31 March 2024		
	Deficit Balance £m	Surplus Balance £m	Total Balance £m	Deficit Balance £m	Surplus Balance £m	Total Balance £m
Primary	1.269	-13.557	-12.288	1.572	-14.570	-12.999
Secondary	1.142	0.000	1.142	1.108	0.000	1.108
Special	0.000	-1.784	-1.784	0.142	-1.393	-1.251
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.411</b>	<b>-15.341</b>	<b>-12.929</b>	<b>2.821</b>	<b>-15.963</b>	<b>-13.142</b>
Schools Contingency, Closed Schools and Other Balances			0.003			0.000
School Loans and Other School Related Reserves			0.000			0.000
<b>Schools Balance as shown in Annex 3a</b>			<b>-12.927</b>			<b>-13.142</b>

	Balances 31 March 2024	
	Largest Individual Surplus £m	Largest Individual Deficit £m
<b>Primary</b>	- 0.521	0.399
<b>Secondary</b>	-	1.108
<b>Special</b>	- 0.692	0.14

Business Management & Monitoring Report  
Summary of Financial Position for 2023/2024

ON/OFF-STREET CAR PARKING 2022/23 - ACTUAL INCOME / EXPENDITURE AND IMPACT ON PARKING RESERVE

ON - STREET PARKING												OFF - STREET PARKING			
	OXFORD CITY	OXFORD CITY	OXFORD CITY	VALE of WHITE HORSE	SOUTH OXFORD SHIRE	WEST OXFORDS HIRE	CHERWELL	SUBTOTAL	TRAFFIC CONTRAVENTION & BAY SUSPENSION	BUS LANE CAMERA ENFORCEMENT	TOTAL ON - STREET PARKING	WATER EATON PARK AND RIDE	THORNHILL PARK AND RIDE	BICESTER PARK AND RIDE	TOTAL OFF-STREET PARKING
	Pay & Display	Parking Contraventions	Designated Parking Places					a	f	b	a+b+f	c	d	e	c+d+e
	£	£	£	£	£			£		£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>															
PURCHASE EQUIPMENT								0			0				0
MANAGEMENT CONTRACT	-60,434	139,458	131,517	82,435	136,968	237,896	428,903	1,096,743			1,096,743	9,999	-1		9,998
STAFF COSTS	94,601	88,808	88,866	11,586	11,586			295,447		225,930	521,377	28,965	28,965		57,931
								0			0				0
OTHER	531,478	1,324,007	384,973	1,353	5,946	23,814	29,965	2,301,536	127,435	302,063	2,731,034	325,331	492,792	89,489	907,611
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>565,645</b>	<b>1,552,273</b>	<b>605,356</b>	<b>95,374</b>	<b>154,500</b>	<b>261,710</b>	<b>458,868</b>	<b>3,693,726</b>	<b>127,435</b>	<b>527,993</b>	<b>4,349,154</b>	<b>364,295</b>	<b>521,756</b>	<b>89,489</b>	<b>975,540</b>
<b>INCOME</b>															
TOTAL	-3,035,885	-1,038,427	-1,708,171	-94,332	-249,314	-213,280	-312,894	-6,652,303	-397,594	-1,732,073	-8,781,970	-354,201	-798,308	0	-1,152,510
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>-3,035,885</b>	<b>-1,038,427</b>	<b>-1,708,171</b>	<b>-94,332</b>	<b>-249,314</b>	<b>-213,280</b>	<b>-312,894</b>	<b>-6,652,303</b>	<b>-397,594</b>	<b>-1,732,073</b>	<b>-8,781,970</b>	<b>-354,201</b>	<b>-798,308</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-1,152,510</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS (-) or DEFICIT (+)</b>	<b>-2,470,240</b>	<b>513,846</b>	<b>-1,102,815</b>	<b>1,043</b>	<b>-94,814</b>		<b>145,974</b>	<b>-2,958,577</b>	<b>-270,159</b>	<b>-1,204,080</b>	<b>-4,432,816</b>	<b>10,094</b>	<b>-276,552</b>	<b>89,489</b>	<b>-176,970</b>
		<b>-588,969</b>													

Balance on Parking Reserve as at 1 April 2023 **4,945,347**

Designated parking places refer to any bay designated to a class of vehicle or specific purpose and include pay & display bays (some enforcement of rather than income from parking charges), resident's bays, business bays, disabled bays, loading bays, doctors bays, ambulance bays, etc. whether they are inside of outside of a controlled parking zone.

Parking contraventions are any other contraventions whether they be inside or outside of controlled parking zones.

On-Street Parking	2,958,577	(a)
Less Net Parking Budget	-2,080,300	not included in the table above
Less P&R Ticket Offer	-469,271	
Surplus from Camera Enforcement	1,204,080	(b)
Traffic contraventions	270,159	
Surplus P&R	276,552	(d)

**TOTAL CONTRIBUTION TO PARKING RESERVE** **2,159,797**

Deficit from Water Eaton	-10,094	(c)
Deficit from Bicester	-89,489	(e)

**TOTAL CONTRIBUTION FROM PARKING RESERVE** **-99,583**

Contribution to 2023/24 revenue budget **-500,000**

Balance on Parking Reserve as at 31 March 2024 **6,505,561**

**Business Management Report**  
**Position to the end of March 2024**  
**Government Grants 2023/24**

Ringfenced	Directorate	Issued By	Esimate 2023/24	In year Adjustments / New Allocations previously reported	In year Adjustments/ New Allocations reported this time	Final Grant Received in 2023/24	Total Spent	Carried forward for use in future years
			£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
	<b>Adult Services</b>							
R	Improved Better Care Fund	DHSC	10,705	0	0	10,705	10,705	0
R	Adult Social Care Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund	DHSC	5,366	0	0	5,366	5,366	0
R	Adult Social Care Discharge Fund	DHSC	1,501	0	0	1,501	1,501	0
R	Adult Social Care Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund - Workforce Fund	DHSC	0	3,485	0	3,485	3,485	0
R	Adult Social Care Apprenticeship Fund	DHSC	0	0	300	300	0	300
R	Better Care Fund Regional Assurance	DHSC	0	0	0	0	0	0
R	CQC Review and Assessment Grant	DHSC	0	27	0	27	27	0
	<b>TOTAL ADULT SERVICES</b>		<b>17,572</b>	<b>3,512</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>21,384</b>	<b>21,084</b>	<b>300</b>
	<b>Children's Services</b>							
	<b>Dedicated School Grants</b>							
R	Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) - Schools Block	DfE	131,138	31	-1,689	129,480	129,480	0
R	Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) - Central Block	DfE	4,992	0	0	4,992	5,225	-233
R	Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) - Early Years Block	DfE	44,341	94	740	45,175	41,936	3,239
R	Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) - High Needs Block	DfE	85,288	-594	0	84,694	99,353	-14,659
	<b>Subtotal DSG Grants</b>		<b>265,759</b>	<b>-469</b>	<b>-949</b>	<b>264,341</b>	<b>275,994</b>	<b>-11,653</b>
	<b>School Grants</b>							
R	Pupil Premium	DfE	7,663	531	66	8,260	8,260	0
R	Education Funding Agency - Sixth Form Funding and Threshold	DfE	280	39	11	330	330	0
R	PE and Sport Grant	DfE	2,266	-49	-1	2,216	2,216	0
R	Universal Infant Free School Meals	DfE	3,938	109	-1	4,046	4,046	0
R	Teacher's Pay Grant	DfE	95	-95	0	0	0	0
R	Teacher's Pension Grant	DfE	274	-264	2	12	12	0
R	National Professional Qualification Grant	DfE	0	15	0	15	15	0
R	Early Career Framework - Off Timetable	DfE	0	161	0	161	161	0
R	Early Career Framework - Mentor	DfE	0	93	6	99	99	0
R	Coronavirus (COVID-19) Recovery Premium	DfE	0	462	814	1,276	1,276	0
R	Coronavirus (COVID-19) National Tutoring Programme	DfE	0	408	-328	80	80	0
R	Teacher's Pay Additional Grant	DfE	0	1,404	322	1,726	1,726	0
R	Early Year Supplement Grant	DfE	0	2,978	0	2,978	2,978	0
R	Early Years Teachers Pay Additional Grant	DfE	0	0	167	167	167	0
R	Mainstream Schools Additional Grant	DfE	0	4,285	0	4,285	4,285	0
	<b>Subtotal School Grants</b>		<b>14,516</b>	<b>10,077</b>	<b>1,058</b>	<b>25,651</b>	<b>25,651</b>	<b>0</b>

**Business Management Report**  
**Position to the end of March 2024**  
**Government Grants 2023/24**

Ringfenced	Directorate	Issued By	Esimate 2023/24	In year Adjustments / New Allocations previously reported	In year Adjustments/ New Allocations reported this time	Final Grant Received in 2023/24	Total Spent	Carried forward for use in future years
			£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
	<b>Other Children's Services Grants</b>							
R	Additional support for schools in financial difficulty	DfE	0	331	0	331	331	0
R	Youth Justice Grant	YJB	674	37	0	711	711	0
R	Asylum (UASC and Post 18)	HO	3,997	2,580	451	7,028	7,028	0
R	Afghan Settler Holding Hotel Fund	DfE	0	0	419	419	419	0
R	Extension of Virtual School Heads to children with a social worker	DfE	0	135	0	135	135	0
R	Extension of Virtual School Heads to Certain Previously Looked after Children	DfE	0	66	0	66	66	0
R	Hong Kong BNO Local Community Fund	DLUHC	0	0	26	26	26	0
R	Pupil Premium Plus post 16 pilot	DfE	0	45	0	45	45	0
R	Extended Personal Adviser Duty Grant - Care Leavers Staffing	DfE	103	9	0	112	112	0
R	Leaving Care Allowance Uplift	DfE	0	136	0	136	136	0
R	Staying Put Implementation Grant	DfE	288	0	0	288	288	0
R	Remand Framework	YJB	72	-36	-3	33	33	0
R	Reducing Parental Conflict Workforce Development Grant	DWP	0	48	12	60	60	0
R	Supported Internships for Young People with SEND	NDTi	54	0	-34	20	0	20
R	Holiday Activities and Food Programme	DfE	296	1,203	-69	1,430	0	1,430
R	Adopton Support Fund	DfE	0	15	66	81	31	50
R	Early Years Professional Development Programme	DfE	0	0	56	56	0	56
R	Early Years Experts and Mentors Programme	DfE	0	0	8	8	0	8
R	Intervention Delivering Better Value in SEND - Grant for Data Analysis	DfE	0	1,000	0	1,000	780	220
R	Family Group Conferences	DfE	0	54	-41	13	13	0
R	Multiply	DfE	899	0	-442	457	457	0
R	Turnaround Programme	YJB	64	63	24	151	151	0
R	Home for Ukraine Education	DfE	0	0	72	72	72	0
R	Child Decision Making Pilots (NRM)	HO	0	0	38	38	38	0
R	Strengthening Multi-Agency Leadership for reform	DfE	0	47	0	47	47	0
R	Fostering Recruitment Support Hub Mobilisation	DfE	0	0	39	39	0	39
R	Implementation of Supported Accommodation Reforms	DfE	0	299	0	299	299	0
	<b>Subtotal Other Children's Services Grants</b>		<b>6,447</b>	<b>6,032</b>	<b>621</b>	<b>13,100</b>	<b>11,277</b>	<b>1,823</b>
	<b>TOTAL CHILDREN'S SERVICES</b>		<b>286,722</b>	<b>15,640</b>	<b>730</b>	<b>303,092</b>	<b>312,922</b>	<b>-9,830</b>

**Business Management Report**  
**Position to the end of March 2024**  
**Government Grants 2023/24**

Ringfenced	Directorate	Issued By	Esimate 2023/24	In year Adjustments / New Allocations previously reported	In year Adjustments/ New Allocations reported this time	Final Grant Received in 2023/24	Total Spent	Carried forward for use in future years
			£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
	<b>Environment &amp; Place</b>							
R	Bus Service Operators Grant	DfT	514	0	280	794	407	387
R	Natural England	DEFRA	227	0	70	297	289	8
R	Bus Service Improvement Plan Grant	DfT	0	0	2,586	2,586	1,294	1,292
R	Homes England	DEFRA	0	0	313	313	313	0
R	COVID-19 Bus Services Support Grant	DfT	0	48	49	97	97	0
R	Biodiversity Net gain Grant	DEFRA	0	27	0	27	0	27
R	Woodland Creation Accelerator Fund (WCAF)	DEFRA	0	75	0	75	65	10
R	DEFRA CHLF S31 Grant	DEFRA	0	0	76	76	26	50
R	Air Quality SSCL Grant	DEFRA	0	127	0	127	0	127
R	Capability Fund	DfT	0	260	0	260	164	96
R	Climate Action Staffing Grant	Innovate UK	0	0	3	3	3	0
R	Historic Rideway	DfT	0	0	19	19	19	0
	<b>TOTAL ENVIRONMENT &amp; PLACE</b>		<b>741</b>	<b>537</b>	<b>3,396</b>	<b>4,674</b>	<b>2,677</b>	<b>1,997</b>
	<b>Public Health</b>							
R	Public Health Grant	DHSC	33,632	0	0	33,632	33,632	0
R	Oxfordshire Community Research Network Grant	Innovate UK	0	0	8	8	8	0
	<b>TOTAL PUBLIC HEALTH</b>		<b>33,632</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>33,640</b>	<b>33,640</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>Community Safety</b>							
R	Fire Fighter's Pension Fund Grant	DLUHC	1,361	0	0	1,361	1,361	0
R	Fire Protection Uplift Grant	DLUHC	0	303	0	303	303	0
R	Fire Fighter's New Dimenons Grant	DLUHC	40	0	0	40	40	0
	<b>TOTAL COMMUNITY SAFETY</b>		<b>1,401</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,704</b>	<b>1,704</b>	<b>0</b>

**Business Management Report**  
**Position to the end of March 2024**  
**Government Grants 2023/24**

Ringfenced	Directorate	Issued By	Esimate 2023/24	In year Adjustments / New Allocations previously reported	In year Adjustments/ New Allocations reported this time	Final Grant Received in 2023/24	Total Spent	Carried forward for use in future years
			£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
	<b>Resources</b>							
R	Homes for Ukraine *	DLUHC	6,503	0	-2,431	4,072	4,072	0
R	Household Support Fund	DWP	0	0	3,351	3,351	3,351	0
R	Music Service	AC	844	0	22	866	866	0
R	MaaS:CAV	Innovate UK	313	0	-120	193	193	0
R	Park & Charge	Innovate UK	206	0	-206	0	0	0
R	Virgin Park & Charge	Innovate UK	7	0	-7	0	0	0
R	Data Driven Safety Tool	Innovate UK	91	0	-91	0	0	0
R	Quantum Gravimeter	Innovate UK	69	0	-69	0	0	0
R	Resilient CAV	Innovate UK	25	0	-25	0	0	0
R	Heart Park Project	DfT	90	0	-90	0	0	0
R	GTC DfT Congestion Tool	DfT	59	0	-59	0	0	0
R	CAVL4R	DfT	11	0	-11	0	0	0
R	Skyway	Innovate UK	0	0	55	55	55	0
R	Zev Team	Innovate UK	0	0	218	218	218	0
R	Schemes Monitoring Costs	DfT	0	0	30	30	30	0
R	Designed for Ageing Medication Management	Innovate UK	0	0	110	110	110	0
R	Soteria	Innovate UK	0	0	19	19	19	0
R	GreenLog	Innovate UK	0	0	31	31	31	0
R	Future Flights & Land Infrastructure	Innovate UK	0	0	103	103	103	0
R	Vehicle to energy communities	Innovate UK	0	0	3	3	3	0
R	Hyer Project	Innovate UK	0	0	37	37	37	0
R	International Recruitment Fund	DHSC	0	0	178	178	178	0
	<b>TOTAL RESOURCES</b>		<b>8,219</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,047</b>	<b>9,266</b>	<b>9,266</b>	<b>0</b>

**Business Management Report**  
**Position to the end of March 2024**  
**Government Grants 2023/24**

Ringfenced	Directorate	Issued By	Esimate 2023/24	In year Adjustments / New Allocations previously reported	In year Adjustments/ New Allocations reported this time	Final Grant Received in 2023/24	Total Spent	Carried forward for use in future years
			£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
	<b>Strategic Measures</b>							
U	Lead Local Flood Authority	DEFRA	45	-45		0	0	
U	Extended Rights to Free Travel	DfE	278	531		809	809	
U	Firelink	DLUHC	213	-83		130	130	
U	Local Authority Delivery Support Funding	DLUHC	0	123		123	123	
U	Key Stage 2 Moderation & Phonics	DLUHC	0	21		21	21	
U	Supporting Families - previously Troubled Families	DLUHC	1,048	377	173	1,598	1,598	
U	New Homes Bonus	DLUHC	1,700		49	1,749	1,749	
U	Local Reform & Community Voices	DHSC	328			328	328	
U	Social Care in Prisons Grant	DHSC	187		-4	183	183	
U	War Pensions Disregard Grant	DHSC	0		105	105	105	
U	Social Care Support Grant (including Independent Living Fund)	DLUHC	32,669		15	32,684	32,684	
U	Services Grant	DfE	2,800		110	2,910	2,910	
U	Domestic Abuse Duty Grant	DLUHC	1,141	26		1,167	1,167	
U	Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment & Recovery Grant	OHID	0	635		635	635	
U	Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment & Recovery Housing Grant	OHID	0	622		622	0	622
U	Supplementary Substance Misuse Inpatient Detox & Rehabilitation	OHID	0	80		80	80	
U	Rough Sleeping Drugs & Alcohol Grant	DLUHC	0	1,370		1,370	1,370	
U	Rough Sleeping Strategy - care leavers	DLUHC	0	95		95	95	
U	Dual Running & Client Level Data	DHSC	0	20		20	20	
U	Accelerated Reform Grant	DHSC	0		470	470	323	147
U	Trading Standards costs for compliance activities under Offensive Weapons Act 2019	HO	0		30	30	0	30
U	New Burdens - Transparency	DLUHC	0		13	13	13	
U	Wraparound Provision Early Years	DfE	0		29	29	16	13
	<b>Subtotal Strategic Measures</b>		<b>40,409</b>	<b>3,771</b>	<b>989</b>	<b>45,169</b>	<b>44,357</b>	<b>812</b>

**Business Management Report**  
**Position to the end of March 2024**  
**Government Grants 2023/24**

Ringfenced	Directorate	Issued By	Estimate 2023/24 £000	In year Adjustments / New Allocations previously reported £000	In year Adjustments/ New Allocations reported this time £000	Final Grant Received in 2023/24 £000	Total Spent £000	Carried forward for use in future years £000
U	<b>Business Rates</b>							
U	Section 31 Grant for Business Rate Compensation	DLUHC	14,427	4,671		19,098	19,098	
U	Business Rates S31 Grant Top-Up	DLUHC	42,662	-2,686		39,976	39,976	
	<b>Subtotal Business Rates</b>		<b>57,089</b>	<b>1,985</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>59,074</b>	<b>59,074</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>Grants held on behalf of Local Enterprise Partnership</b>							
R	Oxford Innovation Business Support	BEIS	205			205	205	
R	European Regional Development Fund		900			900	900	
R	DCLG (Local Enterprise Partnership Funding)	DLUHC	500			500	500	
	<b>Subtotal Grants held on behalf of Local Enterprise Partnership</b>		<b>1,605</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,605</b>	<b>1,605</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>TOTAL STRATEGIC MEASURES</b>		<b>99,103</b>	<b>5,756</b>	<b>989</b>	<b>105,848</b>	<b>105,036</b>	<b>812</b>
	<b>Total All Grants</b>		<b>447,390</b>	<b>25,748</b>	<b>6,470</b>	<b>479,608</b>	<b>486,329</b>	<b>-6,721</b>

R Ringfenced grant

U Un-ringfenced grant

Issued by

HO Home Office

DHSC Department of Health &amp; Social Care

DfT Department for Transport

DfE Department for Education

DLUHC Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

BEIS Department for Business, Energy &amp; Industrial Strategy

OHID Office for Health Improvement and Disparities

DEFRA Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

AC Arts Council

YJB Youth Justice Board

NDTI National Development team for Inclusion



**Business Management & Monitoring Report**  
**Position to the end of March 2024**  
**General Revenue Balances**

	<b>Outturn 2023/24</b>	
	£m	£m
General Balances: Outturn 2022/23	22.643	
County Fund Balance		<b>22.643</b>
Planned Contribution to top up to 2023/24 risk assessed level (February 2023)		6.800
Further contribution needed to top up to risk assessed level following 2022/23 year end (		0.800
<b>Adjusted Opening Balance for 2023/24</b>		<b>30.243</b>
<b>Supplementary Estimates Agreed during 2023/24</b>		
Cabinet May 2023 Staffing costs to support development of One - Fleet approach to the council's vehicles		-0.180
Cabinet November 2023 Supplementary estimate for a school with a forced academisation that has a deficit budget		-0.200
Cabinet March 2024 Supplementary estimate to cover the one-off ill health/injury costs incurred during 2023/24 in Community Services		-0.159
<b>Subtotal Supplementary Estimates</b>		<b>-0.539</b>
<b>Automatic calls on/returns to balances</b>		0.000
<b>Net General Balances</b>		<b>29.704</b>
<b>Forecast Variation at Year End</b>		
Less underspend (as set out in Annex 1)		12.322
<b>Year End position</b>		<b>42.026</b>
<b>Risk Assessed Level of Balances for 2023/24</b>		<b>30.200</b>
<b>Surplus/(deficit) balances compared to risk assessed level</b>		<b>11.826</b>
<b>Calls on balances agreed as part of the Budget for 2024/25</b>		
£1.5m of the underspend arising from the additional interest on balances will be used to fund a one – off revenue contribution to the Transformation Reserve in 2024/25 (agreed in February 2024)		-1.500
£2.2m contribution to the IFRS9 reserve in 2024/25 to provide initial funding towards risks around the value of Treasury Management pooled funds when the current statutory over-ride ends.		-2.200
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>-3.700</b>
<b>Calls of balances recommended in this report</b>		
Further £2.8m contribution to the IFRS9 reserve in 2024/25 to provide sufficient cover for likely risks.		-2.800
Create a new Pump Priming reserve in 2024/25 to support the council's Commercial Strategy with an initial contribution of £2.0m.		-2.000
Make a contribution of £1.0m to the Budget Priorities Reserve to be used to complete or extend schemes already agreed as part of the Cabinet's priorities including Rail Studies and an extension of the funding for efficiency loans to schools.		-1.000
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>-5.800</b>
<b>Balance to be held in General Balances</b>		<b>2.326</b>