

**CABINET**  
**17 September 2024**

**BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING REPORT**  
**July 2024**

**Report by the Executive Director of Resources & Section 151 Officer**

**RECOMMENDATION**

1. **The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to**
  - a) Note the report and annexes.
  - b) Approve the virement requests in Annex B-2a and note the requests in Annex B-2b.
  - c) Approve the use of Homes for Ukraine grant funding as set out in Annex C and authorise the Executive Director of Resources to update funding agreements with the City and District Councils accordingly.

**Executive Summary**

1. The business management reports are part of a suite of performance, risk and budget documents which set out the council's ambitions, priorities, and financial performance. The [2022 – 2025 Strategic Plan](#) sets out the Council's ambitions. It also shows our priority activities for the current financial year.
2. This report presents the July 2024 performance, risk, and finance position for the council.
3. Further information is provided in the following annexes to the report:

Annex A: Performance as at July 2024.

Annex B: Finance as at July 2024.

Annex C: Homes for Ukraine update July 2024

Annex D: Climate Action Programme update Quarter 1 2024/25

Annex E: Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan update Quarter 1  
2024/25

4. The performance section of this report concentrates on performance exceptions. These are measures reporting Red (off target), or Amber, (slightly off target, Amber for the last two consecutive months or more). The full performance report is included at Annex A.

**Performance Overview**

5. The Outcomes Framework for 2024/2025 reports on the council's nine strategic priorities. A further priority relates to running the business and includes the customer contact centre and measures included in the council's Financial Strategy. The Outcomes Framework which sits underneath the strategic priorities is comprised of monthly, quarterly, termly, six-monthly and annual

measures which may change as we progress through the year. At the appropriate period, relevant measures will be included in the report.

6. As at the end of July 2024 the performance measures were rated as follows:

July 2024	Green		Amber		Red		Monitoring Only/Data Unavailable		Total
Monthly	13	39%	5	15%	2	7%	13	39%	33
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 1: Summary of July 2024 performance for all measures. RAG = Green = meets or exceeds target, Amber = misses target by narrow margin and Red = misses target by significant margin.

7. A total of 33 measures were reported in July 2024 (Table 1). All these all were monthly measures.

- 13 (39%) of the measures were reported as Green (meeting or exceeding target) in July.
- Five (15%) were rated as Amber (misses target by narrow margin), of which, four were Amber for 2+ months - OCC01.07 Total % of household waste which is reused, recycled, or composted, OCC04.01% of people who received short-term services during 24/25 with no further support requests, OCC10.04 Customer enquiries resolved via telephony contact, OCC10.06 Overall customer satisfaction rates for standard Registration service
- Two (7%) were rated as Red (misses target by a significant margin) -, OCC04.05 % of people transferring from homecare to care homes, OCC10.11 % of Corporate complaints (Stage 1) responded to within timescales.

8. This bi-monthly Cabinet report is the second of 2024/2025. The table (Table 2) below compares monthly measures for the 2024/2025 reporting year. Please note that the number of reported measures fluctuates throughout the year.

Reporting Month	Green		Amber		Red		Monitoring Only		Data unavailable		Total
April 2024	14	44%	3	9%	1	3%	7	22%	7	22%	32*
May 2024	22	58%	6	15%	2	7%	7	18%	1	2%	38
June 2024	32	56%	7	12%	2	4%	9	16%	7	12%	57
<b>July 2024</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>45</b>

Table 2: Comparison of monthly reporting measures for Financial Year 2024/2025. \*April and June 2024 do not include measures from priority OCC11 (finance).

9. There are two measures reporting as Red for the reporting period. Table 3 lists the performance measures reporting as Red at the end of July 2024. Full details can be found in Annex A.

Performance measures reporting Red for July 2024	
OCC04.05	% of people transferring from homecare to care homes
OCC10.11	% of Corporate complaints (Stage 1) responded to within timescales

Table 3: Red RAG Status Measures July 2024 Reporting Period.

10. This table indicates the direction of travel of monthly measures compared to June 2024.

Status changes – June to July 2024	
Red to Green	Not applicable
Amber to Green	OCC11.10 debt requiring impairment – Corporate debtors
Red to Amber	Not applicable
Green to Amber	OCC01.02 Total number of streetlights fitted with LED lanterns
Amber to Red	OCC04.05 percentage of people transferring from homecare to care homes
Green to Red	OCC10.11 % of Corporate Complaints (Stage 1) responded to within timescales

Table 4: Change in Performance across June to July 2024.

### Performance Exceptions

11. This section of the report details all measures reporting Red or Amber status (consecutive for two months or more) with extracted supporting commentary from the Directorate, the full commentary can be seen at Annex A. The exception report focusses on the six exceptions, two measures have a Red rating and the four measure that are reporting an Amber rating for two months or more.

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

This priority has two measures being reported in July 2024: both are reporting as Amber exceptions.



Figure 1: Priority OCC01 Put action to address the climate emergency at the heart of our work. Monthly performance for 2024/2025 financial year

Measure:	June Status:	July Status:	Director:
OCC01.07 Total % of household waste which is reused, recycled, or composted	Amber	Amber	Paul Fermer

Table 5: Priority OCC01 Measure Exceptions - July 2024.

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

In May 2024 Defra announced the timescales for implementation of Simpler Recycling reforms for businesses, hospitals and schools by 31 March 2025 and households by

31 March 2026. However, progress of the regulations through Parliament were placed on hold due to the calling of the General election. Oxfordshire County Council are awaiting further information from DEFRA in due course.

### Priority OCC04: Support carers and the social care system.

This priority has five measures being reported in July 2024: one is reporting as Green, and one is reporting as Amber, and one is reporting as Red. Two measures are reported as monitoring only.



Figure 2: Priority OCC04 Support carers and the social care system. Monthly performance for 2024/2025 financial year

Measure:	June Status:	July Status:	Director:
OCC04.01% of people who received short-term services during 24/25 with no further support requests	Amber	Amber	Karen Fuller
OCC04.05 % of people transferring from homecare to care homes	Amber	Red	Karen Fuller

Table 6: Priority OCC04 Measure Exceptions - July 2024.

#### OCC04.01% of people who received short-term services during 24/25 with no further support requests.

Performance is showing improvement from previous years - improving from 57% in 2020/21; 65% in 21/22; 70% in 22/23 and 76% in 23/24.

We are expanding the number of people who receive this service, particularly from hospital as part of our discharge to assess model. This means that people with higher level needs are admitted to the service. Many of these people will have their care needs reduced but may not become fully independent, which is the national measure. So far this year 83% of people who have used this service have seen a decrease in their care needs.

#### OCC04.05 % of people transferring from homecare to care homes.

We want to support people who need care and support in their own homes for as long as possible. We have supported this by increasing the amount of home care we commission. In the last 12 months the amount of home care we have purchased has increased by 8%; and in the last 5 years by 63%. Fewer older people are permanently admitted to residential care - only 15 authorities (out of 151) made fewer permanent care home admissions in 22/23 (last comparative data) and figures for permanent admissions fell by 3% in the last 12 months and 24% in the last 5 years

### Priority OCC10: Running the business – Customer Experience

This priority has 13 measures being reported in July 2024: four are reporting as Green, two are reporting as Amber exceptions, One measure is reporting as Red. A further six measures all relating to complaints categories, are recorded as having no data,

due to no complaints being received relating to these categories.



Figure 3: Priority OCC10 Running the business – Customer Experience. Monthly performance for 2024/2025 financial year.

Measure:	June Status:	July Status:	Director:
OCC10.04 Customer enquiries resolved via telephony contact	Amber	Amber	Louise Tustian
OCC10.06 Overall customer satisfaction rates for standard Registration service	Amber	Amber	Anita Bradley
OCC10.11 % of Corporate complaints (Stage 1) responded to within timescales	Green	Red	Louise Tustian

Table 7: Priority OCC10 Measure Exceptions - July 2024.

#### OCC10.04 Customer enquiries resolved via telephony contact.

*In July, 8975 calls were answered at the first point of contact (74% of the total calls). Compared to June this was 7866 (72%).*

*Calls resolved at first point of contact will always vary dependant on the nature of calls coming through and the communication with the service areas. We continue to work with service areas to ensure any known issues are briefed out to the CSC staff to avoid having to pass through to the back office. We also are continually reviewing our processes and training to ensure that we can answer a greater percentage at the first point of contact.*

#### OCC10.06 Overall customer satisfaction rates for standard Registration service.

*We anticipate an improvement in appointment availability from October 2024, following additional recruitment, on-boarding new colleagues and additional staff training.*

#### OCC10.11 % of Corporate complaints (Stage 1) responded to within timescales.

*34 Corporate stage 1 complaints have been received in July 2024. 13 were closed within timescale, six closed outside of time scale, seven are still open within timescale and eight are overdue. Of these, four are across Highways and Environment and Economy and Place directorates, three into the Children's corporate directorate and one into the Adult Social Care directorate.*

*We continue to escalate and follow up complaints that become overdue and work with the services to ensure we are providing timely responses.*

#### **Priority: Priority OCC11: Running the business – Finance Section to be updated following finance measure update anticipated 20 August 2024**

This priority has 12 bi-monthly measures being reported in July 2024: nine (75%) are Green, one (8%) Amber, and two (17%) Red.



Figure 4: Priority OCC11 Monthly performance for 2024/2025 financial year.

Measure:	May Status:	July Status:	Director:
OCC11.02 Achievement of planned savings	Red	Red	Lorna Baxter
OCC11.05 Total outturn variation DSG funded services (Schools / early years)	Amber	Amber	Lorna Baxter
OCC11.11 Debt requiring impairment – Adult Social Care contribution debtors	Red	Red	Lorna Baxter

Table 8: Priority OCC11 Measure Exceptions - July 2024.

Please refer to 'Financial Position' Section and Annex B for additional information relating to OCC11: Running the business - Finance.

### Performance Highlights

- This section of the report concentrates on highlights related to delivering our strategic priorities.

### **Put action to address the climate emergency at the heart of our work.**

Link: [https://engage.cloud.microsoft/main/threads/eyJfdHlwZSI6II RocmVhZCIsImkljoiMjgzNzQwMzMxNTlwODE5MiJ9?trk\\_copy\\_link=V1](https://engage.cloud.microsoft/main/threads/eyJfdHlwZSI6II RocmVhZCIsImkljoiMjgzNzQwMzMxNTlwODE5MiJ9?trk_copy_link=V1)

Switch Up Your Lunch is a campaign to help Oxfordshire fight climate change, through thinking about what we eat.

At lunchtime on 11<sup>th</sup> June, thousands of people joined the Switch Up Your Lunch campaign by eating a vegetarian or vegan lunch.

### **Tackle inequalities in Oxfordshire**

Link: [Period products trial set for approval by cabinet](#)

Free to access period products are set to be made available for those facing period poverty as part of a trial approved by Oxfordshire County Council's cabinet on 18 June. Following an earlier motion, the council's cabinet discussed rolling out a scheme to provide period products in 18 libraries and eight children and family centres across Oxfordshire on a trial basis. The scheme will provide period products to anyone who needs them in larger libraries, libraries serving priority areas of deprivation, children and family centres, and for council employees in larger council offices.

### **Prioritise the health and wellbeing of residents.**

Link: [New community approach empowers residents to help themselves](#)

A new programme has been introduced in Oxfordshire, enabling residents who might face challenges in their everyday life, to find local support that's right for them.

Funded by Oxfordshire County Council, with support from local partners including the



city and district councils, local area coordinators are based in communities and are available to connect with residents, guiding them to find local resources that might make a difference to their lives.

### **Support carers and the social care system.**

*Link:* [Helping unpaid carers receive the support they deserve](#)

Unpaid carers in Oxfordshire have been urged to come forward and check if they're receiving all the support that they are entitled to. As part of Carers Week with the theme 'putting carers on the map', Oxfordshire County Council, together with Carers Oxfordshire, highlighted the package of support available to carers, to help them continue to undertake the invaluable work they do.

There is financial, practical, and emotional support available to unpaid carers, much of which is provided by Carers Oxfordshire, a partnership between Action for Carers Oxfordshire and Rethink Mental Illness, with funding support from Oxfordshire County Council.

Carers Oxfordshire provides specialist support to help unpaid carers to find solutions that can make caring easier, including:

- CarersLine – the team is available to listen and help Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm.
- Carer assessments – identifying any help unpaid carers may be eligible to receive.
- Support groups – where carers can talk to others who may understand.
- Carer ID – to prove carer status and access support and discounts.
- Time for you – a range of offers to give unpaid carers time for themselves.

Unpaid carers, and those they care for, may also be entitled to a range of financial support, with many unpaid carers qualifying for carer's allowance. There is a cap on benefits in some circumstances, so carers are advised to check the criteria first. Carer's allowance is a weekly payment of £81.90 for people who spend at least 35 hours a week caring for someone in receipt of certain benefits. They must also earn £151 or less a week, after tax, National Insurance and expenses. Carer's allowance is a complex benefit that overlaps with some payments, such as the state pension. Claiming it can affect the benefits of the person being cared for if the person providing support does not live with them. In these circumstances, it's important to get specific advice before applying.

### **Invest in an inclusive, integrated, and sustainable transport network.**

*Link:* [New bus ticket offers almost unlimited travel in Oxfordshire](#)

A new Oxfordshire bus ticket, which offers unlimited travel on nearly all local services, has come into operation. The MyBus Oxfordshire ticket offers passengers daily or weekly travel around the county, covering most routes and operators, for a fixed price. It means that one ticket, costing £6.50 a day and £25 a week for adults or £3.50 a day or £14.50 a week for under-19s, gives you unlimited access to more than 150 bus services run by 12 operators in Oxfordshire. The offer has been developed by the

Oxfordshire Bus Enhanced Partnership, a collaboration between Oxfordshire County Council and the county's bus companies to promote the use of bus services through Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) funding provided by the government.

### **Preserve and improve access to nature and green spaces.**

*Link:* [Council given leading role in putting nature on road to recovery in Oxfordshire](#)

Oxfordshire County Council has been named by the government as a 'responsible authority' for driving nature recovery. It is one of 48 councils set to benefit from a £14 million government funding pot, enabling it to work with local communities to develop a tailored nature recovery strategy for Oxfordshire. Local nature recovery strategies will help communities map out the action needed in their area to restore nature, working closely with local stakeholders, from farmers to schoolchildren, to meet the government's England-wide nature targets.

### **Creating opportunities for children and young people to reach their full potential.**

*Link:* [Oxfordshire County Council joins regional hub to recruit more foster carers](#)

Oxfordshire has become part of the largest local authority fostering partnership in the country, as councils from across the Southeast come together in a bid to increase the number of foster carers across the region. Launched on 8 July, Local Authority Fostering Southeast is a new virtual fostering hub bringing together the expertise of 20 councils – including Oxfordshire County Council – from across the region.

Local Authority Fostering Southeast will ensure prospective foster carers have access to a centralised platform for their initial enquiries about fostering and will see local authorities work collaboratively to provide the best support, right from the start of a carer's fostering journey.

### **Play our part in a vibrant and participatory local democracy**

*Link:* [Groundbreaking charter deepens local democracy in Oxfordshire](#)

A groundbreaking charter between councils across Oxfordshire was launched on 15 July with the aim being to deepen and enhance local democracy across all the county's communities and improve ways of working between councils. The Oxfordshire Councils Charter is the first of its kind in the country to include all three tiers of local government – parish/town councils, parish meetings, the city council, the district councils and the county council. It has been co-produced by all three layers of local government working hand in hand and it is high-level and flexible enough to empower councils rather than create additional burdens with specific operational commitments.

The charter was launched at the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils Annual General Meeting and is a voluntary framework that:

- Outlines mutually agreed principles and commitments to support meeting the above aims.
- Recognises and acknowledges the importance of local councils in reaching and



- supporting residents and communities.
- Underpins how Oxfordshire councils work better together to deliver outcomes for residents and communities.

**Work with local businesses and partners for environmental, economic, and social benefit**

*Link:* [Money saving energy app coming exclusively to Oxfordshire residents](#)

Oxfordshire residents will be the first in the country to be able to take advantage of a free new mobile app, which can save energy and cut household bills.

All of Oxfordshire's 172,000 households who have a smart energy meter can download it for free whether they own or rent their home and regardless of which energy supplier they use.

Oxfordshire County Council is helping to deliver the Energy Saver App, which will analyse gas and electricity consumption and suggest simple, personalised actions to reduce bills.

## **Strategic Risk Management Overview**

1. A strategic risk is a risk to the council's strategic priorities or long-term outcomes; or a risk with a significance that has an impact at the corporate level.
2. The table below provides an overview of the current strategic risk position. Strategic risks are reviewed monthly as part of the Business management and monitoring process. Risks can be added and escalated at any time during the year. Please note the addition for July of the Climate action strategic risk, therefore there is no direction of travel recorded, due to July being the first month of reporting.
3. Of the additional nine strategic risks, all nine remain static, with the same scoring as reported in June 2024.

Risk Name	Risk Description	31 Jul 2024				
		Inherent Score	Previous Residual Risk Score	Current Residual Risk Score	Current Residual Risk Rating	Direction of Travel
01. Financial Resilience	The council is not financially sustainable in the immediate/medium term.	25	12	12	●	➡
02. Cyber security	A successful and significant Cyber-attack leading to disruption, damage or compromise of any of the council's computer services, information systems, infrastructure or data.	25	15	15	●	➡
03. HIF1&HIF2	HIF1 and HIF2 become undeliverable and/or potential financial risk to the council	16	12	12	●	➡
04. Managing Demand across Adult's and Children's Services	Fluctuating demand of community across Oxfordshire can result in varying requirements in resource.	15	8	8	★	➡
05. Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)	Local area SEND partnership inspection outcomes found widespread systemic failure. Delay for children having their SEND needs met. Reputational damage (locally, regionally, and nationally).	20	12	12	●	➡
06. Oxford Core Schemes	Failure to deliver Oxford Core Schemes (Traffic Filters, Workplace Parking Levy, Zero Emissions Zone and associated city area schemes such as Low Traffic Neighbourhoods) with public support.	20	16	16	▲	➡
07. Strategic Workforce Planning	A risk that the county council's workforce does not have capacity, capability or resilience to deliver key functions, statutory services or transformational changes required to ensure the councils objectives and long-term priorities are met. Further, that the diversity of the workforce satisfies statutory requirements.	16	12	12	●	➡
08. Policy & Budget	Inability to seek agreement in relation to the policy and budget framework from a minority administration.	25	8	8	★	➡
09. Delivering the Future Together	Failure to deliver organisation wide transformation.	25	16	16	▲	➡
10. Climate Impact	Increasing vulnerability to climate impacts leads to failure of key infrastructure and services with a direct impact on health, safety, environment, and businesses.	25	25.00	20.00	▲	↘

Table 9: Strategic Risk Overview for July 2024.

## **Homes for Ukraine**

Following the launch of the Homes for Ukraine (HfU) scheme by the UK government in March 2022, upper tier councils have been in receipt of a tariff fund for individual arrivals in their area of responsibility.

A partnership delivery plan was approved by Chief Executives in May 2023 and sets out the agreed priorities for the partnership. The plan is preventative in its approach, and our ambition remains to maintain an Oxfordshire refugee and asylum migration system that ensures a warm welcome for all new arrivals and embraces and supports independent living for those staying in the county.

Funding was initially provided as a one-off payment at the level of £10,500 per guest, falling to £5,900 for all new arrivals from 1 January 2023. For eligible minors the tariff continues at £10,500.

This funding is to support Ukrainian guests and their hosts. Oxfordshire residents have been exceptionally welcoming, with Oxfordshire's per-resident population hosting levels being amongst the highest in the country.

The overall grant funding to date (based on the number of arrivals) for the HfU programme in Oxfordshire is £23.1m. The original tariff allocation was intended to cover two years, but as the war in the Ukraine continued, the Oxfordshire Migration Partnership committed more funding to the end of March 2025 - this was approved by Cabinet in March 2024.

Please refer to Annex C for additional information on progress.

## **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Action Plan Quarter 1 update**

Table 10 provides an overview of the status of measures included in the 2024/25 EDI action plan.

This EDI Action Plan will be refreshed in Quarter 3 2024/25, Annex E covers the period of Q1 for 2024-25. Our equalities, diversity and inclusion policy, Including Everyone, is approaching the end of its lifecycle and a refreshed framework is now being developed to be launched in Q3 2024/25.

A new EDI Action Plan will sit alongside the new framework; therefore, this interim action plan continues the momentum on current EDI workstreams and captures progress across service areas during the first quarter of the year. The actions in the interim action plan were developed as part of the service planning process during Q4 for 2023-24 following which there has been a period of significant change across all services of the council.

Whilst this has led to fewer progress measures than previous iterations, our commitment to delivering against these actions remain a priority and will inform the new action plan to be adopted in the autumn.

EDI Action Plan	Green		Amber		Red		Data unavailable		Total
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	
Employer of Choice	9	75%	1	8%	0	0%	2	17%	12
Partner of Choice	2	50%	0	0%	0	0%	2	50%	4
Place shaper of choice	8	89%	1	11%	0	0%	0	0%	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>25</b>

Table 10: RAG status of EDI action plan for Quarter 1 2024/25

Annex E outlines the progress of the Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Action Plan for Quarter 1 2024/25.

### Climate Action Programme Quarter 1 update

Table 11 provides an overview of the status of projects included in the 2024/25 Climate Action Programme, across its three pillars:

- Becoming a climate active council
- Decarbonising our estate and operations by 2030
- Enabling Oxfordshire's transition to net zero.

Plan	Green		Amber		Red		Data unavailable		Total
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	
Climate Action Programme	15	79%	4	21%	0	0%	0	0%	19

Table 11: RAG status of EDI action plans for Quarter 1 2024/25

Annex D provides additional information on the Climate Action programme progress.

### Financial Position

13. As shown below there is a forecast service area overspend of £5.1m, a £2.3m deterioration from the position reported to the July Cabinet. After taking account of additional interest receivable on balances held by the council and anticipated capital financing costs, the overall forecast position is an underspend of £0.4m.

	Latest Budget July-24 £m	Forecast Spend July-24 £m	Forecast Variance July-24 £m	Forecast Variance July-24 %	Forecast Variance May-24 £m	Change Since May-24 £m
Adult Services	250.2	250.2	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0
Children's Services	197.4	199.6	2.3	1.1%	0.0	2.3
Environment & Highways	69.7	70.6	0.9	1.3%	1.6	-0.7
Economy & Place	1.8	1.8	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0
Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service and Community Safety	28.1	28.8	0.6	2.3%	0.6	0.0
Public Health & Communities	12.6	12.6	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0
Resources and Law & Governance	57.6	58.9	1.3	2.3%	0.6	0.7
Transformation, Digital & Customer Experience	3.3	3.3	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0

	Latest Budget July-24 £m	Forecast Spend July-24 £m	Forecast Variance July-24 £m	Forecast Variance July-24 %	Forecast Variance May-24 £m	Change Since May-24 £m
<b>Directorate Total</b>	<b>620.6</b>	<b>625.7</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>2.3</b>
<b>Budgets Held Centrally</b>						
Capital Financing	20.7	17.7	-3.1	-14.7%	0.0	3.1
Interest on Balances	-10.7	-13.2	-2.5	23.5%	-1.4	1.1
Contingency	7.3	7.3	0.0	0.0%	-1.5	-1.5
Pay Inflation	15.1	15.1	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0
Un-ringfenced Specific Grants	-52.1	-52.1	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0
Insurance	1.7	1.7	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0
Contribution from COVID-19 reserve	-3.8	-3.8	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0
Contribution from Budget Priority Reserve	-1.4	-1.4	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0
Contributions to reserves	13.9	13.9	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0
<b>Total Budgets Held Centrally</b>	<b>-9.2</b>	<b>-14.7</b>	<b>-5.6</b>	<b>60.6%</b>	<b>-2.9</b>	<b>2.7</b>
<b>Net Operating Budget</b>	<b>611.4</b>	<b>611.0</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>-0.1%</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-0.4</b>
Business Rates & Council Tax funding	-611.4	-611.4	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0
<b>Forecast Year End Position</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>-0.1%</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-0.4</b>

Table 8: Financial Overview for July 2024

14. The breakeven position for Adult Services reported to the July Cabinet remains unchanged.
15. Childrens' Services is forecasting a £2.3m overspend compared to the breakeven position reported to Cabinet in July 2024. This is due to risks in the delivery of previously agreed savings built into the 2024/25 budget.
16. The overspend for Environment & Highways has reduced by £0.7m since July 2024. The £0.9m pressure includes a £2.2m overspend in Network Management relating to the underachievement of lane rental income savings, offset by a £1.3m underspend in Highways maintenance from a reduction in energy costs from lower energy activity.
17. Public Health & Communities are forecasting a breakeven position. Within that a forecast £0.2m underspend against the Public Health grant funding is assumed to be transferred to reserves at year end.
18. The forecast overspend for Resources and Law & Governance has increased by £0.9m from the position reported to Cabinet in July due to unachieved savings held within IT&ID that were originally expected to be made by reducing IT related costs across the council.
19. £7.3m on-going budget was agreed to be held in contingency as part of the 2024/25



budget. This is being held to meet potential risks around pay inflation and possible pressures in Adults and Children's Services later in the financial year. The current forecast assumes that there is no underspend against the contingency budget on the basis of these potential risks materialising. However, as the year progresses and there is more certainty over the forecast position, the underspend against the contingency budget will be factored in.

20. The 2024/25 budget includes planned service areas savings of £30.1m. 43% of these savings are currently assessed as delivered rising to 70% forecast to be delivered by the end of the year.
21. The risk assessed level of one – off funding held in general balances in 2024/25 is £30.2m. A residual balance of £2.3m relating to the underspend at the end of 2023/24 was agreed to be held in balances as part of the Provisional Outturn Report for 2023/24. After taking account of the forecast underspend of £0.4m, balances are currently forecast to be £2.8m above the risk assessed level at 31 March 2024.
22. The forecast 2024/25 deficit compared to Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding for High Needs is £21.3m in line with the budget approved by Council in February 2024. The CIPFA code of practice requires negative High Needs DSG balances to be held in an unusable reserve. The forecast deficit would increase the cumulative negative High Needs DSG balance held in this reserve from £55.8m as at 31 March 2024 to £77.1m at 31 March 2025.

### **Financial Implications**

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

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

### **Legal Implications**

24. The Council's constitution at Part 3.2 (Budget and Policy Framework) and Part 3.3 (Virement Rules) sets out the obligations and responsibilities of both the Cabinet and the Full Council in approving, adopting and implementing the council's budget and policy framework.
25. The Council has a fiduciary duty to council taxpayers, which means it must consider the prudent use of resources, including control of expenditure, financial prudence in the short and long term and the need to act in good faith in relation to compliance with statutory duties and exercising statutory powers. The report sets out as at July 2024 performance, risk and finance position for the Council as part of its fiduciary duty to implement budgetary controls and monitoring.

Comments checked by: Paul Grant, Head of Legal and Deputy Monitoring Officer

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