

## 2023/24: Quarter 4 – Provisional Outturn

Budget Heading	Annual Budget	Provisional Outturn	Provisional Variation	Earmarked Reserve Impact	General Fund Impact	RAG
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Business Enterprise & Community Infrastructure	1,441	896	545	50	495	
Community Services	5,233	5,019	215	(173)	388	
Corporate Services	4,129	4,254	(125)	(31)	(94)	
Digital Transformation & Estate Management	1,760	1,803	(43)	57	(101)	
Regulatory Services	845	783	62	8	54	
Welfare Services	1,296	1,505	(209)	(42)	(168)	
<b>Total Service Expenditure</b>	<b>14,704</b>	<b>14,259</b>	<b>444</b>	<b>(130)</b>	<b>575</b>	
Enterprise Zone	5,028	6,282	(1,254)	(1,254)	0	
Capital Financing and Treasury	(672)	(1,201)	529	238	291	
Unit 4e – Rebuild and Financing post fire	0	645	(645)	(645)	0	
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>19,060</b>	<b>19,985</b>	<b>(926)</b>	<b>(1,791)</b>	<b>866</b>	
Enterprise Zone	(5,028)	(6,282)	1,254	1,254	0	
Retained Business Rates & RSG	(5,150)	(8,889)	3,739	3,389	350	
Council Tax	(5,361)	(5,530)	169	169	0	
Services Grant	(90)	(95)	5	5	0	
New Homes Bonus	(660)	(659)	(1)	(1)	0	
Use of Collection Fund Reserve	(1,000)	(1,000)	0	0	0	
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>(17,289)</b>	<b>(22,455)</b>	<b>5,166</b>	<b>4,816</b>	<b>350</b>	
<b>(Surplus)/Deficit</b>	<b>(1,771)</b>	<b>(2,470)</b>	<b>4,241</b>	<b>3,025</b>	<b>1,216</b>	

<b>RED</b>	Not on target and / or the level of risk (of not meeting target) is high and needs urgent remedial action
<b>AMBER</b>	Not fully on target but not significantly off target and / or the level of risk (of not meeting target) is manageable but requires close monitoring
<b>GREEN</b>	On target and / or the risk (of not meeting target) is low and under control

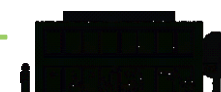


Localities<sup>+</sup>



## 2023/24 Quarter 4 – Provisional Outturn - Executive Summary

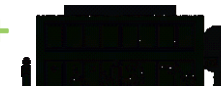
- This appendix sets out a **provisional** outturn position and is subject to change, particularly with regard to transfers to and from reserves.
- The total projected position for the Council is a positive variance of £4.241m. The main area of variance is within total funding and this largely relates to additional Business Rates income/Collection Fund surplus from previous years. Closing down of the Collection Fund is still in process and this may impact on the final Business Rates income position.
- There is a positive variation of £0.444m against Service Area expenditure before the use of Earmarked Reserves. After the use of Earmarked Reserves, there is a saving of £0.575m. Increased interest rates have also continued in quarter 4 resulting in additional treasury income of £0.529m compared to the annual budget.
- Significant Variations within service areas include:
  - £308k pressures - Estates and Assets - one-off revenue costs associated with Wombourne & 4E redevelopment.
  - £455k surplus - relating to planning income, additional PPA agreements and part year staffing of new posts agreed via RPP. This was amplified by the receipt of significant planning Application fees towards the end of the year.
  - £529k surplus – Investment Income due to higher than budgeted interest rates
  - £380k surplus - Refuse Collection - Inflation added to contract less than budget leading to in-year betterment and delay in purchase of additional vehicle leading to significant savings. An Earmarked Reserve has been approved to assist in resourcing additional staffing requirements ahead of the future tender.
- Additional detail is provided within the specific sections for individual service areas below.



## 2023/24: Quarter 4 – Provisional Outturn Digital Transformation & Estate Management

	Annual Budget	Forecast Outturn	Forecast Variance	Impact on ER	Impact on GF	RAG
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Community Hub	533	468	64	31	33	
Customer Interaction	364	306	57	(7)	64	
Digital Services	1,950	1,845	105	(4)	109	
Estates & Assets	(1,087)	(817)	(270)	37	(308)	
<b>Total Digital Technology and Service</b>	<b>1,760</b>	<b>1,803</b>	<b>(43)</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>(101)</b>	

Revenue Budget	RAG	Comments
Community Hub		Additional rental incomes offset pressures against utility budgets
Customer Interaction		Projected underspend against budget arising due to combination of staffing vacancies and additional income from room hire and hire of premise for filming.
Digital Services		Underspend relates to vacancies against establishment. The adverse forecast variation reported relates entirely to planned expenditures which will be fully funded by Earmarked Reserves for the purposes intended.
Estates & Assets		Delays to construction projects at 4E and Wombourne have incurred some revenue costs. Reduced revenue income due to sale of Heathmill (£29k) is offset corporately by the benefit of a capital receipt of £425k. Repair budgets have also impacted adversely on the budget. Occupancy levels are currently holding but economic challenges may have impact and this area will continue to be closely monitored.



## 2023/24: Quarter 4 – Provisional Outturn Community Services

	Annual Budget	Forecast Outturn	Forecast Variance	Impact on ER	Impact on GF	RAG
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Baggeridge Country Park	115	125	(10)	0	(10)	
Leisure Services	815	848	(33)	(215)	181	
Landscape & Bereavement	(247)	(149)	(98)	0	(98)	
Street Scene	1,272	1,331	(59)	(51)	(8)	
Recycling	(131)	(310)	179	0	179	
Refuse Collection	3,360	3,126	234	92	142	
Climate Change	49	47	2	0	2	
<b>Total Community Services</b>	<b>5,233</b>	<b>5,019</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>(173)</b>	<b>388</b>	

Revenue Budget	RAG	Comments
Baggeridge Country Park		Variance within employee related costs is due to the pay award and premises variance is largely due to an increase in utility costs.
Leisure Services		The cost of the pay award has been greater than the 5% budgeted for Leisure, but the service has mitigated this with vacancies and secondment of staff. Membership numbers are performing well and overall income targets are being met. Joint Use recharges from schools for use of Leisure Centres have increased but this cost is covered by Earmarked Reserves.
Landscape & Bereavement		Crematoria Income (Essington) will be received later than previously budgeted. Pre-purchase burial plots performing well and are currently forecast to offset part of this pressure.
Street Scene		Unfunded adverse variation relates to impact of inflation award on pay net of vacancies. The Earmarked Reserve funded element relates to the cost of employing a tree inspector.
Recycling		Savings of £234k are due to increased income from sale of recycled materials, bulky waste collections & reduced gate fees. Offset by reduced benefit of recycling credits £113k as MRF tonnage has been less than budgeted.

Refuse Collection		Inflation added to contract less than budget leading to in-year betterment. (12% budgeted, actual 9%), delay in purchase of additional vehicle and salary savings (£80k) are more than offsetting other pressures in relation to latest projections of BIFFA charges and unachievable income targets in relation to bin changes.
Climate Change		No significant variations to report.



## 2023/24: Quarter 3 – Corporate Services

	Annual Budget	Forecast Outturn	Forecast Variance	Impact on ER	Impact on GF	RAG
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Accountancy & Financial Services	632	625	8	(9)	16	
Pay & pensions	592	816	(224)	0	(224)	
Corporate Finance	479	466	13	(21)	33	
Corporate Leadership Team	686	672	14	8	6	
Communications	163	130	33	(2)	35	
Community Safety	98	82	16	16	0	
Elections	360	374	(13)	(19)	6	
Human Resources	439	429	10	6	4	
Policy	113	105	8	(2)	10	
Member Support	567	555	11	(9)	20	
<b>Total Corporate</b>	<b>4,129</b>	<b>4,254</b>	<b>(125)</b>	<b>(31)</b>	<b>(94)</b>	

Revenue Budget	RAG	Commentary
Accountancy and Financial Services		No significant variations to report. Additional staffing costs incurred funded through an Earmarked Reserve to alleviate Transactional Services pressures.
Pay & Pensions		No significant variations to report – current variation relates to vacancy management adjustment with anticipated salary savings being achieved across the Council.
Corporate Finance		Earmarked Reserve relating to Redmond Fund released to Revenue.
Corporate Leadership Team		Saving relates to recruitment gap between S151 officers.

Revenue Budget	RAG	Commentary
Communications		£33k underspend on Review magazine due to move to digital. This more than offsets additional spend on Apprentice and costs of pay award.
Community Safety		Net underspends primarily relate to delays in acquiring CCTV. Earmarked Reserve will be set aside to fund expenditure as it is occurred.
Elections		Earmarked Reserve being used to fund additional staffing resources. Other one-off costs in relation to the purchase of polling booths in readiness for future elections can be claimed back against those elections as and when they occur.
Human Resources		Net variations against HR budgets, primarily due to contractual costs of Midland HR and apprentice costs can be funded via Earmarked Reserve.
Policy		No significant variations to report
Member Support		Vacancy gap saving.



## 2023/24: Quarter 4 (Provisional Outturn) – Business Enterprise & Community Infrastructure

	Annual Budget	Forecast Outturn	Forecast Variance	Impact on ER	Impact on GF	RAG
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Building Control	36	35	1	0	1	
Land Charges	(9)	(8)	(1)	0	(1)	
Development Control	255	(418)	673	240	432	
Planning Enforcement	209	223	(14)	(15)	0	
Local Plan	494	469	25	30	(5)	
Economic Development	278	262	16	(3)	19	
Localities	178	149	29	(19)	48	
UKSPF	0	184	(184)	(184)	(0)	
<b>Total Business Enterprise and Community Infrastructure</b>	<b>1,441</b>	<b>896</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>495</b>	

Revenue Budget	RAG	Commentary
Building Control		No significant variations to report
Land Charges		No significant variations to report
Development Control		Extremely strong performance in the third and fourth quarters have seen a significant boost to both planning application income levels and pre-planning application income levels contributing an additional £530k over and above budgetary expectations. Mid-year recruitment to approved new posts has also contributed to projected year-end saving against budget.



Planning Enforcement		Maternity cover and specialist consultancy funded from Earmarked Reserves.
Local Plan		Maternity and vacancy savings contributing to projected savings against budget.
Economic Development		Savings arising due to vacancies
Localities		Un-committed budget for consultancy costs
UKSPF		No significant variations to report – all spend is fully grant funded



## 2023/24: Quarter 4 (Provisional Outturn) – Regulatory Services

	Annual Budget	Forecast Outturn	Forecast Variance	Impact on ER	Impact on GF	RAG
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Emergency Planning	48	47	1	(1)	1	
Environmental Health	540	503	37	10	28	
Internal Audit	96	82	13	0	13	
Legal Shared Service	161	150	11	(1)	12	
<b>Total Regulatory Services</b>	<b>845</b>	<b>783</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>54</b>	

Revenue Budget	RAG	Commentary
Emergency Planning		No variations to report
Environmental Health		Notwithstanding the additional costs incurred for planned, Earmarked Reserve funded posts, there have been significant increases in licensing income receipts in year, especially with regards liquor licenses.
Internal Audit		No variations to report
Legal Shared Service		No variations to report



## 2023/24: Quarter 4 (Provisional Outturn) – Welfare Services

	Annual Budget	Forecast Outturn	Forecast Variance	Impact on ER	Impact on GF	RAG
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Revenue Services	368	443	(75)	(150)	74	
Benefit Services	741	1,038	(297)	(50)	(247)	
Homelessness	0	(173)	173	165	8	
Housing Operations	187	197	(11)	(8)	(3)	
<b>Total Welfare Services</b>	<b>1,296</b>	<b>1,505</b>	<b>(209)</b>	<b>(42)</b>	<b>(168)</b>	

Revenue Budget	RAG	Commentary
Revenue Services		Staffing vacancies leading to small projected saving in-year. Costs incurred from Analyse Local as commission for investigating businesses underpaying business rates can be funded through the Fairer Funding Reserve (as ultimately it is the funding element of the budget that will benefit)
Benefit Services		The value of housing benefit overpayments has reduced due to the volume of benefit payments reducing as a result of Universal Credit migration and improved data sharing with DWP. This means less subsidy is received from central government resulting in a pressure to the budget. However, the overall debt level is reducing each month.
Homelessness		Projected saving is represented by unspent grant receipts for Homelessness and Prevention of Domestic Abuse. These will be carried forward into 2024/25 as per grant conditions.
Housing Operations		New posts created from vacancies in Revenue and Benefit budgets.



## 2023/24: Quarter 4 (Provisional Outturn) – Capital Budget

Capital Scheme	2023/24 Budget £'000	Spend to date £'000	Commentary	RAG
<b><u>Corporate Services</u></b> Commercial Asset Strategy	14,776	4,875	Budget includes:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wombourne EP development – completion Spring 24</li> <li>• Restoration of Unit 4E Four Ashes following fire damage (funded via insurance claim) – completion Spring 24</li> <li>• Landywood EP decarbonisation improvements – completion Spring 24</li> <li>• Hub driveway upgrade – Completion Autumn 23</li> <li>• Contingency for existing projects £250k</li> </ul>	
Itrent Upgrade	20	0	Budget has been assigned to the Itrent HR/Payroll system	
<b><u>Digital Technology and Service Transformation</u></b> Digital Technology and Service Transformation	370	95	Budget includes; workstation replacement for Agile working, purchase of Civica licenses and other Digital Services requirements including vSan switches and hosts	
<b><u>Welfare Services</u></b> Disabled Facilities Grant	1,935	724	Better Care Fund allocations to fund necessary adaptations	
<b><u>Community Services</u></b> Street Scene Fleet	166	76	Budget includes; street cleansing vehicle and slippage due to delay on procurement of grounds maintenance vehicle	
Waste Bags	10	0	Budget for purchase of recycling bags as required	

Capital Scheme	2023/24 Budget £'000	Spend to date £'000	Commentary	RAG
Leisure Centre Equipment Renewal Programme	179	333	Budget for replacement of cardiovascular, resistance and indoor cycling equipment. Purchase of equipment at Wombourne Leisure Centre has been made. Purchase of indoor cycles at Penkridge Leisure Centre currently outstanding.	
Leisure Centre Investment Scheme	1,030	(4)	Budget includes; leisure centre investment across all centres. Currently works at Codsall Leisure Centre are outstanding. The spend to date figure allows for retention monies that will become due following a period of review of the works for suitability and quality.	
Leisure Centre Air Conditioning	28	16	Budget is for air conditioning replacement across centres. Timing of expenditure can be linked to the leisure investment fund works.	
<b><u>Business Enterprise and Community Infrastructure</u></b> Regional Housing Board	127	5	South Staffordshire Council contribution to South Staffordshire Warmer Homes project.	
S106 Payments – Affordable Housing	0	75	This relates to S106 Lime Tree Road, Bilbrook final tranche 25% £75k (total grant £300k), fully funded from S106 developer contributions.	
	<b>18,642</b>	<b>6,195</b>		

#### Other Notes

#### **Moved financial year as part of MTFS**

Refuse Vehicles new contract

#### **2024/25 Budget**

**£'000**

3,046

New contract was due to start 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025. Hence budget was moved to 2024/25 to allow for any vehicles to be supplied in advance of the contract. Accounting standards dictate that embedded leases (vehicles supplied as part of overall contract) must be capitalised.

Waste Bins

790

3,836

New contract due to start 1.4.25