

Meeting: Overview & Scrutiny

Date: 07 December 2022

Meeting: Cabinet

Date: 13 December 2022

Wards Affected: All Wards

Report Title: Budget Monitoring 2022/23 – April to October 2022 Outturn Forecast.

Is the decision a key decision? No

When does the decision need to be implemented? N/A

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1. Purpose and Introduction

- 1.1. This report provides a high-level budget summary of the Council's revenue and capital position for the financial year 2022/23 which commenced on 1st April 2022. This report is based on the budget and forecasts as at 31st October 2022.
- 1.2. Across Torbay households, communities and businesses are facing significant pressure due to the wide-reaching UK implications of the current economic situation. Torbay Council's operations are no exception to this. The levels of cost inflation impacting the Council are affecting almost every single service & are expected to be a 'recurring theme' when looking to set the budget for 2023/24 and draft the Medium-Term Resource Plan.
- 1.3. The Council's forecast overspend for 2022/23 is forecast to be **£1.686m** which is a worsening of **£0.476m** since the Quarter 1 / Period 4 report, which includes a new pressure of **£0.5m** associated with the costs of supporting the impact on council services of the asylum hostel.
- 1.4. The mitigation required to achieve this position will continue to have robust oversight and scrutiny from the Council's Section 151 Officer, all of the Directors and their respective teams. All existing mitigation and scrutiny will remain in place, but at this time no further restrictions will be implemented.
- 1.5. The Capital Plan budgets to spend a total of **£303m** on capital projects over the 4-year programme, with **£39.2m** currently scheduled to be spent in 2022/23, including **£15m** on various Regeneration projects and **£7m** on various Education projects. The Capital Plan is funded from capital receipts, capital grants and contributions, reserves and revenue budget contributions, and long-term borrowing to ensure a balanced budget over the life of the Plan.

2. Recommendation (s) / Proposed Decision

Recommendations for Overview & Scrutiny Board

- 2.1. That the Overview & Scrutiny Board notes the latest position for the Council's revenue and capital outturn position and make any comments and/or recommendations to the Cabinet.

Recommendations for Cabinet

- 2.2. That the Cabinet notes the latest position for the Council's revenue and capital outturn position.

3. 2022/23 Budget Summary Position

- 3.1. Given the reported overspend, the Council's Section 151 Officer and Chief Executive are continuing with the increased scrutiny on all expenditure commitments including recruitment.
- 3.2. As reported in Quarter 1 mitigation also includes the cessation of spending many Council funded 'one-off' monies, projects or carry forward monies which do not result in direct, tangible cost mitigation or cost reduction for the 2022/23 position.
- 3.3. Consideration will also be given to opportunities to generate increased income by factoring in the increased cost of delivery into fees & charges.
- 3.4. **Continued mitigation will be required to deliver a balanced budget.**
- 3.5. There are a number of areas upon which officers remain focussed and are closely monitoring given their potential impact, namely:
 - 3.5.1. The legacy costs of Covid-19 and the transition to the more regular Public Health protection and response work.
 - 3.5.2. For another year variations to income are a risk. This includes collection fund income (Council Tax £78.1m and Business Rates £35.6m) and within services notably parking income where the changes to household income will inevitably impact key funding streams for local service delivery.
 - 3.5.3. The continuous improvement journey within Children's Services which remains crucial to the Council's medium term financial stability. Sustained improvement will be required to mitigate national issues which are starting to impact on the local delivery of Children's services.
 - 3.5.4. The Dedicated Schools Grant and in particular the Higher Needs Block which is forecast a **£2.8m** deficit in year, with a cumulative deficit of **£11.8m**.
 - 3.5.5. The areas above are expected to remain a prominent feature of the 2022/23 budget monitoring, as well as new emerging issues around the cost-of-living crisis. It is expected this crisis will affect demand for services across the Council as households come under extreme financial pressure.

Emerging issues

Adults Social Care

- 3.6. In August 2022 the Council received a joint letter from the Chief Executive of Torbay & South Devon NHS FT and Chief Executive of NHS Devon requesting £6m in-year funding to support meeting the financial pressures.
- 3.7. Rather than a direct contribution to the in-year costs, the Council is considering allocations of one-off monies to be invested into intervention activity to reduce the gap between the fixed price financial arrangement and the current reported total cost of delivering an integrated Adult Social Care service.
- 3.8. The Council has increased its oversight, with the establishment of weekly meetings with the Councils Chief Executive, Section 151 Officer and Director for Adults and Community Services, to oversee in partnership with ICO colleagues a Transformation and Sustainability Plan, to bring down the costs of delivery of ASC.
- 3.9. Progressing this work will be critical to the longevity of the relationship with the Integrated Care Organisation (ICO) and ensure the sustainable delivery of Adult Social Care.

Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers

- 3.10. Central Government has a statutory duty to accommodate people who are seeking asylum. An asylum seeker is someone who has left their country, often suddenly, because they are faced with persecution, war or violence and cannot get protection there. Due to the number of boats that cross the English Channel continuing to rise the Home Office is having to rely on using a range of approaches across the country to provide accommodation for those who have fled their country.
- 3.11. The Home Office has commissioned multiple properties across Torbay for this purpose. Prior to placement the Home Office conduct a determination of age, known as an Eritrean complaint age assessment.
- 3.12. Subsequent to placement in the original property, 22 individuals placed have challenged this age assessment and now require a Merton compliant age assessment and are presenting as under the age of 18. Whilst this is underway the Local Authority is responsible for the costs of providing alternative accommodation and supporting the process to ensure any safeguarding concerns are being appropriately managed.
- 3.13. The cost of providing the necessary alternative accommodation is up to £3,500 per week per person. Furthermore, in the event a judicial review is lodged, the basic cost is up to £100,000 per legal case.

- 3.14. In addition to the direct financial implications, there are also significant resource implications for the Children's Safeguarding teams to provide support to an additional 22 young people in addition to the statutory responsibilities to the pre-existing caseload. Staff from all areas across the services are being drawn upon to progress the age assessments and also provide overnight staff support at the Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) provision.
- 3.15. This presents challenges to effective care planning and longer-term work for the current Cared for Children (CFC) that were already being supported by the Council. Drift and delay as a result of this necessary reprioritisation of staff will likely cause further rising costs.
- 3.16. The latest estimated total cost, excluding any judicial review costs, are circa £1.25m. So far, there has been no confirmation that Local Authorities will be fully reimbursed for the total actual costs incurred from this situation. Councillors have met with the MP for Torbay and representatives from the Home Office to discuss this matter.
- 3.17. These costs are being reported centrally under Finance as these pressures relate to a Council-wide response to the situation.

Collection Fund

- 3.18. The establishment of the Collection Fund reserve formed part of the Budget for 2022/23. This reserve will, for a second year, meet the future impact of carrying forward the Covid related shortfall from 2020/21. This reserve funds the 2020/21 impact of the shortfall for the period 2021/22 – 2023/24.
- 3.19. Performance in 2021/22 was in line with forecast collection levels, namely a 2% reduction on pre Covid-19 collection rates.
- 3.20. As at the end of September collection on Council Tax was 51.62% and Business rates was 50.04%, so at the half-way point in the year, collection is roughly in line with forecast levels. However, this may worsen as we move into Autumn/Winter given the growing pressures facing households across the UK.
- 3.21. Households in Bands A-D have benefitted from a £150 of support for energy bills administered as a rebate for Council Taxpayers. This totals £8.398m for Torbay. Final payments under this scheme were made by 30th September 2022. If no application was made, the £150 was credited against their Council Tax bill to ensure no one misses out on this vital support.
- 3.22. There was a further £0.376m which has also been distributed. This support was been targeted at people who did not qualify for the main scheme, including Care Experienced young people and those living in registered HMO's.

- 3.23. Revised NNDR bills incorporating the 2021/22 Covid-19 Additional Relief Fund (CARF) have been sent to eligible businesses. Given the Government prescribed restrictions on eligibility this fund can only support businesses which missed out on the Retail Hospitality & Leisure (RHL) focussed support during the Covid-19 pandemic. This scheme will provide 100% relief on the 2021/22 bills. The total fund is £1.895m.
- 3.24. The announcement of the Energy Bill Relief Scheme that in essence provides a unit price cap on non-domestic energy supplies is expected to reduce the forecast overspend on utility bills. The exact impact is yet to be seen.

Capital

- 3.25. The Council is seeing extreme cost inflation in respect of Capital projects. As a result of this pressure several schemes that are in progress are facing rising costs. The viability of schemes supported by prudential borrowing are further impacted from the recent rises in borrowing rates.
- 3.26. As part of the 2022/23 budget a capital contingency of £4m was established, however based on latest scheme cost forecasts this was increased at Full Council with a specific allocation for the Harbour View project and revised governance arrangements established.
- 3.27. As at end October the Capital spend forecast of £39m with actual spend of £5.5m with commitments raised for a further £16.5m.

4. Grant Support

- 4.1. During 2022/23 the Council has received grant funding for several schemes including:
- 4.1.1. Household Support Fund (HSF) which we are now administering “round 2” of the HSF, totalling £1.2m. This funding was ringfenced to be a minimum 33% to be spent on pension age households and a minimum of 33% to be spent on households with children.
- 4.1.2. A third round was announced to cover the period October 2022 to March 2023 Torbay has been allocated £1.2m. This scheme focusses on providing support for food and utility bills. Whilst previous schemes had ringfencing on minimum allocations to households with pensioners or children, the Government has removed this requirement. This allocation has more flexibility for targeting support based on local need and this time will also be used to support ‘warm spaces’ and other community initiatives **in addition to** providing direct cash to households. Further details on how the scheme is to be administered will be available on the Councils website.
<https://www.torbay.gov.uk/household-support/>
- 4.1.3. Homes for Ukraine. Funding for this scheme is based on the number of people supported. As part of the latest quarterly return (Aug 2022) there were a total of 137 “newly arrived guests” resulting in a grant of £1.4m. Further financial support is paid to “hosts” totalling £350 per month. Link to guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-guidance-for-councils>

5. Wholly owned companies

- 5.1. This section contains a brief overview of the financial position for the Council's wholly owned companies. More detailed financial reporting about the Council's wholly owned Companies will be presented to Audit Committee on a regular basis and will form part of the final statement of accounts when presented to Audit Committee.
- 5.2. SWISCo. remains under financial pressure in terms of operational delivery due to rising costs of fuel, challenges to recruitment and retention. The NJC pay award has been agreed, which is a fixed £1,925 per full time employee. This has a disproportionate percentage impact on SWISCo given the average salary. As a result, the Council has agreed an additional £0.6m of funding to meet the shortfall in the pay award.
- 5.3. As at Quarter 2, this funding remains sufficient to ensure SWISCo. delivers a balanced budget after applying this support.
- 5.4. SWISCo has launched the garden waste service in November 2022.
- 5.5. Within the TDA Group, TorVista continues to operate with a higher level of deficit compared to their business plan. The accumulated deficit in the company to March 2022 was £0.8m with a further deficit of £0.35m forecast for the current year. Based on the current and forecast trading performance a request has been received to extend TorVista Home's working capital loan facility from £1.0m to £1.5m, which was approved on 13 October 2022 at Full Council.

6. Statement of Accounts – 2020/21 and 2021/22

- 6.1. The Council's auditors, Grant Thornton, presented their Audit Findings for 2020/21 at the Audit Committee on 6th December 2021. At the time of writing this report the 2020/21 accounts still remain unsigned by Grant Thornton. The 2021/22 audit has now been started. The Council's 2021/22 accounts can be accessed on the following link: <https://www.torbay.gov.uk/council/finance/statement-of-accounts/>
- 6.2. In order to provide reassurance to members, all outstanding work from Council officers has been completed and therefore the audit is fundamentally complete.
- 6.3. There are two outstanding items which Grant Thornton are considering. The first relates to the Council's existing TDA pension "pass through" arrangement and the second is a national issue related to the reporting of infrastructure assets. This matter is currently subject to a national solution being agreed. As a result, it's unlikely the accounts will be signed off until this consultation has concluded.
- 6.4. The protracted statement of accounts process continues to put significant pressure on the finance team, for whom the majority of the last year have been working concurrently on four separate financial years (2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24).

7. Service Budgets

- 7.1. The table below contains the forecast spend for the financial year 2022/23. The reporting hierarchy reflects the current Senior Leadership Team (SLT) Structure.
- 7.2. Please note all figures in the tables are shown in the unit thousands (£'000) and the figures and narrative are rounded to the nearest £1,000.

Service	Previous Year Actuals £'000	Current Budget £'000	Projected Outturn £'000	Outturn Variance £'000	Movement since mitigated Q1
Adult Services	44,214	45,682	45,675	(7)	(100)
Executive	2,827	3,208	3,617	410	86
Children's Services	45,742	45,378	46,974	1,597	6
Corporate Services	6,966	6,841	7,370	529	7
Finance	(10,592)	(7,154)	(8,760)	(1,606)	(165)
Investment Portfolio	(4,639)	(4,637)	(4,637)	0	0
Place	21,837	21,400	22,164	764	349
Public Health	9,809	10,100	10,100	-	294
	116,164	120,818	122,504	1,686	476

- 7.3. After mitigation the overall Council position shows an **overspend** of **£1.686m**. More information on the service variances is contained below.

Adult Services

- 7.4. The Director for Adults Services covers the three service areas shown below.

Service	Previous Year Actuals £'000	Current Budget £'000	Projected Outturn £'000	Outturn Variance £'000	Movement since mitigated Q1
Adult Services	44,214	45,682	45,675	(7)	(100)
Adult Social Care	41,264	43,373	43,223	(150)	(150)
Community Services	2,632	2,042	2,066	24	(69)
Customer Services	319	268	386	119	119

- 7.5. Overall Adults Services directorate shows a slight underspend of £0.007m.
- 7.6. Within **Adult Social Care** the majority of spend is against a fixed price financial arrangement (contract) for the delivery of services provided by the Integrated Care Organisation (ICO).

- 7.7. As mentioned earlier in the report the Council has received a request for additional financial support totalling £6m for 2022/23 and the Council is considering allocations of one-off monies to be invested into intervention activity to address fundamentally the cost pressures.
- 7.8. The new agreement for the delivery of Adult Social Care was signed in March 2022 and will commence in April 2023. This agreement will see an uplift of £5m for 2023/24, with a further £1.1m the following year. A new arrangement will need to be negotiated for 2025/26 onwards.
- 7.9. The movement within **Adults Services** is as a result of a £0.15m contract for Drug & Alcohol Rehabilitation work now being funded by Public Health.
- 7.10. **Community Services** has a shortfall on income. This represents the continued shortfall on income generating activity within the service which includes Licensing income of £60k and HMO Registration of a further £60k.
- 7.11. Temporary Accommodation is currently forecast to be on budget, after utilising service specific reserves to meet the extra demand the service is facing. As at the end of October 2022 there were 148 households living in Temporary Accommodation.
- 7.12. Work is underway to directly procure and lease property to increase the stability of accommodation options available to the Housing Options team. This stability will allow more work to be done to prevent homelessness and support households to find more permanent housing.
- 7.13. There remains considerable demand for housing in Torbay which is affecting this service significantly. The low availability of temporary options for individuals and family groups in need of temporary accommodation is resulting in significant cost increases. The “cost of living” crisis is likely to increase demand for this service.
- 7.14. Income projections are better than budgeted as a result of increased income from the operator of the Crematorium, which is linked to inflation, resulting in a forecast surplus of £61k in this service area.
- 7.15. **Customer services** continues to see increased demand as staff are involved in the administration of a number of key grant schemes in addition to all the usual support and advice provided by the service. Upon implementation of the Councils “CRM” system in future years more self-service options will be available for customers which will help to streamline straight-forward contact. The current staffing overspend may be later offset depending on the level of new burdens funding received for the Council Tax Rebate and admin budget within the Household Support Fund schemes.

Corporate Services & Executive

Service	Previous Year Actuals £'000	Current Budget £'000	Projected Outturn £'000	Outturn Variance £'000	Movement since mitigated Q1
Executive	2,827	3,208	3,617	410	86
Corporate Services	6,966	6,841	7,370	529	7

- 7.16. Within the Executive unit shows an overspend of £0.410m or 12.8% of the budget due to continued income shortfalls in traded services such as HR which also have overspends on staffing costs.
- 7.17. Within Corporate Services there is a forecast overspend of £0.529m or 7.7% of the budget. This is caused by significant, continued pressures within Legal Services:
- i) Challenges to recruit and retain suitably qualified staff result is forecast to result in £0.3m agency costs, which is partly offset by the vacant posts being covered.
 - ii) Reduced fee-earning work provides a further cost pressure of £0.2m on income.
- 7.18. The Divisional Director for Corporate Services has been working on mitigation for this position over the last year.
- 7.19. During this financial year the new provider of the print & post service begins the first phase of their service delivery.

Children's Services

Service	Previous Year Actuals £'000	Current Budget £'000	Projected Outturn £'000	Outturn Variance £'000	Movement since mitigated Q1
Children's Services	45,742	45,378	46,974	1,597	6
Schools Services	3,624	3,768	4,002	233	52
Children's Safeguarding	42,117	41,610	42,973	1,363	(47)

- 7.20. Overall Children's Services is experiencing significant financial pressure. In previous years this type of pressure and its cause were perceived as somewhat within the Local Authorities control. The recent improvements to the Ofsted rating to 'Good' and underspending for two years in a row demonstrates the Council has been influencing and improving outcomes through effective care planning coupled with equal parts scrutiny and support from the Council as a whole.

- 7.21. However, this year the pressures continue to be largely due to extreme external forces outside of the control of Council officers. These factors are affecting the provision and accessibility of placements for children and young people due to significantly increased demand for placements. This is demand for local placements is exacerbated by the demand arising from the increasing volume of cases allocated to Torbay through to the National and Regional allocation of Unaccompanied Asylum-seeking children (UASC) as well as other international support schemes. A proportion of which are cared for by the Local Authority but living elsewhere in the UK.
- 7.22. Within **Schools Services** Local Authority funded activities are reporting an overspend of £0.233m which represents 6.2% of the budget.
- 7.23. The overspend is contributed to through continued pressure with the provision of Home to School transport. This is because of rising fuel costs for transport providers as well as children and young people needing more bespoke arrangements to get to and from school.
- 7.24. Outside of Local Authority funded activities, the schools' higher needs block in the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) remains under financial pressure because of an increasing level of referrals from schools for higher needs support for children. The pace of demand is far outstripping increases in dedicated funding as has been the case for several years.
- 7.25. For 2022/23 the DSG is forecasting an overspend of **£2.8m**. As a result, the DSG cumulative deficit is forecast to be in excess of **£11.8m** by the end of the financial year.
- 7.26. The Council does not receive any funding for schools therefore the overspend will remain in the DSG to be funded from DSG in future years. The School and Early Year Finance (England) Regulations 2020 confirm that this is not a cost that the Council must fund. However, for how long this position is sustainable is not certain. At some point the deficit will need to be funded therefore it is essential that officers and members continue to focus on this key issue.
- 7.27. In 2020/21 and the following two financial years additional legislation has been passed that, for accounting purposes, reclassifies the deficit on the Council's balance sheet. There is currently uncertainty as to what will happen after the end of the three-year period, although an extension is expected, it is not yet confirmed.
- 7.28. The Council is part of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and Department for Education (DfE) Safety Valve programme. Formal discussions commenced in October, and we are due to submit a final recovery plan early in the new year. Agreements made with other councils suggest that if the council can deliver a balanced higher needs budget within a defined time period, all or some of the historic deficit may be funded by ESFA. However, this is dependent on the council being able to deliver a recovery plan that results in a balanced budget.

- 7.29. Within **Children’s Safeguarding** there is a forecast overspend of £1.363m (3.3%).
- 7.30. Driving this forecast are exceptionally high emergency placement costs at £25 – 30k per week. This serves as a reminder of the significance of the need for continued and rigorous whole Council support for this service given the financial impact if the number and cost of care rises.
- 7.31. The current picture is however now one of national level issues having a local impact. There are significant shortages of placements meaning both that existing placements are costing more, and that children & young people are unable to step down from residential to family-based settings such as fostering placements.
- 7.32. The cost of living will be putting increased stress on households across which may threaten the stability of current living arrangements and mean more families require support or intervention from the Council.
- 7.33. Such is the scale of the national challenge it is understood that other Councils are also reporting placing children as young as 3 years old in residential placements as a result of the inability to find suitable family-based alternatives.
- 7.34. Across the south west Councils are seeing increased numbers of Cared for Children, reliance on agency staff and number of children and young people placed out of area. This increased competition also drives the overall costs within the market even higher.
- 7.35. All of this means that despite the continued oversight, challenge and support from colleagues, external factors are now significantly influencing spend.
- 7.36. The table below shows a snapshot of the key placement figures as at the end of the most recently reported quarters, compared to previous years. The highest point for the year (max) also shown.

Placement types	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Residential Placement	March: 34 Max: 34	March: 31 Max: 44	March: 20 Max: 28	March: 23 Max: 24	Jul: 21 Oct: 21
Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) Placement	March: 95 Max: 95	March: 101 Max: 101	March: 80 Max: 101	March: 78 Max: 83	Jul: 87 Oct: 73
Total Cared for Children	March: 361 Max: 361	March: 356 Max: 368	March: 321 Max: 374	March: 299 Max: 315	Jul: 302 Oct: 322

- 7.37. As at July 2022 the above table includes 12 placements due to Torbay’s allocation of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) which increases the figures in 2022/23 as compared to previous years. As at October 2022 this allocation has increased to 26, which increases the total numbers even higher.
- 7.38. As the numbers of UASC supported increases there are wider resource impacts such as additional Social Workers, travel and accommodation costs for visits which puts further pressure on an already stretched staff and care provider market.

- 7.39. Overall, the table demonstrates that over time not only have the overall figures decreased steadily, the volatility within the placement type also appears to have stabilised.
- 7.40. Following successful recruitment and retention within the service, the total number of Agency staff employed has reduced from 49.3FTE in April 2021 to 22.3 FTE in October 2022. Again, the reduction seen has been steady over the last few financial years and helps provide stability within the workforce and therefore consistency when working with children and young people and their families.
- 7.41. As a result of the continued improvement, total Agency costs are forecast to be £2.3m. This is compared with a total spend in 2021/22 of £4.9m. This demonstrates that Torbay Council has achieved significant improvements to influence spend where it can, but we are now seeing significantly increased salary expectations within the agency market and stiff competition from other Councils that are offering higher and higher hourly rates to stabilise their own workforces.
- 7.42. The continued stability within placements and continued success of the Learning Academy in recruiting and retaining staff remains integral to delivering budgetary control in 2022/23 and beyond.
- 7.43. **Finance**

Service	Previous Year Actuals £'000	Current Budget £'000	Projected Outturn £'000	Outturn Variance £'000	Movement since mitigated Q1
Finance	(10,592)	(7,154)	(8,760)	(1,606)	(165)

- 7.44. Within Finance there is a new pressure as a result of the estimated unfunded pressure of £0.5m related to the costs of supporting the impact on council services of the asylum hostel, which is impacting a range of Council services, including the aforementioned need for age assessments carried out by Children's Services.
- 7.45. As part of setting the 2022/23 budget a few centrally held contingencies linked to inflation risks were held under finance and will be released to contribute toward the known cost pressures.
- 7.46. As the 2022/23 pay award has been confirmed the contingency held within finance has now been allocated to services. This leaves £0.75m to be released to support with general inflation and offset rising utility costs.
- 7.47. As a result of increased interest rates, the Council is expecting to receive £0.7m of additional interest on its cash balances and investments. Given the current low levels of spend on Capital projects, there is also a saving on interest payable by the Council as lower levels of spend means lower amounts are required to be borrowed, therefore reduced interest paid by the Council.
- 7.48. There is a further £0.2m gainshare declared from the gainshare arrangements from the Devon-wide Business Rates Pool.

7.49. Investment Portfolio

Service	Previous Year Actuals £'000	Current Budget £'000	Projected Outturn £'000	Outturn Variance £'000	Movement since mitigated Q1
Investment Portfolio	(4,639)	(4,637)	(4,637)	0	0

7.50. The Council's Investment Portfolio's mitigated position is balanced after the use of the investment property reserve to cover lost rent, holding costs and landlord works associated with the empty retail unit at Wren Park.

7.51. This means the Council's investment portfolio will still contribute £4.6m towards Council activity and maintain its Investment Fund Reserve which will help offset future pressures as and when they arise.

7.52. Any tenants with arrears are all actively engaging with colleagues in TDA and repayment plans arising from the covid lockdowns continue to be adhered to.

7.53. Council officers are closely monitoring existing loans made on commercial terms for any evidence of a required impairment where there is a risk that the loan will not be repaid.

7.54. Place

Service	Previous Year Actuals £'000	Current Budget £'000	Projected Outturn £'000	Outturn Variance £'000	Movement since mitigated Q1
Place	21,837	21,400	22,164	764	349
Place Operations	13,054	12,996	13,811	816	450
Place Commissioned	4,323	3,261	3,931	670	(62)
Planning, Housing & Climate Emergency	4,460	5,143	4,422	(722)	(39)

7.55. Within the Place directorate there is an overspend of **£0.764m** which represents 3.6% of the budget.

Place Operations

7.56. **Highways**, which is the service responsible for Torbay's street lighting is forecast to overspend by £0.27m. This figure is based on the latest utility price forecasts provided by our energy supplier. This is offset in part by the release of contingencies held under the Finance directorate. The impact of the announced 'cap' on non-domestic tariffs the Council will be known later in the year.

7.57. **Waste & Recycling** is forecasting an overspend of £0.6m as a result of SWISCo's request for additional £0.6m of financial support due to the implication of the pay award.

- 7.58. **Culture & Events.** Within Torre Abbey income, there is a £0.1m income shortfall because of reduced visitor numbers. This reflects the continued hesitancy to return to indoor visitor attractions even as the Covid restrictions have changed and possibly further contributed to by the re-opening of international holiday destinations.
- 7.59. Additional support for Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust has been requested, which adds a pressure of at least £0.25m through a £0.2m deficit funding and £50k of deferred repayments.
- 7.60. Currently **Parking Services** is forecast to return a surplus of £0.25m. Whilst summer income has been higher than last year, there remains significant uncertainty as to how the cost-of-living crisis will impact on residents and visitor behaviour over the coming months.

Place Commissioned

- 7.61. As part of the Place Commissioned service there are several operational assets managed by TDA which the Council pays the utility bills for. The increased utility costs within this service are forecast to result in an overspend of £0.34m.
- 7.62. There are increased security and health & safety related works carried out at Oldway which are forecast to cost £0.1m.
- 7.63. There are also continued pressures because of delays to the implementation of the solar farms costing £0.1m which were expected to generate a surplus for the Council.

7.64. Planning, Housing and Climate Emergency

- 7.65. Within Strategy & Project Management there is a forecast underspend of £0.683m is reported because of reduced costs for Concessionary Fares. The reduced costs are in part contributed to by fewer journeys being taken by concessionary fare passengers after the pandemic.

7.66. Public Health

Service	Previous Year Actuals £'000	Current Budget £'000	Projected Outturn £'000	Outturn Variance £'000	Movement since mitigated Q1
Public Health	9,809	10,100	10,100	-	294
	116,164	120,818	122,504	1,686	476

- 7.67. The movement within Public Health is due to reallocation of savings that were previously reported under Public Health but were for budgets held elsewhere in the Council. Overall Public Health is forecast to deliver a balanced budget, with spend being funded by the ringfenced grant.
- 7.68. Public Health colleagues continue to lead on the Council's response to emerging public health related issues such as the continued work on Covid-19 and supporting international resettlement schemes.

8. Risks & Sensitivity

8.1. There are a number of financial risks facing the Council as shown below:

Risk	Impact	Mitigation
Adult Social Care funding request	High	The Director of Adult Social Care is developing a range of interventions.
Future funding of DSG Deficit	High	Recovery meetings have been convened by the Chief Finance Officer to review any and all opportunities to locally influence this area of spend. The Council is also engaged in the Department for Educations Safety Valve program.
CPI at a 40 year high at 10.1% is having a major impact on both revenue and capital costs. The exact impact is still uncertain, e.g. pay award for 22/23 not yet paid to staff. Some council capital projects will no longer be affordable.	High	Inflation contingencies in both the 22/23 revenue and capital budgets. However, these may be inadequate. 23/24 budget "build" includes a higher than usual allowance for inflationary pressures.
Rise in borrowing rates	High	The council current portfolio is at fixed rates, so the recent rises do not impact, however all new borrowing is likely to be higher than forecast in the original scheme business cases.
The "cost of living" economic impact on the Council's residents from higher fuel and utility costs is likely to impact on both demand for council services and may result in reduced income from council tax.	High	The Council has established a cross council "cost of living" group to mitigate where possible the impact on council services and support/signpost residents to support. The council will continue to administer payments under both the Household Support Fund and Council tax Rebates.
Continued loss of income	High	Recovery meetings have been convened by the Chief Finance Officer for all the Council's main areas of income. Each group is tasked with developing an action plan to influence income where possible
Collection Fund shortfall	High	Additional resources allocated to support the Revenues & Benefits team and a review of debt recovery will be undertaken.

Fair Funding Formula	Medium	Development of a robust MTRP to address the expected impact on Torbay's funding. Timing of this funding change is now expected to be 2025/26 at the earliest.
Identification, and delivery, of savings as per Medium Term Resource Plan	High	Work on the Budget for 2023/24 started in May 2022 with service plan reviews taking place in June 2022 with Star Chambers in July 2023. Options will be reviewed by Senior Leadership Team in collaboration with Cabinet to consider options for future years.
Delivery of Children's Services cost reduction plan	Medium	Meetings continue to monitor the current rate of delivery against the identified actions from the Sufficiency Strategy.
Unable to recruit staff and need to use agency staff.	High	<p>Recruitment & retention of Social Work staff, particularly in safeguarding is still one of the core priorities for the Senior management team within Children's Services.</p> <p>This pressure is also being seen across a number of front-line services which are integral to the Council's "Summer Response Team" Work continues to identify solutions to these challenges which seem to be on a national scale.</p>
Additional demand and cost pressures for services, particularly in children's social care	Low	2022/23 Budget monitoring, use of service performance data and recovery plan.
Delivery of approved savings for 2022/23	Low	Further to regular budget monitoring for all budget holders, the Council's Senior Leadership Team receive monthly updates on the 2022/23 position.
Investment Property Income changes	High	The investment board will continue to review future leases and manage any potential break clause implications.