

<u>Meeting</u> Environment and Climate Change Committee
<u>Date and time</u> Monday 21st November, 2022 At 7.00 pm
<u>Venue</u> Hendon Town Hall, The Burroughs, London NW4 4BQ

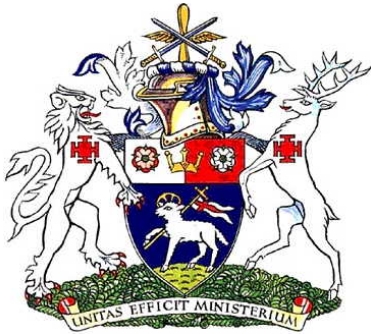
Dear Councillors,

Please find enclosed additional papers relating to the following items for the above mentioned meeting which were not available at the time of collation of the agenda.

Item No	Title of Report	Pages
11	Business Planning Report	3 - 22
13	Environment & Climate Change Forecast Financial Outturn month 6 (September 2022)	23 - 34

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**Environment and Climate Change
Committee
21st November 2022**

Title	Business Planning 2023-27
Report of	Chair of the Environment and Climate Change Committee
Wards	All
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	Yes
Enclosures	MTFS - Appendix
Officer Contact Details	Ndenko Asong, Head of Finance – Corporate Reporting Ndenko.asong@barnet.gov.uk

Summary

The council has refreshed its MTFS ahead of the budget setting process taking into account revised assumptions around inflation, service pressures and revised savings and income generation opportunities.

A Business Planning Report was received by Policy and Resources Committee on 29 September 2022 setting out the process which will take place for 2023/24 and future years in order to achieve a balanced budget.

Theme Committees are requested to consider their response to this challenge, by considering savings proposals to secure a balanced council budget (the same process as used in previous years).

Given the high level of uncertainty over the MTFS period related to inflationary pressures, the cost-of-living crisis and uncertainty around Government grant income, 3 scenarios were modelled in the 29 September Policy and Resources Committee paper. The central

scenario (Scenario B) estimates an overall budget gap of £10.443m in 2023/24 where additional savings would be required, and additional savings of £44.721m over the four years to 2026/27.

This report asks the Committee to agree to the revenue savings and note the pressures proposals attached.

The outcomes of all Theme Committee discussions will go forward as recommendations to Policy and Resources Committee in December 2022 and be subject to public consultation and an equality impact assessment at a later stage.

Officers Recommendations

- 1. That the Environment and Climate Change Committee consider and approve the savings proposals and note the pressures that relate to the committee as set out in MTFS - Appendix and refer these recommendations on to Policy and Resources Committee.**
- 2. That the Committee delegate authority to the Deputy Chief Executive Officer in consultation with the Chair of Environment and Climate Change Committee to make any amendments to the savings detailed in MTFS - Appendix before they are recommended to P&R Committee to form part of the overall MTFS.**

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 This report is required as part of the council's annual business planning process, to discuss and approve priorities for the Environment and Climate Change Committee for 2023/24 to 2026/27.
- 1.2 The Committee's approval is requested for:
 - 1.2.1 Savings and pressures proposals within its authority so they can then be recommended to Policy and Resources (P&R) Committee to support the setting of a balanced budget for 2023/24.
 - 1.2.2 Delegation of powers to the deputy chief executive in consultation with the chair of the committee to make necessary amendments to the proposals where appropriate before final submission to the P&R committee.

2. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

2.1 Background to 2022/23 Business Planning

- 2.1.1 The council has a statutory duty to set a balanced budget for the coming financial year and uses the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) to estimate the budget position for the following three years. Savings proposals for future years are identified and proposed to Committee. Savings proposals

for all years are proposed through Theme committees, recommended to Policy and Resources Committee, and then on to Full Council in March to be approved.

2.2 Approach to MTFS 2023-27

2.2.1 Likely resources available across the MTFS have been reviewed. The council remains firmly in control of its spending and continues to invest in priority areas identified by residents, partner agencies and councillors; and to redirect resources from lower priority activities.

2.2.2 The availability of ongoing resources to support council activity is uncertain. In the context of this uncertainty, the council is planning on using a range of scenarios, so that the financial outlook can be mapped from different perspectives and the necessary decisions taken in a timely way and in the light of the available information.

2.2.3 This MTFS review has, therefore, been prepared in a different way than usual, as set out in the Business Planning paper presented at Policy and Resources Committee on September 29 (See link to report – [Business Planning 2023 - 2027](#)).

2.2.4 This allows a clear analysis of where there is more, or less certainty in the MTFS period, and highlights current areas of higher uncertainty, and the possible impact of those. The areas of uncertainty will be reduced as we get closer to approving the budget. As this happens the MTFS which supports the budget report will remove the scenarios and replace them with a single set of likely estimates, based on the most recent information.

2.2.5 It is anticipated that a combination of government announcements, local political decisions, and the further development of service financial plans will reduce the overall level of uncertainty substantially by March 2023 when the budget is set.

2.3 MTFS September Summary – Scenario B ‘Base case’

2.1.1 The main assumptions underlying Scenario B are as shown in the table below:

Scenario B assumptions	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Non-pay inflation	7.97%	4.00%	1.50%	1.90%
Business Rates Multiplier increases	7.97%	4.00%	1.50%	1.90%
Revenue Support Grant	7.97%	4.00%	1.50%	1.90%
Public Health Grant	7.97%	4.00%	1.50%	1.90%
New Homes Bonus (£m)	(1.200)	(1.200)	(1.200)	(1.200)
2022/23 Services Grant	(4.049)	(4.049)	(4.049)	(4.049)

New Social Care Grant	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
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2.1.2 This scenario assumes that inflation will be significant over the next two years but will drop to more manageable levels in the third year.

2.1.3 The assumptions underlying Scenario B over the five years to 2026/27 would result in a budget gap of £10.443m for 2023/24 and additional savings of £44.721m being required for expected expenditure to be sustainable within expected income as shown below.

MTFS Summary	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Resources vs. Expenditure	£m	£m	£m	£m
Expenditure	382.505	414.566	437.274	458.744
Resources	(363.426)	(375.037)	(386.757)	(398.014)
Cumulative (Surplus)/Shortfall to Balanced Budget	19.079	39.529	50.518	60.730
In Year Budget Gap before Savings	19.079	30.893	36.892	46.336
Efficiencies and Income Generation options Proposed	(8.636)	(4.989)	(0.668)	(1.716)
(Surplus)/Shortfall to Balanced Budget	10.443	25.904	36.224	44.721
In year savings requirement	19.079	20.451	10.988	10.212

2.4 Committee Context

2.4.1 The council has several priorities that the Environmental and Climate Change Committee are responsible for either in whole or in part.

2.4.1.1 All borough-wide or cross-area matters relating to the local environment including: Air Quality, Cycling, Walking and Healthy Streets, Biodiversity, Transport and Public Transport, Grounds Maintenance, Highways, On-Street and Off-Street Parking, Road Safety, Lighting, Street Cleaning, Environmental Crime (including littering, fly-tipping fly-posting, and graffiti), The Council's Fleet, Waste and Recycling, Waterways, Parks and Open Spaces (including allotments and trees), Cemeteries, Crematoria and Mortuaries, Trading Standards and Environmental Health (except Environmental Health functions relating to housing and fire safety).

2.4.1.2 The council's response to the climate emergency.

2.5 In-year (2022/23) Management and Risks

2.1.4 The financial position for the current year continues to be marked by uncertainty over inflationary pressures, the cost-of-living crisis and ongoing impact on service demand.

2.1.5 The services conduct monthly reviews of impact of these macro-economic events on the deliverability of services. This could at times, result in the delays or ability to deliver high quality services.

2.1.6 The macro-economic environment is to remain challenging for businesses and personal households. Increases in energy and utilities costs, may cause higher cost of delivering services and may also impact on the income generation capabilities of the service as households curtail on their spending habits.

2.6 Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)

2.6.1 Theme Committees have been asked to set out savings proposals to contribute to the council's overall savings requirement and offset suggested pressures. MTFS - Appendix shows proposed savings for Environment and Climate Change Committee for 23-24 to 26-27.

2.6.2 A summary of the MTFS for the ECC could be found in the tables below.

2.6.3 Savings/Income proposals totalling £2.6m over the next four years were agreed in the September 2022 P&R committee, whilst anticipated pressures of £1.7m over the same time period were also noted.

2.6.4 Review of the MTFS plan by delegated officers continues to take place and any updates will be reported to P&R committee in December 2022 for adoption.

Table 3 - MTFS Pressures

	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Street Scene & Environment	0.450	-	0.170	-	0.620
Highways & Transport	0.600	-	-	-	0.600
Greenspaces	0.251	0.189	0.087	-	0.526
Total	1.301	0.189	0.257	0.000	1.746

Table 4 - MTFS Savings

	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Street Scene & Environment	(0.785)	(0.820)	(0.146)	(0.340)	(2.091)
Highways & Transport	(0.050)	(0.075)			(0.125)
Greenspaces	(0.082)	(0.281)			(0.363)
Total	(0.917)	(1.176)	(0.146)	(0.340)	(2.579)

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Local Government continues to face significant reductions in funding and increased demand for services, as set out in the above context. These challenges require longer term, robust financial and strategic planning and the recommendations in this report support this.
- 3.2 By law, the council is required to set a balanced budget. These proposals are the best way of doing that by meeting financial requirement and delivering outcomes and ambitions for Barnet.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 4.1 The alternative options are not to propose any savings or fewer savings. This, however, may expose the council to the risk of not achieving a balanced budget. There is a statutory requirement to set a balanced budget and the savings proposed will help towards this.

5. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 5.1 If the Environment and Climate Change Committee approves the recommendations made by this report, then the savings proposals and Fees and Charges agreed previously will be referred to Policy and Resources Committee on 13th December 2022 as part of the council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). Public consultation on the MTFS will commence in December.

6. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

6.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 6.1.1 This report supports the administration's priorities. This includes the **outcomes** we want to achieve for the borough, the **priorities** we will focus limited resources on, and our **approach** for how we will deliver this.
- 6.1.2 The approach for delivering on this is underpinned by four strands; ensuring residents get a fair deal, maximising on opportunities, sharing responsibilities with the community and partners, and working effectively and efficiently.

6.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 6.2.1 The Environment and Climate Change Committee savings programme will enable the council to meet its savings target as set out in the MTFS. These budgets will be formally agreed each year, and individual proposals will be subject to appropriate consultation and equality impact assessments where necessary. For this reason, the proposals are subject to change.

6.2.2 The outcomes of all Theme Committee savings discussions will go forward as recommendations to Policy and Resources Committee in December 2022 and Full council in March 2023.

6.2.3 The council is required by law to set a balanced budget for each financial year. It is also good financial management to set a Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for a further 3–5-year period. The proposals in this report will support the council in its legal obligations in setting a balanced budget through increasing income receipts to finance revenue expenditure.

6.2.4 Where costs recovered do not meet expected and planned resources, officers will seek to align with the overall financial envelope within the remit of this Committee, through appropriate mitigation plans. The Financial Regulations, part of the council's Constitution, are clear, *Chief Officers have no authority to overspend revenue budgets, or under-recover income budgets under their control.*

6.3 Social Value

6.3.1 None are applicable to this report; however, the council must consider the requirements of the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 to try to maximise the social and local economic value it derives from its procurement spend. The Barnet living wage is an example of where the council has considered its social value powers.

6.4 Legal and Constitutional References

6.4.1 Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 states that: “without prejudice to section 111, every local authority shall make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs and shall secure that one of their officers has responsibility for the administration of those affairs”. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 relates to the subsidiary powers of local authorities.

6.4.1.1 Local authorities owe 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, the need to strike a fair balance between the interests of council taxpayers and ratepayers and the community's interest in adequate and efficient services and the need to act in good faith in relation to compliance with statutory duties and exercising statutory powers.

6.4.1.2 Local authorities have a variety of powers to charge for specific statutory services set out in statute. The Local Government Act 2003 also provides a power to trade and a power to charge for discretionary services, the latter on a cost recovery basis. Discretionary services are those that a local authority is permitted to provide under statute but is not obliged to do so. The power to charge for discretionary services is not available to local authorities if there is a statutory duty to provide the service or if there is a specific power to charge for it or if there is a prohibition on charging for the service.

- 6.4.1.3 Additionally, the Localism Act 2011 provides local authorities with a general power of competence that confers on them the power to charge for services but again subject to conditions/limitations similar to those noted above.
- 6.4.1.4 Where authorities have a duty to provide a statutory service free of charge to a certain standard, no charge can be made for delivery to that standard, however delivery beyond that point may constitute a discretionary service for which a charge could be made.
- 6.4.1.5 The savings proposals are to be referred to Policy and Resources Committee. They will then be subject to consultation and a cumulative equality impact assessment before being referred on to Council so that Council may set the Council Tax, being mindful of any equality impacts and consultation responses.
- 6.4.1.6 The Council's Constitution (Article 7, Article 7 – Committees, Forums, Working Groups and Partnerships) sets out the responsibilities of all council Committees. The responsibilities of the Environment and Climate Change Committee include:
- (1) *Responsibility for all borough-wide or cross-area matters relating to the local environment including:*
- *Air quality*
 - *Cycling, walking and healthy streets*
 - *Biodiversity*
 - *Transport and public transport*
 - *Grounds maintenance*
 - *Highways*
 - *On-street and off-street parking*
 - *Road safety*
 - *Lighting*
 - *Street cleansing*
 - *Environmental crime (including littering, fly-tipping, fly-posting, and graffiti)*
 - *The council's fleet*
 - *Waste and Recycling*
 - *Waterways*
 - *Parks and open spaces (including allotments and trees)*
 - *Cemeteries, crematoria, and mortuary*
 - *Trading standards and environmental health (except environmental health functions relating to housing and fire safety)*
- (2) *Responsibility for the council's response to the climate emergency including:*
- *Setting and overseeing implementation of carbon reduction targets, both in relation to the council as an organisation and Barnet as a place.*
 - *Developing strategies to meet those carbon reduction targets.*
 - *Developing strategies for the mitigation of the impacts of climate change, both on the council as an organisation and Barnet as a place.*

- *Implementing the elements of those strategies that relate to functions listed in (1) above.*
- (3) *To submit to the Policy and Resource (P&R) committee proposals relating to the committee's budget (including fees and charges) for the following year in accordance with the budget timetable.*
 - (4) *To make recommendations to P&R committee on issues relating to the budget for the committee, including virements or underspends and overspends on the budget. No decisions which result in amendments to the agreed budget may be made by the committee unless and until the amendment has been agreed by P&R committee.*
 - (5) *To receive reports on relevant revenue and capital expenditure, contracts, performance information and risk on the services under the remit of the committee.*

6.4.2 Some of the proposals, relate to savings resulting from operational decisions being made in a different way and are therefore estimated savings. The saving is therefore an indicative saving, and its deliverability will be dependent on a number of factors. As part of the budget setting process, Policy and Resources Committee will consider the need for an appropriate contingency to cover any savings that are indicative and may not be met due to operational decisions. Some of the proposals in the MTFS relate to proposals that are at a very early stage. These proposals will be subject to further business planning and decision making to test whether they can be delivered and what the impact of such a proposal will be. These proposals will be considered in further detail during future business planning reports.

6.4.3 All proposals emerging from the business planning process will need to be considered in terms of the council's legal powers and obligations (including, specifically, the public-sector equality duty under the Equality Act 2010).

6.5 Risk Management

6.5.1 The Council has taken steps to improve its risk management processes by integrating the management of financial and other risks facing the organisation. The allocation of an amount to contingency is a step to mitigate the pressures that had yet to be quantified during the budget setting process.

6.5.2 The allocation of budgets from contingency seeks to mitigate financial risks which have materialised.

6.6 Equalities and Diversity

6.6.1 Equality and diversity issues are a mandatory consideration in the decision making of the council.

6.6.2 Decision makers should have due regard to the public sector equality duty in making their decisions. The Equality Act 2010 and the Public-Sector Equality

Duty require elected Members to satisfy themselves that equality considerations are integrated into day-to-day business and that all proposals emerging from the business planning process have taken into consideration the impact, if any, on any protected group and what mitigating factors can be put in place. The equalities duties are continuing duties they are not duties to secure a particular outcome. The statutory grounds of the public sector equality duty are found at section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 and are as follows:

- 6.6.3 A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:
- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act.
 - advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
 - Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- 6.6.4 Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard to the need to:
- remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic.
 - take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it.
 - Encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
- 6.6.5 The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.
- 6.6.6 Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, to the need to:
- Tackle prejudice, and
 - Promote understanding.
- 6.6.7 Compliance with the duties in this section may involve treating some persons more favourably than others; but that is not to be taken as permitting conduct that would otherwise be prohibited by or under this Act. The relevant protected characteristics are:
- Age
 - Disability
 - Gender reassignment
 - Pregnancy and maternity
 - Race,
 - Religion or belief

- Sex
- Sexual orientation
- Marriage and Civil partnership

6.6.8 This is set out in the council's Equalities Policy together with our strategic Equalities Objective - as set out in the Corporate Plan - that citizens will be treated equally with understanding and respect; have equal opportunities and receive quality services provided to best value principles.

6.6.9 Progress against the performance measures we use is published on our website at:

www.barnet.gov.uk/info/200041/equality_and_diversity/224/equality_and_diversity

6.6.10 Where there are changes to service delivery or changes to staff, these will impact on individuals in different ways. However, at each stage of the process, the council will conduct an equalities impact assessment (EIA) where appropriate to ensure that where persons are impacted, proper measures are considered to mitigate the effect as far as possible. The savings proposed are not anticipated to have an impact on service delivery, customer satisfaction or on protected groups. Where necessary, proposals will not be implemented or agreed until members have fully considered the equality impacts and responses to any consultation.

6.6.11 The revenue savings sheet shown in Appendix A shows where an equalities impact assessment has been carried out/considered for the savings proposals.

6.6.12 All human resources implications will be managed in accordance with the Council's Managing Organisational Change policy, which supports the Council's Human Resources Strategy and meets statutory equalities duties and current employment legislation.

6.7 Corporate Parenting

6.7.1 In line with Children and Social Work Act 2017, the council has a duty to consider Corporate Parenting Principles in decision-making across the council. There are no implications for Corporate Parenting in relation to this report.

6.8 Consultation and Engagement

6.8.1 As a matter of public law, the duty to consult with regards to proposals to vary, reduce or withdraw services will arise in four circumstances:

- where there is a statutory requirement in the relevant legislative framework
- where the practice has been to consult, or, where a policy document states the council will consult, then the council must comply with its own practice or policy
- exceptionally, where the matter is so important that there is a legitimate expectation of consultation

Where consultation is required to complete an equalities impact assessment.

- 6.8.2 Regardless of whether the council has a duty to consult, if it chooses to consult, such consultation must be carried out fairly. In general, a consultation can only be considered as proper consultation if:
- comments are genuinely invited at the formative stage
 - the consultation documents include sufficient reasons for the proposal to allow those being consulted to be properly informed and to give an informed response
 - there is adequate time given to the consultees to consider the proposals
 - there is a mechanism for feeding back the comments and those comments are considered by the decision-maker / decision-making body when making a final decision
 - the degree of specificity with which, in fairness, the public authority should conduct its consultation exercise may be influenced by the identity of those whom it is consulting
 - where relevant and appropriate, the consultation is clear on the reasons why and extent to which alternatives and discarded options have been discarded. The more intrusive the decision, the more likely it is to attract a higher level of procedural fairness.
- 6.8.3 The council will perform a budget consultation during December 2022 through to January 2022. This consultation will cover any proposals to increase council tax together with seeking views on the council's budget overall.
- 6.8.4 In terms of service specific consultations, the council has a duty to consult with residents and service users in several different situations including proposals to significantly vary, reduce or withdraw services. Consultation is also needed in other circumstances, for example to identify the impact of proposals or to assist with complying with the council's equality duties. Service specific consultations will take place where necessary in line with timescales for any changes to be implemented.
- 6.8.5 If when council sets the budget envelope some service specific consultations have not been completed, then Council will allow a contingency so that decision makers may make alternative decisions should there be undesirable equalities impacts.
- 6.8.6 Where appropriate, separate service specific consultations have already taken place for the 2023/24 savings and a link to the report presenting findings of the consultation is provided within the MTFs spreadsheet (Appendix A). Policy and Resources Committee has reviewed all fees and charges which form part of the budget that is subject to public consultation between October and November 2022. Subject to public consultation outcomes, the Policy and Resources Committee recommended all fees and charges to Full Council for approval from January 2023 except for the Parking charges, which will be effective from April 2023.

6.9 **Insight**

6.9.1 None in the context of this report

7. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

7.1 Barnet Plan Policy and Resources Committee 19th July August - [Revised budget 2022/23 and Business Planning 2023-2027](#)

7.2 Business Planning and in-year financial management 29th September - [Business Planning 2023 - 2027](#)

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MTFS Pressures

	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Street Scene & Environment	0.450		0.170		0.620
Highways & Transport	0.600				0.600
Greenspaces	0.251	0.189	0.087		0.526
Total	1.301	0.189	0.257		1.746

MTFS Savings

	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Street Scene & Environment	(0.785)	(0.820)	(0.146)	(0.340)	(2.091)
Highways & Transport	(0.050)	(0.075)			(0.125)
Greenspaces	(0.082)	(0.281)			(0.363)
Total	(0.917)	(1.176)	(0.146)	(0.340)	(2.579)

MTFS - Savings/Income Proposals

Street Scene MTFS 2023/24 - 2026/27 Options Summary

Line Ref	Outcome	Theme Committee	Description of saving	Impact on Customer Satisfaction	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	Total savings £m
Existing MTFS Commitments									
ENV5	Outcome 4: Clean, Safe & Well Run	Environment & Climate Change	Parking - A review of services and policies to ensure a consistent, fair approach to improving traffic, highway air quality and road safety. Meeting existing unaddressed needs and demands on the highway.	This saving is not anticipated to have an adverse impact on customer satisfaction and it is possible that it may enhance perception that the Council provides value for money.	(0.750)	(0.750)			(1.500)
SSOP1	Outcome 4: Clean, Safe & Well Run	Environment & Climate Change	Income generation from 500+ EV charge points installed in residential roads.	Positive impact as aligning with customer demand for EV's and need to charge where properties do not have off road parking available.	0.186	0.071	(0.126)	(0.310)	(0.179)
SSOP2	Outcome 4: Clean, Safe & Well Run	Environment & Climate Change	Commercial income generation pilot - Grounds Maintenance & Street Cleansing	No impact on statutory or general public services. Increased service offer for commercial operations within Borough.	(0.015)	(0.017)	(0.020)	(0.030)	(0.082)
SSOP5	Outcome 4: Clean, Safe & Well Run	Environment & Climate Change	Stop/reduce pleasant parks littering activity	Potential negative effect on satisfaction in the short term resulting from any change to existing arrangements.	(0.169)	(0.124)			(0.293)
SSOP6	Outcome 4: Clean, Safe & Well Run	Environment & Climate Change	Stop/reduce weed spray treatments across Borough	Reduced used of glycoposphates which is in keeping with environmental goals and objectives.	(0.037)				(0.037)
Total					(0.785)	(0.820)	(0.146)	(0.340)	(2.091)

Highways MTFS 2023/24 - 2026/27 Options Summary								
Line Ref	Theme Committee	Description of saving	Impact on Customer Satisfaction	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	Total savings £m
Existing MTFS Commitments								
ENV27	Environment & Climate Change	Improved Management of Skips placed on the Public Highway - Utilise available legislation to better manage the safety impact of skips being placed on the Public Highway, including ensuring that all skips placed have been approved with appropriate Licences and that such licence conditions are fully compliant. Whilst there will be costs involved in increased resources to monitor this activity there are also mechanisms within the legislation to recover costs where non-compliance is evident. Currently a low level of compliance is occurring and this raises safety concerns for all highway users and therefore increased focus in this area will be beneficial for all.	Potential positive impact on customer satisfaction as current unregulated activity is brought into a structured compliance framework	(0.050)	(0.075)			(0.125)
Total				(0.050)	(0.075)			(0.125)

Greenspaces MTFS 2023/24 - 2026/27 Options Summary

Line Ref	Theme Committee	Opportunity Area	Outcome	Description of saving	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	Total savings £m
ENV11	Environment & Climate Change	Greenspaces	Outcome 2: Family Friendly	Delivery of West Hendon Playing Fields Masterplan. Saving is predicated on securing capital investment to deliver financial benefit. Detail will be presented in the Outline Business Case to be presented to Committee for approval.		(0.200)			(0.200)
ENV13	Environment & Climate Change	Greenspaces	Outcome 2: Family Friendly	Introduction of semi-permanent café buildings at five sites within the Borough, generating revenue through lease arrangements. Purchase and installation of five cafes at £150k each, funded by ten-year loan. First year surplus estimated at £24k for five sites, allowing for loan repayment and interest. Saving is predicated on securing capital investment to deliver financial benefit.	(0.024)	(0.024)			(0.048)
ENV14	Environment & Climate Change	Greenspaces	Outcome 2: Family Friendly	Improvement plan for tennis delivery and facilities within Barnet. Introduction of booking system and programme of investment in facilities, with the intention of establishing sustainable, revenue-generating model. Saving is predicated on securing capital investment to deliver financial benefit, detail will be outlined in the Business Case.	(0.038)	(0.037)			(0.075)
ENV16	Environment & Climate Change	Greenspaces	Outcome 2: Family Friendly	Consideration as to the possibility of establishing a trading arm for trees service, offering tree management and policy services to neighbouring local authorities as a commercial enterprise. Initial investment required to confirm feasibility and approach to matters including legal, governance and resources required.	(0.020)	(0.020)			(0.040)
Total					(0.082)	(0.281)			(0.363)

MTFS - Pressures							
Theme Committee	Service	Description	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total
			£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Environment and Climate Change	Highways and Transport Management	Re - Highways Decapitalisation	0.500				0.500
Environment and Climate Change	Re Highways Service	Capital Betterment Lump Sum – moving to revenue – funded through reserves in 2022/23 – moving to fully revenue in 23/24 - £100,000 is the remainder for final transfer to revenue.	0.100				0.100
Environment and Climate Change	Street Scene	Growth in number of properties and household waste collection	0.170		0.170		0.340
Environment and Climate Change	Street Scene	Town Keeper x 1.5 - To cover West Hendon and Hendon to cover the redeployment within the area.	0.080				0.080
Environment and Climate Change	Street Scene	Loss of Highways Responsive Works income of £0.200m arising from transfer of delivery to Tarmac Kier from Re.	0.200				0.200
Environment and Climate Change	Environment Management	Mortuary Service	0.072	0.079	0.087		0.237
Environment and Climate Change	Greenspaces and Leisure	To meet the demands of maintaining the additional £7.9m of asset investments in our parks and open spaces as well as additional £5m planned over the next two years. This will also cover the introduction of an annual inspection of all greenspaces, a proactive approach to the maintenance of our parks and open spaces.	0.079	0.050			0.129
Environment and Climate Change	Greenspaces and Leisure	Playground Maintenance Required to meet the maintenance of 1,523 of playground assets, an increase from 871 three years ago. The maintenance budget as not been increased in line with the investment into playgrounds over the same period.	0.055	0.030			0.085
Environment and Climate Change	Greenspaces and Leisure	Use of market expert to manage increased volume of event applications. This will result in improved scrutiny as well as increased business opportunities for a more diversified and enhanced events programme.	0.045	0.030			0.075
Total			1.301	0.189	0.257		1.746

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Environment and Climate Change Committee

21 November 2022

Title	Environment and Climate Change Forecast Financial Outturn at Month 6 (September 2022)
Report of	Chair of the Environmental and Climate Change Committee
Wards	All
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	No
Enclosures	None.
Officer Contact Details	Ndenko Asong, Head of Finance – Customer and Place and, Corporate Reporting ndenko.asong@barnet.gov.uk
Summary	
This report contains a summary of the Committee’s revenue and capital forecast outturn for the financial year 2022-23 as at Month 6 (30 September 2022).	
Recommendations	
That the committee notes: 1. the current forecast financial outturn for 2022-23, for capital and revenue budgets. 2. the projected use of reserves as they relate to this committee’s budgets.	

1 Summary

1.0 This report sets out the forecast outturn position for the 2022-23 financial year as at 30th September 2022 for the services which fall within the Environment and Climate Change Committee.

1.1 At month 6, the forecast financial outturn is:

- Overall, a forecast revenue budget overspends of £0.914m
- A forecast net use of reserves of £2.956m.

2. Forecast Position at Month 6

2.1 As at month 6, the forecast revenue outturn is a £0.914m overspend against the approved budget for 2022-23. This is outlined in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Forecast Revenue Outturn at Month 6

	2022-23 Budget	Actuals to 30/09/2022	Month 6 (Forecast outturn before reserves)	Month 6 Variance	Reserves applied	Month 6 Forecast outturn after reserves	Month 6 variance after reserves	Month 5 variance	In-Month change
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Green Spaces & Leisure	1.612	0.873	2.349	0.737	(0.738)	1.611	(0.001)	(0.001)	0.001
Mortuary and Coroner's Services	0.569	0.291	0.708	0.140	-	0.708	0.140	0.140	-
Streetscene	12.996	12.726	14.806	1.811	(1.067)	13.739	0.744	0.535	0.209
Guaranteed Income	(11.878)	(3.644)	(11.878)	-	-	(11.878)	-	-	-
Re Managed Budgets	2.875	0.465	4.057	1.182	(1.151)	2.906	0.031	0.026	0.005
RE Management Fee	18.038	13.208	18.038	-	-	18.038	-	-	-
Total	24.210	23.918	28.080	3.870	(2.956)	25.124	0.914	0.700	0.214

2.2 Table 2 provides a breakdown of the variances as at Month 6 and underlying budget position.

Table 2: Month 6 variance detailed commentary

Service Areas	Month 6 variance after reserves	Commentary
	£m	
Green Spaces & Leisure	-(0.001)	This is currently forecast to budget (approximately) however energy usage pattern and impact of rising costs are being reviewed and may have an adverse impact in the months ahead.
Mortuary and Coroner's Services	0.140	Overspend relates to the contribution towards the sinking fund (£0.082m) for the costs for Wave 3 Excess Death Partnership. This is in accordance with the Inter Authority Agreement to manage COVID related deaths across London authorities to 31 March 2023. Unused funds are to be returned at the end of the Program. At month 6, the cost is transferred from the Environment COVID cost centre to Mortuary. £0.049m overspend in corners court relating to Staffing, agency and contract renewal costs.
Street scene	0.744	£0.306m overspend is still forecasted for the Direct Labour Organisation (DLO). This includes an income shortfall from the minor works and sign shop. There is a forecast £0.106m income shortfall in commercial waste. Additional £0.308m and £0.110m from garden waste and levy respectively are offsetting the above. A mid-year review of the parking account shows a forecast overspend of £0.722m (see Table 6). As this continues to be reviewed, there is a possibility that the shortfall income will increase the pressure to the account (see risk table).
Guaranteed Income	0.000	Forecast on budget
Re Managed Budgets	0.031	Adverse variance driven by a £0.047m estimated overspend on Drainage - Gully Cleansing, with the amounts due to contractor TKJV being higher than the allocated budget. There is a £0.035m overspend forecast for NRSWA as well as a £0.030m overspend forecast in parking design. These overspends are mitigated by forecast underspends in works for planned crossovers (£0.010m), public right of way (£0.011m) and £0.060m underspend in other areas of routine works.
RE Management Fee	0.000	Forecast on budget
Total	0.914	

Application of Reserves

- 2.3 The council holds reserves to deal with future pressures where the value or the timing of the pressure is uncertain, or where the funding can only be spent on specific objectives (e.g. grant funding). Reserves are divided into 'earmarked' reserves, where the spending objective is known with some clarity, and 'general' reserves, intended to mitigate the impact of wholly unforeseeable costs. The levels of reserves are set out under Section 25 of the Local Government Act and prudent levels are determined by the CFO. Earmarked reserves are usually held by specific services, while general reserves are held corporately.
- 2.4 The use of reserves is not intended to replace savings or income generation opportunities as part of the MTFs. Reserves can only be used once and then they are gone. Any use of reserves to replace savings or income generation opportunities is a delaying action, storing up pressures into future years. This could be part of investing in transformational service delivery and is the ultimate last resort during budget setting when a gap cannot be bridged despite best efforts.
- 2.5 This report sets out anticipated use of or top up of earmarked service reserves within the service. The table below provides further detail. All items of expenditure being funded by reserves at this stage are expected to be one-off in nature.

Table 3 Use of or top-up of reserves at Month 4

Service Areas	Forecast (drawdown)/ top-up to reserves	Commentary
	£m	
Green Spaces & Leisure	(0.738)	£0.439m Earmarked reserve drawdown to support 5-year Tree planting program. £0.299m Earmarked reserve funded Pleasant Park Program to deal with increased demand and environmental related issues.
Mortuary and Coroner's Services	0.000	
Street scene	(1.067)	£0.150m Loss of commercial waste income £0.095m loss of income for vehicle cleansing £0.122m for SS agency covers. £0.350m Community skips £0.300m residential roads deep cleansing £0.050m invasive weed control
Guaranteed Income	0.000	
Re Managed Budgets	(1.151)	£0.359m earmarked flood grant from Environment Agency £0.262m allowance for pending commercial claims from Term Maintenance contractor £0.030m feasibility study for A1000 £0.500m additional top-up to fund Capital Betterment lump sum
RE Management Fee	0.000	
Total - Environment and Climate Change Committee	(2.956)	

Savings

2.6 The committee's budget for 2022-23 includes planned savings of £2.054m; of which it is current forecast that £1.983m of these savings will be achieved.

Table 4 Savings Delivery 2022-23

Savings Reference	Opportunity By Area	Description of saving	2022-23 Savings £m	Forecast Achievable £m	Unachievable £m	RAG Rating
ENV29	Street Scene-Parking	Rebanding. Assumes approved (GLA) and implemented for full year (https://www.london.gov.uk/decisions/md2875-lb-barnet-request-change-penalty-charge-notice-levels)	(0.966)	(0.966)	0	Delivered
ENV30	Street Scene-Waste	Lower than expected operating cost of travelling to new disposal points due to use of alternative operational model. .	(0.412)	(0.412)	0	Green
ENV31	Street Scene-Environment Management	Senior Management Review	(0.200)	(0.200)	0	Delivered
ASU_NewIncome1	Community Safety	FPN / Enforcement penalties by CST (littering Fly tipping trade waste etc) estimated	(0.431)	(0.360)	0.071	Amber
ENV14	Greenspaces	Improvement plan for tennis delivery and facilities within Barnet. Introduction of booking system and programme of investment in facilities, with the intention of establishing sustainable, revenue-generating model. Saving is predicated on securing capital investment to deliver financial benefit; detail will be outlined in the Business Case.	(0.020)	(0.020)	0	Green
			(2.054)	(1.983)	0.071	

Risks and opportunities

2.7 In preparing the report for month 6, a number of overall (corporate) and service-specific risks have been identified. These are set out below.

Table 5 Risks 2022-23

Risk	Description of Risk	Mitigating actions	Likelihood
Winter Gritting Service Risk	Cost of winter gritting operations exceeds available budgeted resources.	The service will seek to manage from its overall budget envelope in the first instance. The impacts modelled of a severe winter may see additional expenditure of £0.500m for this function. Funding may need to be requested from reserves as a one-off measure.	High
Transport	Diesel and vehicle fuel prices - increases in fuel prices are estimated to be a £0.400m - £0.605m for a full year impact. Inflation bid was submitted for £0.415m and of which £0.350m was awarded, M.6 demonstrates that there is a potential additional shortfall of £0.075m.	To be reviewed and projected on a monthly basis highlighting additional increases in prices.	Medium
Parking and Traffic income - changed patterns of behaviour	Income – Forecasts are based on the current level of activity which subject to change due to cost-of-living issue.	A month-by-month review will take place, income levels are not expected to fully return to 2019-20 levels on the basis that a full return to commuter parking and peak travel patterns are not likely	High
CPZ Programme	A review of the CPZ programme is underway and the impact of cost-of-living issue is being assessed and will inform future position on implementation delays and expected income in current financial year from the scheme.	Programme review is currently underway and further mitigating measures will be reported on completion of review.	High

CPZ Programme - professional services	Programme dependent on availability of professional services through partner organisations	Development of super SPIR with RE, recruitment of agency staff to support programme activities	
Parking products and penalties - Cost of living impact on ability to pay	Risk to parking income from reduction in discretionary spending and increase in debt delinquency	Continuation and review of hardship policies already in place. Consideration of mechanisms for addressing hardship in any review of policy, services, and products	
Parking Staff - Labour market effect on recruitment and retention (NSL employed)	Changes to the labour market and working patterns may affect supply of labour for frontline and back office workers with consequent effects on revenue	Regular engagement with suppliers in order to ensure that all recruitment avenues are being followed and to review ways of making roles more attractive to potential candidates.	
Parking equipment and technology - Supply chain issues	Potential for supply chain issues from geopolitical and economic factors with risk to procurement of equipment and technology supported services with consequent effect on revenue	Engagement with suppliers and subcontractors to ensure where possible that critical components are stocked and reserved at the earliest opportunity	
Reduced utility company parking suspension	Reduced year on year income from utility company parking suspensions	Uneven income through year not unusual. Monitoring of activity ongoing.	
Lodge Lane Market income	Non recovery of Lodge Lane market rent	Regular engagement established with an estates officer to resolve the issue.	
New MTC sites – professional services	Significant delays to receipt of survey data and implementation of the sites	Senior officers are engaged with supplier to facilitate resolution as a matter of urgency	
Bus Lanes – suspensions	Rolling suspensions of bus lanes for utility works supporting developments on A5	Details of work schedule has been requested from TTRO team. NSL have been tasked with daily monitoring of bus lane suspensions	
West Hendon development – disruption to MTC enforcement	Delayed junction works at West Hendon may disrupt enforcement at several locations	Long term engagement between Parking /MSL/Videalert regarding relocation of cameras	
Debt recovery – integration issues with court bulk centre	Debt and warrant registration delays from June due to file formatting mismatch with court bulk centre. Delays to debt recovery. If sustained will affect recovery rates	Escalated with NSL/WSP and Northgate. Test batch successful land will be monitored over coming months	

3 Ringfenced funding

Special Parking Account

- 3.1 Income received from parking charges is paid into a Special Parking Account (SPA) to comply with legislative requirements. Any surplus is appropriated into the General Fund at year end. The act requires any surplus to be spent on specified traffic and highways management objectives. Table 6 below illustrates the month 6 forecast outturn position for the SPA and the appropriation to the general fund.
- 3.2 The current financial forecast for parking services is an expected shortfall of £0.696m from original budgeted position for the year to March 2023. This is as a result of legacy impact from COVID-19 and the emerging issues of cost of living resulting in a slippage in the Council's CPZ programme.
- 3.3 The CPZ programme forecast continues to carry a risk of income shortfall and the outcome of a further assessment of this will be reported at the next committee sitting.

Table 6 SPA Forecast

SPA Accounts	2022-23 Budget	Estimated 2022-23 Outturn	
	£m	£m	£m
Income	Budgeted SPA Account	M6 Outturn Excluding Covid-19	M6 Variance
Penalty Charge Notices	(12.977)	(12.629)	0.348
Residents Permits	(3.232)	(3.026)	0.206
Pay & Display	(3.725)	(3.556)	0.169
CCTV Bus lanes	(1.110)	(1.085)	0.025
Total Income	(21.044)	(20.295)	0.749
Budget Income Adjustment			
Total Income after adj.	(21.044)	(20.295)	0.749
Operating Expenditure (running costs)	7.707	7.680	-(0.027)
Net Operating Surplus	(13.337)	(12.615)	0.722
Appropriation to General Fund	(13.337)	(12.615)	0.722

2 Capital Programme

- 2.1 The capital forecast outturn at month 6 for 2022-23 is £32.788m.

Table 7 Current Financial Year Forecast Capital Outturn at Month 6

Service Area	2022-23 Budget	Additions/ (Deletions)	2022-23 Forecast	Variance from Approved Budget	Expenditure to date
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Street Scene	8.985	-	8.985	-	0.864
Parking & Infrastructure	1.519	-	1.519	-	0.368
Highways Non-TFL	17.892	0.200	18.154	0.462	3.847
Highways TFL	-	-	-	-	0.028
Re (Environment)	2.669	-	1.169	(1.500)	0.208
Greenspaces	3.907	-	2.961	(0.946)	0.605
Total	34.972	0.200	32.788	(1.984)	5.920

Street Scene

- 2.2 Street Scene: Vehicles - reporting £2.2m reprofiling of budgets to future years due to delay in delivery, as the manufacturers are unable to provide a timely delivery timeline.
- 2.3 LED Lighting – This Programme is currently at 80% completed in terms of assets converted to LED, the remaining assets are yet to be completed in line with the delivery plan.

Highways Non-TFL

- 2.4 Highways Non-TFL: NRP Phases One and Two –The budget for these two programmes will be consolidated into the NRP Phase 2 programme to facilitate greater financial control and tracking of expenditure.

Highways TFL

- 2.5 Highways TFL: The programme is forecast to budget with no reported issues at M6

RE (Environment)

- 2.6 Re (Environment): Colindale Parks, Open Spaces and Sports – The majority of construction costs for the project will be incurred from 2022-23 onwards. As a result, £1.5m will be reprofiled into the next financial year, leaving £0.5m-£1.0m available for in-year costs. Work on Colindale Park has been completed, with any outstanding work for this project only related to Rushgrove Park.

Greenspaces

- 2.7 Barnet Playing Fields – £0.162m is projected to be spent on a play area in Barnet Playing Fields
- 2.8 Victoria Park Finchley - Capital Receipt from sale of an asset. All receipts must be re-invested in improving Victoria Park as a condition of the sale. Expenditure will be on bins and benches, play and tennis court, signage, garden phase delivery.
- 2.9 £0.100m projected for 2022-23 in delivering outdoor gym. £0.110m re-profiling relates to staff resourcing to deliver remainder of scheme.
- 2.10 West Hendon Playing Field Sports Hub – Masterplan design development is underway and current projection includes cost of Design fees, surveys, and staff fees. £16.8m allocation under Parks and Open Spaces strategic community infrastructure levy (SCIL) has been provided to fund the works.
- 2.11 The £6.830m re-profiling from 2022-23 is due to rephasing of budget to match the works programme now agreed vs the profile under the original bid.
- 2.12 Greenspaces Development Project - relates to a series of strategic proposals (eg masterplan developments, quality / value category site investment) which are in line with delivering the Parks & Open Spaces Strategy.
- 2.13 £3.750m allocation under Parks & Open Spaces SCIL for Parks Infrastructure and Improving Quality for valued Parks has been provided in Greenspaces Development to fund the expenditure.
- 2.14 £2m expenditure is projected for 2022-23 on Tennis Courts, play areas and general parks improvements. Reprofiling necessary to future years relates to delays in some workstreams that have arisen due to procurement delays and funding applications.

- 2.15 Old Court House – Scheme to build public toilets expected to complete this year following planning delays. Scheme estimated to cost £0.070m. Balance to be funded from Infrastructure program.
- 2.16 Copthall Playing Fields and Mill Hill Open Space - £2m SCIL allocated to develop outline master plan to finer planning application for site regeneration. £1.5m is to be reprofiled to future years due to staff resourcing constraints to deliver scheme.
- 2.17 Gaelic Playing Pitch Relocation - Development of sports field and pavilion responsibility undertaken by club and recharged to Barnet. Sports field is complete. Current projection is the remaining contribution towards cost of building pavilion.
- 2.18 Greenspaces Infrastructure – Under the scheme opportunity is sought for capital improvements through S106 funding. Previously Area Committee opportunities relating to Greenspaces were delivered here but these are now raised under their respective budgets. This is reflected in the slippage. Current year projection is £0.300m on a series of improvement projects for which funding was secured.

5. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 This report contains a summary of the forecast revenue and capital outturn for the services within the Environment Committee, for the financial year 2022-23, as at month 6 (September 2022).

6. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 6.1 None

7. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 7.1 None

8. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

8.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 8.1.1 This supports the council's corporate priorities as expressed through the Barnet Plan for 2020-25 which sets out our vision and strategy for the next five years. This includes the outcomes we want to achieve for the borough, the priorities we will focus limited resources on, and our approach for how we will deliver this.

8.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 8.2.1 This report considers the forecast position of the services under the remit of the Environment and Climate Change Committee at the end of the financial year.

8.3 Legal and Constitutional References

- 8.3.1 Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 states that: "without prejudice to section 111, every local authority shall make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs and shall secure that one of their officers has responsibility for the administration of those affairs". Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 relates to the subsidiary powers of local authorities to take actions which are calculated to facilitate, or are conducive or incidental to, the discharge of any of their functions.

- 8.3.2 Section 28 of the Local Government Act 2003 (the Act) imposes a statutory duty on a billing or major precepting authority to monitor, during the financial year, its income and expenditure against the budget calculations. If the monitoring establishes that the budgetary situation has deteriorated, the authority must take such action as it considers necessary to deal with the situation. Definition as to whether there is deterioration in an authority's financial position is set out in sub-section 28(4) of the Act.

- 8.3.3 A decision to amend the Financial Regulations in the council's constitution to reflect the responsibility for Theme Committees for the oversight and scrutiny of:

8.3.3.1 The overall financial performance of the services operating within the remit of the respective Theme Committee.

8.3.3.2 The council's current Financial Regulations can be found at:
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ecSDDisplay.aspx?NAME=SD349&ID=349&RPID=638294>

- 8.3.4 Article 7 of Barnet's Constitution outlines the Committee's Terms of Reference;

(1) Responsibility for all borough-wide or cross-area matters relating to the local environment including:

- Air Quality
- Cycling, Walking and Healthy Streets
- Biodiversity
- Transport and Public Transport
- Grounds Maintenance
- Highways
- On-Street and Off-Street Parking
- Road Safety
- Lighting
- Street Cleaning
- Environmental Crime (including littering, fly-tipping fly-posting, and graffiti)
- The Council's Fleet
- Waste and Recycling
- Waterways
- Parks and Open Spaces (including allotments and trees)
- Cemeteries, Crematoria and Mortuary
- Trading Standards and Environmental Health (except Environmental Health functions relating to housing and fire safety)

(2) Responsibility for the council's response to the climate emergency including:

- Setting and overseeing implementation of carbon reduction targets, both in relation to the council as an organisation and Barnet as a place
- Developing strategies to meet those carbon reduction targets
- Developing strategies for the mitigation of the impacts of climate change, both on the council as an organisation and Barnet as a place
- Implementing the elements of those strategies that relate to functions listed in (1) above.

(3) To submit to the Policy and Resources Committee proposals relating to the Committee's budget (including fees and charges) for the following year in accordance with the budget timetable.

(4) To make recommendations to Policy and Resources Committee on issues relating to the budget for the Committee, including virements or underspends and overspends on the budget. No decisions which result in amendments to the agreed budget may be made by the Committee unless and until the amendment has been agreed by Policy and Resources Committee.

(5) To receive reports on relevant revenue and capital expenditure, contracts, performance information and risk on the services under the remit of the Committee.

8.4 Insight

8.4.1 Whilst not specifically applicable to this report, insight is used to support the financial position forecasted in this report through activity drivers and place-based understanding.

8.5 Social Value

8.5.1 None applicable to this report.

8.6 Risk Management

8.6.1 Regular monitoring of financial performance is a key part of the overall risk management approach of the Council.

8.7 Equalities and Diversity

8.7.1 Decision makers should have due regard to the public sector equality duty in making their decisions. The equalities duties are continuing duties, they are not duties to secure a particular outcome. Consideration of these duties should precede the decision. The statutory grounds of the public sector equality duty are found at section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 and are as follows:

8.7.1.1 A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- 8.7.1.1.1 eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- 8.7.1.1.2 advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- 8.7.1.1.3 Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

8.7.1.2 Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:

- 8.7.1.3 remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- 8.7.1.4 take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- 8.7.1.5 Encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
- 8.7.1.6 The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.

8.7.1.7 Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:

8.7.1.8 Tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

8.7.1.9 Compliance with the duties in this section may involve treating some persons more favourably than others; but that is not to be taken as permitting conduct that would otherwise be prohibited by or under this Act. The relevant protected characteristics are:

- 8.7.1.9.1 Age
- 8.7.1.9.2 Disability
- 8.7.1.9.3 Gender reassignment
- 8.7.1.9.4 Pregnancy and maternity
- 8.7.1.9.5 Race
- 8.7.1.9.6 Religion or belief
- 8.7.1.9.7 Sex

- 8.7.1.9.8 Sexual orientation
- 8.7.1.9.9 Marriage and Civil partnership

8.7.2 This is set out in the council's Equalities Policy together with our strategic Equalities Objective - as set out in the Corporate Plan - that citizens will be treated equally with understanding and respect; have equal opportunities and receive quality services provided to best value principles.

8.7.3 Progress against the performance measures we use is published on our website at: www.barnet.gov.uk/info/200041/equality_and_diversity/224/equality_and_diversity

8.7.4 Measures undertaken as part of the Council's response to the Covid-19 pandemic have been undertaken in full awareness of the Council's commitment and responsibility to act in accordance with its own Equalities Policy and wider legislation. It is notable that the virus does appear to affect some parts of the community more than others, and the Council's actions have been informed by its commitment to mitigate impacts in all areas, and to appropriately protect or shield especially vulnerable individuals, in accordance with national guidelines.

8.8 Corporate Parenting

8.8.1 In line with Children and Social Work Act 2017, the council has a duty to consider Corporate Parenting Principles in decision-making across the council. There are no implications for Corporate Parenting in relation to this report.

8.9 Consultation and Engagement

8.9.1 None in the context of this report

8.10 Environmental Impact

8.10.1 None in the context of this report

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 None