



## Housing & Growth Committee

5 September 2022

<b>Title</b>	<b>Housing &amp; Growth Forecast Financial Outturn at Month 4 (July 2022)</b>
<b>Report of</b>	Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director of Strategy & Resources (Section 151 Officer)
<b>Wards</b>	All
<b>Status</b>	Public with separate Exempt Report
<b>Urgent</b>	No
<b>Key</b>	No
<b>Enclosures</b>	None.
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### Summary

This report contains a summary of the Committee's revenue and capital forecast outturn for the financial year 2022/23 as at Month 4 (31 July 2022).

### Recommendations

That the committee notes:

1. the current forecast financial outturn for 2022/23;
2. the projected use of reserves.

## 1 Summary

1.0 This report sets out the forecast outturn position for the 2022/23 financial year as at 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022 for the services which fall within the Housing & Growth Committee.

- 1.1 At month 4, the forecast financial outturn is:
- Overall forecast underspend of £0.282m
  - Forecast net use of reserves of £0.247m;

## 2 Forecast Position at Month 4

### Overview

1.0 As at month 4, the forecast outturn is a £0.282m underspend.

Table 1: Forecast Revenue Outturn at Month 4

Housing & Growth	2022-23 Budget	Month 4 (Forecast outturn before reserves)	Reserves applied	Month 4 Forecast outturn after reserves	Month 4 variance after reserves	Month 3 variance	In-Month change
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
CSG Managed Budget	4.240	4.240	-	4.240	-	-	-
Employment Skills & Ec Dev	0.637	0.637	-	0.637	-	-	-
Estates	1.454	1.454	-	1.454	-	-	-
Growth and Housing	0.737	0.837	(0.100)	0.737	-	-	-
Housing Strategy	5.343	6.097	(0.754)	5.343	-	-	-
Regeneration	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brent Cross Revenue	(2.013)	(2.902)	0.607	(2.295)	(0.282)	(0.297)	0.015
Transformation Programme - DCE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RE Guaranteed Income	(4.473)	(4.473)	-	(4.473)	-	-	-
<b>Total Housing &amp; Growth Committee</b>	<b>5.925</b>	<b>5.890</b>	<b>(0.247)</b>	<b>5.643</b>	<b>(0.282)</b>	<b>(0.297)</b>	<b>0.015</b>

1.1 Table 2 provides a breakdown of the variances as at Month 4 and underlying budget position.

Table 2: Month 4 variance detailed commentary

Service Areas	Month 4 variance after reserves	Commentary
	£m	
CSG Managed Budget	-	Forecasted to budget. The nil variance is composed of significant variances, including £0.293m cost at Oakleigh Road depot (ORD) for new extra Parking and Transport services for the depot consolidation – highlighted at June Policy and Resources Committee. Offset by: £0.100m Expected savings in cyclical and planned repairs £0.135m Backdated rent for Biels Bros and Kosher Kitchen £0.025m Reduced rates based on actual costs to date £0.020m Saving on security costs
Employment Skills & Ec Dev	-	The current forecast is to budget and there are no significant variances, adverse or favourable" within these planned resources
Estates	-	The current forecast is to budget and there are no significant variances, adverse or favourable" within these planned resources
Growth and Housing	-	The current forecast is to budget and there are no significant variances, adverse or favourable" within these planned resources
Housing Strategy	-	Forecasted to budget. The nil variance is composed of: Temporary Accommodation payments and rental income, where households are supported through the council's prevention services and currently there is sufficient supply of alternative accommodation to meet demand (Open Door Homes (ODH) or other registered providers).

Service Areas	Month 4 variance after reserves	Commentary
	£m	
		There is a small pressure from resourcing additional prevention services this year £0.100m, offset by a favourable movement in grant income, including Public Health income to fund rough sleepers. The direct impact of the cost-of-living crisis on Temporary Accommodation will continue to be reviewed as the year progresses. As mentioned in the risks section in 2.10, delays in the ODH acquisitions capital programme, may mean a fall in available affordable homes for use as TA. The Barnet Group are currently looking at ways to mitigate this risk through other programmes and the additional prevention resources.
Regeneration	-	The current forecast is to budget and there are no significant variances, adverse or favourable" within these planned resources
Brent Cross Revenue	(0.282)	Favourable variance on BX Retail Park of £0.748m from improved lease renewals (two units) and one unit still operational for longer than initially modelled for the acquisition.  Offset by: £0.173m Programme staff pressures for non-capitalisable staff costs and other programme support costs such as IT licenses and communications activity. £0.015m BX North expenditure deemed non-recoverable by the Property Development Agreement (PDA) and consequently funded by the Council. £0.131m BX Rental Income pressure due to the timing of lease end dates and handover of properties to the Council's Brent Cross Town development partners. £0.147m BX South expenditure deemed non-recoverable from the development partner.
Transformation Programme - DCE	-	The current forecast is to budget and there are no significant variances, adverse or favourable" within these planned resources
RE Guaranteed Income	-	The current forecast is to budget and there are no significant variances, adverse or favourable" within these planned resources
<b>Total Housing &amp; Growth Committee</b>	<b>(0.282)</b>	

### Application of Reserves

- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 This report sets out anticipated use of or top-up of earmarked service reserves within this financial year. The table below provides further detail.

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

Service Areas	Forecast (drawdown) / top-up to reserves	Commentary
	£m	
Growth and Housing	(0.854)	£0.754m drawdown from Homelessness Reserves, to support prevention activities in the current year. Covid-19: £0.100m Additional staff needed to manage back log of HMO enforcements (visits restricted due to Covid)
Brent Cross Revenue	0.607	£0.607m Brent Cross Retail Park top-up to the Brent Cross Retail Park reserve in line with the financial model created at the point of the acquisition. The reserve assists with the council's future vacant possessions strategy
<b>Total Housing &amp; Growth Committee</b>	<b>(0.247)</b>	

### Savings

- 1.5 The committee's budget for 2022/23 includes planned savings of £0.961m. It is currently forecasted that all £0.961m of these savings will be achieved.
- 1.6 However, there is a risk of delivery to the £0.644m savings, relating to Temporary Accommodation cost avoidance.
- 1.7 At month 4, there is a forecast delay in the 500 *Housing Acquisitions Open Door* capital programme, due to the cost of borrowing increasing, and the need to review the cashflow model. The Barnet Group are working through potential mitigations and the conditions required to continue the programme. However, where the planned programme is partly re-profiled into next financial year, there will be fewer affordable homes available to meet homelessness demand in-year, and if not fully mitigated, there will be a pressure in 2022/23.

Table 4 Savings Delivery 2022/23

Savings Reference	Opportunity By Area	Description of saving	2022/23 Savings	Forecast Achievable	Unachievable	RAG Rating
			£m	£m	£m	
G&CS 22 sav 4	Housing Strategy	500 additional acquisitions of properties for use as affordable temporary accommodation by Open Door Homes supported by Loan from Council, as a cheaper alternative to existing temporary arrangements which utilise the private rented sector.	(0.664)	(0.664)	-	Amber
G&CS 22 sav 1	Housing Strategy	Buyback of properties through GLA Buyback grant, which the council will use for temporary accommodation.	(0.056)	(0.056)	-	Green
G&CS 22 inc 38	Estates	Additional income from the existing commercial portfolio, including new lettings and rent reviews	(0.050)	(0.050)	-	Green
G&CS 22 inc 39	Estates	Income received from renting floor space in Colindale Office	(0.075)	(0.075)	-	Green
G&CS 22 inc 40	Housing Strategy	Income received as dividends on completed affordable homes delivered by Opendoor Homes	(0.116)	(0.116)	-	Green
			<b>(0.961)</b>	<b>(0.961)</b>	-	

### Risks and opportunities

- 1.8 In preparing the report for month 4, various overall (corporate) and service-specific risks have been identified. These are set out below.

## 1.9 Risks:

- Regular reviews of arrears in the Estates department may lead to subsequent write-offs of income related to prior years. This has been mitigated by a £0.392m increase in the Estates Bad Debt Provision at year end 2021/22, which was based on an extensive review of all debt.
- Potential additional pressures may arise from rising energy and utilities costs if the energy price cap increases rise in line with expectations.
- Across London, market forces are applying upwards pressure to the costs of TA making it more difficult to secure affordable, good quality housing:
- As the macro-economic environment is forecast to remain challenging for both businesses and personal households, there is a risk that TA demand may rise as more households are evicted due to inability to pay rents and mortgages.
- Risk that Temporary Accommodation cost avoidance savings will not be achieved. This is through delays in the Open Door Homes (ODH) acquisitions capital programme, decreasing the availability of affordable homes for use as TA.
- Brent Cross West risks related to current economic climate and availability and cost of materials.
- Brent Cross West forecast as shown in Section 5 of this report, is subject to the outcome of ongoing commercial conversations. More detail in the exempt report.

## 1.10 Opportunities:

- Lease extensions and rent reviews of council owned properties; billing of historic rental income related to existing council sites.
- The early termination of existing contracts that the council is leasing from external parties.
- Rates refunds at council libraries.
- Deeds scanning project which may be partly delayed until 2023/24.
- Brent Cross West pursuing parallel strands of activity with Government sponsors and our commercial partners to recover costs that have arisen by third parties and outside of LBB control, for example the week 35 cancellation reported to the committee previously, and cancellations earlier in the station programme.

## 3 Ringfenced funding

### Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

- 3.1 The HRA budget has been set in line with the 30-year business plan and approved by H&G and Policy and Resources committee in February 2022.
- 3.2 The service-related elements of the HRA are projected to be £0.069m favourable to budget. This will be offset by a decrease of £0.0.69m in RCCO (Revenue contribution to Capital Outlay). The £0.069m favourable variance is comprised of:
- £0.120m favourable - Overachievement on commercial rent income assumes similar number of units to be rented out this year as in the previous year. The numbers of units are higher than budgeted.
  - £0.115m favourable – Savings on interest costs on HRA debts. This is due to early borrowing that happened last financial year, taking advantage of the lower interest rates which were available at the time.
  - £0.096m favourable - Overachievement on interest income earned on HRA cash balances. This is due to higher average interest rates expected this financial year.
  - £0.140m favourable - Overachievement on commission (income) on water rates from Affinity.

- £0.400m adverse - Overspend due to an increase in Gas & Electricity costs on HRA Estates and Sheltered Housing blocks. The higher costs will not be passed onto tenants as an increase in rent or service charge. This is because sheltered blocks are on affordable rent, and the increase in service charges was agreed at 4.1%. Yet, the projected increase in gas & electricity is c.50%.

Table 6: HRA forecast at month 4

HRA - Revenue	21/22 Outturn	2022/23 Budget	Month 4 Forecast Outturn after reserves	Month 4 Variance After reserves	In-Month change
	£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000
Dwelling Rent	(50,397)	(52,333)	(52,333)	-	-
Non-Dwelling Rent	(1,273)	(1,242)	(1,362)	(120)	-
Service & Other Charges	(6,842)	(6,851)	(6,992)	(141)	-
Other Income	447	-	-	-	-
Housing Management	19,014	19,451	19,451	-	-
Other Costs	1,735	1,806	2,206	400	-
Internal recharges	2,839	2,868	2,868	-	-
Repairs & Maintenance - Mgt Fee	8,584	10,464	10,464	-	-
Repairs & Maintenance - Non Core	975	-	-	-	-
Provision for Bad Debt	589	1,261	1,261	-	-
Regeneration	168	684	687	3	-
Debt Management Expenses	10,103	10,578	10,463	(115)	(115)
Interest on Balances	(116)	(9)	(105)	(96)	(96)
<b>HRA Direct cost (Surplus)/Deficit</b>	<b>(14,174)</b>	<b>(13,323)</b>	<b>(13,392)</b>	<b>(69)</b>	<b>(212)</b>
Depreciation	12,222	12,683	12,683	-	-
RCCO	1,932	536	605	69	212
<b>HRA Capital Charges</b>	<b>14,154</b>	<b>13,219</b>	<b>13,288</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>212</b>
<b>HRA (Surplus)/Deficit</b>	<b>(20)</b>	<b>(104)</b>	<b>(104)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

3.3 The projected HRA reserve is £4.124m.

Table 7: HRA reserves at month 3

	B/Fwd	Revenue Movement	Depreciation & RCCO	Forecast Funding for Capex CFR	C/Fwd
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
HRA Reserve	(4,020)	(13,392)	13,288	-	(4,124)
Major Repairs Reserve	(2,000)	-	(13,288)	13,288	(2,000)
<b>HRA Reserves</b>	<b>(6,020)</b>	<b>(13,392)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>13,288</b>	<b>(6,124)</b>

## 2 Capital Programme

2.1 The Housing & Growth Capital Programme includes:

2.1.1 General Fund Capital Programme

- Housing & Growth Capital
- Housing & Growth (Brent Cross)

2.1.2 Housing Revenue Account Programme

- Housing Revenue Account

2.2 Housing & Growth Capital

2.2.1 The capital forecast outturn at month 4 for 2022/23 is £123.291m, with a £35.748m favourable variance from budget. This includes £32.518m re-profiling into future years, with £2.230m forecasted to be deleted from the programme.

Table 7 Current Financial Year Forecast Capital Outturn at Month 4

Service Area	2022/23 Budget	Additions/ (Deletions)	(Slippage)/ Accelerated Spend	2022/23 Forecast	Variance from Approved Budget	Expenditure to date
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Growth and Corporate Services – GF Housing	73.735	(3.150)	(12.054)	58.531	(15.204)	22.296
Growth and Corporate Services - General	79.245	0.920	(19.456)	60.708	(18.537)	8.451
Re - (Growth and Corporate)	6.059	-	(2.008)	4.052	(2.008)	-
<b>Total Growth and Corporate Programmes</b>	<b>159.039</b>	<b>(2.230)</b>	<b>(33.518)</b>	<b>123.291</b>	<b>(35.748)</b>	<b>30.747</b>

### 2.2.2 General Fund Housing:

- Housing Acquisitions Open door – forecasted programme delays due to the cost of borrowing increasing and requiring a review of the cashflow model. The Barnet Group are working through alternative arrangements to fund the programme. A £1.950m deletion related to the Next Steps Accommodation Programme grant for rough sleepers' accommodation. The budget was increased to reflect this grant, with the expectation that this would be passed through via the council. This has subsequently been received directly by Open Door Homes (ODH).
- Further re-profiling of the small sites Housing GF programme into next year, offset by £4.931m spend for Sage Upper and Lower Fosters site, re-profiled into 2022/23.
- Empty Properties – Deletion of £0.960m. It has been agreed to reduce the budget reflecting actual requirements, leaving sufficient budget to enable the enforcement of Compulsory Purchase Orders and annual spend.
- Modular homes – Deletion of £0.240m. The total budget for this programme is no longer required and has been replaced by the Small Sites capital programme.

### 2.2.3 Growth and corporate Services – General:

- Development Portfolio - £2.093m due to programme delays. To be further reviewed in the coming months.
- Hendon Hub - £3.090m pause in site Acquisitions, offset by project spend which has been brought forward. The property purchases have been delayed ensuring there is enough cash flow to fund project costs which have been expedited.
- Saracens Loan - £0.920m – budget amendment to bring in line with the agreed loan agreement.

2.2.4 Re (Growth & Corporate): Colindale Highways and Transport - Consultants are due to be appointed and they will be bringing forward a costed programme supported from the existing budget allocation.

## 2.3 HRA Capital Investment

2.3.1 The HRA Capital programme budget reflects the most recently approved HRA Business Plan in March 2022.

2.3.2 At month 4, the HRA capital programme is forecasting a £9.827m underspend. This relates to £9.827m net re-profiling into future years. This will be reflected in the next HRA Business Plan presented at Policy and Resources Committee.

Table 8 Housing Revenue Account Capital Current Financial Year Forecast Outturn at Month 4

Service Area	2022/23 Budget	Additions/ (Deletions)	(Slippage)/ Accelerated Spend	2022/23 Forecast	Variance from Approved Budget	Expenditure to date
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
HRA	124.563	-	(9.827)	114.736	(9.827)	27.475
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>124.563</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(9.827)</b>	<b>114.736</b>	<b>(9.827)</b>	<b>27.475</b>

- 2.3.3 HRA capital programmes are mainly on three areas, Investment in current stock (capital repairs or capital enhancements of existing properties), Development of new properties (new builds) and market acquisition of properties.
- 2.3.4 Stock investment Programmes - Capital programme budgets are to be re-aligned to reflect the HRA Business Plan. This will result in budget re-profiling of £2.594m in the current year, including Major works, Carbon Neutral works and Regen Stock investment.
- 2.3.5 Development Programmes – Programme spend re-profiled into 2023/24:
- £4.344m on New-build 250. The programme has been re-profiled because submission for planning permission on two development schemes was delayed until after the local elections. As such, planning permission for these two schemes will not take place until much later this year.
  - £0.855m delays on Cheshir House Extra Care. Original delays in getting vacant possession of the site have resulted in on-going programme delays into next year.
  - £0.410m on GLA development programmes, re-profiled due to two schemes yet to be tendered.
  - Offset by £1.649m re-profiled spend into 2022/23 on Stag House, due to the contractor submitting a loss & expense claim for planning delays of over 6 months.
- 2.3.6 Acquisitions Programmes - Capital programme budgets are to be re-profiled into next year (£8.461m). Mainly due to a lack of suitable properties coming on the market quickly enough. Also, priority has been given to the Acquisition programme 1 (GLA grant) due to the stringent time limits on when this grant must be utilised.

### 3 Brent Cross

#### 3.1 Brent Cross Revenue

##### 3.1.1 Favourable overall variance of £0.282m at month 4:

- Favourable variance on BX Retail Park of £0.748m due to improved lease renewals (two units) and one unit operational for longer than initially modelled. The retail park management company has now changed from Workman to Savills in year, at no loss of revenue to the council whilst securing additional experienced resources within the contract. This financial year the council has received rental income of £1.005m to date.

Offset by:

- £0.173m Programme staff pressures for non-capitalisable staff costs and other programme support costs such as IT licenses and communications activity.
- £0.015m BX North expenditure deemed non-recoverable by the Property Development Agreement (PDA) and consequently funded by the Council.
- £0.131m BX Rental Income pressure due to the timing of lease end dates and handover of properties to the Council's Brent Cross Town development partners.
- £0.147m BX South expenditure deemed non-recoverable from the development partner.



## 3.2 Housing & Growth - Brent Cross Capital

3.2.1 Brent Cross – The Brent Cross capital programme is currently projecting accelerated expenditure of £9.883m at month 4 for 2022/23. This is due to project re-profiling, with the budgets updated at September Policy and Resources Committee. The 5-year programme is forecasting on budget.

Table 9 Brent Cross Capital Current Financial Year Forecast Outturn at Month 4

Service Area	2022/23 Budget	Additions/ (Deletions)	Reprofiling (to)/from future years	2022/23 Forecast	Variance from Approved Budget	Expenditure to date
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Brent Cross	73.422	-	9.883	83.305	9.883	6.387
<b>Brent Cross</b>	<b>73.422</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9.883</b>	<b>83.305</b>	<b>9.883</b>	<b>6.387</b>

Table 10 Brent Cross Capital Current Financial Year Forecast Outturn at Month 4

Housing & Growth - Brent Cross	5-year Programme Budget	5-year Programme Forecast	Additions/ Deletions
	£m	£m	£m
Funding for Land Acquisitions	8.780	8.780	-
Brent Cross West	78.894	78.894	-
Critical Infrastructure	16.290	16.290	-
BXT Land Acquisition	18.759	18.759	-
<b>Total Housing &amp; Growth Committee - Brent Cross</b>	<b>122.723</b>	<b>122.723</b>	<b>-</b>

### 3.2.2 BXC – Funding for land acquisitions

The forecast at month 4 for 2022/23 identifies a need for accelerating expenditure of £3.730m, to reflect a revised delivery programme. The realignment will be required at the September Policy and Resources Committee.

- The overall financial position is currently forecast on budget for the remaining two financial years. As previously noted to the committee, any surpluses in the interim will fund additional workstreams such as Infrastructure 2, the Station Western Entrance Public Realm and BX master planning.

### 3.2.3 BXT Land Acquisitions

The forecast at month 4 for 2022/23 identifies re-profiling of the budget of £2.199m into 2023/24. The realignment will be required at the September Policy and Resources Committee.

- The re-profiling into 2023/24 is in line with the material CPO2 Residential Acquisitions. Currently three residential buybacks are forecast to complete in the forthcoming months. All expenditure is fully recoverable from BXT in line with the Project Agreement and CPO Indemnity Agreement and is forecasted overall on budget for the remaining scheme.
- The next Property Cost Estimate will be updated in September.

### 3.2.4 Brent Cross West

The forecast at month 4 for 2022/23 identifies accelerating expenditure of £11.676m. The budget is required to be re-profiled at September Policy and Resources Committee to reflect the current delivery programme, specifically the construction of the station which is forecast to complete by December this year.

- The overall programme is forecast to budget although acknowledging potential pressures due to material cost inflation and supply chain issues due to Covid and the current economic climate, in addition to cost associated with cancelled railway possessions leading to prolongation on the construction programme. Availability and cost of materials continues to be an issue even at this late stage.

### 3.2.5 Critical Infrastructure

The forecast at month 4 for 2022/23 identifies a re-profiling of the budget of £3.324m into 2023/24. The realignment will be required at the September Policy and Resources Committee.

- The overall programme is currently forecast on budget. Any potential savings in an individual work package will need to be reviewed to mitigate pressures elsewhere.

## 6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 This report contains a summary of the forecast revenue and capital outturn for the services within the Housing & Growth Committee, for the financial year 2022/23, as at month 4 (July 2022).

## 7. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 7.1 None

## 8. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 8.1 None

## 9. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

### 9.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 9.1.1 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.

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

- 9.2.1 This report considers the forecast position of the services under the remit of the Housing & Growth Committee at the end of the financial year.

### 9.3 Legal and Constitutional References

- 9.3.1 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.
- 9.3.2 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.
- 9.3.3 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:
- The overall financial performance of the services operating within the remit of the respective Theme Committee.

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

#### **9.4 Insight**

9.4.1 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.

#### **9.5 Social Value**

9.5.1 None applicable to this report.

#### **9.6 Risk Management**

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

#### **9.7 Equalities and Diversity**

9.7.1 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:

- A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:
  - (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
  - (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
  - (c) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- 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:
  - (a) remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
  - (b) 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;
  - (c) 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.
- 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.
- 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:
- Tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

· 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:

- (a) Age
- (b) Disability
- (c) Gender reassignment
- (d) Pregnancy and maternity
- (e) Race
- (f) Religion or belief
- (g) Sex
- (h) Sexual orientation
- (i) Marriage and Civil partnership

9.7.2 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.

9.7.3 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](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/info/200041/equality_and_diversity/224/equality_and_diversity)

9.7.4 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.

## **9.8 Corporate Parenting**

9.8.1 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.

## **9.9 Consultation and Engagement**

9.9.1 None in the context of this report

## **9.10 Environmental Impact**

9.10.1 None in the context of this report

## **10. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

10.1 None