	Environment and Climate Change Committee		
TAS EFFICIT MINISTERIO	21 November 2022		
	Environment and Climate Change		
Title	Forecast Financial Outturn at Month 6		
	(September 2022)		
Report of	Chair of the Environmental and Climate Change Committee		
Wards	All		
Status	Public		
Urgent	No		
Кеу	No		
Enclosures	None.		
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	Summary		

# Recommendations

That the committee notes:

- the current forecast financial outturn for 2022-23, for capital and revenue budgets.
   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 30<sup>th</sup> 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.

	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

Table 1: Forecast Revenue Outturn at Month 6

# 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	<ul> <li>£0.306m overspend is still forecasted for the Direct Labour Organisation (DLO). This includes an income shortfall from the minor works and sign shop.</li> <li>There is a forecast £0.106m income shortfall in commercial waste.</li> <li>Additional £0.308m and £0.110m from garden waste and levy respectively are offsetting the above.</li> <li>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).</li> </ul>
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.

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)	

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

#### <u>Savings</u>

# 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	Forecast Achievable	Unachievable	RAG Rating
			£m	£m	£m	
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 $\pounds 0.400m - \pounds 0.605m$ for a full year impact. Inflation bid was submitted for $\pounds 0.415m$ and of which $\pounds 0.350m$ was awarded, M.6 demonstrates that there is a potential additional shortfall of $\pounds 0.075m$ .	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.

SPA Accounts	2022-23 Budget	Estimated 2022-23 Outturn	
	£m	£m	£m
		M6	M6
Income	Budgeted SPA Account	Outturn Excluding Covid- 19	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

Table 6 SPA Forecast

# 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 t 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 inyear 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  $\pm 0.162m$  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 reinvested 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: <u>https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ecSDDisplay.aspx?NAME=SD349&ID=349&RP</u> <u>ID= 638294</u>
- 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