

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 15 February 2023

REPORT TITLE:	2022/23 BUDGET MONITORING FOR QUARTER THREE (THE PERIOD TO 31 DEC 2022)
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

REPORT SUMMARY

This report sets out the financial monitoring information for the Council as at Quarter 3 (31 December) of 2022/23. The report provides Members with an overview of budget performance, including progress on the delivery of the 2022/23 saving programme and a summary of reserves and balances, to enable the Committee to take ownership of the budgets and provide robust challenge and scrutiny to Officers on the performance of those budgets.

At the end of Quarter 3, there is a forecast adverse position of £12.36m on the Council's net revenue budget, of £330.58m. This position has deteriorated by £1.36m since Quarter 2 due to the continued trend of increasing numbers of children in care, particularly young people placed in high-cost residential settings and the loss of Housing Benefit Subsidy. This position is based on activity to date, projected trends in income and expenditure and potential mitigation to offset areas of adverse variance.

This is not a key decision.

The report contributes to the Wirral Plan 2021-2026 in supporting the organisation in meeting all Council priorities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Policy and Resources committee is recommended to:

1. Note the forecast adverse position of £12.362m presented at Quarter 3, alongside the proposed mitigation at year end to eliminate the shortfall.
2. Note the progress on delivery of the 2022/23 savings programme at Quarter 3.
3. Note the forecast level of reserves and balances at Quarter 3.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 Regular monitoring and reporting of the revenue budgets and savings achievements enables decisions to be taken in a timely manner, which may produce revenue benefits and will improve financial control of Wirral Council.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 The Policy & Resources Committee has previously determined the budget monitoring process and this report details the agreed course of action.
- 2.2 In striving to manage budgets, available options have been evaluated to maintain a balance between service delivery and a balanced budget.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 At the meeting on 28 February 2022, the Council agreed a net revenue budget for 2022/2023 of £330.6m to be met by government grants, council tax, business rates and flexible use of capital receipts. The Quarter 1 monitoring report, presented on 7 September 2022 to Policy & Resources Committee, highlighted growing in-year pressures of £5.3m, which had risen to £11m by Quarter 2. Several potential mitigations were identified that could be used to present a balanced budget at the end of the year. This report sets out the updated revenue financial position at Quarter 3.

Economic Context

- 3.2 The economic backdrop has changed considerably since the Council set its 2022/23 budget back on 28 February 22, with significant emerging pressures, beyond Council control, placing large, unforeseen strains on budgets.
- 3.3 Quarter 3 continued to be characterised by high energy and commodity prices, high inflation and the associated impact on consumers' cost of living, as well as little likelihood that the Russia-Ukraine hostilities will end any time soon. Although UK inflation remained high, but there were tentative signs it may have peaked. Annual headline CPI registered 10.5% in December, down modestly from 10.7% in November. RPI was 13.4% in November, down from 13.7% in November.
- 3.4 During the quarter, the Bank of England increased the official Bank Rate to 3.5%; an uplift of 0.75% in November and then another 0.50% in December. In both instances, the Bank's Committee noted that domestic inflationary pressures are expected to remain strong and continuing rhetoric around combating inflation means further rate rises are predicted.

Quarter 3 Forecast Revenue Outturn Position

- 3.5 At the end of Quarter 3, there is a forecast adverse position of £12.36m on the Council's net revenue budget, of £330.58m. Table 1 provides a summary of the revenue position at quarter 3, with potential mitigations (detailed in Table 3) to demonstrate that a balanced budget can be presented at the end of the year

TABLE 1: 2022/23 REVENUE BUDGET & FORECAST OUTTURN

	Budget	Forecast Outturn	Variance		Adverse/ Favourable	Change in Forecast Variance since Q2
			(+ Fav / - Adv)			
			£000	£000		
Adult Care & Health	114,962	115,565	-603	-1%	Adverse	26
Chief Executive Office	1,786	1,852	-66	-4%	Adverse	-28
Children, Families & Education	79,234	82,350	-3,116	-4%	Adverse	-819
Law & Governance	5,821	5,998	-177	-3%	Adverse	-176
Neighbourhoods Services	46,189	52,470	-6,281	-14%	Adverse	91
Regeneration and Place	37,688	37,675	13	0%	Favourable	254
Resources	44,900	47,032	-2,132	-5%	Adverse	-701
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	330,580	342,942	-12,362	-4%	Adverse	-1,353
Potential Mitigation	0	-12,362	12,362			1,353
Revised Total Surplus / (Deficit)	330,580	330,580	0	0%		0

- 3.6 Table 2 highlights the key reasons for the variances contained within this position.

TABLE 2: Summary of Variances

	£000
Inflationary Impact	6,000
COVID 19 recovery	1,800
Delayed implementation of agreed savings	1,100
Other/ demand pressures	3,462

- 3.7 To support the effective management of the emerging Council's financial position and in accordance with our recent commitment to stop non-essential spend as provided to the Independent Assurance Panel, all discretionary expenditure was ceased from 6 December 2022. This protocol was authorised by the Chief Executive as a temporary measure until 31 March 2023, with a review point in late

January/early February. This is in conjunction with a recruitment freeze which was been implemented in November.

- 3.8 It is imperative that the Council reports at least a supported balanced position at the end of the year. Directorates have and will continue to incorporate mitigations into their plans. At the third quarter of the financial year, several potential mitigations have been identified and are set out to demonstrate that a balanced budget can be presented at the end of the year. The table below identifies where these will be found. Noting that where there is an ongoing deficit into future years, the medium-term financial plan (MTFP) will be updated to reflect the recurrent pressure.

TABLE 3: 2022/23 PROPOSED MITIGATION

Mitigation	£000
<u>Use of Earmarked Reserves</u>	
Covid	3,521
Social Care	2,373
Other	3,468
<u>Use of Contingency Fund</u>	3,000
TOTAL	12,362

- 3.9 For further details on individual directorate positions and mitigation please see **Appendix 1.**

Progress on delivery of the 2022/23 savings programme.

3.10 In terms of savings, £16.6m of the £18.2m savings targets are either delivered or on track to be delivered, representing 91% of the total savings target with a further 6% or £1.1m anticipated to be delivered through alternative means. The table below summarises the progress by Directorate:

TABLE 4: SUMMARY OF PROGRESS ON DELIVERY OF 2022/23 SAVINGS

Directorate	Approved Saving £m	Green £m	Amber £m	Red £m	Mitigation £m	Actual Savings Delivered to Date £m
Adult Care & Health	3.890	3.890	0.000	0.000	0.000	3.171
Chief Executive Office	0.110	0.060	0.050	0.000	0.050	0.060
Children, Families & Education	3.150	3.100	0.050	0.000	0.050	2.532
Law & Governance	0.659	0.659	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.659
Neighbourhoods Services	5.251	3.811	0.860	0.580	0.860	3.373
Regeneration and Place	1.838	1.715	0.123	0.000	0.123	0.695
Resources	3.338	3.338	0.000	0.000	0.000	3.207
TOTAL	18.236	16.573	1.083	0.580	1.083	13.697

3.11 For savings rated as Amber, an equal amount of temporary in-year mitigation has been identified to cover any shortfalls which may occur. For saving rated as red, a bid will need to be made from the £3m contingency fund set up for non-achieved savings at the end of the year.

3.12 Full details on the progress on specific savings can be found in **Appendix 2**.

Reserves and Balances

Earmarked Reserves

- 3.13 On 1 April 22, earmarked reserves totalled £104.9m, following the year-end audit this figure was revised down to £97.2m, with some reserves reclassified as creditors (further details can be found in Appendix 3). Of the total earmarked reserves, nearly half will be spent in 2022/23, on the activities for which they were established. There will be cases however where some of the reserves will be committed over a longer period and have been set aside now to support the Council's financial sustainability and have little or limited impact on future years budgets.

TABLE 5: SUMMARY OF EARMARKED RESERVES

Directorate	Opening Balance £000	Forecast Use of Reserve £000	Forecast Contribution to Reserve £000	Closing Balance £000
Adult Care & Health	7,721	-1,669	0	6,052
Children, Families & Education	5,150	-2,095	0	3,055
Law & Governance	355	-235	72	192
Neighbourhoods Services	1,652	-1,462	0	190
Regeneration and Place	7,580	-2,104	344	5,820
Resources	17,712	-6,917	4	10,799
Other Corporate	57,016	-30,145	33	26,904
Total	97,186	-44,627	453	53,012

- 3.14 **Appendix 3** provides the full list of all earmarked reserves.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 This is the Quarter 3 budget monitoring report that provides information on the forecast outturn for the Council for 2022/23. The Council has robust methods for reporting and forecasting budgets in place and alongside formal Quarterly reporting to Policy & Resources Committee, the financial position is routinely reported at Directorate Management Team meetings and corporately at the Strategic Leadership Team (SLT). In the event of any early warning highlighting pressures and potential overspends, the SLT take collective responsibility to identify solutions to resolve these to ensure a balanced budget can be reported at the end of the year.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Council must set the budget in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and approval of a balanced budget each year is a statutory responsibility of the Council. Sections 25 to 29 of the Local Government Act 2003 impose duties on the Council in relation to how it sets and monitors its budget. These provisions require the Council to make prudent allowance for the risk and uncertainties in its budget and regularly monitor its finances during the year. The legislation leaves discretion to the Council about the allowances to be made and action to be taken.
- 5.2 The provisions of section 25, Local Government Act 2003 require that, when the Council is making the calculation of its budget requirement, it must have regard to the report of the chief finance (s.151) officer as to the robustness of the estimates made for the purposes of the calculations and the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves.
- 5.3 It is essential, as a matter of prudence that the financial position continues to be closely monitored. In particular, Members must satisfy themselves that sufficient mechanisms are in place to ensure both that savings are delivered and that new expenditure is contained within the available resources. Accordingly, any proposals put forward must identify the realistic measures and mechanisms to produce those savings.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 At this time, there are no additional resource implications as these have already been identified for the proposals agreed and submitted. However, where the budget is unbalanced and further proposals are required, then there will be resource implications, and these will be addressed within the relevant business cases presented to the Committee.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 The Council's ability to maintain a balanced budget for 2022/23 is dependent on a stable financial position. That said, the delivery of the budget is subject to ongoing variables both positive and adverse which imply a level of challenge in achieving this outcome.
- 7.2 In any budget year, there is a risk that operation will not be constrained within relevant budget limits. Under specific circumstances the Section 151 Officer may issue a Section 114 notice but that position has not been reached at the present time.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 Consultation has been carried out with the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) in arriving at the governance process for the 2022/23 budget monitoring process and the 2022/23 budget setting process. This report will also be shared and reviewed by the Independent Panel.
- 8.2 Since the budget was agreed at Full Council on 28 February, some proposals may have been the subject of further consultation with Members, Customer and Residents. The details of these are included within the individual business cases or are the subject of separate reports to the Committee.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. An Equality Impact Assessment is a tool to help council services identify steps they can take to ensure equality for anyone who might be affected by a particular policy, decision or activity.
- 9.2 At this time, there are no further equality implications as these have already been identified for the proposals agreed and submitted. However, where the budget is unbalanced and further proposals are required, then there may be equality implications associated with these, and these will be addressed within the relevant business cases presented to the Committee.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 This report has no direct environmental implications; however due regard is given as appropriate in respect of procurement and expenditure decision-making processes that contribute to the outturn position.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 In year activity will have incorporated community wealth implications. Consideration would have taken account of related matters across headings such as the following:

- **Progressive Procurement and Social Value**
How we commission and procure goods and services. Encouraging contractors to deliver more benefits for the local area, such as good jobs, apprenticeship, training & skills opportunities, real living wage, minimising their environmental impact, and greater wellbeing.
- **More local & community ownership of the economy**
Supporting more cooperatives and community businesses.
Enabling greater opportunities for local businesses.
Building on the experience of partnership working with voluntary, community and faith groups during the pandemic to further develop this sector.
- **Decent and Fair Employment**
Paying all employees a fair and reasonable wage.
- **Making wealth work for local places**

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 – Directorate Summary Financial Positions
APPENDIX 2 – Progress on the delivery of the 2022/23 Saving Programme
APPENDIX 3 – Earmarked Reserves

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Policy & Resources Committee Report 5 Oct 22: 2023-24 Budget Update
Bank of England – Monetary Policy Report
CIPFA’s Financial Management Code
Guidance on flexible use of capital receipts

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Policy and Resources Committee	9 November 2022
Policy and Resources Committee	7 September 2022
Policy and Resources Committee	13 July 2022
Council	28 February 2022
Policy and Resources Committee	15 February 2022
Policy and Resources Committee	17 January 2022

Policy and Resources Committee	1 December 2021
Policy and Resources Committee	30 November 2021

APPENDIX 1 - Directorate Summaries

1 Adult Care and Health

- 1.1 As at the end of December 2022 (Quarter 3), the forecast outturn position for Adult Care and Public Health is an adverse variance of £0.603m against a budget of £114.962m. £0.57m pressure will be offset by the use of the social care grant reserve and movement from corporate reserves to meet the pay award costs will support a balanced outturn for Adult Care and Public Health services.
- 1.2 The current forecast assumes full achievement of the £3.89m savings target.
- 1.3 Government announced funding of £500 million to help free up hospital pressures and reduce strain on the NHS. The funding is split across Integrated Care Boards (£300 million) and Local Authorities (£200 million). The allocation for Wirral is £3.576m of which £1.518m is for the Local Authority. Formal sign off of plans on 8th December 2022 have been developed via Wirral's Chief Exec and COO meeting groups. Fortnightly returns to the DHSC will report on progress against the schemes and monitor discharge rates.

TABLE 1 2022/23 Adult Care and Public Health – Service Budget & Forecast Outturn

	Budget	Forecast Outturn	Variance		Adverse/ Favourable
			(+ Fav / - Adv)		
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Adult Social Care Central Functions	8,980	8,441	539	6%	Favourable
Older People Services - WCFT	51,709	53,546	-1,837	-4%	Adverse
Mental Health & Disability Services - CWP	51,976	51,516	460	1%	Favourable
Other Care Commissions	93	-531	624	671%	Favourable
Delivery Services	1,947	2,407	-460	-24%	Adverse
Public Health	-262	-262	0	0%	
Wirral Intelligence Service	519	448	71	14%	Favourable
Directorate Surplus / (Deficit)	114,962	115,565	-603	-1%	Adverse

- 1.4 **Central Functions:** A favourable variance of £0.539m is reported at quarter 3. The staffing budgets are reported here currently reflecting a variance against a small number of vacancies and delays in recruitment. This is an improved position from quarter 2 following the recruitment freeze.
- 1.5 **Older People Services:** An adverse variance of £1.837m is reported at quarter 3. The variance reflects the pressure within community care of discharging clients from hospital into short term residential settings. There is a favourable forecast against client charges which will continue to improve as these short term provisions are reviewed. The forecast assumes full achievement of the £1.945m savings target attributed to Older People services.

- 1.6 **Mental Health & Disability Services:** A favourable variance of £0.460m is reported at quarter 3. Savings made in 2021-22 are having a cumulative impact on the forecast for 2022-23 and backdated joint funding income relating to last financial year is also having a positive impact. The forecast assumes full achievement of the £1.945m savings target attributed to complex care services for the current financial year.
- 1.7 **Other Care Commissions:** A favourable variance of £0.624m is reported at quarter 3. This area contains services accessed across all client groups, for example the Early Intervention and Prevention services and the hospital discharge provisions. The favourable position includes the transfer from reserves of the Better Care Fund balance supporting hospital discharge costs in the first quarter of the financial year. These costs are incurred and will be reflected across community care .
- 1.8 **Delivery Services:** An adverse variance of £0.460m is reported at quarter 3. This area currently reflects the part year budget for the transfer of Wirral Evolutions day services back to the Local Authority. The adverse variance is mainly due to the full year impact of the revised pay award, the cost of which would be met by Adults irrespective of the transfer back in-house.
- 1.9 **Public Health:** A balanced position (following contribution to reserves) is reported at quarter 2. The Public Health Grant for 2022-2023 is £30.99m an increase of £0.857m from the 2021-22 allocation of £30.142m.
- 1.10 **Wirral Intelligence Team:** A favourable variance of £0.071m is reported at quarter 3 against part year vacancy within the team.

Budget Virements

- 1.11 The budget has reduced from quarter two following realignment reflecting the transfer of day services back to the Local Authority from October 2022. The reduction is reflected with an increase within the Regeneration and Place directorate removing the income target for lease charges related to the day centre buildings. There is no impact to the Council budget overall.

2. Chief Executive Office

- 2.1 As at the end of December 2022 (Quarter 3), the forecast outturn position for Chief Executive Office is an adverse variance of £0.066m against a budget of £1.786m. This is due to increased costs from the pay award, over and above the original 3% built into the 2022-23 budget and which will be mitigated corporately.

TABLE 2: 2022/23 Chief Executive Office – Service Budget & Forecast Outturn

	Budget £000	Forecast Outturn £000	Variance (+ Fav / - Adv)		Adverse/ Favourable
			£000	%	
Chief Executive Office	160	159	1	1%	Favourable
Comms & Marketing	963	1,040	-77	-8%	Adverse
PAs/Exec. Support	663	653	10	2%	Favourable
Directorate Surplus / (Deficit)	1,786	1,852	-66	-4%	Adverse

- 2.2 **Comms & Marketing:** An adverse variance of £0.077m is reported for Quarter 3. The advertising and publicity budget has been reduced to contribute towards the overall savings for this Directorate. Advertising income was impacted by COVID-19 last financial year, and there is a risk that inflationary pressures will impact income generation in this area during the year as local businesses who typically use this service limit expenditure to essential items as costs rise. There are risks relating to the saving of £0.110m associated with the Directorate which equate to £0.05m. This will be mitigated corporately through utilising remaining COVID-19 funding for employees within Comms and Marketing as work on the COVID-19 response continues.
- 2.3 **PAs/ Exec. Support:** A favourable variance of £0.010m is reported for Quarter 3 which relates to employee costs. One vacant post has been deleted to contribute towards the overall savings for this Directorate.

Budget Virements

- 2.4 There have been no budget virement in quarter 3.

3. Children, Families and Education

- 3.1 As at the end of December 2022 (Quarter 3), the forecast outturn position Children, Families and Education is an adverse variance of £3.116m against a budget of £79.234m.
- 3.2 There have been significant movements since the last report for quarter 2, largely due to the continued trend of increasing numbers of children in care, after a period of reducing numbers, particularly in young people placed in high-cost residential settings and more recently into independent fostering. Previously reported costs of £1.1m from the employers proposed pay award, over and above the original 3% built into the 2022-23 budget and SEND Assisted Travel contract, demand and inflation pressures remain. Some mitigations have been taken to reduce the full impact of these adverse variances. The proposed reduction in national insurance contributions from November 2022 has been factored in, along with additional grant and income for the Early Help Service and use of specific reserves. The outturn position reflects delivery of most of the 2022/23 saving proposals.

TABLE 3: 2022/23 Children, Families & Education-Service Budget & Forecast Outturn

	Budget	Forecast Outturn	Variance		Adverse/ Favourable
			(+ Fav / - Adv)		
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Children and Families	50,141	53,253	-3,112	-6%	Adverse
Early Help and Prevention	11,196	10,599	597	5%	Favourable
Modernisation and Support	4,675	4,275	400	9%	Favourable
Schools - Core	13,222	14,223	-1,001	-8%	Adverse
Directorate Surplus / (Deficit)	79,234	82,350	-3,116	-4%	Adverse

- 3.3 **Children and Families:** The service is forecasting an adverse variance of £3.112m. The proposed increased pay award has impacted here by moving the forecast £0.67m alongside a noticeable increase in children in care rate which is with a post-covid impact demand and price uplifts that have arisen after the budgets were agreed. There are increases in Residential and more recently independent fostering. The underlying pressures that relate to cost of living /inflation, have been included in the MTFP for 2023/24.

The expenditure for this service includes £27.952m on care costs. Overall, performance data indicates that the Children Looked After (CLA) rate having been stable in previous years and declined over the last year are now starting to edge up. An increase in care numbers was anticipated to occur in 2023/24 due to post covid impact, it now appears that this along with cost of living is impacting the service earlier resulting in the increase in CLA rate and pressures in costs. This service also includes expenditure to support unaccompanied asylum seekers with grant income covering the associated costs.

TABLE 4: Number of Children in Care

Dec-20	Mar-21	Jun-21	Sep-21	Dec-21	Mar-22	Jun-22	Sept-22	Dec-22
825	821	819	814	795	786	770	789	804

- 3.4 **Early Help & Prevention:** A favourable forecast variance of £0.597m is reported for 2022/23. The favourable variance is mainly due to staff vacancies and appointments at the lower range of the salary scale. In addition, the Family Matters service expects to achieve the budgeted grant income and claim the extra from the full activity grant. This is being invested and contribute to social care activities during the course of the year. Further grant income in Contextual Safeguarding and Youth Offending Service has also contributed to the overall service.
- 3.5 **Modernisation and Support:** A favourable variance of £0.400m is reported for 2022/23. The favourable variance is mainly due to staff vacancies and appointments at the lower range of the salary scale. Commissioned services are being reviewed to release further efficiencies where possible.
- 3.6 **Schools – core:** An adverse variance of £1.001m against a budget of £13.222m is reported for 2022/23. There is an adverse forecast variance mainly in relation to the Children’s Assisted Travel (£1.057m), which is due to the pressure from the contract renewal effective from September 2022 and the pressure from the demand increase. The contracts have not been uplifted for the past 4 years, and together with the current inflation rate and the fuel price increase, the new contracts are significantly higher than anticipated.

Budget Virements

- 3.7 There have been no budget virements requiring committee approval in quarter 3.

TABLE 5: 2022/23 Children, Families and Education–Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)

	Budget £000	Forecast Outturn £000	Variance (+ Fav / - Adv)		Adverse/ Favourable
			£000	%	
DSG Expenditure:					
Schools Block	119,142	119,142	0	0%	
Schools Block De-delegated	1,820	1,802	18	1%	Favourable
Central School Services Block	2,120	2,072	48	2%	Favourable
High Needs	52,379	55,776	-3,397	-6%	Adverse
Early Years	20,184	20,264	-80	0%	Adverse
Total Gross Surplus / (Deficit)	195,645	199,056	-3,411	-2%	Adverse
DSG Income:					
	-				
	195,355	-195,389	34	0%	Adverse
Movement in DSG Reserve					
	-290	-3,667	3,377	1164%	
Total Net Surplus / (Deficit)	0	0	0	0%	

- 3.8 An adverse variance position is forecasted for 2022/23 as a result of the High Needs block which shows an adverse forecast position of £3.397m. The adverse forecast variance is mainly due to an increase in demand and complexity. Demand on this budget is expected to grow in line with the requests for Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) assessments. Requests increased by around 38% in the period to December 22 compared to last year. The total number of the EHCP issued in the period between April to December 22 is 607, compared with 414 issued in 2021-22.
- 3.9 **DSG income:** A favourable forecast variance of £0.034m is reported for 2022/23 due to the grant adjustments in High Needs and Early Years blocks.
- 3.10 The 2021-22 financial year closed with a DSG reserve cumulative deficit position of £1.690m. The 22-23 budget include an anticipated in-year deficit balance of £0.290m to be added to the reserve balance, however, the current forecast outturn position is overspend of £3.667m thus delivering a cumulative £5.357m deficit position at the end of 2022-23 This is mainly due to the pressure from High Needs block. It was announced in December 2022 that the statutory override that separated DSG deficits from the authority's wider finances was extended further 3 years and due to expire at the end of 2025/26.
- 3.11 In 2023-24, the Council is participating in the Delivering Better Value (DBV) in SEND (Special Educational Need and Disabilities) programme which is the DfE's support package to help local authorities maintain effective SEND services while functioning sustainably. The aim of the DBV programme is to improve delivery of SEND services for children and young people and to ensure that this is done so within budget.

4 Law & Governance

- 4.1 As at the end of December 2022 (Quarter 3), the forecast outturn position for Law and Governance is a small adverse variance of £0.177m against a budget of £5.821m
- 4.2 The Law and Governance Directorate is reporting minor variances across services at Quarter 3.

TABLE 6: 2022/23 Law & Governance – Service Budget & Forecast Outturn

	Budget £000	Forecast Outturn £000	Variance (+ Fav / - Adv)		Adverse/ Favourable
			£000	%	
Law & Governance (Corporate)	320	331	-11	-3%	Adverse
Legal Services	3,214	3,229	-15	0%	Adverse
Democratic & Member Services	1,435	1,410	25	2%	Favourable
Coroner Services	730	757	-27	-4%	Adverse
Electoral Services	440	556	-116	-26%	Adverse
Registrar Services	-186	-188	2	-1%	Favourable
Licensing	-132	-97	-35	27%	Adverse
Directorate Surplus / (Deficit)	5,821	5,998	-177	-3%	Adverse

- 4.3 **Electoral Services:** An adverse variance of £0.116m is forecast for 2022/23. There is a shortfall of £0.030m from a grant that is no longer received. Two By-Elections have occurred this year which have cost £0.032m and a small budget shortfall due to the pay increase. The balance is made up of multiple variances across the service caused by the pressure of increased costs.
- 4.4 **Registrars Services:** A small favourable variance of £0.002m is forecast for 2022/23.

Budget Virements

- 4.5 There have been no budget virements requiring committee approval in quarter 3.

5 Neighbourhood Services

5.1 As at the end of December 2022 (Quarter 3), the forecast outturn position for the Neighbourhoods Directorate is £6.281m adverse against a budget of £48.742m. The reasons for this are detailed in the table below.

TABLE 7: Summary of Neighbourhood Services variances

COVID-19	£000
Parking income shortfall due to COVID-19 recovery	572
Leisure income shortfall (continuation of the recovery programme post COVID-19)	1,300
Sub-Total	1,872
Macro-Economic Conditions	
Nationally agreed Pay Award	1,055
Additional unforeseen energy costs due to inflation	700
Waste Contract Inflation increases	1,000
The above variances are mitigated in part due to a reduction in contribution to reserves relating to the Waste Levy	-600
Sub-Total	2,155
Delays in Decisions	
Parking relating to new sites postponed due to member decision	500
Holding costs relating to C A T of Woodchurch	200
Holding costs relating to C A T of Libraries	380
Sub-Total	1,080
Other	
Floral Pavilion income shortfall due to coastal works and increased cost pressures	384
Highways Winter Gritting pressures	340
Highways Developer Income Shortfalls	450
Sub-Total	1,174
TOTAL	6,281
MITIGATION	
COVID-19 Reserves	
Parking income shortfall due to COVID-19 recovery	-572
Leisure income shortfall (continuation of the recovery programme post COVID-19)	-1,300
Savings Contingency Funding	
Holding costs relating to C A T of Woodchurch	-200
Holding costs relating to C A T of Libraries	-380
Corporate Reserves	
Nationally agreed Pay Award	-1,055
NET POSITION	2,774

- 5.2. Income generation has not yet returned to pre pandemic levels in Quarter 3 due to footfall and usage in some areas remains less than it was in 2019/20, which is in line with the national position. There has been some improvement since Quarter 2 due to new pricing structures, and slight increase in footfall now that most areas are fully operational. there is a risk of further impact in Quarter 4. Income levels within Leisure are currently at 75% of pre pandemic levels, which reflects the current national position for the sector.
- 5.3 The 2022/23 budget incorporates £5.26m of savings. Work commenced to achieve these savings following agreement at Budget Council in February. As at Quarter 3, the Directorate has achieved £3.4m of these savings. However, there are risks and pressures associated with some savings relating to income generation. There are additional ongoing pressures within some areas due to Community Asset Transfer (CAT) and the management of these buildings has transferred to Regeneration from 1 November 22. The saving shortfalls are being finalised and a bid will be made to the contingency fund to cover these.
- 5.4 As part of the 2022/23 budget savings, some library assets, two golf courses and Woodchurch Leisure Centre were recommended by Members to be available for CAT as an amendment to the budget. Members agreed that some libraries would remain open until 1 November 22 to enable a potential CAT. On 25 October 2022, Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee agreed to commence negotiations to transfer the assets of Pensby Library to Pioneer People and Prenton Library to St Stephen's Church. It was also agreed that further negotiations would commence with the other groups for a period of time ending 9 December 2022, with recommendations relating to these being reported at a future Committee.
- 5.5 This results in cost pressures up to November within the Neighbourhoods Directorate, resulting in £0.380m of the total saving being unachievable in-year in relation to Libraries and £0.200m of the total savings being unachievable in-year in relation to Woodchurch Leisure Centre. In addition, there will be some holding costs and decommissioning costs following closure of the libraries on 1 November 22 that have also not been budgeted. These are estimated to be £0.062m and will be reflected within Regeneration Directorate as they have responsibility for running the assets from November 2022. The Directorate is looking at ways that this can be mitigated but with other significant pressure risks resulting from increasing inflation, it is unlikely that these costs can be mitigated. If this is the case, a bid will need to be made from the £3m contingency for non-achieved savings at the end of the year.

TABLE 8: 2022/23 Neighbourhoods – Service Budget & Forecast Outturn

	Budget	Forecast Outturn	Variance		Adverse/ Favourable
			(+ Fav / - Adv)		
			£000	£000	
Cross Cutting funding & Neighbourhoods Management Team	-5,917	-5,914	-3	0%	Adverse
Community Safety and Transport	3,327	3,706	-379	-11%	Adverse
Highways and Infrastructure	5,269	7,314	-2,045	-39%	Adverse
Leisure, Libraries and Customer Engagement	7,584	10,432	-2,848	-38%	Adverse
Parks and Environment	35,926	36,932	-1,006	-3%	Adverse
Directorate Surplus / (Deficit)	46,189	52,470	-6,281	-14%	Adverse

5.5 **Community Safety and Transport:** An adverse variance of £0.379m is forecast for 2022/23. £0.223m relates to the adjustment for the national public sector pay award. The remaining £0.196m mainly relates to adverse variances within Children's and Adult Transport due to increased demand and tender price increases. A review of the service is currently underway but at present the team continue to be engaged in activities associated with the longer-term response to the pandemic in addition to their usual monitoring and response team duties. This includes additional pressures within the Community Patrol team which are being funded from carried forward planned COVID-19 tranche funding. In addition, some of the teams are engaged in functions associated with the Community Safety Partnership and are being funded from the reserve for these activities. This is temporary funding utilised in 2022/23 only, which will mitigate £0.096m of lead in pressures associated with the savings within this area.

5.6 **Highways and Infrastructure:** An adverse variance of £2.045m is forecast for 2022/23. This is made up of the following variances:

- £0.179m adverse variance relates to the adjustment for the pay award.
- £0.572m adverse variance relates to a shortfall in car parking income as ticket sales are approximately 65%-70% of pre pandemic levels due to an increase in hybrid working and changes in customer behaviour.
- £0.5m adverse variance relates to Car Parking charges at the proposed new sites which has not yet been implemented. This is pending a further report being brought to Members for proposed charges in new locations which will be informed by the strategic parking strategy but based upon the need to efficiently manage parking and traffic within the borough and recover the costs of the service.
- £0.3m adverse variance relates to winter gritting due to cost of staffing and supplies
- £0.458m adverse variance relates to a shortfall in income from developers. There has been a reduction in contractors commencing new development

work in 2022/23 due to a slow recovery from COVID-19 and an increase in supply chain costs. This has led to a slowdown in the rate in developers bringing schemes forward.

- £0.108m adverse variance relates to an increase in street lighting energy costs due to a rise in prices nationally.
- This is mitigated in part by a £0.073m favourable variance due to additional income in relation to fees from utility companies for temporary traffic order road closures.

5.7 To mitigate the overall adverse variance, several remedial actions have been identified and are being actioned. These are included in the Table 2, section 3.10 of the report above and in summary are:

- £0.572m use of the carried forward Covid tranche funding planned for the expected continuing reduction in car parking income due to lower than pre-pandemic levels of footfall. As this is one-off funding, plans are in development to fully mitigate any recurrent shortfall in 23/24 and will be brought forward in that year
- There are mitigations of £0.05m relating to employee buy back of annual leave, with opportunities for further mitigation if employees choose to buy back a proportion of their leave in year.

5.8 **Leisure, Libraries and Customer Engagement:** An adverse variance of £2.848m is reported for 2022/23. This is made up of the following adverse variances. This has improved from Quarter 2 where an adverse variance of £3.5M was reported. This is mainly due to an improvement in income generation and forecasts for the remainder of the year which are based on income generation to date.

- £0.267m relates to the adjustment for the proposed pay award. This has resulted in a Council wide financial impact, and as Leisure, Libraries and Customer Engagement has the largest workforce, this area has been impacted the most.
- £1.302m within Sports and Recreation relating to income pressures as it has still to see full recovery of membership and casual user numbers, which reduced as a consequence of the pandemic. However, this is an improving trend. This position assumes no further recovery in membership and casual usage levels for the remainder of 2022/23 and £1.0m of this shortfall is due to The Oval Leisure Centre. Committee are aware of these reasons and there has been no significant improvement relating to this Leisure Centre since Quarter 2. Marketing opportunities and pro-active sales will continue across the whole estate to mitigate this position in year.
- £0.384m within Theatre relates to income pressures due to the impact of coastal works, recovery from the pandemic and cost of living pressures
- £0.530m relates to energy pressures due to inflationary increases.
- £0.200m of this relates to ongoing holding costs for Woodchurch Leisure Centre
- £0.380m relates to ongoing holding costs for Libraries whilst the Community Asset Transfer process is finalised.
- This is mitigated in part by a favourable variance of £0.081m within One Stop Shops and Customer Contact, and a favourable variance of £0.133m within Sports and Recreation due to the part year effect of employee vacancies.

- 5.9 Overall footfall is approximately 75% of 2019/20 levels which has adversely impacted income generation. This level of reduced recovery rate is consistent with national averages. At the start of the year, it was expected that income would not fully recover to pre pandemic levels and as such a £0.5m income contingency budget was set aside. Until the year continues, it will not be fully known what the level of recovery will be as it is anticipated that footfall will increase as the year goes on, as it did in 2021/22. However, it is expected that the full £0.5m will be required in-year. If it appears that recovery will not be back to pre-pandemic levels going into 2023/24 then the value of the Leisure expenditure will have to be decreased to ensure there is not a recurrent pressure going forward. This is being considered as part of the 2023/24 budget proposals.
- 5.10 The service faces pressures associated with energy price increases and a rise in general costs due to increasing inflation. In a response to mitigate and improve footfall, the following initiatives are being driven:
- The service continues to review all expenditure with a view to reducing or stopping non-urgent expenditure to mitigate the risk of further lost income. As at Quarter 3, costs relating to supplies and premises have been reviewed and areas where efficiencies can be achieved have been identified. To seek to compensate for these challenges, the service is looking to further maximise income generation and the identification of new opportunities as follows:
 - Memberships & Income – A drive on usage and memberships including bespoke offers at appropriate sites such as the new Europa Gym, and the introduction of offers for targeted groups. Direct Debits and memberships have increased slightly in Quarter 3 and income generation continues to improve at the remaining sites as some customers have transferred from closed sites and services.
 - Golf – Two council eighteen-hole golf courses are currently not in use (Hoylake and Brackenwood) and two leisure courses are also not in use at Kings Parade (Foot golf and Chip and Put). Together with price and membership remodelling, this has seen the anticipated transition of players to our two remaining sites at Arrowe Park (predominantly) and the Warrens – successfully reducing costs while increasing income.
 - Introduction of activities aimed at children and young people such as holiday camps and pool-based inflatables at selected sites to improve income generation. This increased income generation at Guinea Gap during Quarter 2 and 3, which has significantly contributed to the improved position.
 - A new marketing campaign was launched in the final month of Quarter 2 to promote the service and the new “Active Wirral” brand, which demonstrates attractive rates and benefits compared to competitor offers. This has improved income generation in Quarter 3 and will continue to impact memberships and income generation which will be reflected in Quarter 4.
 - As at Quarter 3, some additional income has been generated which is aligned to corporate outcomes to improve health and wellbeing, this includes funding from NHS / Social Care / third sector partner organisations. This has contributed towards the improved position in Quarter 3 and the forecast position for Quarter 4.
 - Work is still underway to introduce pool covers at pool sites to improve energy conservation. The impact of this on energy bills will be reflected once the work is finalised later in the year.

- Working with national sporting governing bodies such as the Football Association and Lawn Tennis Association to identify and introduce delivery models that generate income and reduce cost for example the new 3G pitch builds / new operating model for tennis at Wirral Tennis & Sports Centre, and the introduction of wider offers for children and young people through soft play and interactive activity. Capital work is currently underway at Wirral Tennis & Sports Centre. However, the impact of this on income generation will not be reflected until next financial year when the work is finalised.

- 5.11 As part of the 2022/23 budget savings, some assets were recommended by Members to be available for Community Asset Transfer (CAT) as an amendment to the budget. Council agreed that demolition of Woodchurch Leisure centre will not be progressed whilst a process is undergone to consider the feasibility of any expressions of interest submitted to the Council from community groups. Tourism, Communities Culture and Leisure Committee agreed to consider the reports in relation to the transfer of Woodchurch Leisure Centre and Brackenwood Golf Course at a future Committee which in the process of being confirmed. As a result of this, although Woodchurch Leisure Centre remains closed, there are asset holding costs associated with the centre for which no mitigation was put forward at the time of the amendment. The consequence of this is that £0.2m costs will be incurred for the whole financial year that were not factored into the budget. The Directorate is looking at ways that this can be mitigated but with other significant pressure risks resulting from increasing inflation, it may be unlikely that these costs can be mitigated. If this is the case, a bid will need to be made from the £3m contingency for non-achieved savings at the end of the year.
- 5.12 Floral Pavilion is currently forecasting an adverse position of £0.384m at Quarter 3. £0.149m relates to the Sail Loft, as income has been impacted by coastal works and cost of living pressures and £0.235m relates to projected income shortfalls within the Theatre. This is due to risks associated with some savings and income targets within this area. There are no further issues with the other catering sites as at Quarter 3. The Directorate is taking urgent action to mitigate the costs through reducing staffing expenditure and reviewing expenditure against non-essential items to ensure the budget can still be balanced.
- 5.13 As part of the 2022/23 budget savings, some library assets were recommended by Members to be available for CAT as an amendment to the budget. Members agreed that some libraries would remain open until 1 November 22 to enable a potential CAT. On 25 October 2022, Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee agreed to commence negotiations to transfer the assets of Pensby Library to Pioneer People and Prenton Library to St Stephen's Church. It was also agreed that further negotiations would commence with the other groups for a period of time ending 9 December 2022, with recommendations relating to these being reported at a future Committee. This results in cost pressures up to November within the Neighbourhoods Directorate, resulting in £0.380m of the total saving being unachievable in-year. In addition, there will be some holding costs and decommissioning costs following closure of the libraries on 1 November 22 that have also not been budgeted. These are estimated to be £0.062m and will be reflected within Regeneration Directorate as they have responsibility for running the assets from November 2022. As with the leisure CAT, the Directorate is looking at ways that this can be mitigated but with other significant pressure risks resulting from

increasing inflation, it may be unlikely that these costs can be mitigated. If this is the case, a bid will need to be made from the £3m contingency for non-achieved savings at the end of the year.

- 5.14 **Parks & Environment:** An adverse variance of £1.006m is forecast for 2022/23. £0.381m relates to the nationally agreed pay award.
- 5.15 Waste and Environment is forecasting an adverse variance of £0.475m. £0.965m is due to overall increases in the borough wide waste collection and disposal costs, which is linked to rises in inflation and the Consumer Price Index (CPI) rate and £0.04m is due to the cost of leaf fall. The remaining adverse variance of £0.070m relates to a shortfall in income due to enforcement fines associated with litter and dog fouling. This reflects the Council's current policy relating to education and encouragement of behaviour change. The adverse variances are mitigated in part through a reduction in contribution to reserves relating to the Waste Levy of £0.600m.
- 5.16 Parks and Tree Management is forecasting an adverse variance of £0.355m. £0.150m of this relates to Tree Management due to increased demand and clean-up operations due to Storm Arwen which has cost the Council an additional £0.250m. There will be an ongoing pressure in 2023/24 in relation to Tree Management as this area has previously been funded through use of reserves which have been fully utilised in 2022/23. The remaining adverse variance of £0.205m relates to Parks. This is due to inflationary increases and changes to specifications following a review of the contract. This is mitigated in part through utilising the remaining reserve relating to this area. The adverse variance has reduced from Quarter 2 due to a review of planned preventative maintenance and non-essential expenditure. The service will aim to mitigate the remaining adverse variance within Parks through maximising income generating opportunities within Cemeteries within the final Quarter and through favourable variances relating to Regulatory Services.
- 5.17 Regulatory Services is reporting a favourable variance of £0.186m. This is due to employees, as the service has faced challenges in recruiting and retaining staff due to current market demand. To address this the service has appointed apprentices in Quarter 2 who will be trained in these roles and fill the skills gaps. Some employee costs are funded through COVID-19 grants as they continue to complete work on the outgoing COVID-19 response which has resulted in a favourable variance in 2022/23. This funding will end during the year and will not present any recurrent pressures into 2023/24.

Budget Virements

- 5.18 There have been no budget virements requiring committee approval in quarter 3.

6 Regeneration & Place

6.1 As at the end of December 2022 (Quarter 3), the year-end position for Regeneration & Place is a favourable position of £0.013m on a budget of £37.688m. This compares to a £0.241m adverse position as at Quarter 2.

TABLE 9: 2022/23 Regeneration and Place – Service Budget & Forecast Outturn

	Budget	Forecast Outturn	Variance		Adverse/ Favourable
			(+ Fav / - Adv)		
			£000	£000	
Regeneration	24,614	24,553	61	0%	Favourable
Housing	6,540	6,500	40	1%	Favourable
Asset Management & Investment	4,946	5,106	-160	-3%	Adverse
Planning	1,074	1,002	72	7%	Favourable
Special Projects	114	114	0	0%	
Local Plan	400	400	0	0%	
Directorate Surplus / (Deficit)	37,688	37,675	13	0%	Favourable

6.2 **Regeneration:** A favourable variance of £0.061m is forecast. This includes capitalisation of staff who are supporting the delivery of assets of 1.3m (against a savings target of 1.4m) and the planned use of the Regeneration reserve (665k) to help fund the cost of regeneration in year.

6.3 **Housing:** A favourable variance of £0.04m is forecast. This includes grant awards being allocated which have been able to offset pressures. Some supported housing contracts have been extended by exception, which alongside maximising the use of grants and income has improved the forecast from Q2 by £0.110m.

6.4 **Asset Management & Investment:** An adverse variance of £0.160m is forecast. Income pressures of over £0.7m exist across the rental accommodation within Birkenhead, with forecast income being at 50% of budgeted income targets, principally at Europa House (£0.3m) and Birkenhead Market (£0.3m). These are partially offset with reduced spend on unoccupied buildings, with reduced maintenance costs (£0.3m) and a reduction in running costs (£0.2m), although this remains volatile as some buildings become operational increasing these costs and any newly vacated buildings transferring into Assets require holding costs.

Budget Virements

6.5 There have been two budget virements since Quarter 2. £0.145m from Adult Social Care relating to the lease income for the Wirral Evolutions properties, which now being in-house is no longer required. Also, £0.108m for Community Centres transferring from Neighbourhoods into Assets. This means the budget for Regeneration and Place has increased by £0.253m since Quarter 2.

7. Resources

7.1 As at the end of December 2022 (Quarter 3), the forecast year end position for Resources is an adverse variance of £2.413m against a budget of £44.900m.

TABLE 10: 2022/23 Resources– Service Budget & Forecast Outturn

	Budget	Forecast Outturn	Variance		Adverse/ Favourable
			(+ Fav / - Adv)		
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Finance & Investment	23,220	23,719	-499	-2%	Adverse
HR & OD and Payroll	3,788	3,666	122	3%	Favourable
Digital & Improvement	7,466	8,673	-1,207	-16%	Adverse
Revenues & Benefits	2,215	2,881	-666	-30%	Adverse
Audit, Risk & Business Continuity	537	517	20	4%	Favourable
Strategic Change	7,674	7,576	98	1%	Favourable
Directorate Surplus / (Deficit)	44,900	47,032	-2,132	-5%	Adverse

7.2 **Finance & Investment:** An adverse forecast variance of £0.499m is reported for 2022/23, which relates to corporate debt positions and External Audit Fees. Bad debts have increased to £0.296m adverse due in part to the worsening position of Vulnerable people debt (which is likely to increase further with current economic factors) and the expected credit loss increase related to additional loan facility payments made during 2022/23. External Audit fees are expected to be adverse by £0.120m

7.3 **HR & OD:** A favourable variance of £0.122m is forecast as a result of staffing turnover and a number of vacancies not being recruited to.

7.4 **Digital & Improvement:** An adverse variance of £1.207m is forecast This is an ongoing pressure resulting from loss of income from schools choosing to procure IT services with external suppliers. Printing Services are consistently unable to achieve their income target as the volume of printing reduces due to continued use of digital solutions. Both areas are subject to an ongoing review which will result in options for the services coming forward in 2023/24.

7.5 **Revenues & Benefits:** An adverse variance of £0.666m is forecast. There is a shortfall in Housing Benefit subsidy received from central government in respect of local housing allowance. This is countrywide phenomenon and not a Wirral specific issue. This relates to Supported Accommodation and is partially mitigated through Housing Benefits Overpayments.

Budget Virements

7.9 There have been no budget virements requiring committee approval in quarter 3.

Table 11: Proposed Mitigation

Directorate	Description of Mitigation	Estimated value £000	Future impact
Adult Care & Health	Use of Social Care Reserve.	567	No potential future impact, will be permanently mitigated from future service reviews
Chief Executive Office	Planned utilisation of Covid tranche funding.	50	No future impact as functions will be prioritised accordingly
Children Families & Education	Use of Social Care Reserve to cover rising care costs.	1,806	The future recurrent impact of rising care costs has been built into the 23/24 budget planning.
Neighbourhoods Service	Planned use of Covid tranche funding for reduced income levels.	3,471	Reduced income post-covid is an emerging issue requiring an urgent fundamental review of income streams during 22/23. Pending this review a pressure may be built into 23/24 budget.
Corporate	Allocation of specific reserves to mitigate pressures.	768	Any future recurrent impact will be built into the 23/24 budget as pressures during Q2
Corporate	Full review of reserves to clawback non-priority reserves to cover additional costs of 22-23 pay award	2,700	The future recurrent impact of pay award cost has been built into the 23/24 budget planning.
Corporate	Potential partial use of £3m contingency fund for non-achievement of savings	580	No recurrent impact as will be used to fund the delays as a result of CAT agreements which will be fully completed before 23/24
Corporate	Potential use of the remaining £3m contingency fund.	2,420	Income pressures to be reviewed during 22/23 and if not recovered, will be included as a pressure in 23/24 budget
TOTAL		12,362	

Appendix 2 - Progress on the delivery of the 2022/23 saving programme.

Saving Proposal	Approved Saving	Green	Amber	Red	Mitigation	Comment	Actual Savings Delivered to Date
Adults Care & Health							
Adult Care & Health demand mitigations	£3.890m	£3.890m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	On target to be achieved. Adult Care and Health work closely with both NHS Wirral Community Health and Care Foundation Trust (WCHFT) and Cheshire and Wirral NHS Partnership Trust (CWP) to achieve the savings target set each year. The Trusts have been informed of the 2022-23 target and regular meetings are set up to discuss their approach and progress throughout the year. They are currently progressing well and a further savings has been identified by the Trusts but is yet to be validated.	£3.171m
Total Adult Care & Health	£3.890m	£3.890m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m		£3.171m

Saving Proposal	Approved Saving	Green	Amber	Red	Mitigation	Comment	Actual Savings Delivered to Date
Chief Executive Office							
Service Redesign	£0.110m	£0.060m	£0.050m	£0.000m	£0.050m	Savings have been identified through deletion of vacant post and reduction marketing budget. Mitigation to be achieved as some employees have been seconded to work on the COVID-19 response and funded through Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF). Savings achieved to date relate to a reduction in the marketing budget and removal of one vacant post	£0.060m
Total Chief Exec Office	£0.110m	£0.060m	£0.050m	£0.000m	£0.050m		£0.060m

Saving Proposal	Approved Saving	Green	Amber	Red	Mitigation	Comment	Actual Savings Delivered to Date
Children Families & Education							
Reduction of Historic Teacher's Pensions Costs	£0.200m	£0.200m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved. This historic commitment reduces year on year as the cohort ages budget has been reduced accordingly.	£0.200m
Alternative Accommodation Provision for Children Looked After	£1.000m	£1.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Has some risks as is dependent on delivery of new accommodation and identifying / matching young people to places. A reserve was established at the end of 21/22 of £470k to mitigate any potential non-achievement and will be used in 22/23. Two projects are currently forecast to come on-stream towards the end of the financial year.	£0.700m
Utilisation of demand reserve for COVID pressures	£0.467m	£0.467m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved. Reserve has been drawdown and utilised.	£0.467m
Children's Services Redesign and posts deletion/closure	£0.294m	£0.294m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is achieved. Redesign has been completed and posts deleted.	£0.290m

Saving Proposal	Approved Saving	Green	Amber	Red	Mitigation	Comment	Actual Savings Delivered to Date
Reduction in adoption orders	£0.050m	£0.000m	£0.050m	£0.000m	£0.050m	Approved saving has been delayed but will be achieved 2023-24. The savings was to be found by a reduction in Wirral's Adoption in Merseyside (AIM) budget allocation due to falling numbers of adoption placements, as a historic backlog has been cleared. Whilst some of this has come through in 2022/23, the full impact is expected to occur in 23/24. An update from in-year monitoring is that an underspend is being forecast for the Service Level Agreement (unrelated to placements). This will mitigate / offset the impact of the budgetary saving not being implemented as originally planned. The savings are expected to be delivered by underspend in AIM during the year and Wirral's contribution to AIM budget being reduced in 23/24.	£0.040m
Reduction in Looked After Children (LAC) numbers	£0.564m	£0.564m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	On target to be achieved. The number of leaving care remain as expected and should deliver the savings	£0.460m
Review of Youth Offending Service (YOS)	£0.025m	£0.025m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved. Service has been redesigned	£0.025m

Saving Proposal	Approved Saving	Green	Amber	Red	Mitigation	Comment	Actual Savings Delivered to Date
Special Educational Needs (SEND) Transport Review	£0.150m	£0.150m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	On target to be achieved by meeting the needs of young people in a more flexible manner. Working with families and young people to reconfigure services.	£0.050m
Increase funding for placements from CCG and SEND	£0.200m	£0.200m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	On target to be achieved. There are ongoing discussions for funding from Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) and health partners. Wirral has been successful in bidding for capital funding for valuing care residential which is included in the accommodation strategy savings. We expect Health contribution towards the funding of the unit. A more detailed focus on individual placements is also increasing funding where appropriate. Funding is now actively explored on all new placements. With joint funding 50% contribution agreed for a recent high cost placement.	£0.100m
Redesign of Youth Offer	£0.200m	£0.200m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved. Youth redesign is implemented.	£0.200m
Total Children Families & Education	£3.150m	£3.100m	£0.050m	£0.000m	£0.050m		£2.532m

Saving Proposal	Approved Saving	Green	Amber	Red	Mitigation	Comment	Actual Savings Delivered to Date
Law and Governance							
Capitalisation of salaries	£0.200m	£0.200m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Ongoing monitoring of eligible costs for capitalisation indicates that from time recording, the saving will be fully met by capitalising salaries against projects.	£0.200m
Removal of individual ward member budgets	£0.184m	£0.184m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved.	£0.184m
Reduction in the Number of Committees	£0.150m	£0.150m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved.	£0.150m
Whole Council Elections	£0.125m	£0.125m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved. Budget has been removed with a contribution to reserve each year to smooth the effective of the four yearly elections and any by-elections.	£0.125m
Total Law & Governance	£0.659m	£0.659m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m		£0.659m

Saving Proposal	Approved Saving	Green	Amber	Red	Mitigation	Comment	Actual Savings Delivered to Date
Neighbourhood Services							
Highways Operational Services - Income Exploration	£0.030m	£0.030m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	On target to be achieved. No actual savings achieved to date, as due to income trends it will not be clear how much of this saving has been delivered until the end of the financial year and will be monitored monthly	£0.000m
Closure of Europa Fun/Leisure Pool & Enhanced Gym Offer	£0.266m	£0.266m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Fun Pool has remained closed since March 2020; therefore this saving is expected to be fully achieved. A new staffing structure was put in place last financial year to reflect the reduced costs associated with running a gym in place of the fun pool.	£0.200m
Catering Pod at Leasowe Leisure Centre for Football Traffic	£0.021m	£0.021m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Catering pod has been purchased and located at Leasowe. Trading commenced mid-September to coincide with the football season when income generation opportunities are greatest. Since commencing trading, the catering pod is currently achieving an average of £600 per weekend, meaning it is on track to fully achieve the target by the end of the year if trends continue.	£0.007m

Saving Proposal	Approved Saving	Green	Amber	Red	Mitigation	Comment	Actual Savings Delivered to Date
Fleet efficiencies in Transport - going green	£0.020m	£0.000m	£0.020m	£0.000m	£0.020m	This saving will be achieved through a review and replacement of some fleet vehicles with newer models which are more efficient. There is a risk associated with this saving due to increased inflation impacting fuel bills. Mitigation to be achieved through opportunities that have arisen since April 2022 in relation to a review of the transport fleet and sale of vehicles which are no longer required.	£0.015m
Capitalisation of Highways salaries	£0.015m	£0.015m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	On target to be achieved. Full year costs of £0.015m have been identified which relate to employees currently working on capital projects.	£0.011m
Highways maintenance Contracts	£0.025m	£0.025m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Savings have been achieved. Maintenance spend will be reduced this year and expenditure will only be incurred for essential works.	£0.025m

Saving Proposal	Approved Saving	Green	Amber	Red	Mitigation	Comment	Actual Savings Delivered to Date
Street Lighting Service Savings	£0.050m	£0.050m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	On target to be achieved. This expenditure usually occurs in the winter months (Q3 and Q4) and relates to street light inspectors employed to check lights to ensure they are working correctly.	£0.025m
Car park maintenance 1 year budget reduction	£0.050m	£0.050m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	On target to be achieved but noting the ongoing risk of potential maintenance works if a Health and Safety issue is identified in year that was not foreseen at the time the savings was approved. Maintenance spend will be reduced this year as expenditure will only be incurred for essential works.	£0.000m
Eco and Forest School Income	£0.020m	£0.000m	£0.020m	£0.000m	£0.020m	Saving is classified as "At Risk" as opportunities for income generation cannot be realised until the service is fully staffed. Mitigation will be achieved through a current vacancy within the Forest Schools service.	£0.015m

Saving Proposal	Approved Saving	Green	Amber	Red	Mitigation	Comment	Actual Savings Delivered to Date
Tree management Team Commercial Offer	£0.025m	£0.000m	£0.025m	£0.000m	£0.025m	Saving is classified as "At Risk" as due to the unforeseen departure of the Tree Manager, delays have been encountered to progress the saving meaning the service had to put temporary cover in to complete this project. Mitigation will be achieved through a vacant Tree Manager post whilst work continues to generate the income associated with this saving. Work commenced in July to explore options for income generation.	£0.025m
Rent of Café - Royden	£0.010m	£0.010m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	This saving will not be achieved as rental income as this was not deemed viable given the recent review of the condition of the café. Refurbishment has been completed and the cafe opened in August with an in-house offer. This saving is expected to be fully achieved this financial year. The site has generated £0.034m income in the first 5 months of operation, which is currently offset against the initial set up costs and running costs. Therefore, no savings will be achieved until Quarter 4.	£0.000m

Saving Proposal	Approved Saving	Green	Amber	Red	Mitigation	Comment	Actual Savings Delivered to Date
Income increase on allotments	£0.050m	£0.050m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	On target to be achieved. This saving is based on a price increase from £74 to £120 for a full plot and from £40 to £60 for a half plot. Customers have been notified of price changes. This saving was fully achieved when residents renewed their allotment subscriptions at the revised price in October.	£0.050m
Increase in charges for Waste and Environmental services.	£0.462m	£0.462m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Garden waste prices have been increased from 01/04/22. Subscriptions are currently at 39,500 as at the end of September and are expected to achieve at least 40,000 subscribers by the end of the year. Most residents have re subscribed to the garden waste service during Q1 and Q2 and a small amount of additional income has been achieved in the first 3 months of Q3, meaning there is only £0.020m remaining to be achieved. This is expected to be achieved by the end of the year as some residents typically re subscribe in Q4.	£0.442m
Removal of Vacancies in Environmental and Waste team	£0.100m	£0.100m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved.	£0.100m

Saving Proposal	Approved Saving	Green	Amber	Red	Mitigation	Comment	Actual Savings Delivered to Date
Suspension of Climate Emergency Initiatives	£0.125m	£0.125m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved as straight reduction in the budget. The team will use capital funding to meet additional requirements during the year	£0.125m
Remodelling of Street Cleansing: Plus, special events	£0.214m	£0.214m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved as this relates to a removal of the permanent presence service and renegotiation of the contract with Biffa	£0.214m
Review of overtime budget in Parks	£0.015m	£0.015m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved as straight reduction in the budget to reflect reduced requirements	£0.015m
Reduce grass cutting from 10 to 8 cuts	£0.100m	£0.100m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved as fewer seasonal staff have been recruited in line with the budget available	£0.100m
Cease community firework displays	£0.030m	£0.030m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved as straight reduction in the budget. Firework displays will not take place this year	£0.030m
Income Strategy - Cemeteries and crematorium service	£0.053m	£0.053m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	On target to be achieved. The saving is based upon price increases benchmarked against other Local Authorities and the price changes came into effect from April 2022. Income projections are currently on track and are being monitored monthly	£0.039m

Saving Proposal	Approved Saving	Green	Amber	Red	Mitigation	Comment	Actual Savings Delivered to Date
Fund ASB Post from PCC grant	£0.050m	£0.050m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved as funding has been changed from revenue budget to PCC grant funding.	£0.050m
Review Engagement Officer secondment	£0.035m	£0.035m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved. Post is now vacant and has been deleted.	£0.035m
Introduce Overnight Camper Van Parking Charge in New Brighton	£0.035m	£0.001m	£0.034m	£0.000m	£0.034m	Saving is at risk. The option went live on 8th July. An Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) allows for comments to be received during the first 6 months and amendments to be made if required. Income to date is £600, no penalties have been issued to campervans parking in contravention as compliance has been achieved. Any income shortfalls this year will be mitigated through other income streams within Highways.	£0.001m
Deletion of Vacant Posts	£0.302m	£0.302m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved.	£0.302m
Reduction in budget for office related expenditure	£0.023m	£0.023m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved.	£0.023m

Saving Proposal	Approved Saving	Green	Amber	Red	Mitigation	Comment	Actual Savings Delivered to Date
Review of Leisure service	£0.178m	£0.130m	£0.048m	£0.000m	£0.048m	This has been fully achieved from EVR/VS requests within the service.	£0.178m
Increase catering across all Leisure Sites	£0.060m	£0.040m	£0.020m	£0.000m	£0.020m	Introduction of new rotas which are more efficient will reduce spending and an increase income generation at the remaining sites. There is a risk that the continuing cost of living increases will impact income. Mitigation to be achieved through part year vacant posts and a review repairs and maintenance to ensure only essential work relating to Leisure Centres is carried out.	£0.015m
Outdoor Water Sports Offer at West Kirby Marine Lake	£0.015m	£0.000m	£0.015m	£0.000m	£0.015m	This saving is at risk. Visitors, footfall and income at the site are still recovering following the impact of COVID-19 and have also been negatively impacted by inflation increases. No actual savings achieved to date. This will be mitigated through a review of non-essential expenditure within Leisure.	£0.000m

Saving Proposal	Approved Saving	Green	Amber	Red	Mitigation	Comment	Actual Savings Delivered to Date
Temporary Closure and Remodelling of Bidston Tennis Centre	£0.114m	£0.114m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	On target to be achieved. On 16/06/22 Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee agreed that the Authority would work in partnership with the Lawn Tennis Association to run this site. Options relating to cost and income contributions have been finalised which will mean this saving is fully achieved. No savings have been achieved to date as the LTA only commenced operations from mid-September and invoices will be issued to the LTA in Quarter 4.	£0.000m
Review of Golf Offer	£0.328m	£0.246m	£0.082m	£0.000m	£0.082m	Prices have been increased from April 2022 and sites linked to this saving have closed. Savings have been achieved through deleting posts relating to employees who have now left the Authority and through additional income from the revised price offer. Approximately £0.100m additional income has been achieved due to retention rates with customers transferring to Arrowe Park and Warrens.	£0.328m

Saving Proposal	Approved Saving	Green	Amber	Red	Mitigation	Comment	Actual Savings Delivered to Date
Exercise referral programme	£0.100m	£0.080m	£0.020m	£0.000m	£0.020m	The service is working with health partners to achieve this saving. However, agreement was not reached until after 1st July. It was announced in April 2022 that the Weight Management grant had been discontinued which was not foreseen when the budget was set. There is a risk this could impact income generation associated with this saving. Mitigation will be achieved through new grant applications as opportunities arise throughout the year. Confirmation of new grants and funding applications will be finalised before the end of the year.	£0.013m

Saving Proposal	Approved Saving	Green	Amber	Red	Mitigation	Comment	Actual Savings Delivered to Date
Floral pavilion - plans to reduce subsidy	£0.350m	£0.150m	£0.200m	£0.000m	£0.200m	Income generating opportunities could be impacted by increases in the cost of living which was unforeseen at the time the saving was approved and may cause delays in fully implementing this proposal. Mitigation to be achieved through part year vacant posts and a review repairs and maintenance to ensure only essential work relating to the Theatre is carried out. No actual savings achieved to date, as most of the income associated with this service relates to the annual pantomime and does not materialise until Quarter 4.	£0.000m
Transport efficiencies	£0.070m	£0.040m	£0.030m	£0.000m	£0.030m	It was expected that savings would not be achieved in Quarter 1, due to consultation periods and the requirement for employees to work notice periods. Mitigation to be achieved through a review of the transport fleet and sale of vehicles which are no longer required. This will create one off income generation opportunities to assist in mitigating the saving this year.	£0.052m

Saving Proposal	Approved Saving	Green	Amber	Red	Mitigation	Comment	Actual Savings Delivered to Date
Reduction in Community Patrol Service	£0.150m	£0.100m	£0.050m	£0.000m	£0.050m	It was expected that savings would be delayed due to consultation periods and the requirement for employees to work notice periods. Mitigation to be achieved through one off use of remaining COVID-19 funding for staff who continued to work on COVID-19 activities during Q1 Agreement as to what is available from remaining COMF (Contain Outbreak Management Fund) grant is still being finalised.	£0.150m
Cessation of Constituency Team and Remodelling of Section	£0.346m	£0.300m	£0.046m	£0.000m	£0.046m	The restructure of this area is now complete and employees have moved to new roles from Q2 onwards. Due to these delays, mitigation is being achieved through the Community Safety Grant	£0.259m

Saving Proposal	Approved Saving	Green	Amber	Red	Mitigation	Comment	Actual Savings Delivered to Date
Review of Neighbourhoods Service Directorate	£0.360m	£0.110m	£0.250m	£0.000m	£0.250m	Delay in commencing whilst EVR/VS requests are considered in line with the new requirements for the service and links with other service reviews and consultations. Mitigation to be achieved through part year vacant posts. This saving will be fully achieved this year through mitigation.	£0.270m
Permanent Closure and Demolition of Woodchurch Leisure Centre	£0.402m	£0.202m	£0.000m	£0.200m	£0.000m	As full Council agreed to keep the centre open until September to explore the opportunities for Community Asset Transfer, holding costs are being incurred that were not forecast, resulting in the full saving now being unachievable. If alternative savings cannot be found in year, a bid will be made to the contingency budget for non-achievement of savings at the end of the year. Small actual savings recorded to date further saving dependent on outcome of CAT. Some employees are still working their notice periods/awaiting redeployment during Q1.	£0.150m

Saving Proposal	Approved Saving	Green	Amber	Red	Mitigation	Comment	Actual Savings Delivered to Date
Reprovision of the Library Service	£0.652m	£0.272m	£0.000m	£0.380m	£0.000m	Due to the agreement by Council to delay the closure of the libraries in scope until 1 November due to CAT opportunities, it was agreed that if mitigating savings could not be found in-year as a result of the delay, then a bid would be made to access monies from the £3m contingency pot to offset costs at the end of the year. Actual savings will not be achieved until 1 November when the libraries will be closed.	£0.109m
Total Neighbourhood Services	£5.251m	£3.811m	£0.860m	£0.580m	£0.860m		£3.373m

Saving Proposal	Approved Saving	Green	Amber	Red	Mitigation	Comment	Actual Savings Delivered to Date
Regeneration & Place							
Cease support for Community Alarms	£0.200m	£0.200m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	On target to be achieved. Contracts due to end in-year so will deliver saving from Q3 onwards. Full saving will be achieved as lead time to deliver was built into saving	£0.100m
Reconfiguration of Commissioned Homelessness accommodation	£0.115m	£0.115m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	On target to be achieved. Contracts changes due in-year so will deliver saving from Q3 onwards. Full saving will be achieved as lead time to deliver was built into saving	£0.055m
The Closure Public Conveniences	£0.050m	£0.050m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	On target to be achieved. Actual saving achieved to date is from a vacant post, with remaining savings to be delivered over rest of year	£0.040m
Corporate buildings - holding costs	£0.050m	£0.050m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	On target to be achieved. No actual savings achieved to date. Full savings will not be known until year end when all building costs are in but buildings remain closed so there is no reason the saving will not be achieved	£0.000m

Saving Proposal	Approved Saving	Green	Amber	Red	Mitigation	Comment	Actual Savings Delivered to Date
Capitalisation of Regeneration Staff Salaries	£1.423m	£1.300m	£0.123m	£0.000m	£0.123m	Continued review with expectations of the saving being achieved at 90%. Potential for additional project management funding to be available from new grants during the year which will mitigate the shortfall. Mitigation through vacancies and within overall funding package for Regeneration (which includes use of reserves). Timesheets being produced and a line by line review is being undertaken to ensure compliance with capitalisation guidance.	£0.500m
Total Regeneration & Place	£1.838m	£1.715m	£0.123m	£0.000m	£0.123m		£0.695m

Saving Proposal	Approved Saving	Green	Amber	Red	Mitigation	Comment	Actual Savings Delivered to Date
Resources							
To reduce heating in occupied council buildings by 2 degrees	£0.113m	£0.113m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	On target to be achieved. Progress on saving will be updated in Q3 and Q4 once we head into the winter months and more data is available on energy usage. However, rising energy prices may negate some of the saving if costs escalate over and above the estimated pressure included	£0.000m
One Stop Shop establishment review	£0.099m	£0.099m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved. Service review completed and budget for vacancies removed.	£0.099m

Saving Proposal	Approved Saving	Green	Amber	Red	Mitigation	Comment	Actual Savings Delivered to Date
Review of Treasury activity	£0.500m	£0.500m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Markets are experiencing high volatility with increases in borrowing costs. However, a combination of improved investment returns due to several interest rate increases, coupled with slippage in the capital programme (which means we have delayed taking out borrowing to fund the capital programme and therefore reduced the costs associated with this) has made the saving achievable.	£0.500m
Revenues & Benefits Review and Restructure	£0.750m	£0.750m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is achieved. Additional demands have been placed on the service from Central Government for example Emergency Support Fund / Council Tax Fuel Rebate which require additional support staff and attract New Burdens Funding.	£0.750m

Saving Proposal	Approved Saving	Green	Amber	Red	Mitigation	Comment	Actual Savings Delivered to Date
Strategic Change revenue budget reduction	£0.650m	£0.650m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	The saving is predicated on the achievement of Capital Receipts from disposals. This is anticipated to be fully achieved and therefore the saving will be met.	£0.650m
Restructure of Commercial Income Team	£0.230m	£0.230m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Savings achieved. Service review completed in 2021/22.	£0.230m
Review of Finance Team Structure	£0.050m	£0.050m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved by removing a post and associated budget.	£0.050m
Cease Business Rates Contribution	£0.696m	£0.696m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Budget has been removed in 2022/23 and the saving is fully achieved.	£0.696m
Modernisation of Information & Communications Technology Service	£0.050m	£0.050m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved as straight reduction in the budget to reflect reduced requirements	£0.050m

Saving Proposal	Approved Saving	Green	Amber	Red	Mitigation	Comment	Actual Savings Delivered to Date
Review of Business Support Unit	£0.020m	£0.020m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving achieved as the review is complete and budget and post removed.	£0.020m
Review of Internal Audit - Efficiencies and Income	£0.080m	£0.080m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£62k savings have been realised with staffing movements and sales of audit services. The service is confident that the full saving will be realised.	£0.062m
Reduction in Learning & Development Budget	£0.100m	£0.100m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved by removal of budget and reducing spend.	£0.100m
Total Resources	£3.338m	£3.338m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m		£3.207m

Appendix 3 - Earmarked Reserves 2022/23

Adult Care and Public Health

Reserve	Opening Balance £000	Forecast Use of Reserve £000	Forecast Contribution to Reserve £000	Closing Balance £000
Adult Social Care – Safeguarding	106	-106	0	0
Public Health Ringfenced Grant	6,594	-542		6,052
Champs Innovation Fund	352	-352	0	0
Champs Covid-19 Contact Tracing Hub	433	-433	0	0
Project ADDER (Addiction, Diversion, Disruption, Enforcement, Recovery)	0	0	0	0
Better Care Fund	236	-236	0	0
Total	7,721	-1,669	0	6,052

Children, Families and Education

Reserve	Opening Balance £000	Use of Reserve £000	Contribution to Reserve £000	Closing Balance £000
Intensive Family Intervention Project	505	-160	0	345
School Improvement -	1,094	-380	0	714
Schools Causing Concern	500	0	0	500
SEND OFSTED Inspection Improvement Action Plan	1,051	-258	0	793
Children’s Centre – Outdoor Play	92	0	0	92
Help for Young People	36	0	0	36
Looked After Children Education Services	211	-137	0	74
Local Safeguarding Children’s Board	23	0	0	23
SEND - High Needs	248	-100	0	148
YOS - Remand & Mobile Youth Centre	157	-157	0	0
Early Help & Play Development	123	-123	0	0
DRIVE Safelives & Domestic Abuse Hub	50	-50	0	0
Children’s Transformation	32	-32	0	0
Children IT data system	127	0	0	127
Mersey & Cheshire ICS Pilot	20	-20	0	0
Care Leaver Accommodation Development	358	-155	0	203
Wirral Apprentice Programme	53	-53	0	0
Looked after Children Placement Reserve	470	-470	0	0
Total	5,150	-2,095	0	3,055

Law and Governance

Reserve	Opening Balance £000	Use of Reserve £000	Contribution to Reserve £000	Closing Balance £000
Licensing Reserve	60	-60	0	0
Taxi, Marriage & Scrap Metal Licences	145	-80	41	106
Electoral Reserve	150	-95	31	86
Total	355	-235	72	192

Neighbourhoods

Reserve	Opening Balance £000	Use of Reserve £000	Contribution to Reserve £000	Closing Balance £000
Community Safety Initiatives	195	-195	0	0
Health & Safety Flood Prevention	455	-455	0	0
Parks Tree Maintenance	187	-187	0	0
Environmental Health	300	-260	0	40
Climate Emergency	100	-100	0	0
Les Mills Classes	89	-42	0	47
Litter Enforcement - development of initiatives	49	-49	0	0
Weed Spraying : Mitigate against additional costs	41	-41	0	0
Birkenhead Park World Heritage Site Lottery Bid	40	-40	0	0
Coastal Protection	35	-35	0	0
Sports Development Reserve	22	0	0	22
Environmental Health F.S.A. Backlog	28	-28	0	0
Trading Standards	25	0	0	25
Hilbre Island - Legacy	21	0	0	21
Health & Safety Armed Forces Welfare Pathway	14	0	0	14
BikeSafe	10	0	0	10
Repairs & Maintenance upgrades on Public Conveniences	8	0	0	8
LAMPS to Concerto system replacement	2	0	0	2
Library Donations	1	0	0	1
Storeton Quarry	30	-30	0	0
Waste Levy	0	0	0	0
Total	1,652	-1,462	0	190

Regeneration and Place

Reserve	Opening Balance £000	Use of Reserve £000	Contribution to Reserve £000	Closing Balance £000
Selective Licensing	1,354	-119	112	1,347
Wirral Ways to Work	496	0	0	496
Regeneration and Inward Investment	1,423	-665	0	758
Urban Development Corporation Bid	410	-127	0	283
Building Control Fee Earning	468	0	137	605
HMO Licence Fees	164	0	80	244
Major Infrastructure Project Development	183	-121	0	62
Property Repairs rental income	276	-22	0	254
DCLG Empty Shops Grant	41	0	0	41
ERDF 4.2 Match Funding	18	0	0	18
Europa Centre Dilapidations	83	-83	0	0
A/M GMT – Community Fund CAT	76	-76	0	0
Licence Survey Work	56	-56	0	0
Emergency Maintenance and Work in Default	206	0	0	206
Heritage Fund	12	-27	15	0
Resettlement Programme Grant	992	-252	0	740
Supporting People Programme	141	-141	0	0
Homelessness	180	-71	0	109
Domestic Abuse Bill Grant	602	0	0	602
Economic Growth	342	-342	0	0
Birkenhead Future High Street funding	57	-2	0	55
Total	7,580	-2,104	344	5,820

Resources

Reserve	Opening Balance £000	Use of Reserve £000	Contribution to Reserve £000	Closing Balance £000
Commercial Management	205	0	0	205
Discretionary Housing Payments	185	-95	0	90
HR/OD Talent Management	50	0	4	54
HR Reserve – Schools	41	-41	0	0
Transformation Challenge Award	4	-4	0	0
Asset Consolidation Staff Relocation Contingency	111	0	0	111
ICT Records Management	288	-120	0	168
Business Rates Equalisation Reserve (100%) rates retention pilot)	7,000	0	0	7,000
Enterprise Zone Contingency Fund	29	0	0	29
Financial Resilience Reserve	887	-887	0	0
Financial Instrument Equalisation Reserve	2,123	-2,123	0	0
Year 2 of EVR/VS Termination Payments	1,883	-1,274	0	609
Social Care Fund	3,340	-2,373	0	967
Digital Transformation	1,566	0	0	1,566
Total	17,712	-6,917	4	10,799

Other Corporate

Reserve	Opening Balance £000	Use of Reserve £000	Contribution to Reserve £000	Closing Balance £000
Covid-19	14,062	-14,062	0	0
Insurance Fund	9,772	-2,500	0	7,272
NNDR3 S31 grants	11,794	-11,794	0	0
Enterprise Zone Investment	610	0	33	643
Local Council Tax Support Grant	3,943	-1,517	0	2,426
Local Income Tax Guarantee	272	-272	0	0
Schools Capital	256	0	0	256
Schools Balances	16,307	0	0	16,307
Total	57,016	-30,145	33	26,904

GRAND TOTAL (excluding DSG)	97,186	-44,627	453	53,012
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Notes on Reserves adjustments:

1. Champs Innovation Fund: Opening balance previously reported as £3,163k. Following audit of accounts, opening balance revised to £352k with remainder reclassified as a creditor.
2. Champs Covid-19 Contact Tracing Hub: Opening balance previously reported as £3,894k. Following audit of accounts, opening balance revised to £433k, with remainder reclassified as a creditor.
3. Project ADDER (Addiction, Diversion, Disruption, Enforcement, Recovery): Opening balance previously reported as £872k. Following audit of accounts, opening balance revised to £0; reclassified as a creditor.
4. Community Safety Initiatives: Opening balance previously reported as £801k. Following audit of accounts, opening balance revised to £195k, with remainder reclassified as a creditor.