



Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee Agenda

10.00 am

Thursday, 27 June 2024

Council Chamber, Town Hall, Darlington DL1 5QT

Members of the Public are welcome to attend this Meeting.

1. Introductions/Attendance at Meeting
2. Appointment of Chair for the Municipal Year 2024/25
3. Appointment of Vice-Chair for the Municipal Year 2024/25
4. Declarations of Interest
5. To consider the times of meetings of this Committee for the Municipal Year 2024/25 on the dates agreed in the Calendar of Meetings by Cabinet at minute C106/Feb/24
6. To approve the minutes of this Scrutiny Committee held on 11 April 2024: (Pages 3 - 6)
7. Project Position Statement and Capital Programme Monitoring Outturn 23/24 – Report of the Assistant Director Transport & Capital Projects (Pages 7 - 40)
8. Revenue Budget Outturn 2023/24 – Report of the Assistant Director Resources (Pages 41 - 70)
9. Work Programme – Report of the Assistant Director Law and Governance (Pages 71 - 84)
10. SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS (if any) which in the opinion of the Chair of this Committee are of an urgent nature and can be discussed at this meeting

11. Questions



Luke Swinhoe
Assistant Director Law and Governance

Wednesday, 19 June 2024

Town Hall
Darlington.

Membership

Councillors Allen, Baker, Dillon, Durham, Haszeldine, Henderson, Marshall, McGill, Ray and Mrs Scott

If you need this information in a different language or format or you have any other queries on this agenda please contact Olivia Hugill, Democratic Officer, Operations Group, during normal office hours 8.30 a.m. to 4.45 p.m. Mondays to Thursdays and 8.30 a.m. to 4.15 p.m. Fridays E-mail: Olivia.hugill@darlington.gov.uk

ECONOMY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 11 April 2024

PRESENT – Councillors Baker (Chair), Coe, Dillon, Durham, Haszeldine, Henderson, Marshall, McGill and Mrs Scott

APOLOGIES – Councillors Ray

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillor Porter

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Brett Nielsen (Assistant Director Resources), Anthony Sandys (Assistant Director - Housing and Revenues), Andrew Perkin (Business Growth and Investment Manager), Christopher Mains (Towns Fund Programme Manager), Lynne Davies (Strategy and Policy Manager), Michael Conway (Mayoral and Democratic Officer) and Olivia Hugill (Democratic Officer)

ER90 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

ER91 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THIS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 1 February 2024.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of 1 February 2024 of the Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee be approved as a correct record.

ER92 DARLINGTON TOWNS FUND

The Town's Fund Programme Manager submitted a report (previously circulated) to provide an update on the progress and current position of the Town's Fund Programme within Darlington.

The report detailed the submission of the Town Investment Plan to Government in July 2020 which secured a £22.3M Town Deal allocation in October 2020 with another £1M Forward Funding has provided a total £23.3M capital and revenue Towns Fund for Darlington. Victoria Road, Northgate Gateways, and the Town Centre were the three key areas of focus.

The report included that to date the Council had received £18,851,251 Capital Funding from the Government towards projects to revitalise and improve the town, along with £438,965 revenue to fund programme development. The remainder of the fund will be provided within 2024/25.

Members were informed of the fundings notable successes to date; T-Levels facility, Skinnergate and The Yards, Hopetown visitor attraction in Northgate, The acquisition of

properties and land to enable further intervention projects including the Northern Echo Building, 156 Northgate, the land at Garden Street and a property forming part of the historic Edward Pease House in Northgate.

The report stated that The Towns Board will continue to review and manage the Towns Fund projects. As part of the budget statement in March 2024 it was announced that Darlington would be included in the second tranche of places to benefit from funding, from the Long-Term Plan for Towns. The fund was aimed at developing interventions which are initiated through grass roots involvement and focussed on projects driven by the community.

The report covered the £20m allocation is to be spent over a 10-year period, 25% revenue and 75% capital. The three main themes are High Street and Town Centre, Local Connectivity, Safety and Security.

Members discussed the funding around the properties in Northgate including Northgate House and Edward Pease House. Members scrutinised the timescale on purchasing the Northgate Property and what position the Council is in for an offer to be accepted. Members wanted to understand the difference between the evaluation price of the building and the asking price from the current owners.

Members expressed their concerns for the Northgate area, with regard to the new Hopetown attraction and wanted to understand the Towns Boards input on this.

Members asked about the long-term plan for the Towns Fund, how much is left to spend over this financial year and the deadline for this.

RESOLVED: Members noted the update of information provided in relation to the Towns Fund.

ER93 COUNCIL PLAN

The Chief Officers Executive submitted a report (previously circulated) to introduce the draft Council Plan to the Committee.

The Council Plan outlined the long-term ambitions for Darlington and priorities of the Council to deliver over the next three years.

The submitted draft plan stated strategic direction to the Council, Council services, defining priorities and shaping delivery. The draft plan gave clarity to residents, businesses, and stakeholders on the Councils values and what is important and what they will do.

The public consultation for the draft plan has been opened and will run till the 25 April. The plan stated that the Council was seeking views from residents, businesses, charities, and key stakeholders. The Council Plan once finalised goes to Cabinet and Council in May for approval and adoption.

The draft Council Plan expressed three core values which fed into the plan: addressing inequalities, tackling climate change and efficient an effective use of resources.

The six priorities of the draft Council Plan show equal importance: Economy, Homes, Living Well, Children and Young People, Communities and Environment.

The report stated the political accountability for the priorities and core values for the draft plan, how it will be collaborative with a Cabinet Member leading each priority, core value and working with relevant portfolio leads to deliver.

Councillor Mandy Porter explained the priorities regarding the Economy and Resources areas, this included the Medium-Term Financial Plan, Governance Practices, Capital Projects, Employees, Key sites in Businesses and Investments and Digital Assets.

Members wanted to know how many responses had been received from the public, officers explained there has been 161 responses yet and how this is an improvement compared to previous consultations.

Members mentioned how the draft Council Plan would solve the current problems and how they would be addressed going forward. Members wanted to understand if the draft plan is included in the current budget.

Members expressed the appreciation around the core values of the draft Council Plan, they also expressed the concerns around the wording and format of the plan.

Members wanted to understand the impact of the draft Council Plan would have on Climate Change, and how the draft plan would tackle this issue.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted and shared with networks to encourage people to complete the survey.

ER94 WORK PROGRAMME

The Assistant Director Law and Governance submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the work programme for this Scrutiny Committee.

It was reported that the work programme for the next Municipal Year would be considered at the next ordinary meeting of this Scrutiny Committee scheduled for 27 June 2024.

Members discussed the procurement process and which scrutiny committee that it would come under, it was also agreed that the office demand study item be brought to the next meeting.

RESOLVED – That the report be received.

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ECONOMY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
27 June 2024

**PROJECT POSITION STATEMENT AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING – OUTTURN
2023/24**

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider the Project Position Statement and Capital Programme Monitoring – Outturn 2023/24.

Summary

2. Attached at **Annex 1** is the Project Position Statement and Capital Programme Monitoring – Outturn 2023/24 report. which is due to be considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 16th July 2024.

Recommendation

3. It is recommended that Members consider the Project Position Statement and Capital Programme Monitoring – Outturn 2023/24.

Dave Winstanley
Group Director of Services

Background Papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

S17 Crime and Disorder	This report has no implications for crime and disorder.
Health and Wellbeing	There are no issues relating to health and wellbeing which this report needs to address.
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	There are no carbon impact implications in this report
Diversity	There are no specific implications for diversity
Wards Affected	All wards are affected.
Groups Affected	The proposals do not affect any particular groups within the community
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework.
Key Decision	The report does not represent a key decision
Urgent Decision	For the purpose of the 'call-in' procedure this does not represent an urgent matter.
Council Plan	The Capital Programme referred to in the report supports delivery of the Council Plan through appropriate deployment of the Council's resources
Efficiency	The recommendations support the effective and efficient use of resources.
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers

CABINET
16 JULY 2024

PROJECT POSITION STATEMENT & CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING
OUTTURN 2023/24

Responsible Cabinet Member -
Councillor Mandy Porter, Resources Portfolio

Responsible Director -
Dave Winstanley, Group Director of Services
Elizabeth Davison, Group Director of Operations

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. This report provides:
 - (a) Information on delivery of the Council's Capital Programme, the financial outturn position as at 31 March 2024 and the proposed financing of the 2023/24 capital expenditure.
 - (b) An update on the status of all construction projects currently being undertaken by the Council.
2. It also seeks approval for a number of changes to the programme.

Summary

3. Significant enhancements have been made to the Council's assets in three major programme areas of schools, housing and transport, mostly using external funding, as well as several other largescale schemes in the Borough. These investments are delivering a wide range of improvements to the Council's assets and more critically, to Council services. Refurbishment of council homes, improved learning environments in schools, better traffic flows and opportunities for sustainable travel have been achieved and are detailed within the report.
4. Capital expenditure in 2023/24 totalled £60.084m. Since the last revision of the Capital Medium Term Financial plan further refinements to estimates have occurred as part of the ongoing management of the programme and these are included in the recommendations below, all revisions can be contained within existing programmes.

5. The Council has a substantial annual construction programme of work. The current project position statement (PPS) shows there are 27 live projects currently being managed by the Council with an overall project outturn value of £158.405m. The majority of projects are running to time, cost and quality expectations with no foreseeable issues.
6. The projects are managed either by the Council's in-house management team, a Framework Partner or by consultants sourced via an open/OJEU tender process.

Recommendations

7. It is recommended that Cabinet:
 - (a) Note the delivery and financial outturn of the 2023/24 Capital Programme.
 - (b) Note projected capital expenditure and resources.
 - (c) Approve the adjustments to resources as detailed in paragraph 30.

Reasons

8. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons:
 - (a) The recommendations are supported to enable Members to note the progress of the 2023/24 Capital Programme and to allow the capital expenditure to be fully financed.
 - (b) To inform Cabinet of the status of construction projects.
 - (c) To maintain effective management of resources.

Dave Winstanley
Group Director of Services

Elizabeth Davison
Group Director of Operations

Background Papers

- (i) Capital Medium Term Financial Plan 2023/24 – 2026/27
- (ii) Project Position Statement March 2024

Brian Robson : Extension 6608
Steve Wake : Extension 5424

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Efficiency	The recommendations support the effective and efficient use of resources.
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MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

2023/24 Capital Spend and Resources

Information and Analysis

9. **Appendix 1** is for information and lists all live construction projects and provides details on numbers, type and details of the key individuals responsible for the delivery of the projects. It also provides a statement on the current status position on each project, details of actions being taken, where required and any current issues.
10. The Capital outturn for 2023/24 totalled £60.084m compared to £62.566m in 2022/23. **Appendix 2** analyses the 2023/24 capital spend by department, the proposed financing of the overall approved programme and corporate resources to be carried forward into 2024/25. The total of resources already approved to finance the outstanding capital programme including part finished projects is £180.949m (including £4.045m referenced in the report) therefore £120.865m will be carried forward into 2024/25 to fund completion. The spend summary shows the amount available to be utilised in future years to help finance the capital programme.
11. **Appendix 3** summarises the total approved departmental capital budgets of £336.008m, along with spend to date of £215.143m and the projected outturn position which is lower than budget at £314.955m.

12. The proposed financing of the 2023/24 expenditure is:

	2023/24
Capital Expenditure	£M
Financing of Capital Expenditure	60.084
<i>Corporate resources</i>	
Corporate Unsupported Capital Expenditure (Borrowing)	10.436
Capital Receipts	2.491
<i>Externally funded</i>	
Capital Grants	36.996
Capital Contributions	0.261
<i>Departmental and Other Resources</i>	
HRA - Capital Receipts	0.000
HRA - Revenue Contribution	8.003
Departmental - Borrowing for Leasable Assets	0.169
Departmental - Unsupported Borrowing	0.560
Departmental – Revenue Contribution	1.168
Total Capital Financing	60.084

Project Position Statement

13. Project management procedures require the production by project managers of a Project Position Statement (PPS) for all projects over £75,000. This report brings together the pertinent data from the current PPS with financial information from the Financial Management System (FMS) and approvals by Cabinet.
14. The Project Position Statement (Appendix 1) details the current live construction projects, up to the end of March 2024, by delivery area, and provides details on numbers, type and details of the key individuals responsible for the delivery of the projects. It also provides a statement on the current status position on each project, details of actions being taken, where required and any current issues. The statement excludes any completed projects or those on hold.
15. The overview of live construction projects is as follows:

	Projects	Current Approved Budget £ / p	Projected Outturn £ / p	Variance %	Variance (Value) £ / p
Chief Executive & Economic Growth	14	44,255,210	44,225,401	(0.1)	(29,809)
Operations	3	41,037,222	41,476,030	1.1	438,808
People	1	1,124,000	1,124,000	0.0	0
Services	9	70,908,939	71,579,082	0.9	670,143
TOTAL	27	157,325,371	158,404,513		1,079,142

16. The table shown above includes a column for current approved budget. In certain cases this budget figure may be different from the original approved budget. This could be as a result of variances identified during construction or other variables not known at the initiation stage. The original budget and all subsequent changes have been reported to and approved by Cabinet.

17. The live projects are at the following stages:

Department	Brief	CP1	CP2	CP3	CP4	CP5	Total
Chief Executive & Economic Growth	0	0	2	4	6	2	14
Operations	0	1	0	1	1	0	3
People	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Services	0	0	0	3	1	5	9
TOTAL	0	1	2	8	9	7	27

18. **Control Point 1 (CP1) – Start Up:** is used to define the position of a project at its conception stage.

- (a) **Control Point 2 (CP2) – Initiate:** defines a project at feasibility stage and will likely include a desktop assessment of a project and the use of informed estimates.
- (b) **Control Point 3 (CP3) – Define:** the point that the project is progressed to RIBA Stage F, i.e. detailed design.
- (c) **Control Point 4 (CP4) – Construction Phase:** is the stage at which work begins on the project, i.e. for a construction project on site through to build completion.
- (d) **Control Point 5 (CP5) – Evaluate:** is the stage post completion of the project at which time the project is reviewed, and lessons learned are discussed in order that they can be taken to the next or similar projects.

19. The status on live projects is as follows:

Department	Red	Blue	Green
Chief Executive & Economic Growth	1	13	0
Operations	1	1	1
People	0	1	0
Services	3	6	0
TOTAL	5	21	1

- (a) Green and red colour coding are used to identify projects that have variances which are:
 - (i) More than £5,000, if the variance is also more than 5% of the approved budget for the project, or
 - (ii) More than £50,000 regardless of the percentage variance
- (b) Projects that are within these margins are symbolised with blue coding.
- (c) In addition to cost, the same colour codes are used to indicate similar levels of variances in time and quality/outputs/outcomes.

20. Current projects with red coding are as follows:

Project	Reason for Variance	Action
Skinnergate Re-development, Commercial & Housing	A delay was encountered following the production of a revised design to satisfy concerns raised by English Heritage at the planning application stage. It has also been impacted by Nutrient Neutrality further delaying the start on site date.	The Party Wall process has been protracted and impacted on the anticipated commencement date. It is now being completed to allow phase 1 demolition works to commence in May/June 2024.
Darlington Station Demolitions	This project has been delayed as compensation amounts with two interests are still to be agreed.	The Council continues to negotiate with two interests who are yet to agree a compensation amount. This process could continue until 2027.
Crown Street Library Refurbishment	Delays and additional costs have been encountered from the withdrawal of the originally appointed roofing contractor.	The scheme is now complete, and the outturn report is included at Appendix 6.
Sherborne Close Phase 2	Following the introduction of nutrient Mitigation requirements in line with changes in national Planning Legislation, the project needed to be paused. This delay resulted in the construction design also becoming subject to revised Building Regulations (post June 23). These factors plus considerable inflation over the period 2022 to late 2023 resulted in the project costs increasing significantly.	The project team are currently undertaking a tender exercise with the construction tender cost due to be confirmed in Spring 2024.

Project	Reason for Variance	Action
Railway Heritage Quarter	See paragraphs 21-23.	See paragraphs 21-23.

21. The Hopetown (Railway Heritage Quarter) project budget in the PPS shows a revised budget of £37,088,350. This adjustment is to reflect additional funding secured from a variety of sources. The majority of the increase being from additional grant from National Lottery Heritage Fund and sponsor funding to provide additionality to the project, with some funding added from carried forward monies. Approval is sought in paragraph 30 to revise the budget and release the funding.
22. The project is coming towards the end of the construction phase. There are a number of matters where there remains a financial risk and an amount has been included in the forecast should they materialise. There also remains a significant amount of money in the forecast that is in dispute, and this will need resolving post project, but from a prudent financial management perspective the financial risk has been included in the forecast at this stage. Depending on the financial outcome of the remaining risks and disputed sums, the current forecast is between £603k within budget and £363k over budget. The PPS is reporting the worst-case scenario at this stage given the uncertainty on risk and dispute outcome. The worst-case scenario represents a 0.9% potential overspend on the revised project budget.
23. As with all projects over £1m a report will be produced on the final outturn when the outcome of the risk and disputes will be known.
24. In line with the Council's Financial Procedure rules any scheme with an outturn value of in excess of a £1m must be reported to Cabinet. In accordance with the agreed procedure the Central Park South Landscaping Project and Crown Street Library Project have been reviewed (CP5) and the results and final outturn are shown in **Appendices 5 and 6**.
25. If approved, Central Park South Landscaping and Crown Street Library will be removed from the live PPS listing in **Appendix 1**.

Reconciliation of Project Position Statement to Capital Programme

26. The table shown below reconciles the differences between the Capital Programme (CP) and the Project Position Statement (PPS). Differences occur because the Project Position Statement includes all construction projects over £75,000 in value funded from Capital and Revenue sources. Spending within the Capital Programme is not always of a construction nature, can be of any value and excludes Revenue funded schemes.

	Value £m
Live Projects from Project Position	158.405
Schemes closed or on hold within CP but awaiting PPS post project review.	30.480
Annualised Schemes excluded from PPS - Housing Repairs & Maintenance	9.890
Annualised Schemes excluded from PPS - Highways Maintenance	10.055
Annualised Schemes excluded from PPS - Childrens Services School Maintenance	0.140
Non construction excluded from PPS	12.533
Capital Investment fund excluded from PPS	41.443
Projects under 75k excluded from PPS	2.477
Capital Schemes not yet integrated into PPS reporting	28.508
Included in PPS & CMR	0
Funding not yet allocated	21.024
Capital Programme	314.955

27. The table below shows the split of the approved capital programme of £328.085m, between the different service areas and the various categories of spend. When compared to the table above it shows that there is a projected £13.130m underspend on the approved capital programme.

	Construction				Non construction	Capital investment fund	Housing New Build - not yet allocated	Total
	Live Schemes 75k & Over	Annualised Schemes	Completed Schemes awaiting review	Live Schemes under 75k				
Area	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Housing	47.753	23.924	0.627	0.033	1.455	0.000	15.673	89.465
Economic Growth	41.706	0.079	7.453	0.274	6.816	40.181	3.476	99.985
Highways/Transport	65.314	9.941	14.873	1.601	1.741	1.877	1.512	96.859
Leisure & Culture	30.105	0.000	2.618	0.245	0.000	0.000	0.000	32.968
Education	1.124	0.140	4.283	0.273	0.079	0.000	0.290	6.189
Adult Social Care	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.071	0.000	0.000	0.071
Other	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	2.548	0.000	0.000	2.548
Total	186.002	34.084	29.854	2.426	12.710	42.058	20.951	328.085

Capital Programme

28. The following major areas of work have been undertaken in 2023/24:

- (a) Children, Families and Learning
 - (i) A programme of planning maintenance was undertaken across the local authority maintained schools.
 - (ii) A complete re-roof of Whinfield Primary was undertaken which was completed in April 2024.

(b) Housing

- (i) Adaptations – A Major refurbishment to two lifts at Branksome Hall Drive were carried out. Various minor adaptations were carried out to 131 properties across various areas.
- (ii) Heating Replacement - The upgrade of heating systems including 'A' rated Combi boilers, radiators and heating controls and the progressing of Electric to gas central heating replacement programme including the installation of new gas services and pipelines. Work was carried out to 240 properties.
- (iii) Structural Repairs – Ongoing structural monitoring continues and as a result, structural works to lintels, canopies and wall tie replacements were carried out to 24 properties in Hundens Lane. Structural balcony Repairs - Sherbourne, Mount Pleasant, Stockmoor close, Heatherwood Grove.
- (iv) Repairs before Painting – 1295 (555 Houses, 207 blocks of flats, 4 schemes – just over 1000 “properties”) properties had joinery repair works as part of the cyclical external painting programme in Skerne Park, Park Place, Inverary, Wesley Court, (urban wards = Whinfield, Park West/East, Central & Stephenson).
- (v) Roofing – Responsive replacements were carried out to 12 properties and parapet wall removal to 6 flats within various areas of Darlington. Planned replacement works were delayed during 22/23 and will be carried out alongside the 23/24 programme(PDF) 63 Roofing / Repointing.
- (vi) Garages – No planned works carried out 23/24, funds slipped to 24/25 to allow demolition of blocks to be completed.
- (vii) External Works –
 - (1) Various properties across the Borough have had fencing replacements works completed.
 - (2) 168 properties were identified by responsive inspections and required some fencing replacing.
- (viii) Pavement Crossings – 3 properties had pavement crossings installed in their properties across the borough.
- (ix) Replacement Door Programme – 96 properties were identified by responsive inspections and required replacement doors.
- (x) 178 Properties in Banktop and Lascelles areas were upgraded as part of our planned programme.
- (xi) Communal Works & Door Entry Systems –

- (1) Lascelles estate – 15 Blocks of flats had replacement communal door entry systems.
 - (2) Works to external vehicle gates were carried out at Rockwell House and Roxby Court.
 - (3) All blocks of flats now connected to the cloud based system, including schemes. All tenants issued new fobs. Certain blocks now hard linked (Katherine / Havelock EG).
 - (4) Two sliding door upgrades at Windsor / Rosemary.
- (xii) Internal planned maintenance – 240 properties have been completed this year due to Labour constraints within Building Services.
- (xiii) Windows – We completed a programme to upgrade 1000 single glazed properties to Double Glazing. In some streets old double glazing was also replaced to complete whole streets with upgrades.
- (xiv) Energy Efficiency works - Enabling work begun under the Social Housing Decarbonisation Funding Wave 2.1 (SHDFw2.1) stream. This will enable us to complete energy improvement works to 130 properties, which includes External Wall Insulation. (PDF) DG / Solar / EWI & Cavity Wall – 28 Properties (LAD 1).
- (c) Transport
- (i) Darlington Borough Council continues to deliver capital schemes as part of the action plans associated with the Darlington Transport Plan, Town Centre Transport Plan and Parking Strategy (2022 – 2030). The objectives of the Darlington Transport Plan, are to:
- (1) Reduce transport's impact on the environment and support health and wellbeing.
 - (2) Improve safety for all road users.
 - (3) Connect people with job and training opportunities and link communities.
 - (4) Support a revitalised and transformed Darlington town centre and.
 - (5) Maintain and effectively manage a resilient transport system.
- (ii) Capital investment funding to progress and deliver DBC transport related improvement schemes are funded through the City Regional Sustainable Transport Settlements (CRSTS), which consolidates funding from previous allocations of the Highways Maintenance Block, Pothole Fund and Integrated Transport Block. CRSTS funding spent on delivering a programme of maintenance schemes and transport improvement schemes, including:
- (1) Borough-wide patching and resurfacing schemes.

- (2) Reconstruction of A67 Merrybent (Phase 3).
- (3) Design and delivery of Safe Routes to School schemes.
- (4) Implementation of dropped and raised kerbs to improve access for all.
- (5) Reconstruction of Neasham Road (Phase 2).
- (6) Reconstruction of Clifton Road Back Lane.

29. Paragraph 30 shows the movements in the Capital Programme since the approval of the 2023/24 Capital MTFP, some of which have not yet been approved by Members but are included in the figures at Appendix 1.

30. Adjustment to resources requested by departments:

Adjustments needing approval release.

Department	Scheme	Value £	Reason for adjustment	Resource type adjusted
Services	Car Park & Biodiversity Enhancement MSG Community Centre	£115,435	S106 Funding	Release
Services	Maintenance Works at Harrowgate Hill & Bensham Park Play Areas	£6,100	S106 Funding	Release
Services	Drainage works at Teesside Airport pitches	£15,408	S106 - Land at Lancaster House - 16/00396/OUT	Release
Operations	TVCA – Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) Wave 1 Grant	£276,323	TVCA - SHDF Wave 1 Grant	Release
Operations	Skinnergate	£1,515,000	Homes England and Commercial/IGF funding	Release
Services	Railway Heritage Quarter	£1,948,350	Additional funding secured for the project as outlined in the report.	Release
TOTAL		£3,876,616		

31. **Appendix 4** details the general fund capital receipts and corporate resources received and brought forward from previous years. These amount to £7.778m of which £2.491m has been utilised to finance capital expenditure as well as £0.223m of earmarked receipts to fund slippage, leaving a balance of £5.064m to carry forward into future years.

Conclusion

32. The total capital expenditure incurred during 2023/24 was £60.084m. Overall a significant programme is being delivered with a wide variety of capital improvements undertaken throughout the Borough during 2023/24.

Outcome of Consultation

33. There has been no consultation in the preparation of this report.

Project	CP1 Start Up	CP2 Initiate	CP3 Design	CP4 Delivery	CP5 Review	Status Symbol	Status	Client Dept	Delivery Dept	Internal Project Sponsor	Internal Project Manager	Cost Centre	Feasibility Budget	Original Approved Budget	Increase To Initial Approved Budget	Current Approved Budget	Project Expected Out Turn Cost	Variance (%)	Variance (value)	Original Planned Project Completion Date	Revised Approved Project Completion Date	Anticipated Project Completion Date	Schedule Variation (Days)	CDM Notifiable Project	Principal Designer	Previous Plan Progress	Plan Progress	Budget Progress Report	Issue Status Report
Yards Phase 2							Live	Chief Exec's & Economic Growth	Chief Exec's & Economic Growth	Mark Ladyman	Mike Bowron	R0180	£0	£800,000	£739,000	£1,539,000	£1,548,311	6%	£9,311	31-Mar-23	29-Mar-25	29-Mar-25	0	Y	Lee Davill	Works to the current tranche of properties is being completed. A new list has been agreed through the Programme Manager to be part of the exit works which still include some shop frontage works as well as wall murals and street works. There are being programmed in.	Consultation and detailed designs are being formulated for the new properties identified to complete the project. Existing works are being completed and the new works are being programmed in.	To address the additional properties identified within the project, the Yards Towns Fund Programme Manager agreed an additional £160,000. To date £1041,612 has been spent with an additional £506,699 committed. There is a £40,000 contingency built into the project.	The budget is being put under pressure because of the costs associated with having an ever-growing project that is dependant upon the businesses remaining committed to their initial, agreed specifications. Changes to live projects increases the contractor costs so creates time and financial challenges.
Whinfield School Roof Replacement							Live	People	People	Tony Murphy	Julia McCabe	E1907	£0	£1,124,000	£0	£1,124,000	£1,124,000	%	£0	22-Sep-23	29-Feb-24	08-Mar-24	8	Y	Y	Main contract works forecast to be certified as practically complete (exc. snagging) 01/03/2024. Snagging, cabin lift & reinstatement forecast to be complete by 15/03/2024 Delays in this period: * Material delivery delays * Inclement weather – 3 days. Accumulative delay - 103 days	Contract works complete. Remaining snagging to be completed during the school Easter break (2-12th April).		Subject to completion of snagging works post project review scheduled for 17/04/2024.
Skinnergate Re-development Commercial & Housing							Live	Services	Services	Anthony Sandys	Brian Robson	H6748	£0	£4,950,000	£1,515,000	£6,465,000	£6,465,000	%	£0		31-May-25	31-May-25	0	Y	Andrew Burnfey	A temporary works design to support the method statement for the partial demolition works required to No.12 has been finalised and issued to our Party Wall Surveyor to reach an agreement through the Party Wall Act process	A temporary works design to support the method statement for the partial demolition works required to No.12 has been finalised and issued. Phase 1 demolition works are due to commence in May.		Initial surveys undertaken, which reveal major loss of structure to heritage building and adjacent property. 2. Historic England opposition to designs are now addressed but significant delays have ensued.
Sherborne Close Phase 2							Live	Operations	Operations	Anthony Sandys	Ben Waldie	H6749	£0	£2,375,962	£374,057	£2,750,019	£3,622,733	32%	£872,714	08-Mar-23	05-Jul-25	05-Jul-25	162	Y	Lee Davill	Re-tender exercise delayed due to procurement & supply chain time frames. Start on site May 24 now likely.	Retender exercise due to conclude Spring 24.	Awaiting re-tender return to assess against estimated figure £3,622,733.00	Awaiting returned tender from Building Services & supply chain now spring 24. Public Right of Way to be reviewed before works recommencing.
Railway Heritage Quarter							Live	Services	Services	Ian Thompson	Brian Robson	R0155	£210,000	£20,000,000	£17,088,350	£37,088,350	£37,451,515	0.90%	£363,165	30-Sep-24		30-Sep-24	0	Y	Space Architects	Works on the 1861 shed, Goods Shed and Head of Steam are ongoing. The new entrance works from McNay Street are progressing well and the car park has now commenced with site clearance works	Works on the Carriageworks, Goods Shed and Head of Steam are ongoing. The new entrance works from McNay Street are nearly complete and the car park construction is ongoing. The play area installation has commenced and is progressing well. Some challenges to the budget are being worked through and additional funding is being gained.	Please see main report for detail on budget adjustment.	Some financial risks have been identified in the quarter as we are moving towards closure of the project and an issue that is being disputed has materialised that has a potential financial risk. Please see main report for more detail.
Neasham Rd							Live	Operations	Operations	Anthony Sandys	Ben Waldie	H6745	£0	£31,069,000	£1,008,203	£32,077,203	£31,643,297	-1%	-£433,906	02-May-25		02-May-25	0	Y	Lee Davill	First handover delayed until July 24. Revised programme submitted to client for approval.	Project working toward July 24 handover for first of Phase 1 properties & access roads. Phase 2 substructure progressing on programme	Project still within approved budget. Client to develop play area design against allocated £125k project budget+ £25k Housing Services investment.	Proposals to utilise existing Neasham Road footpath for bus stop provision. Works ongoing in coordination with Homes by ESH who are now developing Plot C
Innovation Central							Live	Chief Exec's & Economic Growth	Chief Exec's & Economic Growth	Anthony Hewitt	Joanne Wood	R0157	£50,000	£500,000	£7,837,854	£8,337,854	£8,337,854	%	£0	31-Dec-21	31-Aug-22	31-Aug-22	0	Y	Napper Architects	The installation of the mast was complete in September 2023 and the telephone operator has confirmed testing is nearing completion.	The mast is now operational. Deed of Covenant and BREEAM certificate is awaited. The project closure will be undertaken June/July 2024.		
Ingenium Parc Masterplan + Infrastructure							Live	Chief Exec's & Economic Growth	Chief Exec's & Economic Growth	Anthony Hewitt	Joanne Wood	R0144	£0	£611,500	£4,265,593	£4,877,093	£4,877,093	%	£0	31-Aug-18	23-Dec-22	31-Jul-24	577	Y	Y	All the planting works are now complete. Handover to Estates is imminent. Removal of the herras fencing and Semi-Permanent newt barrier fencing has commenced and is due for completion in March 2024.	Removal of all the Herras and semi-permanent newt fencing was completed by 1st March 2024. This completes the project.		End of the drainage defect is due 24th July 2024 and the project closure can commence after this date.
Eastbourne Sports Pitches & Drainage							Live	Chief Exec's & Economic Growth	Chief Exec's & Economic Growth	Ian Thompson	Rebecca Robson	L0154	£0	£1,610,000	£941,843	£2,551,843	£2,551,843	%	£0	31-Jul-23	30-Apr-24	30-Apr-24	241	Y	SPACE	NPG made the final connection on the 16/02/24 and the site is now live. Building Control have visited site and are unable to sign off the works having picked up some works that were not completed as per the drawings. The contractor has been asked to undertake these works as soon as possible. The items listed below are still outstanding as of the 01/03/24. 1. Swale regrading as per the design. 2. Gate and footpath installation to the pumping station. 3. Electric vehicle white lining. 4. CCTV pad, column and camera installation / connection 5. Changing accommodation shower connections. 6. Installation of external emergency lighting – (additional item to the contract) 7. All commissioning, issuing of certificates and the handing over of the O&M's / H&S files	Building Control have visited site in February and were unable to sign off the works due to some works not completed as per the drawings. These have now all been done and the contractor has been asked to arrange the sign off meeting for Mid-April to get final sign off.	Draft final account to be agreed between project QSand Building Services	Lesson Learnt and CP5 to be done all works have been completed and files received.
Darlington Station Enabling Works							Live	Chief Exec's & Economic Growth	Chief Exec's & Economic Growth	Anthony Hewitt	Ben Waldie	R0181	£0	£2,015,190	£295,807	£2,310,997	£2,310,997	%	£0	28-Mar-23		28-Mar-23	0	Y	Graeme Smith Fairhursts	Project completed. Lease agreed & car park accepted for use by LNER 26/4/23.	Project completed. Lease agreed & car park accepted for use by LNER 26/4/23. Lessons Learnt report submitted	Financial close reached with TVCA for construction budget of £1,884,582.	Perimeter boundary scaffolding support to remain in situ until decommissioning.
Darlington Station Demolitions							Live	Chief Exec's & Economic Growth	Chief Exec's & Economic Growth	Dave Winstanley	Julia McCabe	R0165	£1,322,940	£1,322,940	£0	£1,322,940	£1,322,940	%	£0	01-Mar-23		01-Apr-24	365	Y	A & N Consultants	GATEWAY WEST: Pensbury/Victoria road: Despite agreement to the detail in the documentation, delays by the adjacent property owner's surveyor signing the draft award means that the final award documentation is not being issued until 29/02/2024. This will start a 14 day opportunity for neighbouring property owner to raise formal issue to the award. The Principal Designer reviewed the PCI and determined no change is required to the document therefore it is issued to TVCA. TVCA have not authorised any further work on this demolition. 1-4 Park Lane & 1 Waverley Terrace (single property): TVCA have authorised pre demo expenditure. Bioclean & disconnections are complete. Phase 2 of party wall structural survey took place 12th Feb and a report issued 28/02/2024 including drawings of the existing building and elevation. Further surveys are required (drain and ground investigation) to allow a structural calculation assessment to be undertaken on the party wall to confirm if any remedial/strengthening works is required & the party wall design to be prepared.	GATEWAY WEST: Pensbury/Victoria road: Pre-construction Information provided to TVCA. TVCA will be commissioning the demolition. 1-4 Park Lane & 1 Waverley Terrace (single property): All disconnections and biocleans complete. PCI complete (as far as practicable) and transferred to TVCA. Site investigations to support party wall design to be carried out w/c 15/04/24. DBC & TVCA are meeting fortnightly to review progress and transfer of information.		
Darlington Station CPO & Acquisitions							Live	Chief Exec's & Economic Growth	Chief Exec's & Economic Growth	Dave Winstanley	Julia McCabe	R0170	£0	£8,077,262	-£655,650	£7,421,612	£7,421,612	%	£0	21-Sep-22		21-Sep-22	0	N	N/A	Property 1. Strategy agreed with TVCA & Calderbank letter (legally binding offer) to be made to the claimant. The letter has been drafted by Sanderson Weatherall with advice from Ward Hadaway and agreed with DBC. As of 29/02/24 the offer letter is with TVCA Legal. Once TVCA has confirmed they are happy with the letter and the method of the Council to secure the required funds from TVCA is agreed, the letter will be issued by DBC as Acquiring Authority under the CPO. Property 2. Still awaiting evidence from former owner's surveyor. Sanderson Weatherall continue to chase.	Two compensations yet to be settled. Property 1. Calderbank letter (legally binding offer) to made to the claimant with acceptance deadline of cop 22/04/24. Property 2. Still awaiting evidence from former owner's surveyor. Sanderson Weatherall continue to chase.		The Council continues to negotiate with the two interests who are yet to agree a compensation amount. This process could continue until c. 2027.
Crown Street Library Refurbishment							Live	Services	Services	Ian Thompson	Ian Stewart	L0148	£0	£3,281,436	£141,500	£3,422,936	£3,729,914	9%	£306,978	09-Feb-23	01-Sep-23	01-Sep-23	0	Y	Andrew Burnfey	No change. Snagging ongoing so Lessons Learnt process pushed back to March 2024.	Project closed down with the lessons learnt report now completed. The project will be removed from the PPS following this reporting period.		Works completed
Corporate CCTV Replacement							Live	Chief Exec's & Economic Growth	Chief Exec's & Economic Growth	Ian Thompson	Mike Bowron	L0156	£0	£513,500	£37,371	£550,871	£550,871	%	£0	31-Aug-23	24-Nov-23	05-Dec-23	12	Y	Paul Branch	Final documentation being completed so that the project can be closed	CP5 and Closure will be completed May 2024		Works completed
Civic Theatre Refurbishment & Theatre Hub/Barltoo							Live	Services	Services	Ian Thompson	Brian Robson	L0115	£50,000	£50,000	£16,019,000	£16,069,000	£16,069,000	%	£0	01-Aug-13	06-Nov-17	06-Nov-17	0	Y	Todd Milburn	Works Complete. Following some remedial works on the Parkgate Elevation Demolition works now complete, perimeter fencing to be installed defects certificate has now been issued.	Works Complete. Following some remedial works on the Parkgate Elevation Demolition works now complete, perimeter fencing to be installed defects certificate has now been issued.		
Central Park Mound Removal & Transformation							Live	Chief Exec's & Economic Growth	Chief Exec's & Economic Growth	Dave Winstanley	Michael Bowron	R0172	£2,350,000	£2,650,000	£250,000	£2,900,000	£2,900,000	%	£0	31-Mar-22	30-Apr-24	30-Apr-24	0	Y	WDC	Snagging has been completed, The Art features are now installed. The agreement for the mast removal north of the CPI building is being arranged through the Estates team who will take responsibility for the site. The promotional display boards are being progressed for installation.	CP5 and Closure will be completed May 2024		Works to the Mast removal and remediation of the land is being addressed through the Estates team.

Project	CP1 Start Up	CP2 Initiate	CP3 Design	CP4 Delivery	CP5 Review	Status Symbol	Status	Client Dept	Delivery Dept	Internal Project Sponsor	Internal Project Manager	Cost Centre	Feasibility Budget	Original Approved Budget	Increase To Initial Approved Budget	Current Approved Budget	Project Expected Out Turn Cost	Variance (%)	Variance (value)	Original Planned Project Completion Date	Revised Approved Project Completion Date	Anticipated Project Completion Date	Schedule Variation (Days)	CDM Notifiable Project	Principal Designer	Previous Plan Progress	Plan Progress	Budget Progress Report	Issue Status Report	
156 Northgate							Live	Chief Execs & Economic Growth	Chief Execs & Economic Growth	Mark Ladyman	Joanne Wood	R0194	£0	£1,000,000	£0	£1,000,000	£1,000,000	%	£0	31/08/2024	31/03/2025	31/03/2025	0	Y	Y	Planning was submitted on 17th November 2023. Decision overdue.	Full planning and listed building approval was received on 20th March 2024. Expression of interest was issued via the NEPO portal for external contractors and we have received 7 companies interested. Tender documentation is presently being collated and it is expected that it will be issued for tender in May 2024.			
A68 Woodland Road Outram Street Duke Street							Live	Services	Services	Andy Casey	Ben Walde	TP240	£0	£460,000	£2,153,631	£2,613,631	£2,613,631	%	£0	31/03/2022	17/10/2023	17/10/2023	0	Y	Noel Walecki	CP5/lessons learnt to be prepared following financial close with TVCA	CP5/lessons learnt submitted.	Scheme financial close reached with funder TVCA.	No issues to report.	
Conisciffe Road							Live	Chief Execs & Economic Growth	Chief Execs & Economic Growth	Mark Ladyman	Michael Bowron	R0193	£0	£500,000	£0	£500,000	£500,000	%	£0	01/03/2024	01/03/2025	01/03/2025	0	Yes	Noel Walecki	Face to Face consultation is currently being carried out to advise key Stakeholders / Users of the revised proposals. This is a requirement for the Planning process. The Planning Application will be submitted following this Mid April 2024.	Project Control Point Document no 2 has been agreed and signed off. Finalised Design is being completed in preparation for the revised Planning Application to be submitted and the next Control Point (no 3) to be completed	As the project has been considerably reduced since the first iteration The Control Point 2(CP2) document reflects the current agreed available budget of circa £500K plus the identified aborted costs.	The reduced scheme is being prepared and an amended Planning submission will follow; however the scope and primary objectives will still be achieved and previous neighbour concerns are being mitigated as far as possible.	
Dolphin Centre - Pool Repairs							Live	Chief Execs & Economic Growth	Chief Execs & Economic Growth	Ian Thompson	Ben Walde	D0191	£0	£220,000	£1,635,000	£1,855,000	£1,855,000	%	£0	14/09/2023	18/05/2024	18/05/2024	0	Y	Michael Johnson	Toddler Pool design developed and proposals for floor finishes to be issued to client for approval. Concrete repairs underway to Phase 2.	Toddler Pool structural repairs commenced. Waterproofing & retitting to showers on going.	Budget updated to £1.85m covering all 3 phases of essential works.	Designers risk assessment updated to cover Toddler Pool splash areas. Hippo Leisure working options to minimise running within revised layout. Negotiations ongoing with Steel Line to resolve concerns over quality of installations to main pool.	
Dolphin Centre - M and E Refurb							Live	Services	Services	Lisa Soderman	Ben Walde	D0197	£230,000	£2,200,000	£0	£2,200,000	£2,200,000	%	£0	01/10/2025	01/12/2025	01/12/2025	0	Y	A & N Consultants Andrea Nicholls	Bill of Quants prepared for full scheme, in readiness for both phase 1 & 2 tender.	Procurement proposals being developed. Design work underway to progress Sport England funded improvements & potential investment opportunities	Scheme approved budget £2,220,000.00. Sport England confirmation received of 2 intervention funding- photovoltaic cells to roof footprint & replacement Combined Heat/Power boiler.	Cabinet approval received to tender both phases as a single scheme, to gain value for money.	
Feethams House							Live	Chief Exec's & Economic Growth	Chief Exec's & Economic Growth	Ian Williams	Jenny Dixon & Jane Sutcliffe Project/ Richard Storey PM- building delivery	D0161	£246,000	£8,500,000	£0	£8,500,000	£8,460,880	%	£-39,120	30/07/2019	31/05/2020	15/05/2020	-16	Yes	Tim Rainford (Nappers)	Awaiting £1m closure report.	The CP5 is to be drafted and the full project closure process is anticipated to be completed in May 2025	currently 39k underspend.		
Haughton Road - Tornado Way							Live	Services	Services	Andy Casey	Noel Walecki	TP722	£0	£1,539,433	£38,888	£1,578,321	£1,578,321	%	£0	31/03/2020		31/07/2021	487	N	Noel Walecki	Closure report required	Closure report required	Budget comprises £1,367,433 NPIIF + £172,000 LTP match funding.		
Home Upgrade Grant							Live	Operations	Operations	Graham Hall	Christine Booth	H6755 supported by 16063	£0	£6,210,000	£0	£6,210,000	£6,210,000	%	£0	31/05/2025		31/05/2025	0	Y	TBA	2023-2024 Costs, £76,849.39 Hartlepool Borough Council (Consortium member, Project Support), £31,500 Hartlepower (Customer Engagement), £15,000 Stockton Borough Council (Consortium member, Project Support)		£1,117,800 upfront funding received for 2023-24 for HUG2, £631,800 being capital funding. The remainder will be drawn down on approval during the project during batch submissions.	Contracts being negotiated with - Eah for measure delivery and management of works - Storm Tempest for Retrofit Co-ordination, Assessment and Design. Direct Award for works up to £175,000 value. - Retrofit Coordinators for Retrofit Co-ordination, Assessment and Design. Direct Award for works up to £175,000 value.	
Victoria Road Access to Station							Live	Services	Services	Andy Casey	Noel Walecki	TP818	£0	£1,146,701	£0	£1,146,701	£1,146,701	%	£0	31/03/2020	31/07/2022	31/07/2022	0	Y	Noel Walecki	Awaiting closure report before cost centre can be closed and removed from PPS. Head of Capital Projects to chase. No further progress.	Awaiting closure report before cost centre can be closed and removed from PPS.	Funding is £675,000 LGF + £300,000 LTP. Additional LTP funding of £171,701 supplied to cover increased costs.	Contact and responses from the property owners at Victoria continues to be an issue for this project. Either no contact is made or re contact following personal or letter drop is not happening with many of the properties, despite extensive effort by the Towns Fund Liaison Officer. This will continue to be monitored and the Towns Fund Programme Manager will be kept informed.	
Victoria Road Facade Improvements							Live	Chief Execs & Economic Growth	Chief Execs & Economic Growth	Mark Ladyman	Mike Bowron	R0188	£30,000	£588,000	£0	£588,000	£588,000	%	£0	31/03/2024	31/03/2025	31/03/2025	0	Y	Lee Darvil	DBC Building Services have programmed the start of the works to commence Mid March 2024. This will include the initial properties previously identified. Further property owners and occupiers are being consulted and design approvals are being chased.	Initial works have commenced on site with localised pointing and render removal as well as further investigate works around tiling.	£51,993.86 spent so far.	Other properties are being brought forward to try to compensate for any slippage.	
Walking Cycling Route MSG Yarm Road Mill Lane							Live	Services	Services	Andy Casey	Noel Walecki	TP241	£0	£325,000	£0	£325,000	£325,000	%	£0	31/03/2022	31/03/2025	31/03/2025	0	Y	Noel Walecki	Currently in for planning permission. There is a small area of flooding which we are investigating. Programmed to commence in September 24 (subject to planning)	Currently in for planning permission. There is a small area of flooding which we are investigating. Programmed to commence in September 24 (subject to planning)	LTP (£180,000) plus Section 106 developer contributions (£155,000)		
Total													Sum of Feasibility Project Budget	Sum of Original Approved Budget	Sum of Increase To OAB	Sum of Current Approved Budget	Sum of Project Expected Outturn Cost		Sum of Variance Value											
Total													£4,488,940	£103,639,924	£53,685,447	£157,325,371	£158,404,513		£1,079,142											

Capital 2023-24 Spend Summary - Financing by Department

Line		GF Corporate Resources £M	HRA Capital Receipts £M	Supported Borrowing £M	HRA Revenue Contribution £M	Departmental Borrowing £M	Revenue Contribution £M	Capital Contributions £M	Capital Grants £M	Total £M
	Capital Expenditure									
1	People	0.835	-	-	-	-	0.060	-	2.149	3.044
2	Chief Executive & Economic Growth	1.223	-	-	-	-	-	0.115	3.060	4.398
3	Operations	6.626	-	-	8.003	-	-	-	5.753	20.382
4	Services	4.243	-	-	-	0.560	1.108	0.146	26.034	32.091
5	Department Total	12.927	-	-	8.003	0.560	1.168	0.261	36.996	59.915
6	Prudential Borrowing - Leasable Assets (not budgeted)	-	-	-	-	0.169	-	-	-	0.169
7	Total Capital Expenditure	12.927	-	-	8.003	0.729	1.168	0.261	36.996	60.084
8	Resources									
9	Approved	60.930	0.303	-	24.301	12.140	5.226	1.629	72.376	176.904
10	Recommended additional approvals							0.136	3.740	3.876
10	Leasable Assets					0.169				0.169
11	Total Resources	60.930	0.303	-	24.301	12.309	5.226	1.765	76.116	180.949
12	Approved / (Unapproved) Resources C/F (Line 11 - 7)	48.003	0.303	-	16.298	11.580	4.058	1.504	39.120	120.865

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Capital Programme Summary								
	A	B	C	D		E	F	G
	Budget 2023/24	Spend as at 31/03/23	Resources Available 2023/24	Spend 2023/24		Expected Outturn	Variance	Resources c/fwd to 2024/25 (before para. 25 adj.) £M
Department	£M	£M	£M	£M		£M	£M	£M
			(A - B)				(E - A)	(C - D)
Chief Executive & Economic Growth	92.046	61.497	30.549	4.398		84.748	(7.298)	26.150
Operations	114.165	28.317	85.848	20.382		99.082	- (15.083)	65.466
People	8.807	4.151	4.656	3.044		8.839	0.032	1.612
Services	120.990	61.264	59.726	32.090		122.286	1.296	27.636
Totals Excluding Leasable assets	336.008	155.229	180.779	59.914		314.955	(21.053)	120.865
Prudential Borrowing Leasable Assets	0.169	-	0.169	0.169		-		-
Total Capital Expenditure 2021/22	336.178	155.229	180.949	60.084		314.955	(21.053)	120.865

Total spend 215.143

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General Fund Capital Receipts & Corporate Resources		
Line No	Sites	2023/24 £M's
1	Brought Forward from 2022/23	4.689
	Sales Completed	
2	Faverdale	0.432
	63 Glebe Road	0.012
	Neasham Road Cell C	1.677
	North Cemetery House	0.075
	Former Eastbourne School land - transfer to IN2 Programme	-0.041
	Land at Blackwell	0.903
	Release of covenant land at rear of 47 Coleridge Gardens	0.017
	Miscellaneous receipts	0.003
	Purchase 1 Littlebeck Drive	0.004
	Contemporary Yarm Surrender Premium 11/12 Horsemarket	0.008
	Total	7.778

Capital Receipt Analysis		
3	Brought Forward from 2022/23	4.689
4	Receipts received in 2023/24	3.089
		7.778
5	Less receipts used to finance expenditure	(2.491)
6	Less earmarked receipts	(0.223)
7	Capital Receipts carried forward to 2024/25	5.064

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FINAL OUTTURN REPORT CENTRAL PARK SOUTH LANDSCAPING PROJECT

**Responsible Cabinet Member –
Councillor Mandy Porter, Resources Portfolio**

Responsible Director – Dave Winstanley

SUMMARY REPORT

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 To report the lessons learned from the project and the final outturn in accordance with the Financial Procedure Rules.

2. Summary

2.1 Central Park (South) lies between John Dixon Lane and Yarm Road, with the main East Coast railway line to the west and Hundens Lane housing estate to the east.

2.2 The site consists of approximately 5.88 Ha of previously brownfield land, of which a significant proportion has already been given over to business development in the form of DBC's Business Central and Innovation Central properties and the privately-owned CPI property. The area formed part of the initial DBC Masterplan from 2013, which identified it as an Enterprise Zone.

2.3 The aim of the project was to decontaminate and clear the previously rail industry site to create developable, serviced plots for future use as clean commercial, office and/or incubation space, set within a high-quality business park setting. £2,900,000 was invested in the Central Park Landscaping works.

2.4 This project quickly followed the construction of Innovation Central, and together completed two outstanding, priority projects on Central Park.

2.5 Para 43 of the Financial Procedure Rules requires that the final outturn of all schemes with a value in excess of £1 million be reported to Cabinet.

2.6 The report reviews the actual cost, timeliness and quality including lessons learned; to ensure a continuous review of capital planning, management and reporting, with regard to best practice, experience and opportunities for improving the Council's capital and asset management processes.

3. Recommendation

3.1 It is recommended that Members note the final outturn of the Project.

4. Reasons

4.1 The recommendations are supported by the following reasons:

1. To comply with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.
2. To ensure a continuous review of capital planning, management and reporting, with regard to best practice, experience and opportunities for improving the Council's capital and asset management processes.

Mike Bowron – Capital Projects Manager

Background Papers

None

S17 Crime and Disorder	No direct impacts
Health and Well Being	No direct impacts
Carbon Impact	No direct impacts
Diversity	No direct impacts
Wards Affected	This project is in the Stephenson ward.
Groups Affected	
Budget and Policy Framework	No direct impacts
Key Decision	This is not a Key Decision
Urgent Decision	This is not an Urgent Decision
Council Plan	One Darlington: Perfectly Placed. This project contributes towards creating opportunities for businesses and jobs; and creating a place that will thrive economically and socially.
Efficiency	No direct impacts

MAIN REPORT

1. Information and Analysis

1.1 Central Park (South) lies between John Dixon Lane and Yarm Road, with the main East Coast railway line to the west and Hundens Lane housing estate to the east.

1.2 Central Park South consists of approximately 5.88 Ha of previously brownfield land, of which a significant proportion has already been given over to business development in the form of DBC's Business Central and Innovation Central properties and the privately-owned CPI property. The area formed part of the initial DBC Masterplan from 2013, which identified it as an Enterprise Zone.

- 1.3 The aim of the project was to decontaminate and clear the previously rail industry site to create developable, serviced plots for future use as clean commercial, office and/or incubation space, set within a high-quality business park setting.
- 1.4 It was necessary to carry out detailed site investigations to both identify any accessible material, which needed to be removed and to inform a document of the site's make up for future developers. This was carried out through the use of specialist consultants.
- 1.5 The Council was successful in securing £3.65m of grant funding through the Getting Building Fund (GTF) administered through Tees Valley Unlimited. £2.9m of the GTF monies was allocated to this project.
- 1.6 The pre-construction budget for the project was £479,000; with the total project cost being £2,899,721. It was originally due for completion in March 2022, but the main project works were completed in March 2023.
- 1.7 The project was designed by Gradon Architecture and works were delivered by Willmott Dixon Construction.
- 1.8 Para 43 of the Financial Procedure Rules requires that the final outturn of all schemes with a value in excess of £1 million be reported to Cabinet.
- 1.9 The report reviews the actual cost, timeliness and quality including lessons learned to ensure a continuous review of capital planning, management and reporting, with regard to best practice, experience and opportunities for improving the Council's capital and asset management processes.

2. Cost

- 2.1 The table below summarises the project budget and final outturn.

Original Approved Budget	Revised Approved Budget	Project Outturn	Variance	Variance (%)
£2,650,000	£2,900,000	£2,899,721	£279	0%

- 2.2 The increased costs were attributable to a rise in the costs of the new roads and infrastructure, additional contamination removal fees and remediation works on the site. The additional funding was from central government grant in the form of Building Better funding.
- 2.3 The increase also reflected the industry-wide impact of COVID on working practices, supply chains and material cost increases.

3. Quality

- 3.1 In terms of quality the project met all standards laid out in Planning and Building Regulations.

4. Time

4.1 The table below summarises the project timeline.

Original Planned Project Completion Date (CP1)	Revised Approved Project Completion Date	Actual Completion Date	Schedule Variation (days)
31 March 2022	31 March 2023	31 March 2023	0

4.2 The revised project completion date was attributed to post COVID conditions and uncertainty around the use of the site by Treasury North, which after consideration, is to be built on another site in Darlington TC.

5. Lessons Learned

5.1 The Asset Management and Capital Programme Review Board (AM&CPRB or AMG) has specific roles defined in the Council's Constitution. The Board shall maintain a continuous review of capital planning, management and reporting, with regard to best practice, experience and opportunities for improving the Council's capital and asset management.

5.2 The key findings and lessons learned from this project are summarised below:

5.3 Works carried out during the first covid restrictions slowed progress due to working requirements, particularly during site establishment. The team now have a better understanding of how to mitigate these risks should any similar restrictions be reintroduced.

5.4 Improvements in the design process and sequencing of works could be made. This will be addressed in future through project management process and oversight of the project board.

5.5 The time taken to resolve contractor's technical queries (TQ's) put pressure on the programme. Timelines for responding to TQ's to be established and agreed pre-start.

5.6 Financial management during the scheme was thorough and this demonstrates the need to regularly question and monitor cost information.

6. Procurement

6.1 The Construction Delivery agreement was through a Procurement Hub Framework. The main contractor was Willmott Dixon Construction.

7. Contract Management

7.1 In terms of contract management, the main contract was delivered in accordance with NEC4 Form of Contract 2017

8. Health & Safety

8.1 The Principal Designer role for the scheme was delivered via Fairhurst Consulting and the services were provided by Graeme Smith. There were no reportable accidents during the development.

9. Risk Log

9.1 The risk log for the scheme was regularly reviewed and risk which could be transferred onto the Principal Contractor were included within the main construction contract.

10. Communications

10.1 The communications strategy for the scheme was developed through the Central Park Board to regularly highlight risk and/or opportunity in each phase of the project in a timely manner.

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FINAL OUTTURN REPORT CROWN STREET LIBRARY

**Responsible Cabinet Member –
Councillor Mandy Porter, Resources Portfolio**

Responsible Director – Dave Winstanley

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To report the lessons learned from the Crown Street Library Refurbishment Project and the final outturn in accordance with the Financial Procedure Rules.

Summary

2. Following consideration of whether to vacate the Crown Street library as a proposed cost-savings exercise, Cabinet took the decision in January 2019 that the Council should instead retain and enhance the existing facility. An alternative option – to operate a smaller facility within the Dolphin Centre was rejected.
3. The project entailed firstly repairing the fabric and decoration of the building; roof, M&E and windows as well as full redecoration whilst being sympathetic to the heritage of the Crown Street building; and secondly improving the customer experience by providing much improved facilities for accessing literature and creative activities, improved IT, creating a much-improved children's zone, improving access, and modernising the overall "visitor experience".
4. Para 43 of the Financial Procedure Rules requires that the final outturn of all schemes with a value in excess of £1 million be reported to Cabinet.
5. The report reviews the actual cost, timeliness and quality including lessons learned; to ensure a continuous review of capital planning, management and reporting, with regard to best practice, experience and opportunities for improving the Council's capital and asset management processes.

Recommendation

6. It is recommended that Members note the final outturn of the Project.

Reasons

7. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons:-

- (a) To comply with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.
- (b) To ensure a continuous review of capital planning, management and reporting, with regard to best practice, experience and opportunities for improving the Council's capital and asset management processes.

Ian Stewart – Programme Manager

Background Papers

None

S17 Crime and Disorder	No direct impacts
Health and Well Being	Improved social and educational facility
Carbon Impact	-
Diversity	-
Wards Affected	The project is in Park East ward but benefits the entire borough.
Groups Affected	All
Budget and Policy Framework	-
Key Decision	This is not a Key Decision
Urgent Decision	This is not an Urgent Decision
Council Plan	One Darlington: Perfectly Placed. Improved and accessible education resources for children and adults
Efficiency	-

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

1. The Council was required to review expenditure on its assets and services in response to its ongoing, challenging financial position. Accordingly the operation of a relatively costly service within an older building requiring a complex range of repair and refurbishment works was investigated.
2. With strong local support, it was decided that to downsize the service, for example, to move it to the Dolphin Centre was inappropriate for the town's main library (1 of only 2 in Darlington).
3. The decision was made to upgrade the library by improving its connectivity, provide a range of activity and learning rooms and in particular create a high-quality children's reading area. The aim was to establish the library as a key public asset, fit for the 21st Century, for all of the community to use and to be free and accessible to all. It furthermore secured the future of a landmark building in the town.

4. Initial surveys revealed the building had a number of areas requiring attention, with the complex roof being of particular concern. In addition it required decorating throughout and improved access and fire controls to improve its safety.
5. As the building was further surveyed costs increased from the initial estimates as the roof repair costs in particular mounted and the scaffolding solution to safely access and work on it were defined. The project became considerably more challenging due to the restrictions arising from COVID working practices and related supply chain shortages and rising costs.
6. A specialist libraries internal design company, Design Concept, were engaged to design the children's area and improve the overall internal space. SPACE Architectures were also employed to develop the design and the works were taken forward with DBC Building Services acting as main contractor.
7. The anticipated project cost, once an initial design had been developed, was £3.281m. On completion the full cost was calculated to be £3.730m. Over half of the increase related to the scaffolding and roof works (exacerbated by the COVID impact).
8. The works were completed shortly before a week of launch events in October 2023. The public response was very positive with significantly greater numbers attending the library.
9. An application was submitted to the Constructing Excellence North East (CENE) Awards (Conservation and Regeneration Section). The project made the shortlist and was highly commended for its quality of work.
10. Para 43 of the Financial Procedure Rules requires that the final outturn of all schemes with a value in excess of £1 million be reported to Cabinet.
11. The report reviews the actual cost, timeliness and quality including lessons learned to ensure a continuous review of capital planning, management and reporting, with regard to best practice, experience and opportunities for improving the Council's capital and asset management processes.

Cost

12. The table below summarises the project budget and final outturn.

Original Approved Budget	Revised Approved Budget	Project Outturn	Variance	Variance (%)
£3,281,436	£3,422,936	£3,729,914	£306,978	9%

13. The increase to the final project costs, take into account significant increases to the scaffold and roof repair costs, additional COVID 19 delay delivery costs and increases to materials and labour that arose during and following the COVID epidemic.

Quality

14. The project met all standards laid out in the appropriate Building Regulations and in the Planning and Listed Building Consent requirements. The building was shortlisted for the CENE Awards in recognition of its quality.

Time

15. The table below summarises the project timeline.

Original Planned Project Completion Date (CP1)	Revised Approved Project Completion Date	Actual Completion Date	Schedule Variation (days)
9 February 2023	1 September 2023	1 September 2023	0

16. The revised project completion date was primarily a result of i. COVID delays and ii. roof delays as a result of having to time works to meet bat legislation and the fact that the complex roof works took longer than anticipated, exacerbated by a major sub-contractor going bust shortly before works were about to commence.

Lessons Learned

17. The Asset Management and Capital Programme Review Board (AM&CPRB or AMG) has specific roles defined in the Council's Constitution. The Board shall maintain a continuous review of capital planning, management and reporting, with regard to best practice, experience and opportunities for improving the Council's capital and asset management.
18. The key findings and lessons learned from this project are summarised below:
- (a) Works carried out during the first COVID restrictions slowed progress due to the onerous working requirements. The team gained a better understanding of requirements as they progressed and should comparable restrictions come into force again, there should be a better understanding of how to mitigate them.
 - (b) The library roof cost and duration of works were considerably greater than first estimates indicated. More in-depth surveying could have benefitted the budgeting and programming of this element given its complex nature, but it would not likely have fully mitigated them.
 - (c) Holding public drop-in consultation sessions and providing regular PR on progress improved public participation in the design and informed DBC of local priorities. It likely also reduced potential criticism of the disturbance to the service during construction.
 - (d) Use of a specialist library interior designer yielded excellent results and the Council received considerable praise for the quality of the internal fit-out (especially the children's zone.) This demonstrates the values in employing specialist designers in certain circumstances.

Procurement

19. It was agreed by Cabinet in January 2019 that works be managed by the authority's Building Services section. A number of subconsultants and subcontractors were employed to design and deliver the works.

Contract Management

20. The main contract was delivered in the spirit of the JCT Standard Form of Contract 2011.

Health & Safety

21. For the construction phase, the Principal Designer role for the scheme was delivered by Andrew Bumfrey of SPACE Architecture. No reportable accidents were recorded during the construction phase.

Risk Log

22. The risk log for the scheme was regularly reviewed and risks which could be transferred onto the Principal Contractor were included within the main construction contract. The risk log was fully closed down prior to the end of the project.

Communications

23. The communications strategy for the project was managed by Community Services. A wide range of consultation and profile-raising activities were maintained throughout the project and a week of launch events were held in October 2023, which were well attended and led to greater use of the building.

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ECONOMY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
27 June 2024

REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING OUTTURN 2023/24

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider the revenue outturn 2023/24.

Summary

2. Attached at **Annex 1** is the revenue outturn 2023/24 report which is due to be considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 16th July 2024.

Recommendation

3. It is recommended that Members consider and discuss the revenue outturn 2023/24 report.

Brett Nielsen
Assistant Director Resources

Background Papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

S17 Crime and Disorder	There are no specific crime and disorder implications in this report.
Health and Wellbeing	There are no issues relating to health and wellbeing which this report needs to address.
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	There are no specific carbon impact issues in this report.
Diversity	The report does not contain any proposals that impact on diversity issues.
Wards Affected	All wards are affected.
Groups Affected	No specific groups are particularly affected.
Budget and Policy Framework	This decision does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework.
Key Decision	1. The report does not require a key decision. 2.
Urgent Decision	The report does not require an urgent decision.
Council Plan	The subject matter of the report, the Councils financial standing and financial management, is critical to delivery of the Council Plan, but this report does not contain new proposals.
Efficiency	The report contains updated information regarding efficiency savings contained in the MTFP.
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers

CABINET
16 JULY 2024

REVENUE OUTTURN 2023/24

Responsible Cabinet Member -
Councillor Mandy Porter, Resources Portfolio

Responsible Director -
Elizabeth Davison, Group Director of Operations

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To present the 2023/24 revenue outturn position (subject to Audit), to allow Members to consider the results in light of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and also to consider the Housing Revenue Account outturn.

Summary

2. This is the final revenue budget management report to Cabinet for 2023/24. The year-end projection shows an overall improvement in the 2023/24 financial position of £0.545m. This is a £1.283m improvement on the 2024/25 MTFP projected opening balance.
3. Details of variances from the original budget along with changes since the quarter 3 projected position are contained within the main report.
4. There are a number of carry forward requests detailed in paragraphs 17 – 19, which will assist with projected slippage and pressures in the coming year.

Recommendation

5. It is recommended that:-
 - (a) The revenue outturn for 2023/24 be noted.
 - (b) The carry forward of resources referred to in paragraphs 17 - 19 be noted and approved.

Reasons

6. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons:
 - (a) To continue effective management of resources.

- (b) To continue to deliver services to agreed levels

Elizabeth Davison
Group Director of Operations

Background Papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

Brett Nielsen : Extension 5403

S17 Crime and Disorder	There are no specific crime and disorder implications in this report.
Health and Wellbeing	There are no issues relating to health and wellbeing which this report needs to address.
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	There are no specific carbon impact issues in this report.
Diversity	The report does not contain any proposals that impact on diversity issues.
Wards Affected	All wards are affected.
Groups Affected	No specific groups are particularly affected.
Budget and Policy Framework	This decision does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework.
Key Decision	The report does not require a key decision.
Urgent Decision	The report does not require an urgent decision.
Council Plan	The subject matter of the report, the Councils financial standing and financial management, is critical to delivery of the Council Plan, but this report does not contain new proposals.
Efficiency	The report contains updated information regarding efficiency savings contained in the MTFP.
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers.

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

7. This is the final revenue budget management report to Cabinet for 2023/24 and provides the 2023/24 revenue outturn position as part of the Council's continuous financial management process.
8. Overall, the projected General Fund reserves position at the 31 March 2024 is £17.667m, which is an improvement of £0.545m on the planned balances in the 2023-27 MTFP. This improvement relates to £0.485m underspend in the Council's 2022/23 financial results, £1.059m projected Group overspends in the 2023/24 financial year and a £1.119m improvement in corporate resources.

Departmental Resources

9. Departmental resource projections are summarised in **Appendix 2** and detailed in **Appendices 2(a) to 2(e)**.
10. The **People Group** outturn position is an overspend of £2.458m, after carry forward requests of £0.186m. This is an improvement of £1.294m on the position reported at Q3. The main changes to the previously reported position are detailed below:
 - (a) **Children's Services** are projecting an overspend of £4.394m, an improvement of £0.263m on Q3. The main changes since Q3 include the following:
 - (i) Adoption and Placements have overspent by £4.419m, a decrease of £0.188m from the Q3 report. This is mainly due to a reduction of six residential placements with part-year savings of £0.092m, lower charges for one complex case of £0.115m, offset by increases in Special Guardianship Orders.
 - (ii) Assessment and Care Planning and First Response Services have overspent by £0.082m which is an increase from the Q3 report of £0.106m. This is due to the use of agency workers to cover vacant posts and to meet increased demand in assessments.
 - (iii) Disabled Children has underspent by £0.076m, an improvement from the last report of £0.124m. This is due to a reduction of day care provision taken up by families and various staffing and running costs savings in the social work team and in-house provision.
 - (iv) Youth Offending Services has underspent by £0.055m, an improvement of £0.055m from Q3 mainly due to grant income and running cost savings.
 - (b) **Development and Commissioning** budgets have underspent by £0.366m after carry forward requests of £0.128m, which is an improvement of £0.216m on quarter 3. This is mainly due to Integrated Care Board (ICB) funding received of £0.130m and changes in demand for services, vacancies and running cost savings across the whole division.

- (c) **Education Services** budget is on target to be balanced, after carry forward requests of £0.058m, a decrease of £0.045m on the position reported at Q3. The main changes since Q3 are as follows,
- (i) Transport Services has underspent by an additional £0.237m due to staffing and route savings. This follows a reduction in out of area SEND placements in line with Council's Safety Valve action plan.
 - (ii) The Education division is overspent by £0.294m after a carry forward request for SEND services (see paragraph 18I). The overspend includes a transfer of funds into an Academisation earmarked reserve, to cover future costs of school academy transfers. This has been funded by the savings in the Transport Unit.
- (d) **Adult Social Care and Health** outturn position is an underspend of £1.528m, an improvement of £0.892m on Q3. The main changes since Q3 include the following:
- (i) The External Purchase of Care budget has improved by £1.022m on the position reported at Q3 as follows,
 - a) £0.522m reduced expenditure. Mainly due to the recovery of direct payment contingencies, changes in direct payment care activity of £0.303m and a reduction in Home Care activity of £0.194m.
 - b) £0.500m increased income due to additional one off grant income and contributions for care.
 - (ii) The bad debt provision has increased by £0.100m for non payment of client charges. Additional resources are being employed to chase the payment of debt.
11. The **Services Group** is projecting an underspend of £1.986m after carry forward requests of £0.344m, an improvement of £0.848m on the reported position at Q3. The headline areas are detailed below:
- (a) **Capital Projects, Transport and Highways Planning** the overall underspend is £0.898m after carry forward requests of £0.154m, this is an improvement of £0.272m from Q3. The main elements of this movement are broken down into:
 - (i) Concessionary Fares and Sustainable Transport, following the yearend reconciliation of the concessionary fare scheme by TVCA, the service was refunded £0.103m.
 - (ii) Building Design Services and Capital Projects, the income from fees performed better than originally projected due to a strong programme of works at £0.162m.
 - (b) **Community Services** is overspent by £0.414m after carry forward requests of £0.103m, an increase of £0.070m from Q3.

- (i) Cemeteries and Crematorium, the overall the position has worsened by £0.127m. Income has fallen further below target because of increased choice of facilities in the area and services nationally.
 - (ii) Leisure Services has improved by £0.164m due to a strong performance over the final quarter following the re-opening of the main pool and the positive impact this has had on various income streams. Leisure memberships have experienced significant growth as well as the increase in secondary spend within the catering service.
 - (iii) The Waste Disposal overspend increased by a further £0.059m as tonnages associated with the Household Waste Recycling Centre (tip), fly-tipping, street cleaning and bulky lane collections remained at slightly elevated levels compared to previous years.
 - (c) **Community Safety** is underspent by £0.699m after carry forward requests of £0.017m, an improvement of £0.047m Q3 position. This is mainly due to Car Parking and Enforcement which improved by a further £0.054m as income levels continue to perform better than expected following the end of the free parking offer.
 - (d) **Building Services** underspend increased by £0.100m following the release of some historical retentions on completed projects as well as good performance on the building services programme.
 - (e) **Corporate Landlord** underspent by £0.497m after carry forward requests of £0.070m, an improvement of £0.497m from the Q3 position. The improvement is mainly in utility costs including:
 - (i) A reconciliation process carried out by NEPO in quarter 4 resulted in a refund on electricity costs of £0.064m.
 - (ii) Throughout the year a prudent position was taken on the cost of gas due to some uncertainty in figures. The final position saw an improvement on projected costs of £0.145m.
 - (iii) A review of the cost of the data centre housed in Town Hall resulted in additional income contributions of £0.163m, covering both 2022/23 and 2023/24 financial years.
 - (iv) Changed energy usage at Bishopsgate House has resulted in an improvement on projections of £0.074m.
12. The **Operations Group** overall budget outturn position is an overspend of £0.501m after carry forward requests of £0.309m. This is a decline of £0.589m on the position reported at Q3. The main changes to the previously reported position are as follows:
- (a) **Resources** has underspent by £0.321m, after carry forward requests of £0.125m, an improvement of £0.106m on Q3. There has been additional savings identified across all service areas including additional staff vacancies, reduced running costs and additional grant income. The reported increase in external audit fees noted at Q3 are

now confirmed and have been allocated to corporate management budgets in the Law and Governance division.

- (b) **Head of Strategy, Performance and Communications** division has underspent by £0.011m after carry forward requests of £0.184m, a decline of £0.048m from Q3. After the carry forward, this change is mainly due to part year staffing vacancies and running costs of savings.
 - (c) **Law and Governance** has overspent by £0.630m, an increase from the Q3 reported position of £0.482m. This is mainly due to additional legal costs of £0.254m for children's services and £0.072m for adults services. These costs reflect the demand for services and the increased complexity of cases within Children's services. As noted above the final increase in the cost of external audit fees of £0.169m has been allocated to the Corporate Management budget which has increased the cost of Democratic Services.
 - (d) **Xentrall Services ICT** has overspent by £0.122m. This is due to increased prices of Infrastructure and additional ICT equipment requirements across the Council.
 - (e) **Housing and Revenues** overspent by £0.109m, an increase of £0.056m on the Q3 position. This is due to a £0.155m loss of council tax subsidy income, offset by £0.100m additional income received for the recovery of legal costs and additional Northumbrian Water Ltd (NWL) commission income.
13. The **Chief Executive and Economy Group** underspent by £0.086m after carry forward requests of £0.063m, an improvement of £0.060m from the position reported at Q3 and is detailed below:
- (a) **Darlington Partnerships** overspent by a further £0.051m mainly from continuing to support the Youth Employment CIC Digital Hub.
 - (b) **Property Management and Estates** underspent by £0.146m because of strong estate officer fee recovery from capital projects.
14. The School balances and allocations are shown in **Appendix 2(f)**.

Council Wide and Corporately Managed Resources

15. The Council Wide and Corporately Managed Resources budgets have a projected outturn underspend of a £1.119m after a carry forward requests (including in year service rebases), which is a decline of £0.306m on the position at Q3 report. After the carry forward request (see paragraph 18h) the movement of £0.106m is mainly due to a reduction in additional income received of £0.135m and an increase in Apprenticeship Levy costs of £0.055m, however these increases have been offset by procurement rebate income movement of £0.084m.

Carry Forward Requests

16. There are a number of carry forward requests to 2024/25 amounting to £1.142m from departments and corporate budgets as detailed below. The requests are categorised into

three areas: slippage, assisting in achieving the council plan ambitions and budget pressures. Approval is requested to carry these amounts forward into the new financial year.

17. **Slippage** – There is £0.321m of slippage on planned projects across the Council in the following areas:

- (a) £0.100m **Highways** – The wet winter weather in early 2024 and delays in receiving new condition modelling software has seen planned works on road lining schemes and core test sampling slip into 2024/25.
- (b) £0.042m **Dolphin Centre** – Delays in the purchase and implementation of equipment and unused funding available from the wellbeing scheme are requested to be carried forward to allow equipment to be purchased and the wellbeing scheme to continue into 2024/25.
- (c) £0.021m **Street Scene and Waste Management** – It was previously agreed to fund a storage solution at the depot for equipment and supplies used by Street Scene. Following further assessments of the garage the cost of the solution has increased by £0.013m to allow implementation to be completed in 2024/25. Essential work to install a concrete base at the HWRC of £0.08m is also requested.
- (d) £0.070m **Corporate Landlord** – To allow remodelling of the Town Hall to be carried out as part of the relocation of services from Central House Annex.
- (e) £0.058m **Communications and Engagement** - To be used to enhance several core campaigns including, increasing the number of foster carers, encouraging people to recycle more, various activities to help tackle anti-social behaviour, climate change, encouraging benefit take up, and promoting Darlington as a visitor destination.
- (f) £0.030m **Human Resources** - Training, to further develop our managers and support development needs coming out of My Journey reviews. In addition, we are also in the process of delivering quality conversations development supported initially by an external provider.

18. **Assist in achieving the council plan ambitions.** The following £0.761m of carry forwards all meet the criteria described above and are as follows:

- (a) £0.040m **Street Scene** – To continue the trial use of HVO (Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil) fuel in Street Scene's waste collection fleet.
- (b) £0.030m **Highways** - Permits scheme, essential upgrades of the Aurora software and purchase of handhelds is needed to ensure the efficient delivery of the permit scheme.
- (c) £0.012m **Highways** - To support programmes of cycle training and pedestrian training in 2024/25.
- (d) £0.012m **Flood and Water Act** – Following the cessation of the contract with Stockton Council and the appointment of a new Flood and Water officer, work is required to be

carried out to support schemes and projects in 2024/25. This will fund the Council's contribution to ongoing drainage studies in partnership with Northumbrian Water Group and the Environment Agency to assess the risk of flood in Darlington and identify any potential schemes that may need to be developed to manage that risk.

- (e) £0.017m **Community Safety** – Carry forward of funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner to deliver community safety activities/projects aligned to the outcome and objectives of the Safer Streets programme.
- (f) £0.029m **Consolidated Budget** – To fund specialist advice and activity and support the delivery/development of economic growth projects and schemes in 2024/25.
- (g) £0.018m **Climate Change** – Due to a vacancy during the year a small underspend was generated within the climate change team. It is requested that this underspend is carried forward to support the climate change aims of the council.
- (h) £0.200m **Council Wide** – Project management costs. As part of the ongoing financial challenges facing the council, many work streams have been identified to review for efficiencies. The council has limited resources to undertake the necessary work required to bring forward these possible efficiencies, therefore additional project management support will be needed in the short term to deliver transformation projects within the council.
- (i) £0.035m **Finance** – The Finance team administer the payments of free nursery entitlement to providers across Darlington, through a manual system using Excel spreadsheets. With the increases in entitlement this is becoming more of an administrative burden on the team and would require additional resource, therefore an ICT system based solution is proposed to automate the process, which will streamline the process and help with capacity.
- (j) £0.126m **Systems** – The Systems team has limited resources to undertake all identified efficiency developments proposed across the council. The use of Microsoft 365 has provided many efficiency savings across the council to date, however many service areas have as yet not fully moved across to the full use of the package. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is also another area the council is exploring to deliver efficiency savings. It is proposed to recruit a temporary post for 18 months (£0.076m) to facilitate the roll out of Microsoft 365 within the council and to provide additional resources to develop AI with the aim of increasing productivity across the council. In addition ongoing work to clear and digitise records within Central House will require a scanning solution with temporary resources required, therefore £0.050m is proposed to be rolled forward to facilitate this.
- (k) £0.128m **Commissioning** – The Commission Team is a small team and currently has additional service demands to review services and to ensure sufficiency and effectiveness of market provision. In addition a number of large service contracts are currently being recommissioned including Home Care and Residential care in Adults services. Funding is requested to be carried forward from 2023/24 underspends to provide additional short term capacity within the Commissioning Team to allow delivery of all requirements.

- (l) £0.058m **Education** – To fund a one year SEND officer post to provide additional capacity with the SEN Team to deal with the current increased demand for Education, Health, Care Plans.
- (m) £0.056m **Council Wide/Darlington Partnership** – Cost of Living Fund, to provide support to those in need in the community who are impacted by the increased cost of living. Funding allocated in the 2023/24 MTFP has been used to assist people in need of support during the year, however as the fund was a finite resource and there are ongoing needs in the community, funding is being stretched across years to provide support where it is needed the most.

19. **Pressures** - there is £0.060m of pressures identified as follows:

- (a) £0.060m **Xentrall (D&S Partnership)** – Additional systems costs to move the Agresso (Unit 4) Financial Management system into the cloud based solution. The current Agresso system will cease to be supported therefore the Council will need to move to the new host. This one off cost is Darlington's share of the total cost across both council's hosted by Xentrall.

Housing Revenue Account

20. HRA projections are shown in **Appendix 3** with an overall projected balanced budget. There has been an improvement in the working balance of £4.953m from the Q3 projection which is primarily due to a reduction in the Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay of £4.606m due to slippage of capital schemes into the new financial year.

21. Additional movement in the working balance are detailed as follows,

- (a) There has been an improvement in Sundry rents of £0.099m due to an adjustment in the recovery of VAT.
- (b) Management costs have increased by £0.182m due to increased external audit fees and increased support service recharges.
- (c) There has been an increase in repairs and maintenance costs of £0.207m, due to inflationary price increases and additional works being carried out.
- (d) Capital financing costs have decreased by £0.506m which is lower financing costs required due to slippage on new build housing schemes.

Conclusion

22. The Council's projected revenue reserves at the end of 2023/24 are £17.667m, an improvement of £0.545m on the initial 2023-27 MTFP position. This improvement in reserves includes a brought forward amount of £0.485m from 2022/23, £1.059m of departmental overspends and a net underspend of £1.119m in corporate resources.

23. The £17.667m of projected reserves, is an improvement of £1.283m on the initial estimated 2024/25 -2027/28 MTFP opening balance of £16.384m.

Outcome of Consultation

24. No external consultation has been carried out in preparing this report.

REVENUE BUDGET MANAGEMENT 2023/24**Projected General Fund Reserve at 31st March 2024**

	2023-27 MTFP (Feb 2023)
Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) :-	£000
MTFP Planned Opening Balance 01/04/2023	23,397
Approved net contribution from balances	(6,275)
Planned Closing Balance 31/03/2024	17,122
Increase in opening balance from 2022-23 results	485
Projected corporate underspends / (overspends) :-	
Council Wide	(116)
Financing Costs	0
Joint Venture - Investment Return	0
Contingencies	93
Additional Income Received	190
Services Group Rebase	700
People Group Rebase	500
Unallocated Grant Income	302
Pay Award 2023/24	(550)
Projected General Fund Reserve (excluding Departmental)	at 18,726
31st March 2024	
Planned Balance at 31st March 2024	17,122
Improvement	1,604

Departmental projected year-end balances

	Improvement / (decline) compared with 2023-27 MTFP
	£000
People Group	(2,458)
Services Group	1,986
Operations Group	(501)
Chief Executive & Economy	(86)
TOTAL	(1,059)

Summary Comparison with :-

	2023-27 MTFP
	£000
Corporate Resources - increase in opening balance from 22/23 results	485
Corporate Resources - additional in-year Improvement/(Decline)	(81)
Quarter 1 Budget Rebase	1,200
Departmental - Improvement / (Decline)	(1,059)
Improvement / (Decline) compared with MTFP	545
Projected General Fund Reserve at 31st March 2024	17,667

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GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET MANAGEMENT 2023/24

	Budget				Expenditure		
	Original 2023/24	Approved Adjustments	Approved C/fwds	Amended Approved Budget	Outturn	C/fwds to approve	Variance
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Departmental Resources							
People Group	75,356	2,257	(887)	76,726	78,998	186	2,458
Services Group	27,129	1,944	(1,424)	27,649	25,319	344	(1,986)
Operations Group	12,996	1,305	(311)	13,990	14,182	309	501
Chief Executive & Economy	1,535	321	(340)	1,516	1,539	63	86
Total Departmental Resources	117,016	5,827	(2,962)	119,881	120,038	902	1,059
Corporate Resources							
Council Wide	1,359	(1,316)	0	43	(81)	240	116
Financing Costs	3,477	0	0	3,477	3,477	0	0
Joint Venture - Investment Return	(1,816)	0	0	(1,816)	(1,816)	0	0
Additional Income Received	0	0		0	(190)	0	(190)
Contingencies Budget							
Apprentice Levy	202	0	0	202	257	0	55
Pension Fund Triennial Valuation	(439)	439	0	0	0	0	0
Youth Employment Initiative	168	0	0	168	20	0	(148)
Mid Year Savings							
Services Group Rebase	0	700		700	0	0	(700)
People Group Rebase	0	500		500	0	0	(500)
Total Corporate Resources	2,951	323	0	3,274	1,667	240	(1,367)
Net Expenditure	119,967	6,150	(2,962)	123,155	121,705	1,142	(308)
Contributions To / (From) Reserves							
Planned Contribution to General Fund Reserves (MTFP)	(8,640)	0		(8,640)	(8,640)	0	0
Departmental Brought Forwards from 2022/23	0	(4,961)		(4,961)	(4,961)	0	0
Already approved Carry Forwards	0	0	2,962	2,962	2,962	0	0
Unallocated Grant Income	0	0	0	0	(302)	0	(302)
Pay Award 2023/24	0	(550)	0	(550)	0	0	550
ASC ILF 2023/24	0	(639)	0	(639)	(639)	0	0
General Fund Total	111,327	0	0	111,327	110,125	1,142	(60)

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REVENUE BUDGET MANAGEMENT UPDATE 2023/24

	Budget			Expenditure			(Under)/ Over Spend £000
	Original Budget £000	Approved Adjustments £000	Amended Approved Budget £000	Expenditure to March £000	C/fwds to approve £000	Total Projection £000	
<u>Council Wide</u>							
Corporate Running Costs	4	0	3	(81)	0	(81)	(84)
Cost of Living Fund	100	(61)	40	0	40	40	0
Project Management Costs	0	0	0	0	200	200	200
Pay Award	1,255	(1,255)	0	0	0	0	0
In Year Over/(Under) Spend	1,359	(1,316)	43	(81)	240	159	116

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REVENUE BUDGET MANAGEMENT UPDATE 2023/24								
	Budget				Expenditure			(Under)/ Over Spend £000
	Original Budget £000	Approved Adjustments £000	Approved C/fwds £000	Amended Approved Budget £000	Expenditure to March £000	C/fwds to approve £000	Total Projection £000	
<u>People Group</u>								
Group Director of People	712	(110)	0	602	670	0	670	68
<u>Adults & Children Services</u>								
Transformation & Performance	748	130	(134)	744	663	0	663	(81)
Business Support	1,572	53	0	1,625	1,596	0	1,596	(29)
	2,320	183	(134)	2,369	2,259	0	2,259	(110)
<u>Children's Services</u>								
Children's Services Management & Other Services	662	1	0	663	687	0	687	24
Assessment Care Planning & LAC	5,719	(1,327)	0	4,392	5,060	0	5,060	668
First Response & Early Help	3,833	139	0	3,972	3,386	0	3,386	(586)
Youth Offending/ASB	339	(26)	0	313	258	0	258	(55)
Adoption & Placements	15,359	1,430	0	16,789	21,208	0	21,208	4,419
Disabled Children	1,230	8	0	1,238	1,162	0	1,162	(76)
Quality Assurance & Practice Improvement	138	1	0	139	139	0	139	0
	27,280	226	0	27,506	31,900	0	31,900	4,394
<u>Development & Commissioning</u>								
Commissioning	2,352	192	(295)	2,249	1,790	128	1,918	(331)
Voluntary Sector	294	40	0	334	299	0	299	(35)
	2,646	232	(295)	2,583	2,089	128	2,217	(366)
<u>Education</u>								
Education	423	73	(16)	480	716	58	774	294
Schools	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transport Unit	3,091	44	0	3,135	2,841	0	2,841	(294)
	3,514	117	(16)	3,615	3,557	58	3,615	0
<u>Public Health</u>								
Public Health	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<u>Adult Social Care & Health</u>								
External Purchase of Care	32,072	1,351	(442)	32,981	31,279	0	31,279	(1,702)
Intake & Enablement	677	42	0	719	719	0	719	0
Older People Long Term Condition	1,604	12	0	1,616	1,627	0	1,627	11
Physical Disability Long Term Condition	15	0	0	15	0	0	0	(15)
Learning Disability Long Term Condition	2,034	54	0	2,088	2,139	0	2,139	51
Mental Health Long Term Condition	1,218	19	0	1,237	1,223	0	1,223	(14)
Service Development & Integration	1,070	(7)	0	1,063	1,203	0	1,203	140
Workforce Development	194	138	0	332	333	0	333	1
	38,884	1,609	(442)	40,051	38,523	0	38,523	(1,528)
In Year Over/(Under) Spend	75,356	2,257	(887)	76,726	78,998	186	79,184	2,458

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REVENUE BUDGET MANAGEMENT UPDATE 2023/24

	Budget				Expenditure			(Under)/ Over Spend £000
	Original Budget £000	Approved Adjustments £000	Approved C/fwds £000	Amended Approved Budget £000	Expenditure to March £000	C/fwds to approve £000	Total Projection £000	
<u>Services Group</u>								
Group Director of Services	174	2	0	176	174	0	174	(2)
<u>Capital Projects, Transport & Highways</u>								
<u>Planning</u>								
AD Transport & Capital Projects	136	(1)	0	135	121	0	121	(14)
Building Design Services	54	0	0	54	(73)	0	(73)	(127)
Capital Projects	352	58	(66)	344	309	0	309	(35)
Car Parking R&M	583	0	0	583	506	0	506	(77)
Concessionary Fares	2774	17	(50)	2,741	2,052	0	2,052	(689)
Flood & Water Act	89	160	(190)	59	47	12	59	0
Highways	4777	(46)	(82)	4,649	4,600	82	4,682	33
Highways - DLO	-478	36	0	(442)	(495)	60	(435)	7
Investment & Funding	17	542	(405)	154	154	0	154	0
Sustainable Transport	42	135	(98)	79	83	0	83	4
	8,346	901	(891)	8,356	7,304	154	7,458	(898)
<u>Community Services</u>								
AD Community Services	150	(1)	0	149	108	0	108	(41)
Allotments	16	0	0	16	20	0	20	4
Building Cleaning - DLO	206	38	0	244	267	0	267	23
Cemeteries & Crematorium	(974)	12	0	(962)	(378)	0	(378)	584
Dolphin Centre	919	151	(8)	1,062	663	42	705	(357)
Eastbourne Complex	24	6	0	30	67	0	67	37
Emergency Planning	103	0	0	103	87	0	87	(16)
Head of Steam	291	5	0	296	338	0	338	42
Hippodrome	221	117	(46)	292	368	0	368	76
Indoor Bowling Centre	19	12	(12)	19	12	0	12	(7)
Libraries	898	27	0	925	994	0	994	69
Move More	48	4	0	52	52	0	52	0
Outdoor Events	567	(18)	0	549	549	0	549	0
School Meals - DLO	78	4	0	82	68	0	68	(14)
Culture and Heritage Fund	119	5	(2)	122	123	0	123	1
Street Scene	6,048	289	(101)	6,236	6,009	53	6,062	(174)
Transport Unit - Fleet Management	155	57	0	212	210	0	210	(2)
Waste Management	3,606	75	0	3,681	3,882	8	3,890	209
Winter Maintenance	583	42	0	625	605	0	605	(20)
	13,077	825	(169)	13,733	14,044	103	14,147	414

REVENUE BUDGET MANAGEMENT UPDATE 2023/24

	Budget				Expenditure			(Under)/ Over Spend £000
	Original Budget £000	Approved Adjustments £000	Approved C/fwds £000	Amended Approved Budget £000	Expenditure to March £000	C/fwds to approve £000	Total Projection £000	
<u>Services Group</u>								
<u>Community Safety</u>								
CCTV	264	15	0	279	330	0	330	51
Community Safety	732	112	(93)	751	736	17	753	2
General Licensing	7	3	0	10	10	0	10	0
Parking	(1,672)	34	0	(1,638)	(2,363)	0	(2,363)	(725)
Parking Enforcement	13	(34)	0	(21)	(47)	0	(47)	(26)
Private Sector Housing	107	28	(27)	108	102	0	102	(6)
Stray Dogs	50	1	0	51	55	0	55	4
Taxi Licensing	41	22	(8)	55	56	0	56	1
Trading Standards	258	0	0	258	258	0	258	0
	(200)	181	(128)	(147)	(863)	17	(846)	(699)
<u>Building Services</u>								
Construction - DLO	(344)	50	0	(294)	(492)	0	(492)	(198)
Other - DLO	16	45	0	61	0	0	0	(61)
	(328)	95	0	(233)	(492)	0	(492)	(259)
<u>Corporate Landlord</u>								
Corporate Landlord	5,821	(60)	(236)	5,525	4,958	70	5,028	(497)
<u>General Support Services</u>								
Works Property & Other	114	0	0	114	73	0	73	(41)
<u>Joint Levies & Boards</u>								
Environment Agency Levy	125	0	0	125	121	0	121	(4)
In Year Over/(Under) Spend	27,129	1,944	(1,424)	27,649	25,319	344	25,663	(1,986)

REVENUE BUDGET MANAGEMENT UPDATE 2023/24

	Budget				Expenditure			(Under)/ Over Spend £000
	Original Budget £000	Approved Adjustments £000	Approved C/fwds £000	Amended Approved Budget £000	Expenditure to March £000	C/fwds to approve £000	Total Projection £000	
<u>Operations Group</u>								
Group Director of Operations	130	2	0	132	114	0	114	(18)
<u>Resources</u>								
AD Resources	115	2	0	117	116	0	116	(1)
Financial Services	1,526	156	(30)	1,652	1,334	35	1,369	(283)
Financial Assessments & Protection	279	44	(35)	288	282	0	282	(6)
Xentrall (D&S Partnership)	1,830	146	0	1,976	2,107	60	2,167	191
Human Resources	686	167	(99)	754	523	30	553	(201)
Health & Safety	193	(25)	0	168	147	0	147	(21)
	4,629	490	(164)	4,955	4,509	125	4,634	(321)
<u>Head of Strategy Performance & Communications</u>								
Communications & Engagement	987	230	(74)	1,143	924	58	982	(161)
Systems	1,007	238	(73)	1,172	1,196	126	1,322	150
	1,994	468	(147)	2,315	2,120	184	2,304	(11)
<u>Law & Governance</u>								
AD Law & Governance	131	4	0	135	134	0	134	(1)
Complaints & FOI	297	3	0	300	416	0	416	116
Democratic Services	1,316	26	0	1,342	1,435	0	1,435	93
Registrars	(23)	8	0	(15)	23	0	23	38
Administration	595	51	0	646	567	0	567	(79)
Legal Services	1,669	(18)	0	1,651	2,066	0	2,066	415
Procurement	183	(11)	0	172	174	0	174	2
Coroners	278	0	0	278	324	0	324	46
	4,446	63	0	4,509	5,139	0	5,139	630
<u>Xentrall Shared Services</u>								
ICT	810	270	0	1,080	1,202	0	1,202	122
	810	270	0	1,080	1,202	0	1,202	122
<u>Building Services</u>								
Maintenance - DLO	(616)	(26)	0	(642)	(652)	0	(652)	(10)
	(616)	(26)	0	(642)	(652)	0	(652)	(10)
<u>Housing & Revenues</u>								
Local Taxation	488	(9)	0	479	369	0	369	(110)
Rent Rebates / Rent Allowances / Council Tax	(132)	0	0	(132)	(143)	0	(143)	(11)
Housing Benefits Administration	413	37	0	450	632	0	632	182
Customer Services	329	9	0	338	389	0	389	51
Homelessness	349	1	0	350	357	0	357	7
Service, Strategy & Regulation and General	156	0	0	156	146	0	146	(10)
	1,603	38	0	1,641	1,750	0	1,750	109
In Year Over/(Under) Spend	12,996	1,305	(311)	13,990	14,182	309	14,491	501

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REVENUE BUDGET MANAGEMENT UPDATE 2023/24

	Budget				Expenditure			(Under)/ Over Spend £000
	Original Budget £000	Approved Adjustments £000	Approved C/fwds £000	Amended Approved Budget £000	Expenditure to March £000	C/fwds to approve £000	Total Projection £000	
<u>Chief Executive & Economy</u>								
<u>Chief Executive</u>								
Chief Executive	209	(1)	0	208	213	0	213	5
Darlington Partnership	74	20	0	94	148	16	164	70
	283	19	0	302	361	16	377	75
<u>AD Economic Growth</u>								
AD - Economic Growth	149	(1)	0	148	148	0	148	0
Building Control	168	2	0	170	179	0	179	9
Consolidated Budgets	146	116	(119)	143	114	29	143	0
Development Management	23	10	0	33	331	0	331	298
Economy	269	44	(58)	255	268	0	268	13
Environmental Health	334	20	0	354	290	0	290	(64)
Place Strategy	645	23	(103)	565	448	18	466	(99)
Property Management & Estates	(482)	88	(60)	(454)	(600)	0	(600)	(146)
	1,252	302	(340)	1,214	1,178	47	1,225	11
In Year Over/(Under) Spend	1,535	321	(340)	1,516	1,539	63	1,602	86

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BUDGET MANAGEMENT 2023/24

SCHOOLS PROJECTED BALANCES 2023/24					
School Name	Opening Balance at 1st April 2023	Formula Budget Allocation*	Total Available	Closing Balance at 31st March 2024	Projected Closing Balance as proportion of Formula Budget Allocation
Primary	£000	£000	£000	£000	%
Federation of Darlington Nursery Schools	(12)	948	936	34	4%
Rise Carr College, Clifton House & Eldon House	305	1,846	2,151	289	16%
Red Hall Primary	221	1,434	1,655	239	17%
Whinfield Primary	416	2,332	2,748	468	20%
Harrowgate Hill Primary	146	2,717	2,863	43	2%
Primary Total	1,076	9,277	10,353	1,073	

*Federation of Darlington Nursery Schools/Rise Carr College original budget. Actual allocation based on attendance.

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HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT 2023/24

	Budget				
	Original Budget £000	Approved Adjustments £000	Amended Approved Budget £000	Outturn £000	(Under)/ Over Spend £000
<u>Housing Revenue Account</u>					
<u>Income</u>					
Rents Of Dwellings (Gross)	(21,964)	0	(21,964)	(21,798)	166
Sundry Rents (Including Garages & Shops)	(422)	0	(422)	(527)	(105)
Charges For Services & Facilities	(3,654)	0	(3,654)	(3,900)	(246)
Contribution towards expenditure	(928)	0	(928)	(1,076)	(148)
Interest Receivable	(6)	0	(6)	(526)	(520)
Total Income	(26,974)	0	(26,974)	(27,827)	(853)
<u>Expenditure</u>					
Operational	4,441	0	4,441	4,526	85
Service Charges	3,654	0	3,654	3,900	246
Maintenance	5,539	0	5,539	5,797	258
Capital Financing Costs	3,447	0	3,447	2,941	(506)
Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay	12,609	0	12,609	8,003	(4,606)
Increase in Bad Debt Provision	250	0	250	156	(94)
In year contribution to/(from) balances	(2,966)	0	(2,966)	2,504	5,470
Total Expenditure	26,974	0	26,974	27,827	853
(Surplus)/Deficit	0	0	0	0	0

HRA Balances	£000
Opening balance 01/04/2023	23,467
Contribution to/(from) balances	2,504
Closing balance	25,971

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**ECONOMY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
27 JUNE 2024**

**ECONOMY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –
WORK PROGRAMME**

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider the work programme items scheduled to be considered by this Scrutiny Committee during the next Municipal Year and to consider any additional areas which Members would like to suggest should be included.

Summary

2. Members are requested to consider the attached draft work programme (**Appendix 1**) for the next Municipal Year which has been prepared based on Officers recommendations and recommendations previously agreed by this Scrutiny Committee.
3. Once the work programme has been approved by this Scrutiny Committee, any additional areas of work which Members wish to add to the agreed work programme will require the completion of a quad of aims in accordance with the previously approved procedure (**Appendix 3**)

Recommendation

4. Members are requested to consider and approve the attached draft work programme as the agreed work programme and consider any additional items which they might wish to include.

**Luke Swinhoe
Assistant Director Law and Governance**

Background Papers

There were no background papers used in the preparation of this report.

Olivia Hugill, Extension: 5363

S17 Crime and Disorder	This report has no implications for Crime and Disorder
Health and Well Being	This report has no direct implications to the Health and Well Being of residents of Darlington.
Carbon Impact	There are no issues which this report needs to address.
Diversity	There are no issues relating to diversity which this report needs to address
Wards Affected	The impact of the report on any individual Ward is considered to be minimal.
Groups Affected	The impact of the report on any individual Group is considered to be minimal.
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework.
Key Decision	This is not a key decision.
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision.
Council Plan	The report contributes to the Council Plan in a number of ways through the involvement of Members in contributing to the delivery of the Plan.
Efficiency	The Work Programmes are integral to scrutinising and monitoring services efficiently (and effectively), however this report does not identify specific efficiency savings.
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

5. The format of the proposed work programme has been reviewed to enable Members of this Scrutiny Committee to provide a rigorous and informed challenge to the areas for discussion.

Forward Plan and Additional Items

6. Once the Work Programme has been agreed by this Scrutiny Committee, any Member seeking to add a new item to the work programme will need to complete a quad of aims. A revised process for adding an item to a previously approved work programme, has been agreed by the Monitoring and Co-ordination Group.
7. Details of the items included on the Forward Plan has been attached at **Appendix 2** for information.

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ECONOMY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25

	Topic	Timescale	Lead Officer	Scrutiny's Role
RESOURCES				
	Performance Management Framework	Work to be undertaken to look at relevant PI's. Informal meeting to be arranged	Relevant Assistant Directors	To understand/monitor and challenge the indicators
	Sickness Absence Year-end turn out	To be circulated to Members of the Scrutiny Committee as a briefing note	Brett Nielsen	N/A
	Health and Safety Year-end turn out	To be circulated to Members of the Scrutiny Committee as a briefing note	Brett Nielsen	N/A
	Medium-Term Financial Plan - Monitoring	Quarterly monitoring reports to be submitted to meetings of this Scrutiny Committee	Brett Nielsen	To contribute and challenge the Medium-Term Financial Plan and assist with the implementation and development of the required savings
	Medium-Term Financial Plan	December – February 2024/25	Brett Nielsen	To provide a response to Cabinet on the proposals in relation to the Medium-Term Financial Plan

	Capital Programme and Project Position Statement	Quarterly monitoring reports to be submitted to meetings of this Scrutiny Committee	Anthony Hewitt	To look at the position
	Investment Fund	To be agreed. Last considered: 31 August 2023	Brett Nielson	To consider progress against the agreed investments being funded through the Investment Fund.
	Complaints, Compliments and Comments - Annual Report	To be agreed. Last considered: 31 August 2023	Lee Downey	To look at the position
	Complaints Made to Local Government Ombudsman	To be agreed. Last considered: 31 August 2023	Lee Downey	To consider the outcome of cases which have been determined by the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO) and the Housing Ombudsman (HO) and forward any view to Cabinet
	Customer Services and Digital Strategy	January 2025 Last considered: 31 August 2023	Anthony Sandys	To review and provide a response to Cabinet.
ECONOMY				
106	Economic Strategy	2 February 2023	Mark Ladyman	Development of Strategy
114	Housing Strategy	TBC	David Hand	Development of the Strategy and Actions

209	Climate Change	On-going	Cabinet Member	To update on the work of the Review Group
	Markets Update	To be agreed. Last considered: 2 November 2023	Mark Ladyman	To update Scrutiny on compliance with the contract
	Towns Fund	To be agreed. Last considered: 11 April 2024	Mark Ladyman	To update Scrutiny

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**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**



DARLINGTON

Borough Council

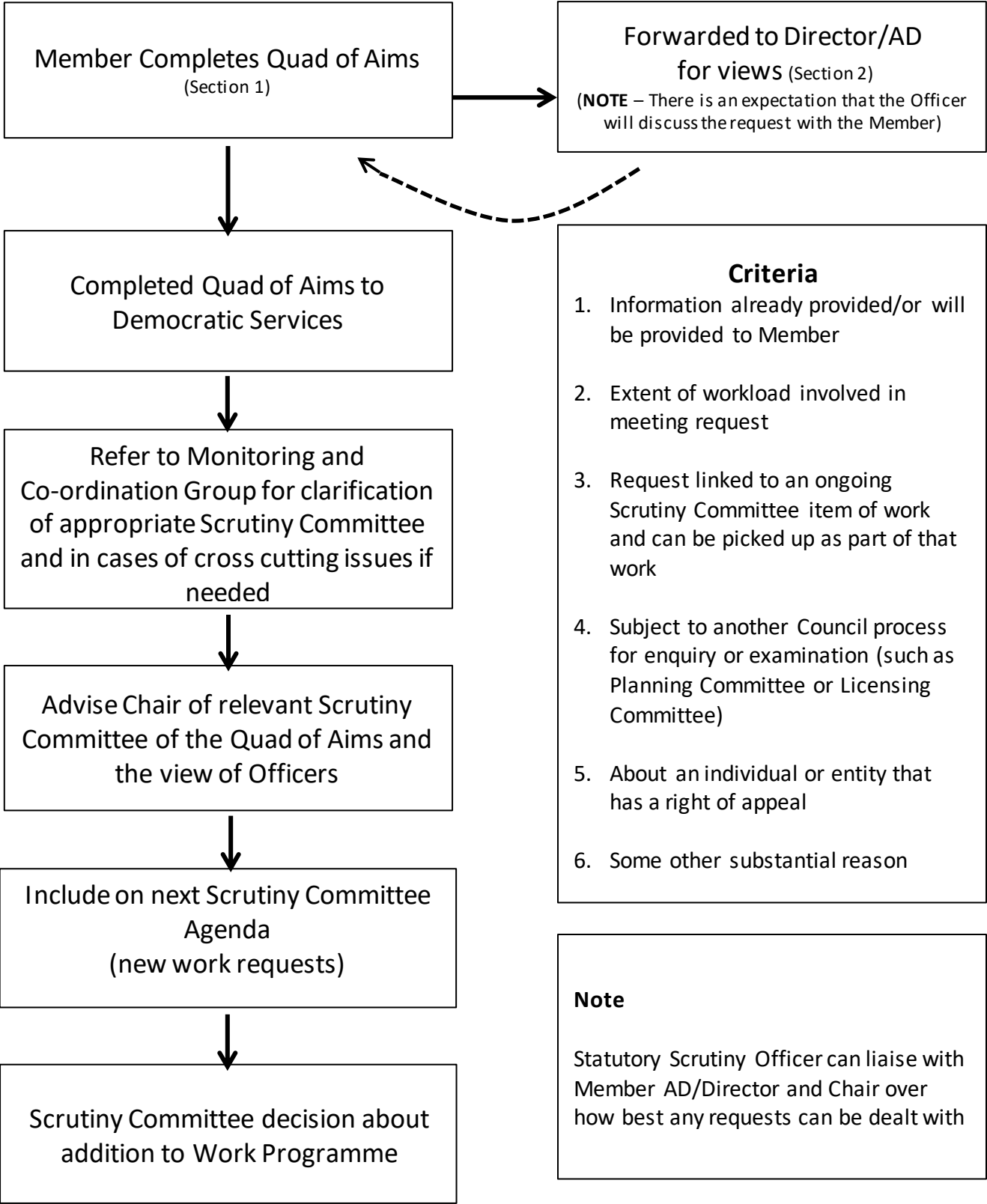
**FORWARD PLAN
FOR THE PERIOD: 5 JUNE 2024 - 30 OCTOBER 2024**

Title	Decision Maker and Date
Darlington Long Term Plan for Town Funds	Cabinet 11 Jun 2024
Release of Education Capital Funds	Cabinet 11 Jun 2024
Representation on Other Bodies 2024/25	Cabinet 11 Jun 2024
Schedule of Transactions - June 2024	Cabinet 11 Jun 2024
Wilkinsons Building Acquisition and Procurement of Development Partner	Cabinet 11 Jun 2024
Collection of Council Tax, Business Rates and Rent 2023-24	Cabinet 9 Jul 2024
Council Plan	Council 25 Jul 2024
	Cabinet 9 Jul 2024
Council Plan Performance Report - Quarter Four	Cabinet 9 Jul 2024
Disabled Facilities Grant 2024/25	Cabinet 9 Jul 2024
Housing Services Domestic Abuse Policy 2024/29	Cabinet 9 Jul 2024
Housing Services Gas and Electrical Safety Policies 2024/29	Cabinet 9 Jul 2024
Land at Faverdale / Burtree Garden Village 'Cell CH' Feasibility Work	Cabinet 9 Jul 2024
Project Position Statement and Capital Programme Monitoring Outturn 2023/24	Cabinet 9 Jul 2024
Public Consultation on Draft Appraisal for the Northgate Conservation Area including Proposed Boundary Extensions	Cabinet 9 Jul 2024
Revenue Budget Outturn 2023/24	Cabinet 9 Jul 2024

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Xentrall Shared Services Annual Report	Cabinet 9 Jul 2024
Annual Review of the Investment Fund	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Climate Change	Council 26 Sep 2024 Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Complaints, Compliments and Comments Annual Reports 2023/24	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Complaints Made to Local Government Ombudsman	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Land at Faverdale - Burtree Garden Village - Proposed Infrastructure Development Agreement (IDA)	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Project Position Statement and Capital Programme Monitoring - Quarter 1	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Proposed Middleton St George Conservation Area - Consultation	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Regulatory Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA)	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Revenue Budget Monitoring - Quarter 1	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Treasury Management Annual Report and Outturn Prudential Indicators 2023/2024	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Waste Collection Arrangements	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Annual Procurement Plan Update	Cabinet 8 Oct 2024
Offset Strategy	Cabinet 8 Oct 2024
Air Quality Strategy 2024/29	Cabinet

**PROCESS FOR ADDING AN ITEM TO SCRUTINY COMMITTEE’S
PREVIOUSLY APPROVED WORK PROGRAMME**



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QUAD OF AIMS (MEMBERS' REQUEST FOR ITEM TO BE CONSIDERED BY SCRUTINY)

SECTION 1 TO BE COMPLETED BY MEMBERS

NOTE – This document should only be completed if there is a clearly defined and significant outcome from any potential further work. This document should **not** be completed as a request for or understanding of information.

REASON FOR REQUEST?	RESOURCE (WHAT OFFICER SUPPORT WOULD YOU REQUIRE?)
PROCESS (HOW CAN SCRUTINY ACHIEVE THE ANTICIPATED OUTCOME?)	HOW WILL THE OUTCOME MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Signed Councillor

Date

SECTION 2 TO BE COMPLETED BY DIRECTORS/ASSISTANT DIRECTORS
(NOTE – There is an expectation that Officers will discuss the request with the Member)

<p>1. (a) Is the information available elsewhere? Yes No</p> <p>If yes, please indicate where the information can be found (attach if possible and return with this document to Democratic Services)</p> <p>.....</p> <p>(b) Have you already provided the information to the Member or will you shortly be doing so?</p> <p>.....</p> <p>2. If the request is included in the Scrutiny Committee work programme what are the likely workload implications for you/your staff?</p> <p>.....</p> <p>3. Can the request be included in an ongoing Scrutiny Committee item of work and picked up as part of that?</p> <p>.....</p> <p>4. Is there another Council process for enquiry or examination about the matter currently underway?</p> <p>.....</p> <p>5. Has the individual or entity some other right of appeal?</p> <p>.....</p> <p>6. Is there any substantial reason (other than the above) why you feel it should not be included on the work programme?</p> <p>.....</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Criteria</p> <p>1. Information already provided/or will be provided to Member</p> <p>2. Extent of workload involved in meeting request</p> <p>3. Request linked to an ongoing Scrutiny Committee item of work and can be picked up as part of that work</p> <p>4. Subject to another Council process for enquiry or examination (such as Planning Committee or Licensing Committee)</p> <p>5. About an individual or entity that has a right of appeal</p> <p>6. Some other substantial reason</p>
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Signed **Position** **Date**

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