

Summary Directorate Variances

Community Wellbeing

The Community Wellbeing Directorate is currently forecast to be overspent by £0.113 million.

Community Wellbeing	2023/24 Revised Budget £ million	2023/24 Year-end Forecast £ million	2023/24 Variance £ million
Communications & Customer Services	1.520	1.458	(0.062)
Community Services	4.034	3.689	(0.345)
Environmental Services	10.463	10.667	0.203
Housing Services	1.953	2.269	0.316
Total Community Wellbeing	17.969	18.082	0.113

The key variances are detailed below.

Service Area	Forecast Variance £ million	Explanation
Community Services	(0.345)	Underspend is due to additional income from the help on hand service from previous periods, saving on salaries and unbudgeted grant income received.
Environmental Services	0.203	The cremator experienced unexpected damage which required unbudgeted additional costs and loss of income. Additional staffing costs in refuse and recycling, fleet management, garden waste. The service also experienced additional operating costs in fleet management. Overspend have been partially mitigated by underspends in amenity Horticulture due to unsuccessful recruitment leading to vacant posts.
Housing Services	0.316	The housing service has significant increased costs due to the rising costs of materials, labour and staffing costs in Building Management. Woking Road Depot stores are forecasting an overspend due to use of casuals and reduced income. This is offset by an underspend on staff in housing surveying in addition to increased recharges to capital and projects. Within homelessness we are monitoring potential homelessness due to the closing of some venues.

Place Directorate

The Place Directorate is currently forecast to be overspent by £0.899 million

Place	2023/24 Revised Budget £ million	2023/24 Year-end Forecast £ million	2023/24 Variance £ million
Assets and Property	(7.335)	(6.660)	0.675
Planning & Development	1.351	2.174	0.823
Regeneration & Planning Policy	1.894	1.563	(0.331)
Regulatory Services	1.618	1.350	(0.268)
Total Place	(2.473)	(1.574)	0.899

The key variances are detailed below.

Service Area	Forecast Variance £ million	Explanation
Assets and Property	0.675	Anticipated overspend of £632,903 on Asset Maintenance, of which £495,000 is maintenance items not under the control of Assets & Property. Overspend in Woking Road Facilities Management on maintenance contracts, equipment, services and unbudgeted spends on agency staff, partly due to health and safety concerns
Planning & Development	0.823	There are considerable additional costs forecast within the service due to appeals and the need for experts and consultants. There has been a transfer from reserves of approx. £0.9 million. to help mitigate these additional costs. Reduced income from land charges due to economic climate deterring homeowners requiring this service.
Regeneration & Planning Policy	(0.331)	A favourable forecast due to underspends on major projects, recharges to capital and planned savings to support current financial situation
Regulatory services	(0.268)	Unbudgeted additional income due to the HMO 4-year renewal in addition to increased grant income from Air Quality Active Travel Grant. Savings on salaries due to recruitment freeze offsetting additional costs due to risk management funding and health and safety training.

Transformation & Governance Directorate

The Transformation & Governance Directorate is currently forecasting to be underspent by £1.479 million.

Transformation & Governance	2023/24 Revised Budget £ million	2023/24 Year-end Forecast £ million	2023/24 Variance £ million
Commercial Services	1.889	0.834	(1.056)
Finance	1.565	1.488	(0.077)
Corporate Management	1.890	1.756	(0.133)
Unallocated Costs	3.106	3.079	(0.028)
Legal & Democratic Services	0.815	0.651	(0.164)
North Downs Housing	(0.020)	(0.041)	(0.020)
Organisational Development	0.197	0.197	(0.000)
Total Transformation & Governance	9.442	7.963	(1.479)

The key variances are detailed below.

Service Area	Forecast Variance £ million	Explanation
Commercial Services	(1.056)	Overachievement of income in car parks due to increased demand has been offset by reduced fee income within Building Control due to reduced demand.
Corporate Management	(0.133)	Forecast underspent from savings on staffing due to vacant posts and consultancy which has been offset by additional costs of external Audit.
Legal & Democratic	(0.164)	Greater income generated from work for neighbouring authorities within Legal Services