

Environment & Sustainability Committee



8 March 2022

Title	Draft Q3 Revenue Monitoring Report as at 31 December 2021
Purpose of the report	To note
Report Author	Anna Russell, Deputy Chief Accountant
Ward(s) Affected	All Wards
Exempt	No
Corporate Priority	Community Affordable Housing Recovery Environment Service delivery
Recommendations	<p>The Committee is asked to note the draft forecast outturn for 2021/22 as at 31 December 2021 and the aggregate variances by cost centre reported in Appendix C6.</p> <p>(Please note that this is a draft report taken from the full report currently being prepared for the Corporate Policy & Resources Committee meeting on 14 March and has been collated before the completion of a full review process and may be subject to change, and if this is the case the Committee will be notified.)</p>
Reason for Recommendation	Not applicable

1. Key issues

- 1.1 This report provides a summary of the forecast outturn position for the financial year 2021-22 as at 31 December for the Environment & Sustainability Committee, which is showing a forecast net underspend of (£419k) (September: (£176k)), an increase in the underspend of (£243k).
- 1.2 The forecast underspend of expenditure amounted to (£244k) (September: £16k overspend) and the forecast over-recovery of income was (£175k) (September: (£192k) over-recovery), with the major differences from Q2 being as follows (see key at end of this paragraph):
 - (a) A (£30k) decrease in Grounds Maintenance costs forecast
 - (b) A (£9k) decrease in Parks Properties Project costs forecast
 - (c) A £22k increase in Parks Strategy costs forecast

- (d) A (£169k) decrease in Planning Development Control costs forecast
- (e) A (£75k) decrease in Planning Policy costs forecast
- (f) A £18k decrease in Refuse Collection income forecast

where the (negative) and positive changes indicate:

(negative): a favourable change = increase in income or decrease in spend

positive: an adverse change = decrease in income or increase in spend

1.3 The forecast net variance is further broken down to show the impact of COVID-19 on the Council forecast outturn position:

- (a) COVID-19 – a projected overspend of £43k (September: (£36k) under-recovery).
- (b) Non COVID-19 – a projected net underspend of (£462k) (September: (£211k)).

The forecast outturn shows the projected impact of COVID-19 on Cost of Services is lower income than budgeted due to lower client activity during COVID-19 particularly for public halls and for refuse and bulky waste bin collections.

2. Significant Forecast Budget (under)/overspends at year end.

2.1 Noting that we are only providing commentary for those budget lines with £20k or more variance.

2.2 A projected net underspend of (£419k) (September: (£176k)), with significant net variances as follows:

- (a) Emergency Planning – Minor change in the forecast underspend of (£42k) (September: £49k) reported last quarter.
- (b) Grounds Maintenance - forecast underspend of (£30k) (September: £nil) due to vacant posts partially covered by overtime payments and agency staff, with no impact on service delivery.
- (c) Parks Strategy – forecast overspend of £22k (September: £nil) due to costs following a water leak.
- (d) Planning Development Control – a projected net over-recovery of (£123k) (September: £47k net overspend) which is made up mainly as follows:
 - i) (£29k) underspend on cost budgets (September: £140k overspend net of staffing underspend), a significant decrease in forecast due to expectations of lower potential external legal costs on current developer planning appeals.
 - ii) No change in the forecast (£94k) income above budget reported last quarter.
- (e) Planning Policy – a net underspend of (£181k) (September: (£103k)) which is made up mainly of (£184k) underspend (September: (£109k)) for the Local Plan which is now scheduled to complete in 2022/23.
- (f) Refuse Collection – a net over-recovery of income of (£73k) (September: (£90k)) which is made up as follows:

- i) No change in the forecast £30k overspend budget reported last quarter.
- ii) (£103k) over-recovery (September: (£120k)) of income due to an increase in customer take-up of Garden Waste services (£133k), offset by £30k lower income from refuse and bulky waste bins due to less activity during the pandemic.

3. Other considerations

3.1 None.

4. Equality and Diversity

4.1 Not applicable.

5. Sustainability/Climate Change Implications

5.1 Not applicable.

6. Timetable for implementation

6.1 Not applicable

Background papers: There are none.

Appendices:

Appendix C6 – Environment & Sustain Revenue Report 30-09-21