**Financial Year 2023/24 Period 9**

**Executive 14th February 2024**

# Appendix 1: Revenue Budget Monitoring Report

- The Council is forecasting to overspend against its Revenue Budget for 2023/24 by £5.5m, a worsening of the position by £2m since Period 6. The Council continues to face severe inflationary and cost price pressures, particularly in Adults and Children's Services. The Adults overspend is £3.6m, driven by long term care placements and cost pressures which are outpacing demand management interventions. Children's are facing £7.7m of pressures due to increased External Residential costs, Home to School Transport demand, workforce and price pressures and overspends in Localities and Fostering workforce budgets. Neighbourhoods are forecasting an overspend of £1.4m in relation to shortfalls of income in markets and car parking as income levels have failed to recover since the pandemic and alternative locations for the Christmas markets have not replaced the losses incurred at Albert Square. These overspends are offset by underspends in Growth and Development, Population Health and Corporate Core due to revised recruitment assumptions and additional income.
- Overspending Directorates are working on recovery plans to mitigate their positions with an aim to reduce by the end of the financial year.
- Planned total Directorate savings in 2023/24 total £25.2m. Of these £8.5m (34%) are high risk and are unlikely to be delivered, £1.5m (6%) are medium risk and £15.1m (60%) are low risk in that they are on track to be achieved or mitigated. Work is ongoing to find alternative savings where original plans may not be achieved.

## Table 1 – Forecast Outturn against Budget 2023/24

| Summary P9 | Original Budget | Gross Expenditure Budget | Gross Income Budget | Revised Budget | Projected Outturn | Variance | Movement from last report (P6) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| **Total Available Resources** | **(745,218)** | **0** | **(765,134)** | **(765,134)** | (766,194) | (1,060) | (1,176) |
| Total Corporate Budgets | 123,025 | 107,445 | **0** | **107,445** | 104,620 | (2,825) | (825) |
| Children's Services | 138,234 | 250,630 | (106,056) | **144,574** | 152,331 | 7,757 | 2,968 |
| Adult Social Care | 211,947 | 286,892 | (66,689) | **220,203** | 223,889 | 3,686 | 2,119 |
| Public Health | 41,955 | 54,967 | (11,606) | **43,361** | 42,596 | (765) | 194 |
| Neighbourhoods | 135,294 | 260,907 | (120,863) | **140,044** | 141,474 | 1,430 | (125) |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Growth and Development | (9,733) | 38,560 | (50,016) | **(11,456)** | (12,983) | (1,527) | (327) |
| Corporate Core | 104,496 | 345,747 | (224,784) | **120,963** | 119,800 | (1,163) | (806) |
| **Total Directorate Budgets** | **622,193** | **1,237,703** | **(580,014)** | **657,689** | **667,106** | **9,418** | **4,022** |
| **Total Use of Resources** | **745,218** | **1,345,148** | **(580,014)** | **765,134** | **771,726** | **6,592** | **3,197** |
| **Total forecast over / (under) spend** | **0** | **1,345,148** | **(1,345,148)** | **0** | **5,532** | **5,532** | **2,021** |

## Corporate Resources– £1.06m Over-achievement

| Resources Available | Gross Expenditure Budget | Gross Income Budget | Net Annual Budget | Projected Outturn | Variance from Budget | Movement from Last Report |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| Retained Business Rates | 0 | (297,929) | (297,929) | (297,929) | 0 | 0 |
| Business Rates Grants | 0 | (87,597) | (87,597) | (87,597) | 0 | 0 |
| Council Tax | 0 | (217,968) | (217,968) | (217,968) | 0 | 0 |
| Other Specific Grants | 0 | (143,879) | (143,879) | (143,763) | 116 | 0 |
| Dividends | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Use of Reserves | 0 | (17,761) | (17,761) | (17,761) | 0 | 0 |
| Fortuitous Income | 0 | 0 | 0 | (1,176) | (1,176) | (1,176) |
| **Total Corporate Resources** | **0** | **(765,134)** | **(765,134)** | **(766,194)** | **(1,060)** | **(1,176)** |

### Corporate Resources - Financial Headlines

- Fortuitous income of £1.2m relates to the release of £1.16m income which had been received by the Council but not allocated to services over a number of years. These balances have now been allocated to support the corporate position. £16k has also been released from the bad debt provision.
- The waste levy rebate was slightly less than originally estimated by £116k after the allocations had been made.
- Business Rates Collection as at the end of December is 80.96% (excluding account credits) compared to 80.89% in 2022/23, 75.12% in 2021/22, 64.41% in 2020/21 and 78.21% in 2019/20 (pre pandemic comparator). This demonstrates a return to pre-pandemic collection rates.
- Council Tax Collection is still lower than pre pandemic, it is 70.77% at the end of December which compares to 70.91% in 2022/23, 71.71% in 2021/22, 72.07% in 2020/21 and 74.04% in 2019/20 (pre pandemic comparator). The fall could be linked to cost-of-living pressures.

- Invoices paid within 30 days is 93.84%, against the target of 95%.
- £5.118m (8.56%) of £59.785m of pursuable debt is over a year old and still to be recovered by the Council (as at end of December 2023).

## Corporate Costs – £2.825m Underspend

| Planned Use of Resources | Gross Expenditure Budget | Gross Income Budget | Net Annual Budget | Projected Outturn | Variance from Budget | Movement from Last Report |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| Capital Charges | 43,218 | 0 | 43,218 | 43,218 | 0 | 0 |
| Insurance Charges | 2,004 | 0 | 2,004 | 2,004 | 0 | 0 |
| Transfer to Reserves | 10,334 | 0 | 10,334 | 10,334 | 0 | 0 |
| Contingency | 600 | 0 | 600 | 600 | 0 | 0 |
| Inflationary Budgets and Budgets to be Allocated | 2,325 | 0 | 2,325 | (683) | (3,008) | (1,008) |
| Apprentice Levy | 1,060 | 0 | 1,060 | 1,243 | 183 | 183 |
| Levies | 39,407 | 0 | 39,407 | 39,407 | 0 | 0 |
| Historic Pension Costs | 8,497 | 0 | 8,497 | 8,497 | 0 | (0) |
| **Total Corporate Budgets** | **107,445** | **0** | **107,445** | **104,620** | **(2,825)** | **(825)** |

### Corporate Costs - Financial Headlines

- Inflationary budgets are forecast to underspend by £3.008m broken down by:
  - £2m due to the clawback of electricity budgets previously included within service budgets, following a new contract awarded Oct 23 at a reduced price.
  - £15.047m has been allocated to services following the agreement of the 2023/24 pay award, leaving £553k unallocated which can now be released.
  - Following Executive approval £5.979m has been allocated in P9 to services for in year price increases. In addition to the £2.442m allocated in P4 that leaves £455k remaining which can now be released.
- The Apprentice Levy is forecast to overspend by £183k due to increased payroll costs following the pay award.
- The Consumer Prices Index (CPI) was 4.0% in the 12 months to December 2023, with an increase of 0.1% since November 2023. At this stage, it is expected price inflation can be contained within the inflation budgets available.
- Historic pension payments are increased annually from April by the CPI % rate in September of the previous year. Usually, these costs reduce as the number of recipients fall throughout the year, however, any reductions in numbers are likely to be offset by the high increases in pension payments due to September 2022 CPI being 10.1%.

## Children’s Services - £7.757m overspend

| **Childrens Social Care** | Gross Expenditure Budget | Gross Income Budget | Net Annual Budget | Projected Outturn | Variance from Budget | Movement from Last Report |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| LAC Placements | 56,098 | (6,452) | 49,646 | 55,043 | 5,398 | 2,697 |
| LAC Placements Service | 9,443 | (940) | 8,502 | 8,705 | 203 | (60) |
| Permanence and Leaving Care | 31,492 | (14,664) | 16,828 | 17,669 | 841 | 311 |
| Children Safeguarding Service Areas | 53,354 | (13,192) | 40,162 | 40,476 | 314 | (39) |
| Children's Safeguarding | **150,386** | **(35,248)** | **115,138** | **121,894** | **6,756** | **2,909** |
| Education Services | 77,519 | (69,888) | 7,631 | 7,510 | (121) | (50) |
| Home to School Transport | 14,857 | (280) | 14,578 | 15,617 | 1,039 | 174 |
| Targeted Youth Support Service | 850 | 0 | 850 | 830 | (20) | 12 |
| Education | **93,227** | **(70,167)** | **23,059** | **23,957** | **897** | **135** |
| Children's Strategic Management and Business Support | 7,017 | (641) | 6,377 | 6,481 | 104 | (76) |
| Total Young People (Children’s and Education Services) | **250,630** | **(106,056)** | **144,574** | **152,331** | **7,757** | **2,968** |

## Children’s and Education Services - Financial Headlines

As at Period 9 there is a projected year end overspend of £7.757m which is an adverse movement of £2.968m since the last reporting period. The overall gross budget totals £250.630m with a net budget totalling £144.574m, on top of this the Directorate is responsible for £357.273m Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). The underlying forecast overspend is as a result of higher placement costs for Looked After Children (LAC), a shortfall in the UASC grant for the numbers now being accommodated and an overspend on Home to School Transport. In terms of overall looked after children (LAC), excluding Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children, volumes have fallen. The current UASC numbers is 46% higher than November 22 partially explained by c.70 children coming from dispersal hotels. The financial pressures being faced by the service are predominantly cost driven with significant increases in the costs of placements, which have been impacted by higher national demand, increased complexity of care and high inflation.

### Key variances and changes since the last reporting period:

- **£5.398m LAC placement overspend** Overall LAC placement numbers are 70 below budget. Despite decreasing overall numbers of non UASC looked after children there have been increasing numbers of children placed in external residential placements, with 19 more external residential placements than budgeted. In 2023/24 48% of all LAC Placement budgets are spent on external residential compared to 36% in 2019/20, see graphic above. Placement sufficiency is an escalating national issue characterised with a lack of suitable placements, increasing numbers of children with complex needs and rising charges for residential places. To mitigate these pressures the Children’s Services directorate have established monthly external residential clinics and a forward planning Residential Board, in addition to current governance arrangements, to support development of a more robust action plan for Our Children stepping down, to help reduce costs.

- The external residential placement budget is forecast to overspend £13.326m. £2.426m of this pressure is due to there being 104 placements, 19 placements higher than budgeted for; £10.900m of the overspend is due to the average external residential weekly cost being 47% higher than expected, explained by the above national challenges. This price increase has impacted on the achievement of the £3m Managing Demand saving.
- Fostering, Internal Residential and Contingency budget underspends amount to £7.929m which has off-set part of the external residential pressures outlined above.
- **£203k LAC placement services** overspend on staffing budgets in the Leaving Care Service and Fostering Service. Vacancies being filled by agency which is required to support a growing and stable workforce to ensure Fostering Caseworker caseloads remain at a safe and manageable level. There has been a favourable movement of £59k since the last reporting period due to delays in recruiting permanent staff.
  - **£0.841m Permanence and Leaving Care placement** overspends, overall leaving care placements numbers are 964, 59 below budget, however, supported accommodation unit costs have increase to 40% above the budgeted rate which has led to significant pressures. In addition to the permanence and leaving care placements there are currently 501 UASC and Care Leaver placements compared to a budget of 430.
  - **£314k Safeguarding Service overspend** This pressure mostly relates to agency overspends in Localities and Care 4 Children. The projection has reduced by £39k since the last reporting period due to delays in recruitment. The service is continuing to strengthen its recruitment and retention strategy to ensure increase permanency and stability across the service with planned reductions in agency personnel by December.
  - To manage down the financial impact of the pressures this year the Directorate has achieved mitigation plans amounting to £2.666m including the use of one-off grants and reserves where possible.
  - **£0.897m Education Services overspend** This is an increase of £135k from period 6. Home to School Transport (HTST) is forecast to overspend overall £1.039m. Higher transport operator costs due to increased routes of between 30 and 50 routes a month and a higher average cost (14%) than budget has led to overspend of £1.258m. This is partly offset mainly by spend on free travel passes of £119k.

## Children's Services Dedicated Schools Grant - £4.401m overspend

| DSG (Dedicated Schools Grant) | Gross Expenditure Budget | Gross Income Budget | Net Annual Budget | Net actual spend to date | Projected Outturn | Variance from Budget | Movement from Last Report |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| Schools Block | 0 | | 192,548 | 148,076 | 192,402 | (146) | (156) |
| Central Services Block | 0 | | 3,824 | 3,521 | 3,990 | 166 | 161 |
| High Needs Block | 0 | | 114,048 | 83,048 | 119,445 | 5,397 | 1,319 |
| Early Years Block | 0 | | 41,616 | 27,020 | 40,601 | (1,016) | (639) |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Total** | **1** | **-** | **352,037** | **261,665** | **356,438** | **4,401** | **685** |
| Transfer to Reserve | 1,417 | | 1,417 | | 0 | (1,417) | 0 |
| **DSG 2023/24** | **1,418** | | **353,454** | **261,665** | **356,438** | **2,984** | **685** |
| Reserve Balance - deficit | | | 0 | | 1,417 | 1,417 | 0 |
| **Overall DSG position** | **1,418** | **-** | **353,454** | **261,665** | **357,855** | **4,401** | **685** |

*The DSG Budget is a ringfenced account and is not part of MCC's General Fund Budgets.

### Dedicated School Grant (DSG) - Financial Headlines

- Period 9, in-year DSG is projecting an overspend of £2.984m. The overall DSG position is projecting £4.401m deficit (this includes £1.417m deficit brought forward from 2022/23).
- DSG in-year position has increased by £0.685m from period 6, mainly due to HNB Post 16 provision increasing by 22% from September to January, offset by underspends in Early Years.
- HNB overspend is forecast at £5.397m included in this are recovery actions to offset some of the overspend at £0.770m at this stage.
- In-year recovery is slipping due to length of time taken to drive through efficiencies, including stemming EHCP demand. Details regarding the new SEND Change Programme funding 2023/24 is still being clarified, including how that forms part of recovery initiatives.
- Early Years is underspending due to lower than budget allocation for universal funding to schools and PVI's
- In the North-west 77% of LAs have a DSG overspend. Manchester has been asked to lead on a SEND change programme as it has been recognised that it has developed areas of good practice.

## Adult Social Care / Manchester Local Care Organisation - £3.686m overspend

| **Adult Social Care** | Gross Expenditure Budget | Gross Income Budget | Net Annual Budget | Projected Outturn | Variance from Budget | Movement from Last Report |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **£000** | **£000** | **£000** | **£000** | **£000** | **£000** |
| **Long Term Care:** | | | | | | |
| Older People/Physical Disability | 85,560 | (32,267) | 53,292 | 59,285 | 5,992 | 944 |
| Learning Disability | 65,112 | (5,506) | 59,606 | 62,872 | 3,266 | 837 |
| Mental Health | 31,585 | (5,887) | 25,697 | 28,353 | 2,655 | 1,404 |
| Disability Supported Accommodation Service | 24,441 | (3,304) | 21,137 | 23,952 | 2,815 | 1,069 |
| Investment funding | 3,831 | | 3,831 | 618 | (3,213) | (599) |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Subtotal** | **210,529** | **(46,965)** | **163,564** | **175,079** | **11,516** | **3,655** |
| **Short Term Care:** | | | | | | |
| Reablement/Short Term Intervention Team | 11,690 | (2,147) | 9,543 | 9,197 | (346) | (46) |
| Short Breaks/Respite/Day Centres/Neighbourhood Apartments | 5,909 | (305) | 5,604 | 5,529 | (75) | (78) |
| Equipment & Adaptations (inc TEC) | 7,991 | (2,324) | 5,667 | 4,967 | (700) | (181) |
| Carers/Voluntary Sector | 4,232 | (682) | 3,550 | 3,665 | 115 | 17 |
| **Subtotal** | **29,822** | **(5,457)** | **24,364** | **23,358** | **(1,006)** | **(288)** |
| **Infrastructure and Back Office:** | | | | | | |
| Social Work Teams | 22,810 | (4,591) | 18,219 | 17,360 | (859) | 160 |
| Safeguarding/Emergency Duty | 4,126 | (1,089) | 3,037 | 3,368 | 331 | (37) |
| Brokerage/Care Home Teams | 1,673 | (159) | 1,514 | 1,469 | (45) | (35) |
| Management and support | 17,932 | (8,428) | 9,504 | 3,254 | (6,250) | (1,336) |
| **Subtotal** | **46,541** | **(14,267)** | **32,274** | **25,451** | **(6,823)** | **(1,248)** |
| **Total ASC** | **286,892** | **(66,689** | **220,203** | **223,889** | **3,686** | **2,119** |

## Adult Social Care - Financial Headlines

The forecast outturn to the end of December is an overspend of £3.686m, an increase of £2.119m from the last report.

**The long term care** budget is forecast to overspend by £11.516m. This reflects £14.728m of pressures, detailed below, offset by use of MSIF to support long term care £1.089m and following review of key assumptions, funding remaining for cost care uplifts of £2.124m.

- Older People / Physical Disability (£5.992m)
  - £4.464m within residential and nursing care due to client number changes (+32 increase on April), increased additional support costs, framework price pressure and £1.2m shortfall on client income;
  - £3.055m on homecare (growth in commissioned hours 16.6% on April and 121 increase in clients);
  - £1.342m of underspend on Older People adult placements and supported accommodation; and
  - £0.185m of other variations.
- Learning disability (£3.266m) – primarily increased clients in supported accommodation (17 increase since April), increased complexity, and new starters in residential and nursing with increased costs compared to leavers;
- Mental health (£2.655m) – increase of 33 clients since April, primarily from increased residential clients (+10), and +17 in supported accommodation;
- DSAS (£2.815m in total) - £2.455m reflecting increased placements in-house, use of agency to support client needs and backdated 2022-23 agency costs; £576k increased adult placements, offset by a £217k underspend on shared lives;
- The £5.5m demand management saving has been applied to the long term care budget and is also a key factor in explaining variations. Progress being made on focused reviews, the impact of D2A and the short term offer is out paced by increased demand.

**Short term care:** employee underspends within services within short term care (£1.006m).

**Infrastructure and Back Office:** The position on long term care is also offset by Social Work teams (£0.859m), back office and support services (£0.746m), slippage on the £3m investment programme (£1.340m), £1.225m funding released through reshaping the Adult Discharge Fund, Emergency winter funds (£0.504m) and Cash Limit funding for D2A and planned use of reserves (£2m). There is a pressure within safeguarding (£0.332m).

**Other Matters:** The 2023/24 Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund (MSIF) Workforce grant £4.055m) is now allocated. £1.7m has been distributed directly to providers in line with the required aim of supporting fee uplifts to providers; £1.1m is deployed to support specific residential and nursing capacity and cost pressures in the sector, such as additional one to one support and assessed needs top-ups; £0.250m will support social work capacity for winter 2023/24, and the balance is supporting the overall long term care budget.

The Better Outcomes Better Lives (BOBL) Board is overseeing all programmes of work aimed at prevent, reduce and delay care costs. The BOBL programme remains the primary source of reducing spend whilst also helping citizens to achieve independence and better life outcomes, by preventing, reducing and delaying demand into adult social care. These achievements have been supported by operating a strengths-based approach and implementing an improved short-term care offer and improved commissioning practices.

At the end of March 2023 the number of clients in >65 residential and nursing placements was 698, whereas the number at period 9 is 721, with a number requiring additional 1-2-1 support. In addition to the increase in >65s, there is an additional 17 clients into external learning disability supported accommodation placements since outturn. Here, numbers have increased from 316 at outturn, to 333 at period 9. Some of these clients have transitioned from Children's Services on high-cost packages and further projected costs have been factored in based on joint analysis across children's and adults teams. Homecare commissioned hours are 15.2% up on the year (across all client groups) to date following a 14% increase in 2022/23.

### Key considerations include:

- Almost full delivery of the £4.142m savings target through increasing the vacancy factor on all staffing budgets, releasing £2.275m from the ASC reserve to smooth savings in year and re-financing of assessment posts to the DFG. Work on the transport saving (£0.150m) is on-going;
- £14.694m of funding is fully deployed to support the care market with a notable increase in fees, which also start to move towards a 'fair cost of care'.
- The investment programme (£3.118m) agreed in the 2023/24 budget has been reviewed and based on recruitment timescales, it is now forecast that £1.700m will be spent in year with the balance supporting the overall financial position in year.

### The key financial risks are:

- 2023/24 is the final year of the three-year BOBL savings programme with an agreed saving target of £8.977m to be delivered in 2023/24. £3.477m is achieved through prevent, reduce and delay approaches. The balance of £5.500m is to be delivered through specific additional demand management interventions. Work is on-going to set out financial impact and there is progress against the target. However, the increase in client numbers, the increase in average package costs (complexity and price) and notably the increase in homecare hours, is offsetting this;
- Work with Children's Services is ongoing and still has a forecast increase in transitions packages during this year with potential for significant cost transfer (all confirmed and agreed package costs have been included in the forecast);

- The financial position on Disability Services Accommodation Service DSAS (£2.455m overspend) detailed below, reflects the impact of the uplift in agency costs from 2022/23, recruitment slippage and continued high use of agency staff. A specific review on the DSAS forecast is underway to look at the current agency usage and recruitment position.
- There is significant work underway to fully programme manage the delivery of the proposed saving programme ahead of 2024/25.
- Winter 2023 is a key risk with significant care market supply issues and all new funding already built into the position.

## Long Term Care

The forecast position at P9 is an overspend of £11.516m. The key variations have been outlined above.

## Short Term Care

The forecast outturn position on short term care at P9 is an underspend of £1.007m, an increase in the underspend of £288k from period 6. This £1.007m breaks down as an underspend on Reablement of £242k, the Equipment and Adaptations Service of £678k and Day Centres of £165k, due to a time-lag in filling vacancies, offset by a pressure on short breaks of £87k and other minor variations. The Reablement forecast reflects the increased vacancy factor (as per budget plan) and significant recruitment into roles. The service is committed to filling all positions over the course of the year with the progress to date highlighted below. The Equipment and Adaptations Service forecast expects the £500k saving as per the budget plan will be achieved in full. The pressure on short breaks is coming from increased demand for the service.

There is an overspend on carers/voluntary sector of £115k. This reflects forecast spend on the money distributed to carers as being higher than 2022/23 levels of activity.

## Infrastructure and Back Office

The forecast outturn position at P9 is an underspend of £6.823m. The underspend on social work teams is £0.859m, comprising £706k on the hospital teams, £331k on specialist learning disability teams and a pressure across the INTs of £179k. The underspend confirms the challenges in recruiting and retaining qualified social workers, but progress is positive with increases in applications coming forward.

Management and support have a forecast underspend of £6.250m with the following assumptions incorporated into the forecast:

- £2m from reserves to support the care market
- Slippage on the £3m investment programme of £1.340m
- £1.225m funding released through reshaping the Adult Discharge Fund, Emergency winter funding(£0.504m released), Community voices grant released (£0.380m) and Cash Limit funding for D2A
- £0.180m control room and other commissioning vacancies;
- An underspend on Business Support of £0.301m due to challenges across the recruitment market; and
- An underspend of £0.220m across back office and strategic management areas.

## Public Health - £0.765m underspend

| Public Health | Gross Expenditure Budget | Gross Income Budget | Net Annual Budget | Projected Outturn | Variance from Budget | Movement from Last Report |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| Public Health Children's Services | 4,570 | 0 | 4,570 | 4,570 | - | - |
| Early Years- Health Visitors | 11,164 | 0 | 11,164 | 11,164 | - | - |
| Wellbeing | 7,814 | (2,246) | 5,568 | 5,616 | 48 | 47 |
| Sexual Health | 10,042 | (1,020) | 9,022 | 8,940 | (82) | 20 |
| Drugs and alcohol | 12,487 | (3,224) | 9,263 | 9,242 | (21) | (69) |
| Other | 5,038 | (4,187) | 851 | 436 | (415) | 155 |
| Public Health Core Staffing & Back office | 3,852 | (929) | 2,923 | 2,628 | (295) | 41 |
| **Total Population Health** | **54,967** | **(11,606)** | **43,361** | **42,596** | **(765)** | **194** |

## Public Health - Financial Headlines

- Public Health have a £0.765m forecast underspend at year end. This is a decrease in the underspend of £0.194m from period 6. Savings of £0.730m have been achieved in full.
- The children’s services and health visitor budgets shown above reflect contracting arrangements with health partners and are forecast to spend to budget.
- Drugs and alcohol support budgets – spend to date and future commitments in line with contract values.
- Sexual health contracts have an underspend of £82k, reflecting additional income from partners for outreach work. All block contracts forecast to budget at this point in the year. Nationally and locally demand for these services is increasing and this will be closely monitored in the coming months, as activity data relating to the numbers accessing services is received.
- The service is reviewing bids from recent procurement processes and finalising funding agreements which will develop and embed the Making Manchester Fairer (MMF) programme. The MMF programme has a budget of £2.989m (reserves funded) and commitments of £2.1m. Most spend will be incurred in the final quarter of the year. Further updates on this will be provided to the MMF Board throughout the year. Spend incurred on the early Kickstarter schemes now stands at £600k. In addition to the above, work is progressing at pace to utilise the CHEM (Community Health Equity Funding) funding with £306k distributed to partner organisations to date. Demands for further funds will be met from the Public Health reserve subject to appropriate approvals.
- Negotiations with Health partners regarding ‘Agenda for Change’ health staff pay uplifts is on-going. Funding received by the ICB has now been confirmed with partners, but clarity regarding the full extent of any shortfall is still to be determined. This means there is a £0.700m risk regarding future commitments.

- Within the core staffing budgets there is an underspends of £0.075m due to vacant posts and the maximisation of external funding. The staffing forecast reflects specialist posts now included which were previously forecast as ICB funded.

## Delivering in Neighbourhoods - £1.430m forecast overspend

| Neighbourhoods | Gross Expenditure Budget | Gross Income Budget | Net Annual Budget | Projected Outturn | Variance from Budget | Movement from Last Report |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| Compliance and Community Safety | 17,068 | (5,350) | 11,718 | 11,204 | (514) | 51 |
| Libraries, Galleries and Culture | 14,387 | (3,829) | 10,558 | 10,670 | 112 | 65 |
| Neighbourhood Area Teams | 6,711 | (431) | 6,280 | 6,158 | (122) | (12) |
| Neighbourhood Management and Directorate Support | 1,408 | (70) | 1,338 | 1,366 | 28 | 28 |
| Operations and Commissioning | 92,791 | (42,751) | 50,040 | 51,162 | 1,122 | (189) |
| Other Neighbourhood Services | 1,349 | (1,203) | 146 | 146 | 0 | 0 |
| Parks, Leisure, Events and Youth | 22,354 | (13,008) | 9,346 | 10,341 | 995 | 65 |
| Homelessness | 76,397 | (44,404) | 31,993 | 31,993 | 0 | 0 |
| **SUB TOTAL** | **232,465** | **(111,046)** | **121,419** | **123,040** | **1,621** | **8** |
| Highways | 26,331 | (7,706) | 18,625 | 18,434 | (191) | (133) |
| Operational Housing | 2,111 | (2,111) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **SUMMARY TOTAL** | **260,907** | **(120,863)** | **140,044** | **141,474** | **1,430** | **(125)** |

## Neighbourhoods - Financial Headlines

Neighbourhood Services – are currently forecasting a £1.430m overspend, this is a £125k improvement on the previously reported position. The overspend is mainly due to ongoing pressures in markets due to the reduced income from Christmas markets and a shortfall in income from off street parking. Plus increased costs in Parks, Leisure, and Youth due to loss of income whilst refurbishment is undertaken and increased costs because of step in arrangements. The pressures are partially offset by staffing underspends in Libraries, Compliance and Community safety and higher than forecast income in advertising, Highways and bereavements. Any vacant posts where start dates have not been confirmed are reflected as vacant for the remainder of the year.

- **Compliance and Community Safety** - £0.514m underspend is mainly due to net forecasted staffing underspends. The service has recently completed a service redesign, and recruitment is ongoing. Additional work has been undertaken around damp and mould which has been picked up by substantive roles resulting in a reduction in income, dedicated damp and mould posts have now been created and are in the process of recruitment.
- **Libraries, Galleries and Culture** – £112k overspend, budget pressures linked to County records where income recovered through fees is lower than the costs to run the service, work is ongoing to review the model to mitigate this pressure in future years.
- **Neighbourhood Area Teams** - £122k underspend, due to staffing vacancies in the Team, vacant posts where there is no named starter with confirmed start date have been reflected as vacant for the remainder of the financial year.
- **Operations and Commissioning** - £1.122m overspend – largely due to income shortfalls for Markets and a shortfall in income from Off Street Parking, offset by over achievement of income on Advertising and Other Business Units. £1.188m shortfall in Christmas Markets due to the unavailability of Albert Square and the lack of alternative sites in the City. The losses due to closure are time limited.
    - Advertising over achievement of income of £304k, due to an annual inflationary uplift that was higher than what was reflected in the budget and increased revenue share, based on the annual performance of each site.
    - Other Business Units £351k underspend linked to higher than forecast income in bereavement Services of £225k as well as an underspend of £106k due to vacancies in Pest Control
    - Wholesale, Retail & City Centre Markets, £211k underachievement of income, the main pressures are, markets not achieving the forecast income (£134k) because of ongoing lower footfalls post Covid, exacerbated by the ongoing cost of living crisis and economic uncertainty, Sunday Market Car Boot (£51k) and Church Street (£26k), at Church Street 4 of the 11 units are vacant, these units will not be filled due to the intention to redevelop the market site, with traders offered alternative trading space.
    - Off St Parking – £425k overspend. The income in the third quarter of the year was below the profiled budget which has increased the projected overspend position by £60k since last reported. There has been a reduction in the number of users directly impacting on income particularly in the larger multi storey car parks. Work is being undertaken to review the impact of the Early Bird Offer on projected income, and volume of users in our multi storey car parks, particularly following infrastructure changes across the city to reduce volume of traffic in the Centre.
    - Waste - £88k overspend, linked to the additional cleaning on sites which sit outside of the Biffa contract.
    - The workforce underspend in Grounds Maintenance is being offset using contractors and the forecast position at year end is breakeven.
- **Parks, Leisure, Events and Youth** - £0.995m overspend due to £0.793m Leisure overspend from income losses at the Manchester Aquatic Centre (MAC) car park and Abraham Moss (both of which had been closed and undergoing major refurbishment, but have now reopened), along with the additional costs of financial support to the operators of Broadway Leisure Centre. The loss of income was attributed to the closure of facilities whilst undergoing refurbishment at both the MAC and Abraham Moss it is expected that the MAC shortfall is time limited and is forecast to recover now that the facilities have reopened. Further work is required to understand the full effect of the pandemic and ongoing cost of living crisis on the usage of both centres.
    - Parks is forecast to overspend by £47k due to additional compensation claims.

- Youth Services is forecasted to overspend by £202k due to additional costs of support for Wythenshawe Active Lifestyle Centre where MCC have stepped in to provide additional support to maintain provision at the site.

- **Highways -** £191k underspend due to over achievement of income from street permits and other income in Network Management. The £0.871m workforce underspend has been reinvested into the highway capital programme.
- **Operational Housing** – although this is a net nil to Neighbourhoods mainstream budgets there is a pressure on the Equans repairs and maintenance contract which is covered in the HRA report below.
- **Homelessness** - The forecast outturn is showing a breakeven position, however there are significant underlying pressures on Temporary Accommodation being offset through the utilisation of time limited external funding contributions, conversations are ongoing with DLUHC in an attempt to secure additional funding linked to the underfunding of the Homelessness Prevention Grant to support those remaining in their own properties in the Private Rented Sector and to avoid them needing to access Temporary Accommodation. Discussions are also covering the issue of New Burdens caused by Asylum Dispersal. Considerable work has been undertaken to reduce the number of families in B&B and work is ongoing to understand the long-term resources required to support this position and to ensure that residents are supported in their own homes and do not require Temporary Accommodation. The work to reduce the numbers in B&B accommodation contrasts with other LAs where Temporary Accommodation numbers overall are increasing to levels not seen previously and reflects the considerable amount of work has been undertaken in the Directorate to reduce the numbers in B&B accommodation.

## Housing delivery and Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

| HRA | Gross Expenditure Budget | Gross Income Budget | Net Annual Budget | Net actual spend to date | Projected Outturn | Variance from Budget | Movement from Last Report |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| Housing Rents | 0 | (67,556) | (67,556) | (45,838) | (67,504) | 52 | 142 |
| Heating Income | 0 | (1,736) | (1,736) | (506) | (1,183) | 553 | (161) |
| PFI Credit | 0 | (23,374) | (23,374) | (11,687) | (23,374) | 0 | 0 |
| Other Income | 0 | (2,037) | (2,037) | (855) | (3,897) | (1,860) | (1,314) |
| Funding from General/MRR Reserves | 0 | (22,808) | (22,808) | 0 | (10,928) | 11,880 | 0 |
| **Total Income** | 0 | (117,511) | (117,511) | (58,886) | (106,886) | 10,625 | (1,333) |
| Operational Housing R&M & Management Fee | 31,620 | 0 | 31,620 | 27,184 | 40,384 | 8,764 | 2,433 |
| PFI Contractor Payments | 34,212 | 0 | 34,212 | 24,126 | 34,137 | (75) | 89 |
| Communal Heating | 2,889 | 0 | 2,889 | 985 | 1,851 | (1,038) | 258 |
| Supervision and Management | 8,929 | 0 | 8,929 | 4,566 | 6,842 | (2,087) | (52) |
| Contribution to Bad Debts | 679 | 0 | 679 | 0 | 600 | (79) | (79) |
| Depreciation | 23,620 | 0 | 23,620 | 0 | 23,620 | 0 | 0 |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Other Expenditure | 980 | 0 | 980 | 353 | 844 | (136) | (101) |
| RCCO | 11,880 | 0 | 11,880 | 0 | 0 | (11,880) | 0 |
| Interest Payable and similar charges | 2,702 | 0 | 2,702 | 0 | 2,702 | 0 | 0 |
| **Total Expenditure** | **117,511** | **0** | **117,511** | **57,214** | **110,980** | **(6,531)** | **2,548** |
| **Total HRA** | **117,511** | **(117,511)** | **0** | **(1,672)** | **4,094** | **4,094** | **1,215** |

| | Opening Balance | Budgeted Adjustment | Forecast Closing Balance | Funding of forecast overspend | Revised Forecast Closing Balance |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Movement in General/MRR Reserves | 67,927 | (22,808) | 45,119 | (4,094) | 55,653 |

## Housing Revenue Account - Financial Headlines

The approved 2023/24 HRA budget is a gross £117m and this includes £35.5m contribution towards the £60.4m capital programme. The HRA is currently forecasting an overspend of £4.094m. This is an adverse change of £1.215m since P6. The overall £4.094m overspend is made up of:

Overspends of £9.369m:

- The management and maintenance costs have an overspend of £8.764m. This is due to £8.063m higher than budget repairs and maintenance costs, including projected overspends on the Equans contract of £5.746m. This is because of staffing overspends, and additional works in respect of damp and mould and fire risk assessments and contract inflation being higher than budget. Non Equans associated maintenance costs are currently forecast to be around £2.317m above budget, this is mainly due to the increased number of disrepair claims. There is also a £365k overspend in management costs and £336k relating to Intensive Housing Charges which is an addition to the HRA budget.
- Communal Heating income reduction of £0.553m. This is offset by a reduction in the forecast gas costs (detailed below). However, the net effect of not sufficiently increasing the charges for heating schemes is a £0.668m cost to the HRA.
- Reduction in rent income of £52k. Void levels have increased over the past few months. The current cumulative level is 1.13% against a budget of 1%. Void levels in Housing Services are 1.44% for period 9. The forecast loss of income due to voids is partially offset due to a reduced number of right to buy sales.

Offset by Underspends of £5.275m:

- Other Income is anticipated to be £1.860m higher than budget because of the interest received on balances, due to the increase in the interest rates which is projected to continue for the year. This figure has been revised upward since P6.
- PFI contractor payments – whilst the inflationary uplift was higher than allowed for in the budget, this has now been offset by reduced expenditure because of contract variations. The PFI payments are forecast to be £75k less then budget.

- Additional budget was provided for Communal Heating in 2023/24 because of the significant increase in energy costs during 2022/23. As a result of falling gas prices during 2023/24 the communal heating schemes costs are £1.038m lower than the increased budget – a review has been undertaken of the gas prices to tenants and new tariffs from the beginning of January have been applied.
- Supervision and Management budgets originally included c.£2.089m for PFI Sprinkler works, but these have now been allowed for within the capital programme, so the budget is not required in 2023/24. Other variances include a net increase of £2k due to changes for residential building safety work and rightsizing incentives, offset by a reduction in the Housing Support Fund requirement plus vacant posts and a reduction in staff recharges into the HRA and a reduction in the support charges for the QL System.
- Reduction in the Bad Debt Provision Requirement of £79k. Budgeted 1% bad debt provision for rents is slightly high compared to the current requirement, plus there is a reduction in the Account Receivable requirement following analysis of the Period 9 Aged Debt Report.
- Other expenditure shows a reduction of £136k due to a revision in the forecast for compensation, self-insurance costs.

Adjustment to Reserves Drawdown and Revenue Contribution to Capital:

- The reduction in the capital programme forecast outturn means that the budgeted £11.88m of revenue contribution to capital outlay (RCCO) is not required. This was to be funded in part from a transfer in of revenue reserves of £22.808m as set out in the start budget. The £11.88m is no longer required so there is a corresponding reduction in the draw down from reserves by £11.88m, to £10.928m, to net off the reduction in contribution to capital.

## Growth and Development – £1.527m Forecast Underspend

| Growth & Development | Gross Expenditure Budget | Gross Income Budget | Net Annual Budget | Projected Outturn | Variance from Budget | Movement from Last Report |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| Investment Estate | 7,890 | (23,333) | (15,443) | (15,520) | (77) | 259 |
| Manchester Creative Digital Assets Ltd (MCDA) | 362 | (1,609) | (1,247) | (764) | 483 | (17) |
| Growth & Development | 312 | 0 | 312 | 312 | 0 | 0 |
| City Centre Regeneration | 2,393 | (411) | 1,982 | 1,562 | (420) | 93 |
| Strategic Housing | 3,279 | (2,317) | 962 | 678 | (284) | (71) |
| Major Regeneration | 1,535 | (960) | 575 | 496 | (79) | (7) |
| Planning | 4,787 | (4,873) | (86) | (1,281) | (1,195) | (484) |
| Building Control | 1,339 | (1,162) | 177 | 249 | 72 | (77) |
| Licensing | 3,105 | (3,796) | (691) | (655) | 36 | (23) |
| Work & Skills | 2,070 | (67) | 2,003 | 1,940 | (63) | 0 |
| Manchester Adult Education Service (MAES) | 9,274 | (9,274) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Our Town Hall Project | 2,214 | (2,214) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Total Growth & Development** | **38,560** | **(50,016)** | **(11,456)** | **(12,983)** | **(1,527)** | **(327)** |

## Growth and Development - Financial Headlines

- **Investment Estate – £77k underspend –** Whilst the overall investment estate continues to perform well, there are a small number of assets that are not achieving budgeted income, these include Arndale Centre (£177k) and Royal Mills (£203k). In addition we have a number of assets that are being vacant or being held pending redevelopment and we are incurring costs around security and other holding costs, these include the former computer centre in Wythenshawe (£139k) and the former Central Park retail site (£138k). These are offset by higher than forecast income across other assets including car parks, (£288k), for Manchester Central (£282k), let land (£169k), Piccadilly Triangle (£62k), residential ground rents (£94k) and Heron House (£264k).
- Within the overall Investment estate there have been additional costs in respect of additional valuation charges £263k, and other costs around project activity £378k.
- **MCDA (Manchester Creative Digital Assets) – £0.483m overspend –** This is mainly due to lower than forecast income at Space Studios due to reduced filming activity because of the recent actors and screenwriters strike in America. The strikes have now finished, and filming has commenced again. Agents are engaged to continue marketing any vacant units, particularly Arbeta.

- **City Centre Regeneration - £0.320m underspend** – The underspend is largely due to staff savings from vacant posts, the movement since the last report is due to increased costs of commissioned support for various projects including EV charging infrastructure.
- **Strategic Housing - £284k underspend** – There are a number of ongoing vacancies within the service which are not forecast to be filled until the new financial year, and the main change since the last report is due to additional funding for the Zero Carbon Team.
- **Major Regeneration** are forecasting an underspend of **£79k** due to vacant positions that will not be recruited for this financial year.
- **Planning - £1.195m underspend** – the service is funded wholly from planning fee income, the forecast underspend is due to the ongoing buoyant development market in Manchester and the higher than forecast planning fee income. The Government announced an increase in planning fees that was effective from December 2023, and the impact of the increased fees is being closely monitored in the final quarter of the year.
- **Building Control** – **£72k overspend** the period 9 position has improved as staff have been able to undertake more fee-earning work during the second half of the year. The overall overspend is due to lower than forecast income due to a focus on statutory work which is non-fee earning.
- **Licensing - £39k overspend** because of reduced fee income from Premises Licensing.
- **Work and Skills - £63k underspend** due to a combination of staff savings because of vacant posts and savings against project activity. The team are reviewing the in year project activity and additional activity could reduce the underspend if activity can be developed and implemented in the current financial year.
- **MAES –** Is 100% grant funded with funding being based on learning outcomes, in the current year grant income is c£75k higher than budget and this has been used to fund forecast pay awards and increased running costs of the service. It is forecast that the MAES ringfenced reserve will have a balance of c£1.153m at year end.

# Corporate Core

## Corporate Core - £1.163m forecast underspend

| Chief Executives | Gross Expenditure Budget | Gross Income Budget | Net Annual Budget | Projected Outturn | Variance from Budget | Movement from Last Report |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| Coroners and Registrars | 3,920 | (1,426) | 2,494 | 1,994 | (500) | (300) |
| Elections | 1,513 | (363) | 1,150 | 1,150 | - | - |
| Legal Services | 19,071 | (8,082) | 10,989 | 11,240 | 251 | (153) |
| Communications | 4,566 | (1,014) | 3,552 | 3,510 | (42) | - |
| Executive | 1,083 | 0 | 1,083 | 1,068 | (15) | - |
| Legal, Comms, Democratic and Statutory Sub Total | 30,153 | (10,885) | 19,268 | 18,962 | (306) | (453) |
| Policy, Performance and Reform | 19,695 | (2,463) | 17,232 | 17,082 | (130) | (60) |
| Corporate Items | 1,345 | (130) | 1,215 | 1,215 | - | - |
| **Chief Executives Total** | **51,193** | **(13,478)** | **37,715** | **37,259** | **(456)** | **(513)** |

| Corporate Services | Gross Expenditure Budget | Gross Income Budget | Net Annual Budget | Projected Outturn | Variance from Budget | Movement from Last Report |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| Finance, Procurement and Commercial Governance | 10,931 | (2,361) | 8,570 | 8,573 | 3 | - |
| Customer Services and Transactions | 231,471 | (202,968) | 28,503 | 28,360 | (143) | (98) |
| ICT | 16,868 | 0 | 16,868 | 16,868 | - | - |
| Human Resources/ Organisational Development (HR/OD). | 6,317 | (850) | 5,467 | 5,447 | (20) | (20) |
| Audit, Risk and Resilience | 1,969 | (183) | 1,786 | 1,564 | (222) | - |
| Capital Programmes, Operational Property and Facilities Management | 26,999 | (4,944) | 22,055 | 21,730 | (325) | (175) |
| **Corporate Services Total** | **294,555** | **(211,306)** | **83,249** | **82,542** | **(707)** | **(293)** |
| **Total Corporate Core** | **345,748** | **(224,784)** | **120,964** | **119,799** | **(1,163)** | **(806)** |

## Corporate Core - Financial Headlines

Corporate Core is projected to be £1.163m underspent a movement of £0.806m from last reported and the key variances relate to: -

- Coroners and Registrars £0.5m underspend due to the projected overachievement of income of £223k, mainly in relation to increased numbers of weddings and citizenship ceremonies, a reduction in statutory coroner costs of £300k reduced by £23k staffing pressures within Coroners.
- Elections £0.6m previously reported overspend we are requesting approval to fund this from contingency if the settlement from government is insufficient.
- Legal Services £251k overspend, mainly due to reduced external income due to a reduced level of service provision to Salford Council £89k, reduced internal income in Regeneration £230k, Neighbourhoods £60k and externalising Children's services legal work £289k, additional contract costs £89k which is partly reduced by £0.506m underspend on employee budgets as the service has faced challenges recruiting to vacancies. It also includes £1m overspend in relation to children's services legal costs which has been funded by a transfer from reserves in 2023/24 as approved by Executive on the 22 July 2022. The service has commenced its plan around a recruitment drive to reduce external costs and fill vacancies to mitigate this going forward.
- City Policy, Performance and Reform & Innovation £150k underspend - there is reduced income on project activity £134k as there has been a loss of European funding and access to other funding does not cover our staffing costs at 100% and an overspend on running costs of £22k mainly due to licenses. This is offset by employee underspends of £306k due to vacancies.

- Finance, Procurement and Commercial Governance £3k overspend due to £290k increase in external audit fees £166k in supplies and services reduced by staffing underspends of £453k.
- Customer Services and transactions £143k underspend due to £118k staffing underspend and £45k over achieved income from clamping vehicles across the city which are illegally parked. This income does not fall under the Traffic Management Regulation Act and is therefore un-ringfenced income. This is slightly reduced by £20k on supplies and services
- Audit, Risk and Resilience £222k underspend due to underspend on employee budgets including the workplace adjustment hub. The plan for the workplace adjustment hub has been approved and recruitment is underway, the underspend is a result of the timing of the recruitment
- Capital Programmes, Operational Property and Facilities Management £325k underspend. There is £429k underspend on employee budgets offset by pressures in Facilities Management mainly Lloyd Street toilets.

## Directorate Savings Achievement - £25.2m target

The savings target is made up of:

- Savings agreed for 2023/24 as part of prior year's budget setting £9.781m
- Savings agreed for 2023/24 as part of the 2023/24 Budget setting process total £15.396m

| | Agreed in Prior years | 2023/24 Budget Setting | Total 2023/24 Savings | Green - (Achieved & Mitigated) | Amber | Red |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| Adult Social Care | 8,977 | 4,142 | **13,119** | 7,469 | 150 | 5,500 |
| Children's Services | 100 | 4,411 | **4,511** | 1,464 | 47 | 3,000 |
| Corporate Core | 304 | 3,365 | **3,669** | 3,669 | 0 | 0 |
| Growth and Development | 300 | 959 | **1,259** | 1,259 | 0 | 0 |
| Homelessness | 0 | 1,244 | **1,244** | 0 | 1,244 | 0 |
| Public Health | 0 | 730 | **730** | 730 | 0 | 0 |
| Neighbourhoods | 100 | 545 | **645** | 558 | 87 | 0 |
| **Total Budget Savings** | **9,781** | **15,396** | **25,177** | **15,149** | **1,528** | **8,500** |

## Savings – Financial Headlines (£25.177m)

£8.500m of this is considered high risk on non-achievement. This relates to:

- Children's £3m from reducing demand in Looked After Children services. There is considerable pressure on External Placement costs as set out earlier in this report.
- Adults - 2023/24 is the final year of the three-year BOBL savings programme with an agreed saving target of £8.977m to be delivered in 2023/24. £3.477m is achieved through prevent, reduce and delay approaches. The balance of £5.500m is to be delivered through specific additional demand management interventions which are currently assessed as high risk

£1.528m are considered Medium Risk of non-achievement as follows:

- Children's Mockingbird £47k - The Mockingbird programme is an innovative method of delivering foster care using an extended family model which provides sleepovers, peer support, regular joint planning and training, and social activities. The Directorate is implementing the new model and it is expected the new approach will provide saving mid-year.
- Adults and Social Care £150k - a review of how clients who attend day services travel to the centres is underway, with alternatives being modelled. The review will not conclude until later in the year. There will be consideration of the eligibility criteria, charges and travel training opportunities
- Neighbourhoods - £87k due to delays in implementation of changes to parking charges at Heaton Park, the changes require a Traffic Regulation order and therefore approved savings are likely to be part year only in 2023/24, These will be mitigated across Neighbourhoods.
- Homelessness - £1.244m, the savings target for Homelessness was set when the service faced an underlying overspend of c£10m at year end 2022/23. Whilst all endeavours will be made to deliver a balanced budget there are significant risks around the Homelessness budgets with the Cost-of-Living Crisis and the pressures faced in the Housing Market in Manchester. There is also considerable uncertainty around the Resettlement funding schemes and conversations are ongoing with the Home Office and DLUHC to understand the financial position in Manchester relating to these three schemes, Afghan Resettlement, Homes for Ukraine and Asylum Dispersal