Summary Directorate Variances

Community Wellbeing

The Community Wellbeing Directorate is currently forecast to be overspent by £0.097 million.

Community Wellbeing	2023/24 Revised Budget £ million	2023/24 Year-end Forecast £ million	2023/24 Variance £ million
Communications & Customer Services	7.739	7.803	0.064
Community Services	2.516	2.362	(0.154)
Environmental Services	8.422	8.585	0.163
Housing Services	1.476	1.500	0.024
North Downs Housing	(0.127)	(0.127)	0
Total Community Wellbeing	20.026	20.123	0.097

The key variances are detailed below.

Service Area	Forecast Variance £ million	Explanation
Communications & Customer Services	0.064	There is an adverse position within ICT Operations due to new year budget adjustments. These are currently being reviewed. This adverse variance is partially offset by vacant posts within the Case services.
Community Services	(0.154)	The favourable position of £0.154M is mainly due to the unbudgeted Household Support Fund income this year. This is expected to be mostly spent this year and any adjustment following that work will be reflected in Quarter 1.
Environmental Services	0.162	Within Domestic Refuse and Recycling there is a forecasted overspend from refuse

	freighter hire being required due to an aged fleet.

Place Directorate

The Place Directorate is currently forecast to be overspent by £0.054 million

Place	2023/24 Revised Budget £ million	2023/24 Year-end Forecast £ million	2023/24 Variance £ million
Assets and Property	(5.933)	(5.925)	0.007
Planning & Development	0.650	0.601	(0.049)
Regeneration & Planning Policy	1.620	1.620	0
Regulatory Services	1.198	1.293	0.095
Total Place	(2.464)	(2.410)	0.054

The key variances are detailed below.

Service Area	Forecast Variance £ million	Explanation
Planning & Development	(0.049)	Within Development Control there is a forecasted overspend on consultants and additional agency staff for appeals and planning applications which is more than offset by vacancies and additional Planning Performance Application fees. Planning fees will be under budget and this will be reviewed as the year progresses. There is also reduced income from search fees reflecting a downturn in the housing market.

Regulatory services	0.095	The adverse position mainly relates to currently unachievable vacancy credits.

Transformation & Governance Directorate

The Transformation & Governance Directorate is currently forecasting to be underspent by £0.404 million.

Transformation & Governance	2023/24 Revised Budget £ million	2023/24 Year-end Forecast £ million	2023/24 Variance £ million
Commercial Services	(1.089)	(1.201)	(0.112)
Finance	5.153	5.261	0.108
Legal & Democratic Services	2.056	1.792	(0.264)
Organisational Development	1.254	1.118	(0.136)
Total Transformation & Governance	7.374	6.969	(0.404)

The key variances are detailed below.

Service Area	Forecast Variance £ million	Explanation
Commercial Services	(0.112)	Car parking income and PCN significantly higher than budgeted. Despite the increase in parking fees, both income and transaction numbers increase to within a couple of percent of pre-pandemic levels and cumulatively are up 26% and 11% respectively on the May 2023/24 totals.

Finance	0.107	The forecast overspend is mainly due to legal funding for investigations within GBC.
Legal & Democratic	(0.263)	The favourable forecast is due to additional HRA recharges following a recalculation.
Organisational Development	(0.135)	The forecasted underspend is due the staff training budget being re-allocated to individual services rather than managed corporately, ensuring the training requirements of each Service are managed at a Team level and an adjustment in quarter 1 will be made to the revised budget.