

## RECORD OF EXECUTIVE DECISION TAKEN BY AN EXECUTIVE MEMBER

This form **MUST** be used to record any decision taken by the Elected Mayor or an individual Executive Member (Portfolio Holder).

The form must be completed and passed to the Chief Officer Legal and Democratic Services no later than NOON on the second working day after the day on which the decision is taken. No action may be taken to implement the decision(s) recorded on this form until 7 days have passed and the Chief Officer Legal and Democratic Services has confirmed the decision has not been called in.

**1. Description of decision**

- (a) That the forecast 2023/2024 revenue outturn position against the approved revenue budget shown in Appendix A, projected major variances with reasons for these variances be acknowledged.**
- (b) That the actions being taken to address budget pressures be noted.**
- (c) That the intention to utilise the reserves detailed in section 5.18 (i) Financing, subject to the re-prioritisation of the General Fund Reserves as part of the outturn to deliver a balanced budget, be acknowledged.**
- (d) That the forecast 2023/2024 capital outturn position against the approved capital budget be acknowledged.**
- (e) That the slippage in the Capital Programme Detailed in Appendix B be acknowledged.**
- (f) That Full Council be recommended to approve the following amendments to the Capital Programme:**
  - i. An addition to the Wixams Secondary Academy Programme (Gross £0.253million, Net £0.000 million) for the inclusion of cricket nets funded from a grant from the English Cricket Board.**
  - ii. An addition to the Integrated Transport Scheme (Gross £1.010 million, Net £0.000 million) for Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure funded from a grant from The Energy Saving Trust.**
- (g) That Full Council be recommended to approve the addition of Kempston Pool PV Panels Scheme (Gross £0.243, Net £0.000 million) funded by the Swimming Pool Support Fund awarded by Sport England.**

**2. Date of decision**

7 March 2024

**3. Reasons for decision**

To advise the Mayor/Portfolio Holder of the latest trends in respect of the 2023/2024 revenue and capital budgets, to consider measures to respond to variances and to outline emerging budget issues that impact on the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy. To update the Council's Capital Programme with new external funding received during the year.

**4. Alternatives considered and rejected**

The Constitution delegates authority to manage the Revenue Budget and report back to Full Council as appropriate in line with Part 12 (the Financial Procedure Rules) where required, therefore, no alternatives have been considered

**5. How decision is to be funded**

The Council is committed to, and continues to work towards, a balanced budget by the end of the financial year. Progress has been made taking into account the actions outlined in this report to reduce the projected overspend from the £4.6 million reported as at the end of September 2023 to £0.029 million underspend as at the end of December 2023.

**6. Conflicts of interest**

Name of all Executive members who were consulted AND declared a conflict of interest.	Nature of interest	Did Standards Committee give a dispensation for that conflict of interest? (If yes, give details and date of dispensation)	Did the Chief Executive give a dispensation for that conflict of interest? (If yes, give details and the date of the dispensation).

The Mayor has been consulted on this decision

Not Applicable

Signed 

Date: 7 March 2023

Name of Decision Taker: Tom Wootton

**This is a public document. A copy of it must be given to the Chief Officer Legal and Democratic Services as soon as it is completed.**

Date decision published: .....7March2024.....

Date decision can be implemented if not called in: .....19March2024.....

(Decision to be made exempt from call in.....NO.....)

**Bedford Borough Council – Executive**

**Date of Decision: 7 March 2024**

**Report by: Assistant Chief Executive (Finance) & Chief Finance Officer**

**Subject: 2023/2024 REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET TRENDS**

**1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

To consider the latest trends in respect of the 2023/2024 revenue and capital budgets and emerging budget issues.

**2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

**2.1 The Mayor/Finance Portfolio Holder is requested to consider the report and, if satisfied, to:**

- (a) Acknowledge the forecast 2023/2024 revenue outturn position against the approved revenue budget shown in Appendix A, projected major variances with reasons for these variances.**
- (b) Note the actions being taken to address budget pressures.**
- (c) Acknowledge the intention to utilise the reserves detailed in section 5.18 (i) Financing, subject to the re-prioritisation of the General Fund Reserves as part of the outturn to deliver a balanced budget.**
- (d) Acknowledge the forecast 2023/2024 capital outturn position against the approved capital budget.**
- (e) Acknowledge the slippage in the Capital Programme Detailed in Appendix B.**
- (f) Recommend to Full Council the following amendments to the Capital Programme:**

- i. **An addition to the Wixams Secondary Academy Programme (Gross £0.253million, Net £0.000 million) for the inclusion of cricket nets funded from a grant from the English Cricket Board.**
- ii. **An addition to the Integrated Transport Scheme (Gross £1.010 million, Net £0.000 million) for Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure funded from a grant from The Energy Saving Trust.**

**(g) Recommend to Full Council the addition of Kempston Pool PV Panels Scheme (Gross £0.243, Net £0.000 million) funded by the Swimming Pool Support Fund awarded by Sport England.**

### **3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

To advise the Portfolio Holder of the latest trends in respect of the 2023/2024 revenue and capital budgets, to consider measures to respond to variances and to outline emerging budget issues that impact on the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.

### **4 THE CURRENT POSITION**

The Council reports the Revenue and Capital Budget Trends at the end of each quarter. The financial position remains challenging, however, progress has been made taking into account the actions outlined in this report to reduce the projected overspend from the £4.6 million reported as at the end of September 2023 to £0.029 million underspend as at the end of December 2023. The Council is committed to, and continues to work towards, a balanced budget by the end of the financial year.

### **5 DETAILS**

#### 2023/2024 Revenue Budget Monitoring – Overview

- 5.1 Effective budget monitoring is a requirement of the Council's Financial Procedure Rules and the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and is critical to sound financial management. This process enables the Executive to monitor compliance with the approved budget, to identify emerging issues and, where appropriate, to put plans in place to address forecast budget issues.
- 5.2 The Executive has previously agreed a framework for budget monitoring and, in accordance with this framework; budget performance and efficiencies are monitored through the use of performance flags (Red, Amber and Green – RAG Status) and Direction of Travel indicators in order to monitor the Council's budget performance and the agreed efficiency actions. This provides a statement of financial health and an overview of how the Council is utilising its resources.

- 5.3 An integral part of the monitoring process is the regular meetings with Directorates/Services and Portfolio Holders to proactively monitor compliance with the approved budget. This enables the identification of potential risks and emerging budget pressures so that appropriate action can be taken at an early stage.

Revenue Budget Monitoring – 2023/2024 Efficiency Assumptions

- 5.4 The budget for 2023/2024 included directorate savings proposals totalling £6 million. These efficiencies are included within the budget and the forecasts, with any variance to these savings reflected in the forecast outturn.

Revenue Budget Monitoring

- 5.5 This report represents the revenue monitoring information for the period 1 April to 31 December 2023. The budget variances are reported at **Appendix A** and have been assigned a RAG status (Red, Amber and Green) based on the following:

All under spends and overspends up to 2% of the net budget	<b>Green</b>
Overspends between 2% and 5% of the net budget	<b>Amber</b>
Overspends greater than 5%	<b>Red</b>

- 5.6 All under spends are rated green, however, they continue to be challenged in the budget process to ensure they represent efficiencies and not non-delivery of services.

Revenue Budget Monitoring –Variances

- 5.7 The forecast variance set out in this report reflects a different financial landscape to that when the 2023/2024 Budget was approved by Full Council in February 2023. Services are being delivered against a backdrop of continuing inflationary pressures along with significant demand related pressures within Adult Social Care, Children’s home to school transport and Temporary Accommodation.

- 5.8 It is key how the Council forecasts these increased cost pressures and how these are mitigated throughout the year.

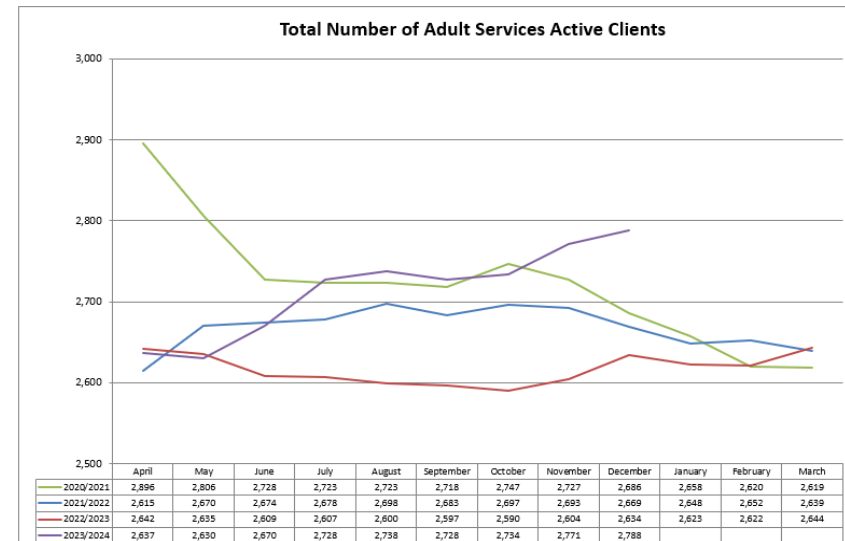
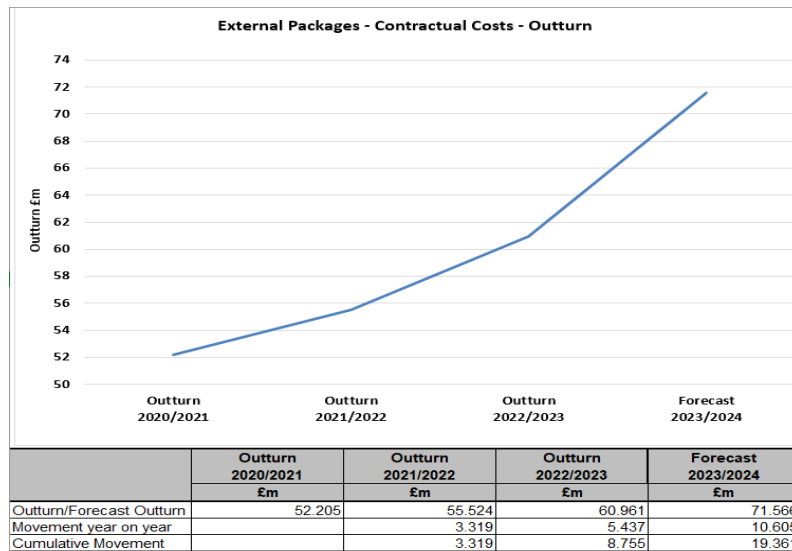
(a) Adults’ Services – £4.010 million overspend

The forecast variance within Adult Services primarily relates to care package costs with a net forecast overspend of £5.088 million across all external packages.

This is due to several factors, namely higher than profiled care package costs, an increase in levels of need, increases in the average number of hours agreed for home care packages and higher spot prices in supported living. This is partially offset by the drawdown of £1.136 million from the Social Care Turbulence Fund. The in-house residential homes have a forecast overspend of £0.369 million predominantly as a result of agency staff being utilised to cover vacancies in the service. The reduction in in-house residential forecast from the last report is due to increased client residential contributions.

The charts below show an increased forecast spend together with a relatively smaller increase in client numbers.

The forecast contractual costs chart demonstrates the impact of inflation as well as increasing complexity of care, i.e. within a consistent client level, an increased unit cost of provision is impacting forecast spend. The additional contractual cost is partially offset by client income.



In order to mitigate the forecast overspend, new high cost packages are continuing to be reviewed to ascertain whether contributions can be received from health to lower the cost impact to the Authority. Existing packages are also being reviewed with a focus on ascertaining if a new change in need could potentially meet health eligibility. The Directorate are also increasing oversight at the pre-panel and validation board in respect of additional monitoring of packages.

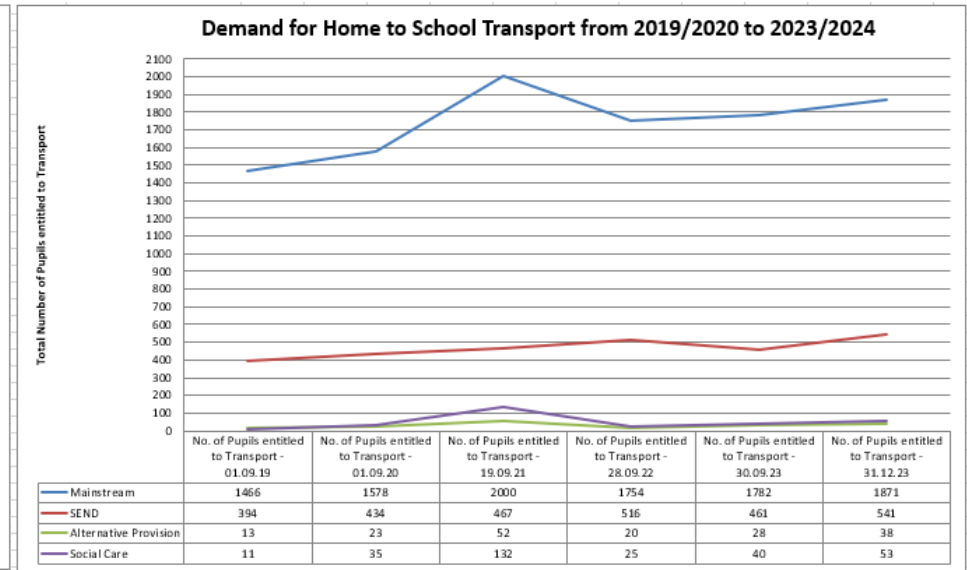
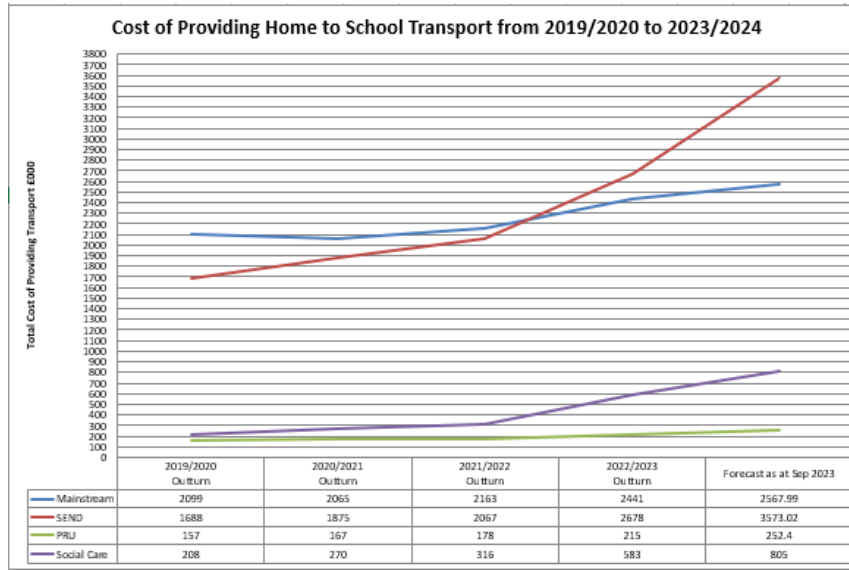
(b) Children's Services – £1.994 million overspend

Home to School Transport is the main driver of the forecast overspend within Children's Services with a forecast overspend of £1.525 million. The rise in cost of this service is due to inflationary uplifts which have been 10% for most operators, an increase in the number of routes and an increase in the number of children requiring one to one transport due to the complexity of need.

In order to mitigate the pressures in the current and future years the following actions have been taken:

- Review of high-cost transport contracts, out of Borough transport and school part-time timetables. This has led to the average cost per pupil reducing, however total costs have risen due to increased demand.
- A School Transport Project Board has now been established and is meeting fortnightly to review the in-year position as well as formalise the project work required to reduce spend within 2024/2025.
- A restructure of the team is in progress which will create additional capacity to provide oversight and challenge to the decision-making processes in place.
- A project has commenced to ensure that the Authority is ready to go out to the market to procure the 2024/2025 routes in a timely manner.
- Due to capacity constraints within route planning, leading to inefficiencies, a route planning system has been procured to more effectively plan the routes.

The charts overleaf show the movement in cost of providing home to school transport and movement in demand since 2019/2020.



There is currently a forecast underspend on Looked After Children Placements of (£0.965 million), this is due to a reduction in the number of children in residential placements totalling (£1.624 million) partially offset by an overspend in semi-independent living due to higher than anticipated placement costs.

There is a forecast overspend of £0.859 million of employee costs across the Directorate primarily due to Agency staff being utilised to cover vacant Social Worker posts. Action is being taken to reduce costs in this area including ensuring agency workers take an equivalent amount of annual leave to permanently employed staff, expanding the Social Work Academy to increase the number of workers who can then start to replace agency staff and where possible converting agency to permanent employees. Consideration is also being given to alternative operating models and the use of alternatively qualified Children’s Practitioners.

(c) Environment – (£0.744 million) underspend

An overspend of £0.600 million is being forecast within Fleet and Plant. This is due to difficulties in recruitment leading to maintenance and repair work needing to be outsourced along with increased costs for materials and fuel. A review of the recruitment to key posts within the team has led to Market Rate Supplements being introduced to the posts to aid recruitment and retention. A review that is focused on reducing the vehicles and equipment is also ongoing which could reduce future spend in the service.



Parking Fee income is forecast to be below budgeted levels by £0.212 million as volumes have not returned to pre-pandemic levels.

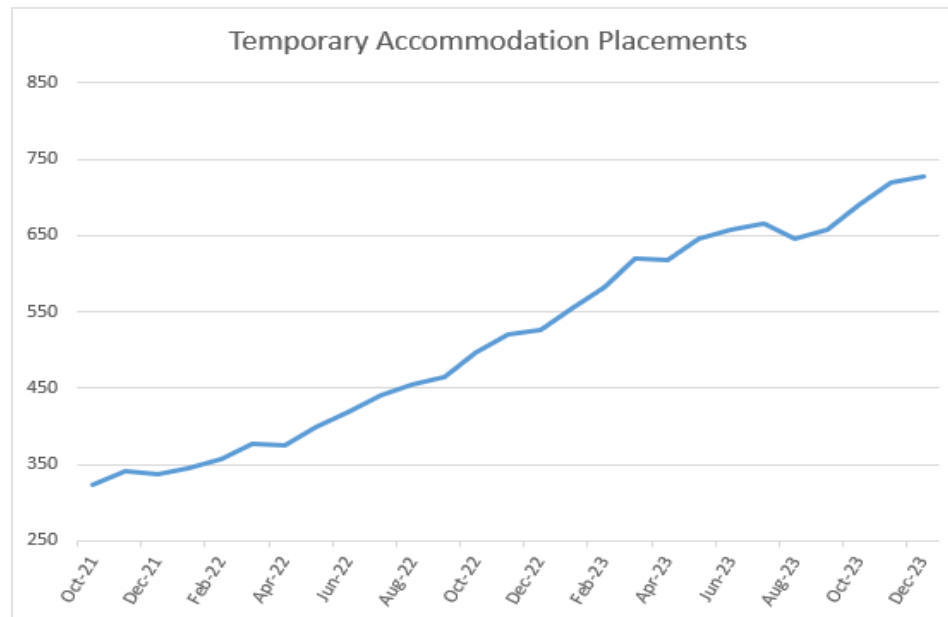
Community Regulation has a forecast overspend of £0.405 million due to an underachievement of income within cemeteries and the crematorium along with agency costs to cover vacant posts.

These overspends are offset by £1.350 million rebate of NNDR at The Higgins relating to business rates from 2017 to 2023 following a successful appeal and income of £0.390 million as Superfast Extension Project Gainshare.

(d) Corporate Services – £3.663 million overspend

The primary reason for the overspend in Corporate Services is Temporary Accommodation which is forecast to overspend by £3.712 million. This is due to an unprecedented demand for temporary accommodation.

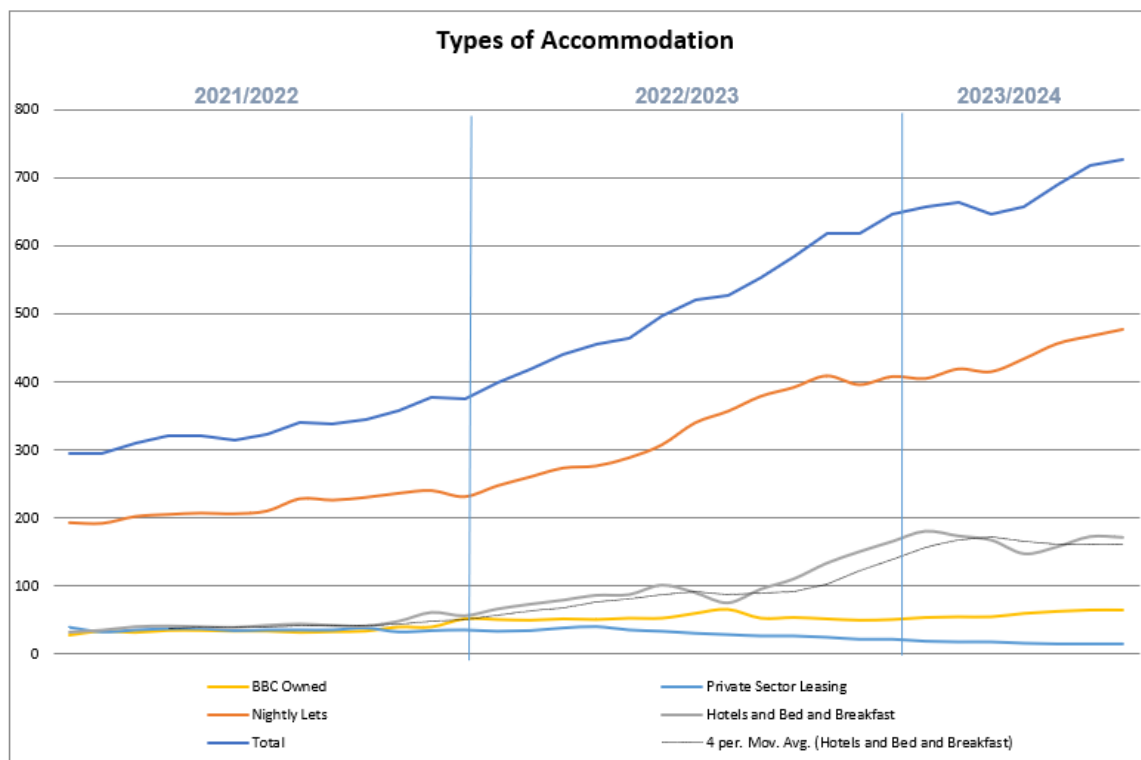
The graph below shows the movement in temporary accommodation placements to date.



Work is ongoing within the team to reduce costs including:

- Seeking alternative accommodation types and block booking options to reduce the reliance on expensive spot purchased hotel bookings.
- Reviewing the Allocations Policy, improving pathways and processes and improved case management.
- Recruitment is underway to bring in additional resources, so as speed up turnaround times for assessments and thus reduce costs, as claimants will stay in temporary accommodation for a shorter period of time.

Whilst the Council is acquiring its own accommodation to use as temporary accommodation, demand is outstripping supply and consequently there has been an increase in both nightly lets, hotels and bed and breakfast. This is set out in the chart below.



Asset and Estate Management is forecasting an overspend of £0.405 million related to increased costs of security and cleaning of corporate buildings of £0.161 million, security costs for of the Robert Bruce site prior to demolition of £0.050 million and unachieved income of £0.263 million for the i-Brand buildings and Borough Hall.

Within Technology there is a forecast underspend of £0.550 million related to the capitalisation of staff salary costs related to the implementation of the digital platform, capitalisation of equipment, reduction in user licence costs and savings related to the delay of application upgrades.

(e) Transformation – 0.727 million overspend

The forecast overspend is related to two key issues; (i) a shortfall in strategic sourcing savings of £0.470 million which has been impacted by the inflationary pressures seen on contracts and (ii) £0.257 million in relation to the Operating Model; this is due to delays in the programme. It is expected that an additional £0.096 million saving will be made overall, but this will fall into 2024/2025 due to the timing of implementation.

(f) Finance – £0.044 million overspend

There are no significant forecast variances within Finance.

(g) Chief Executive – £0.312 million overspend

An overspend is forecast in relation to the cost of the May 2023 elections and the use agency staff being used to fill vacancies across the Directorate.

(h) Public Health – £0.000 million over/ underspend

The public health grant allocation of £9.457 million was confirmed on 15 March 2023; this was a decrease of £0.062 million on the 2022/2023 Grant. Overall Public Health is forecast to be on budget. Within Public Health is £0.295 million Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) carried forward from 2022/2023 for work to contain Covid-19. This funding is being utilised across the Council including targeted communications and engagement to promote protective behaviours and vaccination, grants to community and voluntary sector organisations to support Covid-19 objectives, support for rough sleeper provision as a result of Covid-19 policies and supporting social care Covid-19 impacts.

(i) Financing – (£9.889 million) underspend

A number of areas of non-operational budgets have previously been identified to reduce the overspend position in the current year; the key items are as follows:

- i. £0.197 million net effect of higher investment income due to increased cash balances and the Council's pooled funds and the higher rate applied to internal balances.
- ii. £0.227 million forecast underspend related to historical pensions due to higher contributions from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and a lower estimated cost for the Additional Lump Sum Added Years pensions costs.
- iii. £0.439 million released provision in respect of offsetting unachieved savings.
- iv. £1.695 million of direct revenue funding for the capital programme replaced by borrowing (previously agreed by Full Council).
- v. £0.584 million of discretionary spend budgets moved from services into financing as part of a cost reduction strategy to reduce non-essential spend across the Authority.
- vi. £1.984 million in year saving following agreement of the 2023/2024 pay award offset by the additional cost of member allowances. This includes £1 million of one-off savings related to vacant posts.
- vii. £0.600 million reduction in regular contributions to reserves.
- viii. £0.100 million of ICT costs across the Authority to be capitalised.

Following a further review of the non-operational budgets the following have also been identified to reduce the overspend position in the current year:

- ix. £0.260 million released in respect of unutilised contract inflation contingency.
- x. £0.400 million released in respect of unutilised Business Rate Risk contingency.
- xi. £0.250 million being the authority's share of the additional one-off £100 million released from the safety net and levy.
- xii. £0.500 million further reduction in regular contributions to reserves.
- xiii. £0.050 million in respect of a reduced contribution to the Bad Debt Provision.

A further £2.000 million will be released from reserves, indicatively this release will come from the following, however, a full review of reserves will be undertaken as part of the outturn prior to the release:

- xiv. A review of the Direct Revenue Financing Reserve.
- xv. A review of the Insurance Reserve.

## Revenue Budget – Summary Position

- 5.9 The table below summarises the budgetary position relevant to each Directorate, with detailed information by Directorate included at **Appendix A**:

<b>Budget Forecast as at 31 December 2023</b>	<b>Current Budget</b>	<b>Forecast Outturn</b>	<b>Forecast Variance</b>
	<b>£ million</b>	<b>£ million</b>	<b>£ million</b>
Adult Services	56.791	60.801	4.010
Children's Services	44.697	46.691	1.994
Environment	28.018	27.243	-0.774
Corporate Services	21.295	24.957	3.663
Transformation	-0.497	0.230	0.727
Finance	4.195	4.125	-0.070
Chief Executive	4.081	4.393	0.312
Public Health	0.000	0.000	0.000
<b>Operational Net Cost</b>	<b>158.580</b>	<b>168.440</b>	<b>9.860</b>
Financing	-0.130	-10.019	-9.889
<b>Total</b>	<b>158.450</b>	<b>159.421</b>	<b>-0.029</b>

\* Public Health is funded from a ringfenced grant and, therefore, any under or overspend is transferred to a separate Reserve

- 5.10 The projected underspend would stand at £0.029 million, subject to the review and utilisation of reserves as detailed in the Financing section of this report.

## Revenue Budget - Mitigation of Pressures

- 5.11 The financial position continues to be challenging and as such there are a number of mitigations that are being continually reviewed across the Authority to reduce the current overspend including:
- i. reviewing all available budgets and release any which are likely to be underspent.
  - ii. reviewing over establishment staffing and a reduction in agency staffing and other staff costs.
  - iii. ceasing all non-essential spend in supplies, stationery, subscriptions and other discretionary budgets.
  - iv. reviewing grants received to consider if they can replace General Fund spend.

- 5.12 Savings related to these actions are being forecast in the relevant service as identified. In addition to these actions, the underspends detailed in (iv) to (viii) in “Financing” have previously been identified as in year savings with (ix) to (xiii) having now also been identified following an in-depth review of the 2023/2024 budget.
- 5.13 Further consideration is being given to identify actions to bring the budget in line by the end of the financial year that mitigate the impact on front line services, in consultation with Portfolio Holders.

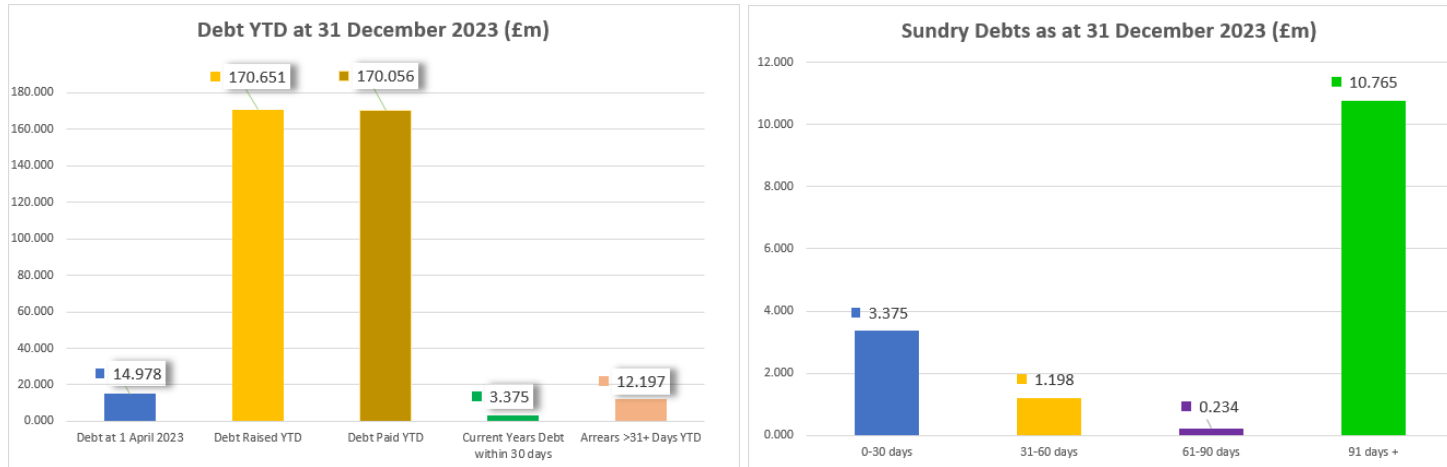
Revenue Budget – Analysis of Debt Outstanding

- 5.14 The level of sundry debt arrears is monitored and regularly reported to ensure that arrears are kept under control. The total value of sundry debts raised, up until 31 December 2023 (including arrears brought forward), was £185.628 million of which £15.572 million currently remains outstanding. This compares to a total sundry debt outstanding at the start of the financial year of £14.978 million. Of the balance outstanding, as at 31 December 2023, the sum of £12.197 million is categorised as being in arrears (i.e. payment had not been received within 30 days of the issue of the invoice), representing 10.4% of the total amount collectable for the year to date. An analysis of outstanding sundry debt is detailed below:

£ million	Paid	Debt 0-30 days	Debt 31-60 days	Debt 61-90 days	Debt 91 days +	Total
Total	170.056	3.375	1.198	0.234	10.765	<b>185.628</b>
Profile	91.61%	1.82%	0.65%	0.13%	5.8%	<b>100%</b>

£ million	0-30 days	31-60 days	61-90 days	91 days +	Total
Total debt	3.375	1.198	0.234	10.765	<b>15.572</b>
Profile of debt	21.7%	7.7%	1.5%	69.1%	<b>100%</b>

- 5.15 The profile of debt highlights that 69.1%; £10.765 million of the debt has been outstanding for longer than 91 days and, as such, represents a risk of non-recovery. £6.765 million of the debt outstanding for longer than 91 days relates to adult social care.
- 5.16 The charts below set out the position as at 31 December 2023.



### Revenue Grants Received

5.17 Part 12 of the Constitution requires the Authority to report unbudgeted additional income over £50,000 as an Executive Decision. The Trends Report now includes those grants received in the quarter. There are no grants received over £50,000 to be considered in this report.

### Capital Programme

5.18 The approved capital programme is shown below, this includes programme approved by Full Council in February 2024 and the slipped programmes reported in **Appendix B** but does not include the proposed revisions to schemes or new schemes set out in paragraph 5.20 or 5.21.

£ million	Current Year 2023/2024		
	Budget £m	Forecast £m	Forecast Variance £m
<b>Gross Budgets</b>			
Children's Services	70.912	70.912	0.000
Corporate Services	16.653	16.653	0.000
Transformation	0.800	0.697	(0.103)
Environment	39.074	39.401	0.327
Strategies	3.000	3.000	0.000
<b>Total</b>	<b>130.439</b>	<b>130.663</b>	<b>0.224</b>

5.19 Budgets amounting to £16.740 million have been slipped into future years based on changes to the work programmes which has reduced the forecast variance from the September 2023 trends report.

5.20 The following details the proposed revisions to schemes for consideration:

- An addition to the Wixams Secondary Academy Programme (Gross £0.253million, Net £0.000 million) for the inclusion of cricket nets funded from a grant from the English Cricket Board (ECB). This is to provide enhanced cricket facilities at Wixams Academy School to support grassroots participation (specifically female). The additional facilities will comprise of a four lane indoor nets centre with ECB approved flooring system and lighting.
- An addition to the Integrated Transport Scheme (Gross £1.010 million, Net £0.000 million) for Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure funded from a grant from The Energy Saving Trust. This will enable a programme of works to be delivered which will increase the number of electric vehicle (EV) charging points installed across the Borough. This will enable the Borough to support national policy to transition to greater use of EVs as part of efforts to reach the UK's net zero target.

5.21 The following details a proposed new scheme for consideration:

- The addition of Kempston Pool PV Panels Scheme (Gross £0.243, Net £0.000 million) funded by the Swimming Pool Support Fund awarded by Sport England. This is to purchase and install Photo Voltaic panels at Kempston Pool including the additional metering and monitoring software.

5.22 The proposed revisions to the Capital Programme can be seen in **Appendix B**, with the full Capital Programme including these proposals shown in **Appendix C**.

## **6 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

6.1 The Constitution delegates authority to manage the Revenue Budget and report back to Full Council as appropriate in line with Part 12 (the Financial Procedure Rules) where required, therefore no alternatives have been considered.



## 7 KEY IMPLICATIONS

<b>7.1 Legal Issues</b>	The Council is required, by law, to set a balanced revenue budget each year, which for 2023/2024, was approved by Full Council on 1 February 2023. The purpose of this report, in accordance with best financial management practice, is to advise the Executive of significant variations from that budget.
<b>7.2 Policy Issues</b>	<p>The Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) states that, to ensure a continuously stable financial base for the provision of Council services and functions, the Council will ensure that annual ongoing General Fund revenue expenditure can be covered by annual income sources in each and every financial year. The MTFS requires regular reports to be submitted to the Executive in respect of budget trends and this report provides an update on the latest budget position. The report highlights a number of emerging budget issues that will continue to be monitored, and actions taken to reduce the overspend during the remainder of 2023/2024.</p> <p>The MTFS also requires that due regard is given to revenue budget forecasts and that any increase in the ongoing annual revenue budget will be subject to the expenditure being either legally unavoidable or considered affordable after taking into account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(i) any forecast savings targets.</li><li>(ii) implications on Council Taxpayers in future years.</li></ul> <p>This is especially relevant this year with the impact of inflation, and the increased complexity of social care packages and housing demand.</p> <p>The Council's Capital Strategy sets the framework for the Capital programme and incorporates Prudential Indicators to ensure that capital investment is prudent, sustainable and affordable.</p>
<b>7.3 Resources</b>	The Council's approved 2023/2024 gross General Fund Revenue Budget reported to Full Council on 1 February 2023 is £376.737 million. This is reduced by income from specific grants, subsidies, fees, charges and rents which can be subject to variation as well as fixed income sources such as commuted sums, planned use of Reserves giving a net budget requirement of £158.450 million.

	<p>The net budget requirement is financed as follows:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="848 228 1868 470"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="848 228 1476 280">2022/2023</th> <th data-bbox="1476 228 1868 280">Original Budget £million</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="848 280 1476 319">Net Budget Requirement</td> <td data-bbox="1476 280 1868 319">158.450</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="848 319 1476 357">Financed by:</td> <td data-bbox="1476 319 1868 357"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="848 357 1476 395">Revenue Support Grant</td> <td data-bbox="1476 357 1868 395">6.937</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="848 395 1476 434">Local Business Rates</td> <td data-bbox="1476 395 1868 434">41.732</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="848 434 1476 470">Council Tax Yield</td> <td data-bbox="1476 434 1868 470">109.781</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>A review of forecast expenditure and income has highlighted that there are variations compared to the approved budget and, as such, these variations are set out in this report.</p>	2022/2023	Original Budget £million	Net Budget Requirement	158.450	Financed by:		Revenue Support Grant	6.937	Local Business Rates	41.732	Council Tax Yield	109.781
2022/2023	Original Budget £million												
Net Budget Requirement	158.450												
Financed by:													
Revenue Support Grant	6.937												
Local Business Rates	41.732												
Council Tax Yield	109.781												
<p><b>7.4 Risks</b></p>	<p>Prior to setting the budget the Council is required to take into account the Chief Finance Officer's Report under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 in relation to the robustness of the budget estimates and the adequacy of financial Reserves. This report highlights potential risks and additionally sets out how those risks will be mitigated including an effective budget monitoring framework with appropriate and timely reporting of forecasts against agreed budgets.</p> <p>The budget is monitored on a monthly basis to identify risks and take action to mitigate the risks when they arise. The Council holds a contingency (£0.5 million) with regard to budgetary risk in year, together with a range of Reserves to deal with specific issues and a General Fund Balance of £11.0 million.</p>												
<p><b>7.5 Environmental Implications</b></p>	<p>There are no environmental implications arising directly from the report.</p>												
<p><b>7.6 Equalities Impact</b></p>	<p>The activity has no relevance to Bedford Borough Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, promote good relations, promote positive attitudes and eliminate unlawful discrimination. An equality impact assessment is not needed.</p>												
<p><b>7.7 Impact on Families</b></p>	<p>This report has no new implications for Families. Investment in Family services are included as part of the overall 2023/2024 budget.</p>												

<b>7.8 Community Safety and Resilience</b>	This report has no new implications for Community Safety and Resilience. Investment in Community Safety services are included as part of the overall 2023/2024 budget.
<b>7.9 Impact on Health and Wellbeing</b>	This report has no new implications for Health and Wellbeing. Investment in Health and Wellbeing services are included as part of the overall 2023/2024 budget.

## 8 SUMMARY OF CONSULTATIONS AND OUTCOME

8.1 The following Council units or Officers and/or other organisations have been consulted in preparing this report:

Finance Portfolio Holder  
Management Team

All comments have been taken into consideration in the preparation of this report.

## 9 CONTACTS AND REFERENCES

Report Contact Officer	<i>Julie McCabe, Assistant Chief Executive (Finance) and Chief Finance Officer e-mail: <a href="mailto:julie.mccabe@bedford.gov.uk">julie.mccabe@bedford.gov.uk</a></i>  <i>Rhiain Bevan, Chief Officer for Finance e-mail : <a href="mailto:rhiain.bevan@bedford.gov.uk">rhiain.bevan@bedford.gov.uk</a></i>
File Reference	<i>F.1(b) and F.1(d)</i>
Previous Relevant Minutes	<i>None</i>
Background Papers	<i>None</i>
Appendices	<i>A - Budget Monitoring by Directorate – Forecast Position as at 30 September 2023</i> <i>B - Capital Programme Revisions</i> <i>C – Capital Programme</i>

## Appendix A- Budget Monitoring by Directorate – Forecast Position as at 31 December 2023

	Current Budget £000	Forecast £000	Forecast Variance £000	Forecast Variance %	RAG Status
Adults Management	3,793	4,056	263	6.9%	R
Adult Social Care - External	42,267	46,218	3,951	9.3%	R
Adult Social Care - In House	10,731	10,527	(204)	(1.9%)	G
<b>Adult Services</b>	<b>56,791</b>	<b>60,801</b>	<b>4,010</b>	<b>7.1%</b>	<b>R</b>
Chief Executive	913	910	(2)	(0.3%)	G
Performance & Democratic Services	3,168	3,482	314	9.9%	R
<b>Chief Executive's</b>	<b>4,081</b>	<b>4,393</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>7.6%</b>	<b>R</b>
Children's Management	358	356	(2)	(0.6%)	G
Education, SEND & School Infrastructure	8,206	9,516	1,310	16.0%	R
Looked After Children & Social Work	36,133	36,819	686	1.9%	G
<b>Children's Services</b>	<b>44,697</b>	<b>46,691</b>	<b>1,994</b>	<b>4.5%</b>	<b>A</b>
Corporate Management	671	479	(192)	(28.6%)	G
Customer, Communities & Front Office	1,831	1,893	62	3.4%	A
Assessment Application & Business Support	11,736	15,714	3,979	33.9%	R
Legal & Personnel	1,296	1,276	(19)	(1.5%)	G
Technology	4,986	4,436	(550)	(11.0%)	G
Commercial Services & Business Transformation	776	1,159	383	49.4%	R
<b>Corporate Services</b>	<b>21,295</b>	<b>24,957</b>	<b>3,663</b>	<b>17.2%</b>	<b>R</b>
Environment Management	754	764	9	1.2%	G
Environment	14,279	14,501	222	1.6%	G
Transport, Highways and Engineers	6,592	7,436	844	12.8%	R
Planning, Infrastructure and Growth	1,891	1,535	(355)	(18.8%)	G
Regulatory Services and Culture	4,502	3,008	(1,494)	(33.2%)	G
<b>Environment</b>	<b>28,018</b>	<b>27,243</b>	<b>(774)</b>	<b>(2.8%)</b>	<b>G</b>

	Current Budget £000	Forecast £000	Forecast Variance £000	Forecast Variance %	RAG Status
Pensions	(57)	(57)	-	0.0%	G
Finance	1,888	1,932	44	2.3%	A
Internal Audit	507	493	(14)	(2.8%)	G
Insurance & Risk Management	1,857	1,757	(100)	(5.4%)	G
<b>Finance</b>	<b>4,195</b>	<b>4,125</b>	<b>(70)</b>	<b>(1.7%)</b>	<b>G</b>
Public Health	-	-	-	0.0%	G
<b>Public Health</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>G</b>
Transformation Savings	(497)	230	727	(146.3%)	G
<b>Transformation</b>	<b>(497)</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>727</b>	<b>(146.3%)</b>	<b>G</b>
Capital Financing	4,904	4,607	(297)	(6.0%)	G
Other Corporate Budgets	(5,034)	(14,626)	(9,592)	(190.5%)	G
<b>Financing</b>	<b>(130)</b>	<b>(10,019)</b>	<b>(9,889)</b>	<b>(7579.8%)</b>	<b>G</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>158,450</b>	<b>158,421</b>	<b>(29)</b>	<b>(0.0%)</b>	<b>G</b>

\* Savings are reallocated to service areas as they are achieved.

## Appendix B: Capital Programme Revisions

Project Description	2023/24	2023/24	2024/25	2024/25	2025/26	2025/26	2026/27	2026/27	Future Years		TOTAL	TOTAL	Notes
	Gross Budget	Net Budget	Gross Budget	Net Budget	Gross Budget	Net Budget	Gross Budget	Net Budget	Gross Budget	Net Budget	Gross Budget	Net Budget	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
<b>Capital Report 7 February 2024 Full Council</b>	<b>147,179</b>	<b>31,713</b>	<b>129,030</b>	<b>45,835</b>	<b>66,663</b>	<b>18,132</b>	<b>51,711</b>	<b>19,117</b>	<b>9,123</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>403,706</b>	<b>114,797</b>	
<b>Reprofiled Schemes - not subject to Executive Approval</b>													
32189 Kempston Natural Flood Management (West)	(460)		460										slippage
31114 Superfast Broadband Project	(366)	(366)	366	366									slippage
32200 Unparished CIL Schemes	(204)		204										slippage
32030 Vehicle, Plant & Equipment Programme	(717)		717										slippage
32185 Solar Panels on Council car parks/buildings	(200)	(200)	200	200									slippage
32114 Carbon Management Programme	(340)	(340)	340	340									slippage
32177 Bedford Park Cricket Pavilion	(5)	0	(73)		(91)	(57)	169	57					slippage
32184 Protective Measures for Parks	(83)		83										slippage
32201 Tree Planting Schemes	30		(16)		(14)								slippage
31136 Town Deal	(4,650)		3,466		1,184								slippage
32040 Highways (BBC funded)	(594)	(594)	594	594									slippage
32041 Integrated Transport Schemes (LTP)	(680)		680										slippage
32182 Halsey Road Drainage System	(824)	(824)	824	824									slippage
32037 Highways Maintenance (LTP)	(110)		110										slippage
32159 Transporting Bedford 2020	(175)		175										slippage
31129 Development Regeneration Fund	(1,579)	(1,579)	1,579	1,579									slippage
32195 Brookside Care Home Improvements	(386)		386										slippage
34004 Schools Capital Maintenance	(1,600)		1,600										slippage
32202 Leisure Sites & Essential Works	(1,284)	(1,284)	1,284	1,284									slippage
32197 Brunel Road Industrial Estate Roofs	(887)	(887)	887	887									slippage
32198 Riverstreet Multi Story Car Park Lifts	(240)		240										slippage
32189 School Parking Enforcement Cameras	(650)		650										slippage
32208 UK Shared Prosperity Fund	(119)		119										slippage
32186 Footways Renewal & Dropped Kerbs	(192)	(192)	192	192									slippage
32190 Embankment-Riverside Enhancement	(425)	(425)	425	425									slippage
	<b>130,439</b>	<b>25,022</b>	<b>144,522</b>	<b>52,526</b>	<b>67,742</b>	<b>18,075</b>	<b>51,880</b>	<b>19,174</b>	<b>9,123</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>403,706</b>	<b>114,797</b>	
<b>Revised Schemes</b>													
34082 Wixams Secondary Academy Expansion			253								253		To reflect the additional Grant from English Cricket Board for Cricket Nets
32041 Integrated Transport Schemes (LTP)			340		340		330				1,010		To reflect the additional LEVI Capital Grant of £1.010m announced Feb 2024
<b>New Schemes</b>													
NEW1 Kempston Pool PV Panels			243								243		Grant from Sport England (Swimming Pool Support Fund)
<b>Total Revisions (For Approval)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>835</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,505</b>		
<b>Revised Capital Programme</b>	<b>130,439</b>	<b>25,022</b>	<b>145,358</b>	<b>52,526</b>	<b>68,082</b>	<b>18,075</b>	<b>52,210</b>	<b>19,174</b>	<b>9,123</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>405,211</b>	<b>114,797</b>	

## Appendix C: Capital Programme

Project Description	2023/24	2023/24	2024/25	2024/25	2025/26	2025/26	2026/27	2026/27	Future Years		TOTAL	TOTAL
	Gross	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net
	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Assessment Application &amp; Business Support</b>												
31131 Temporary Accommodation (Supported and In Need of Priority H	5,863	4,963	12,844	12,844							18,707	17,807
31137 Local Authority Housing Fund - Homes for Refugees	5,024	2,844									5,024	2,844
31068 Gypsy and Traveller Pitches	510	100									510	100
<b>Commercial Services &amp; Business Transformation</b>												
31127 Bedford Commercial Park	610	610	2,470	2,470							3,080	3,080
31129 Borough Development and Regeneration Fund	580	580	3,579	3,579	5,017	5,017	2,500	2,500			11,676	11,676
32195 Brookside Care Home Improvements	520		386								906	
32197 Brunel Road Industrial Estate Roofs			887	887							887	887
34004 Schools Maintenance	2,616		4,600		3,436		1,806				12,458	
34089 Robert Bruce Demolition			1,490	1,490							1,490	1,490
<b>Technology</b>												
31028 IT Infrastructure & Software	930	930	2,135	1,635	2,087	1,587	500				5,652	4,152
<b>Corporate Services TOTAL</b>	<b>16,653</b>	<b>10,027</b>	<b>28,391</b>	<b>22,905</b>	<b>10,540</b>	<b>6,604</b>	<b>4,806</b>	<b>2,500</b>			<b>60,390</b>	<b>42,036</b>
<b>Transformation</b>												
32216 Transformation - Utilisation of Flexible Capital Receipts			1,800	1,800							1,800	1,800
31124 Transformation	800	297	1,445	1,445	1,387	1,387					3,632	3,129
<b>Transformation TOTAL</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>3,245</b>	<b>3,245</b>	<b>1,387</b>	<b>1,387</b>					<b>5,432</b>	<b>4,929</b>

Project Description	2023/24	2023/24	2024/25	2024/25	2025/26	2025/26	2026/27	2026/27	Future Years		TOTAL	TOTAL
	Gross	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net
	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Schools</b>												
34008 Schools Building Works - Devolved Formula Capital	756		270		270		275				1,571	
34024 Schools Self Funded Projects												
34069 Special Educational Needs and/or disability	1,914										1,914	
34077 Bedford Special School	19,983	-825	5,006								24,989	-825
34078 Additional Schools Capacity			893								893	
34080 Biddenham Secondary School Expansion	897										897	
34082 Wixams Secondary Academy Expansion	19,875		14,629								34,504	
34083 New Primary School in Wixams	16,122		8,674								24,796	
34090 Daubeney Academy School			500		3,841		3,049				7,390	
34084 Lincroft Academy Expansion	3,000		8,584		1,000	410					12,584	410
34085 Bedford (Secondary) Academy Expansion	1,500		10,500		1,500						13,500	
34086 Sharnbrook Primary (Single Site)							13,000	7,907			13,000	7,907
34087 Wootton / Stewartby 2 Tier (s106)	6,813		3,187								10,000	
34088 Family Hubs	51										51	
<b>Children's Services TOTAL</b>	<b>70,912</b>	<b>-825</b>	<b>52,243</b>		<b>6,611</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>16,324</b>	<b>7,907</b>			<b>146,090</b>	<b>7,492</b>



Project Description	2023/24	2023/24	2024/25	2024/25	2025/26	2025/26	2026/27	2026/27	Future Years		TOTAL	TOTAL
	Gross	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net
	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Environment</b>												
32036 Elstow Landfill	225	225	300	300	182	182					707	707
32114 Carbon Management Programme	11	11	340	340							351	351
32144 Sluice Gates			60								60	
32177 Bedford Park Cricket Pavilion	0	0			169	57	169	57			338	114
32187 Play Area Refurbishment Programme	500	500									500	500
32185 Solar Panels on Council Car Parks/Buildings			200	200							200	200
32184 Protective Measures for Parks	120		83								203	
32186 Footways Renewal & Dropped Kerbs	95	95	192	192							287	287
32189 Kempston Natural Flood Management (West)	40		460								500	
32190 Embankment - Riverside Enhancement	748	748	425	425							1,173	1,173
32199 Changing Places	128										128	
32201 Tree Planting Schemes	70		25		25						120	
32202 Leisure Sites Essential Works	650	650	3,315	3,315							3,965	3,965
32209 BIAA Replacement Running Track			250	250	1,000	1,000					1,250	1,250
32210 Bedford Hockey Club Pitch Refurbishment			500	500							500	500
32211 Bedford Athletics Rugby Club Parking Capacity Improvements			500	500							500	500
32212 Leisure Village			250	250							250	250
32206 Leisure Complex & Asset Refurbishment Phase 1					500	500	1,500	1,500			2,000	2,000
32213 Howard Centre Lighting			100	100							100	100
32215 Introduction of food waste collection scheme			1,569								1,569	
32205 Strategic Waterway Link			600		600		1,500		1,763		4,463	
NEW1 Kempston Pool PV Panels			243								243	

Project Description	2023/24	2023/24	2024/25	2024/25	2025/26	2025/26	2026/27	2026/27	Future Years		TOTAL	TOTAL	
	Gross	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net	
	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
<b>Transport, Highways &amp; Engineers</b>													
32037 Highways Maintenance (LTP)	4,365		4,308		4,198		4,198					17,069	
32041 Integrated Transport Schemes (LTP)	1,755	200	2,182		1,502		1,492					6,931	200
32040 Highways (BBC funded)	3,647	3,647	3,804	3,804	3,210	3,210	3,210	3,210				13,871	13,871
32151 Roads and Pavements	1,263	1,263										1,263	1,263
32183 Murdock Road Resurfacing Works	231	14										231	14
32092 Bedford Western Bypass Phase 2	47											47	
32159 Transporting Bedford 2020	130		175									305	
32182 Halsey Road Drainage System	1,400	1,400	824	824								2,224	2,224
32174 Average Speed Cameras	579	200										579	200
32169 School Parking Enforcement Cameras			650									650	
32165 Bromham Road cycle bridge									2,838			2,838	
32153 Public Open Spaces Footbridges	337											337	
32176 All Hallows Public Realm Improvements	31											31	
32030 Vehicle, Plant & Equipment Programme	4,007		5,735	1,000	2,250		2,250					14,242	1,000
32145 Depot Enhancements	118	118										118	118
32007 Disabled Facilities Grants	1,886		1,945		1,945		1,761		1,942			9,479	
32193 Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund	1,220											1,220	
32196 A6 Paula Radcliffe Way – Highway Corridor	9,970	1,240										9,970	1,240
32198 Riverstreet Multi Story Car Park Lifts	170		240									410	
32214 Feasibility Studies			500	500								500	500
<b>Planning, Infrastructure and Growth</b>													
31114 Superfast Broadband Project	94	94	366	366								460	460
31134 High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ)	911	-227										911	-227
31136 Town Deal	1,912		9,291		7,134							18,337	
32012 Affordable Housing (S106)			162		222							384	
32059 Bringing Empty Homes Back into Use	275	275	800	800	725	725						1,800	1,800
32167 Wixams Railway Station	2,070	2,070	14,500	8,710	7,568							24,138	10,780
32194 Wixams Railway Station Car Park			500		5,531							6,031	
32168 East-West Railway (Western Section)									2,580			2,580	
32208 UK Shared Prosperity Fund	68		677		578							1,323	
32200 Unparished CIL Schemes			408		205							613	
<b>Environment TOTAL</b>	<b>39,074</b>	<b>12,524</b>	<b>56,479</b>	<b>22,376</b>	<b>37,544</b>	<b>5,674</b>	<b>16,080</b>	<b>4,767</b>	<b>9,123</b>			<b>158,300</b>	<b>45,341</b>

Project Description	2023/24	2023/24	2024/25	2024/25	2025/26	2025/26	2026/27	2026/27	Future Years		TOTAL	TOTAL
	Gross	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net
	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Strategies requiring business case development &amp; approval</b>												
32203 Primary Care Estate	1,000	1,000	2,000	1,000	4,000		2,000	1,000			9,000	3,000
32204 Town Centres Regeneration	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	8,000	4,000	13,000	3,000			25,000	11,000
32207 Cemetery Provision			1,000	1,000							1,000	1,000
<b>Strategies TOTAL</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>12,000</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>4,000</b>			<b>35,000</b>	<b>15,000</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>130,439</b>	<b>25,022</b>	<b>145,358</b>	<b>52,526</b>	<b>68,082</b>	<b>18,075</b>	<b>52,210</b>	<b>19,174</b>	<b>9,123</b>		<b>405,211</b>	<b>114,797</b>