

# STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

## COMMUNITY SERVICES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

16 SEPTEMBER 2021

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>COMMUNITY SERVICES AND LICENSING BUDGET MONITORING REPORT Q1 2021/22</b>			
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To present the 2021/22 forecast outturn position against the revenue budgets and Capital Programme that the Committee is responsible for in order to give an expectation of possible variances against budget.			
<b>Decision(s)</b>	<b>The Committee RESOLVES to note the outturn forecast for the General Fund Revenue budget and the Capital Programme for this Committee.</b>			
<b>Consultation and Feedback</b>	Budget holders have been consulted about the budget issues in their service areas. The feedback has been incorporated into the report to explain difference between budgets and forecast income and expenditure.			
<b>Report Author</b>	Adele Rudkin, Accountant Tel: 01453 754109 Email: <a href="mailto:adele.rudkin@stroud.gov.uk">adele.rudkin@stroud.gov.uk</a>			
<b>Options</b>	None			
<b>Background Papers</b>	None			
<b>Appendices</b>	None			
<b>Implications (further details at the end of the report)</b>	Financial	Legal	Equality	Environmental
	Yes	Yes	No	No

### 1 Background

- 1.1 This report provides the first monitoring position statement for the financial year 2021/22. The purpose of this report is to notify members of any known significant variations to budgets for the current financial year, highlight any key issues and to inform members of any action to be taken if required.
- 1.2 **Due to the volume of information contained in the report, it would be helpful where members have questions on matters of detail if they could be referred to the report author or the appropriate service manager before the meeting.**

### 2. Summary

- 2.1 The monitoring position for the Committee at 30 June 2021 shows a **projected net revenue overspend of £341k** against the latest budget, as summarised in Table 1.

2.2 This position does not include the expected financial impact of Covid-19, which is reported to Strategy and Resources Committee. A summary of the position for this committee included in Section 4.

2.3 The Capital programme is showing a forecast spend of £147k against a budget of £147k.

2.4 Table 3 shows the capital spend and projected outturn for the Community Services & Licensing Committee for 2021/22.

### 3. Revenue Budget Position

3.1 Council approved the General Fund Revenue budget for 2021/22 in February 2021 including budget proposals of the administration.

3.2 The latest budget for Community Services and Licensing Committee taking into account the adjustments for carry forwards is £3.288m (Original Budget was £3.010m).

3.3 The monitoring position for the committee at 30 June 2021 shows a **projected net overspend of (£341k)** against the latest budget, as summarised in Table 1. This does not incorporate the Covid pressures outlined in table 2, this will be reported in the overall position on the General Fund to Strategy and Resources Committee.

3.4 The outturn position is mainly attributable to those items outlined in Table 1 with an explanation of the significant variances (including Covid related issues) that have arisen (a significant variation is defined as being +/- £20,000 on each reporting line).

3.5 Appendix A provides a more detailed breakdown on the Committee's budget

**Table 1 – Community Services and Licensing Revenue budgets 2021/22**

	Para Refs	2021/22 Original Budget (£'000)	2021/22 Revised Budget (£'000)	2021/22 Forecast Outturn (£'000)	2021/22 Outturn Variance (£'000)	Covid-19 Pressures (Reported in S&R)
<b>Community Services Committee</b>						
Community Safety		213	249	249	(1)	22
Cultural Services - Arts and Culture	3.6	416	430	434	4	38
Cultural Services - Community Health & Wellbeing		160	279	280	1	0
Cultural Services - Sports Centres	3.7	(119)	(34)	(1)	33	416
Customer Services	3.8	392	392	413	20	0
Grants to Voluntary Organisations		336	336	335	(2)	0
Licensing		(54)	(54)	(51)	4	12
Public Spaces		1,408	1,427	1,415	(12)	0
Revenues and Benefits	3.9	152	152	445	293	80
Youth Services		105	110	110	0	0
<b>Community Services and Licensing TOTAL</b>		<b>3,010</b>	<b>3,288</b>	<b>3,629</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>568</b>

Table contains roundings.

3.6 **Cultural Services - £42k unachieved income/underspends**  
(Kevin Ward 01453 760916, [kevin.ward@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:kevin.ward@stroud.gov.uk))

## **Museum in the Park**

Income targets will not be met this year due to the Museum being closed for the first quarter of this financial year as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Some indoor areas were opened from 18th May but controls remained and limited numbers and activities for the remainder of the quarter and into the next. The museum establishment also had two Stroud 2 posts vacant during the first quarter.

### **3.7 Cultural Services – Sports Centres - £449k unachieved income/overspend** (Darren Young 01453 540995, [darren.young@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:darren.young@stroud.gov.uk))

#### **The Pulse**

During 2020/21 the leisure industry was hit with three national lockdowns and the Pulse was only able to open for a period of four months in this period. During Q1 of 2021/22 we have continued to see a massive impact on capacities at the centre both due to national restrictions and local customer nervousness.

As a result of this The Pulse only operated at 60% capacity from the 12th April to 30th June 2021 which is reflected in income for this period. A gradual increase in numbers has been seen from Q2 and if guidelines allow for the removal of all restrictions before the start of Q3, it could have a positive effect on the operational deficit for this financial period. Expenditure remains high in the area of staffing and cleaning materials as we continue to constant move round the centre making it clean, sanitised and safe for our visitors, again it is hoped that this will return to a more 'normal' level from Q3. At the current time this forecast remains accurate, until we are able to fully remove restrictions and assess customer desire to return.

### **3.8 Customer Services – £20k overspend** (Keith Gerrard 01453 754227, [keith.gerrard@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:keith.gerrard@stroud.gov.uk))

Additional staffing costs have been recognised as part of the Customer Services review and transformation. Some savings have also been achieved with the cancellation of the G4S cash collection service at Ebley Mill.

### **3.9 Revenues & Benefits – £373k unachieved income/underspends** (Simon Killen 01453 754013, [simon.killen@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:simon.killen@stroud.gov.uk))

The most significant variance £370k is the shortfall on housing benefit subsidy claims, principally for supported accommodation. Although there is a higher rent allowable in supported accommodation, where the cost of housing is significantly higher than the amount allowable under housing benefit this cannot all be claimed back through housing benefit subsidy and part of the cost is borne by the local authority.

Although a significant amount it should be noted that this represents a variance of only 2.3% on the housing benefit subsidy budget. This will continue to be monitored and the situation is subject to change throughout the year as housing benefit claims change and are difficult to predict.

An in year saving on salaries (£44k) is forecast due to a previous unsuccessful recruitment drive. The two posts have now been re-evaluated and currently being advertised with the intention to recruit in the near future.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic enforcement income and recoverable costs will be lower than budget £80k. In order to support residents, enforcement action was suspended during the lockdown period and a sensitive approach will be considered for the immediate future.

#### 4. Covid Pressures

- 4.1 Table 2 below outlines the particular Covid pressures borne though either additional expenditure or loss of income within with each service for this Committee.
- 4.2 The impact of these figures will be included in the budget monitoring report to Strategy & Resources Committee against the budget allocated by Council in February, and any expected grant income from Government.

#### CS&L

**Table 2 - Covid Pressures reported to Strategy and Resources Committee**

Committee Summary Heading	Committee Service Area	Outturn Forecast (£'000)
Cultural Services - Sports Centres	The Pulse	28
Subtotal Covid-19 Additional Expenditure		28
Community Safety	Car Parks Enforcement	22
Cultural Services - Arts and Culture	Museum in the Park	38
Cultural Services - Sports Centres	The Pulse	388
Licensing	Licensing	12
Revenues and Benefits	Council Tax Collection	80
Subtotal Covid-19 Loss of Income		540
<b>TOTAL Covid Pressures</b>		<b>568</b>

#### 5. Capital

Table 3 below shows the 2021/22 Capital Programme for this Committee.

**Table 3 – Capital Outturn forecast**

Community Services Capital Schemes	Para Refs	2021/22 Original Budget (£'000)	2021/22 Revised Budget (£'000)	2021/22 Forecast Outturn (£'000)
Community Buildings Investment	5.1	0	117	117
Stratford Park Lido	5.2	30	30	30
<b>Community Services Capital Schemes TOTAL</b>		<b>30</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>147</b>

##### 5.1 Community Buildings Investment

Discussions have continued to take place with Kingshill House Trust regarding a Community Asset Transfer. A capital budget provision of £50,000 in 2017/18 and £50,000 in 2018/19 was made as part of a funding package to help assist the transfer. A tapering reduction in

core funding was also agreed as part of the funding package, (£15K in 21/22). Covid has had a significant impact on Kingshill House and there have been changes on the board of Trustees. The council will need to see a robust business case and be confident that the board is in a position to take on the freehold interest before agreeing final terms and reporting back S&R for approval. Providing the criteria is met then the budget will be spent in 2021/22.

## 5.2 **Stratford Park Lido**

Due to Covid19 pandemic, the 2019 business plan developed for the lido had not been explored further. It has subsequently been picked up by the leisure consultants and included within the 20 year Leisure and Wellbeing Strategy.

The indicative costs to fully upgrade the Lido were estimated at £7.3m. £1.8 m would provide a sustainable heating system and upgrade the plant room. The money allocated to the lido to upgrade the facility is not enough on its own therefore one of the actions coming out of the strategy is to explore further funding options for this facility. This will be included as part of the bigger picture to secure future capital for all the Leisure facilities.

## 6. **IMPLICATIONS**

### 6.1 **Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications arising from this report as it reports on previous financial activities and expected forecasts.

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### 6.2 **Legal Implications**

There are no specific legal implications arising from this report and its recommendation.

One Legal  
Email: [onelegal@legalservices.org.uk](mailto:onelegal@legalservices.org.uk)

### 6.3 **Equality Implications**

There are not any specific changes to service delivery proposed within this decision

### 6.4 **Environmental Implications**

There are no significant implications within this category.

## Appendix A

	Para Refs	2021/22 Original Budget (£'000)	2021/22 Revised Budget (£'000)	2021/22 Forecast Outturn (£'000)	2021/22 Outturn Variance (£'000)
<b>Community Services Committee</b>					
Car Parks Enforcement		43	43	42	(1)
Careline Services		(106)	(106)	(106)	0
Community Safety		13	50	50	0
Neighbourhood Wardens		237	237	237	0
Stroud and Dursley CCTV		27	27	27	0
<b>Community Safety</b>		<b>213</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>(1)</b>
Museum in the Park		402	416	422	7
Subscription Rooms		4	4	8	4
Tourism		10	10	4	(7)
<b>Cultural Services - Arts and Culture</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>4</b>
Community Health & Wellbeing		160	279	280	1
<b>Cultural Services - Community Health &amp; Wellbeing</b>		<b>160</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>1</b>
Stratford Park Leisure Centre		193	193	201	8
The Pulse		(312)	(227)	(202)	25
<b>Cultural Services - Sports Centres</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>(119)</b>	<b>(34)</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>33</b>
Customer Service Centre		392	392	413	20
<b>Customer Services</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>413</b>	<b>20</b>
Grants to Voluntary Organisations		336	336	335	(2)
<b>Grants to Voluntary Organisations</b>		<b>336</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>(2)</b>
Licensing		(54)	(54)	(51)	4
<b>Licensing</b>		<b>(54)</b>	<b>(54)</b>	<b>(51)</b>	<b>4</b>
Amenity Areas		158	177	182	5
Cemeteries		30	30	20	(10)
Commons and Woodlands		15	15	16	1
Grassed Areas Contribution to HRA		200	200	200	0
Public Conveniences		230	230	218	(12)
Public Space Service		561	561	561	0
Stratford Park		209	209	211	2
Street Naming Maintenance		5	5	7	2
<b>Public Spaces</b>		<b>1,408</b>	<b>1,427</b>	<b>1,415</b>	<b>(12)</b>
Business Rate Collection		(101)	(101)	(103)	(2)
Council Tax Collection		199	199	222	23
Council Tax Support Administration		22	22	5	(17)
Creditors		97	97	84	(13)
Housing Benefit Administration		113	113	45	(68)
Rent Allowances and Rebates		(178)	(178)	192	370
<b>Revenues and Benefits</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>293</b>
Hear by Right / Youth Services		105	110	110	0
<b>Youth Services</b>		<b>105</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Community Services and Licensing TOTAL</b>		<b>3,010</b>	<b>3,288</b>	<b>3,629</b>	<b>341</b>

The outturn variances on the above table reflect reserve movements as outlined in Table 1, table contains roundings.