

STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, 1 DECEMBER 2022

Report Title	COMMUNITY SERVICES AND LICENSING BUDGET MONITORING REPORT Q1 2022/23			
Purpose of Report	To present the 2022/23 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.			
Decision(s)	The Committee RESOLVES to note the outturn forecast for the General Fund Revenue budget and the Capital Programme for this Committee.			
Consultation and Feedback	Budget holders have been consulted about the budget issues in their service areas. The feedback has been incorporated into to the report to explain difference between budgets and forecast income and expenditure.			
Report Author	Adele Rudkin, Accountant Tel: 01453 754109 Email: adele.rudkin@stroud.gov.uk			
Options	None			
Background Papers	None			
Appendices	Appendix A – Committee Budget Detailed Breakdown			
Implications (further details at the end of the report)	Financial	Legal	Equality	Environmental
	Yes	Yes	No	No

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This report provides the first monitoring position statement for the financial year 2022/23. 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 2022 shows a **projected net revenue overspend of £285k** against the latest budget.
- 2.2 The Capital programme is showing a forecast spend of £337k against a budget of £337k.
- 2.3 Table 2 shows the capital spend and projected outturn for the Community Services & Licensing Committee for 2022/23.

3. REVENUE BUDGET POSITION

- 3.1 Council approved the General Fund Revenue budget for 2022/23 in February 2022 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 £3,463m (Original Budget was £3.307m), with a **projected net overspend of £285k** against the latest budget, as summarised in Table 1.
- 3.3 The outturn position is mainly attributable to those items outlined in Table 1 with an explanation of the significant that have arisen (a significant variation is defined as being +/- £20,000 on each reporting line).
- 3.4 Appendix A provides a more detailed breakdown on the Committee's budget

Table 1 – Community Services and Licensing Revenue budgets 2022/23

	Para Refs	2022/23 Original Budget (£'000)	2022/23 Revised Budget (£'000)	2022/23 Forecast Outturn (£'000)	2022/23 Outturn Variance (£'000)
Community Services Committee					
Community Safety		171	179	174	(5)
Cultural Services - Arts and Culture		410	410	400	(11)
Cultural Services - Community Health & Wellbeing		165	295	296	2
Cultural Services - Sports Centres	3.5	(90)	(90)	(76)	14
Customer Services	3.6	475	475	458	(17)
Grants to Voluntary Organisations		330	330	330	0
Licensing		(44)	(44)	(44)	0
Public Spaces	3.7	1,401	1,419	1,453	34
Revenues and Benefits	3.8	380	380	646	266
Youth Services		109	109	110	1
Community Services and Licensing TOTAL		3,307	3,463	3,748	285

Table contains roundings.

- 3.5 **Cultural Services – Sports Centres - Update**
(Darren Young 01453 540995, darren.young@stroud.gov.uk)

The Pulse

Quarter one has seen steady financial progress, in terms of pandemic recovery, for the Pulse with all areas now showing strong signs of recovery. Particularly strong performance is being seen in the swimming pool with our Junior learn to swim programme exceeding pre-covid occupancy and family swimming exceeding the first quarter targets by a considerable margin. Quarter two will see 6 weeks of summer holidays which are challenging and rewarding, indications (early bookings) suggest the summer will be particularly busy. Membership uptake remains a constant challenge with forecasts not being met during the first few months, in reality our annual member base remains 150-200 below target and below pre pandemic levels. A large-scale membership campaign is in its planning infancy, expecting go live on the 1st September to potentially boost numbers pre-Christmas. Expenditure has been challenging due to large spend requirement for a disabled hoist, heat retention pool cover and pool access steps. As we move through the year any potential savings will be investigated to offset the additional expenditure.

3.6 Customer Services – (£17k) underspend
(Liz Shellam, xtn 4234, liz.shellam@stroud.gov.uk)

Following Covid-19, cash deposits are no longer held at Ebley Mill, therefore no secure cash collections by G4S. This has led to a budget saving in year and will be considered at budget setting later in the financial year.

An in-year vacancy saving of (£21k) has been recognised. Several staff have successfully attained internal development opportunities in other service areas which has resulted in vacancies within the team. These roles are actively being recruited to in order to backfill any outstanding positions, however, success is varied in attracting candidates due to the current employment market and offering fixed term contracts. This saving has been attributed to overall salary saving reported through to Strategy & Resources Committee.

3.7 Public Spaces – £34k overspend
(Mike Hammond xtn 4227, mike.hammond@stroud.gov.uk)

There are several contributory factors which culminate in an overspend of £34k. Commons & Woodlands £11k, extensive tree works have been identified in the woodlands we own in the Dursley area. £9k attributable to dry stone wall works are required in the closed cemetery that SDC manage in Berkeley. The planned upgrade of Nailsworth Public conveniences resulting in a small overspend of £4k. The Ubico contract is forecasting minor additional costs within this Committee of £14k. Stratford Park is estimating extra expenditure of £4k for scheduled maintenance for the bandstand and roof repairs to the canoe store. There are modest underspends across Public spaces amounting to (£8k).

3.8 Revenues & Benefits – £266k unachieved income/underspends
(Simon Killen 01453 754013, simon.killen@stroud.gov.uk)

The most significant variance of 234k 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. Additional budget to address some of the costs was actioned as part of budget setting last financial year. 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 (£88k). In year vacancies have arisen due to several posts that have proved difficult to recruit to and in addition a member of staff taking retirement. These positions have now been advertised with the intention to recruit in the near future. This amount has been factored into the overall corporate vacancy saving figure reported to Strategy & Resources Committee.

4. CAPITAL

Table 2 below shows the 2022/23 Capital Programme for this Committee.

Table 2 – Capital Outturn forecast

		2022/23 Original Budget (£'000)	2022/23 Revised Budget (£'000)	2022/23 Forecast Outturn (£'000)
Community Services Capital Schemes	Para Refs			
Community Buildings Investment	4.1	0	117	117
Stratford Park Lido	4.2	190	220	220
Community Services Capital Schemes TOTAL		190	337	337

4.1 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. 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 able to take on the freehold interest before agreeing final terms and reporting back S&R for approval.

4.2 Stratford Park Lido

Due to Covid-19 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. £1.8m 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.

5. IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial Implications

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

Lucy Clothier, Accountancy Manager

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5.2 Legal Implications

As the report and recommendation concerns budget monitoring there are no specific legal implications. More generally, the authority is required to set a balance budget having given regard to the advice of its Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer). Section 25 of the 2003 Local Government Act requires the Section 151 Officer to comment on the robustness of the estimates and the adequacy of reserves.

One Legal

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5.3 Equality Implications

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

5.4 Environmental Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.