Environment & Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

5 October 2023

Neighbourhoods & Climate Change – Quarter 4: Revenue and Capital Outturn 2022/23



Report of Corporate Directors

Paul Darby, Corporate Director of Resources

Alan Patrickson, Corporate Director Neighbourhoods & Climate Change

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide details of the outturn position for this service area highlighting major variances in comparison with the budget as at 31 March 2023.

Executive Summary

- 2. This report provides an overview of the updated forecast of outturn, based on the position at Quarter 4 for 2022/23. It provides an analysis of the budgets and forecast outturn for the service areas falling under the remit of this Overview and Scrutiny Committee (including Culture, Sport & Tourism which is in Regeneration rather than NCC) and complements the reports considered and agreed by Cabinet on a quarterly basis.
- 3. The final position is that there is a forecast cash limit overspend for NCC of £0.599 million, against a revised budget of £116.184 million. The quarter three forecast showed £0.543 million for the year, so the outturn is broadly in line with that forecast at quarter three. Culture & Sport had an overspend of £56,000 at the year end.

- 4. The revised service capital budget is £57.915 million with expenditure to 31 March of £46.799 million. Culture & Sport's revised capital budget is £19.683 million with expenditure of £16.064 million.
- 5. Details of the reasons for under and overspending against relevant budget heads are disclosed in the report.

Recommendation(s)

6. Environment & Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee is requested to note the contents of this report.

Background

- 7. County Council approved the Revenue and Capital budgets for 2022/23 at its meeting on 23 February 2022. These budgets have since been revised to account for grant (additions/reductions), budget transfers, and budget re-profiling between years (in terms of capital) as well as corporately recognised budget pressures). This report covers the financial position for the following budgets of the services within the scope of this committee;
 - (a) Revenue Budget £116.184 million (original £112.985 million)
 - (b) Capital Programme £57.915 million (original £79.173 million)
 - (c) Culture, Sport & Tourism Revenue Budget £15.796 million
 - (d) Culture, Sport & Tourism Capital Budget £19.683 million

Revenue

- The NCC original revenue budget of £112.985 million has been revised to incorporate a number of budget adjustments and the final revised budget for the service is £116.184 million.
- 9 The service is reporting a cash limit overspend of £0.599 million against the revised budget of £116.184 million.
- The table below compares the forecast outturn with the budget by Head of Service. A further table is shown at Appendix 2 analysing the position by Subjective Analysis (i.e. type of expense). More detailed variance explanations are shown in Appendix 4

Analysis by Head of Service £'000s

Service Analysis	Annual Budget	Outturn Position	Variance	Earmarked Reserves	Inflation Adj	Outside Cash Limit	Cash Limit Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Culture, Sport & Tourism	15,796	33,163	17,368	(7,562)	(2,084)	(7,666)	56
NCC							
Environmental Services	59,323	58,378	(945)	39	(557)	1,485	22
Highways	12,961	13,241	279	1,436	(436)	(62)	1,218
Community Protection	6,171	5,704	(467)	392	(290)	(31)	(396)
Partnerships & Community Engagement	6,341	5,982	(359)	3,037	(126)	(2,742)	(190)
Central Costs	31,387	13,166	(18,221)	516	(520)	18,171	(53)
NET EXPENDITURE	116,184	96,471	(19,713)	5,420	(1,929)	16,821	599

- 11. The NCC cash limit overspend of £0.599 million takes into account adjustments for sums outside the cash limit such as redundancy costs that are met from corporate reserves and use of / contributions to earmarked reserves.
- 12. The main reasons accounting for the outturn position are as follows:
 - (a) Environmental Services has an overspend of £22,000. There was £0.510 million of additional agency cover required in Refuse and Recycling due to high sickness levels and additional annual leave carried forward from last year, along with a £0.144 million underachieved income on soil imports which have ceased due to capping of the Joint Stocks site. There was also a £0.187 million underachievement of income on Clean & Green school SLAs and ad-hoc work. These overspends were largely offset by £0.367 million increased income relating to trade and commercial waste collections, £0.236 million overachieved income for garden waste income, and £0.209 million underspending on staffing due to vacancies and pending restructures;
 - (b) Highways has overspent by £1.2 million. The main reasons for this are an overspend on the trading areas of £1.2 million due to lower than anticipated levels of subcontractor activity, along with an overspend £2.0 million on Highways Revenue maintenance work, including cyclic works, drainage, bridges, and emergency action works. This was offset by additional income of £1.7 million within Strategic Highways relating to enforcement and inspections, Section 38 supervision income, road closures, and fixed penalty notices, plus underspends on employees and agency costs of £0.3 million;

- (c) Community Protection has underspent by £0.396 million. The main reason for this is the net effect of having a number of vacant posts in some other areas of the service, while having to be over establishment in other areas to facilitate succession planning;
- (d) Partnerships & Community Engagement has underspent by £0.190 million, mainly due savings from vacancies across the AAP teams and the Civil Contingencies Unit, along with some overachievement of income across the service;
- (e) The central contingencies budget within NCC has underspent by £53,000. This budget was created to fund any cross-cutting service pressures within NCC that may arise during the financial year;
- (f) Culture Sport and Tourism has an overspend of £56,000 against budget. The main reasons are a reduction in fine and reservation income in libraries £90,000 and an unrealised MTFP saving of £0.136 million pending the full year effect of the current service restructure. A one-off benefit arising from the agreement to take full control of the gym facilities at 7 of our leisure centres is offset by a projected overspend at Consett Leisure Centre.
- The outturn excludes the use of / contributions to earmarked reserves and items outside the cash limit such as redundancy costs which are met from corporate reserves, net inflationary pressures on energy (net underspend of £1.356 million), transport prices (£0.757 million) and waste contract costs (net underspend £0.379 million). The 2022/23 pay award of £2.908 million has also been excluded from the cash limit outturn position. Other costs outside the cash limit including central support, accommodation costs, capital entries and additional items funded via corporate contingencies totaling £16.822 million have also been excluded.
- In arriving at the outturn position, a net £5.420 million relating to movement to and from reserves has also been excluded from the outturn. The major items being:
 - a. £0.636 million contribution to a new Highways Permit Scheme Reserve;
 - £4.570 million contribution to PACE reserves mainly in relation to Humanitarian Support Grant;
 - c. £1 million drawdown from AAP Towns & Villages Reserve;

- d. £0.800 million contribution to the Members Priority Reserve in relation to Highways; and
- e. £0.450 million contribution to the Community Protection Workforce Development Reserve.
- The Cash Limit Reserve carried forward for Neighbourhoods & Climate Change is £90,000 after taking the latest outturn position into account.

Capital Programme

- 16. The Neighbourhoods & Climate Change original capital programme was revised for budget re-phased from 2021/22. This increased the 2022/23 original budget to a level of £79.173 million. Since then, reports to the MOWG have detailed further revisions, for grant additions/reductions, budget transfers and budget re-profiling into later years. The revised budget now stands at £57.915 million.
- 17. Summary financial performance for 2022/23 is shown below.

Service	Revised Annual Budget 2022/23 £000	Actual Spend to 31 March £000	Remaining Budget 2022/23 £000	
Culture, Sport & Tourism	19,684	16,064	3,620	
NCC				
Community Protection	14	53	39	
Environmental Services	18,794	14,593	(4,201)	
Technical Services	37,293	30,543	(6,750)	
Partnerships & Community				
Engagement	1,814	1,610	(204)	
NCC Total	57,915	46,799	(11,116)	

- 18. Actual spend for NCC for 2022/23 amounts to £46.799 million.

 Appendix 4 provides a more detailed breakdown of spend.
- 19. The key areas of spend during the year were on Highways & Bridges Schemes (£30.540 million), and Environmental Design Schemes (£9.047 million).

Background papers

Cabinet Report (12 July 2023) – <u>2022/23 Final Outturn for the General Fund and Collection Fund</u>

Contact:

Phil Curran – Finance Manager Tel: 03000 261 967

Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

The consideration of regular budgetary control reports is a key component of the Council's Corporate and Financial Governance arrangements. This report shows the spend against budgets agreed by the Council in February 2022 in relation to the 2022/23 financial year.

Finance

Financial implications are detailed throughout the report which provides an analysis of the revenue and capital outturn position.

Consultation

Not applicable.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

Not applicable.

Climate Change

Not applicable.

Human Rights

Not applicable.

Crime and Disorder

Not applicable.

Staffing

Not applicable.

Accommodation

Not applicable.

Risk

The consideration of regular budgetary control reports is a key component of the Councils Corporate and Financial Governance arrangements.

Procurement

The outcome of procurement activity is factored into the financial projections included in the report.

Appendix 2: NEIGHBOURHOODS & CLIMATE CHANGE Outturn 2022-23 – Subjective Analysis

NCC Subjective Analysis	Revised Annual Budget	Forecast Outturn	Variance	Items Outside Cash Limit	Earmarked Reserves	Inflation adjustment	NCC Cash Limit Variance
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Employees	64,261	66,616	2,355	(277)	0	(2,908)	(830)
Premises	9,082	10,317	1,235	(583)	0	(171)	481
Transport	19,338	23,813	4,475	(436)	0	(757)	3,282
Supplies & Services	21,231	25,811	4,580	(73)	0	0	4,507
Third Party Payments	52,014	50,426	(1,588)	0	0	379	(1,209)
Transfer Payments	1,894	3,289	1,395	0	0	0	1,395
Capital	23,108	5,149	(17,959)	17,959	0	0	0
Central Costs	10,439	12,309	1,870	(971)	5,420	0	6,319
DRF	1,309	1,808	499	0	0	0	499
Other	0	212	212	0	0	0	212
Gross Expenditure	202,676	199,750	(2,926)	15,619	5,420	(3,457)	14,656
Grant	(3,418)	(11,473)	(8,055)	0	0	0	(8,055)
Contributions	(802)	(4,549)	(3,747)	0	0	0	(3,747)
Sales	(624)	(555)	69	0	0	0	69
Charges	(12,976)	(18,312)	(5,336)	0	0	1,527	(3,809)
Rents	(94)	(109)	(15)	0	0	0	(15)
Recharges	(67,152)	(66,027)	1,125	1,203	0	0	2,328
Other Income	(1,426)	(2,254)	(828)	0	0	0	(828)
Gross Income	(86,492)	(103,279)	(16,787)	1,203	0	1,527	(14,057)
Total	116,184	96,471	(19,713)	16,822	5,420	(1,930)	599

Appendix 3: Neighbourhoods & Climate Change Capital Programme 2022/23

NCC	Revised Annual Budget 2022/23	Actual Spend 31/03/23	Remaining Budget
	£000	£000	£000
Community Protection			
Comm Protection	-	53	(53)
AAP Schemes-Community Protection	14	-	14
Community Protection Total	14	53	(39)
Environmental Services			
AAP Schemes - Environmental Services	298	176	122
Street Scene	1,292	923	369
Vehicle and Plant	2,799	2,505	294
Crematorium	65	115	(50)
Environment & Design	12,475	9,047	3,428
Depots	1,764	1,679	85
Waste Infrastructure Capital	101	148	(47)
Environmental Services Total	18,794	14,593	4,201
Highways			
Highway Operations	124	13	111
Strategic Highways	34,246	28,032	6,214
Strategic Highways Bridges	2,923	2,498	425
Highways Total	37,293	30,543	6,750
Partnerships & Community Engagement			
Members Neighbourhood Fund	1,206	1,190	16
Community Buildings	40	-	40
AAP Capital Budgets	501	418	83
AAP Initiatives Other	6	2	4
Consett Comm Facilities	61	-	61
Partnerships & Community Engagement Total	1,814	1,610	204
NCC Total	57,915	46,799	11,116
Culture and Sport			
AAP Schemes - Sport and Leisure	5	5	-
Culture and Museums	12,927	10,923	2,004
Leisure	6,718	5,136	1,582
Outdoor Sports and Leisure Facilities	34	-	34
Culture and Sport Total	19,684	16,064	3,620

	Variance	Explanation
Head of Environment	37	£37k overspend due mainly to one-off legal fees
Refuse & Recycling		£510k overspend on staffing due to high levels of sickness (£391k), additional holidays carried forward from last year which need covering (£115k), unbudgeted regrading of loaders (£86k), offset partly by management and admin vacancies throughout the year of £82k £408k overspend on vehicle daywork repairs and lease extensions £198k overspend on bin purchases which have risen from £17.90 to £23.45 and also a bulk purchase of garden waste bins £220k overspend on waste disposal costs (this recharge is offset in Strategic Waste below) (£264k) overachieved income mainly on trade waste collections (£38k) underspend on equipment and supplies £18k overspend mainly relating to installation of new weighbridge weight indicator system at the sites
Strategic Waste	(474)	£144k under achieved income on Soil Imports which have ceased due to capping of site (£236k) overachieved income on garden waste income (£191k) underspend on staffing due to vacancies and turnover £17k overspend on business rates at Joint Stocks following revaluation £95k overspend on essential power generation engine maintenance and repairs £20k overspend due to backdated water bill at landfill site (£103k) over achieved income on commercial waste disposal (£220k) over achieved income on waste disposal (this recharge is offset in Refuse above)
Clean & Green	(27)	(£169k) underspend on staffing vacancies in advance of planned MTFP13 savings (£45k) underspend in Countryside due to delays in appointing new staff (£133k) over achieved income from previous unspent capital schemes £133k overspend on vehicle daywork repairs, vehicle hires and lease extensions £187k underachieved income on school SLAs and ad-hoc work
Neighbourhood Protection	(385)	(£163k) underspend on Neighbourhood Wardens, mainly staffing until staff reach the top of their grades and vacancies while restructure was being implemented (£222k) underspend on Allotments, mainly staffing vacancies while new staff were appointed mid-year and also vacant posts held in advance of planned MTFP13 savings
Fleet	(131)	(£93k) underspend on staffing due to management vacancies pending a restructure £90k overspend on essential equipment replacements (lifts; brake rollers; press brake) (£128k) overachieved income on daywork repairs
Depots	102	£37k overspend on essential repairs £25k overspend due to additional leasehold costs for Meadowfield and Beechburn depots £21k overspend on the new Security Contract £19k overspend on contract cleaning due to the increased pay award
North Penines AONB		No Variance
Environment & Design		(£78k) underspend on Sustainability mainly due to staff turnover during the year (£74k) over achieved income relating to Feed-In-Tariffs, in advance of MTFP13 saving
TOTAL	22	

Appendix 4: Head of Service Analysis – PACE

	I	
	Over /	
	(Under)	
Service	£000s	Reason for Variance
Head of Service	(8)	(£8k) from unspent Other Pay budget
CCU & Corporate policy	(137)	Corporate Policy - (£19k) Additional income from unrecovered 21/22 agency costs, (£1k) overspend in staffing (£12k) receipting correction from previous year (£13k) under on Supplies and Services CCU - (£63k) Employee saving - Two temporary vacancies £4k over on Supplies and Services mainly down to Welfare Packs (£33k) over achievement of income on CCU
Humanitarian Support Scheme	0	(£4.567m) surplus - £2.083m spend, (£6.555m) income mainly Homes for Ukraine scheme income less core budget (£72k) and non-controllable budgets of (£23k) Balance to reserve at year-end.
Partnerships Team	(14)	Partnerships Team - (£4k) Employee saving mainly training budget unused and Maternity cover at lower SCP (£11k) under on Suppiles and Services £1k overspend on Venue and Refreshments
Strategic Partnerships	7	Community Buildings overspend £13k mainly due to general repairs and premises costs (£6k) underspend on Grant Aid to the Communities Drawdown in reserves for remaining cost centres.
Funding Team & Other AAPs	0	Net nil, as all reserve funding
AAPs South &East	(57)	(£32k) Employee underspend due to vacancies in Spennymoor and Management offset by agency costs £7k. (£4k) minor underspend on car allowances. (£15k) under on Supplies and Services. (£13k) contribution from Humanitarian Support for Jane Jack.
AAPs North & east	19	£34k Employee costs - Mainly not achieving efficiency as well as additional costs of maternity cover. (£15k) underspends across rents (£6k), supplies and services (£6k), car allowances (£2k) and grants (£1k)
GRAND TOTAL	(190)	

Appendix 4: Head of Service Analysis – Highways

Service	Over / (Under) £000s	Reason for Variance	
Head of Highways	3	Overspend on Employees £2k and S&S of £3k due to Bloom advertising costs for HoS posinitially offset by transport savings (£2k)	
Highways Services Trading	1,261	Trading £1.436m overspend - Street Lighting (£306k), Commercial Group £250k, Countywide £1.491m. Overspend on Commercial Group and Countywide due to underacheivement of targeted sales margin.	
		Management & Admin underspend of (£175k) - Driven by (£201k) underspend on employees from vacancies not filled including Estimating manager. Paternity leave for programmes manager (3 months). Overspend on Supplies and Services and Agency £15k, travel allowance and tool allowance £80k. Offset by Premises under spend of (£5k) due to not spending general repairs budget. Large underspend on staffing travelling (£26k) and plus income contribution (£38k).	
Highways Services Non-Trading	1,990	Overspend of £2.098m on Highways Revenue maintenance work, including cyclic works, drainage, bridges and emergency action works. Overspend of £19k on Transport due to unbudgeted short term spot hire of vehicles and S&S £17k over. Smaller overspend on premises £7k and staffing £4k. Overspend of £2.031k on Agency. Mainly PAT, gullies, and street lighting cable testing spend. Under achievement of Income £20k. Stores £13k over offset by inventory receipting correction (£28k)	
		Winter Maintenance - underspend of (£93k) due to mild winter.	
Strategic Highways	(2,037)	Street Lighting - Underspend of (£105k) Underspend of (£9k) on employees - Vacant post for first 3 months Street Lighting electricity budget is underspent by (£26k) on Premises - Covered from central finance, net nil. (£2k) underspent on car allowances. Underspend of (£26k) on S&S mainly due to consultancy coming under budget Underspend of (£53k) on Agency due to column testing not fully done this year Overachievement of income (£15k) Highways Permit Scheme - (£19k) underspend due to non-controllable budgets paid for from permit fees. Surplus from permit fees of £16k in 2022/23. Reserve now is £636k. Technical Team - Underspend of (£164k) Underspend of (£65k) on employees - vacancies in team in year Overspend of £10k on Transport Overspend of £70k on S&S - Advertising Offset by over achieved Income of (£178k) - Road Closure and TRO's Enforcement & Inspections - Underspend of (£349k) Underspend of (£32k) on employees - Vacancy Underspend of (£21k) on Transport - Fuel, fleet management and car allowances Underspend of (£6k) on S&S Over achieved Income of (£290k) - Over-recovered income mainly Fixed Penalty notices and Section74 over-runs, 5 quarters of sample inspections to include Q4 of 2021/22 Asset Management - Underspend of (£1.264m) Underspend of (£97k) on employees - Vacancies in team Overspend of £16k on agency - Tree works and systems. Over achieved Income of (£1.183m) - (£1.057m) from Section 38 supervision fees above budget. Roundabout Sponsorship arrears 6 months from last year, 18 months in year	
		(£102k). Other income over achieved (£24k) Highways Adoptions - Underspend of (£6k) Underspend of (£8k) on staffing due to vacancy in year and under achievement of income £2k	
		Drainage & Coast Protection - Underspend of (£93k) Underspend of (£36k) on employees - Due to temporary reduction in hours Overspend on transport of £3k - Short term spot hire of vehicle for full year Underspend on agency of (£55k) and underspend on S&S of (£5k) Structures - Overspend of £11k	
		Overspend of £36k on employees - Unbudgeted 2 x apprentices Overspend of £3k on Transport for short term hire of vehicle Additional income of (£28k) on additional capital income for missing Q4 for 2021/22 Public Right of Way - Underspend of (£48k) Overspend of £56k on employees - Definitive Map Officers x 2 offset by vacancies in year Under spend of (£121k) across agency and S&S mainly underspent on footway maintenance Under achievement of income £15k and £1k on Pennine Way	
GRAND TOTAL	1,217		

Appendix 4: Heads of Service Analysis – Community Protection

	Over /	
	(Under)	
Service	£000s	Reason for Variance
Head of CP	225	Underspend on unallocated 2022/23 growth of (£275k). Overspend on transport 13k due to 3 additional vehicles for staff use instead of pool cars ceased in August and supplies and services under by (£2k). Small overachievement of income (£2k). Net contribution to Workforce Development Reserve of £450k made up £491k (unspent growth allocated back to reserve) (£41k) (Community Protection Training Unit costs)
Consumer Protection	(226)	Underspend of (£226k) due to staff vacancies (£264k) offset mostly by over in supplies 32k additional legal costs and printing & postage. Plus additional cost for enforcement for Claypath £8k. Over on premises - water and rates £2k offset by savings on car pool, car allowances budget (£15k). Underachievement on income of £11k mainly gambling and taxi licencing.
Health Protection	(72)	Allocated growth funding in excess of costs mainly accounting for underspend on staff (£88k) offset by redundancy costs of £62k creating staffing underspend of (£26k). (£4k) saving on car allowances and transport, (£9k) saving in Supplies and Services, (£16k) saving in agency as reduction in vet fees, as well as over achievement of income (£17k) mainly due to new burdens grant for Natasha's Law.
Strategic Regulation	(121)	Underspend due to vacancies in team and unspent growth allocation (£121k) - which is (£71k) staffing underspend, reduced by capital contribution for overestablishment post (£52k). Offset by small overspend in Supplies and Services £2k
Environmental Protection	(165)	Large underspend from staff vacancies and unspent growth (£138k) offset by overspends in Supplies and Services of £4k mainly due additional consultancy fees plus overspend in transport on staff travelling £3k plus overachievement of income (£34k) mainly HMO licencing
Neighbourhood Interventions	(34)	£13k overspend on Anti Social Behaviour mainly due to post above base budget £22k offset by savings in car allowances (£7k) and supplies and services (£2k), NAT team underspend of (£16k) due to staffing underspends against career graded posts and part time employees (£10k) plus savings on car allowances of (£9k) and equipment overspend of £3k, CAT team underspend of (£31k) due to staffing budget for future increments (£14k). Minor saving on pool cars (£3k) and (£14k) saving on consultancy fees
Safer Communities	(3)	Mainly £35k GRT team overspend with staff over budgeted level £45k minus underspends on Supplies and Services and pool cars of (£7k) and (£3k) respectively. Offset by vacancies in Information and Intelligence (£27k). Community Safety Operations underspend of (£11k) made up of £7k overspend on staffing due to not meeting efficiency target, savings from payments to subcontractors of (£17k), AAP and grants and other contributions (£5k) then £4k over on site accommodation due to portaloos for sites with no budget.
GRAND TOTAL	(396)	