North Lanarkshire Council Report

Housing Committee

Does this report require to be approved? \square Yes \boxtimes No

Ref GT/JMcG Date 14/02/24

Revenue Monitoring Report – Enterprise and Communities

From Andrew McPherson, Depute Chief Executive

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Executive Summary

This report provides a summary of the financial performance of the Enterprise and Communities service for the period 1 April 2023 to 5 January 2024 (Period 10), with major outturn variances highlighted and explained as per the Council's approved Financial Regulations.

In summary, the Enterprise and Communities service is currently forecasting a year end underspend of £2.335m. This underspend is mainly attributable to employee vacancy savings across the Service. The Service continues to review inflationary pressures and also work with Business and Digital to progress plans for delivery of digital savings which are temporarily offset this financial year through grant which has been received in advance of need and an earmarked reserve.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Committee:

(1) Acknowledges the financial position of the 2023/24 Enterprise and Communities revenue budget.

The Plan for North Lanarkshire

Priority Improve economic opportunities and outcomes

Ambition statement (25) Ensure intelligent use of data and information to support fully

evidence based decision making and future planning

Programme of Work Statutory / corporate / service requirement

1. Background

1.1 The Council's approved Financial Regulations require services to remain within their approved budgetary provision, and to report all significant deviations – defined as the

higher of £100,000 or 5% - within their budget monitoring reports. Where significant deviations are identified, services must provide explanatory commentary, outline the action required to rectify such deviations and where relevant, must also highlight the impact this has on other budget headings.

1.2 The most significant financial risk facing Enterprise and Communities during 2023/24 is the delivery of the Digital NL savings. Inflationary pressures are also being closely monitored. The Service will continue the curtailment of non-essential expenditure to manage the overall budget position.

2. Report

Summary of Financial Position

- 2.1 The Council approved its General Fund Revenue Budget on 23 February 2023, of which £153.119m (15.65%) represented the approved Net Revenue Budget for Enterprise and Communities. There has been an in year transfer to the Chief Executive's service of £0.238m in relation to the Customer Contact Centre. Therefore the revised budget for the service totals £152.882m.
- 2.1.1 Enterprise and Communities is currently forecasting an underspend of £2.335m mainly linked to vacancy savings which the Service is actively seeking to recruit.
- 2.1.2 In addition, the Service faces a cost pressure attributable to the delay in implementation of savings linked to the DigitalNL programme (£1.960m). The service continues to work with Business and Digital to progress plans for the delivery of these savings. This burden is offset this financial year by utilising grant received in advance of need and also an earmarked reserve.
- 2.1.3 Section 2.2 provides commentary on the financial performance of the Service per division. In addition, Appendices 1 to 5 of this report provide further explanation of the significant budget variations contributing to this outturn position.
- 2.1.4 The 2023/24 Enterprise and Communities budget incorporated £4.969m of savings with £2.500m of savings (50.31%) forecast to be delivered within the current financial year. Further information regarding particularly challenging savings is noted in paragraph 2.4 below.

Analysis of Significant Variations

2.2 The Enterprise and Communities service is currently forecasting an underspend of £2.335m. As at Period 10, the main variances across the divisions are further explained as follows:

2.2.1 Assets and Procurement (£0.423m underspend)

Assets and Procurement is currently forecasting a net employee savings of £1.053m which largely relates to employee savings across the division partially offset by increased use of external advisors to support the delivery of projects as a result of key staff vacancies (£0.406m).

The service anticipates increased food costs as a result of inflation and also an increase in paid meal numbers. This overspend is partially offset by increased paid meal income (£0.108m) and also a reduction in the packaging used for school meals where schools

have moved to use more sustainable items rather than disposable packaging (£0.180m).

2.2.2 Community Operations (£0.858m underspend)

Community Operations is projecting net employee savings of £1.775m across the service where there have been difficulties in recruiting. Within Waste, additional overtime and agency costs have been incurred to ensure the service can still run effectively.

There is a projected underspend of £0.777m forecast on reduced disposal costs across both Waste and Land management which is mainly as a result of a new contract for Paper and Card waste collection, as well as more favourable pricing across various tonnage streams and reduced volume of waste in some areas.

Within Fleet the service anticipates additional costs of £1.57m for the inspection and repairs on larger vehicles which are currently being completed by external companies and the requirement to hire additional vehicles while there are delays in completing repairs. This is as a direct result of difficulties in recruiting mechanic posts. The Service continues to seek to recruit these key positions.

There are reduced costs of £0.581m forecast for Street Lighting energy costs as a result of the ongoing investment in LED lighting. The service also anticipates an over-recovery of income from the Active Schools programme at Strathclyde Park (£0.172m), which is fully offset by the forecast under-recovery of special uplift income in Waste (£0.172m).

2.2.3 Housing Solutions (£0.602m underspend)

Housing Solutions is projecting net employee cost savings of £0.531m, mainly within First Stop Shops and Housing Support. In addition, a delay in work commissioned on the Homeless Strategy will result in an underspend of £0.213m in the current financial year.

Within Homeless Property, the expenditure headings of rent, repairs and energy are showing overspends due to the additional number of homeless presentations. These are offset by an increase in the rental income generated.

2.2.4 Place (£0.607m underspend)

The Place division is currently forecasting net employee savings of £0.638m. Given the number of staff vacancies the service has utilised external advisors to support the delivery of projects (£0.126m). The service is also benefiting from additional one-off grant funding supporting core activity (£0.100m) which contributes to the overall projected underspend position.

2.2.5 Included within the reported outturn is the Council's trading services. For 2023/24 the Council approved a surplus budget of £0.462m. The Council must comply with a statutory requirement to at least break-even over a rolling three year period. The combined surplus in 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23 was £0.554m. As at Period 10 the Trading Accounts is forecasting a reduced surplus of £0.242m which mainly is attributable to lower than anticipated income for the trade waste function, the Service is currently reviewing this Service and the costs associated with it.

2.2.6 Payments to other bodies are detailed in Appendix 3. This expenditure category accounts for £20.906m and is current forecasting to be over budget by £0.127m mainly as a result of agency fees due to difficulties in recruitment.

Earmarked and One-off Reserves

2.3 Enterprise and Communities was given approval to earmark £16.187m of resources during the completion of the 2022/23 annual accounts. At Period 10 £10.277m of the reserve balance is anticipated to be utilised in 2023/24. A balance of £5.800m is required for the original purpose in future years. The remaining balance of £0.110m is no longer required. Appendix 4 details the individual Earmarked Reserves.

2023/24 Budget Savings and Growth

2.4 The Service uses a variety of information, records and processes to monitor achievement of its approved budget savings of £4.969m. As at Period 10, £2.500m (50.31%) of its approved savings are forecast to be achievable during the year. The gap of £2.469m represents digital savings (£1.910m), which have been offset this financial year by grant income received in advance of need and an earmarked reserve. There is also a timing delay in office rationalisation (£0.415m) which has been offset this year by an earmarked reserve. The other staffing related savings of £0.117m are offset by in year vacancy savings.

Management Actions

2.5 The Service continues to take a range of corrective management actions to ensure it manages cost pressures. This includes curtailment of non-essential spend and monitoring of vacancies.

Change Management

2.6 The Service is forecast to utilise £0.215m of the Council's Change Management Fund mainly to support reinstatement at Palacerigg Country Park, the litter bin strategy and voluntary severance costs. Costs within the Change Management Fund are not included in the Service outturn position.

3. **Measures of success**

3.1 The Service continues to operate within the approved budget resources

4. **Supporting documentation**

Appendix 1 Objective Analysis Subjective Analysis Appendix 2

Appendix 3 Payments to Other Bodies Analysis Appendix 4 Status of Earmarked Reserves

Appendix 5 Challenging Savings

Andrew McPherson Depute Chief Executive

5. Impacts (http://connect/report-template-guidance)

5.1	Public Sector Equality Duty and Fairer Scotland Duty
	Does the report contain information that has an impact as a result of the Public
	Sector Equality Duty and/or Fairer Scotland Duty? Yes □ No ⊠
	If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?
	if res, please provide a brief sufficially of the impact:
	If Yes, has an assessment been carried out and published on the council's
	website? https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/your-community/equalities/equality-
	and-fairer-scotland-duty-impact-assessments
	Yes No
5.2	Financial impact
	Does the report contain any financial impacts? Yes ⊠ No □
	If Yes, have all relevant financial impacts have been discussed and agreed with
	Finance?
	Yes ⊠ No □
	If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?
	The Service continues to curtail non-essential expenditure and take management
	action to minimise the impact of cos pressures on the Council's overall financial position.
5.3	HR policy impact
0.0	Does the report contain any HR policy or procedure impacts?
	Yes □ No ⊠
	If Yes, have all relevant HR impacts have been discussed and agreed with People
	Resources?
	Yes □ No □
	If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?
5.4	Logalimpost
5.4	Legal impact Does the report contain any legal impacts (such as general legal matters, statutory
	considerations (including employment law considerations), or new legislation)?
	Yes □ No ⊠
	If Yes, have all relevant legal impacts have been discussed and agreed with Legal
	and Democratic?
	Yes
	If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?
5.5	Data protection impact
0.0	Does the report / project / practice contain or involve the processing of personal
	data?
	Yes □ No ⊠
	If Yes, is the processing of this personal data likely to result in a high risk to the
	data subject?
	Yes No
	If Yes, has a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) been carried out and e-
	mailed to <u>dataprotection@northlan.gov.uk</u> Yes □ No □

5.6	Technology / Digital impact Does the report contain information that has an impact on either technology, digital transformation, service redesign / business change processes, data management, or connectivity / broadband / Wi-Fi? Yes □ No ⊠ If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact? Where the impact identifies a requirement for significant technology change, has
	an assessment been carried out (or is scheduled to be carried out) by the Enterprise Architecture Governance Group (EAGG)? Yes □ No □
5.7	Environmental / Carbon impact Does the report / project / practice contain information that has an impact on any environmental or carbon matters? Yes □ No ⊠ If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?
5.8	Communications impact Does the report contain any information that has an impact on the council's communications activities? Yes □ No ⊠ If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?
5.9	Risk impact Is there a risk impact? Yes ☑ No ☐ If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the key risks and potential impacts, highlighting where the risk(s) are assessed and recorded (e.g. Corporate or Service or Project Risk Registers), and how they are managed? All activities undertaken by the Council are subject to risk, and in acknowledging the Council's approved Risk Management Strategy, Services managed these as part of their overall corporate and service planning processes. The current economic climate, in particular, has the potential to impact upon the Council's ability to provide quality services within the approved budget levels. To reduce other financial risks, this report was prepared by service based Finance personnel in consultation with budget managers, in accordance with the Financial Regulations.
5.10	Armed Forces Covenant Duty Does the report require to take due regard of the Armed Forces Covenant Duty (i.e. does it relate to healthcare, housing, or education services for in-Service or ex-Service personnel, or their families, or widow(er)s)? Yes

5.11	Children's rights and wellbeing impact Does the report contain any information regarding any council activity, service delivery, policy, or plan that has an impact on children and young people up to the age of 18, or on a specific group of these?												
	Yes □ No ⊠ If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact and the provision that has been made to ensure there has been appropriate consideration of the relevant Articles from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).												
	If Yes, has a Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (CRWIA) been carried out? Yes □ No □												

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

Revenue Budget Monitoring Report - Objective Analysis Period 10 (01 April 2023 - 05 January 2024) Enterprise & Communities

DIVISION OF SERVICE	ANNUAL BUDGET	PROJECTED OUT-TURN	I OUT-TURN		%	PERIOD MOVEMENT SINCE	ANALYSIS
						P6	
[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]		[5]	[6]	[7]
Assets & Procurement	£ 41,694,381	£ 41,271,523	£ 422,858	FAV	1.0%	£ 142,102	Employee vacancy savings across the service partially offset by external advisor costs. Increased food costs partially offset by increased paid school meal income. Increased rental income within Estates.
Community Operations	88,819,672	87,961,666	858,006	FAV	by overtime costs, turnover and Tonnage costs less than anticip a result of favourable contract puthe waste recycling market. Str savings as a result of investme Underspends partially offset by costs and external hire costs as in recruiting mechanics. Under Building Standards Income and		Employee vacancy savings across the service offset by overtime costs, turnover and agency costs. Tonnage costs less than anticipated within Waste as a result of favourable contract prices and changes in the waste recycling market. Street lighting energy savings as a result of investment in LED lighting. Underspends partially offset by increased fleet repair costs and external hire costs as a result of difficulties in recruiting mechanics. Under-recoveries of Building Standards Income and Special Uplift income in Waste offset by over-recoveries of Active Schools income at Strathclyde Park.
Housing Management	5,652,817	5,050,473	602,344	FAV	10.7%	374,739	Employee vacancy savings and delays in Homeless Strategy, partially offset by under-recovery of income.
Housing Property Services	8,585,905	8,499,946	85,959	FAV	1.0%	87,572	Reduced energy costs and additional income partially offset by additional repairs costs
Place	8,591,146	7,983,735	607,411	FAV	7.1%	83,005	Employee vacancy savings and additional grant income partially offset by external advisor costs.
Trading	(462,202)	(220,552)	(241,650)	ADV	52.3%	(31,559)	Under recovery in Trade Waste income
NET EXPENDITURE	152,881,720	150,546,791	2,334,928	FAV	1.5%	1,311,433	

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL Revenue Budget Monitoring Report - Subjective Analysis Period 10 (01 April 2023 - 05 January 2024) Enterprise & Communities

CATEGORY	ANNUAL BUDGET	PROJECTED OUT-TURN		PROJECTED OUT-TURN VARIANCE		PERIOD MOVEMENT	ANALYSIS
[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]		[5]	SINCE P6 [6]	[7]
[1]	£	£	£		[O]	£	[1]
EMPLOYEE COSTS	104,676,466		4,843,011	FAV	4.6%	1,699,025	Employee vacancy savings partially offset by increased overtime and turnover
PROPERTY COSTS	45,215,372	45,004,689	210,683	FAV	0.5%	(201,803)	Lower than anticipated waste disposal costs
SUPPLIES & SERVICES	20,594,599	22,497,114	(1,902,515)	ADV	(9.2%)	· ·	Increased Fleet external hire costs and agency costs within Waste partially offset by reduced Street Lighting costs due to LED replacement programme. Increased school meal food costs partially offset by reduced school meal food packaging costs.
TRANSPORT & PLANT	5,641,535	6,144,862	(503,327)	ADV	(8.9%)	(125,755)	Increased Fleet repairs costs
ADMINISTRATION COSTS	13,087,265	13,648,249	(560,983)	ADV	(4.3%)	·	Increased external advisor costs to support key project delivery. Delay in work comissioned on the Homeless Strategy.
PAYMENTS TO OTHER BODIES	20,906,907	21,033,954	(127,046)	ADV	(0.6%)		See appendix 3.
TRANSFER PAYMENTS	586,116	586,116	0		0.0%	0	Balanced Budget
CAPITAL FINANCING COSTS	25,236,931	25,236,932	(1)	ADV	0.0%	(1)	Balanced Budget
OTHER EXPENDITURE	4,399,481	4,392,139	7,342	FAV	0.2%	66,828	Minor Variance
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	240,344,672	238,377,509	1,967,164	FAV	0.8%	(35,372)	
INCOME	87,462,951	87,830,714	(367,763)	FAV	(0.4%)		Under recovery in capital recharges linked to Employee vacancy savings above, reduced Building Standards income and reduced trade waste income partially offset by additional one off grant income and increased paid school meal income
NET EXPENDITURE	152,881,722	150,546,795	2,334,927	FAV	1.5%	1,311,433	

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

Revenue Budget Monitoring Report - Payments to Other Bodies Period 10 (01 April 2023 - 05 January 2024) Enterprise & Communities

CATEGORY	ANNUAL BUDGET	PROJECTED OUT-TURN	PROJECTED OUT-TURN VARIANCE		%	ANALYSIS
[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[4]		[7]
	£	£	£			
APS ROADS MAINTENANCE	12,352,284	12,352,284	0		0.0%	
BUSINESS SUPPORT GRANTS	3,873,901	3,873,901	0		0.0%	
HOMELESS SUPPORT FEES	1,380,920	1,380,920	0		0.0%	
PAYMENTS TO OTHER BODIES -	1,404,078	1,388,614	15,464	FAV	1.1%	Minor Variance
GENERAL						
PAYMENTS TO CONTRACTORS -	857,221	830,561	26,660	FAV	3.1%	Minor Variance
ROADS MAINT						
SUB-CONTRACTOR PAYMENTS	314,599	314,599	0		0.0%	
AGENCY FEES	280,904	437,789	(156,885)	ADV	(55.9%)	Increased agency costs to cover key staff vacancies
						in difficult to recruit posts
PUBLIC ANALYST FEES	267,000	279,286	(12,286)	ADV	(4.6%)	Minor Variance
PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING GRANTS	176,000	176,000	0		0.0%	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	20,906,907	21,033,954	(127,047)	ADV	(0.6%)	

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

Revenue Budget Monitoring Report - Status of Earmarked Reserves Period 10 (01 April 2023 - 05 January 2024) Enterprise & Communities

	FINANCIAL YEAR - 2023/24										
DESCRIPTION OF EARMARKED RESOURCE	Reserve Allocation 2023/24	Profiled in Future Years	Approved Reserve Total	Spend to Date	Value %		Reprofile to Future Years	No Longer Required	Reserves Required In Year	Commentary Regards Usage	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000		£000	£000	£000		
Service Specific Earmarked Reserves:											
Dilapidations	400	124	524	18	400	76.3%	0	0	400	Costs associated with leased in property disinvestment	
Office Rationalisation	500	0	500	500	500	100.0%	0	0	500	Costs associated with Office closures and new energy mgt system	
Enterprise Contract	1,224	0	1,224	478	620	50.7%	604	0	620	Ongoing set up cost for the Enterprise Contract	
Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Funding	75	0	75	0	75	100.0%	0	0	75	Consultancy spend for LHEES program	
Winter Reserve	1,500	0	1,500	0	1,500	100.0%	0	0	1,500	Contingency for significant winter event	
Open Space Strategy (temp Posts - Park Rangers)	113	0	113	87	113	100.0%	0	0	113	Temporary Staffing	
Housing Grants to owner occupiers	176	0	176	20	53	30.1%	123	0	53	Funding for Private Sector Grants	
Fleet - Grant for Lease Vehicles	118	0	118	91	118	100.0%	0	0	118	Grant funding for electric vehicles	
Bellshill Depot Eco hub	200	0	200	200	200	100.0%	0	0		Set up costs for Eco Hub	
Service Developments (fleet pressures inc hires)	739	0	739	84	84	11.4%	655	0	84	Contingency for increased fleet pressures	
Service Developments - Ash Dieback	300	700	1,000	41	41	4.1%	259	0	41	Works associated with removing ashdieback	
Protective Services Environmental Improvements	665	111	776	381	565	72.8%	0	100		Environmental Improvements	
Park Rangers	35	0	35	0	0	0.0%	25	10	0	Staffing costs	
Cemeteries increased demand Bothies	318	0	318	64	68	21.4%	250	0	68	Funding for works in cemetery bothies; extra cleaning/ waste and plant hire due to covid.	
Digital NL	1,960	0	1,960	735	735	37.5%	1,225	0	735	Digital Savings less income uplift and grant income received in advance of need	
HEEPS	0	591	591	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0	Energy Efficiency Schemes - contributions to current programme	
Rapid Rehousing	1,081	0	1,081	616	1,081	100.0%	0	0	1,081	Rapid Rehousing programme to tackle	
Homelessness	0	283	283	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0	Homelessness surplus 22/23	
Renewables	200	0	200	ő	100	50.0%	100	0		Maintenance of renewable heating systems	
Electrical Testing	600	ا م	600	497	600	100.0%	0	0		Electrical testing programme	
City Deal - Delburn Street / Manse Road	59	0	59	14	59	100.0%	0	Ö		Temporary Property costs as a result of capital programme	
Business Recovery	3,172	480	3,652	129	3.172	86.9%	0	n	3 172	Costs to support business recovery	
LUF Ravenscraig	26		26	0	26	100.0%	0	0		Costs assocaited with LUF bid	
Smithstone - Roadworks (former capital receipt)	150	0	150	17	17	11.2%	133	0	17	Roads works linked to former capital receipts	
Local Development Plan	150		287	0	150	52.3%	0	0		Set up cost to produce LDP	
Total	13,761	2,426	16,187	3,970	10,277	1504.6%	3,374	110	10,277		

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL Revenue Budget Monitoring Report - Challeging Savings Period 10 (01 April 2023 - 05 January 2024) Enterprise & Communities

			APPROVED SAVINGS		REPLACEMENT SAVING / FU	NDING				
Ref.	DESCRIPTION OF APPROVED SAVING	DIVISION	Target Value	Deliverable	Savings Gap	Reasons for Savings Gap	DESCRIPTION	Value	Revised Savings Gap	Commentary
			£000	£000	£000			£000	£000	
	Savings 2021/2022 and 2022/23 Asset Management Rationalisation/Office Dis-	Assets & Procurement	800	385	415	Timing of Office Closures	Ear Marked Reserve	415	0	
	investment.	Solutions								
EC37	Review of staffing within Business	Housing Mgt	76	0	76	Delays in staff changes	Vacancy savings within Service	76	0	
CE05	Digital Savings	Service Wide	1,960	50	1,910	Service working with Digital Team to identify oppotunities for savings	Funding in advance of need / Ear Marked Reserve	1,910	0	
	Base Budget Savings 23/24				0				0	
	Income Generation Countryside Rangers	Community Operations	22	0		Difficulties within NHS funding has forced a review of the provision of this service to them at present, and charging status.	Other income over recoveries in this Service	22	0	
ECBB04	Greenspace Income	Community Operations	31	26	5	Small shortfall in income generation	Other income over recoveries in this Service	5	0	
ECBB19	Protective	Community Operations	41	0	41	Timing Delays for VRS	Vacancy savings within Service	41	0	
<u> </u>	TOTAL		2,930	461	2,469	_		2,469	0	