Mid Devon
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report for:	**Cabinet**
Date of Meeting:	17 June 2025
Subject:	**2024/25 REVENUE AND CAPITAL OUTTURN**
Cabinet Member:	Cllr John Downes, Cabinet Member for Governance, Finance & Risk
Responsible Officer:	Andrew Jarrett, Deputy Chief Executive (S151)
Exempt:	N/A
Wards Affected:	All
Enclosures:	Appendix 1a – General Fund Summary Appendix 1b – General Fund Service Variances Appendix 2 – HRA Summary and Variance Analysis Appendix 3 – Movement in Earmarked Reserves Appendix 4 – Capital Programme Summary

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendation(s)

To present the Revenue and Capital Outturn figures for the financial year 2024/25 for both the General Fund (GF) and Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

Recommendation(s):

That Cabinet consider the finance position reported and:

1) **Note the Outturn achieved in 2024/25 which shows a net under spend of £1,547k (11.8% on the Net Total Expenditure Budget) for the General Fund, and for the Housing Revenue Account an over spend of £1,727k (13.2% on the Total Direct Expenditure Budget).**

2) **General Fund**

   a) **Approve the Net Transfers to or from Earmarked Reserves for operational purposes of £792k, as detailed in the General Fund Service Budget Variance Reports shown in Appendix 1a and 1b and summarised in Appendix 3.**

b) **Approve the balance transfer of the £1,547k General Fund underspend to Earmarked Reserves as detailed in paragraph 3.5.4.4; retaining the balance of the General Reserve at £2,025k; above the minimum recommended level of £2,000k.**

3) **Housing Revenue Account**

a) **Approve the Net Transfers to or from the ring-fenced HRA Earmarked Reserves for operational purposes of £724k detailed in Appendix 2 and summarised in Appendix 3.**

b) **Approve the £1,727k Housing Revenue Account overspend to be offset with a draw from the ring-fenced HRA Housing Maintenance Earmarked Reserve.**

c) **Note the updated position on the Housing Rents error recovery programme in paragraph 4.7.1.**

4) **Approve the slippage of £17,068k from the 2024/25 Capital Programme to be delivered in 2025/26 or later years as shown in Appendix 4.**

5) **Note the procurement waivers used in Quarter 4 of 2024/25, as outlined in Section 7.**

Section 2 – Report

1.0 Executive Summary

1.1 This report contains information relating to the Council's overall financial performance for the 2024/25 financial year. The Outturn figures included are provisional and subject to external audit; the findings of which are expected to be reported to Audit Committee in October this year.

1.2 Monitoring the Budget is an important part of the Council's performance management framework. The aim is to keep a tight control on spending on services within a flexible budget management framework.

1.3 The Revenue Outturn position for the financial year 2024/25 is as follows:

- The General Fund (GF) Revenue Outturn position for 2024/25 is a net under spend of £1,547k as shown in **Appendix 1a**. An explanation of variances at service level is included within **Appendix 1b**.
- The HRA is a "Self-Financing" account for the Council's Housing Landlord function, which is budgeted to "breakeven" (net of approved transfers to/from HRA Reserves). The HRA Outturn for 2024/25 is a net over spend of £1,727k as shown in **Appendix 2**.

1.4 Members should note that officers have also identified areas where the carry-forward of some unspent budgets will be operationally beneficial to help mitigate the impact of financial pressures and commitments in 2025/26. These are also proposed to be transferred into Earmarked Reserves. These are identified within the individual service summaries and within **Appendix 3**.

1.5 Actual Capital expenditure across the financial year was £23,108k leaving a variance of £12,697k against the 2024/25 Deliverable Budget. Of which, £393k is an under spend, £2,782k is an over spend, and £17,068k will slip into future years. In addition, £2,500k has been brought forward from the future year's programme and £518k is no longer required. The status of the Capital Programme is shown at **Appendix 4**.

1.6 A summary of the Council's Treasury Management year end position is shown in Section 6. Further detail on the Treasury Management position is included within a separate report on this meeting agenda.

1.7 This report also includes Section 7 which updates Members on the use of Procurement Waivers during the last quarter of 2024/25. A procurement waiver is were contract procedure regulations have not been applied due to exceptional circumstances, such as urgency of the goods/services being required, or the specialist nature of the goods/services where there is no effective competition to provide it.

2. Introduction

2.1 Members of the Cabinet should note that the Outturn report is fundamentally a set of management reports that show the year-end position on all service areas. The Finance Team then have to turn these management reports into the statutory financial statements which are subject to a wide number of complex accounting rules that often significantly change the final picture of a service's financial position for the year. However, it is important to note that the bottom-line profit or loss for the year remains constant.

2.2 Members will be aware that the position can change between "in-year" projections and the final Outturn position, mainly due to demand-led service costs and income levels but also sometimes due to the requirement of accounting conventions for year-end adjustments. The budget monitoring process involves a regular review of budgets. Budget Holders, with support and advice from their Accountants, review the position and update their forecasts based on currently available information and knowledge of service requirements for the remainder of the year. As with any forecast there is always a risk that assumptions and estimates will differ from the eventual outcome.

2.3 During the budget setting process, Budget Holders / Accountants continue to ensure that Revenue and Capital Budgets are set on a robust basis and take a prudent view of the likely levels of income and expenditure.

3. The General Fund

3.1 The summarised General Fund Revenue Outturn Position is provided in **Appendix 1a**, with more detail provided on a service-by-service basis shown in **Appendix 1b**.

3.2 Detailed budget monitoring reports were provided to both senior managers and Members throughout 2024/25. This monitoring focused on significant budget variances (+/- £20k), including any remedial action where necessary leading to an estimated overall Outturn position. The final written in-year monitoring report considered by the Cabinet gave a detailed position as at 31 December 2024 and predicted an end of year net under spend of £293k for the General Fund. Therefore the final position at £1,547k has significantly improved, mainly due to finalising the position on Business Rates, S106 receipts and grant funding received late in the year.

3.3 The table below shows the overall Budget, Actual and Variance, summarised for 2024/25.

Table 1 – General Fund Financial Summary

Financial Summary for 2024/25	2024/25 Budget £	2024/25 Actual £	2024/25 Variance After EMR £
Total Net Cost of Services	15,814,835	12,529,056	(3,285,779)
Other Income and Expenditure	(2,692,263)	35,461	2,727,724
Total Net Budgeted Expenditure	**13,122,572**	**12,564,517**	**(558,055**
Total Funding	**(13,122,572)**	**(14,111,759)**	**(989,187)**
Net Income and Expenditure	**0**	**(1,547,242)**	**0**
Final Transfer To / (From) Earmarked Reserves	**0**	**0**	(1,547,242)
Net Income and Expenditure After EMR	**0**	**0**	**0**

3.4 As described above, there have been some significant variances at an individual service level. A summary explanation of these key variances is shown in **Appendix 1a**, service by service. **Appendix 1b** also provides the detail of the key variances at individual service level to enable full transparency of the position.

3.5 Overarching Key Variances:

3.5.1. **Employee Related Costs –** overall employee related costs underspent by £112k or 0.7% of budget.

3.5.1.1. <u>Vacancy Target</u>
As part of the 2024/25 budget, a vacancy target of £460k was set, either directly within service areas or corporately (with the actual savings shown against the respective service areas). Recruitment to non-critical roles was actively considered and where prudent were delayed. This enabled the target to be exceeded overall but not necessarily in the specific services in which it was budgeted. Individual savings are

recorded against the relevant service, thus creating the variance shown against the Corporate Management area.

3.5.1.2. Agency Costs

Although the Council continues to struggle with recruitment and retention, levels of turnover (16.3%) and sickness (7.35 days per FTE) during the year were lower than the previous years. There were pockets of absence in key services, particularly Finance, Legal, Enforcement and Waste requiring higher usage of agency staff than planned. Overall agency spend was £523k above budget (£571k in 2023/24), however this is offset by the vacancy underspends on the overall staffing establishment.

Within Building Control, the additional staffing costs (through agency spend), combined with lower income generated by North Devon, altered the split of costs between MDDC and North Devon, leading to a higher share of the partnership costs.

3.5.2. Non-Employee Expenditure

3.5.2.1. Specific Revenue Project Costs.

Each year, the Council plans to undertake projects across its property portfolio to replace / enhance its assets. Given the budget situation, a risk based review was undertaken to ensure urgent projects, or those addressing Health & Safety matters or regulation compliance were prioritised to help contain spend. However, in addition to the continued fire safety works across our leisure centres, refurbishment works were also undertaken at Phoenix House and Exe Valley leisure centre and within parks and open spaces. A full set of condition surveys have been undertaken across the estate informing the programme of projects within 2025/26.

3.5.2.2. ICT costs

A number of ICT projects costing £57k that were initially budgeted through Capital have been charged through the Revenue budget and funded from Earmarked Reserves.

3.5.2.3. Economic Development Projects

A number of long-term projects to enhance the local economy and community has been progressed, including Cullompton Town Centre Relief Road following the long awaited successful bid for funding. This has a knock-on impact on projects such as Culm Garden Village, J28 enhancement and the Cullompton Railway Station. These have been funded through grants received, or previously received and held in Earmarked Reserves. Nearly £900k was spent through the Shared Prosperity fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund, delivering significant benefit to the locality.

There Statutory Development Plan has been reprogrammed leading to £154k costs being rolled forward into 2025/26.

3.5.2.4. Utilities

Prices continue to fall back from their peak a couple of years ago, enabling the Council to achieve a £313k underspend against its utilities budgets. The majority of this relates to electricity and is due to a combination of effective procurement through the Laser Contract and the improvements made through the decarbonisation works. In addition, the leisure service saw a reduction in water costs.

3.5.3. Income

3.5.3.1. Bereavement Services

Income is lower than forecast on internments and exclusive burials rights, as we are seeing fewer new plot purchases, and more second or third generations utilising existing family plots.

3.5.3.2. Public Health

Following the successful bid for funding to support the Cullompton Relief Road, £1m of S106 monies was received late in the financial year for Air Quality purposes.

Similarly, within Housing, £241k of additional grant income was received for homelessness prevention and rough sleeping.

Both of these have been transferred into earmarked reserves to be spent in 2025/26 (or beyond).

3.5.3.3. Waste Income

3.5.3.3.1. Bin-it 123 – increased recycling rates and Shared Savings

Following the Council's move to collecting all non-recyclable waste every three weeks, recycling rates have increased again. For 2024/25 the rate was 57.9% placing us 11th best nationally. Increased recycling leads to higher recyclate income which was £163k above budget, along with estimated shared savings to be received from Devon County of over £500k. The Shared Saving Scheme ends in 2025/26, leading to a significant reduction in income for the service. Although not directly related, this is in theory, offset by the new Extended Producer Responsibility funding if this continues past 2025/26 following the changes expected to Local Government funding.

3.5.3.3.2. Garden and Bulky Waste Income

Following increases to fees, the number of permits held firm and a small surplus was made against budget

3.5.3.4. Leisure Memberships and Income

Leisure centres continue going from strength-to-strength with membership numbers and income increasing by approximately 10%. This has helped reduce the subsidy to £564k – significantly below the £983k budget. Improvements to the pool surrounds and changing areas are expected to attract more new members.

3.5.3.5. Car Parking Income
Car Parking income was slightly below projections, particularly for Permit income from the Multi-Storey car park. However this has been offset by a reduction in Business Rates and utilities charges.

3.5.3.6. Planning and Building Control Income
Income for Planning again fell short of the budgeted targets due to the economic conditions and depressed housing development leading to fewer planning applications and build sign offs. However, this was partially offset by additional grant received from Planning Skills Delivery Fund and Biodiversity Net Gain. Consequently, Land Charges Income was also below budget.

3.5.4. Non-service Variances

3.5.4.1. HRA Recharges
Given the under spend on staffing costs across the General Fund, the HRA recharge was £100k lower than budgeted.

3.5.4.2. Capital Charges
The additional capital charges reflect the higher debt charges associated with an expanded Capital Programme and the accounting treatment for leasing vehicles as opposed to purchasing.

3.5.4.3. Interest Receivable
Interest received on treasury investments were lower (£130k) than budget mainly due to lower retained cash balances as more internal funding being required for the expanded Capital Programme. Interest rates have held higher for longer than expected, helping to mitigate this issue.

3.5.4.4. Net Movement in Reserves
The various movements in and out of Earmarked Reserves nets to a £792k contribution to reserves. This includes the additional S106 and underspend of maintenance budgets. **Appendix 3** provides full disclosure of the movements.

The following transfers to Earmarked Reserves are recommended to clear the £1,547k underspend:

- £957k into the Business Rates Smoothing Reserve (EQ659) – offering increased protection from the likely implications of the changes to the Business Rates Retention Scheme;

- £51k into the Corporate Training Reserve (EQ718) – enabling increased training opportunities for staff;
- £88k into the ICT Projects Reserves (EQ655) – facilitating further ICT investments;
- £200k into the Fleet Contract Fund (EQ756) – smoothing the implications of future vehicle leasing costs;
- £251k into the Property Maintenance Reserve (EQ837) – transferring the balance thereby enabling further investment in our property estate.

Table 2 – Summary of Key Reserves

Usable Reserves	**31/03/2024**	**In Year Movement**	**Year-End Adjustments**	**31/03/2025**
Unring-fenced Reserves	**£000's**	**£000's**	**£000's**	**£000's**
General Fund	(2,025)	0	0	(2,025)
Housing Revenue Account	(455)	0	0	(455)
Total	**(2,480)**	**0**	**0**	**(2,480)**
Earmarked Reserves# (See Appendix 3)				
General Fund	(13,466)	(792)	(1,547)	(15,806)
Housing Revenue Account	(21,330)	(724)	1,727	(20,327)
Total	**(34,796)**	**(1,516)**	**180**	**(36,132)**

In-year, a review of S106 was undertaken and based upon technical advice, £3,161k was moved from Earmarked Reserves into Creditors (held on the Balance Sheet). This reflects that some S106 have explicit conditions that must be met before the Council can recognise the funds.

The Council (in common with other public bodies) continues to face a difficult financial climate, therefore, it is prudent to retain robust balances to smooth the potential effect to the tax payer of further cuts. The level of Earmarked Reserves in this report further supports the forward planning of the organisation. This approach to financial management will help to deliver our corporate priorities during the short to medium term whilst mitigating the effect of any future cuts in Government funding as we move towards becoming a self-financing organisation.

3.5.4.5. Collection fund

Mid Devon is a Collection Authority for Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates, and as such, is required to produce a Collection Fund Account for the Mid Devon area.

The Council Tax collection rate for 2024/25 was 97.6% (97.5% in 2023/24). The strong collection rate (above that budgeted) has created a surplus of £829k, overturning the £320k deficit brought forward from 2023/24. Mid Devon's share of this surplus is £108k.

The Non-Domestic Rates collection rate was 99.8% (99.4% for 2023/24). This remarkable achievement backs up the performance achieved in 2023/24 and is likely to now place us in the top 5 authorities nationally. This demonstrates good growth in the number of businesses locally, supported by the very healthy collection rate showing our Revenues section has consistently been effective in collecting the annual charge in extremely challenging economic times.

The 2024/25 collection fund forecasts a £618k deficit, with Mid Devon's 40% share of this amounting to £368k.

The expected changes in the Business Rates scheme in 2026/27 is expected to materially alter the retained income, and further shift the risk of non-collection on Councils. Therefore, the full variance against budget is recommended to be earmarked.

3.5.4.6. <u>Grant Funding</u>

The majority of the movement in grant income is preannounced within the Local Government Funding Settlement. There were a couple of minor additional non-ringfenced grants including £20k to partially offset the additional costs incurred as a result of additional requirements placed upon the external auditor.

However, of note, the long overdue 2020/21 Covid-19 reconciliation payment (£109k), previously accrued for, was finally received. However, the further £40k due for Qtr. 1 of 2021/22 remains outstanding.

4. Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

4.1 This is a ring-fenced reserve in respect of the Council's housing landlord function. It is increased or decreased by the surplus or deficit generated on the HRA in the year. For 2024/25 the Outturn is a net deficit of £1,727k (£393k surplus in 2023/24) and Members are requested to approve a transfer from HRA Housing Maintenance Reserve to bring this to zero as required.

4.2 At Q3, a forecast under spend of £174k mainly relating to salary underspends and reduced interest payable due to continued use of internal balances rather than external debt financing, as well as less interest receivable due to resulting lower cash investments.

4.3 The main budget variances (of an exception one-off nature) during 2024/25 giving rise to the shift from the surplus forecast to the deficit position relate to:

- + £1,115k Year-end adjustment to clear capital financing balance relating to the Post Hill development. This is linked to the Cabinet decision taken in December 2023[1], with the sale of land completing in 2024/25;
- + £455k Year-end adjustment to clear sunk costs on unviable development projects from capital into revenue;
- + £234k Reduction in 2024/25 rental income arising from Social Rent formulae correction;

[1] Cabinet 121223 Post Hill.pdf

- + £137k Contribution to the Major Repairs Reserve equal to the depreciation charge for the year;
- - £203k Year-end adjustment to reduce the provision for bad debts due to decreasing arrears.

4.4 In addition to those one-off variances, the service had the following variances:

- - £636k Salary underspend resulting from vacancies and delays in recruitment, particularly within Repairs & Maintenance, but also in Tenancy Services;
- + £867k Increase in External contractors cost due to those vacancies and higher materials prices due to inflation across Voids, Responsive Repairs and Adaptations;
- + £167k additional council tax falling due on void properties;
- - £62k reduction in transport costs;
- - £100k reduction in the recharges from the General Fund due to the lower costs incurred in delivering services to the HRA; and
- - £165k increase in disabled adaptations income.

For further details, please see the HRA Outturn Summary for 2024/25, which is attached as **Appendix 2** to this report.

4.5 The above variances, excluding the one-off exceptional items, clearly reflect performance levels close to the initial agreed budget, as reported during the year.

4.6 Given the closing financial position delivered in 2024/25, it is recommended to transfer a sum of £1,727k from the ring-fenced HRA Housing Maintenance Earmarked Reserve, leaving the closing balances as shown in **Appendix 3**. This therefore leaves the HRA balance of £455k untouched as at 31 March 2025. Note, given the net deficit, the HRA balance has not been able to be replenished as yet, but will be over time.

4.7 Housing Rent Error Update

4.7.1. Following the council's self-referral due to the identified rent calculation error, we have recently received the Regulator's judgment. Although receiving the expected decision, the Regulator was positive with regard to all of the proactive steps taken since the issue was identified. During 2024/25, all of the overcharged rents have been corrected and the detailed work required to identify the precise level of tenant refunds is being progressed. At the current juncture we are still waiting for the guidance from the Department for Work & Pensions in order to finalise the position on tenant refunds that include Universal Credit. Further progress updates will be provided to the Homes PDG, Cabinet, the Regulator for Social Housing and most importantly our tenants as and when more information is available.

5. Capital Outturn

5.1 It is important to recognise the difference between a Revenue and Capital under spend; Revenue is an under spend against a cash budget, Capital is an under spend against an outline approval. Therefore this does not necessarily result in a cash balance to carry forward, instead it generally leads to a lower Capital Financing Requirement (in essence lower borrowing).

5.2 A Capital Outturn summary is attached as **Appendix 4** to this report. The 2024/25 Deliverable Capital Programme Approval was £35,805k, to be funded through a mix of unspent Capital Grants, Capital Earmarked Reserves or Prudential Borrowing.

5.3 At the year-end £23,108k has been committed / spent leaving a variance of £12,697k against the 2024/25 Deliverable Budget. Of which, £393k is an under spend, £2,782k is an over spend, and £17,068k will slip into future years. In addition, £2,500k has been spent on projects that were planned in future years and have been accelerated into 2024/25, and £518k is no longer required as the project is no longer progressing.

5.4 This can be explained by the following key variances.

£393k Under spend

- £126k HRA Decent Homes - Following additional on-site surveys, the works were not required as soon as initially anticipated freeing up the budget to be used on similar works elsewhere;
- £68k on Prior year costs transferred to revenue;
- £34k saving on the conversion costs of moving the swimming pools away from Chlorine to Salt.

£2,782k Over spend

- £386k additional spend on modifications to HRA housing stock, ranging from improving Garages, Roofing, Windows & Doors and adaptations;
- £1,066k Right-to-buy buy backs that were not know at the time of setting the budget, but have been funded through the RTB receipts;
- £317k increase demand for Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG), funded from DFG reserve;
- £438k on leasing costs (both vehicle and property) – mainly due to the expansion of the waste depot site;
- £127k additional commercial loan to Crediton GP surgery;
- £95k Fire Safety works due to the scale of work required being greater than originally forecast; and
- £95k additional costs associated with a new development (Crofts) due to the provision of additional parking.

£17,068k Slippage into future years

- £11,118k Cullompton Town Centre Relief Road (HIF project) – although the project is now well underway, the majority of costs will fall into future years;

- £3,532k various projects within the HRA housing development programme;
- £2,038k various projects planned to be completed across our property estate, in particular the latest Salix project to install heat pumps at Culm Valley and the reconfiguration of the waste depot to meet changes in Environment Agency Permit regulations;
- £360k investment in the leisure sites reception infrastructure.

5.5 The accelerated funding all relates to HRA development projects that are either ahead of schedule or have been brought forward in the overall delivery programme.

5.6 The funding no longer required relates to the sunk costs of undertaking viability studies on potential developments, which have been decided not to be progressed, and these costs have been charged to Revenue as required by accounting convention.

5.7 The expenditure has been funded by the use of £1,207k of Capital Receipts (including 1-4-1 receipts), £8,030k grant funding, £3,769k Revenue Contributions such as S106 or utilisation of reserves and £10,102k through internal borrowing. No further external borrowing has been required during the year. It should be recognised that some of this borrowing requirement is really cash flowing projects where grant funding is agreed but not yet received. Therefore, the early stages of many projects have been funded from internal balances, while the latter stages will be funded from grant.

6. Treasury Management

6.1 A review of the 2024/25 investment performance, including the details of interest payable, are included within the separate 2024/25 Treasury Outturn Report on this meeting agenda.

6.2 During the year, the Council maintained an average balance of £21.2m of internally managed funds (£22.7m in 2023/24). These internally managed funds earned interest of £1,037k (£1,191k in 2023/24) giving an average rate of return of 4.89% (5.25% in 2023/24). The comparable performance indicator is the 365 days backward looking SONIA[2] rate, which was 4.90%.

6.3 The reason for the reduction in interest receivable is due to increased internal borrowing required for the expanded capital programme, leaving less available for investment. As highlighted within para 5.7, once grant is received, the cash available should increase.

6.4 As at the 31 March 2025, the Council had short term cash investments totalling £10,500k. In addition, the Council held £5,000k invested in Churches, Charities and Local Authorities (CCLA) Property Funds earning dividends in 2024/25 of £227k or 4.54% (£234k or 4.68% in 2023/24).

[2] Sterling Overnight Index Average - SONIA interest rate benchmark | Bank of England

6.5 Interest received from Redlands Primary Care amounted to £78k in 2024/25.

6.6 As at 31 March 2025, the Council had outstanding loans of £29,398k with PWLB. £26.6m of this relates to funding the purchase of the Housing Stock in 2012 following a change in regulations for HRA's. These loan attract a weighted average interest rate of 2.91%, costing £898k in 2024/25, split £77k for the General Fund and £822k for HRA.

7. Procurement Waivers

7.1 In exceptional circumstances, there are sometimes justifiable reasons to act outside the contract procedure regulations. These include the following reasons:

I. The work, goods or materials are urgently required, and loss would be entailed by delay arising from advertising;
II. The work, goods or materials required are of such special nature that no advantage would accrue by inviting competitive tenders;
III. There is no effective competition for the goods or materials required by reason of the fixing of prices under statutory authority or that such goods or materials are patented or proprietary articles or materials;
IV. Transactions, which, because of special circumstances, may (either individually or as a class) be excepted from time to time by the Cabinet of the Council.

7.2 In such circumstances, prior written approval of the Deputy Chief Executive (S151) is required and Cabinet will be informed. Below is a list of the Procurement Waivers utilised during the final quarter of this financial year:

Table 3 – Summary of Qtr. 4 Waivers

Ref	Subject of the Waiver	Approximate Value £	Reason Code
1	Commissioning of expert witnesses to act on behalf of MDDC in relation to public inquiry.	£36k	I and II
2	Commissioning a specialist housing benefit assessor to assist with the calculation of housing benefit overpayments as part of the correction of Housing Rents.	£58k	II
3	Purchase and implementation of compliance based asset management software	£64k	II

8. Conclusion

8.1 Members are asked to note the Revenue and Capital Outturn figures for the financial year 2024/25 and agree the proposed transfers to and from Earmarked Reserves from both the General Fund and the HRA.

8.2 In addition, Members are requested to approve the ongoing projects on the 2024/25 Capital Programme be rolled forward into the 2025/26 Capital Programme.

8.3 Finally, Members are asked to note the use of Procurement Waivers as outline in Section 7.

8.4 Achieving an underspend Outturn position is a significant achievement given the economic climate and multiple years of austerity and is a credit to the financial management of the organisation.

Financial Implications
Good financial management and administration underpin the entire document. A surplus or deficit on the Revenue Budget will impact on the Council's General Fund balances. The Council's financial position is constantly reviewed to ensure its continued financial health.

Legal Implications
None.

Risk Assessment
Regular financial monitoring information mitigates the risk of over or underspends at year-end and allows the Council to direct its resources to key corporate priorities. Members will be aware that the Council continues to face a financially difficult and uncertain future. As such, the Strategic Risk Register (monitored by Audit Committee) includes a specific risk relating to this issue (CR7).

Impact on Climate Change
The General Fund, Capital Programme and the Housing Revenue Account all contain significant investment in order to work towards the Council's Carbon Reduction Pledge.

Equalities Impact Assessment
No equality issues identified for this report

Relationship to Corporate Plan
The financial resources of the Council impact directly on its ability to deliver the Corporate Plan prioritising the use of available resources carried forward into 2025/26. The Outturn Report indicates how the Council's resources have been used to support the delivery of budgetary decisions

Section 3 – Statutory Officer sign-off/mandatory checks

Statutory Officer: Andrew Jarrett
Agreed by or on behalf of the Section 151
Date: 03/06/2025

Statutory Officer: Maria De Leiburne
Agreed on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 03/06/2025

Chief Officer: Stephen Walford
Agreed by or on behalf of the Chief Executive/Corporate Director
Date: 03/06/2025

Performance and risk: Dr Stephen Carr
Agreed on behalf of the Corporate Performance & Improvement Manager
Date: 03/06/2025

Cabinet member notified: No – awaiting confirmation of new Portfolio Holder.

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Paul Deal, Head of Finance, Property and Climate Resilience
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Telephone: 01884 23(4254)

Background papers: Quarterly Monitoring reports to Cabinet
2024/25 Budget Report to Cabinet and Capital Programme