

ADUR & WORTHING
COUNCILS

Key Decision [Yes/No]
Ward(s) Affected:All

2nd Quarter Revenue Monitoring Report 2022/23

Report by the Director for Digital, Sustainability and Resources

Executive Summary

1. Purpose

1.1. This report updates the Joint Strategic Sub Committee for Worthing Borough Councils with the latest expenditure and income projections for both Adur District Council and Worthing Borough Council for the current financial year 2022/23, compared to the Revenue Budget approved by both Councils in February. Whilst the 'spend to date' will be the position as at the 30th September 2022, the forecast outturn position will reflect the latest information available to ensure an up-to-date forecast is presented.

As at quarter 2, the current outturn projection for the 2022/23 financial year for the Worthing Borough Council General Fund is a net overspend after reserve transfers of £2.017m. A breakdown is set out in section 4.4 of the report.

1.2. The following appendices have been attached to this report:

- (i) **Appendix 1** Briefing Note on Service Performance
- (ii) **Appendix 2** (a) Worthing Summary
(b) Worthing Use of Earmarked Reserves
- (iii) **Appendix 3** (a) Table of Variations over £20,000
(b) Table of movements over £50,000 between

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. The Joint Strategic Sub Committee for Worthing Borough Council is asked to note the report and projected outturn position for the Joint Committee and Worthing Borough Council against the approved revenue budgets and proposed use of reserves (Appendix 2b).

3.0 Context

3.1 The Joint Strategic Committee last considered the 5-year forecast for 2022/23 to 2026/27 on 5th July 2022.

3.2 The report outlined the financial context, and updated the outline 5 year forecast, the key budget pressures and the savings proposals for addressing the budget gap for Adur and Worthing Councils. The report built on previous strategies whose aim was to ensure that the Councils would become community funded by 2020 reliant, by then, only on income from trading and commercial activities, council tax income and business rate income.

3.3 The successful delivery of the strategy is fundamentally changing how the Councils are funded. The Councils are moving increasingly away from ever reducing government funding towards funding from the local community via Council Tax and Business Rates, and will become increasingly reliant on income from commercial activities.

4.0 Issues for consideration - Revenue 2022/2023 Forecast

4.1 As part of the 2022/23 budget the Councils committed to savings of £0.168m for Adur District Council and £1.136m for Worthing Borough Council to produce a balanced budget and to address the reduction in Government support. Services were required to carry out efficiency, procurement and base budget reviews to identify where income could be increased or expenditure reduced.

4.2 However, the financial landscape has changed due to the impact of the economic downturn, energy prices, rising inflation and interest rates visible in additional cost pressures falling on the Council over the last 7 months. Additional pressure has also been created by the national pay award which is higher than assumed and built into the 2022/23 budget.

4.3 The ongoing certainty around inflation, increased demand on services and energy resources and pricing, it is difficult to have certainty on the estimates and assumptions, the current projections indicate forecast year end overspends against budgets of £64k in Adur and £2.017m in Worthing. This includes meeting the challenges of the impact of the inflationary cost pressures, reduced levels of income together with the significant savings requirements to balance the 2022/23 budget. The main factors influencing the level of spend are discussed in detail in section 4.11 of the report.

4.4 The current year-end forecast is comprised of a number of elements as set out in the table below:

2022/23 Forecast Outturn	Worthing
	£000
Over/(under)spend in operational services – including share from Joint	3,387
Reduced borrowing requirement: A lower than forecast call on the MRP (provision to repay debt) and net interest in 2020/21, due to reprofiling of the capital programme.	(302)
Net Interest (increase)/decrease	(361)
Commercial property income shortfall and cost pressure (excluding business rates)	61
Property void allowance	(450)
Pay award - impact above budgeted allowance	606
Reduction in national insurance contribution rate	(441)
	2,500
Net over/(under) spend before funding from reserves	
Grant Funding	(111)
Transfer to/(from) reserves	(372)
	2,017
Forecast net over/(under) spend	2,017

4.5 The key factors underpinning the current financial position include:

- The financial impact of rising inflation and interest rates.
- A net underspend in the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) and interest budgets. The budgets are calculated on both the historic financing of previous years capital programmes and the impact of financing the current year's capital spend. Changes to the expected

spend, interest rate forecasts, and the associated level of borrowing have reduced the expected cost in 2022/23.

Once the above items are taken into account, the operational position is a net overspend by services of £3.387m in Worthing. This projection demonstrates the pressure on the Councils finances as a result of an increase in inflation, increased homelessness caseloads and income levels in some areas still below pre pandemic levels.

4.6 In summary the overall revenue outturn projections reported for Q2 are as follows:

Projected Outturn Summary			
	Joint	Adur	Worthing
	£000s	£000s	£000s
Current Budget 2022/23	25,790	9,742	13,785
Forecast Outturn	28,128	10,024	16,285
Projected Forecast over/ (underspend) before Government support packages or any transfer to reserves	2,338	282	2,500
Projected Forecast over/ (underspend) after transfers to reserves (before Government support and additional New Homes Bonus)		282	2,500
Reserves Funding		(209)	(372)
Grant Funding	(25)	(9)	(111)
Projected Forecast over/ (underspend) after Government funding and proposed transfer to reserves	2,338	64	2,017
Projected over/(underspend) percentage	9.07%	0.66%	14.63%

Comparison to the Q1 forecast:

	Joint	Adur	Worthing
	£000s	£000s	£000s
Forecast Over/(under)spend Q2	2,338	64	2,017
Forecast Over/(under)spend Q1	2,340	239	2,345
Change in Forecast Q1 to Q2 (improvement)/deterioration	(2)	(175)	(328)

The Adur and Worthing projected forecasts in the table above include the respective share of the estimated Joint Services overspend.

4.7 In the table below, projections have been separated between authority and by Income and Expenditure, to indicate the level of overall under/overspend of costs and the over/under achievement of income targets.

	Expenditure	Income	Net Total
Joint	£'000	£'000	£'000
Budget	31,489	(6,590)	24,899
Forecast (after transfer to reserves)	33,801	(6,564)	27,237
Projected Forecast (Under)/ Overspend	2,312	26	2,338
Forecast variance % before Government funding	7.34%	-0.39%	9.39%
Worthing	£'000	£'000	£'000
Budget	67,673	(51,494)	16,179
Forecast (after transfer to reserves)	69,397	(52,120)	17,276
Authority Projected Forecast (Under)/Overspend	1,723	(626)	1,097
Share of Joint (Under) / Overspend	1,387	16	1,403
Authority Projected Forecast (Under)/ Overspend	3,111	(610)	2,500
Forecast variance % before Government funding	4.60%	1.19%	15.45%

4.8 The Joint Strategic Committee (JSC) sub committee for Worthing Borough Council is asked to consider:-

- the current projections of variances in the Council's General Fund Revenue Budgets: and
- any amendments and virements to budgets which may require a recommendation onto Council for approval;

4.9 We adopt a more structured approach to services which have more volatile budgets or hard to predict income streams. For 2022/23, these services are:-

- Car Parking
- Crematorium
- Development Management
- Homelessness
- Commercial Waste
- Cross cutting services including maintenance and utilities

4.10 Most of these services are subject to closer monitoring because they meet one or more of the following criteria:-

- Demand led
- Income based
- Specialist
- Significant changes to the service are being made in the near future.

4.11 Headline budget variations across both the Councils' and the Joint account

4.11.1 Commentary on service areas that are forecasting significant variances from budget are presented in appendix 1 of this report, summarised highlights are provided in this section 4.11.

4.11.2 The forecast in year deficit is set out in the following table with focus on the main factors that make up the estimated outturn position:

	Joint (Memo)	Worthing
	£000	£000
Cross Cutting		
Pay Award	972	
National Insurance	(73)	
Utilities and Rates	141	368
Maintenance	18	(91)
Treasury		(663)
Services (detail in appendix 1)		
Waste	932	24
Car Parks		277
Homelessness		633
Bereavement		708
Strategic Property		(389)
Planning and Development		201
Revenues and Benefits	185	
Other	163	29
Share of Joint		1403
Total projected deficit before use of reserves		2500

Further detail on these factors is provided below.

4.11.3 Pay Award and National Insurance contributions

The national pay award has been agreed with an increase of £1,925 to each spinal column pay point, this increase is higher than the budgeted allowance creating an in year cost pressure. Offsetting this is the reduction in employer national insurance contributions following the government decision to remove the 1.25% rate increase introduced at the start of April 2022 from November.

4.11.4 Utilities and Rates

The contract for energy has now been renewed and the anticipated usage and price are expected to increase the costs to the council substantially by an average of 190% for electricity and 380% for gas over the next two years. However, this increase is lower than previously forecast due to the

introduction by the Government of the Energy Price Relief Scheme which provides support to businesses through discounted energy rates for 6 months until the end of March 2023. The cost impact in the current year is as follows:

- Joint £150,000
- Adur £158,000
- Worthing £276,000

Water and rates variances against budget make up the difference in the table at 4.11.2, further information is provided in appendix 1:

	Over/(under) spend against budget	
	Joint	Worthing
Water	£8,000	£29,000
Rates	(£17,000)	£63,000

4.11.5 Maintenance

Costs are expected to be broadly on budget within Joint Services and Adur. In Worthing it is expected there will be an underspend with demand on the service for reactive works lower than budget.

4.11.6 Treasury

The Councils has an underspend against the MRP budget of £302k due to reprofiling to 2022/23 of a proportion of the 2021/22 Capital Programme and the impact of changes to planned financing due to increased levels of capital receipts and capital grants both of which offset the need to borrow.

Increase in interest rates during the year has also led to higher investment return income:

Treasury Management (Under) / Overspends	Worthing
	£000
Minimum Revenue Provision	(302)
Interest from Investment Income	(313)
Interest payable on borrowing	(48)
Total	(663)

4.11.7 Waste

Additional costs resulting from the negotiated changes following the waste dispute earlier in the financial year and agency costs being incurred to cover vacancies, holiday and sickness. In addition there has also been a reduction in income against budget partly as a result of cancellations and refunds associated with the dispute.

4.11.8 Car Parks

Demand for parking in Worthing Borough is still below pre covid levels and income levels are underachieving against budget. This perhaps reflects a change in customer behaviour particularly the commuter group. In addition there have been some periods of closure to enable refurbishment works to be undertaken in the town centre car parks.

4.11.9 Homelessness

Costs pressures continue to be experienced with caseload numbers (individuals, couples and families presenting themselves to the council in immediate housing crisis) continuing to increase:

	Caseload Number (Worthing)
Current (October 2022)	313
Quarter1	298

The increase in the demand has led to an increase in the average nightly cost for temporary accommodation, with the need to use hotel chains. Cost pressures have been compounded further with some bed and

breakfast providers increasing their prices to meet growing inflationary costs pressures.

4.11.10 Bereavement

The deficit against budget is due to an underachievement in income, in Worthing this is associated with cremations and memorials and work is underway to address this. Further detail is set out in appendix 1.

4.11.11 Strategic Property

Projected income in Worthing from strategic property portfolios are based on the assumption that the budgeted transfer to the Property Investment Risk Reserve of £450,000 is not made for 2022/23. There is currently one vacant property within the Worthing portfolio where the council picks up associated service costs and rates charges, and one lease under a rent free period.

4.11.12 Planning and Development

As with Bereavement Services the budget shortfall is largely related to the underachievement of income. These income streams are largely demand led and can therefore fluctuate making forecasting difficult to predict. Worthing expenditure includes unbudgeted costs for the planning inspection of £85,000 which is to be funded by approved use of reserves. Based on current performance the forecast outturn position is:

	Worthing
Income	£128,000
Expenditure	£73,000
Total projected net overspend against budget	£151,000

4.11.13 Revenues and Benefits

An overspend is projected due to the extension of agency staff to the end of March 2023 to process the backlog of work as a result of the additional work undertaken by the service relating to administering covid support measures and energy rebates.

4.12 Budget variations greater than £20,000

The Council's individual Summary Projected Outturns are reported in Appendix 2a. The variations greater than £20,000, for this report, are detailed in Appendix 3a.

There are some expenditure items that are not identified until the year end that will impact on the final outturn. These items can have a positive or negative impact on the final position.

They include:-

- Movement in the estimate for doubtful debts
- A review of any amounts needed to be set aside for liabilities that are likely to occur in the future
- Changes in allocations of staff time to outside the General Fund

4.13 Future Risks

4.13.1 *Inflation*

Inflation is currently the biggest risk on Council finances with the pressure on rising costs across all budget areas, particularly in utilities, fuel, supplies, salaries and construction costs. The forecast outturn positions will be reviewed during the year and adjusted to reflect the changes in actual experience and economic forecasts.

4.13.2 *Demand for housing*

Any increase in demand on Housing services through homelessness caseloads will cause additional cost pressures on the councils finances. With demand levels in excess of the availability of cheaper supply in the form of Council owned accommodation or private leasing, the costs will escalate further as the service is forced to utilise more expensive hotels.

4.13.3 *Financial sustainability*

The level of earmarked reserves will reduce if they are required to meet the overspends currently forecast for the year.

This is a particular issue for Worthing where the level of available reserves (excluding the Business Rates Smoothing Reserve, the Tax

Guarantee Reserve and Grants and Contributions) will be reduced significantly. The predicted level of reserves undermines the Council's financial stability and potentially puts Worthing Council in an unsustainable financial position, as set out in the table below:

Worthing Borough Council Available Reserves	Balance at 1.4.22	Projected Transfer In/(Out) 2022/23	Remaining balance
	£	£	£
Capacity Issues Reserve	1,308,326	(960,826)	347,500
General Fund Working Balance	1,347,348		1,347,348
Property Investment Risk Reserve	450,000		450,000
Building Maintenance Reserve	326,259	(150,000)	176,259
Insurance Reserve	252,394	(4,550)	247,844
Museum Reserve	106,396	(20,000)	86,396
Leisure Lottery & Other	27,766		27,766
Projected overspend 2021/22		(2,017,210)	(2,017,210)
Total	3,818,489	(3,152,586)	665,903

The current commitment on all the General Fund earmarked reserves are set out in appendix 2b. As set out in the '2023/24 Budget Update' report elsewhere on this agenda the council will need to plan for protecting and rebuilding reserve levels into the future to ensure we meet the guideline minimum level.

4.14 Corrective action:

4.14.1 To mitigate the impact of the identified cost pressures, the council:

1. Is holding any emerging underspend in the current year 2022/23 to manage in-year pressures.
2. Reviewed all major projects and capital projects and put on hold unless the project has an initiative that either:
 - a. Improves our financial position; or
 - b. We are committed to delivery via a funding agreement; or

- c. We are already contractually committed to the project; or
 - d. Addresses health and safety concerns; or
 - e. The project is identified as a key priority in the new corporate strategy.
3. Vacancy control measures are in place for all posts including agency staff. This will also support the budget measures required to balance the 2023/24 budget.
 4. Seeking to implement savings needed to balance the budget in 2023/24 early to also support the budget in 2022/23.
- 4.14.2 As a result of these measures, the expected position for the General Fund is improving. Further work is ongoing with respect to the implementation of those savings approved for 2023/24 which could potentially benefit the 2022/23 position.

Engagement and Communication

- 5.1 The Corporate Leadership Team and budget managers have all collaborated in the content of this report providing explanation and narrative on the forecast variances.

Financial Implications

- 6.1 At this stage at the end of the second quarter of the revenue budgetary cycle, we continue to see the financial impact of the increase in inflation on the Councils. However we can also see the benefits of the introduction of the mitigating actions implemented and highlighted at 4.14 with an improvement in the forecast overspend since quarter 1.
- 6.2 Overall the projected outturn positions net of treasury savings, the performance in the strategic property portfolio and reserve transfers is an overspend in Worthing of £2.017m which includes the councils share of the estimated £2.338m overspend within the Joint Service.
- 6.3 The financial performance of the Councils will continue to be monitored closely against budgets and projections updated as the financial year continues.

Legal Implications

- 7.1 Section 151 of the Local Government Act, 1972 requires the Councils to make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs.

Further, Local authorities have a statutory duty under the Local Government Act 2003, to monitor their income and expenditure against their budget, and be ready to take action if overspends or shortfalls in income emerge.

- 7.2 The requirement for financial reserves is acknowledged in statute. Sections 31A, 32, and s42A and 42B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 require billing and precepting authorities in England and Wales to have regard to the level of reserves needed for meeting estimated future expenditure when calculating the budget requirement.
- 7.3 There are a range of safeguards in place that help to prevent local authorities overcommitting themselves financially. These include a duty to report on robustness of estimates and adequacy of reserves (under section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 when the authority is considering its budget requirement

Background Papers

Joint Overall Budget Estimates 2022/23

<https://democracy.adur-worthing.gov.uk/documents/g1623/Public%20reports%20pack%2008th-Feb-2022%2018.30%20Joint%20Strategic%20Committee.pdf?T=10>

Adur District Council Budget Estimates 2022/23 and Setting of the 2022/23 Council Tax

<https://democracy.adur-worthing.gov.uk/documents/g1626/Public%20reports%20pack%2024th-Feb-2022%2019.00%20Adur%20Council.pdf?T=10>

Worthing Overall Budget Estimates 2022/23 and Setting of 2022/23 Council Tax

<https://democracy.adur-worthing.gov.uk/documents/g1625/Public%20reports%20pack%2022nd-Feb-2022%2018.30%20Worthing%20Council.pdf?T=10>

Financial Performance 2021/22 - Revenue Outturn

<https://democracy.adur-worthing.gov.uk/documents/g1714/Public%20reports%20pack%2005th-Jul-2022%2018.30%20Joint%20Strategic%20Committee.pdf?T=10>

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Sustainability & Risk Assessment

- 1. Economic**
Matter considered and no issues identified

- 2. Social**
 - 2.1 Social Value**
Matter considered and no issues identified

 - 2.2 Equality Issues**
Matter considered and no issues identified

 - 2.3 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)**
Matter considered and no issues identified

 - 2.4 Human Rights Issues**
Matter considered and no issues identified

- 3. Environmental**
Matter considered and no issues identified

- 4. Governance**
Matter considered and no issues identified

Appendix 1

Quarter 2 Budget Monitoring - Commentary on Services with significant outturn forecast to budget variances

This information supplements the information in the 2nd Quarter Revenue Monitoring report providing more detail to the service forecast in areas where there are significant variances in the forecast outturn positions than budgeted. The variances are across the organisation but are mostly in the areas that are either volatile in nature or demand led which can make income streams more difficult to predict. There are also some areas where global and national economic activity are impacting causing costs pressures, such as inflation and energy supply.

1.1 Car Parking

Worthing car park income continues to be one of the main income streams that is most impacted by the pandemic's longer term effect of changing behaviour by customers. One of the main reasons for this is that previous town centre workers are choosing to work remotely some or part of the time reducing the levels of town centre worker deal income and season tickets.

Understanding that this decline was likely to continue an additional £55,000 reduction was built into the 22/23 budget following the £359,000 reduction in 21/22 that had already been built in.

Buckingham Road is currently closed for refurbishment and not expected to open until late December 2022 and there are a number of bays closed at Liverpool gardens while works are completed on the former mobility shop section. Whilst some of these drivers will be displaced to other council owned car parks (particularly High Street and Grafton) the closures will have some impact on income.

However, there were 150 12-month season tickets purchased across Worthing car parks in July and the council are working with the NHS Trust on leasing the smaller part of Lyndhurst Road car park which will assist with income. Despite these measures income is still predicted to be below the budget set by £178,000, which is £53,000 higher than the shortfall estimated in quarter 1. In addition there are unbudgeted cost pressures of £99,000 associated with transactional fees on electronic payment methods. The net shortfall £277,000 reflects 10% of the service budget in Worthing.

1.2 Homelessness

There continue to be cost pressures associated with homelessness within both Adur and Worthing, current forecast outturn overspend positions have increased from those predicted in quarter 1.

Worthing is seeing an increase in demand, the average caseload for quarter 2 was 297 increasing to 313 by the end of October. The outturn forecast includes an assumed increase in caseload of 3 cases per month for the remainder of the year.

The increase in the demand has led to an increase in the average nightly cost for temporary accommodation, with the need to use hotel chains. Cost pressures have been compounded further with some bed and breakfast providers increasing their prices to meet growing inflationary costs pressures.

The current forecast compared to Quarter 1 is shown below:

	Worthing	
	Q2	Q1
	£000	£000
Homelessness - Emergency and temporary accommodation costs - budget pressure/(underspend)	1,563	1,460
Local Housing Allowance Income - budget shortfall/(excess)	(897)	(863)
Additional MHCLG Domestic Abuse Accommodation Grant	(33)	(33)
Net over/(under)spend forecast against budget	<u>633</u>	<u>564</u>
<i>Variance as a percentage of Housing Needs Budget</i>	<i>58.0%</i>	<i>51.7%</i>

1.3 Waste

The Waste and Cleansing services have significant cost pressures largely following the recent pay dispute by its employees. The agreed pay deal and subsequent knock on impact to the service whilst the dispute continued during April, has contributed towards an estimated overspend in the joint service of £932,000. This will impact on Adur and Worthing by £373,000 and £559,000 respectively, however the use of £581k of reserves has been approved by members to fund some of this cost (£209k Adur and £372k Worthing).

The dispute has also meant that as well as pay increases, income is lower than expected due to refunds being issued as a result of missed collections during the period along with other cost pressures that the service has had to meet including payments to waste contractors to meet our statutory obligation regarding environmental health safety plus the cost of extended opening of the West Sussex County Council refuse and recycling sites.

In addition to the impact of the pay dispute, there are inflationary pressures in fuel costs and on the maintenance budgets as the fleet gets older.

Food waste customer accounts continue to increase, despite a difficult trading year so far. Industrial action meant that no active promotional work took place as resources were re-prioritised. The focus is now on gaining food waste customers in Adur to get our total account base to 65. An account base of 65 will save the Councils around £15k per year as food waste is diverted from general waste to the service.

Overall the net outturn forecast for Waste Services are overspends are:

	Joint (memo)	Adur	Worthing
Net forecast overspend	£932,000	£76,000	£24,000
Share of Joint		£373,000	£559,000
Total cost pressure		£449,000	£583,000
Approved use of reserves		(£209,000)	(£372,000)

1.4 Bereavement Services

Worthing cemetery income is expected to exceed the income budget by £87,000 (32% overachievement). There have been 135 burials up to the end of October 2022 compared to 122 over the same period in the previous year. Offsetting this are some expected overspends against expenditure budgets of £42,000 associated with security costs and the installation of the mausoleum.

The crematorium is forecasting an overall 23% shortfall against the service income budgets of £768,000 as set out in the table below;

Cremations	£718,000	Average number of cremations per month 240 in 22/23 compared to an average of 300 in the previous 2 years. In addition the fees were not increased for 2022.
Memorial Garden	£95,000	Capacity has been reached at the garden and additional income would need to be generated from the proposed extension to be considered by members.
Memorials	£20,000	
Cameo Reimbursement	£3,000	
Donations	(£13,000)	
Tribute Income	(£55,000)	
Total	<u>£768,000</u>	

There is no available space in the memorial garden. Additional income is dependent on delivering the new garden, a report has been written for this to be considered by members.

There are some small offsetting savings to offset this within expenditure budgets. Overall the Bereavement Services budget in Worthing is predicting a net deficit against the budget of £708,000, which reflects 22% of the £3.265m service budget.

1.5 Strategic and Commercial Property

Within Worthing investment property and core estate portfolio the forecast is a net income surplus of £389,000 assuming that the transfer of the void allowance of £450,000 to the Property Investment Risk Reserve is not made in 2022/23. This is due to a combination of void periods and the re-letting of some properties with agreed rent free periods. Rent free periods are normal commercial practice and allow us to capture a greater rent in the future whilst the occupier pays business rates and all other outgoings during that period.

Included within the budget is the assumption that there will be some modest growth in the commercial property income for 2022/23 of £186.5k, £166k of

this target has been achieved through the purchase of Southern House in Durrington. Any shortfall in the budget is offset by the in year property void allowance. Across both Strategic Property Investment Funds, the occupancy level is at 97.5% which is extremely healthy.

1.6 Planning and Development

In Worthing the projected outturn is an overall net overspend of £201,000 within Planning and Development. There is £5,000 in grants and £85,000 in reserves to help fund some of the costs within this forecast. A breakdown of the variation in the service budget is provided below:

	Expenditure	Income	Grant & Reserve Funding
Building Control	(£11,000)	£35,000	
Development Control	£6,000	£60,000	(£5,000)
Planning Policy	£85,000		(£85,000)
Land Charges	(£7,000)	£33,000	
Total	£73,000	£128,000	(£90,000)

Within Development Control the costs include those associated with the Goring Gap appeal with the reimbursement built into the income figure. The expenditure within Planning Policy relates to unbudgeted inspectorate costs which are to be met from reserves. Income shortfall predictions have increased from that estimated at quarter 1 by £134,000, the largest variation in development control.

1.7 Revenues and Benefits

There has been significant additional work for the service over the last 2 years as a result of the government measures to support businesses and individuals during the pandemic through additional business rate reliefs and business grant and self isolation grants. In the current financial year the increase in workload continued with the introduction by the government of the energy rebate to householders, with the administration of the payments delegated to local government level. As a result additional temporary staff have been required and it is anticipated this will need to continue for the remainder of 2022/23, some of the associated cost is funded from grant but there is forecast to be a cost pressure of £185,000 that will need to be met by the councils.

1.8 Place and Economy

Worthing is forecasting a small shortfall of £39,000 against budget with savings in expenditure budgets offsetting the shortfall in concession income. The budget included income expected from the Worthing Observation Wheel which did not return to the seafront for the summer of 2022. The net shortfall will be partly met from Place reserve funding. This is on par with the quarter 1 forecast.

1.9 Parks

There are staff cost pressures associated with the job evaluation process that has been undertaken for roles within the Parks service. In Joint this is estimated to be £56,000, which is a movement of £95,000 from quarter1 when an underspend of £39,000 was projected. There has also been a shift from quarter to quarter 2 in the supplies and services budgets with underspends previously being forecast that are now expected to be overspends, particularly in Joint and Worthing:

	Joint		Worthing	
	Q1	Q2	Q1	Q2
Pay	(£39,000)	£56,000	£0	£0
Non Pay Costs	(£6,000)	£25,000	(£71,000)	£10,000
Income	£17,000	£28,000	(£20,000)	(£55,000)
Net overspend/(underspend)	(£28,000)	£109,000	(£91,000)	(£45,000)
Movement in Forecast	£137,000		£46,000	

2.0 Treasury- External Borrowing Costs, Investments and Minimum Revenue Provision

The Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) is a statutory charge to the revenue budget to provide for the repayment of debt. The calculation is based on the level of historic capital spend that has been financed from borrowing. Consequently, once the accounts have been closed and the calculation has been updated for the capital spend in 2021/22, there is certainty about the charge for the forthcoming year.

Worthing Borough Council has underspend in the MRP budget of £302k due to reprofiling to 2022/23 of a proportion of the 2021/22 Capital Programme and the impact of changes to planned financing due to increased levels of capital receipts and capital grants both of which offset the need to borrow. The reduced need to borrow also translates into a saving on interest payable of £48,000 in Worthing.

Interest receivable from treasury investments is forecast to be above budget due to the higher than forecast base rates available in the market.

Overall the outturn forecast is a net underspend of £663,000 for Worthing:

Treasury Management (Under) / Overspends	Worthing
	£000
Minimum Revenue Provision	(302)
Interest from Investment Income	(313)
Interest payable on borrowing	(48)
Total	(663)

The change in interest rates has led to an overall increase in the net interest receivable with a favourable movement from quarter 1 of £361,000 in Worthing.

3.0 Cross Cutting

3.1 Energy:

The contract for energy has now been renewed and the anticipated usage and price are expected to increase the costs to the council substantially by an average of 190% for electricity and 380% for gas over the next two years, albeit an improvement on the growth assumed at quarter 1. The outturn projection has seen a positive impact from the Government support on energy prices through the Energy Price Relief Scheme.

The forecast cost pressure for the current year compared to quarter 1:

	Q1 Forecast	Q2 Forecast
Joint	£215,000	£150,000
Adur	£238,000	£158,000
Worthing	£670,000	£276,000

In Joint the overspends are, based on current consumption, largely associated with the Town Hall. Adur costs span across services and in Worthing significant overspends are anticipated to be associated with car parks, public lighting and the crematorium.

Water:

Overspends in both councils are across a number of services which include public conveniences, parks and offices. The predicted cost pressure has increased since quarter 1;

	Q1 Forecast	Q2 Forecast
Joint	£0	£8,000
Adur	£3,000	£22,000
Worthing	(£7,000)	£29,000

Maintenance:


Costs are expected to be broadly on budget within Joint Services and Adur. In Worthing it is expected there will be an underspend with demand on the service for reactive works lower than budget. Planned maintenance has been reviewed and reprogrammed where possible to manage the increasing inflationary cost pressures.

SUMMARY - 2ND QUARTER PROJECTED OUTTURN 2022/23

APPENDIX 2a

Actual	WORTHING CABINET MEMBER	Original	Current	Projected	Forecast
4,084,007	CM for Environment	3,253,680	3,253,680	4,589,880	1,336,200
2,004,253	CM for Community Wellbeing	1,080,300	1,080,300	1,201,740	121,440
6,519,553	CM for Citizen Services	3,211,100	3,211,100	3,828,560	617,460
	CM for Climate Emergency	124,450	124,450	457,450	333,000
	CM for Culture & Leisure	4,371,610	4,371,610	4,455,610	84,000
1,034,267	Leader	793,830	793,830	857,230	63,400
4,029,622	CM for Regeneration	2,200,240	2,200,240	2,461,640	261,400
369,594	CM for Resources	95,650	95,650	80,960	(14,690)
	Holding Accounts	732,220	732,220	732,220	0
18,041,296	Total Cabinet Member	15,863,080	15,863,080	18,665,290	2,802,210
(3,981,831)	Credit Back Depreciation	(4,160,610)	(4,160,610)	(4,160,610)	0
1,535,975	Minimum Revenue Provision	1,995,930	1,995,930	1,693,930	(302,000)
3,331,839	Non ring fenced grants	0	0	0	0
18,927,279		13,698,400	13,698,400	16,198,610	2,500,210
0	Government Grant funding	0	0	0	0
	Transfer to/from reserves				
0	Contribution to/(from reserves)	86,250	86,250	86,250	0
	Grant Funded	-	-	(111,000)	(111,000)
(4,283,473)	Transfer from reserves to fund specific	0	0	(372,000)	(372,000)
	General Fund Working balance	0	0	0	0
(196,026)	Net Underspend/(Overspend)	0	0	(2,017,210)	(2,017,210)
14,447,780	Total Budget requirement before	13,784,650	13,784,650	13,784,650	-


Movements in Earmarked Reserve Accounts
**WORTHING BOROUGH
COUNCIL**

 WORTHING BOROUGH COUNCIL EARMARKED REVENUE RESERVE ACCOUNTS	Opening Balance 2022/23	Estimated Transfers Out 2022/23	Estimated Transfers In 2022/23	Projected Balance 2022/23
	£	£	£	£
Capacity Issues Reserve including approved Carry Forward budgets	1,308,326			
Development of Natural Burial Area (5 March 2019 JSC/105/18-19)		(100,000)		
Teville Gate housing initial project costs (03/11/2020 JSC/71/20-21)		(38,375)		
Hardship Fund contribution (11/01/2022 JSC/77/21-22)		(100,000)		
Platinum Jubilee (08/02/2022 JSC/87/21-22)		(14,361)		
Funding of cost pressures on the Waste service (07/06/2022 JSC)		(371,590)		
Resourcing of community engagement, inclusion and participation activities (JSS-C(W)/4/22-23 5 July 2022)		(76,500)		
Business Development Fund		(175,000)		
Local Plan examination costs		(85,000)		
Worthing carry forwards from 2021/22 underspends		-		
Budgeted contribution (to)/from revenue			-	
Balance				347,500
Insurance Reserve	252,394	(35,250)	30,700	247,844
Leisure Lottery & Other Partnerships - 01/02/18 JSC/092/17-18 for Museum Costume Research Centre	27,766	0		27,766
Museum reserve	106,396	(20,000)		86,396
Business Rates Smoothing Reserve	3,307,389	(3,152,964)		154,425
Local Tax Income Guarantee	301,949	(37,000)		264,949
Property Investment Risk Reserve	450,000	TBC		450,000
Building Maintenance Reserve - Exec Member for Resources 18/11/2021 Town Centre Improvements	326,259	(150,000)		176,259
Grants & Contributions	1,066,798	TBC	TBC	1,066,798
Projected Underspend/ (Overspend) (Reserve to be identified at outturn).		(2,017,210)		(2,017,210)
General Fund Working Balance	1,347,348			1,347,348
TOTAL	8,494,625	(6,373,250)	30,700	2,152,075

Service Area	Joint £000s (under)/ over spend	Adur £000s (under)/ over spend	Worthing £000s (under)/ over spend	Description of Significant Variations
Chief Executive				
Leader	38	(140)	-	ADUR; Contingency underspend of £120k, used to offset cost pressures elsewhere plus a current projected underspend in leaders budget.
	38	(140)	-	
Director of Communities				
Director of Communities	285	-	-	Vacancy Provision underachievement
Wellbeing	(85)	1	(6)	Vacant post used to fund interim restructure costs shown within other areas
Licensing	1	21	7	ADC & WBC: Underachievement of income - reduction in number of taxi and gambling licences issued.
Env Health - Housing	(18)	(27)	(56)	ADC & WBC: HIA income forecast to exceed budget
Housing Needs	(64)	258	666	ADC: Current number of households supported in temporary accommodation increased to 92 from average 79 at end Q1. Caseload estimated to increase by +1/mth except +2/mth for Dec and Jan. Average nightly rate for TA risen from £40/night in Q1 to £42/night in Q2. Shortages in affordable properties within the private sector creating difficulties with move-on from TA including landlords entering our Opening Doors Scheme. Increased use of budget hotel chains and price increase in one of our largest B&B providers WBC: Current number of households supported in temporary accommodation increased to 313 from average 298 at end Q1, estimated +3/mth increase for remainder 22/23. Average nightly rate for TA risen from £39/night in Q1 to £41/night in Q2. Shortages in affordable properties within the private sector creating difficulties with move-on from TA including landlords entering our Opening Doors Scheme. Increased use of budget hotel chains and price increase in one of our largest B&B providers
Housing Needs Grant	-	(33)	(33)	ADC & WBC: DLUHC Domestic Abuse - Safe Accommodation grant 2022-23
Head of Environment	(114)	-	-	Post saving used to contribute towards the interim staff structure costs elsewhere
Parks & Foreshore	109	(43)	(45)	JOINT: Mainly due to increased costs following post regradings ADUR: Additional income from Allotments & Parks WORTHING: Relates to additional income from Beach Huts & Chalets and underspends in supplies & services
Environmental Services (Waste)	932	76	24	The overspend for the Waste service relates to increased pay costs following the recent pay dispute settlement plus consequential catch up costs including income refunds for commercial waste & garden waste missed collections, along with increased vehicle costs for fuel & maintenance
Bereavement Services (Cemeteries & Crematorium)	22	30	708	ADC Burial income shortfall WBC: £87k Additional burial income offset by £794k net crematorium underachievement, which includes a shortfall in memorial garden income due to lack of capacity £95k.
	1,068	283	1,265	
Director of Digital and Resources				
Elections	(9)	33	46	ADUR & WORTHING overspends in relation to extra requirements for putting on elections
Director For Digital, Sustainability & Resources	104	-	-	Vacancy Provision underachievement
Customer Services	(33)	-	-	Projected underspend in staff costs

Service Area	Joint £000s (under)/ over spend	Adur £000s (under)/ over spend	Worthing £000s (under)/ over spend	Description of Significant Variations
Parking Services	1	(35)	277	Adur: Adur continues to perform well and is expected to be on budget. Worthing: Income still has not improved to pre covid levels and is not expected to do so in 2022/23. Buckingham Road is still closed and is estimated to open in December and there are many bays closed at Liverpool gardens with the temporary move of the Central clinic There are still a number of businesses where staff are working from home and not returned to the office which has had an impact on the income the council would normally have received through the town centre workers income. There were 150 season tickets purchased across MSCP's in July. The council are working with the NHS Trust on leasing out the smaller part of Lyndhurst Road car park which will assist with income. In addition the cost of card services have increased with the move away from cash.
Digital & ICT	19	-	-	Overspends projected due to Google training, Xpress hosting and an increase in google licences. In addition there are telephony pressures associated with lines and supplier costs.
Revenues	9	34	13	ADUR & WORTHING; Under achievement of Court Cost income offset by savings in postage and other costs
Benefits	176	36	(34)	JOINT - Increased cost of recruiting temporary staff to deal with the backlog following increased work from Energy rebates and other Covid relate work. ADUR - underachievement of overpayment income WORTHING Favourable subsidy position compared to budget.
Legal Services	(2)	22	26	Underachievement of income
Finance	(287)	(14)	(128)	Joint includes £250k contingency saving offsetting the cost pressures elsewhere. ALL: Saving on inflation set aside which will be offset by overspends elsewhere.
HR & OD	1	-	-	
Sustainability	(55)	-	-	Underspend in Salaries due to vacant posts.
Finance: Treasury Interest		(312)	(361)	Increase in investment income due to increased rates in the market following rise in Base Rate, C-19 grant balance not yet returned
Finance: Treasury MRP	-	(469)	(302)	Reduced MRP due to re-profiling of capital budgets from 2021/22 and MRP review by external consultants
	(75)	(705)	(463)	
Director of the Economy				
Director of the Economy	99	-	6	Vacancy Provision underachievement
Leisure	-	14	84	ADUR overspend on Equipment leases. WORTHING Additional support to SDL (still to be agreed with members).
Major Projects and Investment	40	(362)	(345)	ADUR: Void allowance budget offsetting the income shortfall from initial 6 month free rent period during negotiations of one of our Investment Properties plus loss of income from the One York Way, Uxbridge site which is vacant. WORTHING: Void Allowance Budget to offset net income shortfall mainly from Montague Street properties & Cannon House rent free period.
Place and Economy (Economic Development)	52	(12)	39	JOINT - Includes cost of putting together Leveling Up bids for each Authority ADUR Saving in advertising & service budget offset by reduced market income WORTHING: Overspend relates to reduction in Income from the Observation Wheel.
Planning and Development (Building Control)	(7)	37	24	Fee income is projected to not meet the budget.
Planning and Development (Development Control)	81	16	66	JOINT: Increased cost of using Agency staff to cover vacancies. WORTHING: Cost of Inspectorate re Goring Gap development challenge funded from Reserves.

Service Area	Joint £000s (under)/ over spend	Adur £000s (under)/ over spend	Worthing £000s (under)/ over spend	Description of Significant Variations
Planning and Development (Planning Policy)	(15)	-	85	WORTHING: Additional Local Plan costs for planning inspector offset by contribution from the Capacity Issues reserve.
Planning and Development (Land Charges)	(3)	52	26	Income not expected to meet the budget.
Business & Facilities	28	7	12	Income for Portland House partial let has been delayed and the income will not meet the full year anticipated budget.
	275	(248)	(3)	
Cross Cutting services				
Maintenance	18	(20)	(91)	Maintenance projected to underspend.
Pay Award - Latest offer	972	3	23	The pay award offer has been agreed and increasing each spinal column point by £1,925, higher than built into the 21/22 budget.
Corporate Budgets	(73)	(1)	(1)	Decrease in national insurance contribution percentage by 1.25% from November
Water	8	22	29	As per our other utility costs there are increased costs.
Energy Costs	150	158	276	Our current fixed deal for our energy supplies run out in October and this increased substantially but is partially offset by the Government support through the Energy Price Relief Scheme.
Rates	(17)	(5)	63	WORTHING: This overspend relates to the business rates for vacant investment properties.
Grants received in advance utilised in year	(25)			
	1,033	157	299	
Allocation of Joint Variance		935	1,403	Share of joint services allocated 40:60 to Councils
Total Variance	2,338	282	2,500	

Service Area	Joint £000s (under)/ over spend	Adur £000s (under)/ over spend	Worthing £000s (under)/ over spend	Description of Significant Variations
Chief Executive				
Director of Communities				
Housing Needs	(24)	79	69	Number of cases presenting themselves as homeless and requiring temporary/emergency accommodation continues to increase in both Adur and Worthing
Parks & Foreshore	137	-	46	Increased cost of Job evaluation regradings of the parks staff as part of the Council commitment to fairer pay
Commercial Waste	-	72	34	Increase in waste disposal costs due to having to revert to WSCC to dispose of the waste following the end of the current contract
Bereavement Services (Cemeteries)	17	(30)	(139)	Burial income has increased higher than previous predicted
Bereavement Services (Crematorium)	7	-	447	The cremation income has continued to deteriorate further due to the loss of a high amount of direct cremations
Director of Digital and Resources				
Parking Services	1	(16)	53	The income in Worthing's car parks have continued to fall short of the budget
Benefits	177	180	13	Use of temporary staff has been extended to deal with the backlog of work created by the Pandemic and subsequent post pandemic support schemes. In Adur the Overpayment income is no longer predicted to meet the budget
Sustainability	(55)	-	-	Vacancy savings, including head of service
Finance:Treasury Interest	-	(197)	(361)	Increases in investment income due to increased rates in the market following rise in Base Rate in recent months

Service Area	Joint £000s (under)/ over spend	Adur £000s (under)/ over spend	Worthing £000s (under)/ over spend	Description of Significant Variations
Director of the Economy				
Major Projects and Investments (Strategic Properties)	-	(193)	(314)	It is anticipated the we will not require as much of the budgeted property void allowance as previously projected to cover vacant properties
Cross Cutting services				
Maintenance	(24)	59	24	Reduction in forecast underspend due to rising costs from suppliers and maintenance providers
Corporate Budgets	(73)	(1)	(1)	Decrease in the National Insurance rate from 15.05 to 13.8 announced since Q1 - to take effect from November 22
Energy Costs	(88)	(57)	(394)	Projections on the increases in energy costs have been reduced since the Governments announcement to support businesses through through the Energy Price Relief Scheme
Rates	(24)	(112)	7	Some previously vacant properties have now been occupied reducing the Council liability for business rates