

**SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENTS FOR
CABINET
Thursday, 21 March 2024 at 7.30 pm
Council Chamber, Civic Centre**

The attached documents are due to be considered at the meeting listed above and were unavailable for circulation when the agenda for the meeting was published. The agenda items to which the documents relate is noted below.

AGENDA

11. Financial Performance Report, Quarter 3 2023/24 (Pages 2 - 27)

Financial Performance Report, Quarter 3 2023/24



Report to:	Cabinet
Date:	21 March 2024
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor James Leppard, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Governance
Lead Officer:	Simon Freeman, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance (01279) 446228
Contributing Officers:	Corporate Leadership Team (01279) 446004 Jacqueline Van Mellaerts, Assistant Director – Finance (01279) 44651
Key Decision:	No
Forward Plan:	Forward Plan Number I015988
Call In:	This item is not subject to call in procedures because the recommendations are within the scope of Corporate Strategy and the original budget approved by Full Council in February 2023
Corporate Priorities:	All priorities
Wards Affected:	None Specifically

Recommended that the Cabinet:

A Notes:

- i) The forecast outturn position set out within the report in respect of the General Fund as at the end of quarter 3 (April – December) of 2023/24 is an adverse variance of £371,000.
- ii) The update contained within the report that this has changed to a forecast favourable variance at the end of Period 10 (January 2024) of £26,000.

B Notes:

- i) The forecast outturn position set out within the report in respect of the Housing Revenue Account as at the end of quarter 3 (April – December) of 2023/24 is an adverse variance of £778,000.
 - ii) The update contained within the report that this has increased to a forecast adverse variance at the end of Period 10 (January 2024) of £822,000.
- C** Notes the forecast outturn position set out within the report in respect of the Non-Housing Capital Programme as at the end of quarter 3 (April – December) of 2023/24 with a projected favourable variance of £2.946 million.
- D** Notes the forecast outturn position set out within the report in respect of the Housing Capital Programme as at the end of quarter 3 (April – December) of 2023/24 with a projected favourable variance of £3.358 million.
- E** Approves the Period 9 reprofiling into 2024/25 within the Housing and Non-Housing Capital Programmes included within Appendices C and D.
- F** Recommends to Full Council the approval of the Budget allocations identified for 2023/24 within the Housing and Non-Housing Capital Programmes included within Appendices C and D to the report.
- G** Notes the council's Oflog metric data at Quarter 3.

Reason for decision

- A** To ensure Cabinet reviews financial performance against the approved 2023/24 budgets for General Fund, Housing Revenue Account and Capital Programmes and to ensure corporate priorities are fully funded to enable a timely delivery. Given movements that have been identified in the forecasts for both General Fund and HRA, updates have been included to reflect the current best forecasts as at January 2024 to ensure the most up to date information available is presented for consideration.

Other Options

- A** This report notes the current financial position of Quarter 3 (April – December). It also asks to approve the current Capital Programme position, which includes a number of reprofiled schemes into 2024/25.
- B** Cabinet could consider not to approve the recommendations E & F set out above. The current budget of the Housing and Non-Housing Capital Programmes would not be updated to reflect the latest known position and would also mean priorities are not fully funded.

Background

1. On 23 February 2023, Full Council set a Medium-Term Financial Strategy, (MTFS) which reported the General Fund Budget, Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Capital Programmes for Housing and Non-Housing for 2023/24.
2. On 13 July 2023, Cabinet noted the 2022/23 financial outturn, and approved carry forwards of £190,000 for General Fund, £241,000 for HRA, £9.971 million for Non Housing Capital programme (NHCP) and £4.001m for Housing Capital programme (HCP). As well as the movement on 2022/23 Earmarked Reserves.
3. In the previous financial year, Financial Performance information was combined with the council's Key Performance Indicators and Complaints data. Monthly finance reports are now taken to joint Cabinet/SMB meetings for regular monitoring as well as monthly performance reports. The performance data is now reported separately on the Council's website monthly: <https://www.harlow.gov.uk/your-council/spending-and-performance/performance>.
4. This report provides a financial update for 2023/24, based on operational and financial impacts for the period April to December 2023 (Quarter 3).

Issues/Proposals

5. The General Fund, Housing Revenue Account and Capital programmes summaries are included within this report. and individual breakdown of variances from each fund is included within the additional appendices.

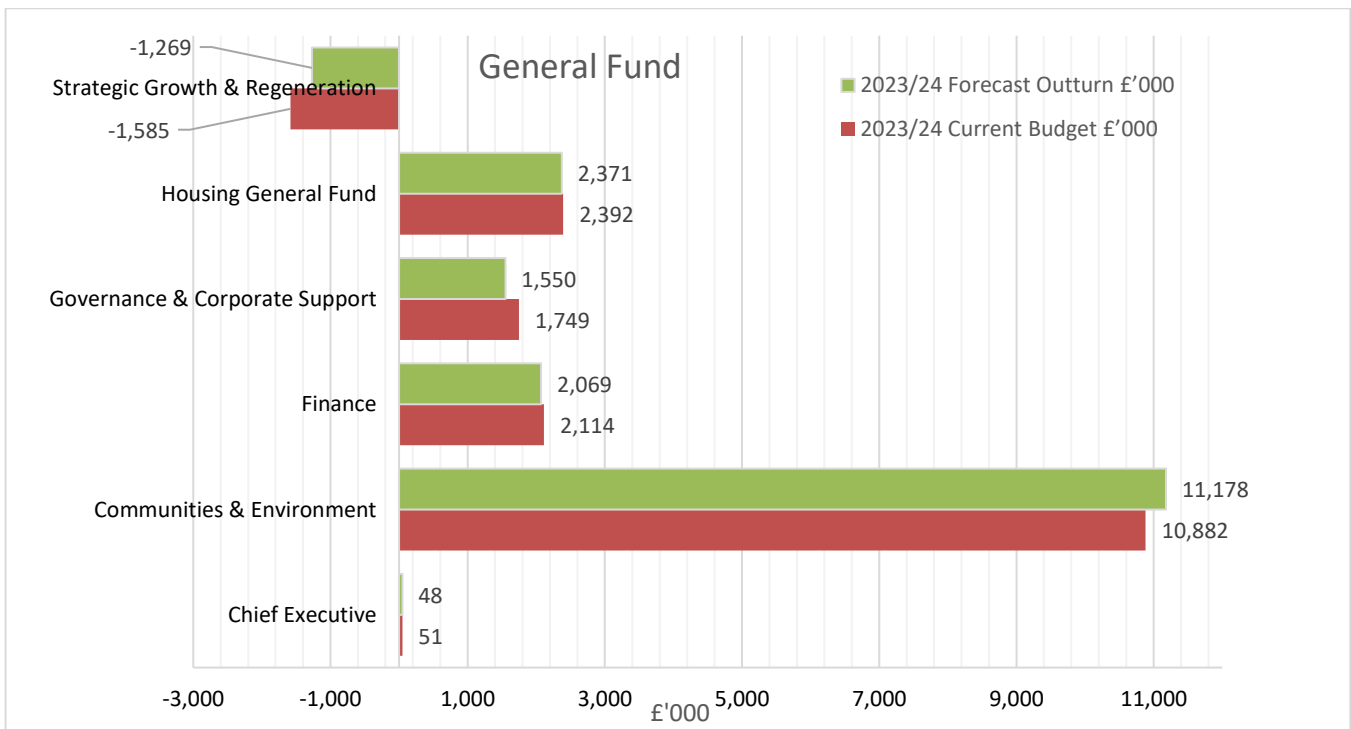
General Fund

6. Based on the activity to the end of December 2023, the General Fund revenue forecast is in an adverse position of £371,000 which is a decrease compared with quarter 2, which was a forecasted favourable variance of £145,000. Appendix A provides a breakdown of major key variances and explanation of the position set out in the table below.

	2023/24 Current Budget £'000	2023/24 Forecast Outturn £'000	2023/24 Variance £'000
Chief Executive	51	48	(3)
Communities & Environment	10,882	11,178	296
Finance	2,114	2,069	(44)
Governance & Corporate Support	1,749	1,550	(199)

Housing General Fund	2,392	2,371	(21)
Strategic Growth & Regeneration	(1,585)	(1,269)	316
Total Service Specific Expenditure	15,603	15,947	345
Non Service Specific & Funding	(15,603)	(15,576)	26
General Fund (Surplus)/Deficit	0	371	371
Working Balance as at March 2023			
Working Balance as at March 2023	3,233	3,233	0
Surplus/(Deficit) in Year	0	(371)	(371)
Working Balance C/fwd	3,233	2,862	(371)

7. The data is also displayed in a bar chart below, showing the current budget (Red) compared to forecast outturn (Green) by departmental service plan.



Period 10 monitoring (April to January)

8. Although this report considers the Quarter 3 monitoring position, officers have also reviewed the period 10 position (April to January). The period 10 position has improved

significantly and is reported to be a favourable variance of £26,000, resulting in the revised forecast of working balances.

	2023/24 Current Budget £'000	2023/24 Forecast Outturn £'000	2023/24 Variance £'000
Working Balance as at March 2023	3,233	3,233	0
Surplus/(Deficit) in Year	0	26	26
Working Balance C/fwd	3,233	3,259	26

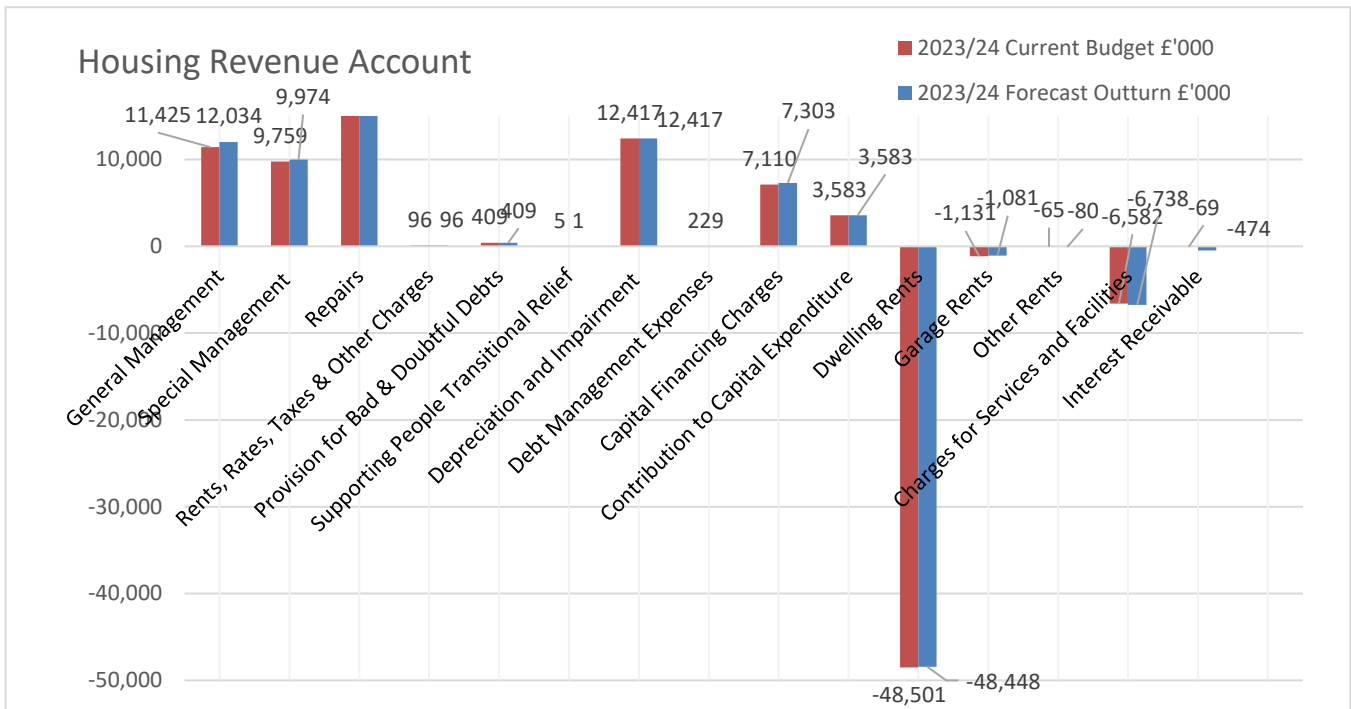
9. This is largely due to capital financing budgets lines being reviewed and aligned to the capital programme requirements. A consequence of this has been an improvement in the forecast of interest receivable/payable favourable variance (£1,075,000) and forecast minimum revenue provision adverse variance (£796,000) which creates a net movement of £279,000 favourable variance.
10. In period 10, Commercial property rent Income reports an improved forecast, resulting in an adverse variance of £80,000. (Quarter 3 reported an adverse variance of £154,000) resulting in a net movement of £74,000 from period 9 (quarter 3) to period 10.
11. Budget monitoring continues to take place and the final outturn will be reported in June, following year end processes throughout April and May.
12. On going discussions are being held with HTS relating to the release of their accrued working capital back to the shareholder and it's anticipated that this will be resolved by the time their financial year reporting takes place.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

13. The council approved a HRA budget and net deficit of £5.17 million for 2023/24, including the approved carry forwards in July 2023, thus reducing the forecasted working balance as at 31 March 2024 to £9.656 million.
14. The HRA summary position for Quarter 3 of 2023/24 are summarised in the table below and explanation of the variances within Appendix B. The forecast outturn is expected to increase to £5.17 million, reporting an adverse variance of £778,000 with a revised working balance of £9.656 million.

Housing Revenue Account	2023/24 Current Budget £'000	2023/24 Forecast Outturn £'000	2023/24 Variance £'000
<u>Expenditure</u>			
General Management	11,425	12,034	609
Special Management	9,759	9,974	215
Repairs	15,915	16,164	250
Rents, Rates, Taxes & Other Charges	96	96	0
Provision for Bad & Doubtful Debts	409	409	0
Supporting People Transitional Relief	5	1	(4)
Depreciation and Impairment	12,417	12,417	0
Debt Management Expenses	22	9	(13)
Capital Financing Charges	7,110	7,303	193
Contribution to Capital Expenditure	3,583	3,583	0
Total Expenditure	60,740	61,990	1,251
<u>Income</u>			
Dwelling Rents	(48,501)	(48,448)	54
Garage Rents	(1,131)	(1,081)	50
Other Rents	(65)	(80)	(15)
Charges for Services and Facilities	(6,582)	(6,738)	(156)
Interest Receivable	(69)	(474)	(405)
Total Income	(56,348)	(56,821)	(472)
Balance at 1 April (pre-Audit)	14,826	14,826	0
Surplus / (Deficit) for year	(4,391)	(5,170)	(778)
Balance as at 31 March	10,435	9,656	(778)

15. The data is also displayed in a bar chart below, showing the current budget (Red) compared to forecast outturn (Blue) by HRA Expenditure and Income lines.



Period 10 monitoring (April to January)

16. Since Quarter 3 monitoring has been undertaken, officers have also reviewed the period 10 position (April to January). The period 10 position has declined further and is reported to be an adverse variance of £822,000, resulting in the revised working balances.

Housing Revenue Account	2023/24 Current Budget	2023/24 Forecast Outturn	2023/24 Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Balance at 1 April (pre-Audit)	14,826	14,826	0
Surplus / (Deficit) for year	(4,391)	(5,213)	(822)
Balance as at 31 March	10,435	9,613	(822)

17. This is mainly due to an increase in write offs of invoices that have been recharged to tenants with a revised reporting variance of £150,000 in period 10. (Q3 reported £103,000)

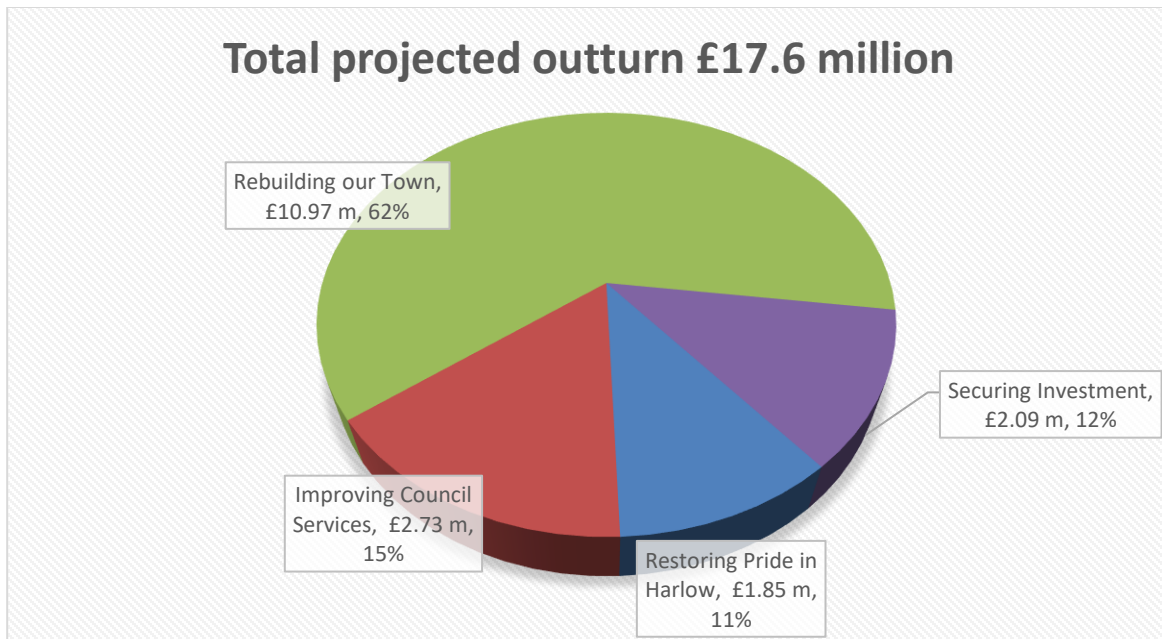
Capital Programme – Non-Housing

18. A summary of the Non-Housing Capital Programme (NHCP) is shown in the table below. The Council approved a budget of £13.471 million in Feb 2023, and subsequently £9.971

million of carryovers in July 2023. The total NHCP Programme for 2023/24 is £20.576 million, following quarter 1 and quarter 2 Re-profiling and Budget allocations that were approved at Cabinet on 7 September 2023 and 30 November 2023.

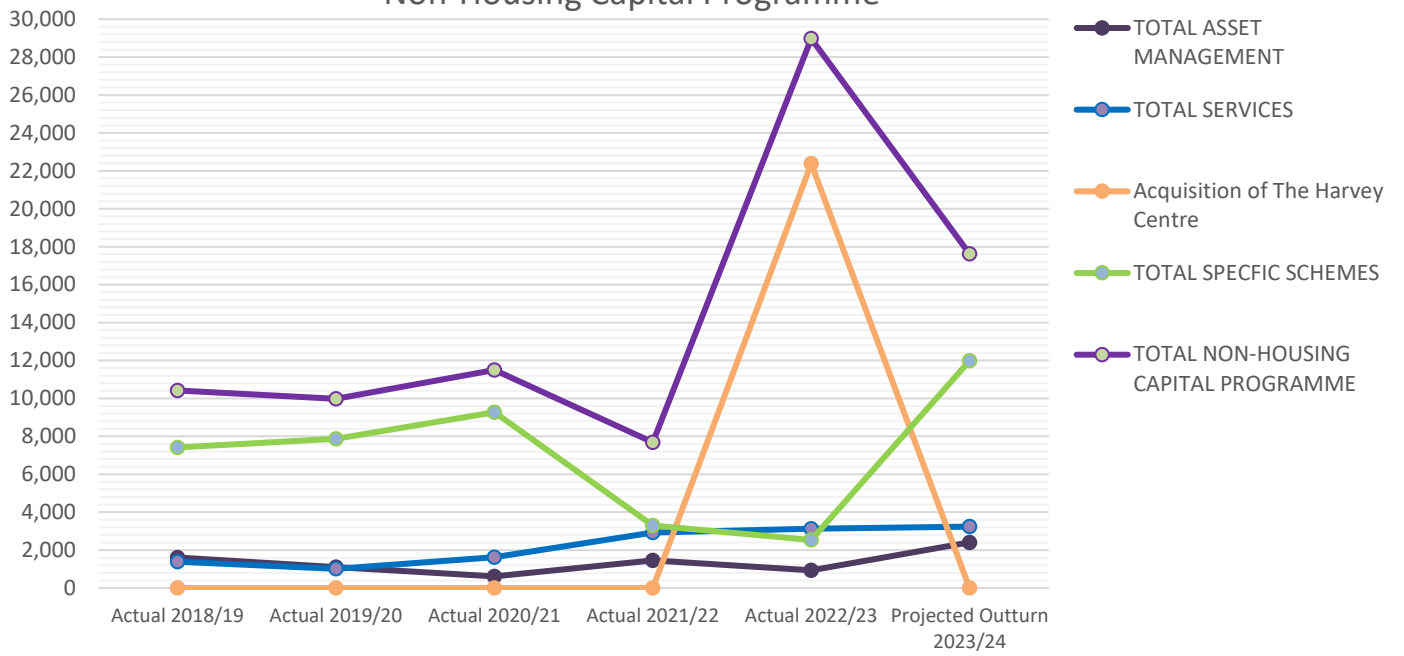
NON HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME QUARTER 3 2023/24							
Schemes	Approved Budget 2023/24 £'000	2022/23 Carry overs £'000	Cabinet Amendments £'000	Current Budget £'000	Projected Outturn £'000	Variance: Outturn to current budget £'000	Period 9 Re-profiling £'000
Latton Bush Centre	845	519	(444)	920	300	(620)	620
Commercial Properties	128	822	(84)	866	326	(540)	492
Highways & Car Parks	185	0	260	445	425	(20)	-
Drainage Works	50	165	(85)	130	29	(101)	80
Community Buildings	491	735	(982)	244	135	(109)	250
Other Public Schemes	95	380	(264)	211	80	(131)	-
Civic Centre	866	387	418	1,671	969	(702)	743
Garages	143	0	-	143	143	(0)	-
Contingency	50	50	(100)	0	0	-	-
TOTAL ASSET MANAGEMENT	2,853	3,058	(1,281)	4,630	2,407	(2,223)	2,185
Communities and Environment	1,239	988	34	2,261	2,011	(250)	348
Governance and Corporate Services	139	11	-	150	159	9	-
Strategic Growth & Regeneration	897	553	(170)	1,280	1,068	(212)	380
OTHER SERVICES	2,275	1,552	(136)	3,691	3,238	(453)	728
Council House Building Programme	3,310	118	(2,908)	520	250	(270)	270
Enterprise Zone	0	0	87	87	87	(0)	-
Innovation Park	0	0	2,000	2,000	2,000	-	-
Levelling Up Fund	0	0	1,295	1,295	1,295	(0)	-
Town Centre Ltd Liability Partnership	0	5,000	-	5,000	5,000	-	-
Towns Fund	5,032	243	(1,922)	3,353	3,353	0	-
OTHER SCHEMES	8,342	5,361	(1,449)	12,255	11,985	(270)	270
TOTAL NON-HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME	13,470	9,971	(2,866)	20,576	17,629	(2,946)	3,183
Reprofiling as at Quarter 2 Required						3,183	
New Budget Allocations Required						(266)	
Quarter 3 Variance (Favourable)/Adverse						(29)	
Requested Virements						-	
Quarter 3 Variance after Quarter 3 recommendations						(29)	

19. Since April, a review of the Non-Housing Capital programme has been ongoing with Officers and Cabinet members to align the programme to the council's five priorities for 2023/24.
20. The graphic below shows the breakdown of how the total NHCP projected outturn has been reprioritised and aligned with the five priorities for 2023/24. It should be noted that the Fixing Council Housing priority is included within the Housing Capital Programme and the Securing Investment into Harlow priority is predominately funded from revenue resources.



21. As at Quarter 3 the projected outturn of the full programme is forecasted to have a favourable variance of £2.946 million. A full list of variances and commentary is included within Appendix C.
22. Included within the projected outturn, £3.183 million of scheme's are requested to be re-profiled into the 2024/25 programme. For clarification, this expenditure and therefore financing is still required for the scheme, but the expenditure will be committed in a future year. By reprofiling the budget into a later year, means that no additional future financing for the scheme will be required. A breakdown of the schemes requested to be reprofiled into 2024/25 are included within Appendix C. The reprofiling also includes two projects that require monies to be brought forward from 2024/25.
23. Also included within the projected outturn, £0.266 million of new schemes have been identified and require a budget allocation to be assigned to them. The projects are all financing with grant funding and is not an increase to the overall financing of the programme.
24. Not including the schemes that are requested to be reprofiled or a new budget allocated, the review has identified a net favourable variance of £29,000.
25. A line chart has also been produced to show actual data for the last 5 years of the Non-Housing Capital Programme. The graph shows the ongoing investment within the Programme with a specific peak in 2022/23 following the acquisition of the Harvey Centre.

Non-Housing Capital Programme



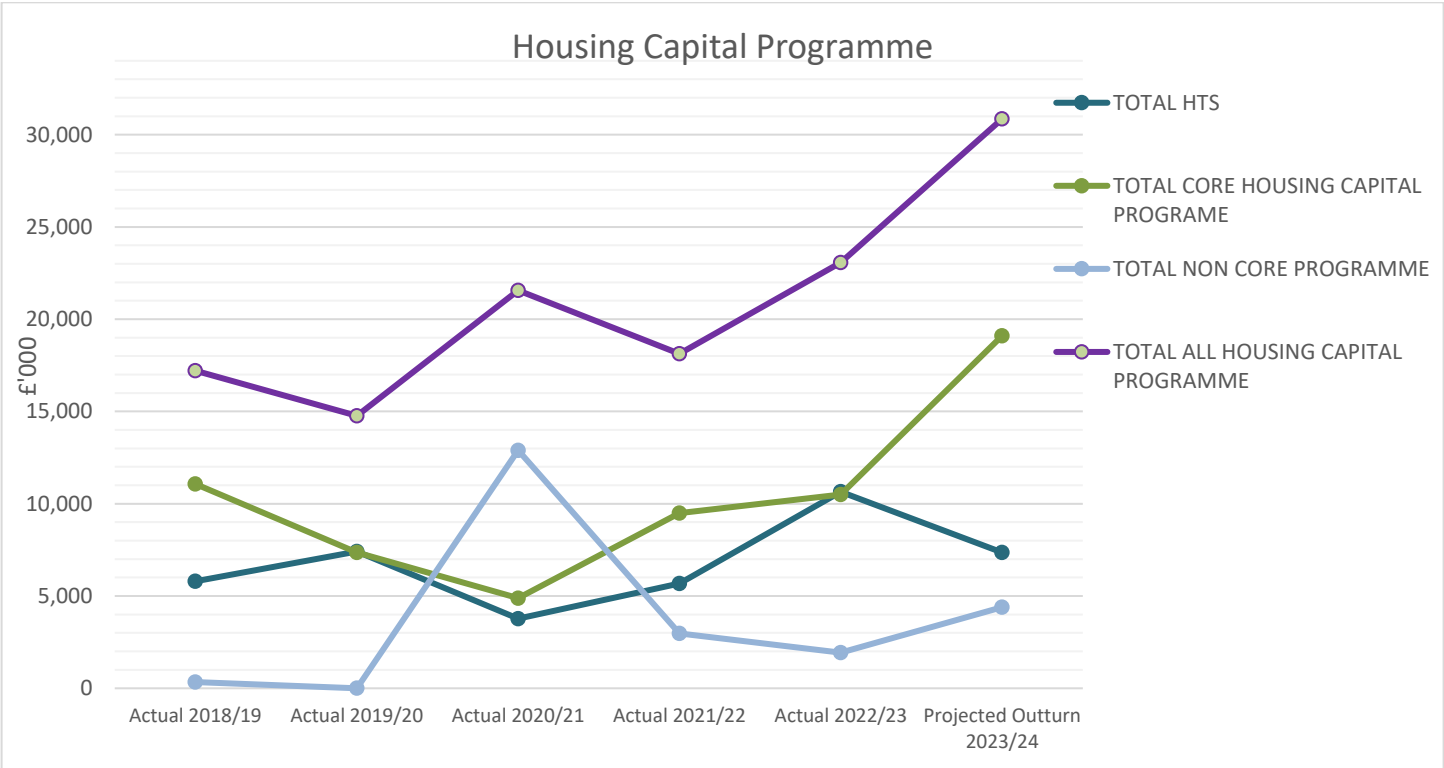
Capital Programme – Housing

26. A summary of the Housing Capital Programme (HCP) is shown in the table below. The council approved a budget of £38.891 million in February 2023, (including the New Council House Building Programme) and subsequently £4.001 million of carryovers in July 2023. The total HCP Programme for 2023/24 is £34.215 million following reprofiling and budget allocations approved in quarter 2.

HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME QUARTER 3 2023/24							
Schemes	Approved Budget 2023/24	2022/23 Carry overs	Cabinet Amendments	Current Budget	Projected Outturn	Variance: Outturn to current budget	Period 9 Re-profiling
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
HTS Internal Works - ASC	1,090	0	-	1,090	1,090	-	-
HTS Internal Works - Compliance	1,460	168	309	1,937	1,937	-	-
HTS Internal Works - Energy Efficiency	0	175	-	175	175	-	-
HTS Internal Works - Environmental Estates Work	0	0	-	0	0	-	-
HTS Internal Works - Aids & Adaptations	0	24	-	24	24	-	-
HTS Internal Works - Roofing	0	0	-	0	0	-	-
HTS Internal Works - Internal	4,355	0	(771)	3,584	3,584	-	-
HTS Internal Works - Garages	195	149	-	344	344	-	-
HTS Internal Works - Sumners Farm Close	342	57	(197)	202	202	(0)	-
TOTAL HTS	7,442	573	(659)	7,355	7,355	(0)	-
External Works	7,106	328	(591)	6,843	6,863	20	-
Damp & Structural Works	1,600	0	-	1,600	1,700	100	-
Other Works	1,000	0	-	1,000	1,000	-	-
Fire Safety & Compliance	6,840	325	(400)	6,765	6,765	0	-
Energy Efficiency Works	1,103	49	-	1,152	1,152	0	-
Housing IT	400	71	(145)	326	326	(0)	-
Garage Demolition Programme	0	0	1,295	1,295	1,295	-	-
TOTAL CORE HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME	18,049	772	159	18,981	19,100	120	-
Acquisitions	0	0	926	926	926	-	-
Council House Building Programme	13,400	2,656	(9,103)	6,953	3,475	(3,478)	3,091
TOTAL NON CORE PROGRAMME	13,400	2,656	(8,177)	7,879	4,401	(3,478)	3,091
TOTAL ALL HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME	38,891	4,001	(8,677)	34,215	30,857	(3,358)	3,091
Reprofiling as at Quarter 3 Required						3,091	
New Budget Allocations Required						(50)	
Quarter 3 Variance (Favourable)/Adverse						(317)	
Requested Virements						-	
Quarter 3 Variance after Quarter 2 recommendations						(317)	

27. As at Quarter 3 the projected outturn of the full programme is forecasted to have a favourable variance of £3.358 million. The favourable variance is largely due to a number of New Build projects, that either require to be reprofiled into the 2024/25 programme or no further expenditure is required. A full list of variances and commentary is included within Appendix D.

- 28. As at period 9, £3.091 million of scheme's are requested to be re-profiled into the 2024/25 programme. For clarification, this expenditure and therefore financing is still required for the scheme, but the expenditure will be committed in a future year. By reprofiling the budget into a later year, means that no additional future financing for the scheme will be required. A breakdown of the schemes requested to be reprofiled into 2024/25 are included within Appendix D. Some projects need further review in Quarter 4, to quantify if further reprofiling is required.
- 29. Also included within the projected outturn, £0.050 million of new schemes have been identified and require a budget allocation to be assigned to them. The new schemes are funded from Right to Buy Receipts, and additional borrowing. A breakdown of the schemes requested to have a budget allocation for 2023/24 are included within Appendix D.
- 30. Following the approval of the budget allocations and Budget reprofiling, this will then reduce the favourable net forecasted variance at Quarter 3 to £317,000, which could be reprioritised as the review of the programme progresses. The programme will continue to be monitored and the Quarter 4 position will be reported at the next financial update.
- 31. A line chart has also been produced to show actual data for the last 5 years of the Housing Capital Programme. The Graph shows increased investment within the total Programme with a specific peak in 2020/21 following the acquisition of house purchases.



Performance

32. The council reports on key performance indicators which are used to inform and drive more effective performance on the part of both the council and those contracted to deliver on its behalf. These performance measures are published monthly on the council's website and will be reported at regular intervals to Cabinet in the new financial year.
33. In 2023 the government established a new performance body for local government called OFLOG. A key role of OFLOG is to provide credible and accessible data for analysing performance across local government to support its improvement. To do this it has brought together a selection of existing metrics across local government including finance, complaints, planning and waste management. The metrics that are relevant to Harlow Council are attached at Appendix E along with comparisons against peer authorities who are similar to Harlow in as many ways as possible. A statistical neighbour group of authorities has been created based on the following features in order to do this; new town status, period of construction, retention of housing stock, authority type. The median reported data for each metric across English councils is also published by Oflog.

Implications

Equalities and Diversity

This report is to note the financial position of Harlow Council and does not require an Equality Assessment as the recommendations will not have a disproportionate adverse impact on anybody with a protected characteristic.

Climate Change

This report has no direct impact on climate change, however individual projects and service will have an impact and would have been considered within the commentary of the report.

Communities and Environment

The report sets out the current financial performance of the services within Community and Environment and highlights any specific matters that require the attention of the Cabinet. At this stage the report highlights that the service is operating within both the revenue and capital allocations approved by Council for the 2023/24 financial year.

Author: Simon Freeman, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance

Finance

The financial implications are implicit within the report

Author: Simon Freeman, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance

Governance and Corporate Services

The Cabinet, under the terms of Part 3 (iii) of the Constitution is responsible for Review the use and allocation of assets and resources within approved budgets. Article 14 of the Council's Financial Regulations places the responsibility of officers reporting on income, expenditure and resources along with its progress on its Capital Programme with the Cabinet.

Author: Simon Hill, Director of Governance and Corporate Services

Housing

The report sets out the financial performance for the Housing service for Quarter 3. The Financial data is shown within the Summaries for General Fund, HRA, Non-Housing and Housing Capital Programmes, with specific narrative included within the Appendices.

Author: Wendy Makepeace, Assistant Director – Housing and Property

Strategic Growth and Regeneration

The report sets out the financial performance for Strategic Growth and Regeneration service for Quarter 3. The Financial data is shown within the Summaries for General Fund, HRA and Non-Housing Capital Programme with specific narrative included within the Appendices.

Author: James Gardner, Assistant Director - Regeneration

Appendices

Appendix A – General Fund Variances Q3

Appendix B – Housing Revenue Account Variances Q3

Appendix C – Capital Programme Non-Housing Variances Q3

Appendix D – Capital Programme Housing Variances Q3

Appendix E – Oflog Metric Data Q3

Background Papers

Budget 2023/24 and Medium Term Financial Strategy – Council 23rd February 2023

<https://moderngov.harlow.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=123&MId=1480&Ver=4>

2022/23 Financial Outturn - Cabinet 13th July 2023

<https://moderngov.harlow.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=121&MId=2582&Ver=4>

Financial Performance Report Quarter 1 2023/24 – Cabinet 7th September 2023

<https://moderngov.harlow.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=121&MId=2583&Ver=4>

Glossary of terms/abbreviations used

MTFP – Medium Term Financial Plan

MTFS – Medium Term Financial Strategy

GF – General Fund

HRA – Housing Revenue Account

NHCP - Non Housing Capital Programme

HCP – Housing Capital Programme.

CHBP – Council House Building Programme

CLT – Corporate Leadership Team

General Fund Major Variances - Period 9, 2023-24

Service	Adverse £000s	Favourable £000s	Net £000s	Main Contributing Factors to Variations
Finance				
Insurance	74		74	Increased cost of premiums offset by reduced staffing costs
Revenues and Benefits Team		-154	-154	Vacant posts
Bank charges		-19	-19	Reduced bank charges
Accountancy		-60	-60	Vacant posts
Minor Service variances		-95	-95	
Total Finance			-254	
Chief Executive				
Chief Executive		-3	-3	Net employee costs
Chief Executive			-3	
Housing GF				
Supporting People		-12	-12	Reduced employee costs and increased recharges to HRA
Leah Manning Centre		-30	-30	Reduced employee and energy costs and increased income
Housing Options & Advice Team		-26	-26	Increased income from TA charges £100k, Caseworker Grant £25k, Cost of TA £96k
General Fund Contributions	47		47	HTS uplift
Total Housing General Fund			-21	
Governance & Corporate Services				
Legal		-86	-86	Staffing vacancies
ICT		-77	-77	Vacant posts
Human Resources		-42	-42	Vacant posts
Other Minor Variations	6		6	
Total Governance Service			-199	
Communities & Environment				
Car Parks		-226	-226	Increased pay & display income
The Playhouse	32		32	Increased staffing, security, investment in arts and other running expenses £118k, offset by reduced energy / business rates £36k and net box office income £50k
Environmental Services	299		299	Increased staffing costs
Community Safety Team	78		78	Increased staffing costs
Assistant Director	39		39	Increased staffing costs
Cemetery & Crematorium		-51	-51	Better than expected performance
Paddling Pools	32		32	Cost of staffing, cleaning and security fees
Pet's Corner	48		48	Cost of staffing and reduced income due to vacancies and long term sickness
Refuse & Recycling		-119	-119	Cost of inflation offset by increased income from green and bulky waste collections
Street Cleaning	73		73	Inflationary uplift
Open Spaces	30		30	Inflationary uplift
Environmental Management		-29	-29	Reduced employee costs
Other Minor Variations	90		90	
Total Communities & Environment			296	

General Fund Major Variances - Period 9, 2023-24

Service	Adverse £000s	Favourable £000s	Net £000s	Main Contributing Factors to Variations
Strategic Growth & Regeneration				
Water Gardens Car Park	258		258	Reduced income
Civic Centre		-191	-191	Reduced staffing, energy and business rates
The Harvey Centre		-194	-194	Better than expected performance
Occasio House	39		39	Mothballing costs
Property & Facilities Team		-104	-104	Vacant posts
Director of Strategic Growth & Regeneration		-147	-147	Vacant post
Commercial Properties	154		154	Reduced rent income
Planning and Building Control;	249		249	Increased staffing costs
Latton Bush Centre	98		98	Reduced income
Town Centre activities	65		65	Reflects the cost of various initiatives undertaken in the Town Centre during the year
Other Minor Variations		-11	-11	
Total Strategic Growth & Regeneration			216	
Service Specific Variations				35 Sub-total
Other				
ECC 2nd Homes Discount	76		76	Decreased ECC 2nd homes discount allocation
Other	2		2	
Housing Benefits	152		152	Net cost of scheme
HTS income/management charge	58		58	Pension top up
Contribution from TA Homelessness reserve		-96	-96	TA Homelessness Reserve applied to help manage pressures
Contribution from Housing Benefits reserve		-150	-150	Housing Benefits Reserve applied to help manage pressures
Contribution to Regeneration Reserve	194		194	Contribution of Harvey Centre Income to support regenerational activities
Commercialisation initiatives	100		100	Non achievement of Commercialisation initiatives target
Total Other Variations			336	Sub-total
Total General Fund Budget Variations				371

Housing Revenue Account Major Variances - Period 9, 2023-24

Service	Adverse £000s	Favourable £000s	Net £000s	Main Contributing Factors to Variations
General Management				
Employee costs		-251	-251	Net staffing costs due to vacancies
Consultancy costs	60		60	Increased cost of consultants
Aborted Costs	354		354	One off aborted costs
Stock Condition Survey	88		88	Cost of stock condition survey
Legal Costs	220		220	Increased cost of legal fees
Subscriptions	47		47	Increased cost of subscriptions
HTS Pension charge	71		71	Increased cost of HTS pensions
Support Costs		-168	-168	Reduced cost of support services
Insurance	276		276	Increased cost of insurance premiums
Minor Service variances		-88	-88	
Total General Management			609	
Special Management				
Support Costs	147		147	Increased cost of support services
Energy costs		-44	-44	Reduced cost of energy
HTS	147		147	Inflationary uplift
Minor Service variances		-35	-35	
Total Special Management			215	
Repairs				
Void Security	74		74	Cost of waking watch initiative
HTS	267		267	Inflationary uplift
Support Costs		-19	-19	
Net loss of insurance		-37	-37	
Minor Service variances		-35	-35	
Total Repairs			250	
Debt Management				
Minor Service variances		-13	-13	Reduced bank charges
Total Debt Management			-13	
Supporting People				
Minor Service variances		-4	-4	
Total Supporting People			-4	
Interest Charges				
Interest Charges	193		193	Increased cost of borrowing offset by reduced Revenue Contributions to Capital Outlay
Total Interest Charges			193	

Housing Revenue Account Major Variances - Period 9, 2023-24

Service	Adverse £000s	Favourable £000s	Net £000s	Main Contributing Factors to Variations
Dwelling Rents				
Dwelling rents	54		54	Improved void turnaround
Total Dwelling Rents			54	
Garage Rents				
Garage rents	50		50	Reduced income based on Q3 forecast
Total Garage Rents			50	
Other Rents				
Other rents		-15	-15	Increased income based on Q3 forecast
Total Other Rents			-15	
Charges for Services				
Recharges to tenants	103		103	Previous years invoices written off
Grant income		-149	-149	To offset the cost of specific posts
R&M income		-31	-31	Increased income based on Q3 forecast
Other Minor Variations		-79	-79	
Total Charges for Services			-156	
Investment Income				
Investment Income		-405	-405	Increased investment income as a result of reduced RCCO and increased interest rates
Total Investment Income			-405	
Total Housing Revenue Account Budget Variations			778	

Non Housing Capital programme Major Variances - Period 9, Quarter 3 2023-24

Service	Adverse £000s	Favourable £000s	Net £000s	Main Contributing Factors to Variations
Financial Asset Management				
Latton Bush Centre				
Boilers		-474	-474	REPROFILE REQUESTED for 24/25
Lift Refurbishment		-2	-2	REPROFILE REQUESTED for 24/25
Toiler Refurbishment and stairway improvements		-100	-100	REPROFILE REQUESTED for 24/25
Electrical upgrades		-10	-10	REPROFILE REQUESTED for 24/25
Fire Safety Works		-34	-34	REPROFILE REQUESTED for 24/25
Commercial Properties				
Pypers Hatch	9		9	Project complete
1 North House		-8	-8	Project complete
2 & 2A Wych Elm		-10	-10	REPROFILE REQUESTED for 24/25
Study Centre		-10	-10	REPROFILE REQUESTED for 24/25
Cannons Cottages		-58	-58	Project amended Full funds not required
Bush Fair Pavilion		-2	-2	REPROFILE REQUESTED for 24/25
Barrows Farm Cottages		-20	-20	REPROFILE REQUESTED for 24/25
Nexus EV Chargepoints	10		10	New Project. ADDITIONAL BUDGET REQUIRED.
Mead park Depot boilers		-450	-450	REPROFILE REQUESTED for 24/25
Drainage Works:				
Flood Alleviation		-21	-21	Not Expected to be fully utilised
Oxleys bank Stabilisation		-80	-80	REPROFILE REQUESTED for 24/25
Community Buildings:				
Sherards House Common Room	10		10	Forecast cost of project
Asbestos Removal		-35	-35	REPROFILE REQUESTED for 24/25
Railway Bridge		-95	-95	REPROFILE REQUESTED for 24/25
Ladyshot Common Room		-20	-20	REPROFILE REQUESTED for 24/25
Harlow Museum		-100	-100	REPROFILE REQUESTED for 24/25
Civic Centre				
Fire Safety		-411	-411	REPROFILE REQUESTED for 24/25
Accommodation Review	32		32	Forecast cost of project
Smoke Vents	12		12	Forecast cost of project
External Works		-2	-2	REPROFILE REQUESTED for 24/25
Windows		-30	-30	REPROFILE REQUESTED for 24/25
Boiler replacement		-29	-29	REPROFILE REQUESTED for 24/25
Enhancements		-271	-271	REPROFILE REQUESTED for 24/25
Generator diesel tank replacement		-2	-2	Forecast cost of project
Total Financial Asset Management			-2,201	

Non Housing Capital programme Major Variances - Period 9, Quarter 3 2023-24

Service	Adverse £000s	Favourable £000s	Net £000s	Main Contributing Factors to Variations
Communities & Environment				
Community Services		-30	-30	Not Expected to be fully utilised
Potter Street Paddling Pool		-25	-25	REPROFILE REQUESTED for 24/25
Town Park Showground Lighting	2		2	Forecast cost of project
Equipped Playgrounds	1		1	Forecast cost of project
Green Infrastructure Planting	43		43	New Project. ADDITIONAL BUDGET REQUIRED.
Green planting		-52	-52	REPROFILE REQUESTED for 24/25
Ball Courts		-13	-13	REPROFILE REQUESTED for 24/25
Northbrooks Tennis Courts		-150	-150	REPROFILE REQUESTED for 24/25
Kingsdon Lane Pond	40		40	New Project. ADDITIONAL BUDGET REQUIRED.
Town Wide Paddling Pools	23		23	Forecast cost of project
Wych Elm Car Park		-20	-20	Forecast cost of project
Staple Tye Splash Park	17		17	Forecast cost of project
Playhouse refurbishment		-10	-10	REPROFILE REQUESTED for 24/25
Playhouse external lighting		-49	-49	REPROFILE REQUESTED for 24/25
Playhouse WIFI		-9	-9	REPROFILE REQUESTED for 24/25
Playhouse theatrical lighting		-40	-40	REPROFILE REQUESTED for 24/25
Total Communities & Environment			-272	
Governance & Support Services				
Governance	10		10	Forecast cost of project
Total Governance & Support Services			10	
Strategic Growth & Regeneration				
Estate Renewal Fund		-180	-180	Forecast cost of project
21 The Rows		-131	-131	Forecast cost of project
East Gate	89		89	Forecast cost of project
The Harvey Centre Car Park resurf	173		173	ADDITIONAL BUDGET REQUIRED. 100% externally funded
The Harvey Centre car park works		-232	-232	REPROFILE REQUESTED for 24/25
The Harvey Centre car park other works		-28	-28	Forecast cost of project
The Harvey Centre	244		244	Forecast cost of project
Town Centre Improvements		-44	-44	REPROFILE REQUESTED for 24/25
Town Centre Gateway signage		-70	-70	REPROFILE REQUESTED for 24/25

Non Housing Capital programme Major Variances - Period 9, Quarter 3 2023-24

Service	Adverse £000s	Favourable £000s	Net £000s	Main Contributing Factors to Variations
Bush Fair Public realm		-34	-34	REPROFILE REQUESTED for 24/25
Total Strategic Growth & Regeneration			-213	
Other Schemes				
Elm Hatch		-270	-270	REPROFILE REQUESTED for 24/25
Total New Build			-270	
Total Non Housing Capital Programme Budget Variations			-2,946	
Projects to be reprofiled			-3,183	Projects identified to be deferred to 2024/25
Projects require Budget Allocation			266	Various projects require a budget allocation to be instated. These projects are all financed with Grant funding and is not an increase to the overall financing of the programme.
Forecasted Favourable Variance			-29	True identified favourable variance for Quarter 3.
			-2,946	

Housing Capital programme Major Variances - Period 9, Quarter 3 2023-24

Service	Adverse £000s	Favourable £000s	Net £000s	Main Contributing Factors to Variations
External Works				
Construction Design & Management	20		20	Due to increased demand
Total External Works			20	
Damp & Structural Works				
Damp	100		100	Due to increased demand
Total Damp & Structural Works			100	
Total Core Programme			120	Sub-total
New Builds				
Bushey Croft		-100	-100	Scheme finished and no further expenditure expected
The Yorkes		-850	-850	REPROFILE REQUESTED FOR 24/25.
4 The Hill		-200	-200	Scheme finished and no further expenditure expected
Arkwrights Garages		-1,400	-1,400	REPROFILE REQUESTED FOR 24/25.
Woodleys		-221	-221	REPROFILE REQUESTED FOR 24/25.
Red Lion Lane		-137	-137	Scheme has been withdrawn on viability grounds
Pytt Field		-255	-255	REPROFILE REQUESTED FOR 24/25.
Sherards House		-365	-365	REPROFILE REQUESTED FOR 24/25.
Potter Street N.O.	50		50	ADDITIONAL BUDGET REQUESTED.
Total New Builds			-3,478	
Total New Builds Programme			-3,478	Sub-total
Total Housing Capital Programme Budget Variations			-3,358	
Projects to be reprofiled			-3,091	Projects identified to be deferred to 2024/25
Projects require Budget Allocation			50	Various projects require a budget allocation to be instated. These projects are all financed with Grant funding and is not an increase to the overall financing of the programme.
Forecasted Favourable Variance			-317	True identified favourable variance for Quarter 3.
			-3,358	

Harlow Council published Oflog metric data

Appendix E

Metric published by Oflog relevant to Harlow are provided below. The England Median (Districts) metric reflects the middle number when considering the metrics for all District Councils in England rather than the mean average. This means that 50% district councils in England have a value equal or lower to the median figure and 50% of district councils in England have a value higher or equal to the median figure. More information on the use of Median data as a tool can be found on the Oflog website: <https://oflog.data.gov.uk/methodology/> The data published by Oflog is made available to generate questions rather than make judgements. Context about the Harlow data for each metric is included in the table.

Indicator	Harlow	England median (Districts)
Non-ringfenced reserves as percentage of net revenue expenditure (2021-22)	230.80%	146.40%
Comments: Shows Harlow's Council reserve levels are in a healthy position; Reserves are detailed within the medium term financial plan each year and are managed by a reserves strategy. Earmarked reserves are set aside for specific purposes. They either fund capital, services, or for risk mitigation purposes.		
Non-ringfenced reserves as percentage of service spend (2021-22)	208.30%	131.00%
Comments: See above.		
Total core spending power per dwelling (2021-22)	£316.34	£242.19
Comments: Total Core Spending power is a Government calculation that includes estimated Council Tax income, Baseline business rates income (before growth) and a number of unringfenced grants. N.B. It is not the council's budgetted expenditure.		
Level of band D council tax rates (2021-22)	£288.90	£192.56
Comments: This shows Harlow's element of Council tax levied for Band D properties approved at full council. Harlow has a relatively low proportion of Band D properties compared to other authorities. Additionally Harlow differs from many District Council's in that there is no Town / Parish Council who can raise a council tax requirement in their own right.		
Council tax revenue per dwelling (2021-22)	£1,375.72	£1,556.44
Comments: this metric shows the average council tax received per dwelling including major preceptors – i.e. Essex County Council, Fire and Police compared to the median.		
Debt servicing as percentage of core spending power (2021-22)	8.50%	10.20%
Comments: Core Spending Power does not reflect all of the income the Council receives; therefore it is important to note that there are other income streams available to service the debt.		
Total debt as percentage of core spending power (2021-22)	2044.80%	457.50%
Comments: The metric uses Capital Finance Requirement (CFR) which includes debt for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). Majority of Harlow's debt relates to self financing the Housing Revenue Account, undertaken in 2013, which is not comparable to Core spending power, as this only relates to the General Fund. Many district local authorities do not have a HRA.		

Council tax collection rates in year (2021-22)	94.20%	97.40%
<p>Comments: During the COVID-19 pandemic, many local authorities temporarily paused or reduced recovery or enforcement action in 2020-21 and were unable to get time in court due to court closures. For context this has affected both in-year collection rates and their collection of arrears in 2020-21. For 2021-22, the resumption of court services and recovery action was slow to resume and has continued to impact collection rates.</p> <p>There are a number of special factors which may affect the amount of council tax that local authorities should have been able to collect and the amount they actually collected. Information these can be found on gov.uk at: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/collection-rates-for-council-tax-and-non-domestic-rates-in-england-2022-to-2023/collection-rates-for-council-tax-and-non-domestic-rates-in-england-2022-to-2023#special-factors.</p> <p>. A significant number of households were furloughed and those claiming universal credit and council tax support in Harlow increased during this period. In light of these circumstances the collection rate achieved in 2021-22 was higher than that expected.</p> <p>The service continues to collect unpaid council tax for prior years to achieve a 99% collection rate.</p>		
Nondomestic rates collection rates in year (2021-22)	94.20%	97.40%
<p>Comments: National & Local context in relation to this metric are the same as those for Council Tax rates as detailed above.</p> <p>Locally, whilst a significant number of businesses received Covid 19 government support this did not always translate into payment of non domestic rates. In light of these circumstances the collection rate achieved in 2021-22 was higher than that expected.</p> <p>The service continues to collect unpaid non domestic rates for prior years to achieve a 99% collection rate.</p>		

Indicator	Harlow	England median (Districts)
Percentage of major planning applications decided on time (2020-22)	96.60%	89.80%
Percentage of non-major planning applications decided on time (2020-22)	94.20%	88.20%
Comments: efficient practices embedded within the service provision ensures that both quality and timely decisions are made for our customers		
Percentage of major planning applications overturned on appeal (2020-22)	0.00%	1.40%
Percentage of non-major planning applications overturned on appeal	1.80%	0.70%
Comments: whilst this is slightly above the median for England, Harlow has very few appeals as we operate a proactive decision-making process and therefore the percentage figures can fluctuate greatly with just one decision. For context, nationally, only approximately 20% of all refusals are appealed and in respect of non major decisions there is approximately a 27% appellant success rate. The number of appeal decisions allowed is below the national average and gives no cause for concern.		

Indicator	Harlow	England median (Districts)
Number of upheld complaints (2021-22)	5.4 per 100,000 population	1.1 per 100,000 population
Comments: For this period the number of upheld complaints constitutes 25% of all complaints received during that time. A new complaint process was introduced in January 2022 to improve how we respond to and learn from complaints made.		

Indicator	Harlow	England median (Districts)
Household waste recycling rate (2021-22)	39.70%	41.90%
<p>Comments: The tonnage collected has dropped over the years due to various local and national causes, but this has not been at the same rate that the residual waste has been increasing. The volume of residual waste negatively impacts on overall recycling % performance.</p> <p>The council carries out educate and promotion activities around waste and recycling services with the resources we have available, these being; social media channels, Harlow Times and the website.</p> <p>The council has recently taken part in a food waste recycling campaign run by Essex County Council aiming to recycle any food waste rather than disposing of this in residual waste, and discovered through this that there seems to be many households that were not aware of the weekly separate food waste collection. As a result, we have seen the volume of food waste sent for recycling increase since the campaign started.</p> <p>Removing food waste from residual should reduce the amount of residual waste and increase the recycling rate.</p> <p>The council has been working with Veolia to rebuild the violation (hanger) process, as this is a monitoring scheme that enables us to help residents recycle as much as possible by managing the amount of residual waste presented which should also reduce the amount of residual waste collected and increase the recycling rate.</p>		

Residual household waste (2021-22)	460.7 kg per household	501.1 kg per household
<p>Comments: Residual household waste per household is lower than the median, this has been increasing in Harlow year on year where lower would be better. As mentioned above, the council has been working with Veolia to rebuild the violation (hanger) process, as this is a monitoring scheme that enables us to help residents recycle as much as possible by managing the amount of residual waste presented which should reduce the amount of residual waste collected and increase the recycling rate.</p>		
Recycling contamination rate (2021-22)	7.80%	5.50%
<p>Comments: Although higher than the English Council median level it is not in the worst performance range of 10% contamination rate, however as per the actions above in relation to the work carried out with Veolia to rebuild the violation (hanger) process this will help to ensure that only target materials are collected in the recycling which should help to improve the contamination rates as well.</p>		