

## Finance Monitoring Report – August 2024

To:	Environment and Green Investment Committee
Meeting Date:	3 October 2024
From:	Executive Director, Place and Sustainability Executive Director, Finance and Resources
Electoral division(s):	All
Key decision:	No
Forward Plan ref:	Not applicable
Outcome:	The report is presented to provide Committee with an opportunity to note and comment on the August financial position for 2024/25.
Recommendation:	The Committee is recommended to review and comment on the report.

Officer contact:  
Name: Sarah Heywood  
Post: Strategic Finance Manager  
Email: [sarah.heywood@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.heywood@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

# 1. Creating a greener, fairer and more caring Cambridgeshire

- 1.1 This regular financial monitoring report provides the consolidated management accounts of the Place and Sustainability Directorate, enabling members to be aware of, and to scrutinise, the delivery of the business plan for 2024-25.

## 2. Background

- 2.1 This report is intended to give Committee an update on the financial position of the Place and Sustainability Directorate and detail forecast pressures and underspends across the different services and an explanation for variances.
- 2.2 The Finance Monitoring Report attached provides the financial position for the whole of the Place and Sustainability Directorate, and as such, not all the budgets contained within it are the responsibility of this Committee. Members are requested to restrict their questions to the lines for which this Committee is responsible.

## 3. Main Issues

- 3.1 Revenue: The overall position for Place and Sustainability budgets to the end of August 2024 is a forecast overspend of £3.9m. The key issues and pressures in the Finance Monitoring Report (FMR) are as follows:-

**Waste Management:** The £1.844m forecast pressure arises because the waste plant facilities do not comply with the new Environment Agency environmental permit conditions following the introduction of the Industrial Emissions Directive and the Best Available Techniques conclusions (BATc) and waste, therefore needs to be managed through separate arrangements at additional cost to the Council. Strategic options to address this issue have been assessed and an overall strategy will be recommended to members to consider during 2024-25.

**Energy Projects:** The delivery of the private wire to connect the North Angle Solar Farm is complete but energy market fluctuations mean that electricity prices are now lower than the forecasts used at the time the business plan was approved in February 2024, and the scheme is still to be energised. Also, there are income delays to the Smart Energy Grid Projects at St Ives and Babraham park and ride sites. Overall, the energy projects are forecasting an income shortfall of £2.995m.

There is additional forecast income in Highways which partly offsets the above pressures, leaving a forecast position at the bottom line of £3.9m.

- 3.2 Appendix 2 of the FMR Outturn Report provides the service explanation for the revenue variances (both over- and under-spends).
- 3.3 Capital: Across Place and Sustainability as a whole, there has been £3.9m slippage compared to the budgeted capital programme variation of £30.6m. There are no material variances in the capital forecasts on the budgets within the remit of this Committee.

- 3.4 The budget for the Babraham P&R Energy Grid will be increased by £233K to reflect an agreed commercial settlement.
- 3.5 In relation to the Swaffham Prior Community Heat Network scheme, the directors for Swaffham Prior Community Heat Network Ltd have applied to wind up the company, on the basis that its intended purpose of being a special purpose vehicle for HNIP grant has now been completed.
- 3.6 The Savings Tracker and Technical Appendices as at the end of Quarter 1 are included in the Finance Monitoring Report as Appendices 4 and 5 respectively.

## 4. Significant Implications

### 4.1 Finance Implications

This report details the financial position across Place and Sustainability.

### 4.2 Legal Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

### 4.3 Risk Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

### 4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

## 5. Source documents

### 5.1 None