

Integrated Finance Monitoring Report for the period ending 31st August 2020

To: General Purposes Committee

Meeting Date: 20 October 2020

From: Chief Finance Officer

Electoral division(s): All

Forward Plan ref: 2020/018

Key decision: Yes

Outcome: To present financial information to assess progress in delivering the Council's Business Plan.

Recommendation: General Purposes Committee (GPC) is recommended to:

- note the £1.6m additional capital funding for School Condition Allocations for 2020-21 and approve the resulting £0.5m reduction in prudential borrowing, as set out in section 6.6.

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1. Purpose

- 1.1 To present financial and performance information to assess progress in delivering the Council's Business Plan.

2. Overview

- 2.1 The following summary provides the Authority's forecast financial position at year-end and its key activity data for care budgets.

Finance and Key Activity

Revenue budget forecast outturn +£0.3m (+0.1%) forecast year end variance, however there is major uncertainty about pandemic impact in the second half of the year Amber	This is a £0.230m increase in the revenue pressure since last month's forecast. There is a £1.7m increase in the forecast capital year-end variance compared to last month.	Capital programme forecast outturn +£1.7m (+0.9%) forecast year end variance Green
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Number of service users supported by key care budgets

Older people aged 65+ receiving long term services	Aug-20	May-20	Trend since May 20
Nursing	439	472	Decreasing
Residential	841	898	Decreasing
Community	1,909	1,861	Increasing

Adults aged 18+ receiving long term services	Aug-20	May-20	Trend since May 20
Nursing	68	72	Stayed the same
Residential	358	351	Stayed the same
Community	2,360	2,360	Stayed the same

Children open to social care	July-20	Apr-20	Trend since Apr 20
Children in Care	695	730	Decreasing
Child Protection	363	324	Increasing

2.2 The key issues included in the summary analysis are:

- The overall revenue budget position is showing a forecast year-end pressure of +£0.3m. The pressures are largely within People & Communities (P&C) (+£13.7m), Place & Economy (P&E) (+£3.6m), Commercial & Investment (C&I) (+£2.1m), and LGSS Operational (£0.6m). These are partially offset by underspends in Funding Items (-£19.5m). See section 3 for details.
- The Capital Programme is forecasting a £1.7m in-year pressure at year-end. This includes use of the capital programme variations budget. See section 6 for details.

3. Revenue Budget

3.1 A more detailed analysis of financial performance is included below:

Key to abbreviations

CS Financing – Corporate Services Financing
DoT – Direction of Travel (up arrow means the position has improved since last month)

Original Budget as per Business Plan £000	Forecast Variance (July) £000	Service	Current Budget for 2020/21 £000	Actual (Aug) £000	Forecast Variance (Aug) £000	Forecast Variance (Aug) %	Overall Status	DoT	Covid-19 Financial Impact £000	Non Covid-19 Financial Impact £000
56,470	3,863	Place & Economy	56,430	14,394	3,645	6.5%	Red	↑	4,886	-1,241
275,096	13,660	People & Communities	274,633	103,632	13,707	5.0%	Red	↓	16,259	-2,552
0	0	Public Health	0	-9,113	0	-	Green	↔	157	-157
17,214	-124	Corporate Services	16,750	7,577	-492	-2.9%	Green	↑	508	-1,000
12,226	97	Corporately Managed	11,989	8,212	327	2.7%	Amber	↓	0	327
-9,277	1,769	Commercial & Investment	-9,128	119	2,087	-	Red	↓	2,490	-403
29,570	0	CS Financing	29,570	2,703	0	0.0%	Green	↔	0	0
381,299	19,265	Service Net Spending	380,244	127,524	19,274	5.1%	Red	↓	24,300	-5,026
16,844	-19,725	Funding Items	16,844	7,411	-19,504	-	Green	↓	-	-
398,143	-460	Subtotal Net Spending	397,088	134,936	-230	-0.1%	Amber	↓	24,300	-5,026
6,286	557	Memorandum items: LGSS Operational	6,894	4,069	557	8.1%	Amber	↔	0	557
	97	Grand Total Net Spending	403,982	139,005	327	0.1%	Amber	↓	24,300	-4,469
148,989		Schools	148,989							
553,418		Total Spending 2021/21	552,971							

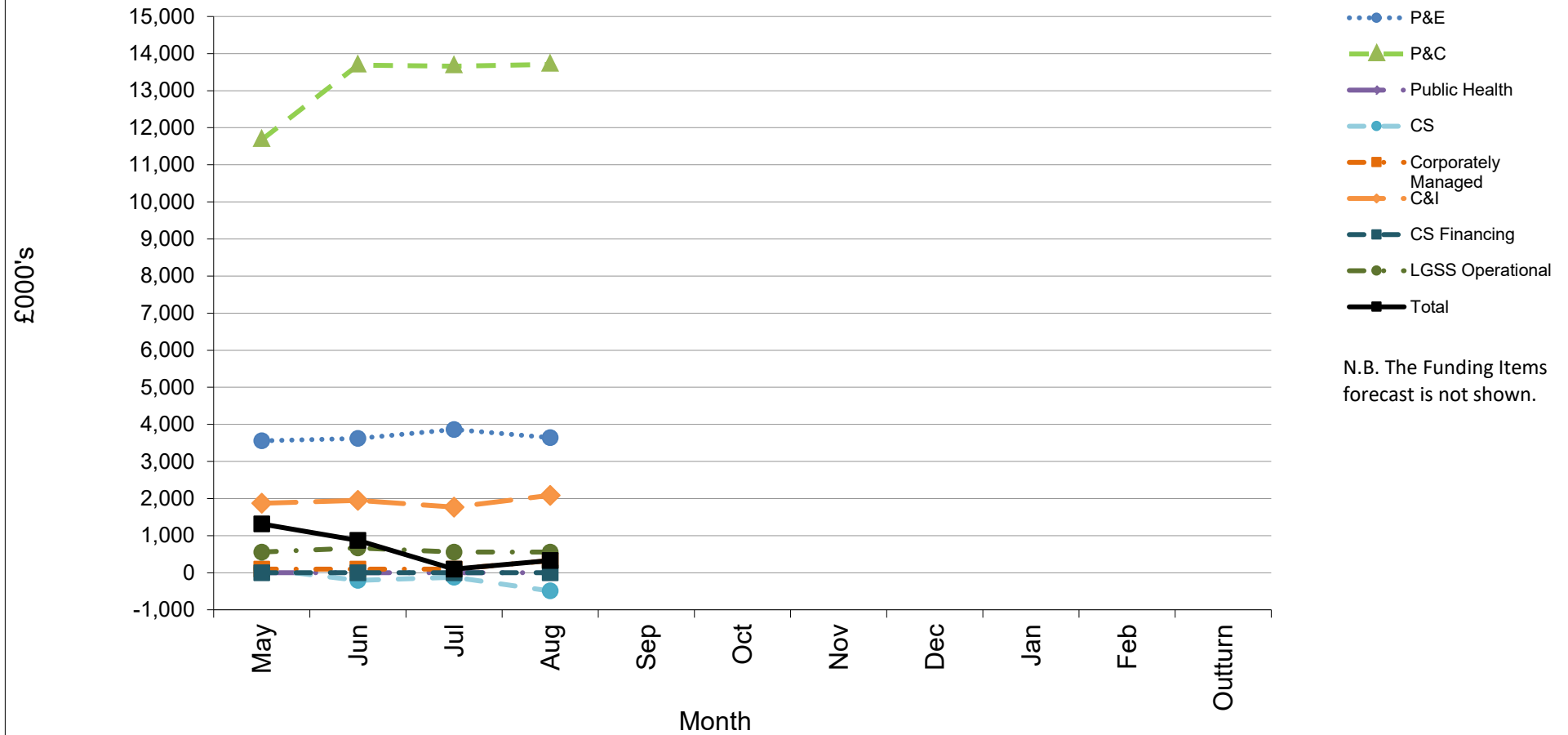
¹ The budget figures in this table are net.

² For budget virements between Services throughout the year, please see [Appendix 1](#).

³ The budget of £0k stated for Public Health is cash limit budget. In addition to this, Public Health has a budget of £25.2m from ring-fenced public health grant, which makes up its gross budget.

⁴ The 'Funding Items' budget comprises the £9.0m Combined Authority Levy, the £416k Flood Authority Levy and £7.4m change in general and corporate reserves budget requirement. The forecast outturn on this line reflects any variance in the amount received from corporate grants and business rates from what was budgeted; a negative outturn indicates a favourable variance, i.e. more income received than budgeted.

Forecast Outturn Position 2020/21



3.1.1 In addition to the County Council forecast shown above for management accounting purposes, the Council is also monitoring and estimating the full potential financial consequences of the pandemic through an additional and enhanced process. The latest position as at 11 October is shown below.

'£000	Column Lab												
Row Labels	Ring Fenced Grant	Impaired Savings	Income foregone	New Commitments	Total	MHCLG	NHS	DSG	PCC	T&T	Other	SFC	Net total
Adults		4,588	434	28,365	33,387		-8,366		-418		-11,647		12,956
C&I		443	1,959	165	2,567								2,567
Communities			699	2,091	2,790				-231		-405		2,154
CYP	1,483	1,436	3,080	5,975	11,973			-1,483			-1,298		9,192
GPC			35	2,397	2,432				-517	-182			1,733
Health		17		2,474	2,491					-2,311			180
E&S			262	594	856								856
H&T		990	3,117	4,187	8,294						-2,142		6,152
Total	1,483	7,474	9,586	46,248	64,791								
						-29,912						-5,039	-34,951
GRAND TOTAL						-29,912	-8,366	-1,483	-1,166	-2,493	-15,492	-5,039	839

Key to abbreviations

MHCLG	– Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government
DSG	– Dedicated Schools Grant
PCC	– Peterborough City Council
T&T	– Test & Trace
SFC	– Sales, Fees and Charges
C&I	– Commercial & Investment
CYP	– Children and Young People
GPC	– General Purposes Committee
E&S	– Environment & Sustainability
H&T	– Highways & Transport

3.1.2 This illustrates a potential financial impact, this year, on the Council of over £64m. After taking account of confirmed and anticipated funding (shown on the right hand side of the table above) this would present a deficit of £0.8m, a significantly improved position compared to last month. This is mainly the result of the government's decision to extending funding for infection control (worth £5.5m to Cambridgeshire) as well as more minor reductions in individual estimates, including for personal and protective equipment, following a stock review. The first claim has now also been made for lost sales, fees and charges. Applying the government guidance, a claim certified by the Chief Finance Officer for £2.1m relating to April – July has been submitted, and is awaiting confirmation from MHCLG.

3.1.3 This method of anticipating the financial impact on the Council differs from the overall forecast shown on the previous page on a management accounting basis. At this stage there remain major variables and uncertainties about the impact of the pandemic and the proposal is that GPC continues to hold the MHCLG unringfenced funding centrally to offset a variety of risks across different departments of the Councils. The main differences between the forecasting methods include:

- Adults Services – we have not yet included a longer term estimate of the impact on Adults services of the pandemic in our management accounts, whereas there is provision for this in the full consequences forecast. Additionally the management accounts acknowledge some reductions in demand, as fewer people are receiving social care compared to the Spring, with more NHS funding.
- Children's Services – the anticipated national increase in demand is shown within the full consequences forecast, but not yet evident on commitment records underpinning the management accounts.
- Financing differences- the full consequences forecast includes the impact of redistributing staff internally and some capital impacts that will not have an impact on the revenue position necessarily.

3.2 Key exceptions this month are identified below.

3.2.1 Place & Economy:

+£3.645m (+6.5%) pressure is forecast at year-end.

- Parking Enforcement

Outturn Variance £m	Outturn Variance %
+3.291	(-%)

A +£3.291m pressure is forecast. This is a decrease of £0.315m on the position reported last month. With restrictions around the Covid-19 virus, there is expected to be a significant shortfall in income especially for on-street parking and bus lane enforcement. The assumptions behind this shortfall are continually being monitored.

- Bus Operations including Park & Ride

Outturn Variance £m	Outturn Variance %
+0.223	(+3,144%)

A +£0.223m pressure is forecast. This is a decrease of £0.274m on the position previously reported in May, of which £0.174m relates to a change since last month. With restrictions around the Covid-19 virus, there is expected to be a significant shortfall in income for this service. The assumptions behind this shortfall are continually being monitored.

- Waste Management

Outturn Variance £m	Outturn Variance %
+0.970	(+3%)

A +£0.970m pressure is forecast. This is an increase of £0.263m on the position reported last month. The tonnage of waste and recyclables collected at the kerbside up to the end of July has increased due to the impact of COVID 19, which will result in increased treatment costs and recycling credit payments to the city and district councils. Income from district and city councils trade waste collections is £400k lower than forecast due to reduced demand for trade waste services.

The temporary closure of the Household Recycling Centres (HRCs) and restricted throughput due to social distancing measures since reopening, has resulted in less waste being collected than originally forecast. However, this position may change over the coming months as residents continue to dispose of waste at the HRCs that was stored while the sites were closed. The additional measures required to implement social distancing at the reopened Household Recycling Centres (HRCs) have created an additional burden on the waste budget. Although COVID related impacts have created an additional pressure on the service budget of approximately £685k (largely for HRC operations) so far, this pressure will be partly offset by reduced contract costs and an overall reduction in total waste collected (if this trend continues) resulting in a forecast pressure of £970k.

- A combination of more minor variances sum with the above to lead to an overall forecast outturn of +£3.645m. For full and previously reported details, see the [P&E Finance Monitoring Report](#).

3.2.2 People & Communities:

+£13.707m (+5.0%) pressure is forecast at year-end.

- Strategic Management - Adults

Outturn Variance £m	Outturn Variance %
+5.119	(+68%)

A +£5.119m pressure is forecast. This is an increase of £0.268m on the position previously reported in June, of which £0.264m relates to a change since last month. This increase is mainly due to the anticipated impact of Covid on delivery of in-year savings through the Adults Positive Challenge Programme, and the impact of Covid on the adults transport budget, particularly the reduced opportunity to rationalise or retender routes and the reduced income from transporting people to day centres.

- Learning Disability Partnership (LDP)

Outturn Variance £m	Outturn Variance %
+1.668	(+2%)

A £1.668m pressure is forecast. This is an increase of £0.291m on the position previously reported last month. The overall pressure is mainly due to a 10% Covid market resilience payment to care providers and other Covid pressures. Demand increases so far this year are exceeding levels originally budgeted for, much of which is linked to Covid. For example, the closure of day services has seen an increased amount of spend on support for people at home.

- Coroners

Outturn Variance £m	Outturn Variance %
+0.266	(+17%)

A +£0.266m pressure is forecast, of which £0.054m relates to a change since last month. This is Covid-19 related and in the main due to the increased cost of post-mortems where Covid-19 is suspected.

There are anticipated extra pressures relating to a couple of complex inquests. The costs relating to these will start to appear at the end of 20/21. It is too soon to forecast the pressure but this will be included towards the end of the year.

- A combination of more minor variances sum with the above to lead to an overall forecast outturn of +£13.707m. For full and previously reported details, see the [P&C Finance Monitoring Report](#).

3.2.3 Public Health:

A balanced budget is forecast for year-end. There are no exceptions to report this month; for full details, see the [PH Finance Monitoring Report](#).

3.2.4 Corporate Services:

-£0.492m (-2.9%) underspend is forecast for year-end.

- Central Services and Organisation-Wide Risks

Outturn Variance £m	Outturn Variance %
-0.933	(-43%)

A -£0.933m underspend is forecast. This is a decrease of -£0.376m on the position previously reported in May, which relates in full to a change since last month. The decrease is due to a saving of £376k in 2020/21 from the agreement that CCC's New Homes Bonus contribution to the Greater Cambridge Partnership will discontinue from September.

- A combination of more minor variances sum with the above to lead to an overall forecast outturn of -£0.492m. For full and previously reported details, see the [CS & LGSS Finance Monitoring Report](#).

3.2.5 Corporately Managed:

+£0.327m (+2.7%) pressure is forecast for year-end.

- IT Managed

Outturn Variance £m	Outturn Variance %
+0.311	(+8%)

A +£0.311m pressure is forecast, of which £0.222m relates to a change since last month. This is due to the following issues:

- The additional cost of 3,500 new data sim connections, £89k.
- As part of the Covid-19 response, the change to everyone working remotely has led to a 200% increase in data usage and a 300% increase in voice minutes. With recharges to other partners based on their increased usage, the net effect to CCC is an increased annual cost of £420k per annum.

We are undertaking analysis to see if there are any actions that can be undertaken to mitigate or reduce these pressures.

The IT Managed equipment budget is currently predicting an underspend of £180k, which is based on 20% replacement of devices, however if there is an influx of new starters this forecast could change.

- A combination of more minor variances sum with the above to lead to an overall forecast outturn of +£0.327m. For full and previously reported details, see the [CS & LGSS Finance Monitoring Report](#).

3.2.6 CS Financing:

A balanced budget is forecast for year-end. There are no exceptions to report this month; for full and previously reported details, see the [CS & LGSS Finance Monitoring Report](#).

3.2.7 Commercial & Investment:

+£2.087m (-%) pressure is forecast for year-end.

- Property Investments

Outturn Variance £m	Outturn Variance %
+1.769	(+38%)

A + £1.769m pressure is forecast. This is an increase of £0.256m on the position previously reported in May, which relates in full to a change since last month. The increase is primarily due to the following:

- The current expected loss from rental income for Brunswick House (student accommodation) has worsened by a further £441k due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.
 - The Kingsbridge forecast has improved by £225k because the debt charge has reduced.
- A combination of more minor variances sum with the above to lead to an overall forecast outturn of +£2.087m. For full and previously reported details, see the [C&I Finance Monitoring Report](#).

3.2.8 Funding Items:

-£19.504m underspend is forecast for year-end. This relates to forecast usage of the unbudgeted Covid-19 support grant from MHCLG in relation to forecast pressures as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. The amount of Covid-19 grant identified as required has decreased by £0.2m since the previous report last month.

3.2.9 LGSS Operational:

+£0.557m (+8.1%) pressure is forecast for year-end. There are no exceptions to report this month; for full and previously reported details, see the [CS & LGSS Finance Monitoring Report](#).

Note: exceptions relate to Forecast Outturns that are considered to be in excess of +/- £250k.

4. Covid-19 Strategic Overview

4.1 Recovery

- 4.1.1 Services have been working on the development of their Recovery Plans and taking them through the relevant Service Committee. These plans are being costed as part of the annual business planning process.

The Council is working on understanding the impacts of the first wave of Covid, including the impacts of the social and economic restrictions during lockdown. Services have worked through scenarios exploring the impact of the first wave and potential second waves on demand for their services as part of an adjusted approach to business planning. The Council also works with partners as part of the response and recovery phases. As a partner in the Recovery Sub-Groups which bring together agencies around themes such as Transport, Economic Recovery, Vulnerable People, each sub-group has conducted an impact assessment which focuses on the immediate impacts to the areas they are focusing on. The Business Intelligence team has produced a 'Covid 19 Impacts Assessment', working closely with colleagues from across the system, which looks at risks of harm to the people in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough in five categories:

- A. Poor health outcomes of COVID-19 as a disease
- B. Impacts on mental health
- C. Poor educational and employment outcomes for young people
- D. Economic and income impacts
- E. Victimisation

These are deliberately drawn widely so as to support strategic recovery planning, and the specific pieces of needs assessment and planning work going on where agencies have particular responsibilities to service users or patients for example.

This report is included at Appendix 3 and will be discussed in more detail at a workshop for GPC members on the 13th November.

4.2 Preparedness for second phase

4.2.1 Redeployed staff

In preparation for a second wave, the Community Hub have been identifying roles that will need additional capacity in a second wave. A cohort of staff who could be redeployed have been identified from across the council and are undertaking 'contract tracing' training to enable them to take on these roles at short notice. These will be in addition to the 33 members of staff who are currently redeployed to support the work of the Countywide Community Hub.

4.2.2 Supply chain

Our supply chains have been affected by COVID in many ways and much of our activity has been to support our high risk suppliers to ensure our services continue and our markets remain competitive. The support being provided to suppliers has included uplifts in contract costs and temporary relief from certain contractual obligations. The cost implications of this support has come from external sources and within council budgets. Across the organisation we are continuing to maintain regular engagement with our suppliers to ensure that they are aware of the support available.

4.2.3 Modelling peaks

Public Health Intelligence and Business Intelligence teams are working with analysts from CCG to understand and model the possible scenarios around the progress of the Covid pandemic in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. These models are based on a common set of assumptions about the epidemiology of the disease, and are based on national and regional models applied locally. These models describe a potential range of scenarios which are used to help the Council prepare and plan, on a common footing with other agencies.

4.2.4 Outbreak Management

We continue working on the Outbreak Plan alongside Health and District colleagues, looking at areas such as local lockdown and the track and trace system. The Outbreak Plan is refreshed as new guidance is received.

There is strong governance on outbreak management including:

- Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Local Outbreak Engagement Board, co-chaired by the HWB Board Chairs, which meets monthly and provides political leadership;
- A multi-agency C&PHealth Protection Board chaired by the Director of Public Health (DPH) which meets weekly supported by a Programme Delivery Group for strategic focus on delivering the Local Outbreak Control Plan;
- Test and Trace Gold meets 3 x weekly – CEO, DPH, Corporate Director, Communities Director, Communications to drive activities;
- Daily rhythm of Surveillance Cell, Outbreak Management Team co-ordinating action of local 'cells' and rapid response teams.

Key actions on outbreak management in the last month have included:

- Outbreak Plans for Anglia Ruskin University and Cambridge University have been reviewed by the public health team before submission nationally. There is ongoing close communication and joint work with both Universities.
- The Education Cell is providing advice and support for schools across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. A new Department for Education helpline has been introduced and we continue to provide briefings for head-teachers, which are very well received.
- The Health Protection Board is planning for a winter surge and identifying key priorities, including a focus on capacity and business continuity, communicating with communities, ensuring local preparedness, access to testing, and promoting flu vaccination for eligible groups.
- A local testing system for essential key workers (including school staff) has been set up and is running successfully.
- Ongoing support for Care Homes including implementation and updating of the Care Home Support Plan, with renewed training on infection control and PPE use.
- Ongoing support to workplaces experiencing cases or outbreaks including working cross-border where outbreaks outside our boundaries involve staff who are local residents.

4.3 Workforce

- 4.3.1 At the beginning of October, we had 40 people recorded as self-isolating, 25 of whom are working at home and the others are unable to due to the nature of the role. Since the beginning of the pandemic we have had 35 people diagnosed with the virus. Currently there are nine, five of whom are continuing to work at home and four are unable to.

Changes to the shielding arrangements at the end of July meant that many of those who had been shielding at home were able to return to the workplace with a robust risk assessment process in place, and in some cases some advice from occupational health. Those who were able to continue to perform their normal duties from home have of course continued to do so.

Some services have returned to partially operate from buildings, these are predominantly those that protect our most vulnerable citizens and front line services such as Registrations and Libraries. All buildings were assessed to ensure they were Covid-19 secure before staff or visitors returned.

Most staff continue to work from home for all or part of their working week. We have provided loaned IT equipment and chairs from our offices to enable staff to work effectively, and comfortably from home.

Health and wellbeing support and advice is being provided in every staff bulletin, covering topics ranging from how to set up a workstation at home to where to find support for financial matters, and dealing with anxiety. The Council's Health and Wellbeing Portal has been updated and now hosts all of this information in one place for ease of access.

On line mental health training has been rolled out which is being delivered by an external provider and is open to all staff, and more recently bespoke sessions for Members have been delivered.

5. Key Activity Data

- 5.1 The latest key activity data for: Children in Care Placements; Special Educational Needs (SEN) Placements; Adults & Safeguarding; Adult Mental Health; Older People (OP); and Older People Mental Health (OPMH) can be found in the latest [P&C Finance Monitoring Report](#) (section 5).

6. Capital Programme

6.1 Capital financial performance

A summary of capital financial performance is shown below:

Original 2020/21 Budget as per Business Plan £000	Forecast Variance - Outturn (July) £000	Service	Revised Budget for 2020/21 £000	Actual-Year to Date (Aug) £000	Forecast Variance - Outturn (Aug) £000	Forecast Variance - Outturn (Aug) %	Total Scheme Revised Budget (Aug) £000	Total Scheme Forecast Variance (Aug) £000
29,051	-	P&E	49,723	6,639	-	0.0%	424,135	-
61,817	-0	P&C	50,754	12,428	5,025	9.9%	573,379	-
10,866	-	CS	15,404	1,048	-3,296	-21.4%	67,092	-
140	-	Corporately Managed	730	666	-	0.0%	6,951	-
74,569	-	C&I	71,043	4,765	0	0.0%	428,322	-
-	-	Outturn adjustment	-	-	-	-	-	-
176,443	-0	Total Spending	187,655	25,547	1,729	0.9%	1,499,879	-

Notes:

1. The 'Revised Budget' incorporates any changes in the funding available to what was originally budgeted. A breakdown of the use of the capital programme variations budget by service is shown in section 6.2.
2. The reported P&E capital figures do not include Greater Cambridge Partnership, which has a budget for 2020/21 of £37.4m and is currently forecasting an in-year pressure of £3.9m at year-end.
3. The 'Total Scheme Forecast Variance' reflects the forecast variance against budget of the total expenditure for all active capital schemes across all financial years.

6.2 2020-21 capital programme variations budgets

6.2.1 A summary of the use of the 2020-21 capital programme variations budgets by services is shown below. As forecast underspends are reported, these are offset with a forecast outturn for the variation budget, leading to a balanced outturn overall up to the point when re-phasing exceeds this budget.

Service	Capital Programme Variations Budget £000	Forecast Variance - Outturn (Aug) £000	Capital Programme Variations Budget Used £000	Capital Programme Variations Budget Used %	Revised Forecast Variance - Outturn (Aug) £000
P&E	-12,043	-2,036	2,036	0	0
P&C	-6,523	502	0	0.00%	5,025
CS	-3,827	-7,123	3,827	100.00%	-3,296
Corporately Managed	-183	0	0	0.00%	0
C&I	-17,625	-2,532	2,532	14.36%	0
Outturn adjustment	-	-	-	-	-
Total Spending	-40,201	-11,189	8,395	20.88%	1,729

6.2.2 As at the end of August, Corporate Services schemes have exceeded the capital variations budget allocated to them, forecasting an in-year underspend of -£3.3m. People & Communities are declaring an in-year pressure of £5.0m, as the level of variation is not expected to fully use the -£6.5m P&C capital variations budget. The current overall forecast position is therefore a £1.7m pressure; the forecast will be updated as the year progresses.

6.3 Capital Current Year Key Exceptions

A more detailed analysis of current year key exceptions this month by programme for individual schemes of £0.25m or greater are identified below.

6.3.1 Place & Economy:

A balanced budget is forecast at year-end. There are no exceptions to report this month; for full and previously reported details, see the [P&E Finance Monitoring Report](#).

6.3.2 People & Communities:

A +£5.0m (+9.9%) in-year pressure is forecast at year-end.

- Adaptations

Revised Budget for 2020/21 £'000	Forecast Spend - Outturn (Aug) £'000	Forecast Spend - Outturn Variance (Aug) £'000	Variance Last Month (July) £'000	Movement £'000	Breakdown of Variance: Underspend/ pressure £'000	Breakdown of Variance : Rephasing £'000
1	300	299	0	299	0	299

An in-year pressure of +£0.3m is forecast across Adaptations schemes, which relates in full to a change since last month. This is primarily due to changes on the scheme outlined below:

- Duxford - Fire Damage Rebuild

Revised Budget for 2020/21 £'000	Forecast Spend - Outturn (Aug) £'000	Forecast Spend - Outturn Variance (Aug) £'000	Variance Last Month (July) £'000	Movement £'000	Breakdown of Variance: Underspend/ pressure £'000	Breakdown of Variance : Rephasing £'000
0	300	300	0	300	0	300

This programme will be added to the 2021-22 business plan and a full business case has been submitted to Capital Programme Board. In response to the fire £300k of works is anticipated in 2020-21 for demolitions, temporary works and commencing redesign.

- P&C Capital Variation

Revised Budget for 2020/21 £'000	Forecast Spend - Outturn (Aug) £'000	Forecast Spend - Outturn Variance (Aug) £'000	Variance Last Month (July) £'000	Movement £'000	Breakdown of Variance: Underspend/ pressure £'000	Breakdown of Variance : Rephasing £'000
-6,523	-2,000	4,523	4	4,519	4,523	0

As agreed by the Capital Programme Board, any forecast underspend in the capital programme is offset against the capital programme variations budget, leading to a balanced outturn overall up to the point when rephasing exceeds this budget. At this stage of the financial year it is anticipated that only -£2.0m of the capital variations budget will be utilised, resulting in a forecast £4.5m in-year pressure.

- For full and previously reported details, see the [P&C Finance Monitoring Report](#).

6.3.3 Corporate Services:

A -£3.296m (-21.4%) underspend is forecast at year-end.

- Data Centre Relocation

Revised Budget for 2020/21 £'000	Forecast Spend - Outturn (Aug) £'000	Forecast Spend - Outturn Variance (Aug) £'000	Variance Last Month (July) £'000	Movement £'000	Breakdown of Variance: Underspend/ pressure £'000	Breakdown of Variance : Rephasing £'000
5,204	2,764	-2,440	-	-2,440	0	-2,440

An in-year underspend of -£2.4m is forecast. Due to the impact of Covid-19 the requirement for connectivity within the Shire Hall campus has been extended which has also resulted in the final move date for the Data Centre being moved to June 2021. The programme has therefore been re-profiled.

- IT Strategy

Revised Budget for 2020/21 £'000	Forecast Spend - Outturn (Aug) £'000	Forecast Spend - Outturn Variance (Aug) £'000	Variance Last Month (July) £'000	Movement £'000	Breakdown of Variance: Underspend/ pressure £'000	Breakdown of Variance : Rephasing £'000
1,639	639	-1,000	-	-1,000	0	-1,000

An in-year underspend of -£1.0m is forecast. This is due to the impact of Covid-19 on the prioritisation of projects to support the business with day-to-day operations. A number of IT Strategy projects have been delayed or have made slower progress than originally planned.

- Investment in Connecting Cambridgeshire

Revised Budget for 2020/21 £'000	Forecast Spend - Outturn (Aug) £'000	Forecast Spend - Outturn Variance (Aug) £'000	Variance Last Month (July) £'000	Movement £'000	Breakdown of Variance: Underspend/ pressure £'000	Breakdown of Variance : Rephasing £'000
8,790	5,289	-3,501	-	-3,501	0	-3,501

An in-year underspend of -£3.5m is forecast. Due to the nature of the contract with BT, the majority of the costs are being extended with expenditure being incurred into 2021/22. The total scheme budget is expected to be spent.

- CS Capital Variation

Revised Budget for 2020/21 £'000	Forecast Spend - Outturn (Aug) £'000	Forecast Spend - Outturn Variance (Aug) £'000	Variance Last Month (July) £'000	Movement £'000	Breakdown of Variance: Underspend/ pressure £'000	Breakdown of Variance : Rephasing £'000
-3,827	0	3,827	182	3,645	0	3,827

As agreed by the Capital Programme Board, any forecast underspend in the capital programme is offset against the capital programme variations budget, leading to a balanced outturn overall up to the point when rephasing exceeds this budget. Therefore £3.8m of the net underspend is balanced by full utilisation of the capital variations budget;

this relates primarily to the underspends as reported above, together with more minor variances

- For full and previously reported details, see the [CS & LGSS Finance Monitoring Report](#).

6.3.4 Corporately Managed:

A balanced budget is forecast at year-end. There are no exceptions to report this month; for full and previously reported details, see the [CS & LGSS Finance Monitoring Report](#).

6.3.5 Commercial & Investment:

A balanced budget is forecast at year-end.

- Community Hubs - East Barnwell

Revised Budget for 2020/21 £'000	Forecast Spend - Outturn (Aug) £'000	Forecast Spend - Outturn Variance (Aug) £'000	Variance Last Month (July) £'000	Movement £'000	Breakdown of Variance: Underspend/ pressure £'000	Breakdown of Variance : Rephasing £'000
1,584	100	-1,484	-	-1,484	0	-1,484

An in-year underspend of -£1.5m is forecast. The only costs expected in 2020-21 will be related to planning, and any construction costs will be in future years.

- C&I Capital Variation

Revised Budget for 2020/21 £'000	Forecast Spend - Outturn (Aug) £'000	Forecast Spend - Outturn Variance (Aug) £'000	Variance Last Month (July) £'000	Movement £'000	Breakdown of Variance: Underspend/ pressure £'000	Breakdown of Variance : Rephasing £'000
-17,625	-15,093	2,532	1,107	1,425	0	2,532

As agreed by the Capital Programme Board, any forecast underspend in the capital programme is offset against the capital programme variations budget, leading to a balanced outturn overall up to the point when rephasing exceeds this budget. Therefore the net £2.5m underspend is balanced by use of the capital variations budget; this increase since last month relates primarily to the underspend on the Community Hubs - East Barnwell as reported above, together with more minor variances.

- For full and previously reported details, see the [C&I Finance Monitoring Report](#).

6.4 Capital Total Scheme Key Exceptions

A more detailed analysis of total scheme key exceptions this month by programme for individual schemes of £0.25m or greater are identified below:

6.4.1 Place & Economy:

A total scheme balanced budget is forecast. There are no exceptions to report this month; for full and previously reported details, see the [P&E Finance Monitoring Report](#).

6.4.2 People & Communities:

A total scheme balanced budget is forecast. There are no exceptions to report this month; for full and previously reported details, see the [P&C Finance Monitoring Report](#).

6.4.3 Corporate Services:

A total scheme balanced budget is forecast. There are no exceptions to report this month; for full and previously details, see the [CS & LGSS Finance Monitoring Report](#).

6.4.4 Corporately Managed:

A total scheme balanced budget is forecast. There are no exceptions to report this month; for full and previously details, see the [CS & LGSS Finance Monitoring Report](#).

6.4.5 Commercial & Investment:

A total scheme balanced budget is forecast. There are no exceptions to report this month; for full and previously details, see the [C&I Finance Monitoring Report](#).

6.5 Capital Funding Changes

A breakdown of the changes to funding has been identified in the table below.

Funding Source	B'ness Plan Budget £m	Rolled Forward Funding ¹ £m	Revised Phasing £m	Additional/ Reduction in Funding £m	Revised Budget £m	Outturn Funding £m	Funding Variance £m
Department for Transport (DfT) Grant	17.8	-	5.2	-0.9	22.1	22.1	-
Basic Need Grant	20.6	-	-	-	20.6	20.6	-
Capital Maintenance Grant	3.9	-	-	1.2	5.1	5.1	-
Devolved Formula Capital	0.8	1.4	-	-0.0	2.2	2.2	-
Specific Grants	9.0	0.1	2.7	3.0	14.9	14.3	-0.6
S106 Contributions & Community Infrastructure Levy	8.5	2.7	-2.9	2.9	11.2	11.1	-0.1
Capital Receipts	7.3	11.3	0.0	-5.1	13.5	15.3	1.7
Other Contributions	11.4	0.0	1.7	7.8	20.9	18.4	-2.4
Revenue Contributions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Prudential Borrowing	97.1	46.0	-59.7	-6.2	77.2	80.4	3.2
TOTAL	176.4	61.5	-52.9	2.6	187.7	189.4	1.7

¹ Reflects the difference between the anticipated 2019/20 year end position used at the time of building the initial Capital Programme budget, as incorporated within the 2020/21 Business Plan, and the actual 2019/20 year end position.

6.6 Key funding changes (of greater than £0.25m or requiring approval):

Funding: Additional/ Reduction in Funding (Specific Grants, Prudential borrowing)

Service: P&C

Amount: +£1.6m Specific Grant, -£0.5m Prudential borrowing

Reason for Change:

In August, the Government published the additional Schools Condition Allocations (SCA) for 2020-21. This is on top of funding already allocated this year. The purpose of SCA is to maintain and improve the condition of school buildings, so that children can learn in a safe and effective environment. The Council has been allocated an additional £1,607k SCA.

We have a planned minor works and maintenance programme to which this budget relates. The majority of works are specified and tendered in the winter and spring months with works starting on site to take the maximum advantage of the school summer holiday period. The programme budget is, therefore, mostly committed early in the financial year. A small amount is held back for any unforeseen emergencies but the budget is mostly committed to tackling the high priority projects identified in school condition reports where the building element is either life expired or the failure to address the issue may leave the school at risk of potential closure.

This year, we have had an unprecedented number of emergencies that have required a response. These have been linked to intense summer rainfall episodes and storms. There have been flooding incidents and lightning strikes. The impact of the emergency works undertaken to ensure that these schools were able to re-open for the start of the Summer term has yet to be fully quantified. At one school alone, a temporary solution has been put in place to allow the school to re-open, but the permanent solution required could be in excess of £400k as it may require a new roof to be provided.

A further element of the budget which is difficult to control is the costs arising from academy conversion of a maintained school. As part of the conversion process, there is an expectation that the local authority will not transfer an unreasonable level of liability to the academy sponsor at the point of transfer. The extent of work to be undertaken to facilitate transfer is determined through negotiation in which the Council seeks to limit its commitment to the highest priority condition/maintenance works. There is one particularly complex transfer where the value of the works required is approaching £600k.

P&C was in the process of preparing a business case to the Capital Programme Board to request additional borrowing to meet these pressures when the additional SCA was announced. The SCA was added to the earlier allocation with the intention that it was used to meet the pressures described above. Following a review of relevant projects, budgeted prudential borrowing has been reduced by £539k as a result of the additional SCA.

General Purposes Committee is asked to note the £1.6m additional capital funding for School Condition Allocations for 2020-21 and approve the resulting £0.5m reduction in prudential borrowing.

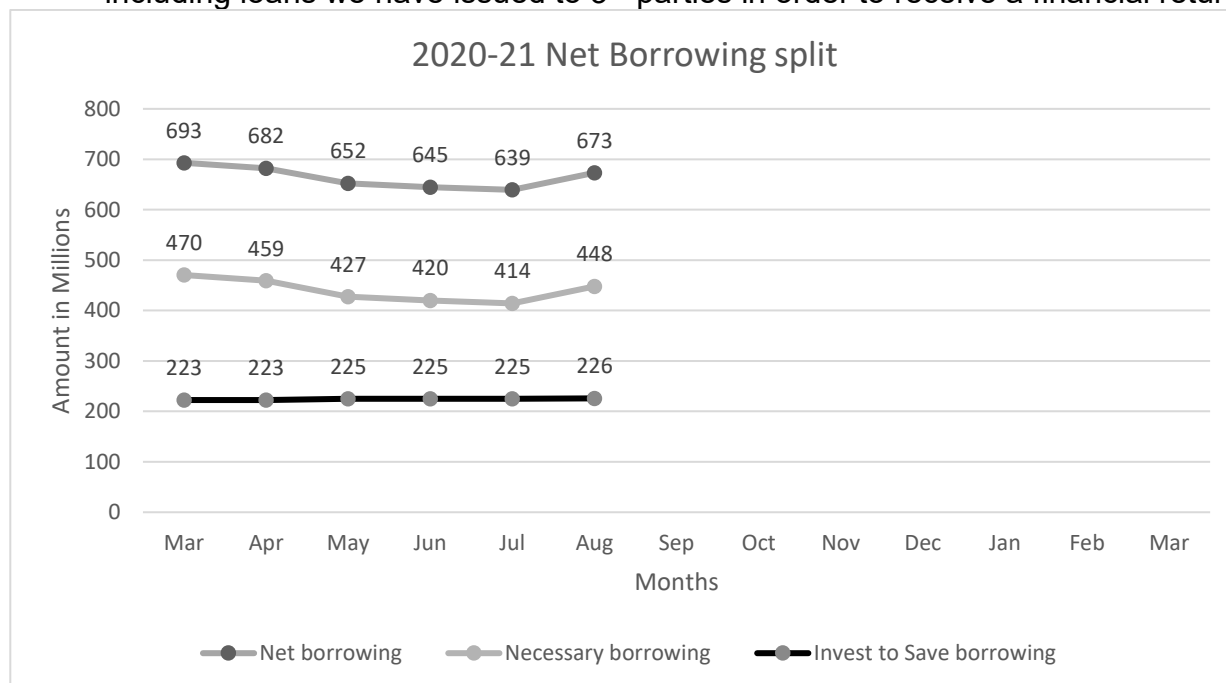
7. Balance Sheet

7.1 A more detailed analysis of balance sheet health issues is included below:

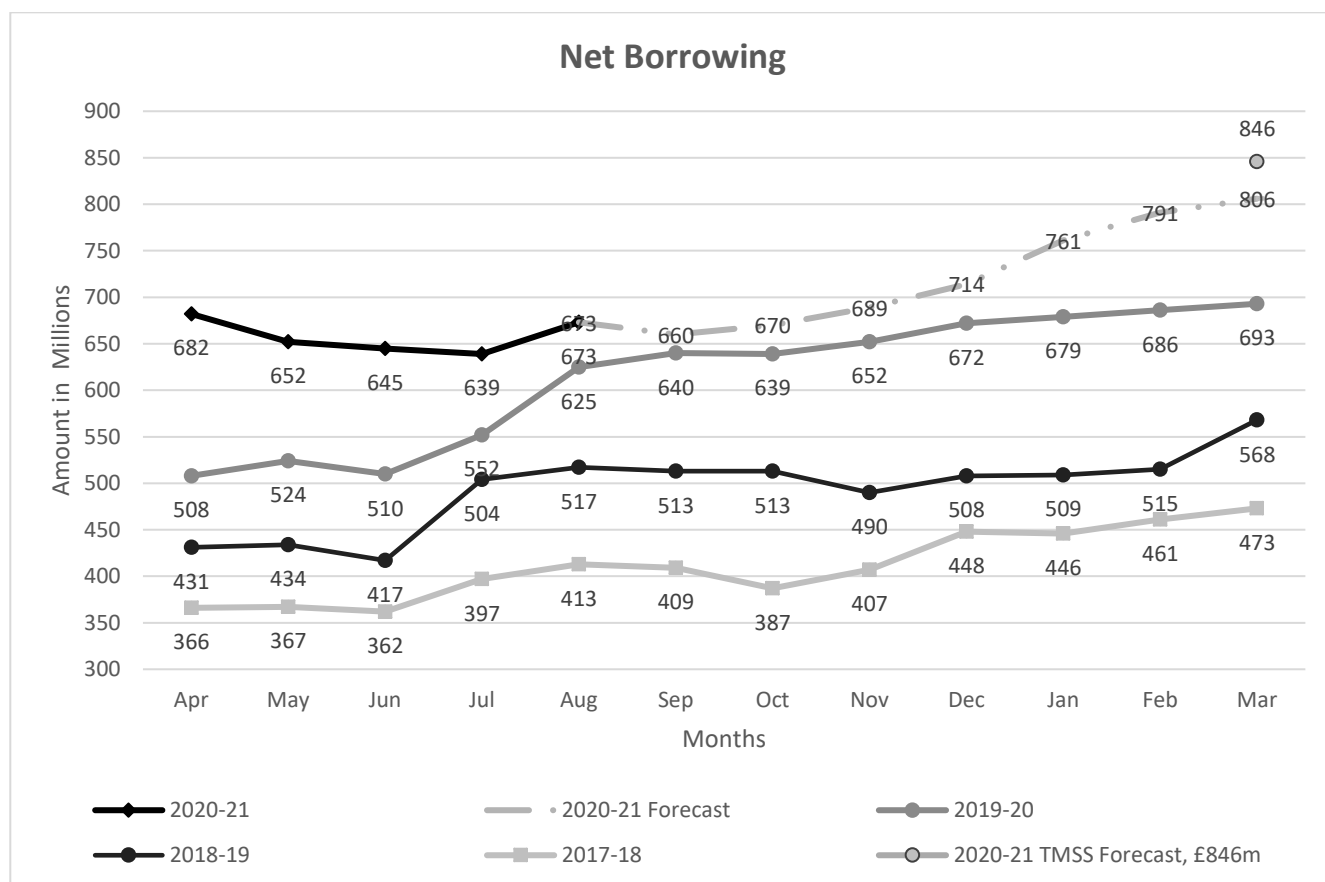
Measure	Year End Target	Actual as at the end of Aug 2020 ¹
Level of debt outstanding (owed to the council) 91 days +, £m: Adult Social Care	£3.37m	£7.10m
Level of debt outstanding (owed to the council) 91 days +, £m: Sundry	£1.71m	£2.82m
% of Undisputed Commercial Supplier Invoices Paid Within 30 Days	95.0%	97.2%
% of Undisputed Commercial Supplier Invoices Paid Within Terms	85.0%	81.9%

¹ The debt figures from Oct 19 onwards exclude Cambridgeshire & Peterborough CCG debts as these are considered collectable and are subject to separate reconciliation. The amount of debt owed by Cambridgeshire & Peterborough CCG exceeding one year hold was £4.01m. The overdue amounts primarily relate to funding contributions to nursing care and for aftercare provided under section 117 of the Mental Health Act. The CCG now funds care homes for nursing care directly, rather than via the Council, so this issue relates to historic sums accrued between 2017 and 2019. Individual payments continue to be received and officers are working to reconcile these to payments owed and allocate against specific invoiced amounts. Both the Council and the CCG continue to work together to agree, expedite and reconcile payments for clients eligible for NHS funding.

7.2 The graph below shows the estimated split of the net borrowing between necessary borrowing and Invest to Save borrowing. Of the gross borrowing in 2020-21, it is estimated that £226m relates to borrowing for Invest to Save or Invest to Earn schemes, including loans we have issued to 3rd parties in order to receive a financial return.



- 7.3 The graph below shows net borrowing (borrowings less investments) on a month by month basis and compares the position with the previous financial year. At the end of August 2020, investments held totalled £80.4m (excluding all 3rd party loans) and gross borrowing totalled £753.8m, equating to a net borrowing position of £673.4m.



- 7.4 The Council's cash flow profile – which influences the net borrowing requirement - varies considerably during the year, due to the timing difference between outgoing payments (payroll, supplier payments etc.) and income streams (grants, council tax etc.). As illustrated by 2019-20 actual net borrowing positions, cash flows at the beginning of the year are typically stronger than at the end of the year, as many grant receipts are received in advance of spend. The 2020-21 net borrowing position is expected to take a similar path, rising more substantially towards the end of the financial year as capital projects are progressed to completion and financed.
- 7.5 The Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) sets out the plan for treasury management activities over the forthcoming year. It identifies the expected levels of borrowing and investments based upon the Council's financial position and forecast capital programme. When the 2020-21 TMSS was set in February 2020, it anticipated that net borrowing would reach £846.0m by the end of this financial year. Based on the 2019-20 outturn position and subsequent revisions to the capital programme, this is now forecast to be £806.0m by the end of this financial year, remaining on target.
- 7.6 From a strategic perspective, the Council continues to temporarily utilise cash-backed resources in lieu of additional borrowing (known as internal borrowing) and where borrowing is undertaken loans are raised for shorter terms, both to generate net interest cost savings and consequently holding less investments reduces the Council's exposure to credit risk. However, this approach carries with it interest rate risk and officers continue to monitor options as to the timing of any potential longer term borrowing should underlying interest rates be forecast to rise in a sustained manner.

- 7.7 There is a link between the capital financing borrowing requirement, the net borrowing position and consequently net interest costs. However, the Debt Charges budget is prudently formulated with sensitivity to additional factors including projected levels of cash-backed reserves, forecast movements in interest rates, and the overall borrowing requirement for the Council over the life of the Business Plan and beyond.
- 7.8 Further detail around the Treasury Management activities can be found in the latest [Treasury Management Report](#).
- 7.9 The Council's reserves include various earmarked reserves (held for specific purposes), as well as provisions (held for potential liabilities) and capital funding. A schedule of the Council's reserves and provisions can be found in [Appendix 2](#).

8. Alignment with corporate priorities

8.1 A good quality of life for everyone

There are no significant implications for this priority.

8.2 Thriving places for people to live

There are no significant implications for this priority.

8.3 The best start for Cambridgeshire's children

There are no significant implications for this priority.

8.4 Net zero carbon emissions for Cambridgeshire by 2050

There are no significant implications for this priority.

9. Significant Implications

9.1 Resource Implications

This report provides the latest resources information for the Council and so has a direct impact.

9.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

9.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

9.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

9.5 Engagement and Consultation Implications

No public engagement or consultation is required for the purpose of this report.

9.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

There are no significant implications within this category.

9.7 Public Health Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

Have the resource implications been cleared by Finance? Yes

Name of Financial Officer: Chris Malyon

Have the procurement/contractual/ Council Contract Procedure Rules implications been cleared by the LGSS Head of Procurement? No

Name of Officer: Not applicable

Has the impact on statutory, legal and risk implications been cleared by the Council's Monitoring Officer or LGSS Law? No

Name of Legal Officer: Not applicable

Have the equality and diversity implications been cleared by your Service Contact? No

Name of Officer: Not applicable

Have any engagement and communication implications been cleared by Communications? No

Name of Officer: Not applicable

Have any localism and Local Member involvement issues been cleared by your Service Contact? No

Name of Officer: Not applicable

Have any Public Health implications been cleared by Public Health? No

Name of Officer: Not applicable

10. Source documents

10.1 Source documents

P&E Finance Monitoring Report (August 20)

P&C Finance Monitoring Report (August 20)

PH Finance Monitoring Report (August 20)

CS and LGSS Cambridge Office Finance Monitoring Report (August 20)

C&I Finance Monitoring Report (August 20)

Capital Monitoring Report (August 20)

Report on Debt Outstanding (August 20)

CCC Prompt Payment Report (August 20)

10.2 Location

1st Floor,
Octagon,
Shire Hall,
Cambridge

(Only virements of £1k and above (total value) are shown below)

Appendix 2 – Reserves and Provisions

Fund Description	Balance at 31 March 2020 £000s	Movements in 2020-21 £000s	Balance at 31 Aug 2020 £000s	Forecast Balance at 31 March 2021 £000s	Notes
- County Fund Balance	17,658	1,829	19,487	19,160	
1 P&C	0	0	0	0	
2 P&E	0	0	0	0	
3 CS	0	0	0	0	
4 LGSS Operational	825	-228	597	284	
General Reserves subtotal	18,483	1,601	20,084	19,444	
5 Insurance	4,165	-446	3,719	3,719	
Specific Earmarked Reserves subtotal	4,165	-446	3,719	3,719	
6 P&C	0	0	0	0	
7 P&E	0	0	0	0	
8 CS	3	-3	0	0	
9 C&I	0	0	0	0	
Equipment Earmarked Reserves subtotal	3	-3	0	0	
10 P&C	1,097	0	1,097	1,097	Includes liquidated damages in respect of the Guided Busway
11 PH	2,728	0	2,728	2,469	
12 P&E	4,669	-94	4,575	1,312	
13 CS	5,360	-38	5,322	5,168	Savings realised through change in MRP policy.
14 Corporately Managed	63	0	63	63	
15 C&I	705	0	705	705	
16 Transformation Fund	24,593	7,953	32,546	27,645	Includes COVID-19 Support Grant 1st, 2nd and 3rd tranches
17 Innovate & Cultivate Fund	972	-71	901	237	
18 Corporate	14,612	15,301	29,912	0	
Other Earmarked Funds subtotal	54,799	23,051	77,850	38,696	
SUBTOTAL	77,450	24,203	101,653	61,859	
19 P&C	2,518	0	2,518	0	Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy balances.
20 P&E	5,024	7	5,031	0	
21 Corporately Managed	0	0	0	0	
22 C&I	11,632	177	11,809	0	
23 Corporate	60,761	4,818	65,579	54,518	
Capital Reserves subtotal	79,935	5,002	84,937	54,518	
GRAND TOTAL	157,385	29,205	186,590	116,377	

In addition to the above reserves, specific provisions have been made that set aside sums to meet both current and long term liabilities that are likely or certain to be incurred, but where the amount or timing of the payments are not known. These are:

Fund Description	Balance at 31 March 2020 £000s	Movements in 2020-21 £000s	Balance at 31 Aug 2020 £000s	Forecast Balance 31 March 2021 £000s	Notes
1 P&C	0	0	0	0	
2 P&E	224	-24	200	200	
3 CS	0	0	0	0	
4 Corporately Managed	2,093	0	2,093	2,093	
5 C&I	0	0	0	0	
Short Term Provisions subtotal	2,317	-24	2,293	2,293	
6 Corporately Managed	3,613	0	3,613	3,613	
Long Term Provisions subtotal	3,613	0	3,613	3,613	
GRAND TOTAL	5,930	-24	5,906	5,906	

Appendix 3 – Summary of Impacts of COVID-19 Needs Assessment

This paper is an initial assessment of the impacts of COVID-19 and the social and economic restrictions implemented to manage the pandemic. It tries to present a reasonable set of estimates building on the most up to date policy work as possible, but its conclusions should be taken as reasonable extrapolations and estimates, not validated forecasts. It also is limited in its ability to 'join up' public sector statistics around people; national and local statistics tend to be focused on aspects of people's lives rather than take a holistic view of them.

It focuses on impacts and harms to people who are not being 'case managed' by a particular agency already, because those agencies are already doing needs assessments and adjusting their support for service users or patients. The approach taken looks at risk and potential harm rather than client group.

Five key areas are identified of risk of harm to the population in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough arising from the pandemic.

- A. Poor health outcomes of COVID-19 as a disease
- B. Impacts on mental health
- C. Poor educational and employment outcomes for young people
- D. Economic and income impacts
- E. Victimisation

This work seeks to set out the national evidence of harms arising in these areas and locate that in a Cambridgeshire and Peterborough context in order to support local recovery planning.

Category A includes factors which increase the risk of poor health outcomes for people who are infected with COVID-19. These include age (older people are more likely to die or be seriously ill), sex (men are more likely to be seriously affected than women), ethnicity (people from BAME groups are more likely to die than people of White British ethnicity, although this analysis does not account for impacts of other variables such as occupation or comorbidities) and deprivation (people living in more deprived areas are more likely to die). There is also evidence that some other diseases (such as diabetes, chronic kidney disease and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) increase the risk of death. Some occupations, particularly those with higher exposure to people with COVID-19 and proximity to people in the course of work, are at higher risk.

These variables are likely to interact with each other substantially. People living in deprived areas often have lower-paid jobs, and those jobs (such as security or care work) are also often higher in risk in terms of exposure and proximity. BAME groups are over-represented in deprived areas and in those jobs. Long-term health is generally poorer in deprived areas.

To quantify the key risk factors, there are 113,000 people aged over 70 living in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, with 150,000 estimated resident population of people from BAME groups, and approximately 97,000 people living in areas that are amongst the most deprived 20% in the country. Category B covers the risks of harm in mental health at different points in the life course. Elements like changes to normal routine, isolation from friends, boredom, anxiety about friends and family and COVID-19, and financial worries are all key factors driving an anticipated increase in the number of people who have clinically meaningful mental ill-health.

A model developed by Lancashire and South Cumbria Foundation Trust has been used to estimate the number of people who may develop mental ill-health as a result of the pandemic. This highlights a possible 19,000 working age adults developing anxiety (a 20% increase) and 59,000 working age adults developing depression (a 104% increase) in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, from general impacts of social and economic restrictions. A similar proportion of older adults are potentially at risk. Additionally, there are expected to be impacts on front-line key worker staff, with a fifth to a quarter of

the 20,000 key worker staff in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough at risk of anxiety, depression or PTSD. Impacts of unemployment, hospitalisation, and bereavement are also modelled, although the number of people impacted by these harms will change as the pandemic progresses and the economy reacts. Of people who are newly unemployed, the expectation is that 18% of them will develop mental ill-health as a result, and that following hospitalisation and recovery up to a third will experience depression.

Category C includes the risks to educational and employment outcomes for young people. Some 97.5% of the 137,000 children and young people living in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough missed school during the initial school closure period from March to May 2020. 15-20% of children returned to school from 1 June until the end of term. These closures had a very significant impact on attendance rate; for children who missed the whole period from March-May (approximately 80%) their maximum attendance rate for the year would be about 62%; for children who returned from 1 June their maximum attendance rate was about 80%.

Research into the impacts of attendance on educational outcomes shows a clear decrease in achievement with a decrease in attendance; however at levels below 80% the research is not clear. Schools were providing learning materials over the period, and national surveys suggest that some children were more able to engage than others. A national survey in May reported that 42% of pupils did not return their last piece of work – if we apply this to the 80% of pupils who were not at school, this suggests that around 46,000 pupils were not fully engaged with learning in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough for the period of March-July (although a small proportion were more engaged than usual). Teachers were most concerned about children and young people who did not have access to digital resources or who did not have an appropriate space at home to study; this was more common in areas where deprivation was higher.

Youth unemployment has risen sharply locally, increasing from 2.6% to 7.2% in August 2020. Young people are over represented in industries which are at most risk (such as accommodation and food services), and furthermore young people have more recently relied upon stepping up to higher-paying occupations in order to drive wage growth. If the sectors that typically employ younger people contract following the pandemic, this makes it harder for them to get a first step on the career ladder; then a more general economic downturn will make it harder for them to achieve wage growth by moving into better paying occupations because there are fewer opportunities.

Category D covers the risks of harm to people as a result of economic downturn. COVID-19 is likely to precipitate a severe recession, and during the lockdown evidence has been seen locally from Huntingdonshire and elsewhere of increased use of food banks, increased Council Tax arrears, and demand for hardship funds increasing. Economic impacts drive many other poor outcomes (for example people in economic stress are more likely to live in poor housing, to experience anxiety or depression, to have poorer physical health and to have fewer close friends), and if people fall into poverty as a result of economic harm due to the pandemic, over time more people will experience these outcomes in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

Universal Credit claimant count is a clear indicator of economic impact and we have seen rates in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough more than double across the whole patch. Claimant rates are now higher than in the 2008 banking crisis. At that time, claimant rates locally persisted beyond the technical end of the recession in 2012, into 2015, so one area for action locally should focus on supporting people who 'fall out' of the job market in this way.

Using analysis of the Job Retention Scheme, a first estimate of the potential redundancies and the sectors in which they could fall has been produced. It is estimated that approximately 19,000 jobs in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough could be at risk, which would double the (increased) claimant count again if they all happened at once. Sectoral analysis suggests the risk is highest in sectors most affected by economic restrictions, including accommodation and food service activities, arts and entertainment, and manufacturing. Many of these sectors operate low paid jobs, which should be

considered alongside the points made about youth unemployment and risks of COVID-19 made above.

Category E covers the risks to people of greater victimisation. Overall crime fell in the lockdown period. However there are specific crime types for which there has been concern that the pandemic and management measures have influenced the risks of victimisation. These include domestic abuse, safeguarding of children, hate crime and fraud.

Domestic abuse was one of the primary types of crime expected to rise significantly during the pandemic response, as the pressures associated with the pandemic and pandemic response (closed schools, less work, close quarters with partners and children, less income, etc.) took their toll on relationships. Those households already experiencing domestic violence were expected to see more of it and more severe, and new households were expected to be affected. However, no such substantial rise seems to have occurred. The pandemic and pandemic response seems to have caused a slight rise in DA crimes, reversing a previous trend of declining crimes. It must be noted that only 6% of all DA crimes (432 crimes) can be directly attributed to such an effect (that is, either the suspect, the victim or a witness have cited the pandemic and/or pandemic response as a contributing factor in the DA crime).

However, locally it has been reported that Quarter 1 of 2020/21 (April-June) saw an 11% increase in referrals to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough IDVA services, compared to the same period last year. The increase in Q1 was predominantly new referrals as repeat rates remained steady (a repeat is same victim/perpetrator within 3 months and is likely to be a direct result of lockdown).

The Association of Directors of Children's Services expressed concern in a paper in July 2020 about a potential increase in safeguarding risk for children over the period of the pandemic, arising from lockdown conditions particularly. Analysis of contacts made to the children's services over the lockdown period locally, using these as a proxy indicator for the number of children who the community and children's services system are concerned about, suggests that there was a drop in contacts in April and May compared to the usual levels. However schools and health services being closed is likely to be the driver for this as there were fewer opportunities for professionals to identify and report concerns. Looking at incidents recorded by the Police, child neglect incidents were higher in March, April and July 2020 compared to 2019 (albeit small numbers), child sexual abuse incidence and missing from home incidence did not appear to change significantly or fell. The severity or seriousness of those incidents that did occur is a concern expressed by local professionals.

Due to limits on freedom of movement and less interactions in public places between victims and offenders, the occurrence of hate crime was lower in 2020 (down 46%), relative to the same period in 2019 (951 and 1753 crimes and incidents, respectively). This does not include incidence of hate crimes online however.

The pandemic and pandemic response provided scammers with new opportunities and means by which to defraud victims. There was a modest rise in the volume of fraud offences as a result of the pandemic and pandemic response (however, only 4% of frauds from 15 March to 16 August 2020 were directly linked to COVID-19; 78 of 2054 recorded frauds). At the start of the lockdown, 2020 saw frauds decline by 5% in March. This reversed, and year-on-year monthly increases (versus 2019) were 11%, 3% and 17% in April, May and June, respectively