

Committee(s)	Dated:
Community and Children's Services – For Information	19 June 2025
Subject: Revenue Outturn 2024/25 – Community and Children's Services Committee (City Fund)	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1,2,3,4,8,9,12
Report of: Executive Director of Community and Children's Services and the Chamberlain	For Information
Report author: Beatrix Jako, Chamberlain's Department	

Summary

This report compares the 2024/25 revenue outturn for the non-Housing Revenue Account (HRA) services overseen by your Committee with the final agreed budget for the year. The Director of Community and Children's Services local risk budget was overspent by £202,000, while the total overspend across all risk areas, including recharges, amounted to £650,000. A summary of these figures is presented in the table below.

Summary Comparison of 2024/25 Revenue Outturn with Final Agreed Budget – Community & Children's Services Committee			
	Final Agreed Budget £000	Revenue Outturn £000	Variations (Increase) / Reduction £000
Local Risk	(14,727)	(14,929)	(202)
Central Risk	(1,202)	(1,621)	(419)
Surveyors R&M	(61)	(46)	15
Total all Risks	(15,990)	(16,596)	(606)
Recharges	(3,006)	(3,050)	(44)
Overall Totals	(18,996)	(19,646)	(650)

- (i) The local risk overspend of £202,000 was mainly attributable to increased pressures within Children's Social Care (see paragraph 5).
- (ii) The central risk overspend was primarily due to a £693,000 overspend on benefits administration, partially offset by additional backdated interest income received by Commissioning (see paragraphs 7 & 8 for further details).

Recommendation

It is recommended that this revenue outturn report for 2024/25 is noted.

Main Report

Revenue Outturn for 2024/25

- Actual net expenditure for your Committee's services during 2024/25 totalled £19.646m. A summary comparison with the final agreed budget for the year of £18.996m is tabulated below. In the tables, figures in brackets indicate expenditure or adverse variance. Only significant variances (generally those larger than £100,000) have been commented on in the following paragraphs.

	Final Agreed Budget £000	Revenue Outturn £000	Variations to Final Agreed Budget (Increase) / Reduction £000	Paragraph
Local Risk				
Supervision & Management	(1,691)	(1,736)	(45)	
Partnerships & Commissioned Services	(1,154)	(1,098)	56	
Education and Skills	(1,378)	(1,367)	11	
People's Services	(9,775)	(9,965)	(190)	5
Housing Services	(729)	(763)	(34)	
Total Local Risk	(14,727)	(14,929)	(202)	
Central Risk	(1,202)	(1,621)	(419)	7,8
Surveyors R&M	(61)	(46)	15	
Recharges	(3,006)	(3,050)	(44)	11
Overall Totals	(18,996)	(19,646)	(650)	

- A reconciliation of original local risk budget to the final agreed local risk budget is provided in Appendix A.
- Revenue account reserves levels at start and end of 2024/25 are provided in Appendix B.
- The 2024/25 final approved central risk budget includes a £80,000 adjustment relating to the Operational Property Review along with additional resources of

£13,000 to cover cost of living staff pay rises effective from July 2024, a budget uplift of £3,000 to cover backdated agency pay (HAYS), and other minor adjustment totalling £7,000.

Reasons for significant variations

5. There was a net overspend of £190,000 in People's Services within Children's Social Care, primarily due to increased pressures in several key areas. These included family support costs, residential accommodation, legal fees, adoption expenses, and additional costs associated with two new short break clients.
6. In general, it should be noted that both the social care and asylum budgets are very volatile and a small change in client numbers could have a major effect on the outturn.
7. An additional £126,000 in backdated interest was received by Commissioning, following a rent review related to Half Moon Court.
8. There was a £693,000 adverse variance within Benefit Administration central risk budget. This is largely attributable to a shortfall between housing benefits awarded for temporary accommodations and what the Department for Work and Pensions paid. Some of the accommodations are over their limit and shortage of temporary accommodation at reasonable prices led to the increasing shortfall in this area.
9. The Homes for Ukraine Scheme continued during the year. The costs involved with these programmes have been fully met from government grants and have had no impact on the Directors overall net outturn.
10. It should be noted that during the year, we reported to your Committee that the City received higher-than-anticipated grant income from the Home Office in relation to the Afghan Resettlement Scheme, relating to prior periods. The initial grant accrual had been prudently estimated on the basis of recovering only direct costs. However, the final settlement totalling £1.9 million was on a more favourable basis, resulting in additional income. This surplus income was subsequently transferred to reserves at year-end.
11. The table below shows a breakdown of the Capital and Support Services budgets and expenditure.

	Final Agreed Budget £000	Revenue Outturn £000	Variation (Increase)/ Decrease £000
CAPITAL & SUPPORT SERVICES			
Capital Charges	(556)	(558)	(2)
Support Services, including Chamberlains, Comptrollers* & Town Clerks	(1,613)	(1,613)	-
Surveyors Employee Recharges	(2)	(2)	-
IS Recharges	(598)	(598)	-
Guildhall Admin Buildings	(227)	(227)	-
Insurances, including premises & liability	(66)	(84)	(18)
Other recharges	24	-	(24)
Corporate & Democratic Core	32	32	0
TOTAL CAPITAL & SUPPORT SERVICES	(3,006)	(3,050)	(44)

*The Comptrollers and City Solicitors department continue to recharge departments for any external legal fees that they have incurred.

Recharges have a corresponding contra entry in their own accounts. Consequently, these charges have no overall impact on net expenditure for the Corporation as a whole.

Local Risk Budget Carry Forward to 2025/26

13. Chief Officers can request underspends of up to 10% or £500,000 (whichever is the lesser) of the final agreed local risk budget to be carried forward provided the underspending is not fortuitous and the resources are required for a planned purpose. Such requests are subject to the approval of the Chamberlain in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Resources Allocation Sub Committee.
14. There were no carry forward requests submitted by the Director of Community and Children's Services' which relate to this committee.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

Financial implications: None

Resource implications: None

Legal implications: None

Risk implications: None

Equalities implications: None

Climate implications: None

Security implications: None

Appendices

- Appendix A – A reconciliation of 2024/25 original local risk budget to the final agreed local risk budget 2024/25
- Appendix B – Revenue account reserves levels at start and end of 2024/25

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