



Doncaster Council

Report

Date: 8th September 2021

To the Mayor and Members of Cabinet

2021-22 Quarter 1 Finance and Performance Improvement Report

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision
Mayor Ros Jones Cllr Phil Cole	All	Yes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report focuses on quarter 1 of the 2021/22 financial year. It indicates our current financial forecast position against our 2021/22 budget and our performance against key Service Standards.
2. A challenging time for the delivery of council services as the COVID-19 pandemic response continued and services across the country progressed through the staged reopening of the economy.
3. Government initiatives have continued to be responded to and the organisation has wrestled with the challenges of opening up services at the same time as considering staff health and safety.
4. Furthermore, the performance of council services have been impacted by changing public behaviours and this has resulted in performance of visible services deteriorating.
5. During 2020/21 the council also went live with the unified system for Education and Adults services. It is pleasing to note that this has resulted in improved performance for schools admissions whilst challenging the timescales for adult services assessments and annual reviews.
6. In addition, the following performance areas are worth highlighting:
 - Business rate collection rate is slightly above target
 - Council tax collection is similar to 2019/20 levels at this point in the year
 - Local spend is £37.7m against available spend of £54.2m (70%)

- The majority of customers contacting the council are served within 10 minutes and 90% of telephone calls are answered within 150 seconds.
- Recycling rates are below target at 41%
- Fly tipping is below performance target at 36%
- Land audit cleanliness is below target following 43 sites being inspected
- The average number of days to process a new housing benefit claim has increased to 30 days and Council tax support application is currently 39 against target of 21 days.
- 74.4% of Education Health Care plans are completed within 20 weeks.
- Referrals to the Domestic Abuse Hub have reduced slightly from Q4 (20-21) but still remain above target.

Financial Position

7. Last year we incurred new and additional costs to support operational services, experienced reduced income through less trading activity, pressures on Council tax and Business rates income and saw delays in delivering savings, which are required to achieve a balanced budget. The financial impact of these pressures was wholly funded from COVID-19 funding provided by government. This, coupled with attention being focussed on responding to the emergency situations, resulted in an underspend on the general fund position of £6m and increased level of carry forwards including specific COVID funding. Our financial strategy continues to be focused on managing the short-term position whilst maintaining an eye on the longer-term baseline position.
8. Moving into 2021/22 the COVID-19 pandemic continues to provide significant volatility and ongoing financial challenges. To some extent this was anticipated and the 2021/22 budget included estimated cost increases as a result of COVID and reduced income from Council Tax and Business Rates, balanced using a modest level of COVID reserves carried forward. The financial position continues to be carefully monitored on a monthly basis and reported. At quarter 1, we are seeing forecast pressures increase, including children's social care placement budgets and schools catering lower meal uptake, plus further slippage on the delivery of savings. However, it is anticipated that through proactive budget management we can continue to meet all COVID related pressures from either the COVID funding carried forward from 2020/21 or the 2021/22 specific COVID grant allocations, and effectively manage the in-year financial position. The 2021/22 specific COVID funding allocated is detailed at Appendix A Finance Profile to this report, this includes emergency COVID-19 funding and the hardship funding of £12.6m. The current forecast for the council tax and business rates collection fund is also looking more positive than expected when the 2021/22 budget was set, although there remains a great deal of uncertainty for businesses and employment. Full details on the main variances are provided in paragraphs 100 to 109.
9. During quarter 2 the cost pressures will be examined in more detail to determine the extent to which they will need to be factored into the budget setting process for 2022/23 and beyond. It is anticipated that this exercise may

reveal a budget gap for 2022/23 that will need to be addressed in budget setting process.

Performance

10. The performance section of this report is structured under the heading of the Councils Wellbeing Wheel from our Corporate Plan for 2021/22. The overall mission is: Thriving People, Places & Planet. To achieve this, the goals sharpen the focus on a number of key imperatives, including:

- Improving skills and supporting creativity;
- Improving the safety and resilience of people and business to challenges like pandemic;
- Developing a more compassionate approach to improving health and wellbeing;
- Developing an economy that provides good, well paid jobs and connecting residents to them;



The 'Greener & Cleaner' Outer Circle prioritises:

- The need to consider the impact on the local and global environment in all we do.

The 'Fair & Inclusive' Inner Circle provides a focus on:

- Tackling inequalities and improving social mobility

EXEMPT REPORT

11. This report is not exempt

RECOMMENDATIONS

12. The Mayor and Members of Cabinet are asked to note and comment on the quarter 1 performance and financial information, and specifically;

- approve the virements per the Financial Procedure Rules, detailed in the Appendix A – Financial Profile;
- approve the allocations of block budgets in the Capital Programme, detailed in the Appendix A – Financial Profile, in accordance with the Financial Procedure Rules (sections A & B);
- approve the payment to the Doncaster Children's Services Trust (DCST), as part of the contract management arrangements, for the COVID funded pressures (£2.155m) with a reconciliation at year-end to ensure any surplus is returned to the Council.

- approve the payment to St Leger Homes, as part of the contract management arrangements, for the general fund overspend reported (£0.246m) with a reconciliation at year-end to ensure any surplus is returned to the Council.
- approve the payment to St Leger Homes, as part of the contract management arrangements, for the cost of additional responsive repairs and electrical testing this financial year (£0.5m), with a reconciliation at year-end to ensure any surplus is returned to the Council;
- approve the use of Housing Revenue Account reserves to meet the cost of in-depth stock condition surveys (£0.5m);

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

GREENER CLEANER

Waste Management & Street Scene

Waste Management

13. Recycling rate for household domestic waste: 41% achievement against a target of 50% - this signifies maintained performance from Q4 20/21. In 20/21 the rates (recycling/composting) were: Q1 38.4% Q2 51.7% Q3 40.2% Q4 41.0% the variations were, and continue to be caused by COVID related disruption of services. For example, disruption to Green Bin collections appear to correspond with an increase in residual waste collected, and, the more residual waste collected the more recycling we need to collect in order to maintain the % performance.
14. In terms of tonnage, residual waste and recycling have both grown significantly since the start of the present collection contract in 2018 (including the introduction of blue bins); this trend continued over Q1.
15. Successful household waste and recycling collections achieved was 99.98% against a 100% target
16. In June '21 Street Scene began using a new quality inspection system called LAMS. The LAMS inspection system replaces NI 195 inspections for street cleanliness and also covers a wider spectrum of categories which are graded according to nationally recognised quality standards. Street Scene Managers, Supervisors and Chargehands have undertaken training on using the system to ensure consistency during the grading process.
17. By the end of Q1 43 sites had been selected as part of a random sampling process and were assessed for both street cleansing and grounds maintenance standards. The standards assessed were for grass cutting (73% of sites passed), shrub and flower bed maintenance (50% passed), weed control (43% passed), litter (93% passed), detritus (67% passed), fly tipping (98% passed) and fly posting (100% passed).
18. The low percentage of sites passing all standards can be attributed mainly to the grounds maintenance standards – primarily weed growth. The spraying of weeds has been hampered by weather conditions along with the loss of working hours due to ongoing Covid restrictions. Actions are in place to address the weed growth with more resources being deployed to this operation

over the short term. Remediation work takes place at the sites which fall below the required standard ensuring they are brought back to an acceptable level. We expect to see an improvement to these standards each quarter of this year – there is a risk that this could be impeded by reduced staffing (COVID) and/ or a mandated requirement to reduce use of Glyphosate.

19. Because the use of LAMS is still being trialled within Street Scene these result have not yet been benchmarked against national returns – it is the intention to do this as use of the system matures. Over the course of the remaining year more sites will be randomly selected for inspection – it is expected that via the use of LAMS Street Scene will inspect a significantly greater number of sites than previously achieved. Furthermore it is expected that the use of this system will promote better quality assurance and therefore promote higher quality outcomes.

Fly Tipping

20. Fly tipping continues to be a national, regional and local issue for all Councils dealing with the complexities of tackling the magnitude of illegal waste dumping. Doncaster Council in its progressive and toughened stance has made a significant additional investment of £466k for 2021/ 22.
21. Whilst for Quarter 1, the tonnage of waste has increased dramatically in certain areas, for example 15 tonnes of waste were cleared in Hexthorpe in May 2021, and 28 tonnes in June 2021, the tonnage of waste cleared across the borough during quarter 1 was 1601.98 tonnes, (the equivalent weight of 80 school buses).
22. Within the industry there is national recognition that jobs can differ dramatically in size and complexity, in some cases could take several days to clear and sometimes require specialist equipment. Any jobs with asbestos have to be passed to a specialist contractor leading to delays in response time. Given this challenging position and the amount of flytipping we have experienced locally we strategically determined within Q1 to prioritise the clearance of back-logged (as opposed to most recent) cases. This is principally because they represent longer-standing resident issues, but also because if we don't clear these long-standing issues we will not be able to start managing our performance from a 'clean slate' – which has been identified as an improvement process necessity.
23. We are now consistently closing more cases than we are receiving, and consequently the number of cases in the back-log (i.e. cases open beyond the SLA) has reduced significantly. During Q1, 2186 new cases were opened and 2993 were closed - i.e. 807 more jobs were completed than were raised, and consequently the log of open jobs reduced from 1278 at the start of April to 471 at the end of June (a 69% reduction).
24. As a result of our adopting this apt and necessary approach, recently raised cases have been taking longer to be cleared – which has affected the percentage of cases closed within the SLA time. The target for quarter 1 is 65% whereas the actual figure is 36% (largely due to the backlog of older cases now being closed). However, given our performance in clearing back-logged jobs, we are confident performance in clearing newly raised jobs will significantly improve over Q2. If we carry on with the same progression of

closing more cases than we receive we will be hitting the target by the end of next quarter.

25. Over Q1 Street Scene have also been working closely with colleagues in Digital to improve back-office systems related to Fly & Litter. The 'Report It' aspect of the Council website has been updated to ensure it captures the information needed to appropriately respond to incidents – and work has been initiated to allow the service to return to a system of automatically deploying staff to incidents on an optimised basis. These system improvements will also enrich service intelligence and promote enhanced operational and strategic decision making.

Parks and Open Spaces

26. At the end of Q1 we have 4 parks with national (Keep Britain Tidy awarded) Green Flag status across the borough against a target of 4. 5 parks have been submitted for the award this year - Sandall Park, Bentley Park, Quarry Park, Campsall Park and Elmfield Park. Council officers met with judges at Elmfield Park in June, the remaining 4 parks will be 'mystery' judged at any given time during the summer. The results will announced in October 2021.
27. 154 mechanical inspections have been carried out at play areas around the borough this quarter. This includes play areas on behalf of St Leger homes and parish councils as well as all Doncaster owned sites. This is a 100% achievement
28. 2,326 new trees were plotted on Treewise and surveyed (height, spread, etc) during quarter 1 against a target of 2500. 1,967 were added on land excluding SLHD, mostly on Strategic Asset Management land at Lakeside and an SLA is being developed for these. 356 new trees were plotted on SLHD sites, including 184 in enclosed gardens.
29. 156,300m² of local authority land has been allowed to naturalise/wildflower against a target of 140,000. Following the authorities declaration of a Bio-diversity/climate change emergency Street Scene have developed a naturalisation trial across the borough. 78 sites of green space are being managed to assist in promoting bio-diversity across the area. The management of sites ranges from reducing cutting regimes to planting trees to individual bespoke site management. These areas are in support of 47 areas of wildflower meadows – some of these areas re-sown yearly with annual type flowers but predominantly perennial flowers which 'come again' each year. Delivery has taken place of specialist machinery, which will enable these areas to be more effectively managed.

Highways Maintenance

30. 2020 National Highways Maintenance satisfaction survey value is 48%, which is 1% behind the National average at 49% (and our target). Over the last three years our results have followed the slightly decreasing national trend.
31. The 2020 National Highways maintenance survey also includes benchmark of how effective the Highways maintenance and management practices are for each Highway Authority based on customer satisfaction, cost and performance.

Doncaster has been ranked within the top ten Authorities nationally for three consecutive years in this measure.

32. There has been £12m of spend on roads, of which £6m is additional funds over these last two years, made up of additional funds received from the Government and Council. The length of roads resurfaced or repaired for this sum - at the end of this year - will be 139.2 km, which is 8% of the total 1700km road network
33. The classified roads within the Borough are in top quartile position nationally and the unclassified (estate) roads have improved 6% in their condition in the last year due to targeted and prioritised interventions from additional investment secured from both internal DMBC funds and the Department of Transport.

Energy

34. Electricity consumption in 2019/20 was down 2,176,861 kWh's against the previous year of 2018-19. There are a significant number of variables that could affect the usage and further analysis needs to be undertaken to see where the reductions have come from. It will be important to understand how much of the reduction has come from efficiency and improved usage, or the shrinking of the portfolio. The reduction delivers a 663 tonnes of CO2 equivalent saving.
35. Gas consumption in 2019/20 was up 647,216 kWh's against the previous year of 2018-19. Again, there are a significant number of variables that could affect the usage and further analysis needs to be undertaken to see where the increases have come from. It will be important to understand how much of the increase has come as a result of weather or overheating (i.e. greater levels of consumption on days where the temperature was the same on others). The increase delivers a 118 tonnes of CO2 equivalent increase.

PROSPEROUS & CONNECTED

Non-domestic Rates

36. The percentage of non-domestic rates collected in Q1 was 96.52% against a target of 96%. In the first quarter 28.50% of the total debit has been collected. This compares with 28.53% for the same time in 2019/20 and 25.75% for the same time last year. An additional £9m debit has been added on the 1st July due to MHCLG phased approach to the expanded retail discount award. Prior to the additional debit being added, collection was tracking at a comparable level with 2019/20 pre-covid levels. Whilst it is anticipated that most of the additional £9m will be paid and that collection figures will remain on track to pre-Covid levels this is not guaranteed because this additional debit has been charged to businesses that have been receiving 100% relief since the start of the pandemic and are mainly in the hospitality and leisure sectors who have been hardest hit in terms of loss of trade. It is hoped that as lockdown measures continue to ease and businesses start to return to a degree of normality in their trading positions, but there still remains a great deal of uncertainty in the current climate.

Planning

37. 88.89% of major planning applications were delivered within timescale against a target of 94%. This figure is in excess of the 70% national target but has a large reliance on successfully negotiating extension of times (EOT) with the applicant. This need to agree an EOT on major applications not unusual, which are complex by their very nature and commonly require on-going negotiations, s106 agreements and committee approvals in order to seek a positive resolution on the proposals. It is important that officers continue to work with our customers (by agreeing EOTs where needed for the more major, transformational projects) to achieve a positive outcome. Quarter 1 shows a 88.89% determination rate which is below the 94% internal stretch target but is a result of 2 of the 18 majors not being determined with an extension of time agreed. This will continue to be monitored and it is envisaged that the percentage will improve closer towards the internal stretch figure by the end of quarter 4.
38. It is well recognised that not all applications are equally complex to deal with and unforeseen issues or the need for amendments may arise through the course of considering an application. Had these extensions not been secured our performance for major applications would be 33.33%.
39. The Council received the Local Plan Final Report from the Planning Inspectorate on 30 June 2021. In summary, the Inspector concludes that, with the recommended changes set out in his Report, and as consulted on in February-March 2021, the Local Plan can be adopted and used to determine all future planning applications. The Examination is now closed and the conclusions of the Inspector's Report means the Council can now move towards adoption of the Local Plan via resolution of Full Council on 23 September 2021.

SAFE & RESILIENT

Domestic Abuse

40. Doncaster like other places has seen a significant rise in Domestic Abuse incidents over the last 18 months. There have been 401 referrals to the Domestic Abuse hub this Quarter, which is a decrease from the previous Quarter (415). This remains significantly higher than the historical target set of 250 referrals per quarter, which is subject to review by the Chief Officer Partnership Board. The number of clients accepting support from services was 46.38% (those identified as standard and medium risk referrals).
41. A huge amount of work has progressed over the last 12 months through the Domestic Abuse Partnership Chief Officer Board, including having clearer oversight of victims and their children whilst also improving the support and protection they receive whilst importantly holding perpetrators to account and supporting behaviour change. Doncaster's new Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021/24 and associated quality and performance framework will demonstrate progress made in terms of improvement over the coming year.
42. There have been a very high number of referrals into the Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVA) service, with an engagement level of 70% during Quarter 1. The target for engagement is 80%.The number of referrals

identified as 'high risk' into the service supported through the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) during this period was 408, which is a reduction of 38 (Quarter 4 number was 446).

43. In Quarter 1, the number of 'high risk' cases referred to MARAC was 298, which sees a significant increase from the previous quarter. Please note, this figure only includes those cases identified as 'high risk' and not standard or medium risk. 231 of the 298 were discussed in this quarter. There were 7 MARAC meetings in Quarter 1, compared to 6 in Quarter 4. In Quarter 1, 42% of the referrals to MARAC were repeat referrals. The Safelives target for a 'well-performing' MARAC suggests that this figure should be between 28% and 40%.

Safeguarding

44. In Quarter 1, there were 75 people recorded as achieving their expressed outcomes following a safeguarding intervention. This number represents 32% of the people who were recorded. However, 86% of people who have had a safeguarding intervention are recorded as feeling safer following that intervention. Work continues on the practice of ensuring that this information is recorded following all safeguarding interventions.

SKILLED & CREATIVE:

Access to free childcare:

45. Across Doncaster 81.7% of 2 year olds were taking up the funding to access free childcare in the Summer term 2021. This is an increase of 3.6% from the Spring term 2021 and a 7.3% increase from Summer 2020 when 77.4% were accessing free childcare. Central, North and South locality areas have an increased percentage accessing childcare from Summer 2020 and Spring 2021. However the East locality area has an increase from Summer 2020, but decrease from Spring 2021, which is most likely linked to the closure of school nurseries who were able to take 2 year old children during lockdown. Doncaster continues to be in sixth place nationally out of 151 Local Authorities.
46. Doncaster has 94.7% of 3 and 4 year olds accessing free childcare in the Summer term 2021, which is a rise of 0.7% in take up from the Spring term. This is a significant increase from the Spring term 2020, when only 70.9% were accessing free childcare. This was during the initial lockdown period when access to childcare was limited to certain groups of children. The take up of the funded entitlements for 3 & 4 year olds decreased in the Summer term 2020 as anticipated because of day nurseries, childminders and school nursery classes being open only for critical workers and vulnerable children, between March and June 2020. A further lockdown period between January and the beginning of March 2021 appears to have only limited impact on take up. Although the target of 95% was not met in this quarter, access to free childcare has continued to maintain at a level above the national average, demonstrating parental confidence in the safety of the providers in Doncaster. There is no current national figure published, however the last reported figure was 94% nationally.

Access to primary and secondary school places:

47. Secondary school places were offered to 3555 Doncaster children, with 97% being offered a place at one of their preferred secondary schools. There was an increase of 2% from the previous year, seeing 88% of children offered their first preferred school compared to 81.1% nationally.
48. 3346 reception places and 483 junior school places were offered to Doncaster children in 2020/2021. In Doncaster, 99% of primary school children were offered a place at one of their preferred primary schools compared to 91.8% nationally. An increase of 1% from the previous year.

Quality of provision:

49. Current Ofsted outcomes for early years providers are strong, being above both national and regional levels. The overall percentage of Early Years Providers rated Good or Outstanding by Ofsted in Doncaster currently stands at 99% against a national figure of 96%.
50. The percentage of pupils accessing good or better education in secondary settings remains unchanged at 52.5% and 68.7% for primary settings. The percentage of pupils accessing good or better education in secondary settings have been paused, due to the lack of school inspections taking place during the Covid-19 pandemic. The inspections which are taking place, are not currently providing judgements. The Council continues to work closely with schools and have developed a programme of school visits to all 18 secondary academies, to support them with their identified improvement priorities.

School assessment results:

51. Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and the disruption to education, there will be no published assessment results in 2021 for Key Stage 1 or Key Stage 2. The Council continues to work with schools to develop strategies that will help children and families to continue to learn in the new academic year. This work will focus on developing good habits of learning and readjusting to full time school. The team have also planned and delivered a range of courses and activities for the Summer term along with a training programme for the Autumn term. The priority is to ensure schools have good systems in place for identifying and addressing gaps in pupils' knowledge caused by the recent disruption in school attendance.
52. There will be no GCSE examinations in 2021 and results will be based on teacher assessments. Guidance material and examples will be provided schools to help teachers make accurate assessments.

Educational, Health Care Plan assessments:

53. The number of requests to make assessments for Educational, Health and Care Plans increased from 38 in Q4 to 90 in Q1 which equates to an unprecedented 136% increase. Due to the large increase in number of assessments, only 74.4% (64) of plans were completed within the statutory 20 weeks, a 9.8% decrease from the previous quarter. Although there has been a slight decrease, Doncaster continues to compare well to the national average of 59%. The increase in volume of requests will be monitored to see if this level of demand continues. The team are also looking to increase staffing levels to

ensure they are able to meet future demand. Temporary funding has been identified to increase capacity within the SEND team to deal with the increasing numbers of requests.

Safeguarding Children & Young People

54. During the last 18 months the number of out of authority regulated external placements for looked after children have increased from 32 at end of Sept 2019, 43 end of March 2020 to now 58 placements. This also represent greater % of the overall children in care. The complexity of cases has also increased at the same time as a national shortage of suitable placements.
55. Demand and short supply is driving up placement costs and the need to source education for these out of borough placements is putting increasing pressure on the Dedicated Schools Grant
56. The requests for Education Health plans have increased dramatically which provides an indicator of the impact of challenging needs of school aged children.
57. Safeguarding concerns have been raised regarding an independent residential provision within the Borough. A multi-agency enquiry is underway, partners and DMBC have taken swift action and the commissioning of such provisions are being reviewed and strengthened.
58. These issues all have separate improvement plans and additional resources have been sourced to support to bring about change and stem the flow. The heightened issues have prompted a review of the corporate risk in relation to safeguarding of children and to elevate the current risk profile.

Total volunteer hours across libraries, heritage and culture:

59. At the end of Q1 there were 322 volunteers registered at community libraries. This is significantly less than at the end of March 2020, when there were 507 volunteers; however, this was just before library closures due to the Covid-19 pandemic. There are 15 out of 21 community libraries currently open and operating. Community Library volunteers work adhoc hours that can vary week to week and library to library. Even though this figure is lower than previously recorded, this does not include libraries that are still closed to the public. There is a slow increase in new volunteers in community libraries resulting in a steady increase in volunteer numbers.
60. Heritage and culture contributed 63 hours of volunteer work, 3 hours on the Heritage Health and Happiness programme and 60 hours gardening at Cusworth.

Service Complaints:

61. During Quarter 1 2021, 10 complaints were received. 60% of the complaints were responded to within the Service Standard timescale of 10 working days. 20% were responded to within 11 to 20 working days. 2 complaints currently remain open and within timescales.

HEALTHY & COMPASSIONATE:

Delivering quality care and support

62. In Quarter 1, the waiting time for the completion of an assessment was at 64.7 days, up from 48.1 days in Quarter 4. The current target is set at 42 days. This figure appears high, and is inconsistent with previous Quarterly reports. This increase coincides with the implementation of a new Case Recording System (Mosaic), and it was anticipated that there would be performance issues relating to this implementation, including staff familiarisation with the system.
63. The latest data in Mosaic shows that 36.1% of people have had an annual review of their care in Quarter 1.
64. Currently, 29.7% of service users receive a direct payment, a small decrease from 30.3% at the end of Q4 in 2020-21. This remains above the target of 25.7%. Work underway to review the way that we support people who receive a direct payment, with the ambition of enabling people to have more choice and control over their care support needs, and have a good life.
65. There have been 14 permanent admissions into residential care for people aged 18-64 years (7.559 per 100,000 population). The current target is 8.7 (or 4.698 per 100,000 population).
66. The latest information from Quarter 1 shows that 236.2 per 100,000 people aged over 65 years were admitted into residential care during this period. This figure is very low compared to previous quarters, and could be attributed to the Mosaic implementation, therefore not capturing or reflecting the accurate figure. This number was at 644.9/100,000 in the last quarter, but this figure has fluctuated somewhat in previous years.

Supporting Rough Sleepers

67. In Quarter 1 there were 48 people known to be rough sleeping. There has been a significant increase in the number of people since the 16 people who were recorded in the last period. This rise has been attributed to hotel and hostel evictions, and people who are new to the Doncaster area. As in previous months, many were accommodated quickly and this does not reflect the usual daily and weekly figures (around 20 people per week).

Housing Adaptations

68. When a recommendation is received from social care for major housing adaptations work, it is agreed that the person's home will be visited within five days of receipt of the recommendations to carry out a survey or an order will be raised for the work to be carried out. In Q1, approximately 85% of referrals met this criteria, keeping in line with performance throughout the last financial year.

Support for people with Learning Disabilities

69. There is some work to be undertaken in relation to the proportion of adults with a learning disability who live in their own home or with family. This is required due to the migration of data from CareFirst to Mosaic, following the Mosaic implementation at the end of Quarter 4. Provisionally, 688 of 795 people known to Doncaster Council, or 86.6%, with a learning disability live at home or with family.

Communities

70. There have been 13 compliments received this quarter with three dissatisfaction reports for the same period, one relating to anti-social behaviour in the South Area, the second associated with SMILE Day Services and the third was related to Allotments.

CONNECTED COUNCIL:

Supporting Staff Well-being

71. Work to support staff health and wellbeing provisions is continuing, particularly staff who may be experiencing social isolation or mental health impacts working from home and where staff are on site or working in the community that they feel safe. The HR & OD team have continued to support managers and staff throughout this time in a variety of ways, including enhanced health and wellbeing resources particularly around mental health with both internal and external resource links, financial wellbeing, healthy home working and other different ways of working. Regular communications are ongoing on key workforce issues to inform and advice and implementing actions from the staff surveys on wellbeing. The next health and wellbeing focussed survey is to be launched this month to inform any further support actions required for our workforce.
72. Staff development has continued with key e-learning modules and on-line workshops, particularly around personal resilience, Health and Safety and data protection. The team has also continued to support deployment of staff to critical areas to build capacity and enable the organisation to deliver.
73. The sickness absence rate for the quarter was 9.15 days per full time equivalent employee, against a target of 8.25 days. This is an increase of 0.90 days from 8.25 days in Q4. While there has been an increase in sickness during the quarter (and appropriate work is being undertaken to establish any underlying reasons for this), there has also been a decrease in the FTE of the organisation, which has also affected the increase in the FTE days. There are early indications of some staff suffering with Long Covid and this will be monitored over the coming months to assess impact and ensure effective provisions to manage the condition effectively remain in place.
74. Agency worker usage and spend has increased this quarter by 11% (£63k) from quarter 4; with 37% of assignments continuing for more than 6 months, predominantly to provide some stability in response to the current pandemic. Ordinarily, agency assignments should be used as a short-term solution to staff capacity or skills issues, therefore robust management of spend will continue to be a focus throughout 2021.
75. The council's corporate Health and Safety team continue to work with HR and Public Health to ensure up to date COVID-19 secure documents and support are in place, and advice to help manage risk and protect employees during the pandemic. This includes generic risk assessments based on national government guidance for managers to utilise and amend to meet the circumstances and needs of their service activities.

76. The number of reported injuries at work in this quarter compared to the same period of last year, during the height of national restrictions and Covid-19 outbreak, are higher and are predominantly in front facing services that are operational across the borough. The most common reported incident type are slips and trips with no identifiable causal trends. However, RIDDOR reports continue to be low, with only two employee RIDDOR reports in this quarter compared to none in the previous year's Q1.

Ensuring the Council Spends Money Locally

77. The Council continues to be committed to sustaining and increasing local spend as this underpins the Council's Doncaster Growing Together ambitions, which are to make Doncaster a great place to learn, work, live and care. Local spend by the Council is the direct reinvestment into Doncaster's economy and communities which drives substantial economic and social value benefits such as improved employment opportunities and lowered environmental impacts. In quarter 1 70% of council spend in was with local firms, this equates to £37.7m out of a total spend of £54.2m.

Responding to Freedom of Information Requests

78. 320 freedom of information requests (FOI) requests were received in quarter 1 and 301 were responded to within the 20 day time limit (94%).

	Received	Responded on time	%
Adults, Health & Wellbeing	33	30	90
Learning & Opportunities	42	36	86
Corporate Resources	106	99	93
Economy & Environment	139	136	98
DMBC	320	301	94

FAIR & INCLUSIVE:

79. Our aspiration is for Doncaster to be an open, diverse and inclusive borough that respects and values differences. A place where people from different backgrounds and with different views work together to create opportunity for everyone to thrive and succeed.

80. The council has defined it's role and responsibilities into 3 key areas:

Community Leader - We have an important role in securing economic prosperity, achieving the right outcomes for all, empowering communities and creating sustainable and cohesive communities. We will

- Demonstrate visible leadership and accountability at all levels
- Build good relationships with and between different communities so everyone is able to participate, contribute and achieve.
- Achieve measurable increases in the extent to which those facing inequality and exclusion can contribute and share in Doncaster's success,

Services – We have an important role in ensuring services are customer focused, inclusive, accessible and meet individual needs irrespective of how services are delivered. We will.

- Develop commission and deliver inclusive and responsive services which actively address disadvantage and enable people to achieve and succeed.
- Actively listen and empower our clients, customers and communities, enabling them to take ownership of decisions that affect them
- Address gaps in knowledge or evidence.

Employer - We have a responsibility to meet the diverse needs of our employees and to ensure they are promoting equality, diversity and inclusion. We will:

- Strive to be an inclusive employer, creating a culture where diversity is valued and celebrated.
- Ensure staff have a good understanding of EDI and are equipped to design and deliver inclusive services.
- Embed EDI to build a positive reputation internally and externally, through policies and practices.

81. Over the coming months the council will review it's equality, diversity and inclusion objectives in line with its responsibility under the Public Sector Equality Duty. These objectives will inform the content of this section of the report.
82. While work is underway to develop the EDI objective we strive to keep inclusion and fairness at the heart of everything we do. Recent activity includes:
 - Mental health event aimed at tackling barriers to accessing service and culturally appropriate service provision reforms
 - The inclusion and Diversity Newsletter has been developed and is routinely shared with the Minorities Partnership Board and partners
 - Work recently commenced with Inclusion & Fairness Forum around STEM education and higher and further education
 - Targeted Covid vaccination pop up clinics arranged in underserved communities
 - Minorities Partnership Board and partners produced an ethnic minorities Covid vaccination leaflet which was converted into a number of languages
 - Culturally sensitive training to be explored via the Primary Care Network/TARGET

PROGRAMMES & PROJECTS

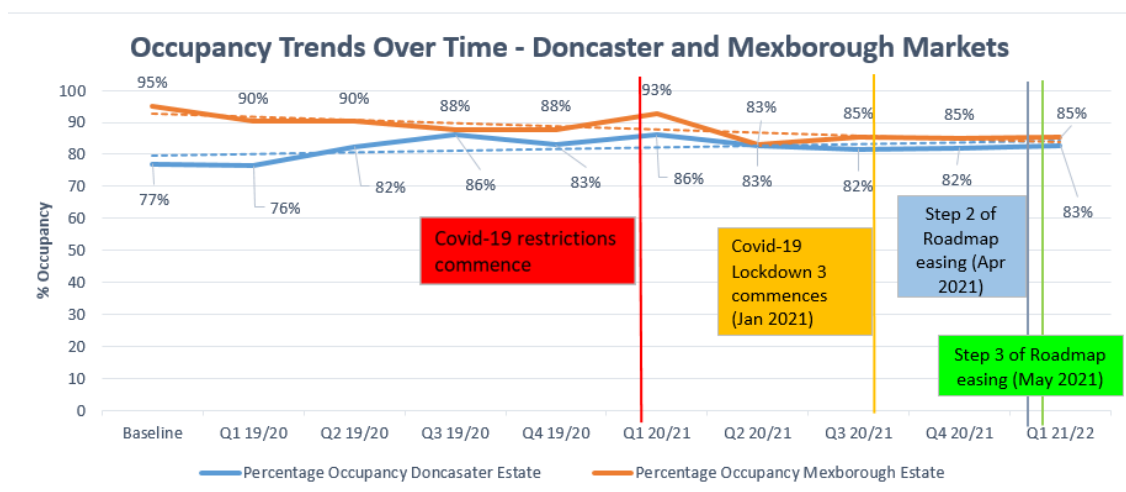
83. At the end of Quarter 4 (2020/21) we identified both the fluidity and challenging circumstances we all face in delivery programme and project management functions in a unique, uncertain, turbulent and unprecedented environment. Whilst we continue to support our residents and partners through the current stages of this pressing emergency, Programmes and Project teams continue to solidify and deliver programme related activities for the longer term benefit of our residents and communities.
84. In measuring the impact of Programmes and Projects for Quarter 1 (2021/22), below is a flavour of some headlines from the current portfolio:
- Programme & Projects staff continue to support the response to Covid and Mass Vaccination (Multiple roles – Management of governance principles, including documentation, structure, templates/ returns, providing the foundations for recovery; for Tactical Coordination Group; supporting numerous Recovery Cells, Locality Meetings, Team Doncaster Partnerships Board etc.)
 - Direct Programme Management support on Floods; To ensure a robust response to any future flood events by addressing lessons learned from November 2019 and January 2021 floods in Doncaster. Programme Management resources are supporting colleagues to refresh, deliver revised Plans and processes, adapt new data intelligence and embed new technologies, supporting and defining significant infrastructure asks, to testing existing support structures through designated training programmes.
 - Awarded significant amount of external funding (£25m Doncaster Urban Centre Town Deals) and bid for other external investment (Awaiting the outcome of the £25m Stainforth Towns Fund, £17m Levelling Up Fund submission submitted for the Doncaster Urban Centre; £2.8m Community Renewal Fund Submission submitted).
 - Continued to manage existing Funding Programmes; European Structural Investment Fund (ESIF), Accelerated Towns Deal Funding (£1.5m); Section 106 and Doncaster Movement.
 - Continue to support the Transition of EU exit – with officers supporting the Programme Management of the external Business Support Package and the development of a flexible skills package that meets the needs of residents through this unsettling period.
 - Continue to support the transition of Key Strategies and Policies to actual deliverable action plans: Environmental Strategy; Tree Policy; Housing Strategy; Health & Well-Being Strategy; Social Care Charging Policy; Education & Skills Strategy; LD/ Autism Strategy.
 - Project Assurance and implementing change within the Environmental Improvement Programme – helping to define and implement improvement planning to a number of Environmental services, including Street Scene, Regulation Enforcement & Highways, and Waste & Recycling Services.

- DIPS – Adults phase 2 of Programme Delivery with further integration into Adults, Health and Well-Being, and Learning and Young People Directorates.
- Domestic Abuse Intelligence – Our robust business partner function has supported the granular narrative of understanding the complex nature of cases and referrals and the identification of trends and remedies.

85. During 2021/22 work continues at pace in ensuring the issues highlighted above are addressed, Business Partners and Programme Managers continue to work with Directors and their Leadership Teams to ensure all Programme and Projects activity is consistently managed and has the appropriate steps in place to manage both deliverability and risk. Where required, additional resources have been flexed to meet the increased demands of particular projects, examples of this over the last quarter include: DIPs, Floods, Cyber Security and Your Ways of Working.
86. With recent guidance published from Prince 2 / Prince 2 Agile all Programme Management staff are undergoing an intense refresh of our practices, this learning will help deliver and drive changes within Doncaster Council, ensuring we keep resources focused on the quality of the outcome; project assurance has greater level of robustness, ensuring viability of programmes/ projects with greater granular narrative on acceptable tolerance and financial risk, fundamentally driving alignment and improvements in our customer quality expectations.

Market Asset Management (MAM) Doncaster Ltd. Update

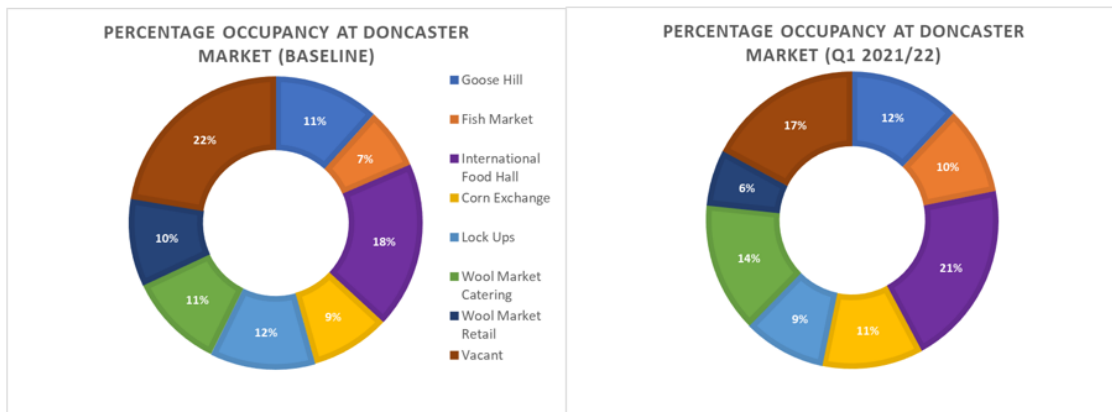
87. The first quarter of 2021-22 signalled Step 2 of the Roadmap out of Lockdown on 12th April where non-essential retail could re-open and hospitality re-opened outdoors with customers not having to order a meal in order to consume alcohol. Step 3 of the Roadmap occurred on the 17th May where groups of up to 30 could meet outdoors and indoor hospitality re-open with the rule of six.



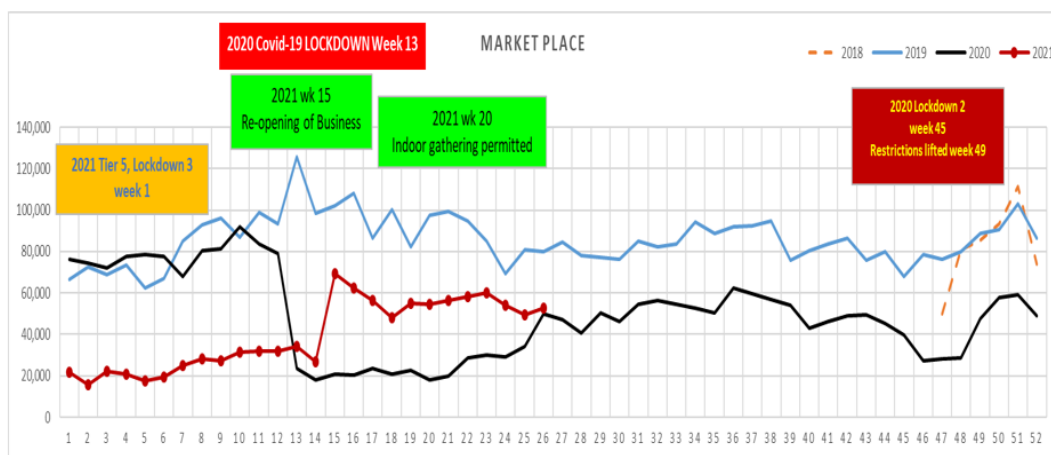
88. MAM have maintained occupancy levels during Q1, with new tenants joining the Wool Market, Mexborough Market and the Fish Market.

89. A number of businesses have been expanding and have taken on additional units in the Fish Market, which is now at full occupancy.
90. MAM are working with Business Doncaster to offer Test Trading units as part of grant support packages, and hope to see this initiative expand going forward.

Doncaster Market Occupancy Level Changes per area of the estate (Percentage) at Baseline (May 2019) and Q1 2021/22



Footfall Trends for the Market Place (up to week 26; w/c 28/06/21)



91. The footfall in 2021/22 Q1 in the market is significantly higher than the same period in 2020 but remains to be reduced when compared to Q1 in 2019/20. Footfall numbers increased from approx. 26,500 in the first week of Q1 to approx. 69,000 the following week (week 15; which coincided with Stage 2 of the Roadmap out of lockdown and has seen the peak of footfall during 2021). Footfall since 12th April has been consistently above approx. 55,000 on all but two weeks which corresponded with poor weather. The move to stage 3 of the easing of lockdown in week 20; where non-essential retail could re-open and indoor dining could resume do not seem to have impacted footfall either positively or negatively. This trend was also visible across the main shopping sites in the town centre.
92. MAM have continued to be compliant with Covid regulations as policy has been updated. This has included the re-introduction of the Quiz nights at the Wool Market, indoor seating and ongoing table service. As the next step of the

roadmap is finalised, we will continue to operate the market in a safe environment whilst re-introducing our footfall-driving events programme.

93. Doncaster Market also held the Young Traders event in collaboration with the National Market Traders Federation (NMTF). After receiving excellent feedback from traders, customers, local judges and the NMTF Doncaster has been chosen to host the Regional Finals in July.
94. With the easing of restrictions a number of events are being planned, in conjunction with the council's events team, to be held in the market area. Events include a return of the successful Delicious Doncaster Food Festival and DN1 Live albeit on a smaller scale due to increased al-fresco areas for bars surrounding the market estate and the wool market.
95. MAM are involved in regular meetings with the Council to maintain the ongoing conversation regarding the development of future plans across both Doncaster and Mexborough estates.
96. MAM continue to provide monthly income and expenditure reports and quarterly management accounts. Council officers have been through this in detail and are monitoring the position however due to commercial sensitivity, the income and expenditure projections are not disclosed within this report.

EU EXIT:

97. The UK left the European Union on 31st December 2020, introducing new arrangements under a Trade and Co-operation Agreement signed by both parties in December 2020. The agreement contained new rules to be applied from 1st January 2021, flexibilities for trading conditions for a period of 6 months and areas where discussions will continue e.g. security, fishing and implementation of the Northern Ireland Protocol.
98. Chaired by the Council, a multi-agency forum (Brexit Transition Senior Responsible Officer Forum) ensured a timely review of the risks associated with the end of the Brexit Transition period and the start of the UK's new relationship with the European Union (EU) from 1st January 2021. Building on experience of similar meetings in 2019 and 2020, a system of RAG rated risks were considered at each meeting. In addition, the Government has provided £220,000 to the Council to support the transition process in Doncaster.
99. A collaborative effort has aimed to ensure that Doncaster business and communities are as resilient as possible and information gets to the relevant organisations and residents. The Council has led an awareness campaign through social media posts, websites and newsletters to raise the profile of issues, in particular signposting support for businesses and the EU Settlement Scheme to local residents .
100. The impact of the UK's new relationship with the EU is yet to fully play out. The SRO forum will continue to meet into quarter 2 (2021/22) to ensure continuity of oversight and targeting of support to the following themes:
 - **Business:** Business has been hit hard by the increase in paperwork and intermittent delays in supplies. However, but Doncaster Chamber and Business Doncaster are working with companies that import/export to the EU. The UK is now free to determine new trading agreements with non-

EU countries – including emerging markets in South America which are already on the radar of Doncaster companies;

- **Regulations and Borders:** Inspections of import and exports have increased, however opportunities for generating increased trade at ports in Doncaster such as the Doncaster Sheffield Airport and IPort are emerging;
- **Health and Social Care:** No specific risks have been identified and protocols are in place to respond.
- **Food and Supply Chains:** Some fresh foods may have intermittent supply until new systems are bedded in, however opportunities exist for local supply chains to grow as a trusted source.
- **EU Settlement Scheme:** This scheme closed on 30th June 2021. Figures available up to March 2021 confirmed that 23,580 applications had been received by the Home Office from residents in Doncaster. 21,970 of these had been processed with 96% securing settled and pre-settled status. This issue will continue to be monitored and efforts are being made to identify difficulties that may arise for residents should they not be successful or fail to apply.

FINANCIAL POSITION:

Revenue Budget

101. The current position shown below is a balanced budget (no under/overspend). This position has been achieved, in part, by the use of £6.82m of COVID-19 emergency funding to meet increasing and emerging COVID-19 related cost pressures, and new initiatives as part of the Council's recovery phase. Examples of the pressures are children placed out of authority and income shortfalls in Schools Catering due to lower take-up of school meals (full details are shown in Appendix A - Finance Profile). During quarter 2 the cost pressures will be examined in more detail to determine the extent to which they will need to be factored into the budget setting process for 2022/23 and beyond.

102. The position includes £8.2m being delivered against planned savings, although overall savings remain off track with a £1.9m shortfall estimated. A summary and further details by service area is provided below: -

	Quarter 1				
	Gross Budget	Net Budget	Variance		COVID-19 Costs
	£m	£m	£m	%	£m
Adults Health and Wellbeing	163.0	72.6	0.4	0.2%	7.6
Learning Opportunities, Skills & Culture	65.5	15.0	1.2	1.8%	1.8
Doncaster Children's Services Trust (DCST)	57.9	53.1	0.8	1.4%	2.9
Corporate Resources	115.9	24.2	-0.1	-0.1%	1.7
Economy & Environment	97.3	41.0	-0.1	-0.1%	2.9

	Quarter 1				
	Gross Budget	Net Budget	Variance		COVID-19 Costs
	£m	£m	£m	%	£m
Services Budgets	499.6	205.9	2.2	1.0%	16.9
Council-Wide budgets	17.3	-57.3	-2.2	-12.6%	0.0
Grand Total	516.9	148.6	0.0	0.0%	16.9

103. AHWB outturn position is a forecast overspend of £0.40m. The main variances are as follows:

- The Adult Social Care Ladder outturn position is a forecast overspend of £0.70m following a review of activity and spend forecasts across the care ladder with some work still ongoing as outlined. This overspend is primarily driven by an overspend on older people's residential placements of £0.80m caused by fewer people than budgeted leaving the service from April to June. This has meant placement numbers in this area have increased over recent months even though new placements have remained relatively stable across the past 6-9 months. These numbers are forecast to remain in service for the rest of the year, and for growth in overall numbers to level off with average monthly leavers increasing over the next few months. Working Age Adults residential placements are also forecast to overspend by £0.11m, primarily due to back-dated payments, which were picked up late due to the transfer of case management systems. Non-residential care services are forecast to underspend by -£0.15m overall, however this includes overspends in direct payments £0.19m, based on current client number projections, and supported living £0.48m which has been caused by a number of factors that are being investigated to determine underlying causes and likely duration. These are offset by increased income of £0.62m from the additional placements, recharges to the NHS of hospital discharge costs and a review of prior year invoices and related accruals being resolved.
- Other Adult Social Care costs are forecast to underspend by £-0.08m, balancing a forecast overspend on Community Equipment of £0.14m based on an assumption of similar levels of activity as last year and pending a service review just underway, with general staffing underspends of £-0.13m and on the Workforce Development budget of £-0.10m. Communities is forecasting a -£0.22m underspend mainly in Communities Wellbeing which is forecast to underspend by -£0.21m relating to temporary staffing vacancies and reduced transport running costs within the SMILE service due mainly to the pace of the COVID recovery. Staffing underspends are being checked to ensure staffing levels in care and support services remain safe. The SMILE day service will be fully stood up again following easing of COVID restrictions as soon as it is safe and practicable to do so on every site.

104. Learning Opportunities, Skills & Culture (LOSC) is forecast to overspend by £1.2m at quarter 1 and there are additional pressures, which are a consequence of the pandemic of £1.85m, and as such are proposed to be funded from COVID-19 monies. The overspend and additional funded COVID-19 pressures includes: -

- Travel Assistance £0.11m, of which £0.2m is a demand pressure above the additional budget of £0.68m agreed as part of budget setting, offset by additional DSG funding of -£0.09m. There was a delay in delivering savings in 2020/21 due to the impact of COVID-19 and this is expected to continue into 2021/22; only savings of £0.09m expected to be delivered in 21/22 leaving a balance of £0.64m in 21/22 (which is being covered with additional COVID-19 funding). There is currently an action plan being drawn up to review delivery of those prior year savings targets. The demand pressure element of the overspend will also be reviewed to understand any permanent pressure that will need to be reviewed as part of budget setting for 2022/23.
 - CWD placements pressure of £0.6m due to the full year effect of 4 new OOA placements in 2020/21 and 1 placement move from In House Fostering to OOA in 2021/22 that are currently expected to remain throughout 2021/22 but the impact will be monitored throughout the year and updated. This is partially due to the needs of the 4 young people, and partially due to the inability to move forward certain elements of the Future Placements Strategy. For example, if we had a greater foster carer offer for children with complex needs (as per the strategy) then potentially they could have been kept in Borough. Work is ongoing with the Trust to ensure progress on the Future Placement Strategy remains a top priority along with placement decisions made through Joint Resource Panel. The overspend will also be reviewed to understand any permanent pressure as part of budget setting for 2022/23.
 - Libraries and Culture £0.26m as the new structure is still awaiting implementation, following previous savings targets and delayed due to COVID in 20/21, with consultation commencing and implementation expected later in 2021. Work on the new structure will also look at external funding sources and potential income to fund some of the changes to the structure.
 - Shortfall in traded income from schools across a range of LOSC services and cost pressures for the central Buy Doncaster team amounting to £0.21m.
 - Short Breaks packages £0.06m due to increases in existing packages and growth. £0.43m of Short Breaks savings delayed as new overnight provision currently not expected to open until Jan 2021 (this has been funded from COVID-19 monies).
 - There are additional pressures of £0.54m being funded from COVID-19 monies to cover mainly loss of Attendance Fixed Penalty Notice fines income £0.33m and additional capacity in Locality Delivery £0.2m.
 - These are offset in part by an underspend of -£0.15m in Educational Psychology due to managed staffing vacancies.
105. The Doncaster Children's Services Trust (DCST) forecast outturn at quarter 1 is an overspend of £2.14m to the 2021/22 contract value, of which £1.32m is attributable to the impact of COVID-19 and is being funded by additional COVID-19 grant (Out of Authority (OOA) Placements £0.89m, Fostering Placements £0.13m and additional Agency costs of £0.3m). The forecast is net of additional funding of £0.93m for Care Ladder pressures which is subject to approval in this report, allocated to OOA £0.53m, Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) £0.25m and In House Fostering £0.15m. In addition to the

£1.32m COVID-19 pressure, the 2021/22 contract sum included £0.71m to fund COVID-19 Care Ladder pressures and £0.13m to fund agency pressures identified as part of budget setting, and £0.74m of the additional £0.93m is due to the impact of COVID-19; therefore, the Council will have provided £2.89m in total to cover DCST's COVID-19 pressures. The non-COVID-19 overspend of £0.82m includes: Out of Authority (OOA) Placements £0.80m and 16+ Placements £0.73m, offset by additional funding of -£0.76m from the DSG High Needs Block (note this increases the budgetary pressure to High Needs Block, which is detailed below under Dedicated Schools Grant).

106. In summary, the overall pressure on children's placement budgets across DCST and the Council is £2.6m; this includes external residential placements (looked after children and children with disabilities), Independent Fostering Agencies (IFA), in-house fostering and 16+ placements. The gross cost is circa. £28m of which the majority is funded from the general fund, £5m Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and contributions from continuing health care. This is a significant demand pressure for the Council and delivering the actions within the Future Placement Strategy remains a priority, further work will be undertaken to understand the longer-term impact as part of the budget setting process for 2022/23.
107. Corporate Resources is forecast to underspend by £-0.10m at quarter 1. The main areas of overspend are within Customers, Digital & ICT: £0.30m in Revenues & Benefits (after the allocation of COVID-19 funding of £0.38m to cover the additional estimated costs of COVID-19) due to a reduced level of overpayments reducing the ability to achieve subsidy income and in HR, Comms & Exec Office: £0.17m in Corporate Health & Safety due to reduced income from training courses. The main areas of underspend are within Finance: £-0.21m (after the allocation of COVID-19 funding to cover additional costs of COVID-19 including £0.77m for Schools Catering (impact of reduced meal uptake) and £0.08m Metroclean due to cover for sickness/self-isolation). The main reasons for the resultant underspend position is the early delivery of future budgeted savings £-0.1m and underspend on Fleet management budgets. There are underspends of £-0.26m across the Directorate relating to vacant posts.
108. Economy and Environment (E&E) is forecast to underspend by £-0.10m at quarter 1. The estimated cost of COVID-19 is expected to be £2.9m and £2.7m of additional budget has been allocated to support this. The main areas of projected overspend are: Strategic Asset Management - £0.20m overspend due to reduced income from rent and service charges; Waste and recycling - £0.16m overspend mainly due to increased tonnage, increase of hazardous waste collection and disposal. These overspends have been mitigated mainly by a projected overachievement of income within Highways Operations of £0.35m which is reliant on successful delivery of planned works and a £0.15m underspend on Street lighting energy costs.
109. Council Wide is forecast to underspend by £-2.18m at quarter 1. The main areas of underspend are: £-1.79m Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) is lower than estimated due to DGLAM and new cinema complex not becoming active in 2020/21 and less spend on fleet replacement in 2020/21; £-0.64m Treasury Management on interest payable due to historically low interest rates and not

replacing maturing loans due to being under-borrowed partly mitigated by lack of investment income due to historically low interest rates; £0.23m lower pension costs for former employees. These are partially offset by overspends in the following areas: £0.04m buy-back of leave - expected shortfall on profile from previous years; £0.17m capital receipts - there is an estimated shortfall on capital receipts required to fund the capital programme in 21/22 so there are insufficient receipts available to transfer to revenue to offset the costs of disposal; £0.20m senior management savings and £0.05m consolidation of common functions across Doncaster service delivery partners savings assumed not achievable. It is assumed that the currently uncommitted contingency budget of £1.65m will be needed in full.

110. The above figures do not include any estimated loss of income from Council Tax and Business Rates. These form part of the Collection Fund and due to statutory accounting requirements the impact of losses in the Collection Fund in 2021/22 won't affect the Council's General Fund until 2022/23. The impact on the Collection Fund is discussed below.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

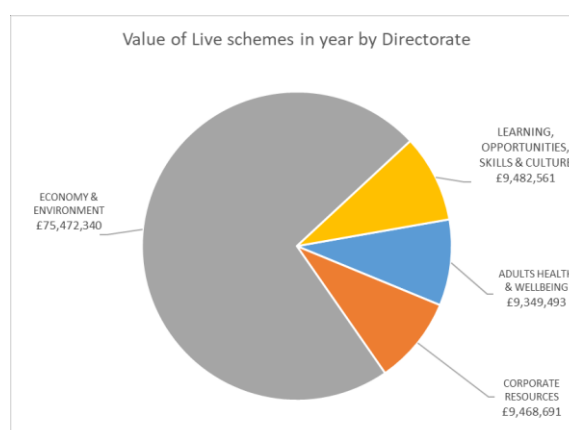
111. The outturn projection at Quarter 1 is breakeven i.e. no under or overspend, subject to the approval of the recommendations detailed in this report. An underspend of £0.5m is projected on rent income and interest received on the HRA balances. This underspend will be utilised to fund the backlog of responsive repairs as a result of COVID-19, which will be delivered through the contract management arrangements. In addition, it is proposed to utilise £0.5m of the HRA balances to carry out a rich picture stock condition survey, which will enable the completion of the actions in the recently approved St Leger Asset Management and Environmental Strategies.
112. The revised budget previously assumed a contribution of £2.8m from balances; the above updates means that the contribution from balances will increase to £3.3m, with HRA balances estimated to be £4.9m as at 31st March 2022.
113. A £0.2m carry forward was approved in the Quarter 4 Performance and Finance report for management fee to St Leger Homes to be spent on arboriculture and improvement of compliance reporting, this expenditure is on track for delivery this financial year, with 43% having been spent and a further 43% being committed.
114. Current rent arrears at Quarter 1 are £2.0m (2.64% of the rent debit); this is same value as at year end (2.75%). As at 30th June, the amount of former tenants' arrears was £1.1m, the same figure as at year end, write offs in this period were £43k.

Capital Budget

115. The current year capital programme is made up of 376 schemes and current projections total £103.8m. 66% of the schemes and 73% of the projected spend sits within E&E.

Directorate	Count of schemes in Current Year
ADULTS HEALTH & WELLBEING	17
CORPORATE RESOURCES	39
ECONOMY & ENVIRONMENT	248
LEARNING, OPPORTUNITIES, SKILLS & CULTURE	72
Grand Total	376

Directorate	Projected Budget Current Year
ADULTS HEALTH & WELLBEING	£9,349,493
CORPORATE RESOURCES	£9,468,691
ECONOMY & ENVIRONMENT	£75,472,340
LEARNING, OPPORTUNITIES, SKILLS & CULTURE	£9,482,561
Grand Total	£103,773,085



116. Due to the high amount of slippage in the previous year's capital programme, officers have been asked to ensure projections are as accurate as possible and reflect what is deliverable in year. This has been supported and reviewed by holding workshops with the relevant budget holders, finance and PIC officers. This provided an opportunity to discuss and raise issues on individual schemes, highlight capacity issues and any required additional support.
117. As at Q1 there has been an overall 10% reduction in projected in year spend when compared to the opening budget of £115.5m, which is a reduction of £11.7m.

Row Labels	Current Year Budget Brought	Projected Budget Update Current Year	% reduction in forecast spend after 3 months
ADULTS HEALTH & WELLBEING	£ 10,184,732	£ 9,349,493	-8%
CORPORATE RESOURCES	£ 11,749,677	£ 9,468,691	-19%
ECONOMY & ENVIRONMENT	£ 83,362,321	£ 75,472,340	-9%
LEARNING, OPPORTUNITIES, SKILLS & CULTURE	£ 10,199,190	£ 9,482,561	-7%
Grand Total	£ 115,495,921	£ 103,773,085	-10%

118. Actual in year spend to date is £10.5m which is around 10% of the £107.2m projection. Learning, Opportunities, Skills & Culture current actuals are only 1% of their £9.5m projection but a large proportion of work is expected to happen during the school summer holidays so it is expected to be higher at Q2 and Q3.

Row Labels	Sum of Current Year Actuals	Sum of Projected Budget Update Current Year	% of budget spent after 3 months
ADULTS HEALTH & WELLBEING	£ 1,443,831	£ 9,349,493	15%
CORPORATE RESOURCES	£ 827,440	£ 9,468,691	9%
ECONOMY & ENVIRONMENT	£ 8,163,931	£ 75,472,340	11%
LEARNING, OPPORTUNITIES, SKILLS & CULTURE	£ 114,757	£ 9,482,561	1%
Grand Total	£ 10,549,959	£ 103,773,085	10%

119. There are 184 schemes that are yet to incur any in year spend which is almost half of the current number of schemes and accounts for £37.3m of current year projections.

Directorate	Total for budgets with no spend in year	Number of Schemes	Schemes with no budget spend	Schemes with no spend - as proportion of total schemes	Schemes with no spend - as proportion of full year budget
Adults Health & Wellbeing	441,569	17	9	53%	5%
Corporate Resources	3,901,521	39	23	59%	41%
Economy & Environment	25,201,416	248	102	41%	33%
Learning, Opportunities, Skills & Culture	7,720,727	72	50	69%	81%
Grand Total	37,265,233	376	184	49%	36%

Current Status of Schemes in the programme

120. 168 schemes have either not started or are still at the planning phase which is 45% of all the current year schemes. 108 schemes have been

Row Labels	Count of Budget Holder	% in phase based on scheme numbers
Not started	100	26.60%
Planning Phase	68	18.09%
Underway	108	29.26%
Completion phase	81	21.54%
Block Budget	17	4.52%
Grand Total	374	100.00%

classified as underway. The number of schemes in the completion phase may look high for this time of year but this is due to them being substantially complete in the previous year and being finished this year.

121. Looking at this from a projected spend perspective there is around £34m worth of in year schemes that are currently yet to start with £55m of the current year programme classified as underway.

Capital Receipts

122. Based on current estimates the capital receipts to be generated in year will be sufficient to cover current requirements. If the receipts are delayed, any shortfall will need to be met via additional borrowing.

Risks

123. There are risks in the capital programme around rising costs of supply and materials, having the capacity to deliver the current programme as well as the capacity to develop and deliver schemes in order to maximise external funding opportunities.

Collection Fund

124. The current position on the Collection Fund for Council Tax and Business Rates is detailed below: -

a. Council Tax:

	Budget £m	Outturn £m	Variance £m	Opening Balance £m	Planned Use £m	Closing Balance* £m
Collection Fund	-145.28	-147.79	-2.52	3.53	-2.47	-1.46
Doncaster Council	-119.75	-121.83	-2.07	2.95	-2.07	-1.20

* Opening balance, planned distribution of surplus and in-year variance = Closing balance

The council tax collection fund surplus is attributable to higher growth £-0.42m and higher collection rates £-2.25m partially offset by increased levels of Local Council Tax Support (LCTS) £0.15m.

Council Tax arrears were £26.15m compared to the target of £26.79m at the end of quarter 1. The target for reduction of Council Tax arrears was £1.71m for quarter 1 and the actual reduction in arrears was £2.35m. The main reason for this above expected reduction in arrears is debt recovery returning to normal to a large extent, with enforcement agents also beginning to re-engage with debtors. As things start to return to normal it is hoped that this level of reduction will continue as staff target all Council Tax debt irrespective of age.

Business Rates:

	Budget £m	Outturn £m	Variance £m	Opening Balance £m	Planned Recovery £m	Closing Balance* £m
Collection Fund	-93.90	-72.59	21.31	43.94	-42.00	23.25
Doncaster Council	-46.01	-35.57	10.44	21.53	-20.58	11.39

* Opening balance, planned recovery of the deficit and in-year variance = Closing balance

The business rates collection fund deficit is mainly due to the introduction of the retail relief scheme announced by the Government to support businesses through COVID-19 £23.81m partially offset by lower decline in growth than expected £-2.15m. The Council will be reimbursed for its share of the reliefs granted in 2021/22 through section 31 government grants but these are credited to the general fund not the collection fund.

Business Rates arrears were £8.53m compared to the target of £8.20m at the end of quarter 1. The target for reduction of Business Rates arrears was £0.6m for quarter 1 but the actual level of arrears only reduced by £0.3m. The main reason for the reduction not being on target is due to retrospective changes in liability being carried out in the current year back into the previous year which actually increase the arrears figure from the year end position. These changes reduce through the year and it is expected that performance will improve through quarter 2 and beyond. There is also the continuing impact of COVID-19. Many businesses are still struggling to get back to normal and therefore recovery action has been reasonably lenient so far. It is hoped as lockdown restrictions continue to ease businesses will be able to get back to their normal trading positions and the level of arrears will start to come down.

In summary, as a result of COVID-19 the impact on the Councils share of the Collection Fund is: -

Collection Fund	2021/22 Impact £m	2022/23 Impact £m
Council Tax surplus	0.00	-1.20
Business Rates deficit	0.00	11.39
Section 31 grants	-11.77	0.00
Total	-11.77	10.19

Overall impact of COVID-19 in 2021/22

125. Central government has allocated £9.8m of un-ringfenced emergency grants to the Council in 2021/22. In addition, £5.3m is available from the 2020/21 allocation and £1.5m is available from the un-ringfenced Local Council Tax

Support scheme grant. This report recommends the approval of funding for new COVID-19 related initiatives and funding for budget pressures (these are detailed in virements section of Appendix A – Finance Profile).

126. The table below summarises these sums and shows an unallocated balance of £9.8m.

	£m
2021/22 emergency funding allocation	9.8
Carry forward unallocated from 2020/21	5.3
Balance of Local Council Tax Support scheme funding	1.5
2021/22 Q1 Finance & Performance Improvement report allocation	-6.8
Total	9.8

127. The Government continue to provide specific resources for COVID related matters and to that end, we will develop proposals and seek approval for the spending decisions where these are required. It is unlikely that further un-ringfenced resources will be made available and Councils are being expected to utilise existing resources & reserves to manage existing COVID related pressures.
128. We will need to keep a close grip on service pressures and understand the nature of these going forward as we prepare for the forthcoming budget process and future financial years. Non-recurrent funding should be used sparingly to support COVID recovery and service transformation. Close attention will be required to manage recurrent pressures and avoid committing to activities, which build costs pressures within the base budget.

Schools Funding & Dedicated Schools Grant

129. The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is projected to overspend by £3.045m during 2021-22 to create an overall overspend on DSG of £12.095m. The overspend position is mainly due to pressures within the High Needs Block which includes expenditure on Out of Authority placements, Specialist Post 16 Institutions, Education Health & Care plan (EHCP) Top Up payments. The increase in spend for children placed in SEN out of authority placements, is due to a combination of levels of need and local schools provision, and there has been delays due to COVID-19 in delivering savings on Children with Disabilities (CWD) placements as part of the Future Placements Strategy. There is a significant amount of work being completed at both operational and strategic levels. Operationally funding requests are now submitted to the multi-agency Joint Resource Panel, which has a mandate to ensure all local options have been explored prior to any SEN out of authority placement being agreed and also review the decisions made by the Trust in relation to CWD & Looked after children (LAC) placements. There is an expectation that this will stem the flow and allow greater grip on resource allocation. Strategically, senior education leads in the council are liaising with schools around the devolution of elements of the DSG to ensure that locally there are the right services in place to support children, improving outcomes and reducing costs.
130. Whilst the overspend position is significant it is not uncommon to other Council positions. In the last 2 years the Government has recognised the position that many Councils face on their High Needs Block and have increased the DSG

High Need Grant, with Doncaster receiving an extra £5m in 2021/22 compared to 2020/21 levels. Work continues over the DSG medium term financial plan with the expectation being to achieve a balanced budget position across the next 4 years which is mainly expected to be achieved due to this additional permanent funding received in 2021/22 which is expected to create in year surpluses in future years. Along with this, there are still anticipated savings on out of authority placements by 2023/24 expected as a result of the future placement needs strategy.

131. During Quarter 1 of 2021/22 Doncaster's maintained schools have received additional funding from the Department for Education specifically relating to COVID-19 as follows:-
- a. Catch Up premium of £0.33m,
 - b. School Fund grant of £0.01m,
 - c. Schools Free School Meals additional costs of £0.07m and,
 - d. School Mass Testing Grant of £0.05m.

Reserves

132. As part of the strategy to streamline and reduce the number of specific earmarked reserves, a review is being undertaken with a view to repurposing balances no longer required for their original purposes. In 2020/21 £4.2m was identified and transferred to the Service Transformation Fund, further balances are expected to be identified in 2021/22.
133. In the 2020/21 Quarter 4 Finance & Performance Improvement report the carry forward of various balances to be spent in 2021/22 was approved. An update of progress of spending these balances is shown in Appendix A – Finance Profile.

STRATEGIC RISKS

134. The register contains 12 risks all have been profiled for quarter 1. 10 risks have retained the same profile.

135. The following risk profile has decreased:

- Children & young people may not achieve national standards in educational attainment, which may impact on their readiness for a fulfilling adult life.

The following risk profile has increased:

- Failure to safeguard children and young people across the partnership may result in children and young people being vulnerable and susceptible to risk.

136. No risks have been demoted and no new strategic risks have been identified this quarter.

137. The complete strategic risk profiles are attached as Appendix B.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

138. Not applicable

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

139. Not applicable

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

Outcomes	Implications
<p>Connected Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A modern, efficient and flexible workforce• Modern, accessible customer interactions• Operating within our resources and delivering value for money• A co-ordinated, whole person, whole life focus on the needs and aspirations of residents• Building community resilience and self-reliance by connecting community assets and strengths• Working with our partners and residents to provide effective leadership and governance	<p>Council budget and monitoring impacts on all priorities</p>

RISKS & ASSUMPTIONS

140. Specific risks and assumptions are included in the Appendix. A strategic risk report is also prepared on a quarterly basis.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initial: SRF Date: 04/08/21]

141. Whilst there are no specific legal implications arising out of this report, the individual components, which make up the finance and performance report, may require specific and detailed legal advice as they develop further.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials: RI Date: 16/7/21]

142. Financial implications are contained in the body of the report.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initial: SH Date: 04/08/2021]

143. Key performance indicator outcomes that are specific to the workforce are detailed within the body of the report along with other key areas of performance worth noting. Failure to achieve targets for sickness absence can impact on service delivery to customers and increase costs particularly where cover has to be arranged. The HR & OD team work with managers in service areas to ensure appropriate action is being taken to manage staff absence in an effective and timely way which should have a positive impact on performance.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initial: PW Date: 04/08/2021]

144. There are no specific technology implications. Technology continues to be a key enabler to support performance improvement and Digital & ICT must always be involved via the technology governance model where technology-based procurements, developments or enhancements are required. This

ensures all information is safe and secure and the use of technology is maximised providing best value.

HEALTH IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials: RS Date: 04/08/2021]

145. This report provides an overview on the work of the council and as such the whole of the corporate performance contributes to improving and protecting health. Specific health implications are addressed in each section. Much of the information is presented as summary data and as such the author should be conscious that this may hide inequalities within the data presented.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initial: SWr Date: 16/07/21]

146. In line with the corporate approach for compliance against the Equality Act 2011 due regard must be shown across all activity within the Council. As the performance report draws together a diverse range of activities at a strategic level a due regard statement is not required. All the individual components that make-up the finance and performance report will require a due regard statement to be completed and reported as and when appropriate.

CONSULTATION

147. Consultation has taken place with key managers and Directors at the Directorate Finance & Performance Challenge meetings and Capital Monitoring meetings.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

148. Not applicable.

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

149. N/A

REPORT AUTHORS AND CONTRIBUTIORS

Sennette Wroot, Senior Policy & Insight Manager

Tel: 01302 737006, E-mail: sennette.wroot@doncaster.gov.uk

Matthew Smith, Head of Financial Management

Tel: 01302 737663, E-mail: matthew.smith@doncaster.gov.uk

Debbie Hogg
Director of Corporate Resources