



Doncaster Council

Report

Date: 16th March 2022

To the Mayor and Members of the Cabinet

2021-22 Quarter 3 Finance and Performance Improvement Report

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. There has been a steep increase in Covid cases linked to the Omicron variant both nationally and locally in the later part of quarter 3. The impact of this has been huge pressure on services as staff absence has increased due to isolation periods linked to Covid. Although this seems to have now stabilised the pressure on staff and services across the organisation, and partnership, should be recognised.
2. There continues to be higher than usual winter pressures on the health and care system and we will need to regularly assess the risks and mitigations to ensure services can best respond over what will continue to be a difficult period.
3. We also need to recognise the rising cost of living across the borough with inflation at its highest for over a decade and rising energy and transport costs many people are and will continue to be worried about how they pay for bills and provide for their families. We are continuing to support households with key services and also making sure new funding reaches people who need it, for example the Household Support Fund, a £2.9 million fund to support people through winter and meet daily needs such as food, clothing, and utilities.
4. The economic picture is improving with high number of vacancies, a healthy investment interest in Doncaster and a reducing number of people who are accessing unemployment related benefits. However this is still an important stage of recovery as there remain significant reported issues from business around recruitment and availability of appropriate skills as well as lower rates of footfall across our town centres.
5. We continue to take forward the necessary stages in accessing government investment including the Levelling Up Fund, two Town Deals and Community Renewal Funding. As well as being successful in national funding we are also working

closely with our regional colleagues to ensure we maximise any investment to the benefit of Doncaster.

6. Finally as we move into quarter 4 we are gearing up for our plans for the next financial year with Full Council due to consider the 2022/23 Budget and Corporate Plan. These two combined will set out our delivery focus for the coming year. We will also look to ensure our capabilities and capacity, as an organisation and as a partnership, are in the best possible place to deliver for Doncaster.

Financial Position

7. Last year, new and additional costs were incurred 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 were wholly funded from COVID-19 funding provided by government. This, coupled with attention being focussed on responding to the pandemic, 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 financial position whilst maintaining financial stability over the longer-term.
8. In 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, forecast pressures increased, including children's social care placement budgets and schools catering lower meal uptake, plus further slippage on the delivery of savings. Further COVID funding was used to achieve a balanced position. At quarter 2 pressures had increased further, particularly in relation to Children's Social Care, and overall a £0.9m overspend was projected. The position has improved in quarter 3 through proactive budget management and a balanced position is now forecast for the year-end (no over or underspend). It is anticipated that we can continue to meet all COVID related pressures from the COVID funding carried forward from 2020/21 or the 2021/22 specific COVID grant allocations. The 2021/22 specific COVID funding allocated is detailed at Appendix B - 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 120 to 133.
9. The impact of cost pressures in the 2022/23 and beyond is built into the budget reports and was considered by Cabinet on 16 February 2022 and will go to Full Council on 28 February 2022.

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 and Borough Strategy. 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. Cabinet are asked to approve and comment on the quarter 3 performance and financial information; including;

- Approve the virement per the Financial Procedure Rules, detailed in the Appendix B – Finance profile;
- Note the allocations of block budgets in the Capital Programme, detailed in the Appendix B – Finance profile, in accordance with the Financial Procedure Rules (sections A & B);
- Approve payment to St Leger Homes as part of the contract management arrangements, for the COVID-19 pressures on homelessness services (£0.269m) with a reconciliation at year-end to ensure any surplus is returned to the Council.
- Approve payment to the Doncaster Children's Services Trust, as part of the contract management arrangements, for the pressures on children social care, including additional funding for caseloads (£5.46m) with a reconciliation at year-end to ensure any surplus is returned to the Council.
- Approve the creation of an earmarked reserve of £0.374m for the refurbishment of Rossington community centre.
- Approve the addition of £0.600m to the business rates incentive scheme earmarked reserve.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

GREENER AND CLEANER

Our vision is for borough-wide collective action that protects and enhances the local and global environment to improve wellbeing.

Performance Indicators



(see Appendix A)

Headlines:

- Fly tipping continues to be a national, regional and local issue for all Councils. However the investment made in 21/22 is having a positive impact on performance with 95% of cases were closed within timeframes – 1329 new cases were opened and 1261 were closed and 404 tonnes of waste removed attributed to fly tipping.
 - 1,537,781 square meters of local authority land, on 129 sites, has been allowed to naturalise/wildflower – 137,781 square meters above the target amount.
 - 100% of all licensing applications were processed within statutory time frames.
 - 152 operational play area inspections completed, 100% - target 90%, representing an improvement on the quarter 2 performance of 86%
 - 64% of sites met the required standards when assessed - according to the Land Audit Management System performance grading system which is a slight improvement on the 62% in Q2.
13. There have been further improvements within Environment Services for waste for recycling with Q3 performance down 4.6% compared to the same quarter last year. This is due to the revisions to green waste collections from fortnightly to monthly. The percentage of successful households' waste collections have remained at over 99.9%; the number of incidents of fly-tipping on our 'back-log' has been substantially reduced and we have significantly exceeded our target of 65% for removing fly tip within the SLA for the first time in 2 years, removing 94.88% in the last quarter.
14. Q3 shows that there were 533 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) given to people for littering offences - Each offender was fined £150 for their offence; in that same period we have issued 5 FPNs of £400 each for people who have been caught Fly Tipping, and issued a further 29 FPNs of £150 for "small scale" fly tips such as the unlawful disposal of a black bin bag waste. There has also been 10 prosecutions with total fines and costs amounting to around £5,000 as well as 40 hours unpaid community service.
15. Q3 is always a challenging period for the service when it comes to streetscape standards. The cleansing of roads and pathways is negatively affected due to the addition of seasonal leaf clearance requirements and the need to suspend some mechanical sweeping on highways due to gritting operations. This leads to levels of detritus above normal levels. A total of 150 site inspections were carried out in Q3 spanning 19 wards. 64% have met the required standards across all categories. This is a slight improvement of 62% in Q2. Only 1 of the 10 categories assessed was below the target of 80% (meeting an acceptable standard), this being detritus. The reason for this is set out above. The use of LAMS as a performance management system is still in its pilot phase. A review of its effectiveness and value as a tool for service improvement will be reviewed after quarter 4.

16. Street Scene has continued to operate all services despite the ongoing challenge of Covid 19 and transmission rates within the workforce have been reasonably low due to the effective management of Covid security within the workplace. Once again Doncaster has been recognised for the high standards of its parks with 4 out of 4 parks maintaining their Green Flag status with the result of 1 new park being awaited. This is especially pleasing and a significant achievement given the pressures the service has been under due to Covid restrictions and an exceptional growing season.
17. Q3 has seen tree plotting suspended whilst the tree surveyors have conducted over 2300 proactive inspections as part of the crucial risk management work the Tree Service provides.
18. The service has exceeded its annual target for naturalisation and wild flowering, which has included additional significant planting around some of these areas to enhance colour and interest.
19. Work on Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) continues. The River Torne Habitat Bank is expected to be 'open' from April 2022 and a second site at Sandal Beat is being progressed. A Supplementary Planning Document is being drafted setting out the local first hierarchical approach to BNG and expected to be consulted on later in 2022 and includes a tariff approach to offsetting contributions amongst other matters
20. A substantial amount of work is underway to mobilise the tree planting programme, co-ordinated by a monthly Tree Challenge officer group meeting. The analysis of Council land assets is well underway, with around 60 hectares of land identified for further survey and screening. A Tiny Forest pilot scheme at Saltergate Junior School is complete and there are 11 more schools interested in similar schemes. The Council is taking the opportunity to bid to the Woodland Trust's Emergency Tree Fund for 2022-25. Nationally the England Trees Action Plan 2021-24 launched.
21. We are now in the middle of the 21/22 tree planting programme which was launched in National Tree Planting Week (27th November), coinciding with the Team Doncaster Summit. A Covid Memorial Woodland at Sandal Beat Playing field was an early scheme, and the planting of the first 1,500 trees in November. A Tree Register to collect data of planting activity across the borough by all partners, businesses and residents had been launched.
22. Good progress is being made on expanding the Electric Vehicles (EV.s) in the Council's fleet and on the availability of charging facilities. There are 23 EVs now in Council fleet and 25 more vehicles should have been added by the end of the financial year. There are 34 EV charging bays ready for use and 40 new public EV charging bays planned with SYMCA funds this year. Barnsley Council currently procuring a contractor for these works. Planning approval has been granted for a further 20 EV charging bays at the rear of the Civic office, combined with a 91kw solar carport. Specification of works being prepared for procurement and installation by March 2022. Planning approval has also been secured for developing Scarborough House car park, including 50 charging bays for fleet and public use.

PROSPEROUS & CONNECTED

Our vision is for a stronger, greener and fairer economy that provides good, well paid jobs and is supported by improved transport and active travel infrastructure and access to good broadband.

Performance Indicators



Headlines:

- Processing of planning applications: Major Applications 94.59%
 - Overall recorded investment into and within Doncaster £11.27 million
 - Licensing Act 2003 applications processed within statutory timescales 94.59%
 - An additional 303 new homes were built in Q3
23. The processing of major planning applications is in excess of the 70% national target but has a large reliance on successfully negotiating extension of times (EOT) with the applicant. Quarter 3 shows a 94.59% determination rate which is above the 94% internal stretch target and is an increase of 1.49% on quarter 2. It is envisaged that the stretch target will be maintained by the end of quarter 4.
24. Overall recorded investment into Doncaster stands at £111.27 million at the end of Q3 which is well above target. Biggest investments for the Quarter were from Doncaster Property Trading Company, Lyndon Systems, Parcel Pass Logistics and Verhoek Logistics at Wheatley, Eland Cables at Denaby and Dusk Retail and a new investor at the IPort
25. The latest data shows that Doncaster has an average superfast coverage of 98.7%, with 98.72% coverage where speed is greater than 30Mbps. 64.70% have speed greater than 100Mbps and the estimated maximum mean download speed is now 560Mbps. (source [Broadband Coverage and Speed Test Statistics for Doncaster \(thinkbroadband.com\)](https://www.thinkbroadband.com/broadband-coverage-and-speed-test-statistics-for-doncaster))
26. In Q3 work on site started on the three new affordable housing sites in Phase 1 of the CH, with 33 new homes being built at Athelstane Cres, Edenthorpe, Adwick Lane, Toll Bar and Appleby Road, Intake.
27. Brownfield Housing Fund Full Business Cases for the seven Phase 2 sites in the programme were submitted to SYMCA on 29 November 21. A decision on the grant sought of £3.66m to help deliver 128 new affordable homes has been deferred until 15 March. The business cases are recommended for approval
28. At the end of Q3 (year to date) a total of 139 new affordable homes had been completed (by Housing Associations), and the total gross number of new homes built in all tenures was 704 (all figures are provisional count).
29. In Q3 21/22, Doncaster was informed that it was successful in obtaining £18.6m of central government funding through Round 1 of the Levelling Up Fund. The fund will develop schemes within three zones of the Urban Centre Masterplan:
- Civic and Cultural Quarter;
 - Redevelopment of St James Baths with the private sector;
 - Demolition of Copley House and the Old Library and replaced with public realm or the redevelopment of Copley House and the Old Library in partnership with the private sector.
 - Enterprise Marketplace;
 - Redevelopment of the Corn Exchange;

- Shop front scheme.
 - Waterfront East;
 - Remediation and temporary green space of Waterfront East.
30. All delivery must be concluded by the end of 2023/24, with some spend in Q4 21/22. Internal governance is being established with colleagues across the Council commencing delivery of the schemes. Acceptance of the award went to Cabinet on the 19th January 2022.
31. Government announcement of successful applications for UKCRF announced 3rd November. Team Doncaster secured funding totalling £2,191,850 for 3 submissions including £628,000 which is allocated to DN Colleges for delivery of 'Doncaster Progress'. Doncaster Council are responsible for leading delivery of:
- 'Decarbonising Doncaster (£993,480 allocation) – a place-based project informing the urgent work of Doncaster's Climate Change Commission and comprising a series of feasibility studies which will provide key intelligence about Doncaster's baseline environmental position as well as support identification of opportunities for improvements and economic growth in the low carbon sector. There is also a flexible grant scheme to support local businesses and anchor institutions to invest in activities which support carbon capture and reduction
 - 'Doncaster Thrive' (£570,370 allocation) – will deliver large scale community Innovation and Enterprise activity to stimulate entrepreneurial activity, problem solving and innovation across all sectors of the community, reaching the 'entrepreneurial hard to reach' Activity is supported by a cross cutting awareness and engagement strand to raise awareness in communities. The project will support businesses to thrive, increasing their capacity to support higher-paid and higher-skilled employment.

SAFE & RESILIENT

Our vision is that residents feel safe and communities are more resilient to challenges and emergencies. Doncaster is joining a global movement that is reconsidering what true economic success looks like for people, places and the planet.



Headline:

- Principal Roads not requiring major maintenance 98%
- Non-principal Roads not requiring major maintenance 98%
- 504 people have been referred into the Domestic Abuse hub this Quarter, compared to 523 in Quarter 2.
- Slight reduction in cases discussed at Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) during this Quarter. The number of high-risk cases referred to MARAC has reduced from 196 in Quarter 2 to 191 in Quarter 3.
- Percentage level of engagement with Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA) has risen significantly (currently at 82.63%, compared 74.6% in Quarter 2; target 80%).
- 64% of Domestic Abuse Hub clients have given consent to accept support in Quarter 3, compared to 37.74% in Quarter 2.

- The number of people identified as achieving an expressed outcome following a Safeguarding intervention has again decreased; 66.46% of people (107 people) in Quarter 3 compared to 71.36% (142 people) in the Quarter 2. This continues a downward trend since Quarter 4 of 2020/21.
 - 93.1% of people are reported to have had the risk reduced or removed following a Section 42 enquiry in Quarter 3, compared to 94.12% in Quarter 2. Quarter). There were 135 people in this quarter compared to 176 people Quarter 2.
 - 72.3% of people report feeling safer following a safeguarding intervention in this period, compared to 72.5% in the last Quarter (107 people this Quarter compared to 116 in the previous Quarter).
32. 98% of our principal roads do not require maintenance, which is upper quartile nationally and represents excellent performance. 98% of our non-principal roads do not require maintenance. This is an improvement of 1% and is reflective of additional funding received for Capital highways maintenance repairs. Both of these indicators are annual performance measures therefore these 2020 - 21 updates will apply until the 2021 -22 performance figures are generated in Q3 or Q4 next year (depending on when we receive and process the condition survey data).

Domestic Abuse

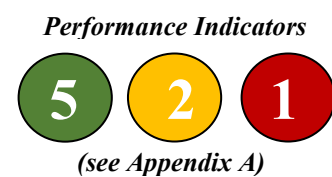
33. The target of referrals to the Domestic Abuse Hub was set at 250 people during Q1 of 2019/20. The Domestic Abuse service is now well established and there have been significant increases in referrals across all areas of Domestic Abuse and Domestic Violence. We continue to work well with Partner agencies, and maintain appropriate communications across the Borough, encouraging reporting and offering services to people affected by Domestic Abuse, such as through media campaigns.
34. There has been a substantial increase in the percentage of people accepting support from Domestic Abuse services via the Hub referrals, due to additional staff being in place to support, as well as referrals being made to commissioned (Riverside) and non-commissioned (Phoenix Women's Aid) services for support.
35. There has been a significant reduction in the number of Domestic Abuse cases discussed at the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC), since the agreement not to send all referrals there for discussion. Standard and medium risk cases continue to be sent to the Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAS), rather than for discussion at MARAC; however, safety work and multi-agency working continues. This new approach started in July 2021, and in Doncaster, we continue to return all standard and medium repeat referrals back to MARAC. Those repeat referrals identified as 'High-risk' are the only ones now being discussed
36. The reduction in the numbers of cases discussed at MARAC is a direct reflection of the change in criteria, rather than a reduction in the volume of domestic abuses cases and referrals. The number of referrals to the DA Hub this Quarter shows a slight reduction (504, compared to 523 last Quarter), but is still much higher than at the beginning of this year (401 in Quarter 1). The increases are due to a number of factors, including the Hub being well-established, and ongoing communications encouraging reporting and offering services to people with lived experience of Domestic Abuse and Domestic Violence.
37. There has been a slight decline in the number of people identified as having the risk removed or reduced following a Section 42 Safeguarding intervention during Quarter

3; however, performance across 21/22 has improved in this area due to ongoing work and support for the team with the Interim Team Leader and the Principal Social Worker. They continue to work closely with the Heads of Service to focus on positive changes to practice and performance across all key areas. The Head of Service and Interim Team Leader are closely monitoring this to ensure an improvement in the coming months.

38. Since 2018/19, we have overall seen a continued improvement in relation to the volume of people who report that they feel safer following a Safeguarding intervention. There has been a very slight reduction since last Quarter, but since Quarter 1, this has remained reasonably consistent. The service continue to monitor this and ensure continued improvement in this key aspect for people with lived experience.

SKILLED & CREATIVE:

Our vision is that residents have improved skills and a creative culture supports wellbeing, business success and solutions to the borough's challenges.



Headlines:

- Doncaster continues to successfully outperform the national average in relation to the number of children accessing their entitlement for free childcare aged 2 (Doncaster 87%, National Average 62%) and 3-4 year olds (Doncaster 97.1%, National Average 90)
- Electronic Personal Education Plans for children in care continue to perform 36% above the national average for Primary and Early Years with 99% of the 355 plans being quality assured as 'good' or 'outstanding'
- Primary fixed term exclusions continue to show vast improvement over the past two academic years moving from 549 to 182, which has resulted in a 17-place improvement in LA percentile rankings to 78th
- For persistent absence, the overall primary figure has reduced from 14.8% to 9.6%, reducing the gap with the national average from 3.6% to 1.5%
- For overall absence in primary schools, the figure has reduced to 3.6, which is 0.4% below the National Average and marginally behind the regional average of 3.4%
- There has been an increase of 24.9% in the number of children and families receiving early help, with the vast majority getting good outcomes.
- The arts, culture and creative industries in South Yorkshire has received a boost with the announcement from the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) providing £450,000 to help safeguard the future of the cultural and creative industries across Doncaster
- Doncaster hosted the first international conference for the GELP in November 2021 which received universal positive feedback

Early Years & Early Help

41. Doncaster continues to successfully outperform the national average (Doncaster 87%, National Average 62%) with 1237 out of 1422 children aged 2 years accessing their entitlement for free childcare. Similarly 6717 out of 6920 3 to 4 year olds accessing their entitlement of free childcare also exceed the national average (Doncaster 97.1%, National Average 90). Performance in each area has improved from last quarter due to the continued engagement and encouragement from

providers which is driving in increased take up of new places as a result of improved parental confidence. There continues to be a strong focus on programmes of interventions from Family Hubs and the Early Years Teams working in collaboration with key agencies.

42. We have seen within Early Help that case numbers are increasing and the quality of the case working within is improving. In the first three quarters of 2021/22 there have been 2164 case numbers, for the same period the previous year, the case numbers were 1732 which is an increase of 432 (24.9%). This is important when more families are seen and supported within early help outcomes are shown to improve and the pressure on the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub is reduced. A recent amendment to the quality assurance process was undertaken to provide a refocus on outcomes and familial experience of the offer which, whilst leading to a temporary minor drop in performance, is now demonstrating a 5% increase in the number of cases being rated as good or outstanding between September and November.

Education Health and Care Plans

43. Over the past 2 years there has been a continued increase in the requests for statutory assessment with the increase of 17% from 2020/21 to 2021/22. The service is currently managing 2397 Plans with a further 150 in the assessment process. Doncaster are projected to maintain almost 2500 by the end of Quarter 4 2021/22, which reflects the national picture. Children and young people returning back to the classroom following a number of lockdowns has resulted in a significant increase in demand. In the last quarter there has been reduced service capacity which has led to a reduction in performance with only 38.1% of care plans (32 out of 84) issued within 20 weeks. Increased capacity within the Special Education Needs Team and a new Senior Officer have been recruited and it is expected that performance in quarter 4 will improve.

Electronic Personal Education Plans

44. All children in care have an Electronic Personal Education Plan, with 99% of 355 plans being rated as good or better, against a target of 87%. This has been achieved through the Virtual School officers virtually checking in with designated teachers to ensure that robust plans are in place. Training in schools for Designated Teachers for Looked after Children has also improved the number and quality of electronic personal education plans being submitted which supports social workers to review and report on the child or young person's educational journey. Pupil Premium Plus is allocated quickly to schools to enable them to provide timely support to ensure that the child or young person will achieve their best outcome.

Elected Home Education

45. During the 20/21 school year, rates of elective home education were a challenge with an increase of 252% (from 139 to 351) in notifications as many were reluctant to send children back to school, following periods of 'home education'. This rate was mirrored nationally and regionally. The attendance and pupil welfare Service modified its new strategy to ensure rapid support and challenge to schools and families where an interest in elective home education was expressed, so that all decisions were made in the best interest of young people. Whilst Doncaster had

seen a dramatic rise in enquiries and notifications over the last year, there has been a real time 10% decrease (from 608 to 534) in home educated children within the Borough since the start of the 2019-2020 academic year. Whilst there were 330 actual new notifications during 2020-2021, 255 of the overall cases have been closed down. Of these notifications received during this period only 17 children have remained home educated. Since September 2021, the rates of notifications have continued to be higher than usual, with 116 notifications within this timeframe, with 62 being closed down.

Children Missing in Education

46. Children Missing Education referrals have grown through the period of the pandemic, with 504 (1.29% of the overall population) received during the academic year 20/21. Our early intervention approach has ensured that 87% of open cases had been closed during the last academic year. So far, during 21/22 the number of referrals has continued to be higher than previous years with 405 referrals to the end of December, of which 74% have been closed down (303).

Exclusions – Looked After Children

47. Last quarter there have been no permanent exclusions for Looked after Children. There were 87 days fixed term exclusion last quarter for Children in Care. This is an increase from last quarter which was impacted by COVID related closure and absence. These were made up of 9 days for 3 primary children and 78 days for 20 secondary young people. The main reasons were physical assault against an adult and persistent disruptive behaviour. Virtual school officers work closely with schools to suggest strategies and alternatives to exclusion where possible. Additional Pupil Premium is allocated to schools so they can act quickly and put additional support into place to help the young person access the educational provision.

Fixed Term Exclusions

48. Primary fixed term exclusions continue to show vast improvement over the past two academic years from 549 to 182 which has resulted in a 17 place improvement in LA percentile rankings to 78th. Secondary fixed term exclusions have reduced also, from 5,855 in 2018/19 to 2,945 in 2020/2021. This performance has improved to 14.76, closing the gap against the national average (4.77) by 17.96% to 9.99%. The team continue to have a strong focus in this area to make further improvements. This work includes our 'Team around the School' meetings, behaviour and well-being audits, continued sharing of strategies, and training around school culture and peer challenge and review through the secondary head teachers group. It is difficult to predict the likely impact of this due to the shifting challenges around child and family mental health during the pandemic but unofficial data is showing that these trends have continued to improve during the autumn term.

Attendance

49. The borough has continued to make strong progress against the national average for the main school absence measures (percentages of school absence are used due to the very large volume of sessional numbers included in this data). For overall absence in primary schools, the figure has reduced to 3.6, which is 0.4% below the National Average and marginally behind the regional average of 3.4%. This shows an improvement in our national ranking, moving from 143 to 118. For the same measure in secondary, absence has reduced from 6.8% to 5.6%, reducing the gap

with national averages by 0.2% to 1%. For special schools, absence has increased from 10.1% to 11.9%, but is significantly lower than the national average of 17.2%.

50. The most recent data for school absence (Autumn 20 / Spring 2021) shows that secondary persistent absence for secondary schools is now at 15%, which is 3.3% below the national average. In the previous year this figure was 19%, which was 4% below the national average. This marks an improvement in National Local authority rankings from 142nd to 135th. It is useful to note that if pupils were ill with Covid this does count as absence but if pupils were well but affected by covid this is not counted.

ARG funds - South Yorkshire's Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG)

51. The arts, culture and creative industries in South Yorkshire has received a boost with the announcement from the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) providing £450,000 to help safeguard the future of the cultural and creative industries across Doncaster, which is the largest grant settlement in this sector attributed to a local authority in South Yorkshire. The fund is part of South Yorkshire's Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG), which has so far provided South Yorkshire businesses with over £45m of support during the pandemic. This funding, will support the development of the new Cultural Strategy, as well as local creative and cultural individuals, organisations and businesses in Doncaster through enabling new creative initiatives and programming new work that will create vibrancy in our towns and villages. In doing so, we will be building a programme of activity, which can gain national profile for Doncaster and increase engagement in arts, culture and heritage activities.
52. Significant progress and traction had then been made in terms of the building construction site of Chequer Rd until late December 21 when disruption of the wider supply chain of materials and Covid 19 impacted on the project.

Offsite Storage of materials and Archives

53. Currently all material and local studies and Archives are off site in secure units outside of the borough in deep store. The cost of this is set at £140k per annum. The original contracts, which were properly set up, have exceeded their end date. This breach has been reported to the Audit Committee in April 2021 and October 2021. A further update will be provided in April 2022 when the breach situation should be very nearly resolved (early June 22 full operational hand over of the building) through the return of all archived material into Chequer Road.

Global Education Leaders Partnership Conference

54. In November 2021, Doncaster hosted a three-day GELP X conference online. GELP X was organised by Doncaster Council in close collaboration with Global Education Leaders Partnership (GELP). It featured a series of discussions with international education experts, focusing on Doncaster's Education and Skills Strategy, its transformational 'ecosystem' blueprint for the future, and progress made to establish the ecosystem across the Health and Engineering sectors to date.
55. The conference built on the fantastic work we've done to develop our Education & Skills strategy and helped to evolve the Talent and Innovation Ecosystem to prepare

learners of all ages for good jobs and thriving lives. Due to its outstanding success, it was decided to take these GELP discussions on the road throughout 2022.

HEALTHY & COMPASSIONATE:

Our vision is for a compassionate borough where collectively everyone is supported to add life to years and years to life.

Performance Indicators



(see Appendix A)

Headlines:

- Waiting time for assessment criteria has been agreed for the new Case Management System for this period. In Quarter 3 the waiting time for completion of an assessment was 52 days, which is higher than the target of 42 days or less. Challenges relating to recruitment are affecting waiting times and there is a dedicated recruitment campaign planned to attract workforce.
- 56% of the people who were assessed or reviewed by Adult Social Care during this Quarter received a review of their care between 42 and 365 days after assessment (1085 of 1948, compared to 702 of 1251 in Quarter 2).
- 914 people are in receipt of a Direct Payment to support their social care needs; this equates to 26.9% of the total figures of people in receipt of Adult Social Care, compared to 26.5% in Quarter 2.
- The average number of verified 'Rough Sleepers' has reduced from 31 in Quarter 2, to 20 in Quarter 3.
- 21 people of working age (18-64 years) were permanently admitted into residential or nursing care homes, compared to 16 in the previous Quarter.
- 360 people aged 65 years and above were permanently admitted into residential or nursing care homes, compared to 209 in the previous Quarter. Challenges in the market due to COVID and other factors have seen an increase in people being admitted to care settings. Additional investment has been made into the domiciliary market to increase recruitment and retention, which in turn should deliver an increase in capacity. This increase in capacity will provide greater opportunity to keep people at home for longer.
- The Integrated Discharge Team (IDT) continue to operate under considerable pressure, with 899 referrals during this Quarter, compared to 930 in Quarter 2.
- STEPS received 798 referrals in to the service during Quarter 3, an increase in comparison to the previous Quarter, where 759 referrals were recorded. Whilst 493 of these were accepted, a further 299 were signposted to alternative services or identified as not requiring support at the point of assessment.
- The 'Proud to Care' campaign was successfully launched in Doncaster during Quarter 3 to promote and support working in Social Care.
- 165 people known to Learning Disability services received a review of their care and support, out of a cohort of 574. This equates to 34.81% of people as a percentage, compared to 33.03% in the previous Quarter (108 out of 327).

Delivering Quality Care and Support

56. Data indicates that there has been a fluctuation in the waiting time for an assessment for people referred to Adult Social Care over previous Quarters. This is due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, Omicron wave and the implementation of the Mosaic Case Management System. There has been a challenge with staff absences and capacity which has impacted on timescales and ultimately performance. To

address this, additional one-off investment and capacity has been dedicated to improve response times which will improve performance. As part of the ongoing recovery planning, teams are building on good practice developed during the pandemic through the introduction of proportionate assessments, and the use of technology to facilitate assessments better, and subsequently reduce delays in the future. During this period work is ongoing to ensure that all staff are aware of the definitions for how performance is being measured against this metric, which will enable richer improved performance information moving forward.

57. In Quarter 3, there were 1948 people who were reviewed by the Locality Adult Social Care teams; this figure is the highest ever recorded figure since this metric was introduced in Quarter 4 of 2017/18.

Direct Payments

58. The figures in relation to the proportion of people who receive a Direct Payment to manage their Social Care needs have remained reasonably static (around 26-27% for the last three Quarters), although the average cost per person has increased. Further analysis is being undertaken to understand the reason for this increase, and the Policy, Insight and Change team are currently developing a dashboard to analyse the average cost of personal budgets for both existing and new people.
59. The Direct Payment Action Group has been established to provide further insight into the use and benefits of Direct Payments; however, the work this group have agreed to complete has been rescheduled in light of the need to prioritise the focused work in line with the Covid Omicron Variant.

Rough Sleepers

60. The average number of 'verified' Rough Sleepers has reduced by over half since Quarter 1 (from 48 to 20). This is likely to have dropped due to Protect and Vaccinate funding and additional hotel spaces being made available, as well as the 'Severe Weather Emergency Plan (SWEP) being activated within this period, with people being placed during the severe cold spell.

Permanent Admissions to Residential and Nursing Care

61. There has been a significant increase in the number of people of both working age (18-64 years) and those 65 years and above during this Quarter. For those aged 65 years and above, we have seen that new admissions have increased and the volume of leavers has significantly reduced. Increased monitoring is in place to ensure that strength-based practice is embedded, and older adults are encouraged and supported to live as independently as possible in their own home whenever possible.
62. Working age adults in Learning Disability and Mental Health has seen an increase of 5 people in the last quarter. Work is ongoing with strategic commissioning to look at supported living opportunities in the Borough, which will see a decrease in long term admissions over time.
63. There has been a significant increase in short stays due to the challenges within domiciliary care provision, alongside demand due to hospital pressures during this Quarter. Capacity in the workforce has been an increasing challenge throughout the quarter and it is hoped that the additional investment made into the market will produce additional workforce and capacity.

Communities Area Teams

64. The Communities Area Teams continue to play a lead role in supporting early intervention and prevention approaches across all ages, people and place, linked to Localities working
65. The Wellbeing Service continues to identify and target prevention, and build resilience for those people who are at risk of potential escalating needs. During Quarter 3, there has been ongoing development of the Enhanced Performance Framework within Wellbeing, to support Quarterly reporting. This Framework has enabled the data collected to be analysed better, and to provide geographical and themed Wellbeing-strand information on trends and demands across the service. This work includes the Carers Improvement Plan, which has been underway since November 2021, and supporting the Frailty work, which is currently being evaluated.
66. The North Social Isolation work is progressing, with a conversation group with new parents to expand on their responses to the impact of connections and loneliness – planned for January 2022. The Borough-wide social isolation project is currently having further workshops with wider community / voluntary sector providers to determine their knowledge, understanding and perceptions around loneliness and what we can collectively consider / change to positively impact on this for people in Doncaster, which is set to expand to include community workshops.
67. Work with the Minor Adaptations without Delay Team (MAWD) and the Improvement plan is progressing, and all Wellbeing officers have been trained in relation to equipment and adaptations. Low-lever MAWD cases are being reviewed and reassigned to Wellbeing to support this offer, and this new approach includes providing information, advice, guidance and signposting, including supporting people to self-purchase in advance of service provision. This work will be with Adult Social Care, to see what impact this has had.

Integrated Discharge Team (IDT)

68. IDT continue to supporting people to return home wherever possible, despite the ongoing challenges within the community brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic. 72 people were discharged on Pathway 2 in to short-stay during this Quarter, which is the same figure as the previous period.
69. The IDT and Partner agencies continue to work together to implement the National Hospital and Community Discharge guidance, and ensure that those with no right to reside are discharged in a safe and timely way. A 'One version of the truth' list is now being trailed with Partner, enabling the Team to focus on those cases that need to be escalated; where delays exceed any current timescales for discharge. Work is underway to identify the future structure within the service following the recommendations from The Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE).

STEPS

70. The Short Term Enable Programme (STEPS) provides support within the community when an adult is finding it difficult to complete daily tasks or when someone is leaving hospital and needs additional support to regain skills and confidence. Work is planned to review the existing process, and introduce a case manager to the Integrated Discharge Team, which will create a more effective referral process and reduce the number of inappropriate referrals.
71. During Quarter 3, there were 96 referrals declined due to a lack of capacity, some of which can be attributed to staffing issues brought about by the increasing number of workforce testing positive for Covid-19.

72. The Proud to care Doncaster campaign was launched during this Quarter, and is having a positive impact upon recruitment within the team, and across Social Care, which will increase capacity within the STEPS service and hopefully across Adults Health and Wellbeing services.

Positive Steps Unit (PSU)

73. During this period, there has been a drop in the overall number of people accessing the service due to a Covid-19 outbreak within the setting. However, the service has worked well to support the wider system during this wave of the pandemic to flex its criteria and meet people's needs in a more appropriate setting, reducing the need to remain in hospital.

74. In Quarter 4, the plan is to implement 'Whole home testing' in relation to Covid-19, which will identify the roadmap to the service reopening.

75. An increasing number of people have been supported to return home with support than the previous period, and there has been a decrease in the total number of people being readmitted to hospital. This may be due to work undertaken with Partner agencies to review ways of working and pathways in to community health services.

76. Plans are in place during the next Quarter to present a new criterion for the service, which will enable more people to return home independently and reduce the number of people admitted to long-term residential care. The table below outlines the discharge outcomes for those people who have been known to PSU.

Discharge Outcomes		
	Quarter 2	Quarter 3
Home with support	28	22
Home without Support	4	2
Hospital	21	7
Other	2	7
Residential	25	32
Total	80	70

Future Options

77. There has been ongoing challenges in our internal units with staff absence due to COVID. This combined with some existing vacancies has meant resource has been directed towards supporting business continuity.

78. Work is ongoing to prepare the Deputy of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) team for the change over to Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS) in 2022. As with all Local Authorities there is a waiting list which is being risk managed and reviewed by Senior Management on a regular basis. The timeline for the implantation of LPS has slipped nationally, and we are still awaiting guidance on when this will be implemented; however, there will be a 12 week lead time on this.

79. .

80. Pressure for AMHP services remains high with delays with ambulance transfers being escalated to CCG and partners. Authorisation from CCG to access private ambulance transfer should see this reduce.

Covid 19 Pandemic

81. The COVID-19 Control Plan has been updated in consideration of more policy and guidance changes, and the threat and risk assessment has been regularly reviewed at the COVID-19 Control Board. Outbreak Frameworks were reviewed in Autumn 2021.
82. An asymptomatic testing approach has adapted to recent demands in Lateral Flow Tests, and supported critical and essential services. 3233 assisted tests were delivered and 3064 self-test kits provided between 1st October 2021 and 31 December 2021, and regular assisted tests have been delivered to Danum Mercure Hotel for Afghanistan families residing there.
83. There has been a recruitment drive for Contact Tracing relieve staff during this period, with regular training sessions delivered for all staff in light of changes in policy. During this Quarter, 5278 cases have been processed.
84. Support from the National Test and Trace had to be switched on due to large number of cases during Quarter 3, as the target of 90% of calls completed was not met for the previous 12 weeks/Quarter 2. The Contact Tracing team handled all critical/urgent support requests on weekdays and all support to isolation queries during weekends and over the Christmas period. During Quarter 3, the Surge testing activation plan was also reviewed in light of the new Omicron variant.
85. During this period, Outbreaks meetings have been provided as necessary, and the Enhanced vaccination offer has been supported by Community Testing, Well Doncaster and Community COVID-19 Teams.

- The following actions are planned for Quarter 4:
 - Review and refresh the COVID-19 Control Plan in light of any new government strategy/policy.
 - Community Testing Team to revert to targeted community testing when supply chains have been resolved. Continue to deliver ramp-down plan in line with government approach to COVID testing.
 - Contact Tracing 0 to review reasons for non-completion of calls. Will remove support from National Test & Trace as soon as capacity allows.
 - Plan for a reduction in service post 31st March 2022.
 - Vaccination pop ups – return to a focus on unrepresented groups to be supported/encouraged, low uptake areas identified, barriers addressed
 - Continue review future capacity requirements for local COVID-19 response in line with COVID monies available.

CONNECTED COUNCIL:

Our vision is a connected council ready for the future

Performance Indicators



(see Appendix A)

Headlines:

- We continue to offer enhanced health and wellbeing resources to our workforce.
- The average number of days for sickness absence per employee is 11.4 days which continues to be a worsening trend against the target of 8.25 days
- Performance against the average number of day to process a new housing benefit claim continues to remain off target for quarter 3.

- The average number of days to process new council tax support claims remains static.
- The trend for the completions of New Housing Benefit claims is improving.
- Customer Services received 48,527 telephone calls this quarter 89% were answered within 150 seconds, against our target of 90%.

Supporting Staff Well-being

86. Our workforce have continued to respond and recover, with the majority of services operating and subsequently adapting aligned to government guidance, and increased prevalence due to the Omicron variant.
87. The HR & OD team have continued to support managers and staff health and wellbeing, with regular communications ongoing on key workforce issues to inform and provide advice as well as implementing actions in response from the staff surveys on wellbeing.
88. There has also been a continued focus on our workforce health and wellbeing support and resources available, particularly around mental health, resilience and different ways of working. Our Health and Wellbeing resources provide lots of guidance, resources and tools to support all staff in their wellbeing. All accessible through the Your Health and Wellbeing Hub on the intranet. An interactive guide containing everything each employee needs to know about our health and wellbeing policy and resources. There are links to Mental, Physical and Financial wellbeing, as well as specific information around Coping with Covid – Maintaining Good Mental Health. In addition to these, staff can also access the Counselling Services, which is self-referral, offering individual counselling to help individuals deal with difficulties, whether work or home related.
89. The overall council position for the completion of PDRs achieved 89%, 6% below the target of 95%. This is predominantly due to a delay in recording assessments timely given the significant pressure services remain under is responding to the covid pandemic.
90. The sickness absence rate for the quarter was 11.40 days per full time equivalent employee, against a target of 8.25 days. Although this is a further increase of 0.94 days from 10.46 days in quarter 2, the rate at which it has risen is lower by 0.37 days. This will continue to be monitored over the coming months to assess impact and ensure effective provisions to manage absence levels remain in place. This reducing trend is encouraging but more work is required to support a reduction back to the corporate target of 8.25 days.
91. Agency worker spend has increased this quarter by 15% (£106k) from quarter 2; although the number of assignments has reduced by 6 down from 68 to 62 assignments compared to quarter 2. Both spend and usage will continue to be monitored against the needs and capacity of the business.
92. The council's corporate Health and Safety team continue to work with HR and Public Health to ensure up to date risk assessments are in place to meet the circumstances and needs of service activities.
93. The number of reported injuries at work in this quarter have increased compared to the same period of last year. The most common reported incident type remains as

slips and trips and aggression with no identifiable causal trends. RIDDOR reports continue to be low, with 3 employee RIDDOR reports in this quarter, a reduction of 2 reported in quarter 2.

Housing Benefit Claims and Tax Collections

94. Our performance against the average number of day to process a new housing benefit claim is currently 28.47 days against a target of 21 days. Although the performance level for quarter 3 remains off target, there has been a steady improvement during the quarter, which has seen new claims dealt with on average in 25 days through the quarter and in December claims were dealt with on average in 20.64 days. Staff continue to have to compete with conflicting priorities with the continued work on self-isolation payments and the new Household Support Fund payments also being administered by the same staff that deal with new HB claims. However, the continued prioritisation of allocating new HB claims within 2 days of receipt, has resulted in this steady improvement. Homeless placement claims which have increased significantly during the pandemic continue to take significantly longer to process, which has a detrimental impact on the average processing time. This is because it is very rare that all the relevant information to pay the claim is received at the point the application comes in, and given the nature of the client group it often takes longer for them to provide all supporting claim documents. There are currently 96 claims awaiting processing across the team and assuming full resource can be maintained it is hoped that the average time to process these claims will continue to reduce through quarter 4
95. The average number of days to process new council tax support claims is currently 36.46 against a target of 21. During the quarter significant resource has been allocated to the outstanding backlog of Universal Credit notifications. This additional resource has included external support from Northgate (NEC SWS). Although this has not had a significant impact on overall performance because much of the work is several months old it has started to reduce the total volumes of work and should reap improvements in the final quarter. However, there does still remain a backlog of some work going back to August. Processing staff are still having to do additional work on self-isolation payments and Household Support Fund, which means that the level of resource that can be allocated to the backlog remains limited however NEC SWS will continue to support throughout quarter 4.
96. It is hoped that the demand for the £500 self-isolation payment reduces as Covid cases reduce and that by the end of quarter 4 and going into quarter 1 next year, this is much depleted. The Household Support Fund ends at the end of quarter 4 and will be very busy for the whole of quarter 4 providing payments for food and fuel. Therefore, a projection for quarter 4 is not easy to predict but we all resources with the expertise continue to improve performance. All attempts to get extra expertise in to help have now been exhausted.
97. 75.22% of the total council tax debit has been collected to the end of quarter 3 this year. This compares with 75.96% for the same period in 2019/20 and 72.26% for the same period last year. The reason for this increased collection is due to lessened effects of Covid at this time. Although there still remains some uncertainty around due to the pandemic things are much nearer pre-pandemic levels and this is expected to

remain. The new omicron strain may affect these figures in the final quarter, however, it is still expected to hit target.

98. The projections for non-domestic rates collection this year continue to be very difficult to estimate. In normal years we would calculate what proportion of the total annual debit has been collected at this point in the year and compare that with previous year's collection at the same point. Although fluctuations to the annual debit take place all the time, they do not usually have a material effect on this methodology. However, since the end of June this year's annual debit has increased by more than £21M due to cancellation of Expanded Retail Discount. Part of this was due to the actual level of relief changing from 100% to 66% from the 1st July, but a large part was down to businesses requesting to have the relief cancelled as it would breach relief caps for subsidy control. This additional debt will be spread over the remaining months of the year for collection, however, a calculation of how much would have been paid to date if it had actually already fallen due has provided detail to estimate the outturn at this point. Therefore it assumes we have collected 73.58% of the debit for this year so far, compared to 71.60% at the same point last year and 74.99% at the same point in 2019/20, which was pre-pandemic. Although some uncertainty remains it is hoped to reach the outturn 96% collection target.

Customer Contact

99. The One Stop Shop at the Civic Office has been operating under Covid restrictions since we opened back up in June 2020. All services are now operating from the one stop shop and the self-service area has been re-opened. In Quarter 3 we saw an increase of 1400 customers compared to Quarter 2
100. In Quarter 3 Customer Services received 48,527 telephone calls. We have seen an increase in telephone performance this quarter, answering 89% within the 150 seconds target, with an overall average time to answer of 50 seconds. We have recruited an additional 4 customer service advisors post to cover the lunchtime period and we have seen a number of advisors return from long term sickness absence, both contributing to the improved performance

FAIR & INCLUSIVE:

101. 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.
102. 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.

103. Over the coming months the council will review its 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.

104. 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:

- As part of the Council's commitment to creating an environment where diversity is celebrated and everyone is treated fairly, the Council has renewed its status as a Disability Confident Employer and has once again achieved a Gold Award in the Defence (Armed Forces) Employer Recognition Scheme.
- Black History Month, World Mental Health Day, International Men's Day were celebrated as part of our calendar of EDI events.
- Mental health event aimed at tackling barriers to accessing children's mental health service and culturally appropriate service provision reforms took place on 15th January 2022. Pledge made to feed into CYP MH strategy and contribute to service reform
- Our strategies for inclusion are impacting upon the lives of various groups of young people, with reducing levels of exclusion and increasing school attendance of young people with SEND or those in care.
- We have built our strategy for supporting young people's mental health following surveys of key groups of vulnerable young people and their families. Allied to this we are developing a strategy for improving provision for those who have experienced domestic abuse.
- The Minorities Partnership Board (MPB will become the System Leaders Forum every two months with a Lay Member as Chair) To be discussed at the next meeting in February with a focus on the implementation of the BAME health news assessment The board and partners produced an updated ethnic minorities Covid vaccination leaflet which was converted into a number of languages

- Focus given to Gypsy Roma and Traveller Community with Health Fair taking place in December 2020. Further Health Fairs planned (on a seasonal basis) and collaborations agreed with Changing Lives BAME Women's Project in terms of outreach (Roma and Romani Community). Collaboration planned with St Leger in relation to their regeneration project of their owned GRT sites. Covid Community team will feed in and assist where necessary.
- The inclusion and Diversity Newsletter has been developed and is routinely shared with the Minorities Partnership Board and partners (updated monthly)
- Work ongoing with Inclusion & Fairness Forum around STEM education and higher and further education for underserved groups
- Targeted Covid vaccination pop up clinics are still taking place in underserved communities with particular focus on low uptake areas (in collaboration with Magpie)
- Culturally Competency and Race Equality training is being developed for Team Doncaster and Partners. A Train the Trainer model will be adopted to enable all staff to access training
- DMBC (Public Health) Piloting the National Research Race Equality Framework in collaboration with Doncaster Bassetlaw Hospital Foundation Trust

PROGRAMMES & PROJECTS

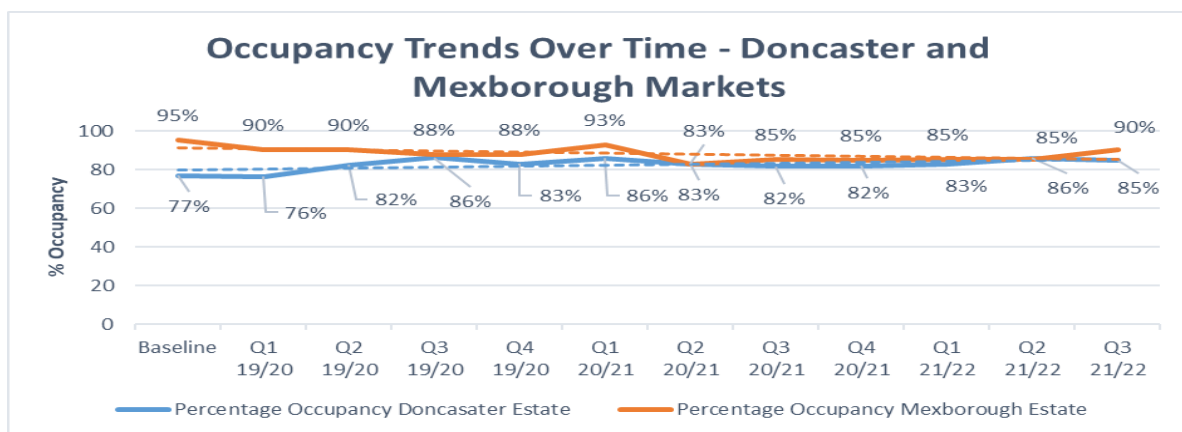
105. We reported previously within Quarter 2 (2021/22) the environment in which the Public Sector operates continued to be uncertain, turbulent and unprecedented, and it is clear within Quarter 3 the situation remained the same; the impact of Covid continues to present unparalleled economic and social challenges for Doncaster and our wider sub region, with a general shortage on materials, staff and contractors coupled with inflation in a multitude of products and services, the volatility of the environment we operate in continues to be challenging, this uncertain environment is further fuelled by Government delayed announcements on a number of national funding programmes which require critical milestones to be achieved in an unfavourable landscape.
106. Combined with the harsh reality that we have experienced in excess of 30% programme staff shortages (due to a variety of covid and other related illnesses) our ability to deliver on a plethora of Programmes, Portfolios and Projects has been challenging, yet despite this uncertainty, we continue to drive forward the delivery of over 120 different propositions; 68 currently live with 43 completed to date.
107. Dissecting our key performance within Quarter 3 we have seen the delivery of a Global Education Leaders Conference, to the delivery of Big Picture Learning, (an Education Inclusion Programme aiming to improve educational outcomes for all children in Doncaster, with a particular focus on vulnerable and/or disadvantaged children), we have successfully attracted external investment from Government on both our Town Deals (Stainforth) Submission £21.6m, and our Levelling Up Fund £18.6m Town Centre regeneration submission (Markets, Waterfront, CCQ) and continue to press Government to become a City as part of the Queens jubilee year (2022). This is just a snapshot of some of the key activities that have been delivered throughout 2021/22 Quarter 3, at the heart of our inclusive and agile programme model, requirements of residents & communities are centric to the success of all our programmes, the breadth of what we continue to deliver demonstrates the diversity

in which we aim to have lasting benefits and the drive to undertake the very best for all.

Market Asset Management (MAM) Doncaster Ltd. Update

108. Quarter 3 of 2021-22 saw the continuation of the market being fully open since all Covid restrictions were lifted in July 2021. Events included those in the run up to Halloween, Bonfire Night and Christmas.

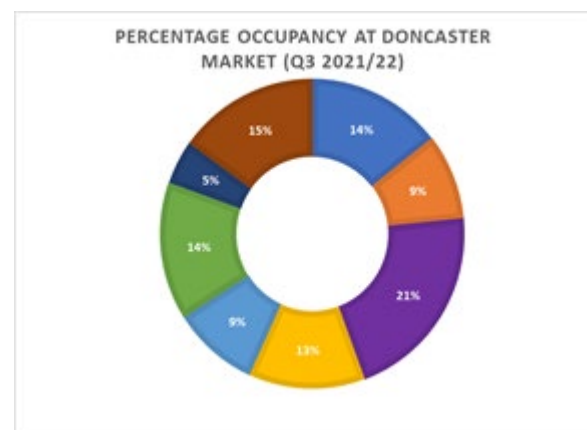
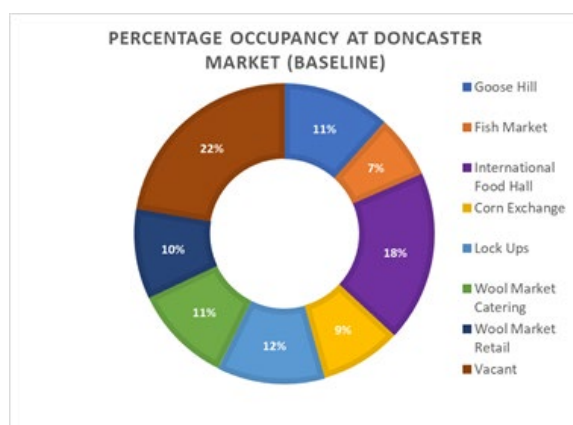
Occupancy Trends at Doncaster and Mexborough Markets



109. Doncaster Market occupancy has reduced by 1% over the course of Q3. A number of businesses have chosen to seek new locations out of the estate as the Entertainment zone is introduced into the Wool Market.

110. Mexborough has fared better over Q3 with occupancy increasing from 85% to 90% with the number of vacant stalls reducing from five to three.

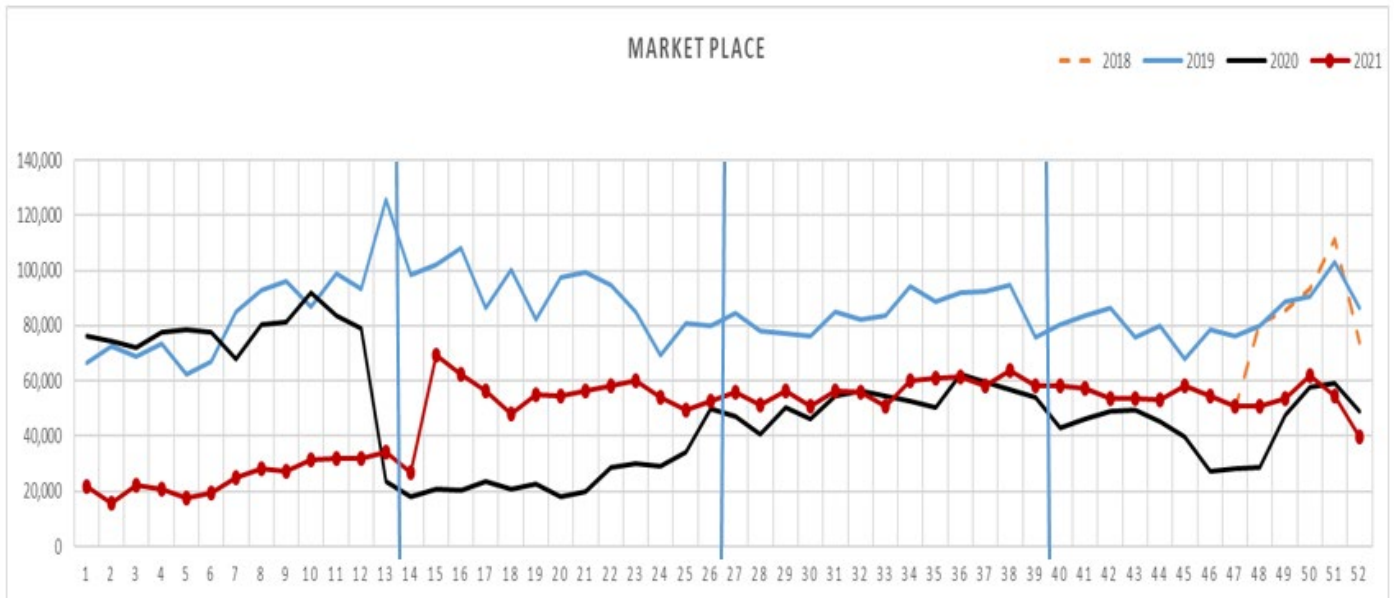
111. Doncaster Market Occupancy Level Changes per area of the estate (Percentage) at Baseline (May 2019) and Q2 2021/22



112. Across the Doncaster estate there has been a number of changes in units for each of the market areas since baseline was measured in May 2019. Some areas have lost

units whilst others have gained units. Baseline measured the total number of units at 165. It was reported in Q2 2021-22 that the total number of units had reduced to 157. This has further reduced due to the loss of retail units being removed in the Wool Market to make way for the competitive leisure zone. Total units in the Doncaster estate is 153.

Footfall Trends for the Market Place (up to week 52; w/c 27/12/21)



113. Q3 2021-22 fared better in terms of footfall when compared to the same quarter for the previous year as there were no Covid restrictions in place. Footfall still remains reduced compared to pre-pandemic levels in 2019, which could be reflected by the public wanting to stay away from potentially busy areas to reduce the risk of contracting Covid, particularly in the run up to Christmas and with the identification of the much higher transmissible variant, Omicron. Although overall numbers were reduced, the trend of footfall in the last two weeks of the year mirror that of previous years with less people visiting the market between Christmas and the New Year.

114. Regular updates on the Maintenance Schedules of both Mexborough and Doncaster estates are part of the quarterly KPI return. All aspects of the maintenance schedules are up to date with a small number of maintenance tasks awaiting contractor dates. This will no doubt have been impacted, as like many other areas, due to the large disruption of the Omicron variant this winter.

Developments

115. Doncaster Market have benefitted from the first round of the Governments Levelling Up Fund (LUF). Enterprise Market Place will protect and enhance the iconic Grade II Listed Corn Exchange along with the restoration and retention of traditional shop fronts in the market area and surrounding streets. The funding will support Doncaster's ambition to evolve and diversify Doncaster Market Place for the 21st Century.

116. The Entertainment Zone within the Wool market is scheduled to open in spring 2022.

117. Mexborough Market is also benefiting from a number of works including the installation of electric doors to the market hall, new signage, CCTV and Wi-Fi to

enable traders to connect with a wider audience through social media and utilise different payment systems such as contactless.

118. Further discussions are ongoing between MAM and council officers to progress further development improvement across the market estate.

MAM Financial Position

119. 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.

FINANCIAL POSITION:

Revenue Budget

120. A balanced financial position is forecast for the year-end (no over or underspend). This position includes the use of £6.8m 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 approved at quarter 1. The position has improved by £0.9m since quarter 2; changes include the release of £0.5m from the insurance fund, whilst children's social care costs have increased further.
121. The position includes £7.4m being delivered against planned savings, although overall savings remain off track with a £2.7m shortfall estimated. A summary and further details by service area is provided below: -

	Quarter 3				
	Gross Budget	Net Budget	Variance		COVID-19 Costs
	£m	£m	£m	%	£m
Adults Health and Wellbeing	133.6	66.5	0.0	0.0%	4.6
Learning Opportunities, Skills & Culture	67.1	18.3	1.1	1.6%	1.9
Doncaster Children's Services Trust (DCST)	61.6	55.5	4.9	8.0%	3.8
Corporate Resources	121.2	26.7	-0.1	-0.1%	2.5
Public Health	32.6	5.1	-0.8	-2.5%	2.0
Economy & Environment	100.9	43.9	-1.3	-1.3%	3.3
Services Budgets	517.0	216.0	3.8	0.7%	18.1
Council-Wide budgets	17.8	-69.6	-3.8	-21.3%	0.0
Grand Total	534.8	146.4	0.0	0.0%	18.1

122. Adults, Health and Wellbeing (AHWB) is forecast to underspend by £0.03m at quarter 3. The main variances are as follows: -
- a. The Adult Social Care Ladder outturn position is a forecast overspend of £0.17m with the main changes being as a result of seeing the impact of the Omicron variant over the last few weeks, with a combination of hospitalisations and subsequent discharges combining with pressures across staffing in direct care provision, especially community-based providers. This has seen a shift in Care Ladder activity and spend away from Homecare and towards short stay and Older Peoples residential care. The forecast assumes that the levels of activity

across the Care Ladder in the last two months will potentially continue for the remainder of the financial year, although this is far from certain given the unpredictability of the pandemic and the pressures it is currently placing across the board on Adult Social Care. More work is to be done in the next few weeks to refine this forecast and its likely impact on both this year's outturn and the medium-term will be reported in due course. Provider rates have been increased to enable them to bring forward the payment on next years' National Living Wage increases from December 2021. This has impact on overall spend projections and also income from the Doncaster Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and these forecasts have been revised accordingly.

- b. The Care Ladder position is primarily driven by an overspend on older people's residential placements of £1.32m where net placement numbers have increased significantly over recent months, with a net increase of 42 over November and December. Working Age Adults residential placements are forecast to overspend by £0.87m due mainly to increases in unit costs. Short stay residential is forecast to overspend by £0.29m which reflects the shift in recent weeks which has seen increased activity in residential care with activity levels not forecast to return to pre-pandemic levels during this financial year as the impact of hospital discharges, increased elective surgeries and winter pressures is expected to maintain current levels.
 - c. Non-Residential Care is forecast to underspend by £-2.31m overall, with overspends in Direct Payments £0.27m being offset by underspends in Homecare £-0.81m and related income £-1.37m.
 - d. Other Adult Social Care (excluding care ladder) is forecasting an overspend of £0.40m including a forecast overspend on the Community Equipment budget of £0.47m, with service review underway, and late delivery of savings around internal long term residential care £0.23m, offset by maximising use of grants and other underspends.
 - e. Communities (excluding care ladder) is forecasting an underspend of £-0.60m primarily from Communities Wellbeing service, which is forecast to underspend by -£0.38m, relating to temporary staff vacancies across the service which are expected to be appointed as the full service offer resumes and reduced transport running costs within the Supportive Multi-ability Inter-generational Life Experiences (SMILE) service due to the pace of the COVID-19 recovery, offset by reduced Continuing Health Care (CHC) income as individuals have not returned to the service yet.
123. The overall reduction in the AHWB position since Q2 is £-0.67m which has mainly been caused by a reduction of £-0.60m across the Care Ladder with projections including increased residential placements (including short stay) offset by reduction in non-residential placement numbers, also being impacted on by a lack of provider capacity due to the Omicron variant.
124. Learning Opportunities, Skills and Culture (LOSC) is forecast to overspend by £1.02m at quarter 3, a reduction of £-0.03m since quarter 2, and there are additional pressures of £1.85m which are being funded from COVID-19 monies. The overspend and additional funded COVID-19 pressures includes: -
- a. Children with Disabilities (CWD) placements pressure of £0.52m due to the full year effect of 4 new Out of Authority (OOA) placements in 2020/21 and 1 placement move from In House Fostering to OOA. As part of the Future

Placements Strategy a feasibility study is being carried out as to whether Oaklands can be repurposed to provide internal beds, 2 for permanent placements and 1 for shared care placements, to enable children to be brought back to the borough and/or provide capacity for future years' growth.

- b. Libraries and Culture £0.34m as the new structure is still awaiting implementation, following previous savings targets and delayed due to COVID in 2020/21, with implementation not expected until early 2022. Work on the new structure will also look at external funding sources and potential income to fund some of the changes to the structure. Also, Archives storage costs are expected to remain until April 22.
 - c. Shortfall in traded income from schools across a range of LOSC services and cost pressures for the central Buy Doncaster team amounting to £0.32m.
 - d. Short Breaks £0.26m, of which £0.18m is due to increases in existing packages and growth. £0.50m Short Breaks savings delayed as new overnight provision currently now not expected to open until summer 2022, of which £0.43m has been funded from COVID-19 monies.
 - e. Travel Assistance is forecast to overspend by £0.26m, an increase of £0.17m since quarter 2 due to additional routes, additions to current runs and increasing prices of new routes.
 - f. These are offset in part by an underspend of £-0.28m across the Directorate from managed staffing vacancies and maximisation of grants £-0.17m.
125. The Doncaster Children's Services Trust (DCST) forecast outturn is a gross overspend of £6.26m to the 2021/22 contract value, an increase of £1.78m since quarter 2 mainly due to increased spend on the Care Ladder due to additional demand for placements. £2.16m of the overspend is attributable to the impact of COVID-19, broken down as OOA placements £0.98m, Fostering placements £0.4m, Children in Care (CiC) 16+ placements £0.38m and additional agency costs of £0.39m. Of which £1.32m has been funded from the Council's COVID-19 monies, approved at quarter 1.
126. Therefore the net overspend reported is £4.95m, split between operating costs of £4.10m and increased COVID-19 costs of £0.85m. The forecast is net of additional funding of £0.93m for Care Ladder pressures, which were also approved at quarter 1. The non COVID-19 overspend of £4.10m includes: OOA placements £2.52m, Fostering placements £0.56m, and 16+ placements £1.81m, and staffing, including agency, £0.19m offset by additional funding of £-1.056m from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) High Needs Block (note: this increases the budgetary pressure to the High Needs Block). Overall £2.99m has been provided to cover the COVID-19 pressures either via in-year additional funding or within the base budget position.
127. Corporate Resources is forecast to underspend by £-0.14m, after allocating COVID-19 funding at quarter 1, predominantly within Revenues & Benefits and Trading Services. Although the overall position for the Directorate has remained relatively unchanged throughout the year there are some changes in how the underspend is made up since quarter 2. The main areas of overspend remain unchanged and are within Customers, Digital & ICT: £0.54m in Revenues & Benefits due to increased spend on emergency homeless placements and supported accommodation which does not attract full government housing benefit subsidy and a reduced level of overpayments as more claims become part of universal credit payments administered via Department for Work & Pension (DWP) reducing the ability to achieve subsidy

income; and in HR, Comms & Exec Office: £0.13m in Corporate Health & Safety due to reduced income from training courses. Both of these areas have been addressed in the 2022/23 budget and continue to be monitored closely.

128. The main areas of underspend also remain unchanged with Finance £-0.15m, PIC £-0.19m and Legal £-0.16m all underspending predominantly as a result of staff vacancies, some of which is in preparation for savings targets for next year. The underspend in Legal is also as a result of increased income levels which are being reflected in the 2022/23 budget.
129. Economy & Environment is forecast to underspend by £-1.35m at quarter 3, the underspend has increased by £-1.06m since quarter 2. The estimated cost of COVID-19 is expected to be £3.3m and £2.7m of additional budget has been allocated to support this.
130. The main variances, including the changes from quarter 2 where applicable, are:
 - a. Strategic Asset Management - £0.33m overspend due to reduced income from rent and service charges.
 - b. Street Scene - £0.11m overspend due to reduced income from fee earning work; this position worsened by £0.10m since quarter 2.
 - c. Highways Operations - £-0.38m underspend mainly due to projected overachievement of income, which is reliant on successful delivery of planned works.
 - d. Facilities Management - £-0.45m underspend largely due to a reduction in electricity and water costs across all sites and reduced running costs at Chequer Road during the refurbishment. This has increased £-0.24m since quarter 2, mainly due to more accurate utility and occupancy data being available; and a change in assumption about payment to a historic creditor.
 - e. Development Management - £-0.54m underspend due to higher than expected planning fees, which has increased by £-0.29m since quarter 2.
 - f. Car parking & Enforcement- £-0.43m underspend due to improved income mainly in relation to bus lanes and the markets car park. The position has improved by £-0.36m since quarter 2.
 - g. Waste and recycling position has improved by £-0.23m since quarter 2 mainly due to a reduction in estimated disposal costs and increased recycling income.
131. Council Wide budgets are forecast to underspend by £-3.73m at quarter 3. The main areas of underspend are:
 - a. £-1.66m Treasury Management due to not replacing maturing loans due to being under-borrowed partly mitigated by lack of investment income due to historically low interest rates;
 - b. £-1.52m 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;
 - c. £-0.50m fewer insurance claims than anticipated, in part due to good weather, means £0.50m can be released from the insurance fund;
 - d. £-0.30m lower pension costs for former employees.

132. These are partially offset by overspends including: £0.17m capital receipts - there is an estimated shortfall on capital receipts required to fund the capital programme in 2021/22 so there are insufficient receipts available to transfer to revenue to offset the costs of disposal; and £0.20m senior management savings assumed not achievable.
133. 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)

134. The outturn projection at quarter 3 is an underspend of £0.66m. The revised budget assumes a contribution of £3.16m from balances; the £0.66m underspend means that the contribution from balances is reduced to £2.49m. The £0.66m variance is made up of £0.40m of savings in the provision to bad debt and £0.17m of additional rent income. St Leger Homes will deliver the £0.25m savings target allocated in 2021/22.
135. HRA balances are estimated to be £5.78m as at 31st March 2022.
136. Current rent arrears at quarter 3 are £2.27m (3.01% of the rent debit); this is £0.32m higher than at quarter 2, arrears are traditionally at the highest level as at 31st December. As at 31st December, the amount of former tenants' arrears was £1.30m, this is £0.07m higher than at quarter 2, there were no write offs in this quarter.

Fees and Charges

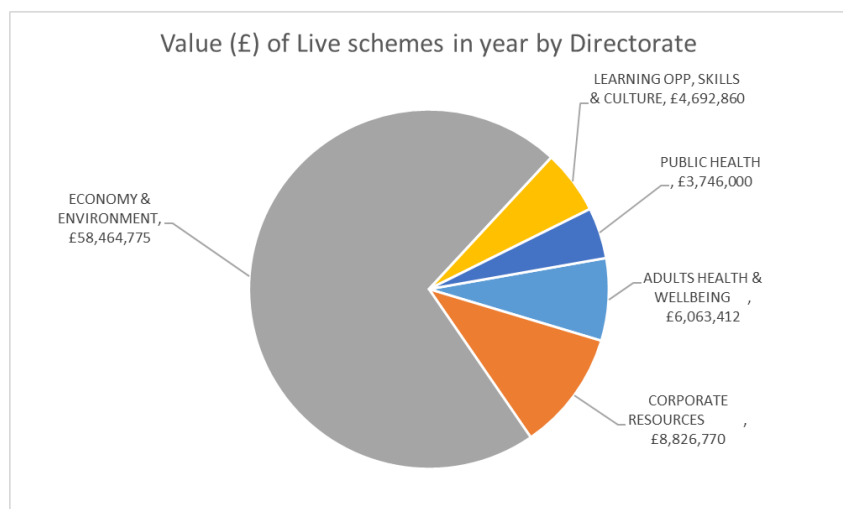
137. A new charge for furnished tenancies has been approved by the Chief Financial Officer in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Children's Social Care, Communities and Equalities. The charge will be £7.16 a week and will be income to the Housing Revenue Account. This service is only available to young people leaving care who are occupying shared tenancies as part of the Keys to Your Future project. Total income is expected to be around £3,000 per annum.

Capital Budget

138. The current year capital programme is made up of 438 schemes and current projections total £81.8m. 66% of the schemes and 71% of the projected spend sits within E&E.

Directorate	Value of Schemes (£)
ADULTS HEALTH & WELLBEING	£6,063,412
CORPORATE RESOURCES	£8,826,770
ECONOMY & ENVIRONMENT	£58,464,775
LEARNING OPP, SKILLS & CULTURE	£4,692,860
PUBLIC HEALTH	£3,746,000
Grand Total	£81,793,818

Directorate	Number of Schemes
ADULTS HEALTH & WELLBEING	18
CORPORATE RESOURCES	43
ECONOMY & ENVIRONMENT	289
LEARNING OPP, SKILLS & CULTURE	85
PUBLIC HEALTH	3
Grand Total	438



139. As at Q3 there has been an overall reduction in projected in year spend when compared to the opening budget of £33.7m (29%) and a reduction of £15.0m (15%)

Directorate	Sum of Current Year			
	Budget Brought Forward	Sum of Q1 Current Year Budget	Sum of Q2 Current Year Budget	Sum of Q3 Current Year Budget
ADULTS HEALTH & WELLBEING	£ 6,471,320	£ 5,636,081	£ 5,689,287	£ 6,063,412
CORPORATE RESOURCES	£ 10,986,987	£ 9,463,005	£ 9,970,621	£ 8,826,770
ECONOMY & ENVIRONMENT	£ 83,021,284	£ 74,382,299	£ 70,341,386	£ 58,464,775
LEARNING OPP, SKILLS & CULTURE	£ 10,120,917	£ 9,242,967	£ 7,563,844	£ 4,692,860
PUBLIC HEALTH	£ 4,895,412	£ 4,895,412	£ 3,264,412	£ 3,746,000
Grand Total	£ 115,495,921	£ 103,619,764	£ 96,829,550	£ 81,793,818

between Q2 and Q3.

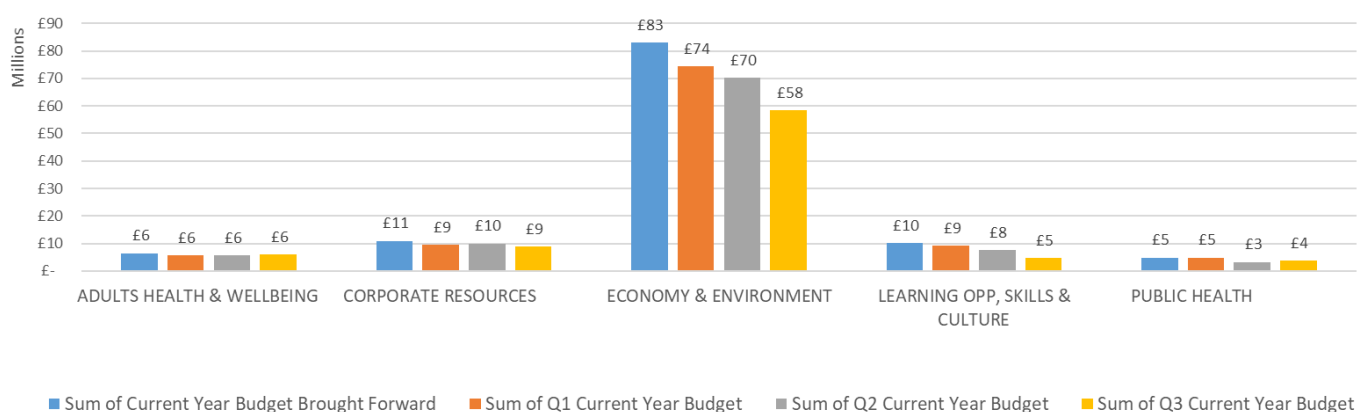
140. To date £46.4m has been spent which is 57% of current year projections. Corporate Resources spend is currently the lowest at 39% but is anticipated there will be further spend in year on high value schemes such as fleet replacement and the market Entertainment Zone.

Directorate	Current Actuals plus		Projected Budget Update Current Year	% Spend after 9 months
	WIP			
ADULTS HEALTH & WELLBEING	£ 2,390,045	£ 6,063,412	39%	
CORPORATE RESOURCES	£ 3,478,431	£ 8,826,770	39%	
ECONOMY & ENVIRONMENT	£ 34,997,894	£ 58,444,775	60%	
LEARNING OPP, SKILLS & CULTURE	£ 2,636,150	£ 4,692,860	56%	
PUBLIC HEALTH	£ 2,915,431	£ 3,746,000	78%	
Grand Total	£ 46,417,950	£ 81,773,818	57%	

141. There is a further more detailed split below.

Row Labels	Sum of Current Actuals plus WIP	Sum of Projected Budget Update Current Year	Actual as % of project full year budget
ADULTS HEALTH & WELLBEING	£ 2,390,045	£ 6,063,412	39%
ADULTS SOCIAL CARE	£ 2,232,229	£ 5,393,102	41%
COMMUNITIES	£ 157,816	£ 606,617	26%
MODERNISATION AND COMMISSIONIN	£ -	£ 63,693	0%
CORPORATE RESOURCES	£ 3,478,431	£ 8,826,770	39%
CUSTOMERS, DIGITAL & ICT	£ 1,085,065	£ 3,393,111	32%
FINANCE	£ 2,316,882	£ 5,271,660	44%
HR, COMMS & EXEC OFFICE	£ 76,483	£ 162,000	47%
ECONOMY & ENVIRONMENT	£ 34,997,894	£ 58,464,775	60%
ECONOMY & DEVELOPMENT	£ 5,688,356	£ 14,693,725	39%
ENVIRONMENT	£ 14,784,205	£ 19,480,154	76%
STRATEGIC HOUSING	£ 14,525,332	£ 24,290,897	60%
LEARNING OPP, SKILLS & CULTURE	£ 2,636,150	£ 4,692,860	56%
CENTRALLY MANAGED	£ -	£ 109,585	0%
CHILDRENS SERVICES TRUST	£ 253,057	£ 760,000	33%
COMMISSIONING & BUSINESS DEVEL	£ 2,314,369	£ 3,572,293	65%
PARTNERSHIPS AND OPERATIONAL D	£ 68,724	£ 250,983	27%
PUBLIC HEALTH	£ 2,915,431	£ 3,746,000	78%
PUBLIC HEALTH	£ 2,915,431	£ 3,746,000	78%
Grand Total	£ 46,417,950	£ 81,793,818	57%

Change in current year budget - as at Q3



142. There are 97 schemes that are yet to incur any in year spend, 103 the previous quarter, which is 22% of the current number of schemes and accounts for £14.3m (£20.9m in Q2) 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	£ 844,325	18	12	67%	14%
CORPORATE RESOURCES	£ 3,270,967	43	15	35%	37%
ECONOMY & ENVIRONMENT	£ 9,324,843	289	52	18%	16%
LEARNING OPP, SKILLS & CULTURE	£ 913,987	85	18	21%	19%
PUBLIC HEALTH	£ -	3		0%	0%
Grand Total	£ 14,354,122	438	97	22%	18%

Current Status of Schemes in the programme

143. 102 schemes have either not started or are still at the planning phase which is 23% of all the current year schemes (147 schemes and 37% as at Q2). Over half of these schemes relate to school and road maintenance works that are still highly likely to happen in year.

Status	Number of Schemes	% in phase based on scheme numbers
Block Budget	18	4.11%
Not Started	62	14.16%
Planning Phase	22	5.02%
Underway	165	37.67%
Completion Phase	171	39.04%
Grand Total	438	100.00%

144. 165 schemes have been classified as underway and 171 schemes are now in the completion phase.

Status	Sum of Projected Budget Update Current Year	% in phase based on projected Budget Update Current Year
Block Budget	3,464,787	4.24%
Not Started	2,847,264	3.48%
Planning Phase	3,462,325	4.23%
Underway	54,607,511	66.76%
Completion Phase	17,411,931	21.29%
Grand Total	81,793,818	100.00%

145. Looking at this from a projected spend perspective there is around £9.6m worth of in year schemes that are currently yet to start, (£26m as at Q2), with £54.6m of the current year programme classified as underway.

Capital Receipts

146. Based on current estimates there will be a £6.0m shortfall in the capital receipts to be generated in year. The impact of delayed capital receipts is that the Council has to take out additional borrowing which incurs interest costs.

Risks

147. There are risks in the capital programme around rising costs of supplies and materials as well as issues around their delivery, 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

148. The current position on the Collection Fund for Council Tax and Business Rates is detailed below. For both Council Tax and Business Rates the tables show the Collection Fund as a whole and the Council's share of the Collection Fund: -

a. Council Tax:

	Budget £m	Outturn £m	Variance £m	Opening Balance £m	Planned Use £m	Closing Balance * £m
Collection Fund	-146.19	-147.89	-1.69	3.53	-2.47	-0.63
Doncaster Council	-119.75	-121.14	-1.39	2.95	-2.07	-0.51

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

The council tax collection fund variance in the year is a £-1.69m surplus. This is attributable to transfers from general fund mainly relating to hardship reliefs £-1.46m and higher collection rates £-2.54m partially offset by lower growth £0.81m, increased levels of Local Council Tax Support (LCTS) £1.49m. The in-year surplus means the closing balance is expected to be a surplus of £-0.63m.

Council Tax arrears were £22.19m compared to the target of £23.37m at the end of quarter 3. The target for reduction of Council Tax arrears was £1.71m for the quarter and the actual reduction in arrears was £1.75m. The total reduction in arrears in the year to date is £6.31m compared to a target figure of £5.13m. The reduction is almost double that for the same period last year, and very much back at pre-COVID-19 levels from 2019/20. It is anticipated that this level of arrears reduction will continue for the remainder of the year 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	-75.94	17.96	43.94	-40.14	21.76
Doncaster Council	-46.01	-37.21	8.80	21.53	-19.67	10.66

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

The business rates collection fund variance in the year is £17.96m deficit. This is mainly due to the introduction of the retail relief scheme announced by the Government to support businesses through COVID-19 £16.28m and the new COVID-19 Additional Recovery Fund (CARF) announced in December £5.31m partially offset by lower decline in the business rates base than expected £-3.63m. 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. The in-year deficit means the closing balance is expected to be a deficit of £21.76m.

Business Rates arrears were £6.05m compared to the target of £7.00m at the end of quarter 2. The target for reduction of Business Rates arrears was £0.6m for the quarter but the actual level of arrears reduced by £1.42m. The level of reduction achieved in the year to date has already surpassed the year-end target

with a quarter still to go. Although the business landscape remains uncertain, particularly with the increased infection rate from the Omicron variant, it is hoped that the level of arrears will continue to reduce at its current rate.

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

Collection Fund	2021/22 Impact £m	2022/23 Impact £m
Council Tax surplus	0.00	-0.92
Business Rates deficit	0.00	10.18
Section 31 grants	-10.70	0.00
Total	-10.70	9.26

The £10.70m surplus in 2021/22 will be held in an earmarked reserve and utilised in the 2022/23 budget.

Overall impact of COVID-19 in 2021/22

149. Central government has allocated £9.8m of un-ringfenced emergency grants to the Council in 2021/22. In addition, £9.0m is available from the 2020/21 allocation and £0.3m is available from sales fees and charges compensation funding. The table below summarises these sums, and expenditure commitments, and shows an unallocated balance of £4.0m.

	£m
2021/22 emergency funding allocation	9.8
Carry forward balance from 2020/21	9.0
Sales, fees and charges compensation	0.3
2021/22 Quarter 1 Finance & Performance Improvement report allocation	-6.8
2022/23 revenue budget report	-8.0
Other approved commitments	-0.3
Unallocated balance	4.0

150. 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.

151. 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 (DSG)

152. The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is predicted to overspend by £5.07m during 2021/22 to create a cumulative overspend of £14.12m. 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 and

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) and Looked after children (LAC) 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 & LAC placements. There is an expectation that this will stem the flow and allow a 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.

153. Since quarter 2 DSG was reported to Cabinet, the in-year projected overspend has increased from £4.16m to £5.07m. The main reasons for this are increases in specialist post-16 institution placements (£0.39m), increases in out of authority placements (£0.31m), increases in alternative provision placement costs (£0.22m) and mainstream Education Health & Care Plan top-up funding (£0.2m), based on payments to date and growth for the remainder of the financial year, as well as increases to numbers attending North Bridge Enterprise College (£0.18m), offset partly by reduced costs on Big Picture learning provision (-£0.20m).
154. Whilst the overspend position is significant it is not uncommon to other LA positions. In the last 2 years the Government has recognised the position that many LAs face on their High Needs Block and have increased the DSG High Need Grant to LAs with Doncaster receiving an extra £5m in 2021/22 compared to 2020/21 levels and a further £6m in 2022/23. Based on latest Department for Education (DfE) guidance the projected increases to the grant for future years have been reduced to a 5% increase in 2023/24 and 3% in 2024/25. The current high needs medium term plan currently shows an overall deficit position of £8m at the end of 2024/25, however this includes an in year surplus during 2024/25 of £4m which if that remains would mean the balance on the DSG could be cleared by March 2027, so within 5 years (assuming current costs & growth estimates do not increase further than currently planned). Work continues over the DSG medium term financial plan to review expenditure levels, with the aim being to achieve a balanced budget position across the next 5 years.
155. During quarter 3 Doncaster's maintained schools have applied and received notification of additional funding from the Department for Education as follows:-
 - a. Senior Mental Health Lead Training grant of £0.007m for 6 maintained schools.
156. These sums will be paid to schools during quarter 4.

Reserves

157. Recently Doncaster Culture and Leisure Trust (DCLT) have embarked on a capital investment programme to refurbish their facilities and bring the building to modern fresh standard. This includes Rossington pool which is undergoing £0.690m of investment works. As the old Rossington youth club building is connected and shares some services, the pool refurbishment presents a unique opportunity to develop the site as a community hub.
158. To enable this to become reality condition surveys have identified £0.374m of works to bring the building back into use. Once works are undertaken and the building commissioned, DCLT will take on operation resulting in a facility that is flexible, working alongside the pool, providing not only opportunity for young people to re-engage but the wider community. This report recommends that a reserve is created for £0.374m to pay for the work.
159. This report also recommends the addition of £0.600m to the Business rates incentive scheme reserve. The reserve is a fund to facilitate incentives to potential investors where there is a clear demonstration that it would lead to a sustainable and substantial contribution to economic growth within the borough, with the main focus being increase to business rates and job creation. The £0.600m addition will provide funding for the next 3 years.
160. 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. A further balance of £0.169m has been released in quarter 3 and is included within the underspend discussed above.
161. 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 B – Finance Profile.

STRATEGIC RISKS

162. The register contains 12 risks all have been profiled for quarter 3. 11 risks have retained the same profile.
163. Through effective mitigation the combined impact of managing concurrent risks eg: floods, EU transition arrangements, Covid has reduced from 25 to a risk profile of 15.
164. The complete strategic risk profiles are attached as Appendix C.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

165. Not applicable

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

166. 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

167. 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: 02/02/22]

168. 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: RLI Date: 20/01/2022]

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

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initial: SH Date: 02/02/2022]

170. 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: 03/02/2022]

171. 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: 02/02/2022]

172. 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: 24/12/22]

173. 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

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

BACKGROUND PAPERS

175. Not applicable.

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

176. N/A

REPORT AUTHORS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

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



CLEANER AND GREENER

Service Standard	Update	D.O.T (short)	D.O.T (long)	Value	Target	RAG
(E&E) Recycling rate for household domestic waste	Q3 2021/22	↓	↑	47%	50%	⚠
(E&E) Percentage of sites meeting the required standards when assessed according to the LAMS performance grading system	Q3 2021/22	↑	↑	64%	80%	⚠
(E&E) Percentage of fly tips investigated and removed within 7 days from public areas	Q3 2021/22	↑	↑	95%	65%	✓
(E&E) No. of parks with 'Green Flag' status across the Borough	2021/22	↑	↑	4	4	✓
(E&E) No of Trees digitally plotted on the Treewise system	Q3 2021/22	↓	↓	0	2500	⚠
(E&E) Area (m2) of Local Authority land allowed to naturalise / wild flower.	Q3 2021/22	-	↑	1,537,781	1,400,000	✓
(E&E) Percentage of Quarterly Mechanical Playground inspections carried out	Q3 2021/22	↑	↑	100%	90%	✓
(E&E) Successful household waste and recycling collections made on time	Q3 2021/22	-	↓	99.83%	99.9%	⚠
(E&E) Overall satisfaction score. National Highways and Transportation survey - Highway maintenance	2020/21	↓	↓	48%	49%	⚠
(E&E) Complete all Environmental Permitting regs permit visits within DEFRA required timescales. - Climate control regime	2020/21	New Annual Figure		85%	100%	⚠



SKILLED AND CREATIVE

Service Standard	Update	D.O.T (short)	D.O.T (long)	Value	Target	RAG
(L&OCYP) Percentage of pupils accessing good or better education (PRIMARY SETTING)	Current suspension of routine OFSTED inspections					
(L&OCYP) Percentage of pupils accessing good or better education (SECONDARY SETTING)	Current suspension of routine OFSTED inspections					
(L&O:CYP) Percentage of children accessing their entitlement to free childcare' (2 year olds)	Q3 2021/22	↑	↑	87%	82%	✓
(L&O:CYP) Percentage of children accessing their entitlement to free childcare' (3 & 4 year olds)	Q3 2021/22	↑	↑	97.1%	95%	✓
(L&O:CYP) The percentage of early years provider rated Good or Outstanding by Ofsted	Q3 2021/22	↑	↑	99%	98%	✓
(L&O:CYP) (NEW) Special Educational Needs Team - Education, Health and Care Plans Issued Within 20 Weeks EXCLUDING Exception Cases	Q3 2021/22	↓	↓	38.10%	100.00%	✗
L&O:CYP) % of children with first choice school placement in Reception	2019/20	↑	↑	97%	94%	✓
(L&O:CYP) % of children with first choice school placement in Secondary	2020/21	↑	↓	88%	95%	⚠
(L&OCYP) Percentage of pupils achieving Age Related Expectation in RWM Combined at KS1	2020/21	▬	↑	65%	65%	✓
(L&OCYP) Percentage of pupils achieving Age Related Expectation in RWM Combined at KS2	2020/21	▬	↑	60%	64%	⚠



SAFE AND RESILIENT

Service Standard	Update	D.O.T (short)	D.O.T (long)	Value	Target	RAG
(E&E) Principal roads not requiring major maintenance	2020/21	▬	▬	98%	98%	✓
(E&E) Non-principal roads not requiring major maintenance	2020/21	↑	↑	98%	96%	✓
(E&E) % Estate roads in good to fair condition	2020/21	↑	↑	83%	76%	✓
(AH&W) Total number of Domestic Abuse referrals into the hub per quarter	Q3 2021/22	↓	↑	504	250	✓
(AH&W) Percentage of IDVA clients engaging with the service.	Q3 2021/22	↑	↑	82.63%	80%	✓



PROSPEROUS AND CONNECTED

Service Standard	Update	D.O.T (short)	D.O.T (long)	Value	Target	RAG
(CR) Percentage of Non-domestic Rates Collected	Q3 2021/22	↑	↑	95.82%	96.00%	⚠
(E&E) Processing of planning applications: Major applications	Q3 2021/22	↑	↑	94.59%	94.00%	✓
(E&E) % Licensing Act 2003 applications processed within statutory timescales.	Q3 2020/21	▬	▬	100%	100%	✓
(AH&W) Number of people with a learning disability helped into work	Q3 2021/22	↑	↓	4.73%	6.7%	⛔



HEALTHY AND COMPASSIONATE

Service Standard	Update	D.O.T (short)	D.O.T (long)	Value	Target	RAG
(AH&W) Waiting time for completion of an assessment	Q3 2021/22	↓	↓	52.00	42.00	🔴
(AH&W) We will ensure you have an annual review of your care.	Q3 2021/22	↓	↓	56%	75%	🔴
(AH&W) Proportion of people using social care who receive direct payments	December 2021	↓	↓	26.9%	25.7%	🟢
(AH&W) Permanent admissions into residential care per 100,000 (18-64 year old)	Q3 2021/22	↓	↓	11.34	14.09	🟢
(AH&W) Permanent admissions into residential care per 100,000 (65+ year old)	Q3 2021/22	↓	↓	603.0	502.5	🔴
(AH&W) Proportion of adults with a learning disability who live in their own home or with family	Q3 2021/22	▬	↑	87%	81%	🟢
AH&WB) Average number of 'verified' rough sleepers (rough sleepers seen bedded down in last 7 days) - average for the quarter	December 2021	↑	↑	20	14	🔴










FINANCE PROFILE






Adult Health and Well-Being Revenue		Quarter 3 2021/22		
		Gross Budget	Net Budget	Variance
		(£m)	(£m)	(£m)
✓	Adults Health & Wellbeing Total	133.587	66.453	-0.029
✗	Adult Social Care	66.644	50.243	0.940
✓	Communities	64.936	40.122	-0.972
✓	Director Of Adult Services	0.904	-24.543	0.003
✓	Director Of Improvement	0.000	0.000	0.000
✓	Localities	1.102	0.630	0.000






Adults Health and Well-Being Capital		Quarter 3 2021/22			
		Budget	Projection Q3	Budget Future Years	Projection Future Years
		£m	£m	£m	£m
✓	Adult, Health & Well-Being Total	6.5	6.1	19.9	21.8
✓	Adult Social Care	6.0	5.4	19.9	21.8
✓	Communities	0.4	0.6	0.0	0.0
✓	Modernisation and Commissioning	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0





Public Health Revenue		Quarter 3 2021/22		
		Gross Budget (£m)	Net Budget (£m)	Variance (£m)
		✓	Public Health Total	32.619
✓	Public Health	32.619	5.080	-0.759






Public Health Capital		Quarter 3 2021/22			
		Budget	Projection Q3	Budget Future Years	Projection Future Years
		£m	£m	£m	£m
✓	Public Health Total	3.7	3.7	0.0	7.3
✓	Leisure Services	3.7	3.7	0.0	7.3






Corporate Resources Revenue		Quarter 3 2021/22		
		Gross Budget (£m)	Net Budget (£m)	Variance (£m)
	Corporate Resources Total	121.238	26.722	-0.140
	Customers, Digital & ICT	76.288	10.782	0.541
	Corporate Resources Director	0.535	0.190	-0.211
	Finance	26.683	1.849	-0.146
	Hr, Comms & Exec Office	6.414	5.112	0.020
	Legal & Democratic Services	7.078	4.748	-0.156
	Policy, Insight & Change	4.240	4.040	-0.188










Corporate Resources Capital		Quarter 3 2021/22			
		Budget	Q3 Projection	Budget Future Years	Projection Future Years
		£m	£m	£m	£m
	Corporate Resources Total	11.8	8.8	1.6	4.6
	Customers, Digital and ICT	3.9	3.4	0.8	1.6
	Finance	7.9	5.3	0.8	3.0
	HR, Comms & Exec Office	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
	Legal & Democratic Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Economy & Environment Revenue		Quarter 3 2021/22		
		Gross Budget (£m)	Net Budget (£m)	Variance (£m)
	Economy & Environment Total	100.872	43.889	-1.347
	Economy & Development	30.656	8.819	-0.816
	Director Economy & Environment	0.343	0.343	-0.034
	Environment	66.677	33.240	-0.417
	Strategic Housing	3.197	1.486	-0.080

Economy & Environment Capital		Quarter 3 2021/22			
		Budget	Projection Q3	Budget Future Years	Projection Future Years
		£m	£m	£m	£m
	Economy & Environment Total	83.4	58.4	174.1	223.8
	Economy & Development	28.3	14.7	25.9	39.5
	Strategic Housing	34.7	24.3	142.1	178.4
	Environment	20.4	19.4	6.1	5.9

Learning Opportunities, Skills & Culture		Quarter 3 2021/22		
		Gross Budget (£m)	Net Budget (£m)	Variance (£m)
	Learning Opp, Skills & Culture Total	128.651	73.818	5.967
	Centrally Managed	6.973	0.278	-0.001
	Early Intervention & Localities	15.593	4.591	-0.140
	Educ Skills Culture & Heritage	44.459	13.437	1.162
	Childrens Services Trust	61.627	55.513	4.945

Learning Opportunities, Skills & Culture Capital		Quarter 3 2021/22			
		Budget	Q3 Projection	Budget Future Years	Projection Future Years
		£m	£m	£m	£m
	Learning & Opportunities - CYP Total	10.2	4.7	17.3	24.2
	Centrally Managed	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.6
	Commissioning & Business Development	7.5	3.5	10.1	22.1
	Partnerships and Operational Delivery	1.2	0.3	0.0	0.4
	Children's Services Trust	1.3	0.8	0.7	1.1

Council Wide Budgets Revenue		Quarter 3 2021/22		
		Gross Budget (£m)	Net Budget (£m)	Variance (£m)
	Council Wide Budget Total	17.792	-69.578	-3.691
	Change Programme	0.000	-0.150	0.000
	Gnrl Financing/Treasury Mngmen	6.774	6.113	-1.659
	Levying Bodies/Parish Precepts	16.277	16.277	0.000
	Other Centrally Funded	4.799	-12.667	-0.215
	Revenue Costs Ex Capital Program	-21.185	0.000	0.000
	Technical Accounting	5.804	5.804	-1.520
	Business Rate Retention	0.000	-90.098	0.000
	Severance Costs	5.322	5.143	-0.297

Treasury Management Update – Quarter 3 2021-22

1. The estimated outturn for Treasury Management is an underspend of £1.659m 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. This underspend has increased since quarter 2 as following the balance sheet review undertaken the methodology of allocating the amount of under borrowing to the HRA has been revised. This is still in line with the budget available within the HRA. In line with the findings of the balance sheet review, we are now planning on some long term borrowing in this last quarter and the interest charges for this are included in the above forecast.
2. The Council remains under borrowed and on average in 2020/21 this was £66m, which was 11% of our Capital Financing Requirement (borrowing need). Due to a favourable cashflow position in the first half of the financial year and reliance on internal borrowing this level of under borrowing is now at £107m which is 18% of our borrowing need. Whilst this might be significantly higher than the previous year, the indications from our external Treasury Management advisors show this is comparable to other Metropolitan Authorities. Remaining under borrowed relies on utilising working capital and reserve balances to delay taking external debt. This minimises interest paid on external debt but is not a permanent solution and does carry some interest rate risk.
3. Although interest rate risk (risk of paying higher rates when borrowing is taken) remains low, there has been a slight increase in the Bank of England interest rate and there are indications of a potential further rise in the near future to mitigate inflationary pressures. This is been kept under review and borrowing will be undertaken if necessary to mitigate these risks. The initial indications are that the local authority to local authority lending market, which is where we would go to for short-term borrowing, remains relatively liquid. However, if this becomes squeezed it could force us to utilise the higher rates from the PWLB.

4. Borrowing

Figure 1: The following table summarises the Council's forecast Debt Portfolio as at 31st December 2021: -

Doncaster Council Debt Portfolio and Maturity Profile as at 31st December 2021				
	Upper Limit %	Lower Limit %	Actual %	Actual £(m)
Under 12 Months	30	0	13.71	60.004
12 to 24 Months	50	0	1.14	5.000
24 Months to 5 Years	50	0	8.26	36.168
5 Years to 10 Years	75	0	2.70	11.820
10 Years to 20 Years	95	10		51.262
20 Years to 30 Years				18.325
30 Years to 40 Years			74.19	154.301
40 Years to 50 Years				100.880
TOTAL				

5. Even with the uncertainty outlined above should the Council need to undertake any borrowing in this financial year it should still be able to arrange all of its borrowings within the budgeted borrowing rate of 0.8%.
6. Treasury Management officers confirm that there have been no breaches of Prudential Indicators, as set in the Treasury Management Strategy Statement agreed by Council on 1st March 2021, during this financial year.

Investment

7. The investment portfolio can be seen in Figure 2. The investments are a mixture of call and notice accounts for liquidity and fixed rate bank investments.
8. The current average investment rate remains at 0.15% compared to the last financial year average return of 0.26%. This is due to the collapse of investment rates following the Bank of England Base Rate reduction to 0.01% at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Work remains ongoing to maximise our investments in line with the strategy agreed on 1st March 2021.
9. Treasury Management officers confirm that there have been no breaches of investment limits during this financial year.

Figure 2: The following table summarises the Council's investment portfolio as at 31st December 2021

Investment	£m
GOLDMAN SACHS	10.00
LLOYDS BANK	5.01
HANDELSBANKEN	27.00
SANTANDER UK	20.00
Total	62.01

Risks

10. Risks were reviewed during the quarter and were managed in line with the Annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement agreed by Council on 1st March 2021. Key risks relate to our investment portfolio: -
 - a. The risk of reduced investment interest rates is still considered high. Whilst there is slightly more uncertainty around short term interest rate increases, the Bank of England, Financial Markets, Think Tanks and Economists all indicate that the low levels of interest rates will need to remain in place until the economy shows ongoing positive signs of recovery. This is very unlikely to be within the next 2 years.
 - b. Counterparty risks are reviewed weekly and action taken to minimise the risk that any investments placed are not returned on the due date. Creditworthiness data is received on a daily basis from our Treasury Consultants and action will be taken to reduce exposure or remove institutions from the list if negative indicators deem it appropriate.
 - c. The low interest rate environment makes it difficult to place surplus funds without a cost of carry to the council and it is therefore appropriate at this time to remain under borrowed and minimise the cost of holding funds until they are required.

Capital Programme Block Budget Allocations Quarter 3 2021-22

	Funding Source	Allocation of block budget 2021/22 £m	Allocation of block budget Total £m
<u>Learning Opportunities, Skills & Culture</u>			
Centrally Managed			
Castle Hills School – Drainage Works	Government Grant	0.067	0.067
DFE – Capital Maintenance Grant	Government Grant	(0.067)	(0.067)
Partnerships and Operational Delivery			
Ivanhoe Academy – New toilets	Government Grant	0.065	0.065
Maple Medical – Seedlings Offices	Government Grant	0.040	0.040
Auckley Academy – Sensory Room	Government Grant	0.002	0.002
DFE – New pupil Places	Government Grant	(0.107)	(0.107)
Commissioning and Business Development			
Longtoft School Lighting	Government Grant	0.002	0.002
Barnburgh School Safeguarding	Government Grant	0.001	0.001
DFE – Capital Maintenance Grant	Government Grant	(0.003)	(0.003)
Learning Opportunities, Skills & Culture		0.177	0.177

Virements for Elected Mayor / Cabinet / Portfolio Holder Approval

2021/2022 Quarter 3

Financial Procedure Rule B.14 – Proposals for virement between Directorates must be approved by the CFO, up to £250,000 and key decision approval is required for virements greater than £250,000 i.e. by Elected Mayor and/or Cabinet and/or Portfolio Holder. The value of the virement is defined as the gross annual budget.

The following virements are proposed for approval: -

	Reason	Directorate	£
1	General Fund re-aligned due to maximisation of COVID funding within services focusing on pandemic	AHWB CR	(648,000) 648,000

COVID-19 Funding and Doncaster Council allocations

Ref	Covid related funding stream	Description	Spend to date £'000
G1	COVID-19 pressures funding	Un-ringfenced funding to support discharge from hospital, children services, waste, homelessness and other COVID related services. Allocated £9.8m for 21/22.	3,744
G2	Sales, fees and charges compensation	Where losses are more than 5% of a council's budgeted income for sales, fees and charges, compensation will be paid at 75%. Only available for first 3 months of 21/22.	255
G3	Local Council Tax Support Scheme (known as Hardship Fund in 20/21)	£670m allocated nationally, of which Doncaster's allocation is £2.79m. Provided to local authorities in recognition of the extra cost to them of local council tax support at a time when more households are facing financial difficulties because of the pandemic. There are no specific requirements connected to the grant regarding the design of local council tax support schemes for 2021/22	2,791
BR10	Business Restart Grant	On 3 March 2021, Government announced the introduction of grant support for non-essential retail, hospitality, accommodation, leisure, personal care and gym businesses in England. This support will take the form of a one-off grant funding scheme in Financial Year 2021/22.	15,181
S18	Welcome Back Fund	Funding to support the safe return to high streets. Builds on the £50m Reopening High Street Safely Fund. The fund will allow local authorities to put in place additional measures to create and promote a safe environment for local trade and tourism, particularly in high streets as economies reopen, including improving green spaces and providing more outdoor seating areas, markets and food stall pop-ups – giving people more, safer options to reunite with friends and relatives.	277
S19	Local Support Grant	In April 2021 govt allocated a further £40m to extend the scheme extend the Winter Pressures Grant to June 2021 (and to rebrand it as Local Support Grant). The Local Support Grant has the same eligibility criteria and reporting requirements as the Winter Pressures Grant. Doncaster allocated £283,179. Further £1.133m received to extend to August 21. Further round of £500m announced by govt in October 2021 - details within row 54 for the Household Support Grant.	1,416
S1	Infection Control & Testing fund	Merges previous Infection Control Fund (S1) and Rapid Testing Fund (S15). Additional £341m provided nationally to extend the schemes until June 2021. Purpose of the fund is to reduce the rate of COVID-19 transmission between care settings and conduct rapid testing of staff and visitors to care homes, high risk supported living and extra care settings. Doncaster allocated £1,881,405 Further allocation for July-Sept 21 £1,367,761 - rule 16 KDR signed by Mayor (and allocations processer) but not Cllr Kidd. Further allocations for Oct-Mar 22 £2.114m incl IPC £1.282m, Rapid testing £0.690 and vaccine funding £0.142m - rule 16 KDR required (also to cover Jul-Sept unpublished decision) - signed 9th November 2021.	3,741

Ref	Covid related funding stream	Description	Spend to date £'000
S17	Wellbeing for Education Return (grant from DHSC)	<p>£39,080 received in 21/22.</p> <p>This further funding is intended to be spent on local wellbeing and mental health expertise and resources in the 2021/22 financial year, to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guide local schools and colleges on the best use of their recovery and pupil premium funding, helping them navigate existing provision and available support for wellbeing and mental health. We would, for example, encourage you to provide schools and colleges with clear information to understand the local approach and offer to education settings on children and young people's wellbeing and mental health, with a local directory to help them access local support and services, and easily find wider evidence-based approaches and resources. - Continue to deliver or expand previous Wellbeing for Education Return training, for instance, to reach remaining local schools and colleges, cover subjects where settings are seeking more support, or support setting leads to cascade training onwards within their setting - Provide ongoing support and advice for schools and colleges that need it and helping them establish sustainable ways of working together and with longer term services. - Support schools and colleges to plan for, conduct or refresh local assessments of current and anticipated needs, including existing provision, gaps and an understanding of how to measure and meet needs on an ongoing basis. 	18
S20	Elections	Funding to cover the additional costs of holding the May elections during the COVID-19 pandemic.	102
	Contain Outbreak Management Fund	<p>Ongoing financial support to local authorities through the COVID-19 Test and Trace Contain Outbreak Management Fund Grant was confirmed in May 2021. This is an extension to the previous Contain Outbreak Management Funds received in 2020/21. The Fund supports proactive containment and intervention measures.</p> <p>A detailed plan is in place.</p> <p>Expenditure to date is nil as the £4.7m balance carried forward from 20/21 is being spent first.</p>	0
	COVID Community Testing	An overarching Doncaster COVID Testing Strategy is in place which aligns to the objectives of Doncaster's outbreak control plan. It outlines the wide range of testing approaches including symptomatic testing and asymptomatic testing.	1,024
S9	Self-Isolation Payment Scheme / Test and Trace Support Payment Scheme	£500 to be paid to those with a Track & Trace number only and/or an in-work benefit or suffering financial hardship.	1,657
S10	Practical Support Grant	Ring fenced grant which is expected to be used to help councils ensure people self-isolating have access to practical, social or emotional support. Also provide a medicines delivery service to help clinically extremely vulnerable people to provide essential deliveries for self isolators	227

Ref	Covid related funding stream	Description	Spend to date £'000
S11	Household Support Grant	In October 2021 govt allocated a further £500m to extend the scheme (previously the Winter Pressures Grant and to the Local Support Grant). The Household Support Grant has similar eligibility criteria and reporting requirements as the Winter Pressures Grant and the Local Support Grant. Doncaster's indicative allocation £2,989,273.	312
S12	Workforce Recruitment and Retention Fund for adult social care 21/22 (round 2)	Doncaster allocated £1.022m in October 21 grant is payable in two instalments, 60% in November and 40% in January 2022 subject to the authority having completed a return to DHSC by 14 January. All expenditure financed by this grant should be incurred on or before the 31 March 2022. Any funds not used at this point will be recovered by the Department of Health and Social Care (the department).	0
S13	Workforce Recruitment and Retention Fund for adult social care 21/22 (round 2)	Doncaster's allocation of the ring-fenced Adult Social Care Workforce Recruitment and Retention Fund is £1,887,350, which will be received in January 2021 (70%) and February 2022 (30%). All expenditure must be incurred by 31/3/22 as per round 1 funding.	0
S14	Adult Social Care - Omicron Support Grant	Announced 29/12/21, details/allocations/conditions yet published 10th January, nationally £60m. Doncaster allocation £377,470.	0
	Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant	On 21 December 2021, Government announced the introduction of grant support for hospitality and leisure businesses in England. The scheme provides support to hospitality, leisure and accommodation businesses, in recognition that the rise of the Omicron variant means that some businesses are likely to struggle over the coming weeks. This support will take the form of a one-off grant funding scheme in Financial Year 2021/22.	0

Carry forwards from 2021/22 – Progress update

Narration	Purpose of the EMR	Balance as at 1/4/21	Estimated Balance as at 31/3/22	Update
Leisure Park Ph2 Plot 6 Service charge	£300k received from sale of Plot 6 Lakeside for the future ongoing maintenance / enhancement / improvements including renewing the soft landscaping around the lakeside.	-300,000	-300,000	Assets and Design are working on proposals to spend this year on a programme of works including the replacement of landscaping.
Port Transition Funding	DEFRA grant to support Port Health Function during Brexit Transition	-191,160	0	"The service is still awaiting a decision from DEFRA as to approval of the Railport as a Border Control. This decision was expected at the beginning of December 2021, however no response has yet been received. A meeting is taking place in January with a DEFRA rep so they may have a better idea of the situation once this meeting has taken place. If approval is granted the service then need to have discussions with the Railport as to the build timetable which will then determine the spend profile from the reserve.
Music Services Insurance	Insurance monies received to purchase new musical equipment that were lost in floods.	-134,360	0	Fully Drawn Down as goods expected to have been received this year.
COVID-19 Wellbeing Education Return grant	COVID Wellbeing Return to Education Grant received during the year. The monies will be used to meet the objectives of the grant.	-44,740	-13,000	Fully drawn down but to date no charges have been received from the Children's Trust for the Bereavement Services, some of these should be made this financial year but its not certain as to the amount, if all charges are not made then there will be monies to be carried forward. There has been new grant for 21-22 of £39k to fund a VI officer on a one-year contract and £13k will be needed to fund this post into 22-23.
Diamond / Solar Centre	The Local Authority and Doncaster CCG are jointly funding the spend on the Diamond Centre provision and continue to review the service. Monies are being carried forward in order to meet committed spend in 2021/22.	-674,370	-674,370	Meeting between CCG, RDASH and DMBC (CFO) in November 2021, to discuss usage of this EMR, has now confirmed that the review work involved by RDASH has been delayed due to COVID and the expected draw down should now be in 22/23.

Narration	Purpose of the EMR	Balance as at 1/4/21	Estimated Balance as at 31/3/22	Update
Fleet Electric Vehicles / Infrastructure	Reserve created for future Electric Vehicle pool car purchases and infrastructure development. Delayed in 20/21 due to COVID-19 but under review to establish working practices and vehicle demands post COVID-19.	-410,000	-410,000	Delayed in 20/21 and 21/22 due to changes to working practices following COVID-19 and means expenditure has been delayed to ensure it fits with the authority's working requirements. At this stage it is anticipated that pool car replacements may be around half of the original budget requested, however any surplus will be required for the electric vehicle infrastructure. The budget holder has confirmed that there will be no spend against this reserve until 2022/23.
COVID-19 Test & Trace Grant	This reserve has been established to continue to fund COVID 19 test & trace activity into 2021/22 and support costs associated with dealing with the pandemic	-2,233,750	-518,030	There is now a slippage in spend in 21/22 and following a further carried forward confirmation by DHSC the balance is required to help with the continued pressures associated with COVID-19 in 22/23
COVID-19 Contain Outbreak Management Fund	This reserve has been established to continue to fund COVID 19 related activities into 2021/22 and support costs associated with dealing with containing further outbreaks of the pandemic	-4,742,350	-1,552,870	There is now a slippage in spend in 21/22 and following a further carried forward confirmation by DHSC the balance is required to help with the continued pressures associated with COVID-19 in 22/23
COVID-19 Community Champions	This reserve has been established from the Community Champions Government Fund which aims to support a range of interventions to build upon, increase or improve existing activities to work with residents who are most at risk of COVID-19 and will be spent in 21/22	-317,430	0	This reserve is expected to be fully spent in 21/22 as per the conditions of the funding.
Digital Recovery & Renewal	The reserve was created to roll forward grant for Digital Recovery & Renewal.	-170,000	0	Used towards Local Solutions Lab. A 1 year project to create an intelligence led approach to produce innovation, expertise and creativity and create data products to be embedded into the Council's operating model to improve outcomes. A combination of PIC and Digital posts, recruitment has commenced. There is currently an estimated spend of £145k in 21/22 so funding may need to be returned to reserves and carried forward to 22/23.



Narration	Purpose of the EMR	Balance as at 1/4/21	Estimated Balance as at 31/3/22	Update
COVID-19 Track & Trace Support Payment	COVID-19 Test & Trace Support Payment - Discretionary Payments. The Government funded a scheme to make payments available to individuals who are asked to self-isolate due to a positive COVID-19 test result (or a parent/guardian of an isolating child), who suffer a financial loss through not being able to work during the isolation period. This reserve relates only to the discretionary element of the scheme, funded by an unringfenced government grant.	-305,260	0	The approved Council support scheme was in place and payments were made to claimants during quarters 1 & 2. Funding now fully spent.
COVID-19 Business Grants	COVID-19 Business Grants - Doncaster specific schemes to support local businesses - Sheffield City Region (SCR) paid the full £844k Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) discretionary allocation to Doncaster in 2020/21 and so the unspent balance has been carried forward to be spent in 2021/22.	-529,180	0	All spent in quarter 1 on discretionary business support grants, with nil balance remaining.
Adwick SEC Capital Programme	This was an agreed Revenue Contribution to Capital during the budget setting process for 20/21. The scheme slipped and will incur expenditure in 2021/22.	-250,000	0	Will be used for financing the Adwick SEC Capital Scheme at the end of the financial year 21/22. The scheme started early September and on track. Anticipated to be fully utilised in 21/22.
One Adoption hub funds	Yorkshire and the Humber Regional Adoption and Special Guardians Leadership Board (RASGLB) agreed that the all funds relating to the One Adoption Hub would be sent to Doncaster following the termination of the service. The funds have been paid for by the 15 local authorities and voluntary agencies who were	-13,540	-13,540	Yorkshire and the Humber Regional Adoption and Special Guardians Leadership Board (RASGLB) will determine how the funds relating to the One Adoption Hub, held by Doncaster, will be used in the future. Still no plans in place yet as to how this funding will be spent.



Narration	Purpose of the EMR	Balance as at 1/4/21	Estimated Balance as at 31/3/22	Update
	members of the Hub, but the members have requested that Doncaster will hold the funds and the RASGLB will determine how they will be used in the future.			
One Public Estate Programme	Grant received from Govt in March 20/21 to fund masterplanning for Doncaster Council, RMBC and BMBC	-360,000	-60,000	Grant received from Govt in March 20/21 to fund masterplanning for Doncaster Council, RMBC and BMBC. All funds drawn down in year apart from the Sustainable Grant element which will need to be paid back to the funder in future years as per MoU.
Economic Recovery Grants	The reserve is to fund Economic Recovery Grants in 21/22 in support of the Sheffield City Region Gainshare scheme which will pay up to £5,000 to businesses affected by COVID 19.	-637,000	0	This reserve is in addition to a further balance of £635k which is expected to be received in revenue within this financial year. It is the intention to allocate £1.2m in Economic Recovery Grants in 21/22 & Q1 22/23 Actual spend as at Q3 is £370k which has assisted 84 companies, agreements are now in place to the value of £791k and the team are chasing the claims evidence to finalise these. Business Doncaster is currently working with a further 104 applicants and will open up for further expressions of interest in February for the remainder of the funds. There are 108 companies that did not converted from expression of interest to an application mainly due to non-engagement with their allocated advisor. Getting products from suppliers as well as Omicron impacts has slowed down the conversion times from applications to claims
COVID-19 Clinically extremely vulnerable grant	Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) Covid Grant monies (unringfenced grant) received in year, expected to be spent in 21-22.	-974,710	-100,000	A Cabinet report has been approved for the use of these grant monies, it is managements intention that all monies are spent by March 22, this does depend on reaching agreements with some providers re use of the grant. There is around £100k remaining from an earlier CEV grant and currently there are no plans developed to use this balance so this will require spending in 2022-23.





STRATEGIC RISK PROFILE

Rows are sorted by Risk Score – highest to lowest

Failure to successfully prevent a major cyber attack					
	Current Profile	25	Target Profile	6	Trend 
<p>The assessment score unfortunately remains at the same level due to the heightened possibility at this time - Critical Impact 5 and Very Likely 5. It will always be possible to suffer from a cyber attack and it would always have a critical impact on the Council, SLHD and DCST. What is important is how we deal with this threat through mitigating actions. These include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continuous monitoring for threats using the relevant products; - Taking all required technical actions; - Ensuring all services have business continuity plans relating to this type of scenario; - Carrying out exercise scenarios to test and improve response plans; - Ensuring all staff and Councillors undertake necessary training and are vigilant at all times; and <p>An Awareness Session was held with Councillors this quarter to increase knowledge around mitigating actions, level of risk and how everyone needs to play their part.</p>					

The combined impact of managing concurrent risks eg: floods, EU transition arrangements, Covid					
	Current Profile	25	Target Profile	20	Trend 
<p>Current Position: Covid response is now being considered more holistically as part of the Autumn and Winter pressures response and preparation given that national restrictions have ceased in line with the HMGs roadmap. TCGs are still taking place weekly with the current focus being the Omicron wave. T&R is being reviewed constantly to ensure the document is relevant and reflects cell positions. The revised TRA takes account of both the T&R as well as the 'cell' updates and amalgamates both documents.</p> <p>EU transition work is ongoing in the background with the most recent change in imports/exports being introduced in Jan 2022. R&E is managing work pressures at the airport as well as providing advice and guidance to ongoing and future activities at the lport. This is in-line with the requests by OPSS for EU exit related work streams.</p> <p>Flood risks are being reviewed as part of the winter response and planning meetings. Exercises are being conducted and training is also being provided at various operational and strategic levels. Current flooding risk is 'Green', although the next 3 monthly weather update could lead to a change in risk.</p> <p>Mitigating actions: Outlined above.</p>					

(HOS) Failure to safeguard children and young people across the partnership may result in children and young people being vulnerable and susceptible to risk

	Current Profile	20	Target Profile	10	Trend	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doncaster Safeguarding Children Partnership - Strategic Business Action Plans, work continues to be directed and driven by the identified subgroups of the Doncaster Safeguarding Children Partnership to meet set target and timescales. • Work continues in the Key areas to improve outcomes, e.g Neglect Strategy and Child Exploitation. Strategies are being revised and will be launched through the partnership during 2021-22 in line with the priorities set by the Doncaster Safeguarding Children Partnership. Neglect Steering Group has been reformed and this includes a DCST Internal working group to ensure working with Neglect remain a priority. • 'Neglect Operational Group' has been developed within Doncaster Children's Services Trust (DCST) and 'Neglect Champions' to be created across all social care teams commencing in Q4. Graded Care Profile 2 contract agreed with NSPCC, Train the Trainer events to commence in Q4 across partnership; Task & Finish group (membership developed) to review national/local examples & develop Doncaster Graded Care Profile 2 Strategy, Implementation & Training Plan. • The Neglect subgroup continues to monitor work progress on the Voice of the Child and Graded Care Profile2 programme which will be implemented across the partnership in Q4. The Neglect strategy will be launched in Q4 as part of a wider a Doncaster Safeguarding Children Partnership conference event in April 2022. • Proposal of a Graded Care Profile 2 Coordinator role to be explored and agreed and role developed in Q4. • The Independent Chair's review of the subgroup structure was completed and endorsed by the Doncaster Safeguarding Children Partnership Board and will be shared with the Chief Officers Safeguarding Oversight Group (COSOG) in Q4. There are now 8 subgroups that sit within the Doncaster Safeguarding Children Partnership. The Business Unit is working closely with all Chairs to review Terms of reference and memberships. • Transition plans are in place so that the work undertaken in the Improvement Board is sustained. Work continues to transition from the Performance Improvement Board to the Doncaster Safeguarding Business Unit. Monthly meetings between Performance Improvement Board & Doncaster Safeguarding Children Partnership have continued • The CE Strategy - Implementation Plan will be driven by a set of partnership Task & Finish groups, each with a focus of work. • Safeguarding Business Unit reviewed Doncaster Safeguarding Children Partnership Procedures and updated all relevant procedural documents in line with revised Government legislation & guidance. 3 Doncaster Safeguarding Children Partnership procedures were reviewed by partners and revised and added to Doncaster Safeguarding Children Partnership website and disseminated across partner agencies. • In Q4 - Safeguarding Business Unit Manager/Deputy Mangers will be reviewing all other safeguarding policies & procedures to update and revise accordingly in line with legislation and national & local guidance; this objective will then be transferred to the responsibility of the Policy & Procedures subgroup in Q4 in order to provide sufficient engagement with practitioners from partner agencies providing experience & expertise contribution which will be central to policy and procedure development. • The Doncaster Safeguarding Children Partnership has approved the Annual Report 2020/2021 and requires endorsement from the Chief Officers Safeguarding Oversight Group (COSOG) in early Q4 for publication. • In Quarter 4, the Independent Chair for Doncaster Safeguarding Children Partnership and Doncaster Safeguarding Adults Board Independent Chair will review the current Strategic Plan from January 2022. • Improved joint working between the LADO service and SBU will commence in Q4 after completion of Service Level Agreement. • The requests for statutory assessment for Education Health plans have increased dramatically, year on year Sept 2020 to Sept 2021 there has been a 17% increase, this has resulted in the number of Education Health and Care Plans in Doncaster increasing overall by 10%. • Complexity of cases continue to be an issue resulting in the increased reliance of out of borough placements. This is in the context of a national shortage of suitable placements, which means that the placements that we source are more costly . • There are challenges in recruiting staff to key posts. Recruitment of qualified and experienced social workers is a national issue. There are a range of measures in place to respond to this including step up to social work and expansion of the academy that supports newly qualified social workers. 						

- Significant work has been undertaken in the Front Door to ensure children are safeguarded and ensure right help at the right time. This has seen an increase in families accessing Early Help.
- Threshold documents has been refreshed and training will be provided across the partnership in Q4
- Safeguarding concerns have been raised in relation to a specific placement (private) provider. This will be the subject of a national Child Safeguarding Practice Review that will be led by Dame Christine Lenehan. In advance of the decision that a national review would be undertaken an independent review of the local response to previously reported concerns re the provider was undertaken. This identified issues with regard to the LADO response in the period up to 2020.
- The Quality Impact Assessment used to audit Out of Authority placements is being reviewed with wider service area input to further refine the evidence collected and sharpen the Safeguarding focus. The annual quality assurance assessment for providers of independent education placements has been reviewed safeguarding Policies and Procedures prior to annual monitoring visit and providing recommendations where further development is required.
- The children in care team have seen an increase in children coming into care. Last quarter there were a number of children who entered care who were electively home educated. Virtual School officers worked closely with social workers and admissions to secure the best educational provision.
- Language support have a skilled bank of bilingual staff who can translate for schools during welfare calls and are available to support schools to communicate better with families.
- With the increased likelihood of school closures or partial closures due to the increase in infections, there is a need to ensure a renewed partnership approach to minimise this risk. This is happening through the CEO/ Head teacher meetings and subsequent actions, including the provision of welfare calls.
- Levels of demand for mental health support for young people are increasing at this time and we are working with schools and the wider partnership to strengthen the approach at all levels. Whilst performance for absence measures has been in line with the national figures for most measures, we acknowledge that increased absence creates greater risk and we are working with schools in order to intensify the response to attendance and engagement challenges for young people through a renewed partnership strategy.

There needs to be a broad range of service delivery which supports people in the community and in other settings (depending on their needs), without which makes it more difficult for people to live healthy, independent lives



Current Profile

15

Target Profile

10

Trend



Current Position: No change to risk level at this time or mitigating actions.

The Covid-19 pandemic, and impact of the new Omicron variant, continues to affect services and service delivery. Work continues with Public Health & Strategic Commissioning and Adults, Health and Wellbeing directorates, via relevant meetings, to review and monitor the work on a regular basis. The Business Partner meets regularly with Directors and the Leadership teams to ensure that updates are provided and received to ensure the focus remains on the impact any programmes or projects work have on service delivery. We will continue to monitor and update, as required, as and when the Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.

A failure to have, and proportionate, an evidence based mix of interventions and services in place that will plausibly support a narrowing of the gap in inequalities and a reduction in levels of deprivation across the Borough



Current Profile

12

Target Profile

6

Trend



Business & Economy

Awaiting Update

Communities

Awaiting update

Individuals

Current Position: COVID continues to expose and amplify underlying inequalities (poverty, poor housing, ethnic groups etc). Over the course of the pandemic Doncaster has seen higher rates of deaths from COVID than many other areas, with high rates of deaths in the elderly, those from ethnic minorities and people in key worker roles. People suffering the largest impacts of inequality also require more support to self-isolate than others, are more likely to suffer the impacts of long COVID and have lower uptake of the COVID vaccine. As 'Furlough' comes to an end there is a likelihood for increased unemployment and financial hardship. As recovery continues the Borough strategy approach needs to address this.

Key mitigation – Continue to work towards low COVID through COVID control plan; utilise community development approaches including DLUHC funded community connectors to support households; promote grants to support isolation; delivery of new Household Support Grant, updating COVID vaccination approach to focus on inequalities – those population most adversely impacted; renewal board escalating work on poverty; developing the Borough strategy in a way that ensures no one is left behind. Continued use of COVID control monies to provide humanitarian support, respond to domestic violence and alcohol misuse. Secure additional monies from OHID (Office of Health Improvement and Disparities) and DLUHC to support public mental health, weight management and rough sleeping. Three of four elements of Community Renewal Fund successful. Poverty Recovery strand of the Renewal Board making good progress, position statement to be produced.

The potential impact on formal achievement rates/outcomes due to learning lost during Covid.



Current Profile

12

Target Profile

12

Trend



Current Position

The assessment of risk has not changed as there has been further disruption to learning during the second half of the Autumn Term with some schools forced to revert to remote learning due to high rates of infection particularly amongst secondary age pupils. This disruption is likely to continue given the current very high rates of infection amongst pupils and staff. This sustained period of uncertainty and disruption will continue to have an impact on formal achievement rates and outcomes in 2022 particularly if a full programme of exams and formal assessments are in place.

Mitigating Actions

Schools continue to provide full time face to face education for all pupils wherever possible. Where this is not possible remote learning is in place. As a service we continue to support schools through providing regular guidance and support.

Without effective influence and engagement with the Sheffield City Region, there is a threat that Doncaster does not achieve economic potential benefit from the devolution deal



Current Profile

12

Target Profile

8

Trend



Risk Unchanged. Politicians and officers continue their ongoing dialogue with SCR colleagues to ensure the best outcomes for our residents and a growing collaborations emerging around key areas of work e.g. Investment strategy and other key funding streams that increase the connections and maximise the benefits for Doncaster.

Continued participation at MCA meetings and theme boards, LRF learning and development sessions and close local collaboration all help to bring closer and more effective outcomes moving forward including work on a place based investment plan.

Workforce capacity and resilience issues across the council result in reduced ability to deliver and transform services at the pace required in current plans



Current Profile

12

Target Profile

9

Trend



Current Position: Workforce numbers have remained relatively stable and all service areas are covered. Overall sickness absence has increased again this quarter across all directorates including self-isolation impact from omicron variant. Relevant support activity is in place to manage this without any major disruption to services. Although the resilience, health and wellbeing of staff continues to be monitored.

Continuing to experience some recruitment difficulties in some service areas specifically social care and digital specialists.

Mitigating Actions:

- Short term agency and temporary staff are employed to support gaps in the workforce to deliver organisational objectives.
- Extensive wellbeing provisions in place to support workforce during challenging times with enhanced resources particularly mental health support
- Continued review of staffing absence levels and relevant support measures in place and business continuity plans to ensure all critical services remain operational.
- Regular supervision, team meetings and communications provide support and build resilience through quick identification of emerging issues

Failure to safeguard adults may result in adults being vulnerable and susceptible to experiencing harm or abuse



Current Profile

10

Target Profile

5

Trend



Current Position: no change to risk level or the mitigating actions.

This risk continues to be stable, with continued vigilance implemented to ensure stability. Officers across AHWB continue to ensure this by considering the ongoing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, particularly in relation to people feeling and/or being isolated.

Mitigating Actions:

- Operational commissioning and adults safeguarding functions continue to work together to ensure better use of capacity and more coordinated response to registered care settings
- Safeguarding is everybody's business - all staff in Adults, Health and Wellbeing are trained and aware of this requirement.
- Continued focus on linking with community and locality teams to ensure early awareness and intervention in all situations, not only in relation to registered care
- The review of the ways of working and 'model' to be used for Doncaster will be scoped, with support from PIC, in the next Quarter.

Failure to deliver the Medium Term Financial Strategy would result in a alternative budget being required with consequential service reductions covering failure to manage expenditure and income within the annual approved budget and balance the budget.



Current Profile

10

Target Profile

5

Trend



Current situation

The quarter 3 position shows a shortfall against the £10m 2021/22 savings targets. Some of the shortfalls are due to delays as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mitigating actions

The above shortfall can be mitigated in part by government grant provided to help deal with COVID-19. The Council's overall position is currently a projected overspend (*****NEED TO CHECK THIS ONCE KNOWN*****) but, should this projection remain the same later in the year, there are measures available that mean a balanced position can be achieved (i.e. releasing earmarked reserves, use of corporately held contingencies and in-year savings).

Failure to implement the Partnership priorities across the Team Doncaster Partnership



Current Profile

9

Target Profile

6

Trend



Risk Likelihood Unchanged. We continue to function well as a partnership with a Response and Recovery Model with engagement from Team Doncaster which currently meets on a fortnightly basis. We have clear strategies in place for the short term but also will continue to support the development of our response to the big issues such as climate change. We continue to make sense of national guidance related to Covid and we review regularly the Team Doncaster Strategy to ensure the partnership priorities are updated across our TCG, Renewal Board and Team Doncaster Gold meetings.

We have agreed the Borough Strategy and have an agreed position for Team Doncaster and further plans to consider a refreshed operating model for Team Doncaster early in 2022.

Mitigation

- Clearly articulated response and recovery models for Team Doncaster
- Regularly review the partnership strategy linked to Covid Response
- Threat and Risk assessment for Winter 20-21 in place.
- Renewal Board Priorities agreed
- Borough Strategy Agreed
- Workshop Planned with Team Doncaster Feb 2022

Failure to maintain and improve the management of health and safety may impact on the Council's ability to mitigate risk to both colleagues and members of the public and our inability to deliver effective services



Current Profile

8

Target Profile

4

Trend



The council's health and safety team continues to work with HR and Public Health supporting council services to ensure that current Government guidance on covid control measures are communicated and implemented effectively.

The H&S team are currently supporting services to meet the H&S requirements under the Governments COVID-19 Response: Autumn and Winter Plan 2021 guidance by providing advice on implementing updated guides, providing template risk assessments and reviewing risk assessments, including:

- . Review of Service H&S requirements in line with the Govt Autumn and Winter Plan guide requirements,
- . Continued support with the review of service risk assessments and COVID-19 mitigating controls,

. General H&S advice in relation to coronavirus, work activities, events and dealing with the public,

. Provision and advice on H&S training, . Regular partnership meetings with SLHD, DCLT and DCST.

The Health and Safety Team continue to undertake site H&S and Fire Safety audits at schools, under covid secure risk assessments, giving schools an additional layer of assurance that suitable and sufficient mitigating controls are in place. The H&S team are also attending school outbreak meetings on request to support on risk assessment and operational advice including ventilation, and enhanced cleaning requirements.

The Civic Building risk assessment has been reviewed to include Govt guidance for the Autumn/Winter Plan with input from Corporate Landlord, PH, HR and the Trade Unions. This will be continually reviewed by all parties, which includes Public Health monitoring/reviewing cases, and where any outbreaks are identified appropriate action will be communicated and taken.

Where beneficial some H&S Training continues to be delivered through MS Teams. Other training that benefits from face-to-face delivery is being carried out under a covid secure risk assessment at the Mary Woollet Centre, and other suitably assessed venues, candidates are recommended to take a LFT at home before face to face training or at the MWC prior to the training session.

The council's health and safety manager continues to have regular partnership meetings with DCLT and DCST to share H&S practices and to address any significant issues.

The councils Fire Safety Advisor and Health and Safety Manager continue to attend the SLH Building Safety Group to support and provide advice on any building safety compliance issues. The councils Fire Safety Advisor has undertaken site visits to premises where actions are outstanding as an additional level of assurance and provide advice where needed, no areas of concern have been raised at this time.

The Councils H&S Manager continues to have regular partnership meetings with SLH and the new Head of Building Safety to share H&S information and experiences during the pandemic. This includes regular updates for the ongoing works to remove and replace EWI on some blocks of high-rise flats.

Residential Caravan Sites - St Leger Homes (SLH) continue to lead on fire safety action plans with input and advice from the Council's Environmental Health Officers (EHO's), South Yorkshire Fire and the Councils Fire Safety Advisor, progress is being made on designs and sourcing suppliers for fire mitigation measures.

There continues to be a security presence at Hatfield Colliery to ensure public safety, mitigate anti-social behaviour and unauthorised access to the remaining headstocks and ancillary buildings. Discussions have started with Hargreaves JV on the future of the colliery site and links with the Stainforth Town Deal.



GOVERNANCE INDICATORS – Whole Authority

Whole Authority	Value	Target	DoT	Traffic Light
Sickness – Days per FTE	11.40	8.25	↓	🛑
PDR Completion - % of workforce with a PDR recorded	89%	95%	↑	🛑
Internal Audit High Risk Level Recommendations	0	3	↓	🛑
Internal Audit Lower Risk Level Recommendations	12	39	↑	🛑
% of Large Transactions (over £25k) that are under contract	99.67%	100%	↓	✅
% of Freedom of Information Requests responded to within timescale	96%	95%	▬	✅