



## Report

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Date: 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023

To the Mayor and Members of the Cabinet

### 2023-24 Quarter 2 Finance and Performance Improvement Report

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

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. As we transition through the summer and into the autumn period key national and international issues continue to impact how we operate locally. Continued conflict in Ukraine and now in the middle east contribute to how people are feeling in the UK and will have an impact on world prices in the medium term. Inflation is falling but relatively slowly - levels remain at 6.7% (CPI September 23), the 'Cost of Living', pressures continue to be compounded by higher interest rates and the cost of borrowing. The next quarter will see winter challenges come to the fore and we are prepared but as ever our resilience plans will be tested as we support people and businesses through difficult times.
2. The Employment rate is relatively stable and close to the regional average, wages have increased in Doncaster, but the inflationary pressures on energy, goods and food mean for residents and businesses that costs have and are increasing at similar rates to incomes. Although inflation is reducing, the pressure it has caused is already 'priced into' the system so it will take time for any changes to feed through and, the impact it has created is likely to continue throughout winter 2023-24.
3. The Council continues to be impacted by these inflationary pressures and this is reflected in the £1.7m overspend position forecast on the revenue budget, at quarter 2. The key pressures include overspends on both adults and children's social care costs significantly exceeding budgets, full details on the main variances are provided in paragraphs 123 to 145. It is through the use of £3m non recurrent underspends that the overspend has been able to reduce. As such the Council will continue to review and update the projections, alongside actively seek mitigations to reduce the pressures or identify offsetting underspends to reduce the forecast year-end overspend.

4. The position has improved since quarter 1 (when a £4.2m overspend was projected) largely through the continued efforts to identify savings to offset the in-year pressures. Also, in previous years the position has improved further as the year has progressed as cautious projections are gradually reduced. Should this not be the case specific actions will need to be identified.
5. We continue to explore all options to reinstate a functioning airport in Doncaster and a key report was taken to Cabinet 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023 outlining the latest approach and information. This is an ongoing piece of work and key information and updates will be released at the appropriate time and in line with key developments.
6. Our Budget and Corporate Plan outlines the significant efficiencies the Council needs to find whilst also delivering against our 'Great 8 Priorities'. The quality of our Performance and Financial information contained within these reports will enable the Council to be effective and where appropriate address improvement areas so that we continue to deliver for the residents of Doncaster.
7. We have undertaken a review of strategic risks, service standards and their targets and incorporated changes into this report.

#### **EXEMPT REPORT**

8. This report is not exempt

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

9. The Mayor and Members of Cabinet are asked to approve and comment on the quarter 2 performance and financial information including;
  - Approve the virements per the Financial Procedure Rules, detailed in the Appendix A – Finance profile.
  - Note the allocations of block budgets in the Capital Programme, detailed in the Appendix A – Finance profile, in accordance with the Financial Procedure Rules.

## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?



### TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE

Service Standard	Quarter 1 23-24	Quarter 2 23-24	Target	RAG	D.O.T (long)
(PLA) Area (m2) of Local Authority Land Allowed to Naturalise / Wildflower	1,555,737	1,555,737	1,500,000	✓	↓
(PLA) Successful household waste and recycling collections	99.95%	99.95%	99.9%	✓	↑
(PLA) Number of homes retrofitted to improve energy efficiency (cumulative)	73	154	640	✗	↑

### What is going well?

10. The authority is now in the third year of the five-year naturalisation trial, where previous mown grass areas are being left to naturalise or have been prepared and sown as wildflower meadows. There are currently 117 of these sites (including 44 wildflower areas), which is slightly less than previous years, but this has been changed following annual consultation with ward members and feedback from residents. Three of the sites have attracted Biodiversity net-gain monies, and work on these sites will be undertaken during quarter 3. These sites will be cut with arisings removed, scarified, and sown with a variety seed mixes.
11. There are 4 Housing retrofit schemes in place. The current position is that there are 640 homes identified, based on the following contributors:
  - Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund. SLHD thermal improvement programme – 250 homes target, 94 complete to date, 54 in quarter 2.
  - The Great British Insulation Scheme (ECO Plus). In quarter 1 it was reported that this would start in August, with 300 homes, however this has started in Mid-September.
  - ECO4 – 50 homes target, 49 complete to date, 24 in quarter 2.
  - Boiler on Prescription – 40 homes target, 11 completed to date, 3 in quarter 2
12. We continue to sustain a very high standard in relation to the successful collections of household waste and recycling, maintaining a figure close to 100%. 99.95% in this quarter (which is the same as that in quarter 1). The figure remains consistently high and has done so since the contract with SUEZ started in 2018.

### What needs further improvement?

13. In 2021 the Council developed the Environment & Sustainability Strategy and a Net Zero Masterplan for the portfolio assets. In this, there was a list of 111 actions which reflected both the need for business-as-usual activity to maintain the built and natural environment in Doncaster, but also the need for development-related

activity to meet the ambitious emissions reduction targets. These 111 actions were split into the following four themes - Built Environment; Natural Environment; Green Economy; and Consumption, Behaviour and Education. Whilst there has been good progress against parts of the strategy for example the electrification of our fleet and the continued programme of asset rationalisation linked to our buildings there is a need to undertake a refresh, to identify those actions that enhance and develop new and existing activity which delivers the greatest impact. The main objectives being to both adapt and mitigate against the impact of climate change events, to deliver improvements in communities in a way that is inclusive and wide-reaching, and to develop an infrastructure that allows for a move to net-zero.



## DEVELOPING THE SKILLS TO THRIVE IN LIFE & WORK

Service Standard	Quarter 1 23-24	Quarter 2 23-24	Target	RAG	D.O.T (long)
(CYP&F) % of Children with First Choice School Placement in Secondary	87% Academic figures for 2023-24	Annual Figure in Q1 Only	85%	✓	↓
(CYP&F) % of Children with First Choice School Placement in Primary	95.9% Academic figures for 2023-24	Annual Figure in Q1 Only	95%	✓	↓
(CYP&F) The number of children in Elective Home Education	586	571	575	✓	↑
(CEX) Number of Refugees (both asylum and resettlement) supported into ESOL and/or Employment	64	123	35	✓	↑
(CYP&F) % of 16/17 year olds not meeting the duty to participate	4.3%	-	5%	✓	↑
(CYP&F) Secondary schools' persistent absent rate (10% Absenteeism)	32%	29%	26%	✗	↑
(CYP&F) Special Educational Needs Team - Education, Health and Care Plans Issued Within 20 Weeks EXCLUDING Exception Cases	48.25%	36.51%	50.70%	✗	↑
(CYP&F) % of Children missing in education where referrals are closed following case work.	-	52.61%	70%	✗	-

### What is going well?

- The figures for refugees supported into ESOL/Employment has doubled on last quarter due to the sheer increase in volume of decisions coming through, due to the new Streamlined Asylum Processing (SAP) process being set up and the home office moving to recruit more decision makers to clear the national backlog. In august for example we had more cases come through to the team than in the whole of the quarter before. We continue to support new cases not already

enrolled on ESOL to find suitable courses. We also now have the Refugee Employment Programme which started in Doncaster at the beginning of September and have started referring into this service.

15. The number of children who are electively home educated has been effectively managed this quarter and is a reduction on the previous quarter and better than target. Where young people are not receiving a good enough education (outside of a school setting), the attendance and pupil welfare service has worked with parents to secure a place back in school and have facilitated the move back to full time education. Sometimes this has included a period of time at Big Picture Learning to transition the child back into school setting.
16. The Participation & Transition Service continues to carry out robust destination tracking and monitoring of the Year 12 and 13 cohort in line with statutory requirements. The cohort for August 2023 was 7,206 an increase of 233 young people (16-18) from August 2022. Doncaster's average of 16/17 year olds not meeting the duty to participate in education, employment or training (NEET) is 6.5% for quarter 2 (National: 34.6%; Yorkshire and Humber: 29.7%).
17. The Children in Care cohort, Year 12 and 13 caseload currently stands at 165. Of this quarters Year 13 cohort, 39% are out of area and 40% are Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC). There has recently been an influx of UASC mainly in this year group who require English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) support either locally or in the area they are placed. The virtual school are effectively supporting this by sourcing appropriate provision and working with social care. Virtual School collaborate with the professionals and training providers to support young people with future planning and progression however if they do not meet the duty to participate in education, employment or training (NEET) a referral to careers support is made to help them with their next steps. The current NEET rate for Year 12 is 12% and Year 13 at 25%. College course starts have contributed to the rise in these figures this month.
18. As part of the Education and Skills 2030 programme, work to develop a Doncaster Skills Profile continues at pace: we have now held the first Continuing Professional Development session with school and college leaders. This was really positive, and future sessions are planned for November, January and February, with an outline profile which we will develop further with schools and employers. An additional strand of activity which will be delivered in partnership with Hitachi Rail will offer a pre-apprenticeship programme for those who are furthest from the labour market and will offer wrap-around support to develop a skills profile for each learner, with support on applications and interviews. We are currently planning for our second Remake Learning Days Festival, which is scheduled to take place between 22nd and 31st May 2024, as well as an additional 'pop up' event to take place in the new year. Additional workstreams have focussed on developing a new Higher Education offer, a recruitment and retention programme, and an All-Age Careers Hub. Also of note:
  - A 5% increase in the total number of L3 qualifications taken this year

- Second UTC to open with a focus on Health & Care and Green Tech
- Doncaster to host a Lifelong Education Institute on 1st December 2023
- Work continued at pace to secure a future purpose for the former National College for Advances Transport and Infrastructure (NCATI) with an update report considered at Cabinet in July 2023

19. In the capital programme the post 16 centre at Stone Hill is now open following investment of more than £0.5m.

### What needs further improvement?

20. There were 616 cases already open to Children Missing in Education at the beginning of the quarter 2. An additional 190 cases were referred into the service during quarter. The team closed 424 (52.61%) of the open cases during quarter 2, leaving 257 Children Missing in Education. The attendance and pupil welfare team work hard to close cases in the shortest timeframe possible by phoning parents, doing home visits and benefit checks.

21. The number of young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and a recorded destination of not meeting the duty to participate in education, employment or training (NEET) increased to 97 (3.78%) in October (from 77 (2.96%) in July 23). A small number of Year 11 leavers (21) have caused this increase. We are actively engaged with all 21 and a number of these already have post 16 places confirmed.









22. Quarter 2 includes the summer holidays, therefore EHCPs cannot progress fully over this period. This means that there is limited completion at this time. Completion begins again at the start of the school term in September. The proportion of EHCPs undertaken during the Q2 period is therefore limited and not representative due to access to all lead practitioners and specialist in school settings. Additional QA panels are held during the summer period to enable completion begins again in September.

23. In the capital programme there has been slippage of £2.5m due to delays to the places schemes at Hatchell Grange, Armthorpe and Dunsville academies.



## MAKING DONCASTER THE BEST PLACE TO DO BUSINESS & CREATE GOOD JOBS

Service Standard	Quarter 1 23-24	Quarter 2 23-24	Target	RAG	D.O.T (long)
(CR) Percentage of Non-domestic Rates Collected	97.51%	97.97%	97.30%	✓	↑
(PLA) Overall Investment Gained (into and within Doncaster)	£15.3m	£44.83m	£30m	✓	↑
(PLA) Overall new inward investment gained into Doncaster with the support of Business Doncaster	£0.45m	£19.68m	£15m	✓	↓
(PLA) Processing of Planning Applications: Major Applications	93.1%	91.49%	94.00%	⚠	↑

Service Standard	Quarter 1 23-24	Quarter 2 23-24	Target	RAG	D.O.T (long)
(PLA) Increase in city centre footfall figures through the economic recovery plan work	3,744,004	3,615,173	3,000,000		
(CR) % of Local Authority Spend with Doncaster Companies/ Suppliers	64	64	70		
(PLA) No. of new jobs FTE equivalent jobs created in the borough with a salary level of over £31k per year through Business Doncaster inward investment, property, and key account activity (average salary from ONS)	80	115	100		
(AWC) Number of People with a Learning Disability Helped into Work	4.26%	4.13%	5.1%		

## What is going well?

24. In the first half of the year 54.01% of the total business rates debit has been collected. This compares with 53.29%. Despite a backlog of work that has accrued from focussing on other work collection remains on track and it is hoped that this improved collection will continue for the remainder of the year.
25. Performance remains static regarding the number of people with a Learning Disability helped into work who are in receipt of paid employment, at 4.13%, we remain just slightly behind both the regional 4.9% average and the national level. This performance equates to 35 people.
26. This quarter we have strengthened governance arrangements working alongside Children, Young People and Families Directorate and Human Resources (HR) in the Council which will drive forward partnership working and shared accountability linked to supporting people with a Learning disability into Work. A Pathways to Employment Group has been established, which includes individuals with lived experience to help us identify work needed to remove the barriers faced by people with a LD to gaining employment. A local employability audit has been undertaken. The actions from this audit will be developed into a clear action plan and be the focus of quarter 3.
27. Representatives from both Adults and Children's services are working together to increase targeted focus and activity to support more people with a learning disability into employment, this includes work through the skills and Council's Advance programme, the SEND Transformation programme and Preparing for adulthood board. When considering Post 16 opportunities in the SEND and Inclusion Quality Assurance panel, impact is measured specifically in relation to destination and success rates for employability and independent living in preparation for transition to adults. Other work includes an employer forum to support internships and apprenticeships in line with the Education and Skills Strategy. Since April this year we have also had a dedicated post in the Community Adult Learning Disability Team whose role it is to work with people to achieve their goal of gaining employment. The target is to support 28 people to gain paid employment over a 2 year period. To date 17 people are enrolled on the programme.

28. This quarter we have strengthened governance working alongside HR and Children, Young People and Families which will drive forward partnership working and shared accountability linked to supporting people with a Learning disability into Work. A Pathways to Employment Group has been established and completed a local area employability audit. The actions from this audit will be the focus of quarter 3; the pathways to employment group alongside people with lived experience will develop these into a clear action plan. Performance remains static regarding the number of people with a Learning Disability helped into work who are in receipt of paid employment, at 4.13%, we remain behind both the regional 4.9% average and the national level. This performance equates to 35 people.
29. Representatives from both adults and Children's services are working across the transition pathways to support people into employment, including work through the skills and Council's Advance programme, the SEND Transformation programme and Preparing for Adulthood Board. When considering Post 16 opportunities in the SEND and Inclusion Quality Assurance panel, impact is measured specifically in relation to destination and success rates for employability and independent living in preparation for transition to adults. Other work includes an employer forum to support internships and apprenticeships in line with the Education and Skills Strategy.
30. Overall recorded investment into Doncaster at the end of quarter 2 stands at £60.1million, which is above the annual target of £50million. Major investment for the period was from new capital builds at Mexborough Hospital, Rose Learning Trust in Sprotbrough, and ESH Construction at Askern. After being below target at the end of quarter 1 we have seen a recovery. A split of the £60.1 million is 44% assisted investment by Business Doncaster and 56% unassisted. The pipeline of investment, which includes property development, remains strong and target is still expected to be reached at the end of the year.
31. At the end of quarter 2 the figure for new inward investment into Doncaster stands at £20.13 million. Although this figure is below the set target for the period, there has been a significant improvement since the last quarter. Major investment during this quarter was from Business Doncaster supporting ESH construction on a new housing scheme at Askern and Mayfair, the first occupier of the new Civic and Cultural Quarter (CCQ) Savoy Restaurants. With the pipeline of potential new investment remaining strong, and a number of speculative property developments underway, it is expected that the annual target will be at least achieved, if not exceeded.
32. At the end of quarter 2 there were 115 new jobs created over £31,000 salary per annum facilitated by Business Doncaster; this is well above the annual target of 100. Of the new jobs created, 21 are in the manufacturing sector, 43 in green technology, 13 in CDI, 20 in logistics, 15 in the leisure sector and 3 in construction. During this quarter, the major jobs created were from LWC drinks, a new inward investor opening a distribution facility at Balby Carr, and the Leisure sector with



management jobs created at the opening of a new restaurant at Lakeside, and a new bar and restaurant in the City Centre Civic Centre Quarter.

### What needs further improvement?

33. At the end of quarter 2, footfall figures into the city centre are still 8% above target, despite the footfall in September and October being below target, pointing to continued weakened consumer demand, unsurprisingly given interest rate rises, ongoing high level of inflation, cost of living crisis, and weather conditions. This is shown through location data for September where typical retail streets with discretionary spending retail (St Sepulchre Gate and Baxter Gate) have performed poorly and essential spending areas have performed well, such as in the Market area. We continue to promote the City Centre and facilitate events such as DN1 live to increase footfall and access to the City Centre services. For the remainder of the year footfall is expected to be on track, and it is anticipated that quarter 3 activity around Christmas will bring footfall into the centre, despite not having a traditional Christmas lights switch on.

34. At the end of quarter 2 the determination rate for the processing of planning applications was 91.5%, which is slightly below the 94% internal stretch target. This is due to 4 applications not hitting the determination date. However, this figure is in excess of the 60% national target but has a large reliance on successfully negotiating extension of times (EOT) with the applicant. The need to agree an EOT on major applications is not unusual, as many of these are complex in their very nature, and commonly require on-going negotiations, for example Section 106 agreements and committee approvals, in order to seek a positive resolution on the proposals. It is important that officers continue to work with our customers, by agreeing EOTs where needed for the more major, transformational projects, to achieve a positive outcome. It is well recognised that not all applications are equally complex to deal with and unforeseen issues or the need for amendments may arise through the course of considering an application, which may result in an application taking longer to determine. The Government allows extensions of time for these eventualities. If extensions of time were not taken into consideration our performance for major applications would be 15%, which is a 5% improvement on last quarter.



### BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR HEALTHIER, HAPPIER & LONGER LIVES FOR ALL

Service Standard	Quarter 1 23-24	Quarter 2 23-24	Target	RAG	D.O.T (long)
(AWC) Permanent admissions to residential and nursing care homes, per 100,000 population (18-64 Only)	2.16	7.02	9.70	✓	↑
(AWC) Percentage of Adult Social Care provision rated as Good or Outstanding by the Care Quality Commission	75.34%	75.17%	75%	✓	↓

Service Standard	Quarter 1 23-24	Quarter 2 23-24	Target	RAG	D.O.T (long)
(CEX) Sexual Health Service: Percentage of contraception that is LARC (Long Acting Reversible Contraceptives)	30%	-	28%		
(CEX) Health Visiting: percentage of new birth visits completed within 14 days (Universal Partnership Plus families)	95.8%	-	90%		
(CEX) Substance misuse service: Percentage of alcohol treatment successful completions residents	37.3%	-	37%		
(AWC) Duration to complete Adult Social Care Needs Assessment (days) MEDIAN AVERAGE	37	42	42		
(CEX) Tobacco Control: Percentage 4 week quit rate recorded by the Yorkshire Smoke-free service for Doncaster residents	69.9%	71.1%	50%		
(AWC) Proportion of Adults with Learning Disabilities Who Live in Their Own Home or With Their Family	78%	81%	81%		
(AWC) Duration to complete OT assessment (days) MEDIAN	4	2	TBC	-	
(AWC) We will ensure you have an annual review of your care	78%	75%	75%		
(AWC) % of people who are still at home 91 days after their period of re-enablement	71.7	75.6	81.0		
(AWC) Permanent admissions to residential and nursing care homes, per 100,000 population (65+ Only)	192	153.6	55.6		
(AWC) EDI Percentage of Adult Social Care request for where ethnicity recorded	82%	83.5%	100%		
(CEX) The % mothers quit Smoking during pregnancy	62%	-	85%		
(AWC) Number of Carers Assessments Completed	121	104			
(AWC) Average number of days from request to adaptation completed (MEDIAN)	41	52	TBC	-	

## What is going well?

35. New Birth Visits' is a significant core element of the Healthy Child Programme, with the ambition of a Health Worker visit taking place 10-14 days post-delivery, enabling a midwife and health visitor the opportunity to work in partnership to assess health needs. By local agreement, multiple (2nd+ child) families on universal pathway are not included in this figure. The percentage of new birth visit is 97.1% in quarter 1 (latest data), compared to 99.2% in the previous quarter, and this figure continues to exceed target (which is 95%).

36. The Yorkshire Smoke Free service provides smoking cessation services to people in Doncaster. The service can be accessed directly, or people can be referred by a health professional or community service. A '4 week quit' is used to describe people who have stopped smoking for 4 weeks with support of a service. The target for this performance indicator is 50%, and latest data shows that the current success rate is 71.1%, compared to 69.9% in the previous quarter, exceeding the target level.
37. The alcohol early interventions team in Aspire works preventatively with people who have identified themselves as being at increasing/harmful alcohol risk. Successful completion of an alcohol treatment programme and freedom from dependence is used as a performance indicator for alcohol treatment services. In quarter 2, the success rate is at 37.3%, compared to 39.4% in quarter 1, which is still above the national target of 37%.
38. There has been a slight increase in assessment waiting times for adult social care needs assessments during quarter 2 but this is because of successful work closing down historical outliers with long wait times that therefore increased our average. We are meeting our target. Quarter 2 saw the new approach to access implemented, disbanding the centralised Integrated Support and Assessment Team (ISAT) and moving the team's core functions into the four Locality Social Care Teams, the Community Adult Learning Disability Team and the Occupational Therapy Team. This is already indicating increased connection of people to support more quickly, reducing hand-offs and leading to a better experience for people and staff. The new approach is being closely monitored and an evaluation will be completed during quarter 3.
39. We maintain a consistent performance regarding the number of people who have received an annual review of their care and support arrangements, with performance standing at 75% in quarter 2. This equates to 2,790 people. Team action plans are now in place along with monthly improvement clinics to sustain this performance.
40. Review of the Occupational Therapy (OT) service, innovation site focus, recruitment and additional capacity have all aided the reduction in the OT waiting list. There has been a significant improvement in OT waits during the quarter. The median average time for an OT assessment to be completed is now two days, in line with the new service target for all new referrals to be assessed within 48 hours. The number of people on the historical waiting list has also significantly reduced, bringing the mean average time for an assessment down from 109 days to 15.78 days within the quarter.
41. The percentage of Doncaster's 145 care services registered by the Care Quality Commission rated "Good" or "Outstanding" continues to exceed target. If new care services that CQC have not yet inspected are disregarded from the figures, the percentage rated "Good" or "Outstanding" rises to 87.9%. Doncaster's performance is amongst the very best in the region. Thirteen care services are rated as "Requires Improvement" and have action plans in place to address

highlighted issues. Two care services are rated “Inadequate” and are within escalation procedures to keep people safe while improvements are urgently sought.

42. The number of admissions to residential care for working age adults (aged 18-64 years) remains on track although it has slightly increased in quarter 2. Practice change in relation to how we support people in a crisis is planned to reduce this further so that a greater number of Doncaster adults of working age can stay living at home rather than moving into residential care. The financial section of this report addresses two further issues for Doncaster in relation to adults of working age in residential care: the total numbers of people in this provision and the high average cost, even in relation to other comparable Councils.
43. In the capital programme the adaptations for the disabled scheme forecast overspend have reduced to £472k for quarter 2 as the level of referrals from the Occupational Therapy service has reduced. This is to be funded by re-profiling budget from future years as after clearing the backlog spend is expected to be lower than usual.

#### **What needs further improvement?**

44. The % of Mothers who quit smoking has seen a decline in quarter 1 to 62% against a target of 85%, Providers attribute this to clients in the period showing without CO2 verification which has been attributed to patient choice (declined face to face visits and no access visit) The commissioner will continue to work with the service to ensure a more consistent approach to following up quit attempts and ensure that families receive the support they need to quit during a pregnancy and refrain from smoking beyond the birth of the baby.
45. It is estimated that about 30% of pregnancies are unplanned, with the effectiveness of some contraceptive methods being dependent on correct and consistent use. By contrast, the effectiveness of long-acting reversible contraceptive (LARC) methods and their increased uptake could help to reduce unintended pregnancy. Despite a decrease the value still being above the target of 28% (currently 30%). Commissioners have recently completed an audit of LARC with GP practices across Doncaster, and it is hoped that findings from this audit, and an accompanying Contraception Confidence Mapping Questionnaire will help to identify possible gaps in staff training, knowledge, and awareness with community subcontractors. Once analysis is completed, the provider will design and deliver appropriate training. Commissioners are also working with the provider to understand if prescribed self-administered injections are having an impact on these figures.
46. The number of admissions to residential care for older people (aged 65 years and over) is significantly below the target reduction of 5% compared to last year. However there has been improvement since quarter 1. A plan is in place with targeted activity following analysis of previous admissions including a weekly practice forum which enables discussions as to why placements are proposed and if alternative support options have been considered.

47. The number of people supported by Council Reablement Services who are still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital has seen an increase in the last quarter rising from 71.7% to 75.6%. Significant work has been completed to improve data quality, however there are still ongoing issues around collection of data from external organisations commissioned to deliver reablement services. Current Doncaster performance is below our local target but is in line with the national average.

48. Regarding waiting times linked to adaptations, the median average stands at 52 days from request to adaptation completed. Our breakdown of the data shows that for the median number of days taken from referral to order is 26 days (a reduction from 32 days in quarter 1) and the median number of days taken from ordering of the adaptation to completion, has increased to 19 days from 7 days in quarter 1. Both data sets currently include local and private only, during quarter 3 disabled facility grants (DFG) will be included. Data reporting has been challenging as this process currently sits outside of the mosaic system. Due to the new service delivery model in occupational therapy, referrals into the adaptations team have seen an increase in demand to process and complete recommended works. Therefore, the adaptations team expect to see a return to the previous volume of work received, and timescale to deliver, prior to the new way of working.

49. An additional £243k Disabled Facilities Grant has been received this quarter but is not expected to be spent within this financial year. A plan is to be developed to spend the significant underspend that is currently profiled into 2024/25 and 2025/26.



## CREATING SAFER, STRONGER, GREENER & CLEANER COMMUNITIES WHERE EVERYONE BELONGS

Service Standard	Quarter 1 23-24	Quarter 2 23-24	Target	RAG	D.O.T (long)
(PLA) Percentage of Fly Tips Investigated and Removed Within 7 Days from Public Areas	97%	96%	80%	✓	↑
(PLA & SLHD) Number of affordable homes provided (Council, and private sector provider/build)	125	182	80	✓	↑
(PLA) Recycling Rate for Household Domestic Waste	38.5%	50%	50%	✓	↑
(PLA) No. of Parks With 'Green Flag' Status Across the Borough	6 Annual Figure (2022-23)	6 Annual Figure (2023-24)	4	✓	↑
(PLA) Percentage of redeploy able cameras installed within 28 day timescale	100%	0%	0%	✓	▬
(AWC) Percentage of Safeguarding concerns and enquiries that are repeats in a 12 month period	34.3%	36.2%	35%	✓	↓

Service Standard	Quarter 1 23-24	Quarter 2 23-24	Target	RAG	D.O.T (long)
(CEX) Number of Veterans identified and supported within the Communities service (standalone casework and cases within existing themes)	115	97	70		
(PLA) Play Areas - Percentage of Quarterly Mechanical Playground Inspections Carried Out	98%	100%	90%		
(PLA) Complete all Environmental Permitting regs permit visits within DEFRA required timescales. - Climate control regime	100% Annual Figure (2021-22)	-	100%		
(PLA) % Licensing Act 2003 Applications Processed Within Statutory Timescales	99.45%	100%	100%		
(AWC) Percentage Feeling Safer After Safeguarding Intervention	69.54%	78.50%	75.00%		
(AWC) Number of identified rough sleepers within the month	34	25	25		
(AWC) Safeguarding: Duration (Average days - Referral to Completed S42)	144.28	144.90	130		
(AWC) Number of High-Risk Cases Referred to MARAC	223	265	-		
(PLA) Net additional homes provided (Council and private sector provider/build)	372	311	-		
(AWC) No of Referrals to the Domestic Abuse Hub	454	419	-		
(CEX) The numbers of Victims of ASB who have met the higher risk threshold, resulting in them being provided with a SPOC and individual support plan	152	281	-		
(CEX) Number of people and families, where as a single agency we are working to prevent or tackle at an early stage, anti-social behaviour, Hate Crime and low level crime reported to and identified by the Stronger Communities Service.	6,316	6,412	-		
(PLA) Total number of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) and Community Protection Notices (CPN's) issued by the Neighbourhood Response Team	58	218	-		
(PLA) Total number of incidents attended by the Neighbourhood Response Team	4,799	5,730	-		

## What is going well?

50. During quarter 2, our Stronger Communities Area Teams responded to 6,412 early intervention and prevention issues to tackle anti-social behaviour, hate crime and low-level crime. This figure has increased from last quarter and continues to be

higher from our pre pandemic level. We are starting to see average case work figures stabilise to a new 'higher norm' due to the number of newly appointed officers now being fully trained and working proactively to deal with issues in a locality at the earliest opportunity. However, this trend needs to be balanced with the fact that the teams are undertaking dedicated and targeted work in some of the hotspot demand locations, where positive partnership working has had the desired outcome and success. This has in turn increased incidents reported to the Communities Service.

51. The number of victims who have experienced ongoing or multiple instances of anti-social behaviour has increased from 152 to 281 this quarter, (which is comparable to similar periods) due to targeted work in hotspot locations and focussed work at Neighbourhood Action Group and Joint Action Group (NAG/JAG) meetings. Due to the nature of the work and actions carried out to manage meaningful targeted engagement, we can identify more victims, and this should be viewed as a positive as we are identifying early and proactively before escalation of issues in many cases. All areas where significant engagement work and CIS work has been ongoing to tackle anti-social behaviour, and issues linked to organised crime group activity, are being managed by South Yorkshire Police. There have been a number of reported success stories during this quarter across a number of areas, where Stronger Communities officers have supported residents and enabled positive outcomes.
52. We have seen a decrease in the number of Veterans identified and supported (97 compared to 115 in quarter 1); however, in quarter 1 Doncaster celebrated Armed Forces Week. This figure is still above the target of 70. A number of significant achievements have been made, including:
- Doncaster Armed Forces Covenant Board now embedded with Terms of Reference and Data Sharing Agreement in place
  - Highest number of attendees and engagement at the Board
  - Health Sub-Group now in place with plans for the other priority sub-groups to develop
  - St Leger Homes have agreed that Veterans leaving Doncaster for long term treatment, such as mental health support, will no longer lose their 'local connection'
  - Dedicated Veteran CLS took place in collaboration with the Victoria Cross Trust
  - Veteran Forum continues monthly and in September saw its highest attendance numbers to date
  - Veteran Co-ordinator support for individuals is now being recorded from October, so these numbers will be reflected in quarter 3's figures.
53. In quarter 2 the 100% target for Licensing Act 2003 applications processed within the statutory timescale was met, compared to 99.45% in quarter 1. This success was following a service standard review and safeguards being put in place to ensure this did not reoccur.

54. Collaborative working between the CCTV suite and Neighbourhood Response Team has resulted in an upsurge of fixed penalty notices being issued by the Neighbourhood Response Team. This is related to the CCTV suite proactively monitoring several key areas of the Borough, including the City Centre, where it is has been especially problematic; Hallgate has been identified as a problematic area. Other contributor to increased fixed penalty notices has been the changed layout of the City Centre and the introduction of cycle lanes, which has led to an increased level of parking infringements and inappropriate parking in the City Centre after 6pm. There is also an 'evening economy' upsurge, particularly relating to people visiting takeaway establishments and delivery drivers parking outside takeaways to collect home deliveries. In addition to the 218 fixed penalty notices, the Neighbourhood Response Team have given 124 verbal warnings in relation to parking, 20 Community Protection Warning letters for noise, and 2 Community Protection notices, again for noise. The Neighbourhood Response Team has attended a total of 5,730 incidents in quarter 2, compared to 4,799 in quarter 1, including 3318 incidents from live patrolling/tasks.
55. The indicator for Recycling Rate for Household Domestic Waste reports one quarter in arrears. The latest figure is 50% and on target. This sees not only an increase from the last quarter (38.5%), but also sees an increase compared to the same period in 2022-23 (48.5%). More composting collected has resulted in a higher recycling rate during this period.
56. During quarter 2 the 80% target for removing fly tip waste within 7 days of cases being reported has been exceeded, as 96% of reported cases were closed within timeframe. 2,070 reports of fly tipped waste were cleared, which is a slight increase on the quarter 1 figure (2,005). The additional resources allocated to the service in 2021, combined with changes to operational service delivery, have reduced the backlog. The fly tip team are currently carrying one vacancy this will be filled by agency within the next couple of weeks. Specialist cases, including asbestos removal, require us to use an external contractor or specialist equipment and can sometimes take more time to deal with which accounts for the small number of cases not closed within the agreed timeframe.
57. There were 236 operational play inspections carried out, which has exceeded the 90% target. The play inspectors are carrying out play value assessments at all our sites to gather baseline information to enable informed decisions to be made in line with the recently adopted Play Policy. Operational and routine inspections will continue throughout the year.
58. Quarter 2 sees the completion of 182 affordable homes provided, compared to 125 in quarter 1. These include:
- 33 Section 106 units across 4 Private Developer sites
  - 81 Homes England funded units across 2 Housing Association sites
  - 53 Direct Purchase (Homes England funded) units across 3 Private Developer sites



- 3 additional purchased units across 2 Private Developer sites (not funded by Homes England)
- 12 St Leger Acquisitions.

59. There has been a decrease in the number of referrals into the Domestic Abuse Hub in quarter two, this is following a decision implemented at the end of August that South Yorkshire Police referrals without consent are not being processed in the Domestic Abuse Hub.

60. The number of people who reported they felt unsafe prior to safeguarding intervention and said they felt safer afterwards continues to improve and has increased to 78.5% during quarter 2. Numbers of repeat safeguarding referrals remain stable and close to the target.

61. The number of rough sleepers has reduced in quarter 2. September identified 24 rough sleepers compared to 34 seen in June. The ten-point rough sleeper action plan put in place at the start of quarter 2 incorporates analysis of every rough sleeper to identify their routes to the street and generate actions in response to identified themes. For example, a key theme in September was limited accommodation options for couples which has been addressed in a recent bid to national government for single homelessness accommodation.

### **What needs further improvement?**

62. The council has several re-deployable CCTV cameras that are installed in hot spot locations across the Borough with the aim to combat crime and anti-social behaviour. As these cameras are not permanent fixtures, they need to be attached to existing street furniture, such as lighting columns, which includes connection to the electrical supply. These works need to be undertaken by colleagues in street lighting prior to installation of any cameras, which involves structural testing of lighting columns, installation of electrical commando sockets and confirmation of lighting head configuration for Smartwatch cameras. Additionally, for the cameras to be installed, the lighting column must undergo a structural test to ensure it is able to sustain the weight of the camera/s and any associated equipment such as WIFI antennas. In relation to the Smartwatch cameras (those within lighting heads), we must secure confirmation from street lighting of the lighting configuration to ensure the camera lighting head matches all the other lighting heads on the same street/road as any deviation could lead to a road traffic accident. There are several re-deployable CCTV cameras funded through SS4 which have encountered installation delays; however, these are now due to be installed in Quarter 3 (November 2023).

63. In 2023, we have applied for Green Flag status across 7 sites across the Borough. In quarter 2 we saw the retention of the 6 existing Green Flag awards, with Town Field narrowly missing out. 4 sites were fully judged in person and 3 sites were 'mystery shopped'. Feedback from the judges on Town Field will enable us to address certain areas of weakness (this is a Future Parks site so will have targeted

investment) with a view to achieving a Green Flag Award next year. Feedback from judging at the other sites has enabled an action plan to be developed, considering areas of weakness and areas of strength so that resources can be targeted where most needed.

64. Quarter 2 performance for Safeguarding: Duration (Average days - Referral to Completed S42) is relatively static and still above the target of 130 days. Lengthy court proceedings of 740 days for one case have impacted on this quarters performance. Work is being progressed to ensure the narrative is clear around cases which progress to court, which can be for a number of reasons such as Court of Protection, Criminal or the Coroners Court.

65. The level of high-risk domestic abuse cases referred to MARAC also remain consistent. Of the 265 cases discussed during quarter 2, 75 were repeat high risk incidents (28.3%). Safe-lives recommendation is that between 28% and 40% of cases discussed at MARAC are repeat incidents.























66. In the capital programme the future parks scheme has slipped £1.1m as the next 5 parks in the programme are now unlikely to be completed in the current financial year.

67. The housing capital programme is projecting an overspend of £1.7m due to an increase in the cost of various schemes including a significant increase in the remedial works to high rises.



## NURTURING A CHILD & FAMILY-FRIENDLY BOROUGH EVERYONE BELONGS

Service Standard	Quarter 1 23-24	Quarter 2 23-24	Target	RAG	D.O.T (long)
(CYP&F) Percentage of Children Accessing Their Entitlement for Free Childcare (3 & 4 Year Olds)	97.8%	99.6%	95%	✓	↑
(CYP&F) Number of Referrals into 'Your Family' Teams	285	400	280	✓	↑
(CEX) School Nursing: Number of schools with a Health Profile	99	-	75	✓	↑
(CEX) Number of early intervention stronger families managed and supported by the Stronger Communities Service. Including work within higher level casework and therefore contributing to the National Government Supporting Families Programme	429	456	400	✓	↑
(CYP&F CSC) Number of Referrals processed in 24hrs	89.8%	93.9%	85%	✓	↑
(CYP&F CSC) Rate of Children in Care - Number per 10,000 Population	81.43	82.84	80.00	✓	↓

Service Standard	Quarter 1 23-24	Quarter 2 23-24	Target	RAG	D.O.T (long)
(CYP&F CSC) Children with a Child Protection Plan per 10,000 pop aged U18	55.07	50.08	51.00		
(CY&F) Increase in confidence and ability of parents / carers to support and provide for their family evidenced through the Outcome Star - FAMILY Star	-	77.26%	65%		-
(CYP&F CSC) Number of External Residential Placements	52	39	48		
(CYP&F) Percentage of Children Accessing Their Entitlement to Free Childcare (2 years olds)	79.7%	79.7%	82%		
(CYP&F CSC) Percentage of Care Leavers in Employment, Training and Education (age 19-21 years)	64.2%	61.9%	68.0%		
(CYP&F CSC) Percentage of cases where the lead social worker has seen the child/young person within timescales specified in the CP plan. For all children who were the subject of a CP plan during the year.	71.4%	78.7%	80%		
(CYP&F CSC) Rate of Children in Need	361	348	385		
(CYP&F CSC) Percentage of Single Assessments Completed Within 45 Days (YTD Cumulative)	75.2%	76.3%	85.0%		
(CYP&F CSC) Referrals to Children's Services that are repeat referrals within 12 mths	28.68%	32.21%	22.00%		
(CY&F) Children receiving a Multi-Service Early Help support - rate per 10,000 population	-	287	326		-
(CYP&F CSC) Referrals - Number per 10,000 Population	237	231	154		
(CEX) Deliver a wellbeing offer - Number of wellbeing cases handled by Wellbeing Team within the Communities Service	776	650	-		
(CY&F) PLACEHOLDER % of CiC who achieve legal permanence via adoption, SGO or CAO	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC

## What is going well?

68. The number of schools with a health profile (school nursing) figure remains unchanged, as the School Health Profile meetings for the current year have just begun and data has not yet been received. In preparation for year 2 of the school health profile meetings, a review of what worked well and some of the challenges experienced have been noted. Positive relationships have been established between school and the Zone 5-19 service, as well as schools welcoming support around areas such as puberty, safe touch, birth, and conception. The service has offered support in these areas for many years and some school staff feel this is more of a health-related subject and may not feel comfortable/confident delivering

these topics. Dental education has created a lot of discussion this year, as some schools have reported high numbers of school absence linked to dental concern. There is recognition that whilst other services may also deliver similar work, the statutory role of the service offers a trustworthy approach and longevity of follow up work and offers a link to community projects, supporting ongoing discussion and collaboration. There have been some challenges arranging the School Health Profile meeting, with occasional sessions covering curriculum work as opposed to public health data.

69. There has been an increase in the number of early intervention stronger families supported by the Stronger Communities' teams during this period with 456 in quarter 2, compared to 429 in quarter 1. This increase in new families being identified by Stronger Communities Officers (SCO) when carrying out duties across our core themes of work, as well as the established process to step cases down to Stronger Communities Support Officers (SCSO's) for monitoring, thus increasing the overall number of families engaged and supported. The breakdown of cases managed at super light (these are stronger families cases the service manages end to end) and cases where one off intervention are carried out at a higher threshold (cases where SCO support another lead practitioner with 1 or 2 strands) within the case is broken down below across each area. The Superlight total is 362 and higher threshold total is 94.
70. Doncaster continues to be above the national trend for 2 Years olds accessing their 15 hours entitlement to funded childcare, performing 5.7% above the national average at 79.7% (976/1225) the same as quarter 1. In comparison with our regional neighbours Doncaster has the second highest take up rate with more children compared to Barnsley and Rotherham. Doncaster continues to exceed the national average take up of the funded entitlement to childcare for 3–4-year olds. This quarter 99.6% (6589/6615) have taken up their entitlement compared to national rate of 94%.
71. Demand into the Your Families Teams continues to increase, providing wrap around support from services locally to meet the needs of families. From the 400 contacts in quarter 2, 121 (North), 114 (East), 88 (Central) and 77 (South) the top 3 presenting issues are Housing, Finance and Benefits. 93% of these contacts are processed within 24hrs through the see and solve model, meaning families get quick resolutions.
72. The proportion of social care referrals with a decision within 24hrs has continued to perform higher than the target currently set. Focused performance oversight has resulted in almost 90% for the past three months based on over 2000 contacts per month (this is an increase on the number of contacts coming into the front door). A review is being undertaken of the Early Help process and partnership pathways, and it is hoped that this will reduce the volume of contacts into the Front Door. Discussions with South Yorkshire Police is underway to avoid duplication of contacts, which should alleviate some of the pressure on the service. The

impact of this work is expected in quarter 3. This will also support assistance to families at the correct level in a timely manner.

73. The number of children in care per 10,000 per population has shown a slight increase this quarter. The number of children entering care has remained static however we have seen an increase in the number of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC). These children either present in the area or are part of the national transfer scheme and so this increase is beyond our control, however we have ensured that they have had a timely age assessment and have been offered safe and suitable accommodation and support. The recent increase in the children in care numbers is linked to greater numbers of Unaccompanied Asylum seeking children via Hotels which had been previously age assessed as adults, which seems to be a wider regional and national theme over the summer period.
74. The children in care system continues to progress, ensuring children are only cared for by local authority when all other options have been carefully considered. Decisions are reassessed reflecting the children and family's situation change, the decision to care is reviewed considering current need. This will also ensure that parents care for their children wherever it is safe for them to do so.
75. There has been a positive improvement in the number of the children approved for adoption and a positive level of matching with adopters over the past 12 months. However, given the small numbers of children who leave care via adoption the numbers vary from month to month and can seem low on a monthly and even quarterly basis. Therefore, this measure has been amended this quarter to reflect this.
76. Placement sufficiency: the number of children placed in external placements has decreased to 39. This is a significant improvement from the previous quarter and as a direct result of targeted work to ensure we have clear trajectories for the children we care for and their future. This means bringing children back into Doncaster via our fostering initiative, supporting a positive step into semi-independence and by returning them to the care of parents or wider family where it is safe to do so.

#### **What needs further improvement?**

77. This quarter has seen a reduction in the number of cases managed by the Wellbeing Team within the Communities Service, with the figure at 650 cases, compared to 776 in quarter 1. There has been an increase in the number of waiting cases compared to this same point at the end of quarter 1 (61 compared to 46). This is attributed to staff absence and the time required to complete induction of newly appointed staff. However, all staff have now returned to work and have been fully trained, with an additional temporary full-time member, meaning that we should start to see the positive impact in quarter 3.
78. The percentage of children subject to Child Protection plans visited within agreed timescales (every 10 working days) has shown some improvement for quarter 2.

Further investigation into this performance confirmed that the actual timeliness of visits to children on a child protection plan is around 90% as per performance clinics with Team Managers. This offers real time assurance, and this grip is consistent across the service. The discrepancy between real time assurance and reported performance are linked to data capture and the time of the month that performance is recorded. To support a more accurate reflection of visits completed in timescale a new process has been agreed whereby this performance is re-run 4 weeks later, this will better reflect the performance against this service standard.

79. The percentage of Care leavers in Employment, Training and Education in quarter 2 has dropped slightly to 61.9%. It is envisaged that this will increase as we enter into the new academic year. This is an area we continue to target working with placement, carers, and education colleagues to ensure they have access to opportunities local to their home.
80. The measure linked to the number of children achieving permanence has been changed this quarter to reflect the other ways we secure legal permanence and a safe positive exit from care. This data is currently being collated, but we can offer the current overview of success in this area. Over the past quarter 20 children were made subject to Special Guardianship Order and 6 were adopted. This reflects that we are securing legal permanence via the best route for the child. We want this numbers to continue on this trajectory with the timescale it takes to achieve this reduced.
81. Adopter data shows improving performance in respect of enquiries received and the number of adopters in assessment. We are not yet seeing this translating into the number of adopters being approved. There remains a national issue linked to the pandemic and the ongoing cost-of-living crisis with fewer adults feeling in a position to start a family.



## BUILDING TRANSPORT & DIGITAL CONNECTIONS FIT FOR THE FUTURE

Service Standard	Quarter 1 23-24	Quarter 2 23-24	Target	RAG	D.O.T (long)
(PLA) Principal Roads not Requiring Major Maintenance	96% Annual Figure (2022-23)	-	96%		
(PLA) Non-Principal Roads not Requiring Major Maintenance	98% Annual Figure (2022-23)	-	94%		
(PLA) % Estate Roads in Good to Fair Condition	87% Annual Figure (2022-23)	-	85%		
(PLA) National Highways Transportation Survey Highways Maintenance Overall Satisfaction Score	45% Annual Figure (2022-23)	-	46%		

## **What is going well?**

82. The Solar Carport based at the Civic office is now in operation, which includes 20 new charging bays. In addition, there is a members consultation commencing in quarter 3 to consult on the locations of 100 residential charge points (this will be conducted in late October). Once completed, this will then move onto resident consultation.
83. South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority are currently working with AMEY to produce a regional electric vehicle (EV) charging strategy. This will be followed by a Doncaster electric vehicle charging strategy to inform the delivery of the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure scheme (LEVI) for which we await our share of £8.9m.
84. The performance indicators in relation to the condition of principal roads, non-principal roads, and estate roads in good to fair condition are reported annually, and in quarter 4 of each year. Doncaster stands in the upper quartile nationally for this indicator and represents ongoing and consistently excellent performance.

## **What needs Further Improvement?**

85. In quarter 4 of last year, a paper on the Digital Infrastructure Strategy was taken to the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) Housing and Infrastructure Board to update on the South Yorkshire approach to implementation. The Strategy aims to help improve business productivity and competitiveness, address digital exclusion and digital poverty, and support making South Yorkshire places more attractive to inward investors as digitally enabled places to live and work. The implementation of the South Yorkshire Digital Infrastructure Strategy key activities include:
  - Superfast South Yorkshire Programme
  - Project Gigabit
  - Gigabit Voucher Scheme
  - Changes to Building Regulations relating to digital connectivity
86. The Digital Infrastructure Delivery plan identifies progress on short to medium-term actions to take forward over the next two years. These include:
  - South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) and Local Authorities working with providers to form successful and productive relationships with key digital infrastructure providers
  - Development of an ongoing communications plan for South Yorkshire – draft content has been provided to update the digital infrastructure element of the SYMCA Website
  - Commissioning research to fill the information gap relating to the real extent of digital poverty in South Yorkshire, and the actions to address this – this has been commissioned by the SYMCA policy team
  - Proactive work with the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) on future digital initiatives to capture funding and delivery opportunities for South Yorkshire, including demonstration pilots – opportunities to be shared by DCMS and bids will be developed in a strategic and timely manner.

87. There is an emerging plan in relation to the 'strategic approach' required to ensure that we, as a Council, are working tactically to address the digital needs/requirements of the organisation, including having the right internal processes/approaches in place and the need for a Borough-wide strategic Digital approach. It is corporately recognised and acknowledged that 'Digital' is the enabler to support Regenerative and Economic Development, as well as being a key policy driver. This work will continue to be developed, but as a starting point work has begun to help formulate the council's Digital Strategy, including the extract of digital elements from existing strategies, for example:

- Economic Strategy – ensuring the strategic rollout of high-speed broadband across the borough, supporting residents and businesses to get online, enabling Doncaster residents to have access to ways to improve their digital skills to enable access to opportunities and services, progression of industry platforms and 'vibrant places' to enable residents and businesses in all areas have access to digital services.
- Education and Skills – improving digital literacy across the borough as a core skill, to support digital infrastructure development and enable access to all and tackling 'digital poverty'
- Culture Strategy – enhancing the digital offer and support the development of digital provision across the borough.



## **PROMOTING THE BOROUGH & ITS CULTURAL, SPORTING & HERITAGE OPPORTUNITIES**

### **What is going well?**

88. Doncaster's new Culture Partnership has held its first meetings at Portfolio Group and Management levels, and initial lines of enquiry and actions are focused on quick wins and developing a narrative for Doncaster which visibly elevates our city's cultural offer to key funders and strategic partners.

89. The Flying Scotsman returned home in Doncaster on 9 – 12 November. The event was delivered successfully and safely, creating positive experiences and memories for 3, 900 visitors. The success of the event is testament to the negotiation, preparations and delivery of all involved and good partnership working between the City of Doncaster Council, Freightliner, First Buses, Riley and Sons and the National Railway Museum.

### **What needs Further Improvement?**

90. Service standards and targets have been developed for Culture services, narrative and data will be included from quarter 3.





Service Standard	Quarter 1 23-24	Quarter 2 23-24	Target	RAG	D.O.T (long)
(CR) Housing Benefit - Average Number of Days to Process a New Claim	13.34	12.38	18.00		
(CEX) CUST 01 Customers Wait no Longer Than 10 Minutes to be Served	0h 00m 00s	0h 00m 00s	0h 10m 00s		
(CR) Council Tax Support Application - Average Number of Days to Process New Claims	28.06	21.76	30		
(CEX) CUST 04 90% of Telephone Calls Will be Answered Within 150 Seconds	74%	92%	90%		
(CR) % of Council Tax collected in the year	94.40%	93.83%	94.60%		

**What is going well?**

- 91. The average number of days to process a new housing benefits claim continues to improve and gets better each quarter. Although the team continues to deal with additional work from the Household Support Fund and this is set to increase in quarter 3, the continued prioritisation of allocating new HB claims within 2 days of receipt, and the clearance of a previous backlog of work has resulted in this continued improvement this year.
- 92. In Quarter 2 we received 29,976 customers to the One Stop Shop which is a decrease of 3,334 from Quarter 1, this is a natural decrease in Council Tax and Benefit queries being dealt with at the beginning of the financial year in Quarter 1. We are averaging approximately 2,305 customers a week through the doors.
- 93. Council Tax Support Performance in the second quarter has been the best on record, with the average time to process an application at just over 15 days in the quarter. The overall position is almost half that of the same time last year. This is despite the fact that this indicator does rely on timely information from the DWP relating to Universal Credit claims. The backlog of work on the team has now been cleared and there is relatively little waiting time before an officer is assigned the claim to deal with. It is anticipated this performance will remain at this level despite the increased workload from the Household Support Fund which will occur in quarter 3.
- 94. Customer Services received 48,833 telephone calls in quarter 2, 523 more than in quarter 1, with 92% of calls answered in 150 seconds against a target of 90%, with an average time to answer of 36 seconds, this is a 20 percentage point improvement.

## What needs further improvement?

95. 51.16% of the total Council Tax debit has been collected in quarter 2 of the year. This compares with 51.71% for the same period in 2022/23. Although this is 0.55% lower than last year, last year's figure was slightly inflated as £2.1M was paid onto Council Tax accounts as part of the energy rebate scheme. However, the reason for the drop is also down to a backlog of work across the team. Efforts continue to reduce this backlog which should see improvements in the collection rate in the 2nd half of the year.

## Workforce

96. Over the quarter, the overall turnover rate for the council has reduced by 0.48% from 14.29% to 13.81%, which is a slight decrease of 0.13% compared to quarter 1 in 2022/23; and remains below the local government average rate of 16.4%. The number of job vacancies across the council is still at a relatively high level however there is a large amount of work being undertaken in relation to recruitment and retention including increasing the number of apprentice roles, trainee roles, career graded roles. We are reviewing our application form, the wording in job adverts, increasing and changing where we advertise, we have made the job role summary longer in order to describe roles clearly, considering the language used. We are reviewing the work experience and apprenticeship offer and how we engage with schools and colleges. We will look to ensure full utilisation of the apprenticeship levy. We have applied to become a sponsorship organisation to recruit overseas particularly for Children's social workers. We have successfully partnered with an external provider for the international recruitment and a fast track offer for newly qualified social workers in Children's Social Care. A longer term review of recruitment and retention for City of Doncaster will be undertaken including ensuring it is efficient, effective, inclusive and we ensure the benefits for working for the Council are made clear to attract high quality candidates.
97. Sickness absence rate for quarter 2 was 11.67 days per full time equivalent employee, against the corporate target of 10 days. This is a reduction of 0.02 days from 11.69 days in quarter 1. Although a continued reduction overall is a positive trend, it is still significantly above the target of 10 days for the Council. Sickness absence will continue to be monitored to assess impact and ensure effective provisions are in place to manage absence levels across the organisation.
98. Agency worker spend has reduced slightly in quarter 2 for the whole Council. Children's Social Care are now included in the overall Council position which is a spend of £1.61 million, a reduction of by £31k from quarter 1, however the number of assignments at the end of the quarter has slightly increased by 1 from 98 to 99. Both spend and usage of agency cover will continue to be monitored against the needs and capacity of the business and ongoing recruitment and retention challenges faced both locally and nationally.

99. Mandatory training completion rates still remain a concern across the organisation. Completion rates for Equality in the Workplace is at 78% completion rate; Data Protection is at 87% completion rate for all Council staff; Protecting Vulnerable Children and Adults is 77% for all staff. 57% of all managers have completed their Health and Safety training. Completion rates for senior managers still remain a concern, with 64% completing Equality Act module, 82% completing Hate Crime training and 77% completion rates in Prevent. Managers are able to view their dashboard on the e-learning platform which provides details of their direct reports as to who and which modules are outstanding, in addition managers are reminded to ensure that where training is mandatory this is completed by all staff in a reasonable time period.
100. As part of the corporate calendar of EDI events, support and engagement was provided for international day of friendship, world suicide prevention day and the HR team volunteered at Doncaster Pride.
101. The number of employee-reported injuries at work in quarter 2 was 57 compared with 46 in the same quarter last year. This increase still relates to the transfer of Children's Services back into the council, there were 11 additional CYPF injuries reported in this quarter compared with the same quarter last year. There continues to be a higher number of employee injuries reported from Directorates that have more significant numbers of operational employees carrying out physical work activities These are now concentrated in the Place (25), CYPF (21), and AWC (10) Directorates. The top three main causes of employee injuries reported across the council were physical assaults (19), manual handling of loads or people (9), and slips and trips (8).
102. There have been 5 RIDDOR incidents reported in this quarter compared to 4 in quarter 2 last year. The Corporate Safety Team are supporting services with the investigation process and any subsequent recommendations.



## **EQUALITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION OBJECTIVES**

103. Choose Kindness was launched to the public on Saturday 23 September at the Doncaster Voices event at Cusworth Hall. The Choose Kindness website with links to the online pledges and resources has been promoted and the call to action for stakeholders to complete the pledges shared.
104. The following calendar of events and activities that support and promote the Choose Kindness movement has been drawn up for quarter 3:
- 10 October - Wellness Walk (welcomed community group into the Civic Office as part of the walk)
  - 27 October – Heart of Doncaster Awards (Choose Kindness sponsoring ceremony)
  - 2 November – DBTH Star Awards (Choose Kindness sponsoring an award)

- 13 November – Team Doncaster Summit (kindness has been adopted as the theme of the event)
- 13 November – World Kindness Day (communications to be released promoting the campaign)
- w/c 13 November – Launch of Be the Kind Kid book in primary schools (to include Choose Kindness messaging and encouraging schools to take the pledge)
- November – City of Doncaster Council to take the Choose Kindness pledge and to be promoted internally to staff and externally to partners and residents
- December – Winter Campaign (Choose Kindness messaging to be included in the council’s Winter campaign that promotes looking after neighbours, warm spaces, donating to food banks etc)

105. Stronger Communities Teams beginning to explore options to identify and promote Choose Kindness at more locality/community levels and encourage buy in and uptake from different community groups. Aiming to hold individual conferences in each locality to start to build relationships with community groups/stakeholders and begin to embed the values of the movement.

**Objective 1: Support older adults to remain independent in their own homes**

106. We continue to focus on key areas of our targeted plan, which describes our new approach and interventions to improve the outcomes for people and to reduce the number of permanent residential placements for older adults.

107. Work is underway to understand how adults with protected characteristics are impacted and what provision we have within our community and within our care home facilities to support these adults to live well. Our aim is to support people living in their own homes, for as long as possible, surrounded by the people and things that are important to them. We recognise that practitioners go to exhaustive efforts to adopt this vision but are sometimes restricted by factors outside of their control.

108. In Quarter 2 we have seen a decrease in the number of admissions to residential care per 100,000 of the population for older adults (65+ years) from Quarter 1. We anticipate a retrospective increase on the numbers of placements for August and September as the current figures do not represent practice. The lag is associated with the time taken to complete a financial assessment & apply the purchase service. We are now able to identify lags in the process & update Pentana as they occur. Once these figures are accurate, we will be able to compare the number of placements and be in a position in terms of next step percentage changes between Quarters 1 & 4.

109. We have maintained the increased capacity within our community reablement service to create additional capacity and we continue to address the recruitment challenges through our Proud to Care Doncaster platform, which supports and

encourages people to work in Adult social care. We have seen a decrease in the number of people who are residing on a permanent basis in a care home.

110. We will continue to embed the action plan to develop our new approach and interventions to improve the outcomes for people and to reduce the number of permanent residential placements for older adults.
111. We plan to introduce the practice forum to discuss the decisions relating to permanent residential care, to provide an opportunity for reflection, discussion and ultimately assurance that we have exhausted everything possible to support people to remain / return home and uphold their right). It will also provide opportunities to identify what gaps we have and what we need in place to support more people to live / return living at home.

**Objective 2: Support victims of domestic abuse and work with partners to reduce the levels of abuse in the Borough**

112. The Doncaster Domestic Abuse Service, working in partnership, provides support and advice to victims and their families affected by domestic abuse across the borough. An extensive range of DA training is delivered by our workforce development officer. During 2022/23 2015 people attended a variety of DA training courses. People attending DA Awareness training are identified as DA Champions and form a network of professionals across the City to offer help and support to people impacted by DA. The DA strategy (2021-24) states that "Domestic abuse is everyone's business" In addition to offering practical support and guidance our staff now deliver DA programmes to educate people affected and to increase awareness of the impact that DA has on peoples lives.

**Objective 3: Improve engagement with our most deprived communities to increase access to jobs and skills**

113. Business Doncaster offers a range of services including attracting inward investment, support to businesses, tourism, marketing and promotion of the borough and the delivery of various employment and enterprise programmes to residents of the borough The team work across the whole borough with the employment and enterprise teams working closely with communities teams and when appropriate basing ourselves in various communities to support our activities.
114. The Advance Employment Hub (including Youth Hub) work across the Borough within community areas. Monthly outreach sessions take place with the Your Place locations of Woodlands, Thorne, Central and Denaby, providing local residents the facility to drop-in and access support with application, CV's and careers information advice and guidance.
115. The Hub are working with other employees and the council AFCL team on language and learning skills and have had particular success in Edlington with Polypipe,

- Advance have supported 769 people
- 37% of participants are male/ 63% of participants are female
- 26% of participants are over 50
- 5.5% of participants are from ethnic minorities
- 8% are from Single Adult Households with Dependent Children
- 19% are without basic skills.

116. We run one physical and one virtual employment academies based around 3 key employment sites of the IPort at Rossington, Gateway East on the Airport site. We are also in the process of setting up a physical Unity academy which will be based in Hatfield / Stainforth and outreach with community groups has already taken place in Stainforth

#### **Objective 4: Improve the mental health of our children and young people**

117. We have now delivered the first year of the Young People's Mental Health strategy and have defined our priorities for Year 2. This work has been based upon the ambitions created by young people across Doncaster. The new priorities promote system wide interventions and integrated approaches to assessment and delivery. This is complemented by a focus on equality and lived experience. We are launching our anti-bullying and school culture pledge in November 23.

118. As part of this project we have:

- Worked with schools to design a new graduated approach to meeting emotional and mental health needs. We have developed a toolkit of resources which are to be published in November 23.
- Significantly reduced waiting lists and times for neurodevelopmental pathways, following co-production work with families and schools.
- Our new SEMH hub provision will open in January 2024 (40 places), which will deliver the first SEMH places within Doncaster.
- Mental Health Support Teams: In Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), our growing Mental Health Support Teams (MHST) offer is allowing more early intervention support at an earlier level. This approach, alongside our renewed graduated approach ensures support at the earliest opportunity. We have added a further Wave 8 team to the provision across Doncaster that now sees 38 primary, secondary and college sites have access to early intervention support. In our non-urgent referrals to CAMHS, 92.9% of children access support within 8 weeks, and of those children 84% commence treatment within this time. •
- We have developed a new model of outreach support and funding to support children and young people in schools. This will begin in Autumn 2024.
- We have trained 166 level 3 Mental Health First Aiders
- Continued to roll out the Kooth app which allows young people to access support out of hours and electronically. The take up of this from young people has been excellent, with hundreds of hours of direct support delivered and a 94% recommendation rate. We have communicated how support can be accessible on social media through posters, films and school assemblies.

**Objective 5: Support those Children and Young people within our care to have a good start to life and have the same life chances as everyone else living in the Borough**

119. The number of children in care per 10,000 per population has shown a slight increase this quarter. The number of children entering care has remained static however we have seen an increase in the number of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC). These children either present in the area or are part of the national transfer scheme and so this increase is beyond our control.
120. The children in care system continues to progress, from ensuring children are only cared for by Doncaster when all other options have been carefully considered; to ensuring that decisions are dynamically reassessed reflecting that as children and families grow and change, the decision to care is reviewed considering current need. This will ensure that parents care for their children wherever it is safe for them to do so.
121. There has been a positive improvement in the number of the children approved for adoption and a positive level of matching with adopters over the past 12 months. However, given the small numbers of children who leave care via adoption the numbers vary from month to month and can seem low on a monthly and even Quarterly basis. Therefore, this measure has been amended this quarter to reflect this.
122. Placement sufficiency; the number of children placed in external placements has decreased to 39. This is a significant improvement from the previous quarter. This is as a result of some targeted work to bring children back into Doncaster via our fostering initiative and by returning them to the care of parents or wider family where it is safe to do so.

**FINANCIAL POSITION:**

**Revenue Budget**

123. The forecast for the year-end position is currently an overspend of £1.76m. The key elements of the overspend are consistent with the quarter 1 reported position and include: -
- Adults Social care - £2.77m mainly due to a larger number of people being supported in care homes than has been budgeted and higher increases in care home costs for adults of working age than anticipated.
  - Children's Social Care - £2.42m due to additional demand and increased average external placement costs.
124. In previous years the position has improved as the year has progressed as cautious projections are gradually reduced, the projections will continue to be reviewed and updated for quarter 3. The Council will also be actively seeking mitigations to reduce the pressures or identifying offsetting underspends to reduce the forecast year-end overspend.

125. A summary and further details by service area is provided below: -

	<b>Gross Budget £m</b>	<b>Income Budget £m</b>	<b>Net Budget £m</b>	<b>Project ion £m</b>	<b>Q2 Variance £m</b>	<b>Q1 Variance £m</b>
Adults, Wellbeing and Culture	161.4	-90.9	70.5	73.9	3.4	2.8
Children, Young People & Families	152.7	-66.7	86.0	88.8	2.8	2.8
Corporate Resources	94.1	-70.8	23.3	23.3	0.0	0.1
Chief Executive	53.5	-33.7	19.8	19.7	-0.1	0.1
Place	176.3	-88.7	87.6	87.5	-0.1	0.0
<b>Services Budgets</b>	<b>638.0</b>	<b>-350.8</b>	<b>287.2</b>	<b>293.2</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>5.8</b>
Council-Wide budgets	-18.3	-133.8	-152.1	-156.4	-4.3	-1.6
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>619.7</b>	<b>-484.6</b>	<b>135.1</b>	<b>136.8</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>4.2</b>

126. The following sections provide a breakdown of each directorate's projected variances.

#### Adults, Wellbeing and Culture

	<b>Gross Budget £m</b>	<b>Income Budget £m</b>	<b>Net Budget £m</b>	<b>Project ion £m</b>	<b>Q2 Variance £m</b>	<b>Q1 Variance £m</b>
Adult Social Care	20.8	-13.4	7.4	7.5	0.1	0.1
Communities	129.3	-28.5	100.8	103.7	2.9	2.4
Director Of Adult Services	11.3	-49.0	-37.7	-37.3	0.4	0.3
<b>Adults, Wellbeing and Culture Total</b>	<b>161.4</b>	<b>-90.9</b>	<b>70.5</b>	<b>73.9</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>2.8</b>

127. Adults, Wellbeing and Culture is forecast to overspend by £3.42m at quarter 2. This is an overall increase from quarter 1 of £0.51m, including the changes detailed below.

128. The Department of Health recently announced a supplement to the Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund (MSIF), the allocation for Doncaster is £2.30m of which £2.03m is being used to underpin forecasted activity that will support adult social care and the NHS for the rest of the financial year and is included in this forecast. The forecast overspend without MSIF would be circa £5.19m, chiefly driven by continually worsening underlying positions in relation to the numbers of older people being supported in care homes and the average cost of a range of provisions supporting younger adults, namely care homes, supported living and direct payments. Further details are provided below, with figures incorporating use of MSIF.

129. Expenditure on social care and support to Doncaster adults (the Care Ladder) is forecast to overspend by £2.77m, this is an increase of £0.23m to the quarter 1 position. This is because of a larger number of people being supported in care homes than has been budgeted and higher increases in care home costs for adults of working age than anticipated.

130. The residential care forecast overspend of £3.38m is offset by an underspend in non-residential care of -£1.96m. There is a forecast overspend of £1.19m on



Supported Living Services and £0.16m on Extra Care and Shared Lives. These care ladder projections are subject to further review during quarter 3.

131. The residential care £3.38m overspend is made up of: -

- £0.97m Older People - this is due to a significant increase in the number of older people residential care placements in the first part of the year. The current client count is 778, which is an 83 client increase on the budgeted figure. This is a movement of -£0.01m to quarter 1, a total of £1.13m of the MSIF Workforce Fund has been used to partially offset the pressure in Older People Residential Care, the £0.97m overspend is after this grant has been applied. Although client numbers are forecast to fall to 727 by the end of the year, the increase in costs will be seen early on and for most of the year.
- £2.04m Working Age - due to average cost increases, negotiated placements costs are also a significant factor. This is a decrease of -£0.01m to quarter 1, however, a total of £0.63m of the MSIF Workforce Fund has been used to partially offset this pressure. Average costs have increased significantly since the budget was set, creating a pressure of c£2m. The forecast assumes a steady percentage increase in average monthly costs on negotiated rates. However, we have seen average costs increase quicker than expected per previous financial years so will continue to monitor future month increases to ensure we are not overestimating the average future rate. Client numbers have also increased, they are currently 227 and forecast to rise to 230 by year-end.
- Extensive analysis has been undertaken to understand the driving factors contributing to more older people being supported in residential care and increasing cost of care home placements for working age adults. This analysis (examining the routes and circumstances to people being supported in residential care) continues to take place on a monthly basis. In response to gaining this understanding the service have put in place a strategy consisting of several interventions to reduce the number of older people being supported in residential care and reduce the average cost of care home placements for working age adults. This includes the introduction of a weekly practice forum, chaired by the Assistant Director for Adult Social Care where all decisions about permanent residential care for older people are made. This practice forum seeks to uphold peoples rights and ensure that everything possible has been exhausted to support people to remain / return home, before permanent residential care is agreed. The service are prioritising promptly supporting people who have moved into a care home as an interim arrangement on a short stay (undertaking timely reviews), to maximise the opportunity for people to return home. Activity is also focused on reducing the average cost of care home placements for working age adults. This includes the introduction of a tool to support with open transparent negotiation of costs for specialist care placements. Work is progressing to introduce an agreed process and approach to responding to requests for uplifts from providers. The service are also focusing on proactive support to people who present in crisis / with increasing need and maximising our in-house direct care services before any permanent decisions are made about what people require to meet their needs.

- £0.37m Short Stay residential Care is -£0.21m lower than quarter 1 due to a reduction in number of active days per month in recent months. It is forecast that activity will gradually reduce throughout the year to around 3,100 days per month because of transfers to Homecare.
132. The Non-residential care -£1.96m underspend is made up -£1.75m additional income (because of increased costs), -£0.55m Domiciliary care and £0.29m direct payments overspend because of recent increases seen in average direct payments. This forecast is based on current activity levels and reflects the lower activity offsetting higher activity mentioned above.
133. Supported Living is expected to overspend by £0.82m which is an increase of £0.26m. Six clients are due to move from Travis Gardens to Supported Living by November, the forecast has been updated to show the cost moving from residential care to Supported Living. There has also been continued increase in monthly hours over the last 6 months. This is due to an increase of 8.5% in the number of hours delivered, an analysis of hours per provider has been undertaken and further work is now being undertaken at the Living and Ageing Well board in October to review hours per provider.
134. Extra Care and Shared Lives are anticipated to overspend by £0.16m due to due to an increase in Shared Lives placements.
135. Other Communities and Other Adult Social Care (non-Care Ladder) is expected to overspend by a further £0.39m. The £0.39m is mainly made up of £0.20m for Directorate Management for the Town Centre budget realignment and funding of Localities posts and overspends in Culture and Commercialisation. Culture is forecast to overspend by £0.33m, which includes a £0.14m overspend on the Music Services budget, £0.07m for Heritage staffing and a further £0.07m relating to a shortfall in income on the Events budget. These overspends within Other Adult Social Care are partially offset by staffing savings following reviews of vacant posts in September.

#### Children, Young People & Families

	<b>Gross Budget £m</b>	<b>Income Budget £m</b>	<b>Net Budget £m</b>	<b>Project ion £m</b>	<b>Q2 Variance £m</b>	<b>Q1 Variance £m</b>
Centrally Managed	11.0	-3.9	7.1	7.3	0.2	0.0
Partnerships, Early Intervention & Localities	42.5	-30.0	12.5	12.8	0.3	0.2
Education Skills Culture & Heritage	20.8	-19.9	0.9	0.8	-0.1	0.1
Children's Social Care	78.4	-12.9	65.5	67.9	2.4	2.5
<b>Children, Young People &amp; Families Total</b>	<b>152.7</b>	<b>-66.7</b>	<b>86.0</b>	<b>88.8</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>2.8</b>

136. Children, Young People and Families is forecast to overspend by £2.85m at quarter 2 (a decrease of £0.01m since quarter 1), mainly relating to placements and the associated travel assistance. The overspend includes the following variances.
137. Travel Assistance is projected to overspend by £0.38m (an increase of £0.06m since quarter 1), based on current routes and net growth to date. £0.36m of the

overspend relates to the provision of routes covering special school buses due to lack of drivers/escorts, however there was successful recruitment over the summer so these routes have reduced from 6 to 3 and the 3 remaining routes are anticipated to end in October and December. Further to the consolidation of routes in September the overspend has been further mitigated through pro-active management of single route taxis which has realised £0.15m savings, in addition to achieving the Independent Travel Training budget savings required.

138. Children's Social Care's projected outturn at quarter 2 is an overspend of £2.42m (a decrease of -£0.10m since quarter 1). The main elements of the overspend are £3.06m on the Care Ladder from additional demand at the beginning of 2023/24 and increased package costs for external placements above the budgeted activity numbers and average costs. A reframed placement panel is in place from July 2023 chaired by Children's Social Care Assistant Director and will work to ensure momentum on delivering savings continues with a focus on care planning and trajectory of need. There is also a £2.39m overspend on agency worker costs; offset by staffing (non-Care Ladder) underspends of -£3.76m due to ongoing vacancies, which has contributed to the increase in agency spend. The care ladder forecast includes estimates for the opening of new residential provision, which is dependent upon filling residential staffing vacancies, should there be a further 3 month delay in opening internal provision there would be an estimated additional cost of £0.17m to the care ladder in 2023/24.

139. At 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 the activity numbers and average costs for Out of Authority (OOA) and External Accommodation for 16+ Children in Care (CiC) were greater than the budgeted amount set for 1st April 2023, therefore costs pressures for these were brought forward into 2023/24. The Care Ladder projected overspend of £3.06m includes: OOA placements including Day Education £3.03m, External Accommodation for 16+ CiC £1.09m, and Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) placements £1.23m, offset by underspends for Fostering - £1.11m, Internal Provision (Residential & Internal Accommodation for 16+ CiC) - £1.17m, and additional funding of -£0.27m from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) High Needs Block (note: this increases the budgetary pressure to the High Needs Block). Further detail is as follows: -

- OOA placements projected overspend of £3.06m is mainly due to the average costs of packages being higher than budgeted throughout 2023/24 £3.12m, and the placement numbers being above budgeted at 1st April 2023, which continued for the first 4 months of the year £0.36m; offset by a prudent assumption of increased Health contributions towards packages -£0.45m. Please note Social Care's view is that Health's contribution should be at least £2.00m which would improve the financial position by -£1.50m; the amount is subject to eligibility assessments being carried out, and funding splits then being agreed if eligible. This work is on-going and there is a test case currently being worked through. The number of OOA placements, at 1st April 2023 were 54, 11 OOA placements above the budgeted amount of 43 mainly due to delays in opening internal provision, which meant a significant budget pressure has been carried forward into 2023/24. The projected placement numbers by the end of March 2024 are 36 (5 less than budgeted) and the average for the year is 42 (as budgeted); therefore the £0.36m pressure is expected to be temporary for 2023/24. The forecast overspend of £3.12m due to increased package costs appears to be a permanent pressure as provider fees continue

to be above the budgeted amount; the average placement cost for the year to date is £345k per annum; £64k more than the budgeted average cost of £281k per annum. If Health contributions towards packages can be agreed then this will reduce the average placement cost to Social Care, bringing it closer to the budgeted amount. Unfortunately, there is no correlation between cost and quality / outcomes for young people.

- External Accommodation for 16+ CiC projected overspend of £1.09m is mainly due to the average costs of packages expected to be higher than budgeted throughout 2023/24 £0.87m, and delays in internal provision being operational £0.22m. The number of 16+ CiC in external Accommodation at 1st April 2023 was 30; 6 placements above the budgeted amount of 24 which meant a significant budget pressure has been carried forward into 2023/24. The forecast assumes that, by the end of March 2024, placement numbers will be 18 (6 less than budgeted) so this pressure is expected to be temporary for 2023/24. It was expected that internal provision at Askern Court would be open for April 2023; it is now expected to be operational in April 2024 due to an increase in the capital works required. The £0.87m forecast overspend due to increased package costs is a mixture of a permanent and temporary pressures as provider fees continue to be above the budgeted amount but the two most expensive packages costing £12,950 and £8,645 per week are expected to reduce as the children approach adulthood in 12 months. The average placement cost for the year to date is £168k per annum; £38k more than the budgeted average cost of £130k per annum.
- UASC placements projected overspend is £1.23m. Previously the funding from the Home Office covered the cost of the placements; however, in 2022/23 the outturn spend on UASC placements was £1.97m offset by grant funding of only -£1.62m. Due to the increase in the number of UASC, capacity in the market was stretched and therefore some of the children had to be placed with expensive providers leading to the costs being greater than the grant received from the Home Office. This trend has continued into 2023/24, with the forecast spend on placements £4.43m offset by grant funding of only -£2.78m. The gap between expenditure and grant funding is £1.65m, a £0.42m shortfall against the grant funding had already been factored into the 2023/24 budget, therefore the net overspend is £1.23m for 2023/24. The forecast includes an assumption that there are an additional 20 under 18 placements by the end of March 2024, following an increase of 23 placements in September and early October, 3 via the National Transfer Scheme and 20 via Hotel Arrivals. The Care Ladder budget modelling for 2023/24 assumed Home Office contributions would fund 82% of the package costs but the forecast assumes only 62.6% is covered by the Home Office. The increase in the funding gap is due to a continued increase in average package costs, and the Home Office for the 2nd year running keeping their contributions rates unchanged; therefore, they are still the same as 2021/22 rates despite the cost of living of crisis and significant inflationary increases from providers.
- The forecast for Fostering at quarter 2 is an underspend of -£1.11m due to the numbers of placements for both In-House Fostering and Independent Fostering Agencies (IFA's) being less than budgeted for at 1st April 2023, which is expected to continue throughout 2023/24. The number of Fostering

placements, at 1st April 2023 were 342, 31 less than the budgeted amount of 373 and the projected placement numbers by the end of March 2024 is 307 (51 less than budgeted). The forecast average for the year is 313 fostering placements split 41.6% IFA's / In-House Fostering 58.4%; the budgeted average for the year is 366 fostering placements split 42.9% / 57.1%. therefore, the forecast underspend of -£1.11m is due to the % split being achieved and the number of placements being less than budgeted throughout the financial year.

- Internal Provision (Residential & Unregulated) forecast at quarter 2 is an underspend of -£1.17m. The 4 existing In House Residential homes (Amersall, Cromwell, Morrison & Pinewood) are forecast to underspend by -£0.22m due to being unable to recruit to staff vacancies. The forecast for Skylarks (2 x 2 beds), new residential provision, is an underspend of -£0.56m, as the homes are not expected to be operational until January 2024; again from being unable to recruit staff. Askern Court (5 beds) requires extensive capital works to be completed and is now expected to be operational in April 2024, the forecast underspend due to this is -£0.47m. The Care Ladder budget modelling assumed both Skylarks & Askern Court would be operational for April 2023, therefore the underspends from these homes not opening offset the increased overspends in OOA and External Accommodation for 16+ CiC. Hatfield Water Park is a new scheme post budget setting and is expected to be operational in December 2023 costing £0.1m in 2023/24.

140. The forecast spend on agency workers is £3.25m against a budget of £0.86m. This £2.39m overspend on agency is offset by staffing (non-Care Ladder) underspends of -£3.76m mainly in Social Work Teams, Fostering Team and PAFFS. There has been an increased need for agency social workers to cover vacancies, maternity and the retention of some for longer based upon demand / caseloads. Caseloads, particularly in Assessments and the Area Child Protection Service (ACPS), have continued to be high resulting in additional resource being required via agency placements. The average number of agency workers in September 2023 was 46.3 FTE's, of which 39.1 FTE's were agency Social Workers. Yorkshire and Humber DCS's have signed a memorandum of understanding in relation to capping agency pay.

### Corporate Resources

	<b>Gross Budget £m</b>	<b>Income Budget £m</b>	<b>Net Budget £m</b>	<b>Project ion £m</b>	<b>Q2 Variance £m</b>	<b>Q1 Variance £m</b>
Corporate Resources Director	0.2	-0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Finance & Technology	84.5	-67.8	16.7	16.5	-0.2	0.1
Legal & Democratic Services	9.4	-2.8	6.6	6.8	0.2	0.0
<b>Corporate Resources Total</b>	<b>94.1</b>	<b>-70.8</b>	<b>23.3</b>	<b>23.3</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.1</b>

141. Corporate Resources is forecast to breakeven at quarter 2. There are various under and overspends: -

- A cost pressure of £0.15m within Legal Childcare relating to increasing spend on professional experts due to changes in how court proceedings are conducted.
- A Housing Benefit subsidy shortfall of £0.10m within Revenues and Benefits due to the continued higher than budgeted levels of expenditure on short-term bed and breakfast accommodation, which attracts limited subsidy. Work is being undertaken in this area and reductions in the levels of spend are starting to take effect.
- The overspends are being mitigated by staffing and non-pay savings, in readiness for future year previously approved reductions. These have been achieved through the continued efforts of the teams across the Directorate to reduce expenditure through rationalisation and tight contract monitoring. These underspends are mainly within ICT (£0.18m) and Financial Development and Business Support (£0.04m).

### Chief Executive

	<b>Gross Budget £m</b>	<b>Income Budget £m</b>	<b>Net Budget £m</b>	<b>Project ion £m</b>	<b>Q2 Variance £m</b>	<b>Q1 Variance £m</b>
Public Health	33.8	-28.5	5.3	5.6	0.3	0.3
Policy Insight & Change	19.7	-5.2	14.5	14.1	-0.4	-0.2
<b>Chief Executive Total</b>	<b>53.5</b>	<b>-33.7</b>	<b>19.8</b>	<b>19.7</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>

142. Chief Executive's is projected to underspend by -£0.10m. This is due to underspends against the apprenticeship programme and salaries budgets in Policy, Insight & Change, Human Resources and Communities, offset by a budget shortfall against localities leads posts and an overspend by Doncaster Culture & Leisure Trust (DCLT) of £0.13m. The development of the community prevention service will allow the localities shortfall to be absorbed in the longer-term as the new service model will specify the roles required within the available budget envelope. DCLT's projected overspend is a result of higher than budgeted energy costs, action has been taken to improve the position and it continues to be closely monitored.

### Place

	<b>Gross Budget £m</b>	<b>Income Budget £m</b>	<b>Net Budget £m</b>	<b>Project ion £m</b>	<b>Q2 Variance £m</b>	<b>Q1 Variance £m</b>
Economy & Development	39.3	-23.9	15.4	15.1	-0.3	-0.2
Director Of Place	0.1	-0.1	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.0
Environment	105.8	-36.8	69.0	68.5	-0.5	-0.6
Strategic Housing	4.5	-2.2	2.3	2.2	-0.1	0.0
Trading Services	23.9	-24.7	-0.8	-0.3	0.5	0.7
Communities - Safer Stronger	2.7	-1.0	1.7	1.8	0.1	0.1
<b>Place Total</b>	<b>176.3</b>	<b>-88.7</b>	<b>87.6</b>	<b>87.5</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>0.0</b>

143. Place is projected to underspend by -£0.04m at quarter 2, this is similar to the position at quarter 1. The main variances are: -

- Bereavement Services: £0.54m overspend mainly due to a projected shortfall against the income target for cremations. A new private crematorium opened in May and is expected to significantly reduce the number of cremations at Rose Hill from 2,300 in 2023/24. Fewer cremations will mean lower utility costs which will partly mitigate the income reduction. The impact of the opening of the new crematorium will be monitored as the year progresses.
- Waste: -£0.70m underspend; mainly due to a projected underspend of -£1.40m on waste PFI due to the inclusion of the estimated 2023/24 power gainshare income of -£1.16m. The accuracy of the estimate will not be known until quarter 3 or 4, the final amount due is calculated using an index which tracks gas prices and, as these can be volatile, 12 months data is required to calculate the figure. This additional income has been reduced by; projected overspend of £0.25m on recycling rebate the price of recyclates is expected to fall, £0.35m overspend on Trade waste mainly due to underachievement of income, £0.22m overspend on Non PFI Disposal due to the increased cost of compliance with the legal requirement to incinerate waste containing Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) found in textiles and foam of upholstered domestic seating.
- Regulation & Enforcement: £0.25m overspend due to a variety of issues, including staff overspends and income shortfalls (e.g. enforcement fines).

#### Council Wide budgets

	<b>Gross Budget £m</b>	<b>Income Budget £m</b>	<b>Net Budget £m</b>	<b>Project ion £m</b>	<b>Q2 Variance £m</b>	<b>Q1 Variance £m</b>
Change Programme	0.0	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	0.0	0.0
General Financing/Treasury Management	5.0	-0.1	4.9	3.6	-1.3	-1.4
Levying Bodies/Parish Precepts	17.5	0.0	17.5	17.5	0.0	0.0
Other Centrally Funded	8.8	-9.7	-0.9	-3.8	-2.9	-0.1
Revenue Costs Ex Capital Programme	-20.1	20.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Technical Accounting	-34.7	0.0	-34.7	-34.7	0.0	0.0
Business Rate Retention	0.0	-143.8	-143.8	-143.8	0.0	0.0
Severance Costs	5.2	-0.1	5.1	5.0	-0.1	-0.1
<b>Council Wide Budget Total</b>	<b>-18.3</b>	<b>-133.8</b>	<b>-152.1</b>	<b>-156.4</b>	<b>-4.3</b>	<b>-1.6</b>

144. Council Wide is forecast to underspend by -£4.39m at quarter 2. The main underspends are: -

- -£1.82m released from service budgets due to a review of energy price inflation;
- -£1.36m the total contingency budget is £1.87m of which £0.51m is committed leaving £1.36m available;

- -£1.26m Treasury Management. This is due to increasing interest rates on investments and slippage in the capital programme decreasing the borrowing requirement and delaying the need to borrow until later in the year;
  - -£0.49m release of remainder of COVID-19 earmarked reserve £0.44m and Domestic Abuse Hub earmarked reserve £0.05m.
145. These are partially offset by overspends on: -
- £0.52m 2023/24 pay award. The estimate was for a 4% pay award but the actual increase is expected to be c7%. Original shortfall of £2.84m reduced by £2.32m through in-year savings. The remaining gap of £0.52m relates mainly to shortfalls from in-year savings from Place (£0.35m) and Adults Wellbeing & Culture (£0.16m).
146. The main changes since quarter 1 are: -
- -£1.36m release of uncommitted contingency budget;
  - -£0.82m estimate of review of energy inflation was £1.00m but actual review released £1.82m;
  - -£0.49m release of remainder of COVID-19 earmarked reserve £0.44m and Domestic Abuse Hub earmarked reserve £0.05m;
  - -£0.22m 2023/24 pay award, which Place have delivered since quarter 1.
147. 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 gains or losses in the Collection Fund in 2023/24 won't affect the Council's General Fund until 2024/25. The impact on the Collection Fund is discussed below.

### **Housing Revenue Account (HRA)**

148. The outturn projection at quarter 2 is a further underspend of £0.2m. The original budget was a balanced budget with no contribution to or from balances. The underspends to date, including quarter 1 £1.04m and quarter 2 £0.2m, means that there is an anticipated contribution to balances for 2023/24 of £1.24m.
149. The variances are a reduction in the provision for bad debt (£0.08m) and an increase in the interest received on HRA balances (£0.12m).
150. HRA balances are estimated to be £7.93m as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.
151. Current rent arrears at quarter 2 are £2.47m (2.92% of the rent debit); this is an increase of £0.12m from £2.35m (2.80%) at quarter 1. As at 30<sup>th</sup> September, the amount of former tenants' arrears was £1.15m an increase of £0.05m from quarter 1, write offs were £7k in the period.

### **Fees and Charges**

152. The Council's Financial Procedure Rules require any changes to fees and charges to be included in the quarterly finance and performance monitoring reports.



153. Where legal work is required at the request of an external party or to give effect to the legal position of an external party, the Council's Legal team charge the external party. New and increased charges have been agreed as follows:

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Charge</b>
Licence to occupy	£300
Lease	Fee assessed on a case-by-case basis and agreed prior to work commencing
Sub-Lease	Fee assessed on a case-by-case basis and agreed prior to work commencing
Lease assignment	£800
Negotiation of early termination of lease	Fee assessed on a case-by-case basis and agreed prior to work commencing
Licence to underlet/ change use	£800
Licence/consent to carry out work	£800
Wayleave Agreement	£600
Auction Fee	£1,750 or 2% of price – whichever is the higher
Garden land purchase	£350
Garden land future disposal to a new purchaser	£75
Certificate of compliance - compliance with overage, deed of postponement, lakeside service charge, certificate on disposal of a former Right-to-buy property when it changes hands.	£75

## Capital Budget

154. The 2023/24 capital programme consists of 438 schemes with current projections estimating £130.5m spend within the financial year. The split by directorate is in the table below:

Directorate	Current Year Budget Brought Forward (£'000)	Current Year Budget as at Q2 (£'000)	Number of Schemes	Future Years Budget Brought Forward (£'000)	Projected Future Years Budget as at Q2 (£'000)
<b>ADULTS, WELLBEING AND CULTURE</b>	<b>7,936</b>	<b>6,100</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>19,929</b>	<b>26,990</b>
ADULTS SOCIAL CARE	7,892	6,056	3	19,929	26,990
CULTURE AND COMMERCIALISATION	44	44	4	0	0
<b>CHIEF EXECUTIVE</b>	<b>12,125</b>	<b>11,400</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>2,017</b>	<b>3,382</b>
LEISURE SERVICES	11,475	10,750	22	2,017	3,382
POLICY INSIGHT AND CHANGE	650	650	1	0	0
<b>CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE &amp; FAMILIES</b>	<b>13,093</b>	<b>8,645</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>24,612</b>	<b>31,409</b>
CENTRALLY MANAGED	370	107	1	400	600
COMMISSIONING & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT	7,719	4,200	69	20,501	25,546
PARTNERSHIPS AND OPERATIONAL DELIVERY	4,292	3,894	16	3,712	4,997
CHILDRENS SOCIAL CARE	711	445	6	0	266
<b>CORPORATE RESOURCES</b>	<b>9,591</b>	<b>4,343</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1,470</b>	<b>6,495</b>
FINANCE & TECHNOLOGY	9,391	4,143	14	1,470	6,495
LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES	200	200	1	0	0
<b>PLACE</b>	<b>158,142</b>	<b>100,001</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>216,950</b>	<b>281,390</b>
ECONOMY & DEVELOPMENT	62,888	34,890	84	36,458	67,576
ENVIRONMENT	14,351	13,415	148	21,005	23,511
STRATEGIC HOUSING	71,196	43,743	52	159,246	188,307
COMMUNITIES - SAFER STRONGER	86	86	1	0	0
TRADING SERVICES	9,622	7,867	16	241	1,996
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>200,888</b>	<b>130,489</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>264,978</b>	<b>349,666</b>

155. At quarter 2 there has been a 35% reduction in the projected in year spend when compared to the opening budget of £200.9m which is a reduction of £70.8m.

Directorate	Current Year Budget Brought Forward (£'000)	Current Year Budget as at Q1 (£'000)	Current Year Budget as at Q2 (£'000)	% Reduction in forecast at Q2
<b>ADULTS, WELLBEING AND CULTURE</b>	<b>7,936</b>	<b>6,406</b>	<b>6,100</b>	<b>23%</b>
ADULTS SOCIAL CARE	7,892	6,362	6,056	23%
CULTURE AND COMMERCIALISATION	44	44	44	0%
<b>CHIEF EXECUTIVE</b>	<b>12,125</b>	<b>12,175</b>	<b>11,400</b>	<b>6%</b>
LEISURE SERVICES	11,475	11,525	10,750	6%
POLICY INSIGHT AND CHANGE	650	650	650	0%
<b>CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE &amp; FAMILIES</b>	<b>13,093</b>	<b>10,604</b>	<b>8,645</b>	<b>34%</b>
CENTRALLY MANAGED	370	359	107	71%
COMMISSIONING & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT	7,719	5,362	4,200	46%
PARTNERSHIPS AND OPERATIONAL DELIVERY	4,292	4,440	3,894	9%
CHILDRENS SOCIAL CARE	711	444	445	37%
<b>CORPORATE RESOURCES</b>	<b>9,591</b>	<b>6,743</b>	<b>4,343</b>	<b>55%</b>
FINANCE & TECHNOLOGY	9,391	6,543	4,143	56%
LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES	200	200	200	0%
<b>PLACE</b>	<b>158,142</b>	<b>101,173</b>	<b>100,001</b>	<b>37%</b>
ECONOMY & DEVELOPMENT	62,888	35,908	34,890	45%
ENVIRONMENT	14,351	13,257	13,415	7%
STRATEGIC HOUSING	71,196	42,806	43,743	39%
COMMUNITIES - SAFER STRONGER	86	86	86	0%
TRADING SERVICES	9,622	9,117	7,867	18%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>200,888</b>	<b>137,101</b>	<b>130,489</b>	<b>35%</b>

156. The reduction between quarter 1 and quarter 2 is £6.6m.

157. The table below shows all schemes with slippage of £0.5m or more:-

Scheme	Slippage within Quarter (£'000)
FUTURE PARKS 15 BESPOKE PARKS	-1,107
DUNSVILLE PRIMARY SCHOOL EXPANSION	-780
SUNNY BAR AREA - CORN EXCHANGE	-650
MARKETS SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE	-600
NEW YOUTH HUB -WHEATLEY	-585
CIVIC OFFICE MAJOR ITEMS OF WORK	-554
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>-4,276</b>

158. Current spend to date is £40.0m which is nearly 31% of the £130.5m projection for the year.

Directorate	Current Year Budget as at Q2 £'000	Current Actuals plus WIP £'000	% Spend after 6 months
<b>ADULTS, WELLBEING AND CULTURE</b>	<b>6,100</b>	<b>2,333</b>	<b>38.2%</b>
ADULTS SOCIAL CARE	6,056	2,331	38%
CULTURE AND COMMERCIALISATION	44	2	5%
<b>CHIEF EXECUTIVE</b>	<b>11,400</b>	<b>2,926</b>	<b>25.7%</b>
LEISURE SERVICES	10,750	2,923	27%
POLICY INSIGHT AND CHANGE	650	3	0%
<b>CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE &amp; FAMILIES</b>	<b>8,645</b>	<b>1,959</b>	<b>22.7%</b>
CENTRALLY MANAGED	107	0	0%
COMMISSIONING & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT	4,200	1,480	35%
PARTNERSHIPS AND OPERATIONAL DELIVERY	3,894	470	12%
CHILDRENS SOCIAL CARE	445	9	2%
<b>CORPORATE RESOURCES</b>	<b>4,343</b>	<b>755</b>	<b>17.4%</b>
FINANCE & TECHNOLOGY	4,143	755	18%
LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES	200	0	0%
<b>PLACE</b>	<b>100,001</b>	<b>32,000</b>	<b>32.0%</b>
ECONOMY & DEVELOPMENT	34,890	10,403	30%
ENVIRONMENT	13,415	3,962	30%
STRATEGIC HOUSING	43,743	15,139	35%
COMMUNITIES - SAFER STRONGER	86	106	124%
TRADING SERVICES	7,867	2,389	30%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>130,489</b>	<b>39,973</b>	<b>30.6%</b>

159. There are 137 schemes totalling £20.2m which have had budget allocated to them but are yet to incur any spend.

Directorate	Number of Schemes	Sum of Total for budgets with no spend in year (£'000)
<b>ADULTS, WELLBEING AND CULTURE</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>905</b>
ADULTS SOCIAL CARE	1	884
CULTURE AND COMMERCIALISATION	2	21
<b>CHIEF EXECUTIVE</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2,116</b>
PUBLIC HEALTH	10	2,116
<b>CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE &amp; FAMILIES</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>5,134</b>
CENTRALLY MANAGED	1	107
CHILDRENS SOCIAL CARE	2	165
COMMISSIONING & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT	23	1,973
PARTNERSHIPS AND OPERATIONAL DELIVERY	6	2,889
<b>CORPORATE RESOURCES</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2,568</b>
FINANCE & TECHNOLOGY	5	2,368
LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES	1	200
<b>PLACE</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>9,486</b>
ECONOMY & DEVELOPMENT	19	2,871
ENVIRONMENT	49	2,906
STRATEGIC HOUSING	11	3,243
TRADING SERVICES	7	466
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>20,209</b>

#### Current Status of Schemes in the programme

160. 170 schemes have either not started or are still at the planning phase which is nearly 39% of all the current year schemes.

Status	Number of Scheme	% in phase based on scheme numbers
Underway	149	34.02%
Completion Phase	100	22.83%
Block Budget	19	4.34%
Planning Phase	67	15.30%
Not Started	103	23.52%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

161. 149 schemes have been classified as underway and 100 schemes are now in the completion phase.

#### Future programme

162. Future years spend is now projected at £349.7m in quarter 2 which has increased from the projection of £335.2m at quarter 1.

#### Capital Receipts

163. Based on current estimates there will be enough capital receipts to cover what is currently estimated to be required in this financial year.

## Collection Fund

164. 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: -

- Council Tax:

	Budget £m	Outturn £m	Variance £m	Opening Balance £m	Planned Distribution £m	Closing Balance * £m
Collection Fund	-165.59	-165.69	-0.10	1.73	1.10	2.73
Doncaster Council	-135.10	-135.18	-0.08	1.43	0.92	2.27

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

The council tax collection fund variance in the year is a -£0.10m surplus. This is attributable to the high long-term collection rate -£0.83m and transfers from general fund mainly relating to hardship reliefs -£0.44m, partially offset by lower growth £0.70m and higher levels of Local Council Tax Support granted £0.46m. The in-year surplus reduces the closing balance to a deficit of £2.73m.

The projected closing deficit must be recovered in future years and therefore has an impact on future years' budgets. The council currently receives -£0.92m in surplus redistribution, however based on current budget assumptions this will need to reduce to -£0.25m in future years to recover the deficit.

Council Tax arrears were £26.38m compared to the target of £28.70m at the end of quarter 2. The target for reduction of Council Tax arrears was £1.95m for the quarter and the actual reduction in arrears was £1.86m. The reduction is slightly down on the £2.23m reduction for the same period last year. It is likely that the continued backlog of work will mean that the level of reduction may be affected in future months but as the backlog continues to reduce it is envisaged target performance will remain on target.

- Business Rates:

	Budget £m	Outturn £m	Variance £m	Opening Balance £m	Planned Recovery £m	Closing Balance * £m
Collection Fund	-108.20	-104.23	3.97	-19.61	20.58	4.94
Doncaster Council	-53.02	-51.07	1.95	-9.61	10.08	2.42

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

The business rates collection fund variance in the year is a £3.97m deficit. This is attributable to lower growth than anticipated £3.39m, an increase in appeals £1.42m and increased small business rates relief £0.62m. This is partially offset by lower retail relief granted than anticipated -£0.81m (although this gain will be offset by an equivalent loss in section 31 grant which will be managed in 2023/24 using the business rates volatility reserve), lower empty property relief -£0.44m and lower charitable relief -£0.23m. The in-year deficit means the closing balance is a deficit of £4.94m.

The projected closing deficit must be recovered in the next financial year and therefore has an impact on next year's budget. The council's income from business rates will be reduced by £2.42m in 2024/25 to recover the deficit.

Business Rates arrears were £7.24m compared to the target of £6.40m at the end of quarter 2. The target for reduction of Business Rates arrears was £0.75m for the quarter and the actual reduction in arrears in the quarter was £0.73m. This compares favourably to the same period last year when the level of arrears actually increased. The indicator remains affected by the backlog of work which means retrospective changes into previous years will increase the level of arrears rather than reduce them. As the backlog has been reduced in the quarter this has not had as significant an impact as it did previously and performance is expected to continue improving.

### **Schools Funding & Dedicated Schools Grant**

165. The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) forecast outturn position at quarter 2 is an overspend of £8.6m during 2023/24 (an increase of £2.8m since quarter 1), to create an overall overspend on DSG of £28.6m by 31st March 2024. £3.3m of this overspend was already expected from last years' medium term financial plan.

166. The overspend position is mainly due to pressures within the High Needs Block which includes expenditure on Out of Authority placements (agreed via an education or social care route and review by School's Forum), Specialist Post 16 Institutions, Education Health & Care plan (EHCP) top up payments and additional top up payments to special schools and pupil referral units as well as for alternative provision and tuition. The increase in spend for children placed in SEN out of authority placements, is due to a combination of levels of need and increased demand, including the lack of diversity of local specialist provision against this need, and there has been delays in delivering savings on Looked after Children (LAC) placements due to additional demand, increased complexity of children and, in turn, higher package costs. No new homes are open yet as part of the Future Placement Strategy, initially due to the impact of COVID-19 but now due to difficulties in recruiting the staff required. Strategically senior education leads in the council are liaising with schools regarding 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.

167. Whilst the overspend position is significant it is not uncommon to other LA positions and Doncaster Council, amongst 55 LAs, is currently participating in the DfE's Delivering Better Value in SEND programme which has looked at plans to manage and reduce the authorities high needs block overspend position through associated investment and based on modelling could potentially realise savings of c.£2m per annum which is factored in from September 2025 subject to progress on the programme. In the last 2 years the Government has partially 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 £5.7m in 2022/23 and a further £5.6m in 2023/24. Based on the latest DfE guidance the projected increases to the grant for future years have been set at 3%, with DfE provisionally announcing a 2024/25 allocation increase of 3.4% for Doncaster. The current high needs medium term plan includes the expected impact of changes arising from the recommendations made in the "Equitable and Inclusive Access to Education for All" report at Cabinet in November 2024 including

provision development, local support, demand and growth assumptions numbers of children and young people accessing additional support in future years.

<b>Description</b>	<b>2023/24 £000</b>	<b>2024/25 £000</b>	<b>2025/26 £000</b>	<b>2026/27 £000</b>
DSG High Needs Block grant (after deductions)	47,667	49,672	51,390	53,159
High Needs Block expenditure	56,167	57,068	57,265	58,278
In year High Needs Block variance (less other DSG underspends)	<b>8,499</b>	<b>7,395</b>	<b>5,875</b>	<b>5,120</b>
<b>Overall DSG Balance</b>	<b>28,567</b>	<b>35,962</b>	<b>41,838</b>	<b>46,957</b>

## **Reserves**

168. Earmarked reserves are reviewed each quarter and released where they are no longer required. In quarter 2, £0.44m has been released from the COVID-19 earmarked reserve and £0.05m from the Domestic Abuse Hub earmarked reserve – these are included in the quarter 2 monitoring position. Releasing further reserves would either reduce the overspend discussed above or increase general reserves held for general risks and contingencies. General reserves are currently estimated to be £14.29m at year end, assuming that the £1.76m overspend referred to above is funded from the Service Transformation Fund earmarked reserve.

## **Medium-Term Financial Strategy Update**

169. The 2023/24 revenue budget report showed a balanced budget across 2023/24 – 2025/26, in other words, after taking account of savings proposals there was no budget gap. A review of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) was undertaken in August and it was decided not to take an overall MTFS update report to Cabinet in September/October as had been done in previous years. This was due to the limited further information available to update and focussing attention on calculating the impact of 2023/24 overspends on 2024/25 and beyond and updating Council Tax and Business Rates estimates based on the latest information.

170. The overall budget gap has now been updated following reviews of expenditure, e.g., inflation, and income, e.g., Council Tax and Business Rates. The detail has been reported to the Council's Executive Leadership Team.

171. The updated budget gap shows a reduced surplus in 2024/25 of £6.8m, and slight worsening to a deficit position of £0.4m in 2025/26 and £0.3m in 2026/27.

172. Directors are currently reviewing cost pressures and identifying savings to meet those pressures. The provisional Local Government Settlement is expected on or around 18 December. Depending on the results of this adjustments may need to be made to our assumptions prior to Mayor's budget proposals being finalised and ultimately considered by full Council on 26 February 2024.

## **STRATEGIC RISKS**

173. Strategic risks have been reviewed this quarter to ensure they continue to reflect our corporate priorities. The review resulted in one strategic risk being demoted, 6 being retained, 2 being retained and re-worded to reflect the current status of the risk and 2 new risks being proposed.

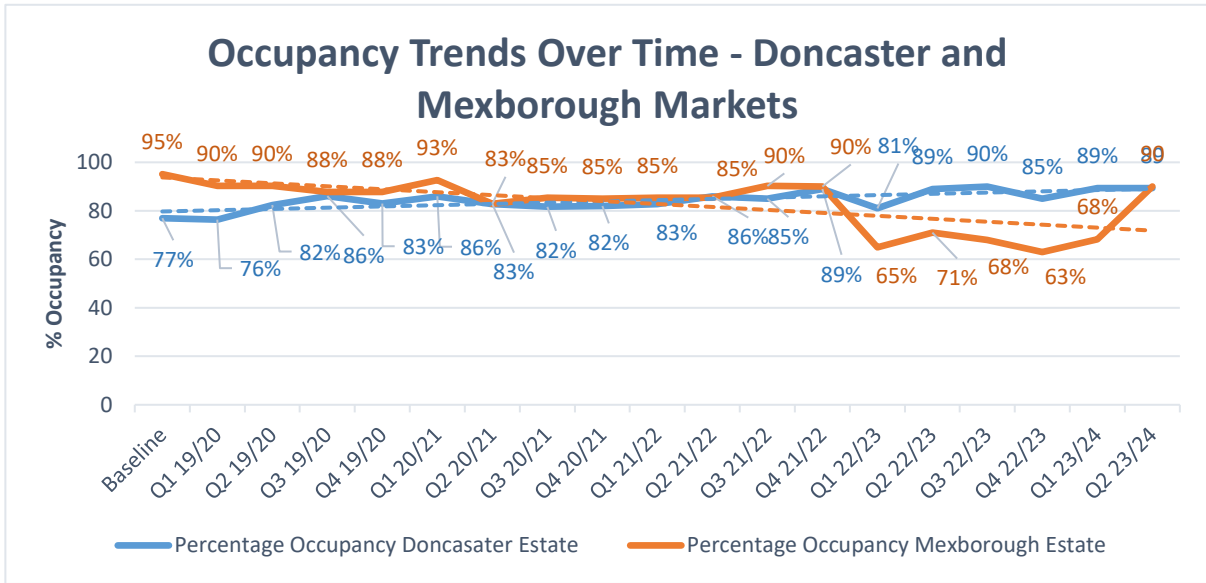
174. There are now 10 risks in our strategic risk register detailed below.

RAG	Risk Title	Current Score	Target Score	Trend
	Failure to establish sufficiency in local residential placements will increase the cost of residential placements outside of Authority.	16		New
	Failure to successfully prevent a major cyber attack	15	6	
	The absence of a well-balanced, resourced & evidence-based combination of interventions & services in our strategic plans will lessen the impact the Council can have in reducing inequality, deprivation and making lives better in the long term	12	6	
	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	12	10	
	Failure to deliver the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) would result in an alternative budget being required with consequential service reductions and impact on achieving Council priorities.	12	5	
	Failure to safeguard children and young people across the partnership may result in children and young people being vulnerable and susceptible to risk	12	10	
	Failure to implement the Partnership priorities across the Team Doncaster Partnership	9	6	
	Failure to recruit children social care staff will result in higher caseloads, the use of agency staff and will negatively impact on the quality of social work.	9		New
	Rising demand for Adult Social Care from the NHS combined with increasing community needs and constraints on workforce capacity increase the difficulty of providing timely care and support	8	5	
	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	8	4	



**MARKET ASSET MANAGEMENT (MAM) DONCASTER LTD.**

**Occupancy Trends at Doncaster and Mexborough Market.**

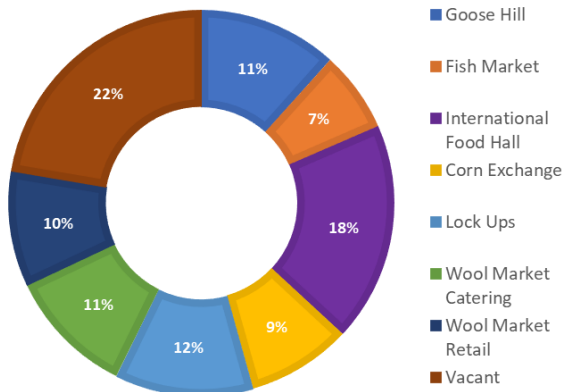


175. Doncaster occupancy levels, excluding the Corn Exchange due to the current closure, have maintained at 89%.

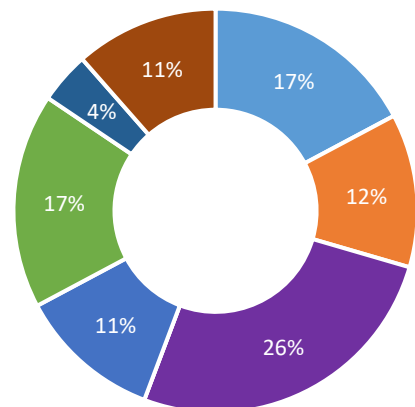
176. Mexborough has seen an increase again up to 90%, however there remains to be 3 vacant units. We have had an uplift with indoor traders in the last couple of months which vary from a handmade jewellery maker, a computer repair trader and 1 new flower stall, 2 of our existing trades have also taken on other units to extend their business. We also have 3 Resident artists that have taken over 4 large units.

**Doncaster Market Occupancy Level Changes per area of the estate (Percentage) at Baseline (May 2019) and quarter 2 2023-4**

PERCENTAGE OCCUPANCY AT DONCASTER MARKET (BASELINE)



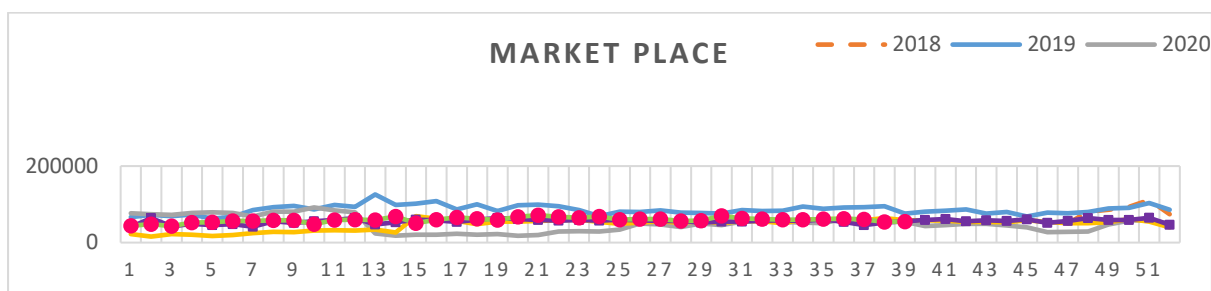
PERCENTAGE OCCUPANCY AT DONCASTER MARKET (Q2 2023/24)



177. The comparison of occupancy across the Doncaster estate between baseline (May 2019) and present levels (quarter 2 2023/24) shows a significant difference in the number of units in each area.

178. As the work on the Corn Exchange improvement works continues, the occupancy levels in this area of the Market estate remain to be 0% and therefore are excluded from the overall occupancy percentage. Occupancy levels between quarter 4 (2022/23) and quarter 2 (2023/24) have improved with overall vacancy levels continuing at 11%.

#### Footfall Trends for the Market Place (up to week 39; w/c 25/09/23)



179. Quarter 2 2023/24 has witnessed a small decline in footfall being recorded in the Market Place. Overall footfall average across the quarter was 60,423. The highest footfall of the quarter was recorded in Week 30 (w/c 24.07.23) which was 69,826, this was the first week of the school summer holidays. As like other school holidays the wool market was open every day.

180. Footfall trends in the Market Place continue to follow similar trends across all other footfall recording areas of the city centre. 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.

#### Events

181. Over the Summer holiday the Wool Market hosted more successful children's events, including weekly children's quizzes and children's discos as well as weekly offers on the competitive leisure side. A new mid week disco was held for those that can not attend the Sunday discos, and turned out to be extremely popular.

182. Free children's discos have also been hosted once a month providing entertainment for children up to the age of 10. Re-read charity attend every disco, giving out as many free children's books as customers want.

183. On Thursday 20th July The Wool Market worked with Mind Charity hosting a fundraising night alongside the usual smart quiz. Attendees were able to take part in the smart quiz and get vital information about the charity.

184. The Wool Market is the location for the Doncaster Creative Network networking meet-ups. This brings together local creatives to connect and strengthen the community and encourage collaboration.

185. On Friday 7th July The Wool Market hosted the Doncaster Chamber small business expo. The expo included small local businesses exhibiting their products and services alongside attendees to the event, looking to connect with other like-minded individuals in hope to grow their business connection

186. The Wool Market is now showcasing some of the local artist Andy Hollinghurst paintings. Andy is currently a tenant in Goose Hill and is one of the original 'Artist in Residence' from the Corn Exchange, his work is displayed around the leisure zone. All of his work is original and available to purchase.

### **Financial Position**

187. 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 closely however due to commercial sensitivity, the income and expenditure projections are not disclosed within this report. There has been no financial assistance for MAM in the financial year 2023/24.

### **BACKGROUND**

188. Not applicable

### **OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

189. Not applicable

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION**

190. Not applicable

### **IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES**

191. This report provides the performance against service standards and deliverables as outlined within the Corporate Plan & Borough Strategy. It would be too complex to assess the individual contribution or conflict against the great 8 priorities as such this section has been left blank for this report.

### **Legal Implications [Officer Initials: SRF Date: 09.11.23]**

192. 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: 24.10.23]**

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

### **Human Resources Implications [Officer Initials: KG Date: 10.11.23]**

194. 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 Service works with managers to ensure appropriate action is being taken to manage staff absence in an effective, sensitive and timely manner which evidence shows is having a positive impact.

While there are still difficulties in recruitment in specific areas there is evidence of an improvement in applicant numbers, there continue to be a note of caution as there remain difficulties in 'hard to fill and more technical roles'.

Apprenticeship uptake is being targeted in a number of ways, with presentations taking place to explain the benefits to managers and potential applicants and, opportunities being discussed with managers particularly to meet identified needs from PDR's and contributing to enhancing our talent pipeline.

The challenge of meeting mandatory training targets continues; additional opportunities for managers to attend the mandatory Health and Safety training and staff given appropriate time to complete will hopefully improve this.

### **Technology Implications [Officer Initials: PW Date: 09.11.23]**

195. 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.

As a service our technology, infrastructure, visions and 5-year plan are used to underpin and support any organisationally defined digital outcome. We will continue to work with the organisation, assisting with the evolution of the Corporate Digital Strategy; ensuring the technology implemented is safe, meets requirement, is fit for purpose, and provides value

### **RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS**

196. Specific risks and assumptions are included in the report.

### **CONSULTATION**

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

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

198. Not applicable

### **GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

199. Not applicable

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Q2



City of  
Doncaster  
Council

# **Finance Profile**

## **July 2023 – Sept 2023**

# **APPENDIX A**

# Content

Revenue Savings Tracker.....	Page 3
Treasury Management Update.....	Page 4
Capital Programme Block Budget Allocations.....	Page 8
Virements for Elected Mayor / Cabinet / Portfolio Holder Approval	Page 10

## Savings Tracker

	<b>Target 23/24 including under/over 22/23</b>	<b>23/24 achieved</b>	<b>23/24 remainder expected to be achieved in year</b>	<b>One-off 23/24</b>	<b>23/24 (unachieved) / overachieved</b>
Adults, Wellbeing & Culture	-1.538	-0.307	-0.990	-0.097	-0.144
Chief Executive	-1.187	-1.087	0.000	0.000	-0.100
Corporate Resources	-1.513	-1.487	0.000	0.000	-0.026
Council Wide Budgets	-1.863	-1.593	0.000	-0.350	0.080
Children, Young People & Families	-2.795	-0.854	-0.436	-0.088	-1.417
Place	-2.257	-1.849	-0.320	0.000	-0.088
<b>Total</b>	<b>-11.153</b>	<b>-7.177</b>	<b>-1.746</b>	<b>-0.535</b>	<b>-1.695</b>



## Treasury Management Update – Quarter 2 2023/24

1. The CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) Code of Practice for Treasury Management 2021 recommends that members be updated on treasury management activities at least quarterly. This update, therefore, ensures this Council is implementing best practice in accordance with the Code.
2. The forecast position Treasury Management at the end of Quarter 2 is a combined underspend of -£1.260m on interest receivable and interest payable, due to increased investment income and savings on borrowing costs. Investment income is -£0.516m higher than anticipated due to increased interest rates and investing surplus cash balances wherever possible to utilise these high rates. Borrowing costs are underspent by -£0.744m as borrowing is only being undertaken when the cashflow position requires it due to high interest rates increasing the cost of borrowing. This position has worsened since Quarter 1 as the cashflow position has deteriorated and short-term temporary borrowing has been undertaken to ensure cash is being maintained at appropriate levels. This borrowing has all been from other Local Authorities and on a short-term basis to eliminate any interest rate risk. Additional borrowing will be required before the end of the financial year, and is factored into the forecast above, albeit the timing could vary depending on the agreement and payment of the NJC pay award and arrears.
3. The second quarter of 2023/24 has seen a further increase in the Bank of England base rate in an attempt to control spiralling inflation, however, at the last meeting on 20th September the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) agreed to keep the rate at 5.25% though this was the closest decision since interest rates have been increased (5-4 vote compared to previous decisions which have generally being a 7-2 decision).
4. The Council has appointed LINK Group as its treasury advisors and part of their service is to assist the Council to formulate a view on interest rates. Their latest forecast, made on 26th September, follows the statements made after the MPC decision that if there was evidence of more persistent inflation pressures “further tightening in policy would be required” and that rates will stay “sufficiently restrictive for sufficiently long”.
5. Their view on rates is set out in the table below - note the Public Works Loans Board (PWLB) rates include the certainty rate reduction of 0.2% which we have also secured. From 15th June the certainty rate applicable to Housing Revenue Account (HRA) borrowing is a further 0.4% reduction from the rates shown below.

Link Group Interest Rate View	25.09.23													
	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Sep-24	Dec-24	Mar-25	Jun-25	Sep-25	Dec-25	Mar-26	Jun-26	Sep-26	Dec-26	
BANK RATE	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.00	4.50	4.00	3.50	3.00	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	
3 month ave earnings	5.30	5.30	5.30	5.00	4.50	4.00	3.50	3.00	2.80	2.80	2.80	2.80	2.80	
6 month ave earnings	5.60	5.50	5.40	5.10	4.60	4.10	3.60	3.10	2.90	2.90	2.90	2.90	2.90	
12 month ave earnings	5.80	5.70	5.50	5.20	4.70	4.20	3.70	3.20	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	
5 yr PWLB	5.10	5.00	4.90	4.70	4.40	4.20	4.00	3.90	3.70	3.70	3.60	3.60	3.50	
10 yr PWLB	5.00	4.90	4.80	4.60	4.40	4.20	4.00	3.80	3.70	3.60	3.60	3.50	3.50	
25 yr PWLB	5.40	5.20	5.10	4.90	4.70	4.40	4.30	4.10	4.00	3.90	3.80	3.80	3.80	
50 yr PWLB	5.20	5.00	4.90	4.70	4.50	4.20	4.10	3.90	3.80	3.70	3.60	3.60	3.60	

6. This view of rates staying at higher levels until into the next financial year and then reducing slowly over the next few years is underpinning our current strategy of not borrowing unless it is needed for cashflow purposes.
7. This will result in the Council remaining under borrowed for longer than was anticipated previously which was agreed via the Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2023/24. At the end of 2022/23 the overall under borrowing was £153m which is 26% of the underlying borrowing requirement for both the General Fund (GF) and HRA. Whilst this

might seem high, the indications from LINK, show this is comparable to other Metropolitan Authorities. Remaining under borrowed relies on utilising working capital and reserve balances to delay taking external debt.

**Borrowing**

8. The following table summarises the Council’s forecast Debt Portfolio at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023: -

Doncaster Council Debt Portfolio and Maturity Profile at 30th September 2023				
	Upper Limit %	Lower Limit %	Actual %	Actual £(m)
Under 12 Months	30	0	7.95%	32
12 to 24 Months	50	0	2.61%	10.5
24 Months to 5 Years	50	0	2.94%	11.82
5 Years to 10 Years	75	0	1.26%	5.06
10 Years to 20 Years	95	10	85.24%	57.65
20 Years to 30 Years				34.87
30 Years to 40 Years				157.81
40 Years to 50 Years				92.94
TOTAL			100.00%	402.65

9. Further borrowing, of £25m, has been taken from the end of September, all of which is for less than 1 year and more borrowing will be required before the end of the financial year as outlined above, however, this is still well within the limits set. The £25m of borrowing undertaken is still less than the £44.7m of previous borrowing which has been repaid as some was paid out of available cash balances, especially in the first few months of the financial year.

10. It is also worth noting that as well as interest rates are very volatile as well as being high and the variations in PWLB rates, which are based on gilt yields, throughout the period are shown in the table below. This volatility further supports the strategy of only borrowing temporarily from the market.

**HIGH/LOW/AVERAGE PWLB RATES FOR 01.04.23 – 30.09.23**

	1 Year	5 Year	10 Year	25 Year	50 Year
<b>Low</b>	4.65%	4.14%	4.20%	4.58%	4.27%
<b>Date</b>	06/04/2023	06/04/2023	06/04/2023	06/04/2023	05/04/2023
<b>High</b>	6.36%	5.93%	5.51%	5.73%	5.45%
<b>Date</b>	06/07/2023	07/07/2023	22/08/2023	17/08/2023	28/09/2023
<b>Average</b>	5.62%	5.16%	5.01%	5.29%	5.00%
<b>Spread</b>	1.71%	1.79%	1.31%	1.15%	1.18%

11. Debt rescheduling opportunities have increased significantly recently as gilt yields, which underpin PWLB rates and market loans, have risen materially. LINK have reviewed our current portfolio and at the moment there is no value to be had by rescheduling or repaying a part of the debt portfolio.

12. The Treasury Management Strategy Statement was agreed by Council on 27<sup>h</sup> February 2023 and there have been no policy changes to the TMSS to make members aware of. In light of the revision to the Capital Programme approved in the Quarter 1 monitoring report

the following prudential indicators have been revised accordingly. Officers confirm there have been no breaches of these revised indicators.

<b>Prudential Indicator 2023/24</b>	<b>Original £m</b>	<b>Revised Prudential Indicator £m</b>
Authorised Limit	713,907	671,844
Operational Boundary	658,376	605,879
Capital Financing Requirement	696,656	644,160

### **Investment**

13. The annual Investment Strategy approved as part of the TMSS sets out the Council’s investment priorities as being:

- the security of capital,
- liquidity and
- yield.

14. The Council will aim to achieve the optimum return (yield) on its investments commensurate with proper levels of security and liquidity, aligned with the Council’s risk appetite. In the current environment it is considered appropriate to keep investments short term to cover cash flow needs but also to seek out value in periods up to 12 months with high credit quality financial institutions where balances allow. The investment portfolio can be seen in Figure 2. Given the recent policy of running down cash balances to mitigate the need for borrowing any funds are now only available for short periods of time due to the timing of receiving grants and income from council tax / business rates and paying costs in relation to the running of the Council and the Capital Programme.

15. On top of the investments outlined below there is an available balance of around £15m kept liquid within the main bank accounts of the Council. Due to the positive negotiations within the banking contract this balance attracts a return of base rate less 0.09%, so, as at 30<sup>th</sup> September, 5.16%, therefore we are receiving a favourable level of interest even on our liquid balances.

**Figure 2: The following summarises the Council’s investment portfolio as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

CLOSE BROS	£10.0m
<b>Total</b>	<b>£10.0m</b>

16. The average investment rate for the first six months of the year was 4.7% which is slightly lower than the benchmark return of 4.83% which is taken from the average SONIA 1 month average for the first six months as shown below. This due to our cash balances reducing with a significant proportion being kept liquid.

	<b>Bank Rate</b>	<b>SONIA</b>	<b>1 mth</b>	<b>3 mth</b>	<b>6 mth</b>	<b>12 mth</b>
<b>High</b>	5.25	5.19	5.39	5.48	5.78	6.25
<b>High Date</b>	03/08/2023	29/09/2023	19/09/2023	30/08/2023	07/07/2023	07/07/2023
<b>Low</b>	4.25	4.18	4.17	4.31	4.46	4.47
<b>Low Date</b>	03/04/2023	04/04/2023	03/04/2023	03/04/2023	06/04/2023	06/04/2023
<b>Average</b>	4.81	4.74	4.83	5.03	5.26	5.45
<b>Spread</b>	1.00	1.01	1.22	1.17	1.33	1.77

17. Treasury Management officers can confirm that the approved limits within the Annual Investment Strategy were not breached during the quarter ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

**Other**

18. Risks were reviewed during the quarter and were managed in line with the Annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement agreed by Council on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023. The key risks of our current position are highlighted below.

- a. The Council could be unable to borrow when funding is required due to adverse market conditions and/or budgetary restraints. This risk is mitigated by maintaining sufficient easily accessible funds. Further mitigating actions could be scaling back or re-profiling capital expenditure plans if necessary.
- b. There could be an increased use of reserves and working capital which is currently used to finance the under borrowed position. This risk is mitigated by regular monitoring of the use of reserves and having a robust cash flow forecast, which is monitored on a daily basis

## Capital Programme Block Budget Allocations Quarter 2 2023/24

	Funding Source	Allocatio n of block budget 2023/24 £m	Allocatio n of block budget Total £m
<b><u>Children, Young People &amp; Families</u></b>			
<b>Centrally Managed</b>			
Moorends Youth Hub	Government Grant	0.001	0.001
Kirkby Avenue, Bentley - Emergency Repairs	Government Grant	0.014	0.014
Thorne King Edward - Roofing	Government Grant	0.237	0.237
DFE – Capital Maintenance Grant	Government Grant	(0.252)	(0.252)
<b>Partnerships and Operational Delivery</b>			
Sensory Emotional Mental Health (SEMH) Hub - Castle Hills, Scawthorpe	Government Grant	0.030	0.030
SEMH Hub - Ivanhoe, Conisbrough	Government Grant	0.030	0.030
SEMH Hub - Brooke Academy, Thorne	Government Grant	0.150	0.150
SEMH Hub - McAuley Academy, Cantley	Government Grant	0.081	0.081
Bentley High Street - Sensory Room	Government Grant	0.035	0.035
Bawtry Mayflower - Sensory Room	Government Grant	0.032	0.032
Park School, Wheatley - Module building	Government Grant	0.006	0.006
DFE – High Needs Provision	Government Grant	(0.364)	(0.364)
<b>Commissioning and Business Development</b>			
Bentley New Village - Safeguarding	Government Grant	0.020	0.020
DFE – Capital Maintenance Grant	Government Grant	(0.020)	(0.020)
<b>Children's Social Care</b>			
Family Placement - Church Lane - Balance of Costs	Housing Capital Receipts	0.001	0.001
Capital Receipts	Housing Capital Receipts	(0.001)	(0.001)
<b><u>Place</u></b>			
<b>Environment</b>			
<b>Budget for highway resurfacing, preventative maintenance treatment, routine maintenance across the highway network plus budget for bridge and structure strengthening and maintenance has been allocated as follows:</b>			
Balby Road (Part) Balby	Government Grant	0.124	0.124
Skellow Road (Part) Carcroft	Government Grant	0.081	0.081
Everingham Rd service Cantley	Government Grant	0.040	0.040
Church Way (Part) Doncaster	Government Grant	0.043	0.043
Doncaster Lane (part) Adwick	Government Grant	0.020	0.020
Springwell Lane (Part) Balby	Government Grant	0.097	0.097

Dale Road (Part) Conisbrough	Government Grant	0.022	0.022
The Oval (Part) Woodlands	Government Grant	0.007	0.007
Owston Road (Part) Carcroft	Government Grant	0.024	0.024
The Crescent (Part) Dunscroft	Government Grant	0.020	0.020
Wickett Hern Rd (Part) Armthorpe	Government Grant	0.173	0.173
A18 Armthorpe Road Intake	Government Grant	0.026	0.026
Clay Lane West (Part)	Government Grant	0.159	0.159
Broadway Dunscroft ph4 - change of funding source		(0.070)	(0.070)
Nutwell Lane Armthorpe ph2 - change of funding source	Government Grant	(0.025)	(0.025)
CRSTS Network Asset Management	Government Grant	(0.740)	(0.740)
<b>Budget for road improvements and safety work has been allocated as follows:</b>			
Victoria Rd Balby	Earmarked Reserve	0.003	0.003
Sandbeck Road Part Bennetthorpe	Earmarked Reserve	0.037	0.037
Cardigan/Lansdowne Rd Intake	Earmarked Reserve	0.055	0.055
King George Square Kirk Sandall	Earmarked Reserve	0.040	0.040
New Lane Sprotbrough	Earmarked Reserve	0.055	0.055
Brook Road Conisbrough	Earmarked Reserve	0.037	0.037
Barnby Dun Road Service Road	Earmarked Reserve	0.068	0.068
Ecclestone Rd Kirk Sandall	Earmarked Reserve	0.035	0.035
Church Lane Warmsworth/Balby	Earmarked Reserve	0.009	0.009
Westbourne Gardens Balby	Earmarked Reserve	0.042	0.042
Queen Mary Crescent cul-de-sacs, Kirk Sandall	Earmarked Reserve	0.001	0.001
Southfield Road	Earmarked Reserve	0.006	0.006
Franklin Cres/Manor Drive Part, Bennetthorpe	Earmarked Reserve	0.148	0.148
Sandy Ln/St Cecilia Rd Belle Vue	Earmarked Reserve	(0.100)	(0.100)
Road Improvement & Safety	Earmarked Reserve	(0.437)	(0.437)

## Virements for Elected Mayor / Cabinet / Portfolio Holder Approval

### 2023/2024 Quarter 2

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: -

	<b>Reason</b>	<b>Directorate</b>	<b>£</b>
1	Functional Realignment – City Centre team transferred from Adults, Wellbeing & Culture to Place	AWC Place	-232,050 232,050
2	Functional Realignment – Community prevention team transferred from Adults, Wellbeing & Culture to Chief Executive	AWC Chief Exec	-2,153,800 2,153,800
3	Transfer of budget for Green Gables from Adults, Wellbeing & Culture to Children, Young People & Families for re tendering.	AWC CYPF	-410,930 410,930