


Agenda Item No:	9	
Committee:	Cabinet	
Date:	21 July 2025	
Report Title:	Council Revenue and Capital Outturn 2024/25	

Cover sheet:

1 Purpose / Summary

To inform Cabinet of the income and expenditure (known as “Outturn”) for the Council for 2024/25 and reasons for variations.

2 Key issues

Revenue

- The Council’s provisional General Fund services net surplus is £129,905 for the financial year 2024/25. This is an improvement of £480,316 compared to the projected deficit of £350,411 as reported to Council in February 2025.
- The surplus of £129,905 will be transferred to Budget Equalisation Reserve in accordance with the decision made by Council at their meeting on 9th January 2020 which established this reserve and approved that any underspend/deficit at financial year-end be transferred to this reserve.
- During the year-end review of the 2024/25 Statements of Accounts the Council was able to utilise £428,600 of the Horizons Reserve to support Council expenditure in services which met the criteria of the reserve and was then able to transfer that unused budget to the Budget Equalisation Reserve. As at 31 March 2025 the reserve has a balance of £2,212,647.
- The General Fund balance at 31 March 2025 remains at the approved minimum level of £2m.
- Given the scale of the challenges faced by the Council in 2024/25, the financial position at the year-end represents a considerable achievement and demonstrates the focus from Members and officers throughout the Council in reducing the projected deficit.
- As a result of continuing prudent financial management and improved income received, the Council is in an improved position, compared with the projections in February 2025, to deal with the significant ongoing financial challenges in 2025/26 and over the medium term.
- The Council’s Draft Statement of Accounts 2024/25 (subject to external audit) were signed off by the Corporate Director and Chief Finance Officer on 30 June 2025 and published on the Council’s Website. After the last few years of the delays to the publishing and auditing of the Council’s accounts due to the impact of the pandemic it is an achievement to get the Draft Statement of Accounts 2024/25 completed by the deadline and this has ensured that the Council is now adhering to the current Audit Regulations 2025. This will enable the external audit of the 2024/25 accounts by EY who have scheduled their audit to start in October 2025 with a view of completing their work by the end of December 2025.

The Statement of Accounts 2024/25 will incorporate all the outturn figures, revenue and capital presented in this report.

Capital

- The Capital Programme has been underspent by £2.3146m. This compares with an under-spend of £6.176m in 2023/24. The variation principally relates to the re-profiling of the high-profile grant-funded scheme, including High Street, March (-£1,256m) which relates to the capital works on Barclays Bank building and the new public conveniences in Broad Street, March. The capital spend on 24 High Street, Wisbech is nearing completion and the under spend of (-£0.563) will be used during 2025/26.
- Additionally, the timing and extent of capital works which need to be undertaken at Council-owned buildings and facilities will be reviewed with an updated programme being presented to Cabinet in September. There is no loss of resources arising from the re-phasing set out shown in Appendix B(i).

3 Recommendations

- It is recommended that :-
 - (i) The Outturn for the Council's General Fund services in 2024/25, as detailed at Appendix A and Section 2 of this report be noted and that Members note the transfer of the surplus to the Budget Equalisation Reserve;
 - (ii) The reasons for the variations from revised estimate be noted;
 - (iii) The current position on the Cambridgeshire Horizons Reserve, as detailed in Section 3 of this report be noted;
 - (iv) The proposed Capital Funding schedule for 2024/25 at Appendix B(i) be approved.

Wards Affected	All
Forward Plan Reference	
Portfolio Holder(s)	Cllr Chris Boden, Leader & Portfolio Holder, Finance
Report Originator(s)	Peter Catchpole, Corporate Director and Chief Finance Officer Sian Warren, Chief Accountant
Contact Officer(s)	Paul Medd, Chief Executive Peter Catchpole, Corporate Director and Chief Finance Officer Sian Warren, Chief Accountant
Background Paper(s)	Budget Setting Reports Monthly Budgetary Control Reports 2024/25 Final Accounts Working Papers 2024/25

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Council's income and expenditure figures for General Fund services and the Capital Programme for the financial year 2024/25 (known as 'Outturn') are presented in this report.
- 1.2 The Council's Draft Statement of Accounts 2024/25 (subject to external audit) were signed off by the Corporate Director and Chief Finance Officer on 30 June 2025 and published on the Council's Website. After the last few years of the delays to the publishing and auditing of the Council's accounts due to the impact of the pandemic it is an achievement to get the Draft Statement of Accounts 2024/25 completed by the deadline and this has ensured that the Council are now adhering to the current Audit Regulations 2025. This will enable the external audit of the 2024/25 accounts by EY who have scheduled their audit to start in October 2025 with a view of completing their work by the end of December 2025.
- 1.3 The 2024/25 draft accounts, which are subject to external audit, have been published on the Council's website. The draft Annual Governance Statement will be presented at the Audit and Risk Management Committee on 28th July 2025 for approval and will be published on the Council's website along with the required notice of the Exercise of Public Rights to inspect the accounts (30 days from 29 July 2025).
- 1.4 The figures presented in this report are all provisional pending audit by the Council's external auditors EY (Ernst & Young). Any significant or material changes will be reported back to Members at a later stage.

2 The Revenue Budget

- 2.1 In February 2025 the Council's year end position was estimated as a deficit of £350,411. It is important to note that this figure was based on projections as at the end of December 2024 and the report to Council also noted that there were still many uncertainties around the year-end position, particularly around projected income levels and homelessness expenditure.
- 2.2 Following the closure process, the full position shows a net surplus of £129,905, an improvement of £480,316 compared to the previous projection. The net surplus of £129,905 represents 0.74% of the net expenditure of £17,261m and compares with an over spend of £212,425 in 2023/24.
- 2.3 An analysis of the overall position is shown at Appendix A(i) and explanations of variances are detailed in Appendix A(ii).
- 2.4 Of the reduction in deficit for the year, one-off variations show a reduction of £162k. Of this amount,
 - -£251k relates to additional fees and charges received,
 - £27K relates to lower income from Investments and Property Funds,
 - -£36k relates to higher income from the RTB/VAT sharing arrangement with Clarion,
 - £39k relates to a higher contribution to the Anglia Revenues Partnership (ARP) costs due to lower Enforcement Fees,
 - £24k relates to higher Legal and External Audit Fees,
 - £60k relates to higher Bad Debts Provision
 - -£25k relates to higher retained Business Rates
- 2.5 Service variations have reduced the deficit by £468k, which includes lower employee costs (-£258k) across a variety of services. Lower Premises costs (-£150k), Transport costs (-£10k), Third Party payments (-£71k), NNDR Pool (-£20k) and Capital Financing costs (-£30k) have been off-set by higher Supplies and Services costs (£63k).

- 2.6 Together with the projected deficit of £350,181 (as detailed in the budget report to Cabinet and Council on 24 February 2025), the reduction in deficit of -£480,316 (detailed in 2.3 – 2.5 above) brings the total surplus in 2024/25 to £129,905. This has been transferred to the Budget Equalisation Reserve in accordance with the decision made by Council at their meeting on 9th January 2020 which established this reserve and approved that any underspend/deficit at financial year-end be transferred to this reserve. As at 31 March 2025, this reserve has a balance of £2,212,647.
- 2.7 As a result of continuing prudent financial management together with better than expected income received, the Council is in an improved position, compared to the projections in February 2025, to deal with the significant ongoing financial challenges in 2025/26 and over the medium term.
- 2.8 The Council's reserves will be reviewed again as part of the 2026/27 budget process during the Autumn of 2025.

3 Cambridgeshire Horizons Reserve

- 3.1 Members will recall that in May 2021, the Council received £3,891,500 as its' share of the surplus generated by Cambridgeshire Horizons Ltd. Of this, £1,050,000 was an agreed contribution to the A14 improvements which was paid during 2022/23 to the Department for Transport, as notified to Cabinet in July 2023. This left £2,841,500 available for this Council's future use and was set-aside in an earmarked reserve. There are numerous conditions attached to the use of this money, mainly around regeneration and future economic development of the district, which restricts its future use.
- 3.2 The following table summarises the use of the reserve to date together with current commitments leaving the balance currently uncommitted.

Table 1: Cambridgeshire Horizons Reserve Current Position

Description	Actual 2021/22	Actual 2022/23	Actual 2023/24	Actual - March 2024/25	Forecast 2025/26
	£	£	£	£	£
Norr consultancy to produce Levelling Up Fund Proposal for Wisbech	61,866	52,642			
Simon Machen - projected cost to 31 March 2025	87,955	91,261	76,440	51,348	24,280
Economic Growth - Technical Officer - CG to Sept 25		19,407	35,741	37,950	19,800
Accommodation Strategy Review - Consultants		13,125	62,681		
Transformation Projects				176,565	

Description	Actual 2021/22	Actual 2022/23	Actual 2023/24	Actual 2024/25	Forecast 2025/26
	£	£	£	£	£
Planning Enforcement and Technical Team				252,035	
Local Plan Costs - New Plan					616,000
Total Utilised	149,821	176,435	194,802	517,898	660,080
Balance 1st April	2,841,500	2,691,679	2,515,244	2,320,442	1,802,544
Utilised during year	-149,821	-176,435	-194,802	-517,898	-660,080
Balance 31st March	2,691,679	2,515,244	2,320,442	1,802,544	1,142,464

- 3.3 After taking into account current commitments, there remains a balance uncommitted of £1.142m. Consideration is currently being given to the optimum funding strategy for the works to properties in the High Street, Wisbech and other initiatives which may result in the use of part of this reserve. Further details will be provided to Cabinet at future meetings regarding the use of this reserve.

4 Capital Programme

- 4.1 The Capital Programme has been underspent by £2.315m. This compares with an underspend of £6.176m 2023/24. The variation principally relates to the re-profiling of the high-profile grant-funded scheme in March £1.256m which will be used to fund the new public conveniences and the works to the old Barclays Bank building. The other underspend is the budget relating to 24 High Street, Wisbech £0.563m which is due to complete during 2025.
- 4.2 Additionally, the timing and extent of capital works which need to be undertaken at Council-owned buildings and facilities has been reviewed and this has resulted in changes in the budget required.
- 4.3 There is no loss of resources arising from this re-phasing as shown in Appendix B(i), which has been input to the 2025/26 programme as appropriate.
- 4.4 An updated Capital Programme for 2025-28 will be presented to Cabinet at the September meeting.

FENLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

Summary of Revenue Estimates

	Council 26.02.24 Original Estimate 2024/25 £	Cabinet 16.12.24 Revised Estimate 2024/25 £	Projected Outturn 2024/25 £	Outturn 2024/25 28.05.25 £	Variance to Projected £
Service Summary					
Growth & Infrastructure	1,454,340	1,330,666	1,039,571	601,500	-438,071
Communities, Environment, Leisure & Planning	5,402,610	6,315,700	6,421,833	5,135,434	-1,286,399
Resources & Customer Services	10,304,470	10,628,973	10,610,753	10,463,371	-147,382
ERS NI Contributions - Government Grant	0	0	0	0	0
Vacancy Factor (1.5%)	-230,000	0	0	0	0
Transformation & Service Review Programme savings	-225,000	-115,585	-115,585	-115,585	0
NET COST OF GENERAL FUND SERVICES	16,706,420	18,159,754	17,956,572	16,084,720	-1,871,852
Corporate Items					
Internal Drainage Board Levies	2,098,570	2,251,010	2,251,010	2,251,000	-10
Internal Drainage Board Levies Grant	-177,280	-213,000	-213,000	-213,000	0
Contributions to/ (from) Earmarked Reserves	-652,874	-878,913	-693,183	781,606	1,474,789
RTB/VAT Sharing Income	-20,000	-110,000	-150,000	-186,195	-36,195
Financing Charges - <i>Interest on External Borrowings</i>	906,325	556,325	514,325	484,746	-29,579
Financing Charges - <i>MRP current Capital Programme</i>	587,700	451,166	451,166	451,166	0
Investment Income and Property Funds Income	-795,000	-765,000	-808,000	-780,811	27,189
New Homes Bonus	-442,392	-442,392	-442,392	-442,392	0
Services Grant	-25,846	-25,846	-25,846	-25,846	0
Core Spending Power Guarantee Grant	-788,558	-788,558	-788,558	-788,558	0
Corporate Items	690,645	34,792	95,522	1,531,715	1,436,193
Net Expenditure	17,397,065	18,194,546	18,052,094	17,616,435	-435,659
Contribution to/from(-) Budget Equalisation Reserve	2,515	0	0	0	0
NET EXPENDITURE after use of balances	17,399,580	18,194,546	18,052,094	17,616,435	-435,659
Core Funding					
Revenue Support Grant	-184,901	-184,901	-184,901	-184,901	0
Business Rates - Income due in Year					
Business Rates Funding	-11,177,561	-11,177,561	-11,177,561	-11,177,561	0
Tariff Payment to Government	7,554,448	7,554,448	7,554,448	7,554,448	0
Renewable Energy Rates Retained	-1,476,267	-1,593,684	-1,593,684	-1,593,684	0
Business Rates Pool - FDC Share of Benefit	-300,000	-350,000	-350,000	-470,378	-120,378
Business Rates S31 Grants due in year	-3,166,574	-3,066,658	-3,097,731	-3,242,107	-144,376
Business Rates Levy due in year	744,929	553,388	572,446	792,542	220,096
Business Rates Levy Account Surplus allocation	0	0	-31,046	-31,046	0
	-7,821,025	-8,080,067	-8,123,128	-8,167,786	-44,658
Business Rates Collection Fund Deficit(+)/Surplus(-)	-1,291,784	-1,291,784	-1,291,784	-1,291,784	0
Council Tax Collection Fund Deficit(+)/Surplus(-)	-57,899	-57,899	-57,899	-57,899	0
Council Tax	-8,043,971	-8,043,971	-8,043,971	-8,043,971	0
Business Rates and Council Tax Funding	-17,399,580	-17,658,622	-17,701,683	-17,746,341	-44,658
Surplus(-)/Shortfall(+)	0	535,924	350,411	-129,905	-480,316

APPENDIX A(ii)

Summary of Revenue Provisional Out-turn 2024/25 - Main Variances

Summary of Revenue Provisional Out-turn 2024/25 - Main Variances		Over(+) / Under spend (-)	
Service Area	Description	£000	£000
<u>One-Off Variations</u>			
Fees and Charges	Income variations across a variety of services		
	Enforcement Fees (Housing Standards)	-47	
	Marine Services - SHA & Wharfage Dues	-63	
	Planning & Pre-App Fees	-32	
	Trade Waste	-45	
	Economic Estates	-15	
	CCTV	-25	
	Cemeteries	-24	
			-251
Other Income/Costs	Investment Income and property funds		27
	RTB/VAT Sharing arrangement with Clarion		-36
	Higher contribution to ARP costs mainly due to lower Enforcement Fees		39
	Higher Legal & External Audit Fees		24
	Higher Bad Debts Provision		60
	Retained Business Rates		-25
	Sub-Total One-Off Variations		-162
<u>Service Base Variations</u>			
Employee Costs	Variance across a variety of services mainly resulting from vacancies	-258	
Premises Costs	Lower costs across a variety of services	-150	
Transport Costs	Lower car allowance & mileage costs across a variety of services	-10	
Supplies and Services	Higher ICT costs across a variety of services	32	
	Homelessness - higher accommodation costs	31	
Third Party Payments	Net impact of Housing Benefit subsidy claim and overpayments	-71	
Capital Financing Costs	Lower Interest Paid	-30	
Other variations	Other cost/income variations	8	
NNDR Pool	Further Surplus	-20	
	Sub-Total Service Base Variations		-468
Reserves	Transfer to Repairs & Maintenance Reserve		150
	Reduction in Deficit		-480
Projected Deficit 2024-25 at Revised Estimate (Cabinet/Council February 2025)			350
Net Surplus 2024-25	Transfer to Budget Equalisation Reserve		-130
Net surplus as a % of Net Expenditure (£17.621m for 2024/25)		0.74%	
	Balance on Budget Equalisation Reserve as at 01.04.24		1,654
	Transfer of Surplus in 2024-25		130
	Transfer of Budget supporting Council Expenditure Financed by Horizon Reserve		429
	Balance on Budget Equalisation Reserve as at 31.03.25		2,213

CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND FUNDING OUTTURN 2024/25

	Budget £000	Actual £000	Variance £000
Capital Programme (excluding Commercial and Investment Strategy Schemes)	11,345	9,471	(1,874)
Commercial and Investment Strategy	2,400	1,960	(440)
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	13,745	11,431	(2,314)

RESOURCES AVAILABLE

Capital Grants	6,931	6,021	(910)
Usable Capital Receipts - In Year	250	59	(191)
Reserves used in year to fund Capital	5	0	(5)
Section 106's and Other Contributions	120	115	(5)
Borrowing (Internal and Prudential)	2,825	2,319	(506)
	10,131	8,515	(1,616)
 Borrowing (Prudential) - Commercial and Investment Strategy	 3,614	 2,916	 (698)
Total Available Resources to fund Expenditure	13,745	11,431	(2,314)

GENERAL FUND CAPITAL EXPENDITURE VARIATIONS 2024/25

SCHEME	VARIATION £000	REASON
Leisure Centres		
Building Improvements	(366)	The Leisure Centre Survey and Other scheduled improvement works have been re-profiled to the 2025/26 financial year.
Regeneration Programmes		
Heritage Lottery Fund - Non-FDC Properties	(98)	Some minor works to other privately-owned properties on the High Street have been re-profiled to reflect revised timelines received from property owners and other works on the High Street are being appraised.
Heritage Lottery Fund - 24 High Street, Wisbech	(563)	Works are ongoing and due to be finished later in 2025. Cabinet receives regular updates on the High Street works and are aware that the costs of this project are higher than anticipated in the budget setting process.
Future High Street Fund, March	20	Options for the potential redevelopment of this site currently being investigated.
Future High Street Fund, March	(1,256)	The works on the March High Street are progressing well. This under spend is mainly due to the highways works being completed later than previously planned.
Whittlesey Market Place Improvements	(15)	This work is has been reprofiled into 2025/26.
Cemeteries		
Cemetery Chapels Condition Survey Works	27	Work remains ongoing to complete the works required in the findings of the conditions surveys.
Highways		
Street Light Improvements	(38)	Expenditure re-profiled and due to be incurred over the life of the project.
Whittlesey Southern Relief Road - SOBC	7	The completion of this work has been finished
Parks and Open Spaces		
Wisbech Water Park and Pavillion	50	Wisbech Pavillion works has now been completed and Cabinet are aware of the extra costs incurred.
Wisbech Park - Play Area Refurbishment	(45)	Reprofiled works in 2025/26.
Vehicles and Plant		
Vehicles	(198)	Replacement vehicle purchased ealier due to price increases.
CCTV	23	
ICT System Replacement Programme & Infrastructure Upgrades		
Information Technology	(15)	This scheme reflects a multi-year investment in the Council's transformation programme. Total planned investment across three years to 31 March 2026 remains unchanged.
Improvement of Assets		
Sewage Treatment Works Refurbishment	(33)	Reprofiled works in 2025/26.
Port	(127)	Remainder of previous accural not used
UK Shared Property Fund		
Investment in Business Grants	857	Grants given out but the budget was not profiled due unknown amounts to provide
Private Sector Housing Support		
Disabled Facilities Grants	(49)	Expenditure dependant on throughput of grant applications.Remaining budget committed but not spent and carried forward to 2025/26
Commercial and Investment Strategy		
Local Authority Housing Fund and Homelessness Properties	(256)	Reprofiled into 2025/26
Loans to Fenland Future Ltd (FFL)	(250)	Dependent upon cashflow requirements of FFL.
Other Minor Variations	11	Minor budget variations.
Total	(2,314)	

Key

() indicates the scheme is underspent by the amount shown
+ indicates scheme is overspent by the amount shown