

Appendix B - Summary of Significant Variances - Quarter 1 2025-2026

Budget Area	2025-2026 Budget £ 000's	Forecast Outturn £ 000's	Variance £ 000's	Reason for Variance
Chief Exec & Corp Support Team	305	272	(33)	Minor Staffing Variances
HR & Organisational Development	519	547	28	Minor Staffing Variances
Communities	5,562	5,772	210	
Strategic Property	1,163	1,438	275	Strategic property, pressure of £275k, of which £122k loss of rent relates to Rapier house currently occupied by Glendales, Plus £114k pressure on Northgate end flats, due to required security costs and council tax. There are also some pressures on property maintenance.
Housing Service	518	439	(80)	Hostels are forecasting a surplus on rental income against budget, this is due to low void rates than anticipated of lets across most of there sites.
Licensing & Enforcement	60	129	68	There is a £17k pressure on licence fees and £36k shortfall on a recharge for a staffing to another council where the arrangement is no longer active.
Community & Well being Partnership	450	395	(55)	This is due staff vacancies that are being held.
Other Variances	3,370	3,371	1	minor variances
Centrally Managed Costs	779	840	61	Centrally managed cost pressures from savings not currently being fully achieved from the LT restructure. This will be achieved following the outcome of the tier three review
Legal Policy & Governance	1,747	1,752	5	
Improvement and Insight	292	342	50	An income target of £60k for staff recharges to other councils for project work which is no longer achievable in full for 2025-2026 as the arrangement has now finished - £47k pressure.
Legal Services	427	380	(47)	The underspend is due to a vacant planning solicitor and a trainee post.
Other Variances	1,029	1,030	2	
Place	4,132	4,131	(1)	
Planning	2,354	2,335	(19)	There is no significant pressure forecast, however it is worth noting that there is a large net pressure on staffing costs due to the use of agency planners. Whilst there has been successful recruitment in other areas of planning, this is due to a shortage of experienced planners at a principal level in Development Management. Recruitment continues in this area, but in the interim the work is covered by agency staff similar to the position at the end of 2024-2025.
Other Variances	1,778	1,796	18	
Regeneration Customer & Commercial Services	(2,183)	(1,454)	729	
Carparking	(3,353)	(2,979)	374	There is a pressure of £99k for parking fees and charges, this is against a backdrop of a increased income target based on the increase on parking charges and the tariff structure, a £210k pressure on NNDR across the 3 multi storey carparks and a pressure on carpark cleansing as a result of the change in contractor.
Beam - Theatre	(200)	70	270	There is a pressure of £270k for the theatre overall. The majority of which (£184k) is showing against the Café. There have been delays in recruiting a Chef, a new appointment has been made and started in July. The food offering will start in early September once the kitchen is operational and has its regulatory H&S certification, plus the menus and logistics have been designed and planned. There is also a £47k pressure on ticket sales for the theatre, however it is worth noting that cinema tickets were £20k favourable in Q1. These are pressure's based on Q1 performance only, they are not being forecast for the remaining 9 months, due to the seasonal nature of the service. There is also a £22k pressure for membership sales and a £32k pressure on utilities which are forecast for the year.
Customer Services	967	999	32	Agency for temps to cover garden waste administration as a result of the new service arrangements being instigated.
Comms & Digital Media	397	455	58	A net pressure due to agency costs covering the ORL project manager role.
Other Variances	5	0	(5)	
Finance, Risk Performance	5,060	4,949	(111)	
ICT Shared Service	2,971	2,900	(71)	ICT underspend on shared service due to staffing vacancies
Other Variances	2,089	2,049	(40)	
Total Variances	15,921	16,809	888	